

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

PAPERS REGARDING THE FAMINE

AND THE

RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA DURING 1900-1902

VOL. I.—BRITISH DISTRICTS.

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I.

TELEGRAMS.

(Extract) *From Secretary of State to Governor, Bombay, 7th July, 1900.*

I would like to learn causes of high mortality in Ahmedabad, Broach, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Surat, Khandesh, Nasik during March and April.

From Governor, Bombay, 8th July, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 30th June :—Famine-stricken districts : 10,320 cases of cholera, of which 6,502 fatal. Native States : cases of cholera, 9,700 ; deaths from cholera, 5,931. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British Districts, 5,324, or three-fourths per mille. Rain moderate to slight in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh has resulted in a decrease in number on relief works. No rain worth mentioning has fallen in any of the districts of North Gujarat, where distress is severe. Number on relief works increasing rapidly in consequence of drought : numbers on gratuitous relief increasing throughout affected districts.

From Viceroy, 9th July, 1900.

Famine. Rainfall has been fairly general during past week in Bombay Deccan, Khandesh, Berar and Central Provinces, Gangetic Plain and Punjab, but rainfall much below average in these tracts, excepting Southern Deccan. Little or no rain has fallen in Rajputana and Gujarat and Central India. Agricultural operations seriously impeded everywhere except Burma, Bengal, Mysore, Madras. Distress and famine expenditure prolonged beyond expectation. Outlook gloomy in Rajputana and Gujarat and Central India, where cattle, bought in anticipation of rains, are dying, and people much disheartened. Cholera mortality continues high in Bombay. May mortality there appalling. Calcutta Committee have distributed 107 lakhs relief fund, virtually exhausting it. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 1,401,000 ; Punjab, 164,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,913,000 ; Berar, 495,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 151,000 ; Rajputana States, 523,000 ; Central India States, 165,000 ; Bombay Native States, 469,000 ; Baroda, 92,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 3,000 ; Punjab Native States, 36,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 60,000 ; Hyderabad, 514,000 ; Madras, 15,000 ; Bengal, 12,000. Total, 6,013,000.

From Viceroy, 12th July, 1900.

Famine. Excellent rain has fallen in North-West Provinces and parts of Central India. Useful showers also in Rajputana and Deccan.

From Viceroy, 14th July, 1900.

Famine. Heavier and more general rain during week in Berar, Central Provinces, and Hyderabad. Rainfall good and sufficient for present needs in Rajputana. Central India, moderate general rain, and sowings commenced in parts. Fair rain has fallen in Bombay, Deccan and Khandesh. Monsoon heavy, Surat. Good falls reported in Kathiawar, Broach, Thana. Sufficient rain has not yet fallen in Punjab for dry land sowing. Notwithstanding that prospects have improved, no early diminution of relief possible. On the contrary, figures this week highest yet reported. Village relief and advances are replacing relief works. Condition surviving cattle deplorable in Western India. Cholera continues prevalent Bombay. Health returns for Central Provinces satisfactory. Number of persons in receipt of relief:— Bombay, 1,462,000; Punjab, 219,000; Central Provinces, 1,999,000; Berar, 516,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 151,000; Rajputana States, 527,000; Central India States, 155,000; Bombay Native States, 474,000; Baroda, report not received; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 40,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 60,000; Hyderabad, 509,000; Madras, 17,000; Bengal, 16,000. Total, 6,148,000.

(Extract.) From Governor, Bombay, July 15th, 1900.

Your telegram of 7th July. Condition of Gujarat most difficult circumstance of whole famine to account for. Measures taken for the relief of the suffering population in September last, as soon as distress manifested. Owing to ample supply of establishment then, relief organization exceptionally good. Average cost per unit relieved higher than for the rest of Bombay Presidency, 1 anna 8½ pies against 1 anna 6½ pies elsewhere, mainly on account of full wages on relief works ordinarily earned. Deductions for wilful short work have only been 4½ per cent. in March last, 3½ per cent. in April last. There were then, on an average, 84 works open for 10,185 square miles in Gujarat, against 125 works for 34,239 square miles in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. In the former, there was one work, large or small, on an average within 6½ miles of every distressed village. Fortnightly medical reports declare health and strength of continuous workers satisfactory. Thirty-five additional medical and other British officers employed, against 26 for the rest of Bombay Presidency. One additional Inspecting officer has been appointed to every 76 square miles Gujarat, against 131 in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. Gratuitous relief is being given to aged and infirm persons freely from first according to Famine Code. When cholera has stricken and dispersed large gangs of relief labourers, orders have been issued for dole to every person without the means of subsistence, till induced to return to work. One poor-house to every 339 square miles in Gujarat against 1,389 square miles in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. Kitchens on works open to incapables living within reach. Famine Commission recommendations regarding Hill Tribes ordered to be made applicable to Panch Mahals in August last. We have approved every suggestion for extension of relief by Commissioner, who has the whole of 31 years' service in Gujarat. Necessary action has been taken by him generally in anticipation of sanction. In some cases even more liberal gratuitous relief has been directed by Governor of Bombay in Council. Every request for additional officers promptly met. Only one-fourth land revenue collected. Failure of crops more or less complete in the greater part of province, and deficient water-supply compelled Gujaratis to eat unaccustomed food and drink exceptionally impure brackish water, which probably produced bowel complaints and rendered people susceptible to cholera. Fever is prevalent, causing deaths of attendants on inmates of poor-houses, aggravated by heat very great during three months ending May. Abnormal increase in death-rate also in large towns, where, excluding immigrants, proportion famine-stricken population not large. People exceptionally soft, generally deficient in stamina, are quite unaccustomed to famine, unacquainted with famine methods. This led many to wander or get living such as they could, in preference to resorting to Famine

Relief Works. Especially many Bhils and Kolis and other like tribes could not be induced without difficulty to resort to Famine Relief Works, or even poor houses or kitchens, where fed without demand for labour. When sent to poor houses or works they, being impatient of any discipline, persistently left works and kitchens and resumed wandering until reduced to hopeless condition. Gujarat so interlaced with Native States that large immigration from Native States into British territory is inevitable. Many immigrants from Native States were, on arrival at works, not expected to recover. Their deaths raise disproportionately rate calculated on resident population, 1891 Census. In Khandesh and Nasik increase in mortality is due mainly to cholera epidemic. Deaths from cholera many more than attributed to it by village officials. But large numbers of famished Bhils entered Western Khandesh, mainly from Native States to the north of Satpudas and petty Dang and Mewas States. Notwithstanding liberal treatment, deaths among them numerous. Specially reduced tasks prescribed for those able to work; they were exempted from penal wage, those too reduced, for work being fed in kitchens. In Ahmednagar also immigration from Nizam's dominions of persons far reduced contributed with cholera to high total death-rate in April last. Prompt return to work of large numbers who had fled, on outbreak of cholera, and enormous increase of demand for employment on works since panic has subsided disapprove allegations regarding harsh treatment, for which no foundation exists. In Panch Mahals, cholera killed many Native officers on relief works, besides workers, and with workers fled many surviving Native officers leaving conduct of relief operations, including collection and disposal of dead, for handful of English and Native officers to carry on.

(Extract.) From Viceroy, 20th July, 1900.

Famine. In Bombay, crops reported to be above average in Konkan, Carnatic, Eastern Deccan, and promising elsewhere south of Nerbudda. North of Nerbudda, in Gujarat, Kathiawar, Baroda, rainfall to date insufficient for sowings, excepting in few places. Food crops sowing is not possible after 1st August, cotton sowing is not possible after 15th August. In Central Provinces there has been excellent rain lately; sowings being actively prosecuted—if monsoon continues favourable in cultivated area, will fall short only in Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. Prospects encouraging, crops are promising in Berar. Sufficient rain has fallen in Hyderabad, but want of cattle felt. In Rajputana rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes, save in Jaisalmer, South-west Marwar, Sirohi, Bikaner; Rajputana cropping will fall short owing to heavy mortality among cattle. In Central India present agricultural prospects generally satisfactory. In Punjab sufficient rain has fallen for sowings, but more rain is needed everywhere. In Mysore, some anxiety in places, but no distress is yet reported. In Madras sowings normal. Bengal and Burma prospects good. North-Western Provinces and Oudh have now received rain sufficient for sowings and no anxiety is felt at present.

From Viceroy, 21st July, 1900.

Famine. Monsoon continued favourable in week, except in Gujarat, Kathiawar, Baroda, and Rajputana (West), where cultivation at a standstill for want of rain, and fodder almost unprocurable. Elsewhere autumn sowings being actively prosecuted and germinating well. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief rising in Gujarat, where relief of all kinds has been greatly expanded and establishment strengthened in view of the prolonged drought and low condition of the people; cholera still prevails badly there and famine campaign indefinitely protracted. Kitchen relief general in Central Provinces to carry poorest classes on till crops ripen. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,559,000; Punjab, 184,000; Central Provinces, 2,029,000; Berar, 537,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 141,000; Rajputana States, 476,000; Central India States, 135,000; Bombay Native States, 480,000; Baroda, 101,000;

North-Western Provinces, 4,000 ; Punjab Native States, 42,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 61,000 ; Hyderabad, 500,000 ; Madras, 15,000 ; Bengal, 17,000. Total, 6,281,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 22nd July, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 14th July. Famine-stricken districts, 9,876 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal 6,322. Native States :—Cases of cholera, 9,740 ; deaths from cholera, 6,617. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 6,435 or $4\frac{1}{6}$ per mille. Rainfall, as yet quite inconsiderable, and causes serious anxiety in North Gujārat, where the numbers demanding relief have continued to increase. Cattle mortality increasing, and unless rain falls within a short time and in sufficient quantities to admit of the ordinary cultivation being carried on, the consequences cannot fail to be very serious. Rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes in the remainder of the affected tracts.

(Extract.) From Governor, Bombay, 25th July, 1900.

Rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes in Surat and Southern Gujarat States. Some rain has fallen in parts of Broach, where cotton sowings being actively prosecuted, but more rain is urgently required in Kaira, Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals. Rain not sufficient for agricultural purposes, excepting in a few places. Two and a half inches of rain have fallen since yesterday, Godra, Panch Mahals ; one in several parts of Ahmedabad ; over half-inch in parts Kaira ; rain sufficient in parts Baroda adjoining Surat ; no rain anywhere in Okhamandal Division, Baroda ; rainfall to date insufficient in the remainder of Baroda, where extensive failure of crops inevitable unless good rain falls in a few days. No rain worth mentioning has fallen in any of the districts of Kathiawar, excepting small area south-east, where also more rain is urgently wanted. Cultivation at a standstill for want of rain in almost the whole province. No signs of rain. Season is far advanced for sowing jowar, staple cereal, but bajri can be still mostly substituted for jowar : still time for cotton. Cattle dying from starvation ; scarcity of water increasing day by day. Good falls of rain during the past week where most needed in affected area, Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. In those tracts agricultural prospects have greatly improved. Statistics of mortality in June show death-rate has decreased in Gujarat nearly one-half, as compared with May.

From Viceroy 28th July, 1900.

Famine Considerable anxiety is felt owing to weakness of monsoon. Situation is serious and critical in Gujarat, Baroda, Rajputana (West), which are unsown, and no fodder of any description available. In south-western Punjab sown crops are in imminent danger because rains continue to hold off, fodder is very scarce, and cattle dying. In Central Provinces, Berar, Hyderabad, good crops will be secured if monsoon improves, but not otherwise. Latest reports show death-rate in Central Provinces not much in excess of the normal death-rate. In Gujarat conditions continue very unfavourable to health, though one-fourth of the inhabitants are on State relief. Number of persons in receipt of relief : —Bombay, 1,540,000 ; Punjab, 177,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,155,000 ; Berar, 523,000 ; Ajmer Merwara, 115,000 ; Rajputana States, 422,000 ; Central India States, 120,000 ; Bombay Native States, 477,000 ; Baroda, 104,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 3,000 ; Punjab Native States, 44,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 58,000 ; Hyderabad, 500,000 ; Madras, 12,000 ; Bengal, 16,000. Total, 6,266,000. Bombay figures incomplete.

From Governor, Bombay, 29th July, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 21st July. Famine-stricken districts, 8,607 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal 5,703. Native States, cases of cholera 8,246; deaths from cholera 5,710. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 6,753 or 4½ per mille. Good falls of rain during past week throughout North Gujarat, Kathiawar, favourable so far for agricultural operations. Rainfall good and prospects encouraging in the remainder of the affected tracts. Numbers on relief works decreasing. Numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Viceroy, 7th August, 1900.

Famine. Very decided improvement in last 10 days through sudden opportune renewed advance of the monsoon. The rain which has fallen is ample for present agricultural requirements in Gujarat, also in the greater part of Rajputana and Central India. Sowings being actively prosecuted so far as scarcity of plough bullocks permits. If present favourable conditions continue, considerable autumn crops will be secured and tension will relax. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,626,000; Punjab, 179,000; Central Provinces, 2,234,000; Berar, 517,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 106,000; Rajputana States, 384,000; Central India States, 122,000; Bombay Native States, 470,000; Baroda, 112,000; North-Western Provinces, 1,000; Punjab Native States, 46,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 52,000; Hyderabad, 476,000; Madras, 12,000; Bengal, 19,000. Total, 6,356,000. Bombay returns of number on relief works incomplete.

From Governor, Bombay, 12th August, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 4th August. Famine-stricken districts:—6,545 cases of cholera, of which 4,264 were fatal. Native States: cases of cholera, 5,414; deaths from cholera, 3,290. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 7,041, or 4½ per mille. Cultivation active and sowings going forward generally in North Gujarat and Kathiawar, where plentiful rain has fallen. Crop prospects continue favourable in the remainder of the affected tracts. Numbers on relief works decreasing, numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Viceroy, 14th August, 1900.

Famine. The favourable conditions reported last week continue, and rain is now falling generally throughout the country. Total number supported in all famine-stricken provinces still large owing to backwardness of crops, restricted demand for labour in the fields, and high prices. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,586,000; Punjab, 169,000; Central Provinces, 2,270,000; Berar, 472,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 95,000; Rajputana States, 324,000; Central India States, 105,000; Bombay Native States, 421,000; Baroda, 122,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 42,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 51,000; Hyderabad, 460,000; Madras, 8,000; Bengal, 22,000. Total, 6,149,000. Bombay and Bengal returns of number on relief works incomplete.

From Viceroy, 20th August, 1900.

Famine. Rainfall heavy and general has continued in most affected tracts. Crops promise well in Central Provinces and Berar, and sowings being actively

prosecuted elsewhere, and general situation improved greatly. In Central Provinces increase in number on gratuitous relief due to free kitchens, necessity for which will shortly disappear. Prices very high everywhere still, indicating depleted stocks or lingering apprehensions. Cholera prevalent throughout Hyderabad and in Bombay. Numbers on relief:—Bombay, 1,476,000; Punjab, 150,000; Central Provinces, 2,309,000; Berar, 324,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 90,000; Rajputana States, 244,000; Central India States, 90,000; Bombay Native States, 362,000; Baroda, 88,000; North-Western Provinces, 1,000; Punjab Native States, 33,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 48,000; Hyderabad, 439,000; Madras, 7,000; Bengal, 27,000. Total, 5,688,000. Bombay returns incomplete.

From Governor, Bombay, 26th August, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 18th August:—Famine-stricken districts, 4,206 cases of cholera, of which 3,025 were fatal. Native States, cases of cholera, 5,800; deaths from cholera 3,873. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 4,964, or 3½ per mille. Rainfall good and prospects encouraging in affected area. Numbers relieved are diminishing.

From Viceroy, 28th August, 1900.

Famine. Good rain continues. Heavy rain in Behar, and North-Western Provinces and Oudh, which has materially benefited crops. In west coast districts and central tracts, where break now desired, fall has been comparatively light. So far crop prospects excellent in nearly all affected tracts, though acreage will be below normal, and harvest late. Cholera still prevails in many districts, and season unhealthy. Free kitchen relief in Central Provinces will now rapidly contract, as agricultural labour is in demand. Elsewhere relief operations steadily decreasing. Number on relief:—Bombay, 1,365,000; Punjab, 124,000; Central Provinces, 2,241,000; Berar, 309,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 75,000; Rajputana States, 226,000; Central India States, 90,000; Bombay Native States, 256,000; Baroda, 77,000; North-Western Provinces, 1,000; Punjab Native States, 31,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 44,000; Hyderabad, 429,000; Madras, 6,000; Bengal, 20,000. Total 5,294,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 2nd September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 25th August, famine-stricken districts: 3,024 cases of cholera, of which 2,337 were fatal. Native States, cases of cholera 4,431; deaths from cholera 2,985. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts 4,984, or 3½ per mille. Rain moderate to slight; agricultural prospects continue favourable, except in Bijapur, where crops are suffering for want of rain. Numbers on relief works steadily decreasing, numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Viceroy, 4th September, 1900.

Famine. The rainfall has been comparatively light during the week, and more rain is wanted in parts of Hyderabad and Bombay, and Madras (Central), also in Behar and North-Western Provinces (East). General prospects continue to be on the whole favourable, especially in Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Gujarat. Mortality much reduced in Bombay Presidency (including Sind). Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay,

1,280,000 ; Punjab, 100,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,165,000 ; Berar, 231,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 68,000 ; Rajputana States, 186,000 ; Central India States, 88,000 ; Bombay Native States, 206,000 ; Baroda, 69,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 25,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 43,000 ; Hyderabad, 400,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Bengal, 25,000. Total 4,891,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 9th September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 1st September. Famine-stricken districts, 2,000 cases of cholera of which 1,434 were fatal. Native States, cases of cholera 2,970, deaths from cholera 1,930. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 4,021 or 3½ per mille. Rainfall has been light in most places. More rain is now wanted in parts of Bombay Deccan, and Khandesh. Number of famine relief recipients shows decrease.

From Viceroy, 11th September, 1900.

Famine. Rain beneficial to crops has continued throughout past week in affected tracts, and prospects of autumn crops continue good. In Madras, Gangetic Plain, and Central Bengal, good rain has relieved all present anxiety as regards autumn crops, and promises well for winter sowings. Steady fall in relief numbers may be expected. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,182,000 ; Punjab, 58,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,958,000 ; Berar, 178,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 62,000 ; Rajputana States, 144,000 ; Central India States, 77,000 ; Bombay Native States, 163,000 ; Baroda, 64,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 2,000 ; Punjab Native States, 22,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 38,000 ; Hyderabad, 357,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Bengal, 24,000. Total, 4,334,000.

From Viceroy, 17th September, 1900.

Famine. Reports show good general rainfall during week, especially in Gangetic Plain and Punjab, Madras, Central India, Rajputana. General prospects continue good. Numbers relieved are diminishing, and food-grain prices easier. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,132,000 ; Punjab, 36,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,756,000 ; Berar, 189,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 54,000 ; Rajputana States, 111,000 ; Central India States, 60,000 ; Bombay Native States, 142,000 ; Baroda, 53,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 20,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 34,000 ; Hyderabad, 279,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Bengal, 13,000. Total, 3,884,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 18th September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 8th September:—Famine-stricken districts: 1,401 cases of cholera, of which 991 were fatal. Native States: cases of cholera, 2,306 ; deaths from cholera, 1,473. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 3,903, or 3½ per mille. Rain moderate to slight. Crops are thriving except in parts of Deccan and Karnatak, where good fall of rain urgently wanted. Numbers on works have decreased. Numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Governor, Bombay, 23rd September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 15th September :—Famine-stricken districts, 702 cases of cholera, of which 497 were fatal. Native States :—Cases of cholera, 1,427 ; deaths from cholera, 1,028. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 3,589, or $3\frac{3}{10}$ per mille. Rain has continued to fall in light showers over affected area. More rain urgently wanted throughout Bombay, Deccan, and Khandesh.

From Viceroy, 24th September, 1900.

Famine. Good general rainfall continues. Rainfall insufficient in few limited areas only in Bombay. Elsewhere fine weather generally wanted for ripening autumn and sowing winter crops. A further reduction in number on relief works. Prices falling slowly everywhere. On relief: Bombay, 1,074,000 ; Punjab, 32,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,597,000 ; Berar, 195,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 39,000 ; Rajputana States, 83,000 ; Central India States, 53,000 ; Bombay Native States, 122,000 ; Baroda, 49,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 18,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 31,000 ; Hyderabad, 231,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Bengal, 8,000. Total, 3,537,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 30th September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 22nd September :—Famine-stricken districts : 423 cases of cholera, of which 305 were fatal. Native States : cases of cholera, 651 ; deaths from cholera, 433. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works or gratuitous relief, British districts, 3,292, or $3\frac{3}{10}$ per mille. Rain has been absent, or light and scattered, over the greater part of affected area. Crops are now in urgent need of rain in parts. Numbers relieved are diminishing.

From Viceroy, 3rd October, 1900.

Famine. Rainfall exceptionally heavy during the week in Central Bengal and Behar. General rain also in Northern India, Central Provinces, Rajputana. Rain has been very beneficial on the whole, as securing satisfactory winter sowings. Prospects good, except in limited areas, Bombay Deccan. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 980,000 ; Punjab, 29,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,446,000 ; Berar, 192,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 28,000 ; Rajputana States, 72,000 ; Central India States, 48,000 ; Bombay Native States, 106,000 ; Baroda, 50,000 ; North-Western Provinces, relief discontinued ; Punjab Native States, 12,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 28,000 ; Hyderabad, 169,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Bengal, relief discontinued. Total, 3,163,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 7th October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 29th September :—Famine-stricken districts : 337 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal 215. Native States : cases of cholera, 294 ; deaths from cholera, 223. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 2,411, or $2\frac{7}{10}$ per mille. Rain, moderate to slight. Good fall of rain urgently wanted in parts of affected area. Crops withered in parts of Karnatak, Sholapur, Ahmednagar. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease.

From Viceroy, 8th October, 1900.

Famine. Condition of autumn crops is excellent, except in part of Bombay Deccan, where more rain is needed for ploughing, and sowings being actively prosecuted for winter crops and famine conditions are disappearing. Prices still high, but falling. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 883,000; Punjab, 24,000; Central Provinces, 1,252,000; Berar, 176,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 20,000; Rajputana States, 55,000; Central India States, 31,000; Bombay Native States, 92,000; Baroda, 44,000; Punjab Native States, 10,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 25,000; Hyderabad, 132,000; Madras, 2,000. Total, 2,746,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 13th October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 6th October. Famine-stricken districts:—252 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal, 158. Native States:—cases of cholera, 110; deaths from cholera, 65. Nowhere cholera in epidemic form. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 1,857 or 2½ per mille. Rain has been absent or light and scattered over the greater part of the affected area. Crops on unirrigated lands are suffering for want of rain, which is urgently needed in parts of Deccan and Karnatak, where winter crops cultivation at a standstill for want of rain.

From Viceroy, 16th October, 1900.

Famine. Disquieting reports received from Bombay. Situation described as serious in Eastern Deccan, Bijapur, and parts Belgaum and Dharwar. If rain does not come with north-east monsoon, area of winter crops there will be small, and there will be considerable distress in parts. Elsewhere in India harvest prospect excellent, and famine conditions are disappearing. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 769,000; Punjab, 6,000; Central Provinces, 1,026,000; Berar, 168,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 3,000; Rajputana States, 44,000; Central India States, 29,000; Bombay Native States, 75,000; Baroda, 43,000; Punjab Native States, 4,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 21,000; Hyderabad, 103,000; Madras, 1,000. Total, 2,292,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 21st October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 13th October:—Famine-stricken districts: 183 cases of cholera, of which 108 were fatal. Only a few scattered cases of cholera in Native States. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British Districts, 1,599, or 2½ per mille. No rain except light showers in parts of Karnatak. Rain is much needed in all districts. Numbers on relief diminishing.

From Viceroy, 23rd October, 1900.

Famine. Rain is still wanted urgently in part of Bombay Deccan and Hyderabad for standing crops and spring cultivation. More rain would be beneficial also in Gujarat and Baroda. Elsewhere prospects generally good. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 625,000; Punjab, 3,000; Central Provinces, 800,000; Berar, 159,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 2,000; Rajputana States, 24,000; Central India States, 23,000; Bombay Native

States, 65,000; Baroda, 38,000; Punjab Native States, 4,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 15,000; Hyderabad, 73,000; Madras, relief discontinued. Total, 1,831,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 28th October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 20th October:—Famine-stricken districts: 107 cases of cholera, of which 76 were fatal. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, 1,312, or $2\frac{3}{4}$ per mille. Moderate rain doing appreciable good has fallen in Karnatak; elsewhere good fall of rain urgently wanted.

From Viceroy, 29th October, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 499,000; Punjab, relief discontinued; Central Provinces, 625,000; Berar, 123,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 1,000; Rajputana States, 11,000; Central India States, 17,000; Bombay Native States, 50,000; Baroda, 31,000; Punjab Native States, 2,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 15,000; Hyderabad, 50,000. Total 1,422,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 4th November, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 27th October:—Famine-stricken districts: 106 cases of cholera, of which 60 were fatal. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, 909, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per mille. No rain except light showers in four districts. Rain is much needed in all districts. Numbers relieved are diminishing.

From Viceroy, 6th November, 1900.

Famine. Rain is much wanted in parts of Bombay Presidency, Baroda, and Nizam's Dominions, winter crops' sowings being impeded. Otherwise prospects generally good. Prices falling slowly and famine conditions disappearing. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 407,000; Central Provinces, 441,000; Berar, 111,000; Ajmer-Merwara, relief discontinued; Rajputana Native States, 8,000; Central India Native States, 12,000; Bombay Native States, 33,000; Baroda, 26,000; Punjab Native States, 3,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 11,900; Hyderabad, 25,000. Total, 1,077,000.

From Viceroy, 12th November, 1900.

Famine. Numbers declining rapidly in Central Provinces, where relief operations will be brought to an end shortly; less rapidly in Bombay, where relief must last to December and later, should no rain fall. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 337,000; Central Provinces, 269,000; Berar, 82,000; Rajputana Native States, 7,000; Central India Native States, 9,000; Bombay Native States, 26,000; Baroda, 24,000; Punjab Native States, relief discontinued; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 9,000; Hyderabad, 14,000. Total, 777,000.

From Viceroy, 19th November, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 287,000; Central Provinces, 146,000; Berar, 53,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 6,000; Bombay Native States, 25,000; Baroda, 19,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 5,000; Hyderabad, 9,000. Total, 555,000.

From Viceroy, 25th November, 1900.

Famine. Rain is still wanted in Bombay, Karnatak, Deccan, and Gujarat. Otherwise prospects are satisfactory. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 257,000; Central Provinces, 76,000; Berar, 28,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 3,000; Bombay Native States, 27,000; Baroda, 16,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 2,000; Hyderabad, 6,000. Total 420,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd December, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 239,000; Central Provinces, 50,000; Berar, 12,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 2,000; Bombay Native States, 12,000; Baroda, 14,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, relief discontinued; Hyderabad, 6,000. Total, 340,000.

From Viceroy, 18th December, 1900.

Famine. Bombay, 203,000; Central Provinces, 9,000; Berar relief discontinued; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 11,000; Hyderabad, 4,000. Total, 244,000.

From Viceroy, 26th December, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 190,000; Central Provinces, 5,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 11,000; Hyderabad, 4,000. Total, 227,000.

From Viceroy, 10th December, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 216,000; Central Provinces, 25,000; Berar, 4,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, relief discontinued; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 11,000; Hyderabad, 4,000. Total, 282,000.

From Viceroy, 2nd January, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 157,000; Central Provinces, 5,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 13,000; Hyderabad, 3,000. Total, 225,000.

From Viceroy, 8th January, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 187,000 ; Central Provinces, 4,000 ; Rajputana, 1,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 13,000 ; Hyderabad, 3,000. Total, 225,000.

From Viceroy, 15th January, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 195,000 ; Central Provinces, relief discontinued ; Rajputana, relief discontinued ; Bombay Native States, 18,000 ; Baroda, 14,000 ; Hyderabad, 3,000 ; Madras, 1,000. Total, 231,000.

From Viceroy, 24th January, 1901.

Famine. Winter rainfall unusually good in Upper India, Rajputana, Central Provinces, Central India, and agricultural prospects very favourable. But in Gujerat, Deccan, and Karnatak districts of Bombay, through early cessation of monsoon in September and absence of rain, crop prospects bad, and serious distress expected between now and August. Relief measures will be required, and expenditure estimated at one crore during next financial year, besides large loss of revenue. Number on relief works not increasing rapidly at present, but will when harvest completed. Affected area also includes Baroda, and part of Hyderabad. Prices continue high in the affected tracts, but should drop when Upper India harvest is secured. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 196,000 ; Bombay Native States, 19,000 ; Baroda, 13,000 ; Hyderabad, 3,000 ; Madras, 2,000. Total, 233,000.

From Viceroy, 31st January, 1901.

Famine. Slight rain has fallen in parts of Bombay Presidency, including Sind, benefiting late spring crops, but prospects not materially improved. Scarcity deepening into famine anticipated in considerable portion of Hyderabad. Crop prospects continue favourable in Punjab, Upper and Central India. Good wheat harvest expected. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 183,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 13,000 ; Hyderabad, 3,000 ; Madras, 3,000. Total, 219,000.

From Viceroy, 5th February, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 175,000 ; Bombay Native States, 15,000 ; Baroda, 13,000 ; Hyderabad, nil ; Madras, 3,000. Total, 206,000.

From Viceroy, 14th February, 1901.

Famine. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief show little increase, but greater pressure is expected in affected area after reaping of scanty harvests there. In Upper and Central India some damage by storm and damp has been done to crops which promised to be very good. This has checked the decline in prices. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 176,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 15,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 1,000. Total, 214,000.

From Viceroy, 18th February, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 171,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 16,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 1,000. Total, 211,000.

From Viceroy, 26th February, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 181,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 16,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 1,000. Total, 220,000.

From Viceroy, 6th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 177,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 17,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 2,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 219,000.

From Viceroy, 12th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 178,000 ; Bombay Native States, 18,000 ; Baroda, 17,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 3,000 ; Central Provinces, relief discontinued. Total, 222,000.

From Viceroy, 18th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 177,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 17,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 2,000. Total, 219,000.

From Viceroy, 25th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 180,000 ; Bombay Native States, 16,000 ; Baroda, 10,000 ; Hyderabad, 2,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 3,000. Total, 215,000.

From Viceroy, 2nd April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 184,000 ; Bombay Native States, 17,000 ; Baroda, 14,000 ; Hyderabad, no report ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 3,000. Total, 222,000.

From Viceroy, 9th April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 207,000 ; Bombay Native States, 27,000 ; Baroda, 15,000 ; Hyderabad, report not received ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 258,000.

From Viceroy, 16th April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 222,000 ; Bombay Native States, 30,000 ; Baroda, 16,000 ; Hyderabad, 14,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 291,000.

From Viceroy, 22nd April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 254,000 ; Bombay Native States, 27,000 ; Baroda, 18,000 ; Hyderabad, 17,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 325,000.

From Viceroy, 29th April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 278,000 ; Bombay Native States, 26,000 ; Baroda, 19,000 ; Hyderabad, 19,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 351,000.

From Viceroy, 6th May, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 293,000 ; Bombay Native States, 29,000 ; Baroda, 20,000 ; Hyderabad, 25,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 5,000. Total, 377,000.

From Viceroy, 20th May, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 344,000 ; Bombay Native States, 29,000 ; Baroda, 21,000 ; Hyderabad, 14,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 4,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 418,000.

From Viceroy, 28th May, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 353,000 ; Bombay Native States, 41,000 ; Baroda, 26,000 ; Hyderabad, 14,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 6,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 446,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd June, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 366,000 ; Bombay Native States, 33,000 ; Baroda, 26,000 ; Hyderabad, 23,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 5,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,000. Total, 460,000.

From Viceroy, 12th June, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 384,000 ; Bombay Native States, 43,000 ; Baroda, 27,000 ; Hyderabad, 19,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 4,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,000. Total, 484,000.

Distress in Bombay has been much less than was apprehended. Prices fell during the spring, and though now prices show a tendency to rise they are 50 per cent. below those of May, 1900. In Gujarat grain everywhere obtainable at 16 seers per rupee, and in the Deccan and southern districts at 12 or 13 seers. In Deccan percentage of population on relief is :—Ahmednagar, 13 per cent. ; Sholapur, 10 ; Bijapur, Poona, 6 ; elsewhere small. In Gujarat :—Kaira, Panch Mahals, 6 ; Ahmedabad, 4 ; elsewhere small. Total number on

relief works and gratuitous relief only 40 per cent. of that anticipated, and estimate of famine expenditure this year reduced by Bombay from over one crore to Rs. 34,50,000. We have been in correspondence with Bombay to ensure that care is taken to restrict relief to the really necessitous. With present range of prices, number on relief works may be expected to decline rapidly if monsoon normal and meteorological forecast is justified.

From Viceroy, 20th June, 1901.

Famine. North-west monsoon has not burst, but heavy rain has fallen at Bijapur and Sholapur, and preparations for monsoon crops progressing generally in Bombay. No material change in prices. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 400,000 ; Bombay Native States, 46,000 ; Baroda, 29,000 ; Hyderabad, 19,000 ; Central India States, 4,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central Provinces, 3,000. Total, 506,000.

From Viceroy, 28th June, 1901.

Famine. The numbers demanding relief have continued to increase in Bombay, and may be expected to rise till heavy and good general rainfall enables the people to commence cultivation and sowing. Except on the coast, rainfall light and scattered, and generally insufficient for the purpose of agriculture. Prices risen in the Deccan districts, but are not yet so high as in the famine of 1899–1900. Of headquarters of districts grain is dearest at Ahmednagar, where price is 11 seers per rupee. Highest price anywhere is 10 seers per rupee. The health and condition of the people are fairly good and exhibit no marked deterioration. Number of persons in receipt of relief on 22nd June:—Bombay, 430,000 ; Bombay Native States, 46,000 ; Baroda, 30,000 ; Hyderabad, 18,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 1,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 531,000.

From Viceroy, 6th July, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall fairly heavy and general and unsteady on both coasts ; but in Bombay Deccan, Central Provinces, Eastern Bengal, Burma, Assam, rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes. In Gujarat rainfall up to date less than one inch, and more rain is urgently needed. Fall light and irregular in Western Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur. In North-West Provinces light scattered showers only. Punjab practically rainless. Prices do not indicate much present anxiety. Prices stationary in Punjab, North-West Provinces, Central Provinces ; fluctuating in both directions in Bengal ; rising in Madras, where, however, on the whole, prospects are fair. In Bombay they are still 100 per cent. below last year pitch in Gujarat and Khandesh, and are now here less than 25 per cent. below. Highest prices are Poona 10, Ahmednagar 11 seers per rupee. Bombay death-rate below normal, being less than two per thousand in six districts, and rising to four per thousand in Dharwar only. Physical condition of the people reported to be generally satisfactory in distressed area, except two taluks, Ahmednagar. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief in Bombay has risen considerably. Number of persons in receipt of relief for the week ending 29th June last :—Bombay, 472,000 ; Bombay Native States, 53,000 ; Baroda, 31,000 ; Hyderabad, 16,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 7,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,000. Total, 585,000.

From Viceroy, 13th July, 1901.

Famine. Prospects much improved. Sufficient rain has fallen generally for sowings except in the case of Punjab and Gujarat. In part of Gujarat only a few light showers have been received as yet, and rain urgently wanted there and in part of Deccan, where uncertainty regarding prospects still unfavourable for reduction of famine relief. No material change in prices. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 486,000; Bombay Native States, 50,000; Baroda, 31,000; Hyderabad, 13,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 1,000; Central Provinces, 4,000. Total, 588,000.

From Viceroy, 20th July, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 492,000; Bombay Native States, 43,000; Baroda, 30,000; Hyderabad, 11,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 4,000; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 584,000.

From Viceroy, 27th July, 1901.

Famine. Prospects have improved by light and uncertain but general rain, much below the average, but it is sufficient for the present except in the case of Deccan, Gujarat, West Punjab, and in part of Central India and Rajputana, where sowing operations have been retarded. No general injury as yet. Prices do not indicate apprehension. In Bombay numbers on works have decreased by 39,000 and number on gratuitous relief increased 6,000. June death-rate per *mille* affected districts below 2, except in the case of Ahmednagar, where it is 2·31. Physical condition of the people reported to be generally satisfactory except in part of Ahmednagar and Sholapur where some deterioration still apparent. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 461,000; Bombay Native States, 42,000; Baroda, 30,000; Hyderabad, 10,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 6,000; Central Provinces, 4,000. Total, 556,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd August, 1901.

Famine. Rain has continued and though total to date in inland districts only about half normal, prospects generally good. Prices have fallen in eight Bombay Districts last week. Reduction of relief confined to Kaira, and figures this week show no change of any importance, but a considerable reduction shortly expected. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 455,000; Bombay Native States, 42,000; Baroda, 32,000; Hyderabad, 9,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 5,000; Central Provinces; 4,000; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 553,000.

From Viceroy, 10th August, 1901.

Famine prospects much improved by heavy rain, and prospects now favourable generally. Total rainfall below average of the period over a large part of country, and in Gujarat has only been third of local average; but falls have been timely, and deficiency has caused no material change in the prospects of the crops. Prices falling, but still high. In Central Provinces, North Deccan, and in part of Madras and Assam, prices have risen slightly, and on the fall in Gujarat. Number on gratuitous relief and on relief work in Bombay remain larger than expected, Kaira alone showing substantial

decrease from 52,000 to 11,000 since middle July. Decrease not extended Ahmedabad. In Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Poona, numbers stationary; and have increased in Satara and Belgaum. Expediency of reducing extent relief under consideration with Government of Bombay. Reports from affected districts indicate no cause for anxiety in physical condition of the people. High prices reported to be causing hardship to poorest classes in limited areas, Madras and Assam; but minor measures of relief already taken will be sufficient for their assistance till prices fall with autumn harvest. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 448,000; Bombay Native States, 42,000; Baroda, 31,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 1,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, nil. Total, 537,000.

From Viceroy, 17th August, 1901.

Famine. Good and general rain has continued; and though total amount is only three-quarters of normal in Upper and Central India and half normal in Gujarat, prospects fair in Bengal, Bombay, Madras, good elsewhere. Early rice harvest has relieved local distress Assam. In part of Central Provinces a break is wanted, but more rain is much wanted in Bengal for rice transplanting, also in part of Gujarat, Madras, and Bombay Deccan, Madura, and Mysore. Prices falling Madras, Central Provinces; stationary elsewhere. July death-rate per *mille* for Bombay affected area below two in all districts except Surat, Satara, Sholapur, Bijapur, where between two and 2.50. In southern districts rate higher, reaching five in Belgaum, apparently consequent on plague. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief fallen Bombay by 13,000, Baroda 5,000. Reduction of relief large in Kaira, where during past month numbers fallen from 50,000 to 6,000. In Ahmedabad improved conditions have influenced numbers very little, and elsewhere decrease small or increase has occurred. All relief operations have been closed in Madras. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 438,000; Bombay Native States, 44,000; Baroda, 26,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Relief discontinued in Madras; Central India States, 5,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, 4,000. Total 529,000.

From Viceroy, 24th August, 1901.

Famine. Week's rainfall has been very deficient in parts of Madras (South), West Punjab, inland Burma; fair rain has fallen elsewhere, but irregularly distributed, and does not make up the deficiency in total to date. Generally agricultural prospects fairly favourable, but more rain is urgently needed in part of Gujarat, Bombay and Madras Deccan, Madras (South) and generally in rice districts throughout the country. Excessive rain has caused damage in North Central Provinces. Prices tending downwards generally and have fallen substantially in Gujarat and in part of Bombay Deccan. The decline in the number of persons demanding relief mainly confined to Gujarat, not yet extended to Deccan districts. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 423,000; Bombay Native States, 41,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Central India States, 2,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 507,000.

From Viceroy, 31st August, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall slight except in Central Provinces, Eastern Bengal, Burma; and total to date generally largely below the average. Prospects continue favourable except in Kathiawar, in part of which rainfall has been less than four inches up to date, where there is apprehension of failure of crops

should no rain fall. More rain is wanted generally in Punjab, Gujarat, Deccan, Madura, Upper Burma; but Central Provinces require break. Prices stationary in Bengal, Madras; falling North-Western Provinces, Central Provinces; rising Punjab, and showing no change of importance in Bombay. Cheapest grain fallen to 20 sirs per rupee in part of Gujarat, and after a small rise is still 18 sirs Ahmedabad. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 22,000 in Bombay. Decrease largest in Gujarat. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 403,000; Bombay Native States, 39,000; Baroda, 26,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Central India States, 3,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, figures not reported. Total, 483,000.

From Viceroy, 9th September, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall has been concentrated in Burma, Bengal, Central Provinces, and North-Western Provinces. Elsewhere rainfall light and scattered. Very little rain in Southern Punjab, Gujarat, Deccan, and Madras (South), where it was most required. Crops are withering in Hissar, Kathiawar, and Baroda; and prospects now not so good in Madras, where poorer classes are hard pressed and good early harvest much needed. Complaints have been received from Bombay Deccan, where, however, cotton promises well. Excessive rain has caused damage in part of Central Provinces. Elsewhere prospects are favourable, and there is a marked improvement in Upper Burma. Slight rise of prices in Madras (South), Madras and Bombay Deccan; falling Gujarat and Khandesh; elsewhere there is no change. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 31,000 in Bombay (half by reduction of number receiving charitable relief). Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 374,000; Bombay Native States, 37,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 6,000; Central India States, 5,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, report not received. Total, 453,000.

From Viceroy, 14th September, 1901.

Prospects have improved by good rain, Bengal, North-West Provinces, parts Madras, and by break in Central Provinces. The Punjab has been practically rainless, and crops suffering seriously in South-West Division, though elsewhere still reported fair. More rain is needed for grain crops in Gujarat and Deccan, where only a few light showers have been received, but where cotton still promises well. August death-rates in Bombay affected districts show a rise, particularly in Gujarat, but are below 3 per 1,000, except in the case of Sholapur, Dharwar, Belgaum. Rate of Sholapur, 3.72. Rates of two latter much higher owing to plague. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 25,000 in Bombay, mostly among number on gratuitous relief; but gradual tightening of conditions of work relief as harvest approaches will result shortly in Bombay. Grant of gratuitous relief has been found necessary in part of Madras, Assam. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 350,000; Bombay Native States, 37,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 6,000; Madras, numbers not reported; Central India States, 1,000; Central Provinces, relief discontinued; Mysore, 1,000. Total, 422,000.

From Viceroy, 21st September, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall has been generally confined to Southern India and Burma; elsewhere only scattered showers. Apparent cessation of monsoon causes some anxiety. Prospects have improved in Madras, and now reported fair; the same Bengal, where, however, there has been extensive damage by floods in places in consequence of heavy rain last week. Crop prospects good

in North-West Provinces generally, but more rain is needed in Central Deob and parts Oudh. In South Punjab, Rajputana, unfavourable conditions during past week have intensified, and crops are withering over large area. Grain crops in Gujarat, Deccan, also in urgent need of more rain, though cotton still promises well. Rain is wanted generally everywhere, but a cyclone now crossing Orissa coast may improve situation. Prices are rising gradually, though no change of any importance in Bombay yet. Owing to unfavourable outlook number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 13,000 only. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 341,000; Bombay Native States, 35,000; Baroda, 25,000; Hyderabad, 6,000; Madras, not yet reported; Central India States, 1,000; Mysore, 1,000. Total, 409,000.

From Viceroy, 28th September, 1901.

Famine. Rain has improved prospects greatly in Bengal, Central Provinces, parts eastern and central North-Western Provinces, and Bombay Deccan; securing standing crops and *rabi* sowings. General rain has fallen also Madras, but none in parts of country where need greatest, namely, Kathiawar, Rajputana, Southern Punjab. Complaints have been received also from Malwa, Indore, and North-Western Provinces (West). In Punjab general prospects are favourable still, but rain is wanted. Prices are rising in Punjab, Rajputana, Bombay Deccan. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 18,000 Bombay, mainly in number receiving charitable relief. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 323,000; Bombay Native States, 35,000; Baroda, 28,000; Hyderabad, 5,000; Madras, numbers not reported; Central India States, 1,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 394,000.

From Viceroy, 7th October, 1901.

Little or no rain has fallen except in Burma, Bengal, Madras, Bombay Deccan; and situation gives cause for anxiety in Punjab, North-Western Provinces (West), Rajputana, Indore, Kathiawar, where rain is wanted in order to avert widespread failure unirrigated autumn crops, as well as enable spring sowings. For latter purpose one month remains within which a fall would be of immense benefit. Prices are rising in tracts above-mentioned, but not to alarming extent; falling, Deccan. Prospects good in Madras, Bengal, Bombay Deccan; fair to good Central Provinces and the greater portion of North-Western Provinces. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 31,000 in Bombay, mainly, it is believed, in consequence of enforcement of stricter terms on works. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 293,000; Bombay Native States, 31,000; Baroda, 29,000; Hyderabad, 4,000; Madras, numbers not reported; Central India States, 1,000; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 361,000.

From Viceroy, 12th October, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall still confined to Assam, Bengal, Burma, Madras, South Deccan, where prospects good. Favourable report also from the greater portion of North-Western Provinces, but in Central Provinces and North Deccan more rain is needed in order to secure fair crops and enable full *rabi* sowings. Punjab, North-Western Provinces, Rajputana, Indore, Kathiawar, fallen off in condition, and, over large tracts, *kharif* crops have totally failed, and *rabi* will be unsown should no rain fall. Prices as yet do not indicate public anxiety. Dearest rate in Bombay, eleven seers per rupee at Ahmednagar. In Bombay number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 46,000. Death rate per mille September below 2.6 in affected districts of Deccan. Number of persons

in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 247,000 ; Bombay Native States, 27,000 ; Baroda, 26,000 ; Haidarabad, 2,000 ; Madras and Central India States, relief discontinued ; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 305,000.

From Viceroy, 21st October, 1901.

Famine. As a consequence of cyclonic storm there has been good rain in Bengal, Orissa, Central Provinces (East), Hyderabad ; beneficial showers Berar, North Deccan, Gujarat. Prospects have improved in Rajputana by substantial but scattered falls, but outturn of autumn crops will be bad throughout Gujarat, Malwa, Bhopawar, and Rajputana. In Ajmer and Punjab they have mostly failed on unirrigated land, and *rabi* sowings will be very short should no rain fall within next fortnight. In north Central Provinces rice has failed, and here also *rabi* area will be much below the average. Elsewhere prospects fair to good. No marked fluctuation in prices generally, but fallen substantially Ahmednagar. Reduction continues in number on relief works in Bombay. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 202,000 ; Bombay, Native States, 22,000 ; Baroda, 27,000 ; Hyderabad, 1,000 ; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 254,000.

From Viceroy, 26th October, 1901.

Famine. Scattered showers have been of benefit in Rajputana, Central India, and the Bombay Presidency, and outlook in the Deccan has somewhat improved. There is no change in prospects generally. The outturn of autumn crops will be very short in the Punjab, Rajputana, in part of Central India, and Gujarat. There will also be deficiency in the outturn of rice crops of Behar, the Benares division, and some tracts of limited area in the Central Provinces. Number on relief works decreasing rapidly. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 162,000 ; Bombay Native States, 19,000 ; Baroda, 27,000 ; Hyderabad, figures not received ; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 210,000 [*sic*].

From Viceroy, 2nd November, 1901.

Famine. Rain confined to Burma and Madras, and prospects unaltered generally. North-east monsoon has set in on east coast (south), but with current below the average strength. Outlook gloomy in South Punjab, parts Central India, Rajputana, and in latter area distribution of relief has been commenced. Prices, however, remain low or moderate. They have fallen substantially in Bombay Deccan, and even in Gujarat, where kharif outturn very short, and *rabi* sowing operations have been retarded owing to want of rain. Elsewhere on the whole conditions are favourable, except in the case of limited areas of North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 131,000 ; Bombay Native States, 21,000 ; Baroda, 27,000 ; Hyderabad, relief discontinued ; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 182,000.

From Viceroy, 12th November, 1901.

Famine. Autumn crops have deteriorated, and sowings spring crops retarded for want of rain in part of Bombay, Central Provinces, North-West Provinces, and to more serious extent in Baroda State, in part of Rajputana, Assam and South Punjab. Test works likely to be opened at Hissar in the Punjab. Prospects of winter rice crops are indifferent in Bengal, especially in Behar. Elsewhere generally prospects are favourable. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 108,000 ; Bombay Native States, 18,000 ; Baroda, 29,000 ; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 158,000.

From Viceroy, 16th November, 1901.

Famine. Prospects continue gloomy in South Punjab and Rajputana, owing to bad autumn harvest and want of rain delaying spring sowings. Test works contemplated Punjab, but not yet opened. In Central India, Baroda and the part of Bombay Presidency adjoining, and in part of Central Provinces and North-Western Provinces, rain is wanted for spring cultivation. There is no present cause for anxiety. Elsewhere generally prospects are favourable. There has been good rain recently throughout Madras Presidency, and showers have fallen in parts of Bengal. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 72,000; Bombay Native States, 11,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 112,000.

From Viceroy, 23rd November, 1901.

Famine. Position remains much as before. Prospects bad in South Punjab; where, however, test works have not been started yet; and in Rajputana. In part of Bombay, Baroda, Central Provinces, and Central India spring crops' prospects are poor, owing to deficient rainfall, but autumn crops are expected to be not much below the average, except in the case of Gujarat, where they are poor. Rain has fallen during the week over Madras Presidency, Central Provinces (East), deltaic Bengal, Cachar, and Burma. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 53,000; Bombay Native States, 15,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 97,000.

From Viceroy, 30th November, 1901.

Famine. Sowings for spring crops on unirrigated areas in Punjab and Rajputana still delayed for want of rain, and probability of relief works in these areas increases. Elsewhere sowings now in progress, but deficient rainfall makes prospects indifferent, especially in Gujarat and Baroda. On the whole prospects are fair in Madras, Bengal, Burma, Assam, and North-Western Provinces. Severe cyclonic storm travelled from 24th to 27th instant along eastern half Bengal, and filled up in Eastern Bengal, detailed report not received yet, but it is believed that no grave damage done. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 48,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 26,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 92,000.

From Viceroy, 7th December, 1901.

Famine. Good rain has fallen in Madras. Elsewhere prospects unaltered. Test works being opened in South Punjab districts, where, however, wandering in search of work is reported to be decreasing. There has been a considerable fall of prices in Bombay Deccan, where they are from 14 to 17 seers per rupee; they are still lower in Gujarat. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 42,000; Bombay Native States, 20,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 91,000.

From Viceroy, 14th December, 1901.

Famine. There has been good rain again in Madras. Elsewhere there is no change in prospects. Test relief works opened in Hissar, and gratuitous relief started on a small scale in some states of Rajputana and Central India; but prices are not generally high in this area, and are below 12 seers per rupee one State only. The number of people on relief works has increased slowly in

Kathiawar and Guzarat. In Deccan relief has been practically closed except in Bijapur. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 46,000; Bombay Native States, 19,000; Baroda, 29,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 96,000.

From Viceroy, 21st December, 1901.

Famine. Prospects unaltered, cold weather rains not having commenced. Distress is not rapidly developing. Prices moderate in affected districts; highest in Rajputana. The numbers demanding relief have continued to increase slowly in Gujarat, where, however, dearest price is reported to be 17 seers per rupee. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 53,000; Bombay Native States, 21,000; Baroda, 30,000; Mysore, 2,000; Rajputana States, 1,000. Total, 107,000.

From Viceroy, 30th December, 1901.

Famine. No rain. There is no change in prospects. Relief operations extending slowly Gujarat, chiefly in Panch Mahals, and Ahmedabad districts, where, however, prices moderate. Prices higher Punjab and Rajputana, but in Hissar test relief works opened are not resorted to in large numbers, and relief on trifling scale as yet suffices for Rajputana. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 61,000; Bombay Native States, 23,000; Baroda, 30,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Punjab, 1,000. Total, 117,000.

From Viceroy, 6th January, 1902.

Famine. Light and scattered showers have fallen in parts of North-Western Provinces and Punjab, but cold weather rains continue to hold off. Prospects unaltered generally. Out-turn has proved better than was anticipated in Bombay. Course of prices continues reassuring: prices have fallen in Bombay and in affected districts, Punjab, and are high only in Rajputana. Test relief works opened in Punjab are not drawing, and relief there is inconsiderable and mainly gratuitous; also small in Rajputana, but has been extended in Gujarat, where numbers increased by 18,000, mainly on relief works. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 81,000; Bombay Native States, 22,000; Baroda, 31,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 2,000; Punjab, 3,000. Total 140,000.

From Viceroy, 13th January, 1902.

Famine. Light scattered showers have fallen in parts of Bihar, Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Gujarat, sufficient in places to benefit crops. Prices are rising in Gujarat, but cheapest grain still procurable at 16 seers per rupee; they are practically stationary elsewhere. Relief continues unimportant in Punjab and Rajputana. Numbers have increased by 14,000 in Gujarat, mainly in Panch Mahals. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 95,000; Bombay Native States, 22,000; Baroda, 33,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 2,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 1,000. Total, 157,000.

From Viceroy, 20th January, 1902.

Famine. No rain; but prospects have improved by last week's showers, specially in North-Western Provinces. Prices are generally stationary. Outlook in Punjab and Rajputana less serious than anticipated; distress

developing very slowly, and in latter tract likely to be acute only in case of aboriginal tribes. In Gujarat relief extending rapidly, numbers having increased by 12,000, mainly on works in Panch Mahals. December death-rates in Gujarat are: Ahmedabad, 5·07; Kaira, 5·83; Panch Mahals, 2·21. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 107,000; Bombay Native States, 24,000; Baroda, 34,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 9,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 3,000. Total, 181,000.

From Viceroy, 25th January, 1902.

Absence of rain and drought are affecting spring crops in Bengal and North-Western Provinces, as well as in Punjab. Autumn crops reported fair, Sind and Bombay Deccan. Prices show no tendency to rise in Bombay, and are much lower than in Rajputana, where, however, they are not higher than 12 seers per rupee. Numbers on relief works continue to increase rapidly Gujarat, slowly Rajputana, but remain stationary Punjab. Relief works started in parts of Central India, but numbers attending are not considerable. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 121,000; Bombay Native States, 26,000; Baroda, 35,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 12,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 4,000; Central India, 6,000. Total, 208,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd February, 1902.

Famine. No rain having fallen situation unaltered generally. Prices show no tendency to rise. They continue highest Rajputana, where they reach 11 seers per rupee; but distress apparently not spreading, and relief still on a small scale. Circumstances similar Punjab. In Gujarat, where grain is 16 seers per rupee, numbers relieved continue to rise rapidly, and 15,000 added during week. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 136,000; Bombay Native States, 29,000; Baroda, 33,000; Mysore, discontinued; Rajputana, 12,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmir Merwara, 4,000; Central India, 6,000. Total, 223,000.

From Viceroy, 8th February, 1902.

Famine. No rain has fallen. Prospects in affected districts deteriorating owing to damage caused by rats, of which there is a plague in Gujarat, Rajputana and Central India. No change in prices. Relief continues expand rapidly Gujarat, and develops Rajputana, Central India. In Punjab it is inconsiderable still. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 167,000; Bombay Native States, 33,000; Baroda, 35,000; Rajputana, 17,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 4,000; Central India, 21,000. Total, 280,000.

From Viceroy, 15th February, 1902.

Famine. No rain. Prospects unaltered. Distress is not increasing in Punjab, where prices continue low. In Native States, Rajputana, Central India, relief is being gradually extended, chiefly in hilly tracts near Bombay border. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief in Bombay rising rapidly; distress mainly localised to Gujarat, but relief operations in Ahmednagar and Khandesh expanding. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 183,000; Bombay Native States, 34,000; Baroda, 34,000; Rajputana, 21,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 5,000; Central India, 27,000. Total, 307,000.

From Viceroy, 23rd February, 1902.

Famine. In Northern and Central India scattered showers have fallen, but not sufficient to do any material good. Practically no change in prices. Test relief works closed Hissar, where situation is met by gratuitous relief on a small scale. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief risen Native States, but not considerably. Returns show no rise in Bombay districts, but they may not be complete. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 183,000; Bombay Native States, 39,000; Baroda, 34,000; Rajputana, 22,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 6,000; Central India, 25,000. Total, 312,000.

From Viceroy, 1st March, 1902.

Famine. Rainfall light and scattered, of no use to affected tracts. No material change in prices. Numbers on relief works continue to increase gradually in Rajputana and Central India. Bombay returns show large increase probably due in part to under statement last week. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 219,000; Bombay Native States, 39,000; Baroda, 36,000; Rajputana, 24,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 7,000; Central India, 31,000. Total, 359,000.

From Viceroy, 8th March, 1902.

Famine. No rain, no change in prices generally. Extension of relief operations continues Gujarat and neighbouring States, Rajputana, to which acute distress is confined still. Numbers relieved are diminishing Central India, and there is no material increase Deccan. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 228,000; Bombay Native States, 38,000; Baroda, 37,000; Rajputana, 26,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 9,000; Central India, 28,000. Total, 369,000.

From Viceroy, 16th March, 1902.

Famine. Good rain has fallen in Assam, Bengal. None elsewhere. Prices are generally stationary. Numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief increased by 28,000, half of which contributed by Gujarat Districts. Number on relief works increasing rapidly in Rajputana, Central India; but relief operations not yet required on a large scale. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 247,000; Bombay Native States, 41,000; Baroda, 36,000; Rajputana, 33,000; Punjab, 2,000; Ajmer Merwara, 9,000; Central India, 35,000.

II.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

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REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

MONTHLY REPORTS.

(N.B.—The detailed Famine Statements are not printed but general statistics of the numbers on relief at the end of each month will be found at pp. 499–541.)

No. 1.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 1403, dated Pachmarhi, the 23rd May, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly famine statements for the four weeks ending the 28th April, 1900, with a map illustrating the distribution and intensity of distress.

2. As was anticipated in the last report, distress has begun to deepen. The partial and temporary relief which harvest operations and mahua-picking gave has passed away, except in small areas in the northern districts, in which the rabi crops returned a moderate yield. Even in these areas there are indications of slight distress, and it is now correct to say that the whole province is distressed, a sprinkling of kitchens with cash doles to pauper incapables being necessary even in the most favoured tracts.

3. The following table shows the numbers on the different forms of relief on the 31st March and the 28th April respectively :—

Division.	Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.	
Jubbulpore	31st March, 1900	66,529	5,272	22,896	7,137	35,305	91,834
	28th April, 1900	59,958	5,301	36,436	13,118	54,855	114,813
Nerbudda ...	31st March, 1900	184,109	28,837	39,326	23,712	91,875	275,984
	28th April, 1900	186,841	26,648	50,869	22,510	100,027	286,868
Nagpur ...	31st March, 1900	256,871	32,282	55,818	44,393	132,493	389,364
	28th April, 1900	316,979	36,144	74,693	45,574	156,411	473,390
Chhattisgarh	31st March, 1900	574,294	54,944	158,231	27,566	240,741	815,035
	28th April, 1900	614,683	55,005	195,930	28,502	279,437	894,120
Total ...	31st March, 1900	1,071,803	121,335	276,271	102,808	500,414	1,572,217
	28th April, 1900	1,178,461	123,098	357,928	109,704	590,730	1,769,191

The various kinds of employment on which those entered in column 2 of the above table as workers are engaged is shown below :—

Division.	Public Works Department Relief Works.	Village Works.	Fodder and Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.
Jubbulpore	36,298	23,660	—	—
Nerbudda	131,421	41,192	7,909	6,319
Nagpur	246,141	45,202	5,563	20,073
Chhattisgarh... ..	264,063	349,245	978	397
Total	677,923	459,299	14,450	26,789

4. The total on all forms of relief has risen during the month by very nearly 200,000 people, of whom over seven-eighths belong to the south of the Province. The greatest increase is returned from Chanda :—72,000 at the end of March, and 141,000 at the end of April. It is reported from that district (which has been for the first time severely distressed) that large numbers of people held back until the mahua harvest in the hope that this would prevent them coming on relief at all. The partial failure of this source of food has now driven them on, and a still further increase is expected.

In the two northern divisions the increase in the number of workers has been small, but gratuitous relief has been considerably expanded. Sick persons leaving works and disappointed mahua-pickers rendered this necessary, especially in the Saugor district, where the number of paupers is exceptionally large and there is greater reluctance than elsewhere on the part of adults to accept cooked food at kitchens.

For the most distressed districts the numbers on all forms of relief at the end of March and April are shown below :—

District.	Population.	TOTAL ON ALL FORMS OF RELIEF.	
		'At end of March.	At end of April.
Nimar... ..	286,000	53,398	57,269
Betul	323,000	93,303	93,997
Wardha	400,000	59,253	65,567
Chanda	697,000	71,989	141,273
Bhandara	742,000	119,860	114,694
Balaghat	383,000	94,989	97,824
Raipur	1,584,000	547,976	593,489
Bilaspur	1,164,000	244,687	265,368

In order to keep pace with the increasing distress it has been necessary to increase the Public Works Department camps from 164 to 180, to open a large number of additional Village Works, to extend kitchen relief, and to expand the village cash dole lists.

5. To turn now to the various forms of relief, it will be observed that the increase in the numbers employed on Public Works Department relief-works has been very small. Cholera caused an exodus on certain works in Wardha, and an attempt to draft workers from a Bhandara camp to Nagpur gave rise to a panic and temporary desertion; while the opening of more Village Works as the hot weather advances, with a view of getting people back to their villages,

has also caused some decrease on Public Works Department works, which has nearly counterbalanced the general increase. Of the 200,000 persons added to the numbers on relief during the month, just half represent the increase on Village Works. There is little difference in the numbers shown on forest works and weaver relief.

6. As stated in paragraph 8 of last month's report, it was found necessary to relax somewhat the severity of the tests imposed in districts in which mortality showed a tendency to increase, or the condition of the people to deteriorate, and this policy has been carried out in such tracts, with due caution, by Commissioners. Some expansion of gratuitous relief was also necessary, and there were 2,226 kitchens open at the end of April as compared with 1,866 at the beginning. The kitchen attendance has risen from 276,000 to 358,000, a rise of 82,000 as compared with 70,000 reported in March. Of the total fed at kitchens over 71,000, or a fifth, are adults. The village relief lists show but a small increase at present, but an expansion of these will be necessary before long. The total receiving gratuitous relief of all kinds is just about a third of the total on relief, but the proportion is likely to increase as the rains approach.

7. The general condition of the people cannot be described as bad, though emaciation among very young infants continues to be observed. The tendency of people to save at relief-works at the expense of their condition has been observed in some places, and stray cases of persons in reduced condition are occasionally to be met with, but on the whole the people display no visible signs of famine in their features. The difficulties of the situation are aggravated in the western districts by the failure of the water-supply. Although complete arrangements have been made to secure pure water at all relief-camps, and a very large number of temporary wells have been dug by famine labour, and by the people themselves, there remain in many places in the beds of rivers and streams stagnant pools of polluted water. Strenuous efforts are made to prevent relief workers at camps from taking water from these vitiated sources ; but while it is difficult to enforce this even at the camps, it is quite impossible to do so over the country generally. This has occasioned a rise in mortality in the western districts. Another cause which contributes to increased mortality is the strong dislike, in some districts, of relief workers who fall sick to attend the camp hospitals. Stringent orders have been issued to officers-in-charge of works and the hospital assistants to pass along the gangs and treat cases of illness among the workers. Cases in which this duty is neglected have come to light at inspections, but even where it is regularly performed the unreasoning dread of a hospital with which the ignorant classes are so deeply imbued tends to concealment of sickness, and the sick man struggles back to his village and not infrequently dies, when proper treatment and nourishing food might have saved him. Added to these causes, which operate generally to increase mortality, cholera has been severe in Chhattisgarh and Nimar, and small-pox has also carried off a number of victims in Chhattisgarh, Nimar, Chanda, Nagpur and Hoshangabad.

No less than 11 per cent. of the deaths recorded in the month have been due to these epidemic diseases.

The highest mortality returns for March are as follows :—

District.	Total.	Excluding Epidemics.
Nimar	7.28	6.45
Betul	5.05	4.91
Sambalpur	4.98	3.56
Chanda	4.11	3.63
Wardha	3.71	3.70
Raipur	3.35	3.02
Hoshangabad	3.28	2.97
Nagpur	3.22	2.88
Chhindwara	3.03	3.03

On the other hand, the death-rates continue to be very low in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, in Narsinghpur and in Balaghat; while in Bilaspur the death-rate is only 2.74 including, and 2.51 excluding, deaths from epidemic diseases.

8. The death-rate in Nimar is still the only one which is really high considering the times through which we are passing. The country has been covered with kitchens, and nearly 23 per cent. of the population are on relief. Village-to-village inquiries disclose no signs of severe privation among the regular inhabitants, while it is found that the deaths have occurred quite as much among the well-to-do as among the poor. Bad water is believed to be one of the chief causes. It is, however, necessary to state that considerable forest areas have been colonised in Nimar since the last census, and that the present population includes a number of temporary famine immigrants from the neighbouring districts and Native States. The birth-rate of March was just under 5 per mille on the supposed population, and the death-rate in the corresponding month of 1899, when the district was perfectly prosperous and prices low, was 4.65 per mille. The decennial mean of the month is 3.76 per mille, so that although the death-rate must from any view be regarded as serious, it is not so excessive as might at first sight appear.

10. The provincial rate (exclusive of the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris) was 3.11 per mille, or, deaths from epidemic diseases being deducted, 2.84. In the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the death-rate was 4.58, but it was in these areas that cholera was most virulent, and the rate, exclusive of epidemics, drops to 3.02 per mille. During April there have been further outbreaks of cholera in Wardha and Raipur, and the disease has appeared in many districts. The mortality of April will be reported next month as complete returns have not yet been received.

11. There is little to remark regarding prices and imports. The latter continue brisk, though it is said that their volume is somewhat less than a month or two back. Prices are much as before, but there has been some rise in Betul, Nimar and Chhindwara; elsewhere there are very small fluctuations.

12. Orders were issued early in the month laying down the procedure to be followed in the distribution of the takavi advances for which the Government of India have recently made such a liberal allotment to the Central Provinces. It has also been arranged that the distribution of grants for the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund shall be carried on *pari passu* with the takavi advances.

13. A conference of all the Commissioners was held at Pachmarhi on the 20th and 21st of April to consider the measures necessary for relief arrangements in the rains. The result of these deliberations has been embodied in Famine Circular No. 49 of the 7th May; copy of which must have reached the Government of India in the ordinary course.

The general principles adopted are:—

- (i.) That large Public Works Department relief-works cannot be profitably maintained as the backbone of relief during the rains, but that a limited number will be kept open, suitable shelter being provided, to give employment to those who refuse to return to their villages.
- (ii) That it will be the business of Government not to supply employment and wages to the labouring population in the rains, but to supplement such deficiency as may occur in wages.
- (iii) That this can best be done by supporting the dependants of all labourers, principally by means of kitchens, but partly by village doles.
- (iv) That a limited number of able-bodied labourers will be given doles for a month where agricultural employment is slack. This will be given only in return for work to be exacted by the village headmen, and only in the most distressed districts.

14. In conclusion, I am to attach, for communication to the Foreign Department, a report by Mr. Sly, Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories, relating to the famine arrangements carried on in those States. Distress is increasing in these States, as in the British districts, and the scourge of cholera has been very severe, but the arrangements to cope with the growing distress, which are clearly described by Mr. Sly, appear to the Officiating Chief Commissioner to be adequate.

No. 2.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 1602, dated Pachmarhi, the 16th June, 1900.

I am directed to submit the usual famine statements and map for the period ending the 26th May, 1900.

2. The month just closed represents the period at the close of the hot weather when the conditions are most trying and employment most scanty. The water-supply has been low, the heat excessive, and cholera epidemic. Preparation of land for the approaching kharif sowings has been in progress where showers had softened the surface, but this does not create an appreciable demand for labour. A certain number of cultivators have returned to their villages towards the close of the month, but numbers on works have generally risen or remained constant, while there has been a further expansion of gratuitous relief. Distress has already spread over the Province; it has increased in intensity during the month.

3. The following table shows the numbers on different forms of relief on the 28th April and 26th May respectively :—

Division.	Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.	
Jubbulpore...	28th April, 1900	59,958	5,301	36,436	13,118	54,855	114,813
	26th May	73,125	5,047	61,750	18,061	84,858	157,983
Nerbudda ...	28th April "	186,841	26,648	50,869	22,510	100,027	286,868
	26th May "	187,791	26,923	85,874	18,786	131,583	319,374
Nagpur ...	28th April "	316,979	36,144	74,693	45,574	156,411	473,390
	26th May "	333,066	38,093	112,719	43,887	194,699	527,765
Chhattisgarh	28th April "	614,683	55,005	195,930	28,502	279,437	894,120
	26th May "	626,720	60,994	232,875	30,932	324,801	951,521
Total ...	28th April "	1,178,461	123,098	357,928	109,704	590,730	1,769,191
	26th May "	1,220,702	131,057	493,218	111,666	735,941	1,956,643

The total on all forms of relief has thus increased during the month by no less than 187,000, a very large increase, but not greater than was expected to occur during the hot-weather period in the forecast submitted in January last.

4. The various kinds of employment, on which those entered in column 2 of the table given above as workers are engaged is shown below :—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Fodder and Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.
Jubbulpore	36,597	36,528	—	—
Nerbudda	126,676	42,624	11,834	6,657
Nagpur	246,174	57,608	8,889	20,395
Chhattisgarh... ..	262,293	363,852	465	110
Total	671,740	500,612	21,188	27,162
Compare for April ...	677,923	459,299	14,450	26,789

The number of Public Works Department camps has been increased from 180 to 191, but the total attendance on these major works shows some decrease. The average numbers in any one camp is now not under 4,000 people, and with cholera rampant or at any time likely to break out, it is necessary to keep the numbers within manageable limits. Some of the reduction is due to the drafting of weakly workers to village relief in accordance with the programme prescribed for the rains, and there has also been a tendency in some places for cultivators to return to their villages. The numbers employed on Village Works have risen still further. The increase has been common to all Divisions, but is less in the Nerbudda Division than elsewhere. Those employed on Village Works should readily return to their ordinary work as soon as the rains are established, when it will be impossible to keep those works open ; and every effort has been made to complete the tanks and leave as little unfinished work as possible. There has been some increase in the number of those employed on forest works, but weaver relief has been practically stationary.

5. It is, however, in the domain of gratuitous relief that the largest expansion has taken place. At the end of March there were 500,000 people on gratuitous relief, at the end of April 590,000, and by the end of May the numbers had risen to 736,000. Thus the numbers on gratuitous relief now considerably exceed the maximum numbers on all forms of relief at any time in the last famine. This large distribution of gratuitous relief is explained by the intensity of distress in the rice districts, and in Nimar and Betul, and has been largely necessitated by the failure of the mahua crop, on which the labouring classes depend so greatly for their sustenance in May. The principal form which gratuitous relief has taken has been the issue of cooked food at kitchens. The extent to which kitchens have been increased is shown by the following figures :—

	Number of Kitchens.	Number of Persons Fed.
At the end of March ...	1,866	276,271
„ April	2,226	357,928
„ May	2,576	493,218

This form of relief may be expected to expand yet more in the rains.

6. Side by side with kitchens a list of persons on village relief to whom cash doles are given has to be maintained. Some persons, however distressed, cannot bring themselves to accept cooked food, others have no kitchen near their homes, and there are infirm people unable to walk even a short distance to be

provided for. The village relief lists of cash-dole recipients at the end of November last bore the names of over 200,000 recipients ; by the end of March the numbers had fallen to half that figure. As the rains approached it was necessary to expand that list somewhat, and the numbers of the past three months compare as follows :—

Month.						Numbers on Village Relief.
March	...	...	...	...	...	102,808
April	...	...	...	...	...	109,704
May	...	...	...	...	...	111,666

The latest returns show that of those fed in kitchens 75 per cent. are children, while of those on the village relief lists 85 per cent. are adults. This is as it should be.

7. The difficulty of provisioning kitchens in the remoter tracts during the rains is a serious one, and it has been found necessary in several instances to give advances to dealers who accept contracts to keep them supplied with rice. In some few instances where no dealers are forthcoming the necessary grain has had to be purchased and stored beforehand as the only means to prevent the possibility of a break-down in the rains.

8. As the last week in May is generally regarded as the penultimate and most acute stage of a famine, the present is a convenient time at which to state the numbers and percentage of population on relief in each district.

These are as follows :—

District.	Population in Thousands.	Numbers on Relief at end of May.	Percentage of Population on Relief.
Saugor	592	41,230	6.96
Damoh	325	15,771	4.85
Jubbulpore	748	48,574	6.52
Mandla	339	17,974	5.30
Seoni	371	34,434	9.28
Narsinghpur	367	3,109	.84
Hoshangabad... ..	499	79,690	15.96
Nimar... ..	286	65,134	22.77
Betul	323	106,058	32.83
Chhindwara	407	65,383	16.06
Wardha	400	79,589	19.89
Nagpur	758	59,746	7.88
Chanda	697	183,751	26.36
Bhandara	742	104,491	14.08
Balaghat	383	100,188	26.15
Raipur	1,584	654,390	41.31
Bilaspur	1,164	257,423	22.11
Sambalpur	796	39,708	4.98

9. Prices have shown a tendency to rise during the month, and the rates for the principal staples are almost everywhere from half a seer to a seer dearer than in April. It has been found necessary to lower the wage basis in proportion, as it is most important that the people should enter upon the unhealthy period of the rains in as good condition as possible. The rate adopted as the basis of wages averages about $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers over the whole of the Province; it is somewhat higher in the northern districts, and a little lower in some parts off the railway.

10. The general condition of the people is still good. The Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division reports a distinct improvement in the appearance of relief-workers in Raipur, where there had been some deterioration during March. In spite, however, of these satisfactory outward appearances, and in spite of the continuous expansion of relief measures mortality has risen. This is mainly due to cholera; but excessive heat, bad water in the villages in the districts where the drought was most severe, a long course of unaccustomed food in districts where rice is not the common diet, and the general hardship inseparable from a year of famine, cannot but have an effect on the vital statistics. A good many deaths are also reported to have occurred owing to the rash consumption by individuals of large quantities of mangoes and melons.

11. Cholera accounted for 8,194 deaths in April out of a total of 42,555 deaths in the whole Province during that month. It was very severe in Wardha and Chhattisgarh, and carried off a good many victims in Jubbulpore, Nimar, and Bhandara. Small-pox accounted for over 1,000 deaths over the Province generally. The highest death-rates for April were as follows:—

District.	All Causes.	Exclusive of Epidemics.
Wardha	7.80	5.12
Nimar	7.30	6.86
Raipur (Khalsa)	6.48	3.88
Bilaspur (Khalsa)	5.40	3.95
Sambalpur (Zamindaris)	7.67	4.50
Betul	4.87	4.68
Sambalpur	4.39	3.02
Chanda	4.13	3.65

There is no other district in which the death-rate is markedly high, and mortality in the Jubbulpore Division, Narsinghpur and Balaghat is decidedly low. For the whole Province, exclusive of the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris, the death-rate for April is 4.04 inclusive of epidemics and 3.25 exclusive of them. In the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the death-rate is 4.74, or, excluding epidemic diseases, 2.94. It may thus be said that, apart from cholera and small-pox, mortality is seriously high only in Nimar, Wardha, Betul, and the Sambalpur Zamindaris. In the last-mentioned areas distress is not serious, and the high mortality is the accompaniment of cholera. In Wardha, Nimar, and Betul the scanty water-supply is at the bottom of the trouble. The Nimar mortality baffles explanation, but, as was mentioned last month, it is believed that the population is larger than the returns show.

12. The death-rates for May have not yet been completely received, but the conditions of that month have been very hard both for those on relief works and for the officers and subordinate officials engaged in the administration of relief. Cholera has spread to nearly every district, and has been specially severe in Chanda, and some officers-in-charge and subordinate officials have been among the victims. The charge officers have been largely engaged in the

arduous task of distributing takavi and charitable loans, a work which, in some places, has been much hindered by cholera dispersing the crowds collected. All are now looking anxiously for the rains. A storm from the Bay of Bengal has given heavy rain to the Chhattisgarh districts, but the Arabian Sea current is greatly delayed, and the greater part of the Province has only received local showers. At present the delay is not serious, provided that the rainfall hereafter is ample; but the water-supply difficulty in the western districts is becoming intensified, and cholera is not likely to subside until the monsoon is really established.

13. During the month the Officiating Chief Commissioner made a tour through the plateau districts of Chhindwara and Seoni, which he had not before visited. Relief arrangements were quite adequate, and the condition of the people very good. Mr. Fraser also paid a short visit to the Tapti valley, in Nimar, where work is in progress on the Khandwa-Akola Railway, and jungle is being cleared as a relief work with a view to the more speedy colonization of the once fertile and populous Manjrod tract. A thousand foreigners off the Hoshangabad works had been successfully drafted to Manjrod for this purpose, and it is hoped that some families will settle on the newly cleared land.

14. The Report of the Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories, which is attached for the information of the Foreign Department, shows that matters are going on in a satisfactory way in those States. In the south-eastern States, where the distress is less severe, sowings of early rice had actually commenced. The crops in most of them did not fail so completely as in the khalsa, and the earlier rain which they have now received should much relieve the pressure and enable agricultural operations to be resumed. Relief arrangements appear to be well abreast of the distress. But there has been an increase, not a general decrease, as stated by the Political Agent. The numbers are:—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
April	44,037	20,259	64,296
May	43,276	26,274	69,550

The Political Agent reports that the States intend to rely chiefly on kitchens during the rains. The Commissioner of Chhattisgarh considers this decision to be a prudent one, and the Officiating Chief Commissioner believes that this will prove sufficient.

No. 3.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F. 1876, dated Nagpur, the 17th July, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly famine statements and map for the five weeks ending on the 30th June last.

2. Up to the end of the period under consideration, and indeed for some days after, the state of the weather was causing the gravest anxiety. Only in Raipur and Sambalpur had the rainfall been really satisfactory. The heat was excessive, sowings were retarded, and the early sown seedlings were in danger of withering. The deficiency of the rainfall was most marked in the west and north of the Province, and in several districts only very light and scattered showers were received. The crop and weather return for the week ending the 3rd July showed a rainfall varying from 60 to 80 per cent. below the normal.

The anxiety of this period has since been removed by the copious and general rain of the last ten days, and sowings are now resumed with vigour all over the Province; but, while it lasted, it exercised a most serious effect on the people, and added to the difficulties of relief administration. The deficiency of the water and fodder supply were enhanced and protracted; cholera continued its ravages; agricultural employment was greatly diminished; and the arrangements for moving the people from the large works to their homes were delayed and impeded. At the same time petty crime largely increased; and prices began to rise. The unsettling effects of all these adverse circumstances are clearly illustrated in the famine-relief returns of the month.

3. The following table shows the numbers on different forms of relief on the 26th May and 30th June respectively:—

Division.	Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total	
Jubbulpore..	26th May, 1900	73,125	5,047	61,750	18,061	84,858	157,983
	30th June, ..	57,123	4,257	149,614	24,971	178,842	235,965
Nerbudda ...	26th May, ..	187,791	26,923	85,874	18,786	131,583	319,374
	30th June, ..	126,607	15,361	175,571	19,930	210,862	337,469
Nagpur ...	26th May, ..	333,066	38,093	112,719	43,887	194,699	527,765
	30th June, ..	254,908	28,072	240,060	59,719	327,851	582,759
Chhattisgarh.	26th May, ..	626,720	60,994	232,875	30,932	324,801	951,521
	30th June, ..	299,415	34,683	395,981	42,357	473,021	772,436
Total ...	26th May, ..	1,220,702	131,057	493,218	111,666	735,941	1,956,643
	30th June, ..	738,053	82,373	961,226	146,977	1,190,576	1,928,629

The various kinds of employment, on which those entered in column 2 of the table given above as workers were engaged, is shown below:—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.
Jubbulpore ...	26th May, 1900...	36,597	36,528	...	...
	30th June, .., ...	34,215	21,550	...	1,358
Nerbudda ...	26th May,	126,676	42,624	11,834	6,657
	30th June,	75,229	34,163	8,523	7,125
Nagpur ...	26th May,	246,174	57,608	8,889	20,395
	30th June,	191,041	36,249	6,676	20,721
Chhattisgarh ...	26th May,	262,293	363,852	465	110
	30th June,	194,200	104,923	219	73
Total ...	26th May,	671,740	500,612	21,188	27,162
	30th June,	494,685	196,885	15,418	27,919

4. The net result of the character of the weather and the change in the system of relief which began to come into force has been a reduction in the total numbers on relief by 28,000 only. There had previously been a fall of 150,000, but these numbers were made up again on the Province as a whole, though the distribution both as to districts and as to forms of relief has very materially altered. It is noteworthy that each of the three Divisions of Jubbulpore, Nerbudda, and Nagpur show a substantial rise in the numbers relieved, while in Chhattisgarh, where alone the rainfall has been satisfactory, there has been a large fall of 180,000, or nearly 20 per cent.

5. While, however, the altered distribution of numbers on relief between the various districts has been important, the shifting of the relieved from works to gratuitous relief has been most remarkable. There has been a decrease of 482,649 persons on works, and an addition of 454,635 to the gratuitous list; but if Chhattisgarh be excluded, the decrease of workers has been only 155,000, while the increase of those on gratuitous relief has been 317,555. It is thus clear that in the three Divisions in question there has been a large though temporary increase in distress. This phase would certainly cause great alarm were it not for the fact that it is sufficiently explained by the unfavourable character of the season, which has since so materially changed for the better.

6. The second table in paragraph 3 is also of much interest. The progress anticipated in transferring the people from large Public Works Department camps to their homes has not been fully realized. The delay in the rains has been the principal cause of this; but the number of these camps has in spite of this delay been reduced from 191 to 165, and the numbers have fallen from 671,740 to 494,685, or by 26 per cent. This has resulted partly from the exodus of cultivators who have left to till their fields, and partly from the despatch to their homes of all weakly gangs and their dependants in accordance with the policy adopted at the Pachmarhi Conference. The district reports show that the movement, now that the rains appear to be established, is likely to continue. The reduction in the numbers on Village Works is still greater—500,000 at the end of May to 197,000 at the end of June, a fall of 60 per cent. The great majority of these works were closed either on completion or because rain rendered their continuance impossible; but in the north and west especially it was found necessary to keep them open for a longer period than had been intended; and in many cases it was also desirable to keep open such tank works as could be completed. A certain number may be expected to remain open for some weeks to come in those few localities, mainly in Chhattisgarh, where work can be carried on without much inconvenience in the rains. The numbers employed on forest works consisting of tanks and roads are now small, and have fallen considerably since the end of May.

Weaver relief, which outside the Nagpur District and the town of Burhanpur is insignificant, shows no marked change.

For the first time an entry appears against the B. list,—*i.e.*, those on cash relief in their villages in return for work,—but the number is at present insignificant. It is anticipated that cash doles will be needed for a large number of labourers during July, after which weeding, followed by early harvesting, should permit of this form of relief being almost entirely dispensed with. Of those shown under this heading the majority are returned from Mandla, where no large relief works can advantageously be opened during the rains; Nimar, Hoshangabad and Balaghat contribute the balance. The persons thus relieved were all residents of poor and remote tracts.

7. In accordance with the policy decided at the Pachmarhi Conference, and enunciated in Famine Circular No. F-49, kitchens will be the mainstay in the rains, and the present returns show how much that form of relief is appreciated.

The spread of kitchen relief can best be shown by the following comparison :—

Month.	Number of Kitchens.	Attendance.
March	1,866	276,271
April	2,226	357,928
May	2,576	493,218
June	3,334	960,398

The rush on kitchens has been so great as to cause temporary disorganization in some places, and fears were entertained that the arrangements for supplying them with the grain would break down. In most districts it has been necessary to give advances to grain contractors, and in two remote tracts of Raipur and part of Betul, supplies have been forwarded by famine labour taken from the works. So far as can be judged from the latest reports the difficulties have been met and overcome; and the manner in which this has been done reflects much credit on local officers. One-third of the numbers now receiving food at kitchens is made up of adults, amongst whom women largely predominate. The districts in which the adult population at kitchens is largest are Raipur (91,000), Chanda (36,000), Nimar (23,000).

The large increase of adults on kitchen in parts of Saugor, Betul, Nimar and Raipur has raised doubts as to the advisability of maintaining the rule of free admissions. The Officiating Chief Commissioner fully discussed this question recently on the spot in the Chhattisgarh districts. He is convinced of the necessity of the measure. When large numbers are returning to their villages from works, the kitchens afford a most economical and successful form of relief. Work is not at once available to all, and a safeguard of this kind is essential. Were admission limited to emaciated adults, then for a few now gratuitously fed who are not in need there would be hundreds excluded who would be in want of food. Later on when the people are once more settling down to their home life and ordinary avocations, and field employment increases, some weeding out of the kitchen-fed will be feasible. But, at present, it is of prime importance that the health and strength of the people should be maintained so that they may resist the unhealthy period to come. Mr. Fraser believes that the rush of able-bodied to kitchens, which after all is not so great as might at first sight appear, is largely due to the lateness of the rains. He does not believe that a daily meal of rice and dal consumed in this public fashion can be so attractive as to induce any large number of people who could easily earn subsistence in other ways to overcome their dislike to taking their place among a long line of paupers. He may be wrong in this view, but until sufficient time has elapsed to prove this, he is unwilling to modify existing orders.

8. The increase of those on the gratuitous village list of cash doles has not been very great, from 111,666 to 146,977. On this list will be borne only the permanent incapables, the old and weakly who cannot walk to a kitchen in the rainy season, and poor village watchmen whose duties prevent them earning daily wages and whose ordinary dues have failed them. The number of these at present on this form of gratuitous relief only amounts to 1.5 per cent. on the total population of the Province.

9. Prices have risen very considerably during the month, the rise being most marked in the districts with no railway communication. The lowest price at which any of the main staples is now quoted is $10\frac{3}{4}$ seers in Bilaspur. In Betul the cheapest rate is 8 seers, in Chhindwara $7\frac{1}{2}$. The chief cause of the general rise has been the anxiety lest the rains should fail, and the recent rain should produce a general fall; but in the more remote tracts cholera and difficulties of transport have been contributing causes. The first of these

should now rapidly disappear, but the second will continue throughout the rains. The rise in prices has been accompanied, as already stated, by an increase of petty crime, and the jail population is increasing, but the condition of new admissions is not bad; and with the enormous spread of relief arrangements it is quite certain that nobody need be driven to steal by sheer hunger.

10. So far as outward and physical evidence goes, the condition of the people continues to be satisfactory, but cholera has continued to play havoc in many districts. The disease has almost everywhere been successfully stamped out on the works themselves, but with the bad water-supply it was impossible to eradicate it from the villages. It is reported that village enquiries have often shown that epidemic disease has been reported as fever in order to avoid the troublesome measures which the report of a cholera outbreak occasions.

The death-rates for April and May (the June returns are not yet fully to hand) contrast as follows :—

	April.	May.	
		All Causes.	Excluding Epidemics.
JUBBULPORE DIVISION :—			
Saugor	2.29	2.89	2.83
Damoh	2.02	2.54	2.52
Jubbulpore	2.46	3.07	2.34
Mandla	1.38	1.25	1.25
Seoni	1.36	1.59	1.58
NERBUDDA DIVISION :—			
Narsinghpur	2.25	2.14	2.13
Hoshangabad	3.49	3.81	3.31
Nimar	7.30	8.20	6.78
Betul	4.87	6.04	5.06
Chhindwara	2.90	5.22	3.59
NAGPUR DIVISION :—			
Wardha	7.80	8.35	5.53
Nagpur	3.58	4.45	3.69
Chanda	4.13	8.85	5.05
Bhandara	3.45	3.97	3.44
Balaghat	2.26	2.41	2.33
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION :—			
Raipur	6.48	5.56	3.34
Bilaspur	5.40	6.51	3.57
Sambalpur	4.39	6.05	3.26

The Provincial rate has risen from 4.04 to 4.80 per mille.

11. The total number of deaths which occurred during the month of May was 50,043, of which 14,989 were due to cholera, and 973 to small-pox. Cholera was most virulent in Chhattisgarh, Chanda, Wardha, Nimar, Jubbulpore and Chhindwara. If epidemics be excluded the districts* in which

* Non-epidemic Mortality.

Districts.	April.	May.
Nimar ...	6.86	6.78
Betul ...	4.68	5.06
Wardha ...	5.12	5.53
Chanda ...	3.65	5.05
Raipur ...	3.88	3.34
Bilaspur ...	3.95	3.57

the mortality of May exceeded 4 per mille are Nimar, Betul, Wardha and Chanda, the districts in which the water-supply has been most deficient. The bad quality and deficiency of the water-supply were of course intensified in May, and there was a consequent rise in non-epidemic mortality, except in Nimar, where the rate has been practically stationary. In Raipur and Bilaspur, on the other hand, there was a satisfactory decline in non-epidemic mortality. For the whole Province (exclusive of the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris) non-epidemic mortality shows a rate of 3.42 in May as compared with 3.25 in April, while in the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the rates are 2.21 and 2.94 respectively. To judge from the returns of a few districts for June, it is feared that the unfavourable climatic conditions of that month have again raised the death-rate in some parts of the Province, but discussion of these must be deferred till the complete returns are available.

12. At the close of the month under review, the Officiating Chief Commissioner started on a visit to the three districts of Chhattisgarh, where he discussed the situation on the spot with the local officers. The decisions there arrived at are embodied in a letter to the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division (No. 1805-F., dated the 11th July), of which I am to forward a copy for the information of the Government of India. The effect of the improved prospects, both on the famine situation and on the system of relief adopted for the rainy period, will be carefully watched. Mr. Fraser is just about to start on a tour of the districts of the Nagpur Division.

13. I am, as usual, to forward for the information of the Foreign Department a copy of the report of the Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories for the month of June, on the famine administration of that State. The two points which seem to call for most notice, the overcrowding of the Raigarh poor-house, and the necessity for increasing kitchens in Khairagarh, are both receiving Mr. Sly's attention. In all other respects, the administration of relief appears to be satisfactory. In the course of his tour, Mr. Fraser had opportunities for discussing with the Superintendent of the Nandgaon State and the Diwan of Khairagarh, as well as with Mr. Sly, the measures adopted in these States.

No. 4.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F-2048, dated Nagpur, the 17th August, 1900.

I AM directed to submit the usual statements and map showing the progress of famine-relief administration during the four weeks ending the 28th July.

2. The rainfall of the month of July was most satisfactory, although the holding off of rain in Sambalpur during the latter part of the month caused some temporary anxiety which has since been dispelled. In the report for June a description was given of the disquieting effects which the delay in the monsoon had had upon the minds of the people, and how it had driven many to seek relief who might otherwise have managed to do without it. The results of this delay have continued to be felt throughout July. Persons returning home from their villages from the large Public Works Department camps, those whom the contraction of Village Works left without employment, and many who had hitherto abstained from seeking Government relief, were all driven to resort to the kitchens. Weeding operations, which even in ordinary years are

not extensive until well on in July, were further postponed by a fortnight owing to the lateness of the sowings. Many who had been, in the first instance, very reluctant to submit to the tests of public meals in a kitchen, once having taken the step, became equally reluctant to leave the certainty of a full meal daily for the chance of intermittent employment.

3. Such has been the condition of things in July. Since the close of the month there has been further heavy rain; confidence has been restored; and weeding operations should offer extensive employment. At the same time, the employment will even now be considerably less than usual, especially in the rice districts; and in the most distressed tracts the situation will not be very materially relieved until the earliest crops are ready to be reaped.

4. The changes during the month in the total numbers on relief, and in receipt of the various kinds of relief offered, are shown in the two statements which follow:—

Division.	Relief Works.	Depend-ants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.	
Jubbulpore	30th June, 1900	57,123	4,257	149,614	24,971	178,842	235,965
	28th July "	35,265	1,665	184,834	36,153	222,652	257,917
Nerbudda ...	30th June "	126,607	15,361	175,571	19,930	210,862	337,469
	28th July "	86,934	8,551	295,390	19,855	323,796	410,730
Nagpur ...	30th June "	254,908	28,072	240,060	59,719	327,851	582,759
	28th July "	189,128	17,824	387,879	77,958	483,661	672,789
Chhattisgarh	30th June "	299,415	34,683	395,981	42,357	473,021	772,436
	28th July "	149,246	22,460	730,838	46,883	800,181	949,427
Total ...	30th June "	738,053	82,373	961,226	146,977	1,190,576	1,928,629
	28th July "	460,573	50,500	1,598,941	180,849	1,830,290	2,290,863

The various kind of employment on which those entered in column 2 of the table given above as workers were engaged are shown below:—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.	
Jubbulpore ...	30th June, 1900	34,215	21,350	...	...	1,358
	28th July "	20,056	3,648	...	...	11,561
Nerbudda ...	30th June "	75,229	34,163	8,523	7,125	1,567
	28th July "	51,558	19,609	246	7,244	8,277
Nagpur ...	30th June "	191,041	36,249	6,676	20,721	221
	28th July "	121,492	11,432	5,419	20,974	29,811
Chhattisgarh ...	30th June "	194,200	104,923	219	73	...
	28th July "	110,052	39,127	...	67	...
Total ...	30th June "	494,685	196,885	15,418	27,919	3,146
	28th July "	303,158	73,816	5,665	28,285	48,649

The two facts which stand out most in the above figures are—first that the total numbers on relief have risen by over 360,000 during the month of July; and secondly, that the numbers returned as on gratuitous relief have increased by no less than 640,000 souls.

5. The number of Public Works Department camps open has been reduced from 165 to 128, or by 22 per cent., while workers at these camps have decreased from 494,685 to 303,158, or by 38 per cent. The dependants on these works have fallen from 82,373 to 50,500, or by a similar percentage. The closing of these large camps which are unsuitable for this season of the year is proceeding apace, and the end of this month should show a very large further reduction.

The number on Village Works is returned at 74,000 as compared with 197,000 at the end of June. These works will now die a natural death. On the other hand, the numbers on the B list of village relief from whom work is exacted in return for their doles, have risen from 3,146 to 49,649. The latter figure includes persons employed on works of petty village improvement in Mandla who were erroneously shown by the Deputy Commissioner as village workers instead of on the B list; and over 18,000 persons engaged at depôts in the Betul district might suitably be added to the number on B list relief. These depôts are confined to the wilder tracts of Betul where the population is entirely aboriginal. They receive dry-grain rations in return for miscellaneous work, improvement of forest roads, carriage of grain, and weeding of fields. Practically, therefore, the B list has really risen to about 68,000. No resort to this system has yet been made in Chhattisgarh. It will be necessary now to add to the list a number of the smallest tenants for whom subsistence is required till their crops ripen; but the list is everywhere being carefully restricted.

The remaining forms of work relief call for no special mention this month.

6. To turn next to "Gratuitous relief," the list of those on cash doles has increased, as might be expected at this season of the year; but the increase has not been very large, the proportion of the total population on this form of relief being still less than 2 per cent. of the total population of the Province. In the Nerbudda Division alone the numbers are practically stationary, while the increase has been considerable in the Nagpur Division. Absolute uniformity of procedure in a system which has to be carried out by a host of Charge and Circle Officers is unattainable. Moreover, much depends both on the number of kitchens and the attitude of the better castes in regard to them. The Officiating Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the principles of which this relief should be given are sufficiently understood.

7. Poor-houses have been opened at Sambalpur and Bilaspur, making eight for the whole Province. The inmates are constantly drafted to their homes. The total population of these institutions at the close of the month was only about 1,200.

8. Kitchen relief continues to play an increasingly important part in the relief system of the Province. At the end of May the kitchen-relieved formed 25 per cent. of the total on relief; at the end of June the proportion had risen to 49 per cent.; at the end of July it stood at 70 per cent. The table given in paragraph 7 of last month's report brought up to date stands as follows:—

Month.	No. of Kitchens.	Nos. on Kitchen Relief.
March	1,866	276,271
April... ..	2,226	357,928
May	2,576	493,218
June... ..	3,334	960,398
July	5,011	1,597,603

So extraordinary has been the development of kitchen relief during the last two months that it is desirable to furnish district details regarding the attendance at these institutions. These are shown in the following statement:—

District.	No. of Kitchens.	ATTENDANCE IN KITCHENS.		
		Adults.	Children.	Total.
Saugor	166	24,426	32,712	57,138
Damoh	129	17,367	20,692	38,059
Jubbulpore	128	5,514	30,241	35,755
Mandla	127	6,109	23,772	29,881
Seoni	110	4,615	19,034	23,649
Narsinghpur... ..	64	1,985	4,095	6,080
Hoshangabad	216	47,835	44,039	91,874
Nimar... ..	98	36,820	34,670	71,490
Betul	187	35,869	50,943	86,812
Chhindwara	183	13,638	25,128	38,766
Wardha	143	28,017	28,514	56,531
Nagpur	174	24,240	23,578	47,818
Chanda	216	68,814	72,286	141,100
Bhandara	251	20,391	46,417	66,808
Balaghat	248	26,834	48,788	75,622
Raipur	1,893	265,807	273,115	538,922
Bilaspur	515	28,530	101,413	129,943
Sambalpur	163	23,161	38,294	61,455
Total	5,011	679,972	917,731	1,597,703

The most prominent features in this statement are the enormous numbers returned from Raipur (which with a population of 15 per cent. of the Provinces returns a third of the total numbers on kitchen relief), and the large proportion of adults attending the kitchens in the districts of Hoshangabad, Nimar, Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda, and Raipur.

9. The ever-increasing numbers on gratuitous relief (now practically synonymous with kitchen relief) has from the first engaged the anxious attention of the Officiating Chief Commissioner. At the time of his tour at the end of June and beginning of July in Chhattisgarh, agricultural employment was so scanty that it would have been quite unsafe to close kitchens to free admission. During Mr. Fraser's tour from the 18th to the 30th July in the districts of the Nagpur Division, as more employment became available, it became evident that exclusion from the kitchens of able-bodied persons for whom field labour and wages were available had become necessary. Orders, framed after full discussion with local officers, to bring this about were issued in my letter No. F-1965, dated the 3rd August, to the address of the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, of which I am to forward a copy for the information of the Government of India. The conclusions which the Officiating

Chief Commissioner formed during that tour are summarized in paragraphs 11 and 12 of that letter.

10. A week later, at a Conference held at Hoshangabad, it was decided that the time had come for a further step in the direction of excluding the able-bodied from kitchens, and that a proportion varying with the circumstances of each agricultural tract might be safely struck off the kitchen registers without the necessity of a definite guarantee of employment for them. Orders giving effect to this decision are contained in Famine Circular No. 53 of the 14th August. Able-bodied persons at the kitchens had already been excluded in parts of the Jubbulpore Division, where the famine had been less serious. The difficulty lay with the other Divisions. The investigation of the state of affairs in the Nerbudda Division, supplemented by further inquiry and reports in regard to the progress of events in Chhattisgarh and Nagpur, showed that the situation had materially developed. There was a strong consensus of opinion that, with the increased scope for employment, expulsion of the able-bodied might be undertaken throughout the Province, the process being gradual or rapid according to the circumstances of particular tracts.

11. In some districts even before the issue of orders there was a voluntary diminution in numbers as weeding offered employment; but there began to manifest itself a tendency for labourers to take their food at a kitchen, and do a half-day's work in the field for a half wage. This, which was an exceptional experience in most districts, rapidly became the practice in Raipur. The local officers in this district took up the position that so long as the kitchen-fed were really engaged on agricultural work there was no objection, in view of the intensity of the distress, to their receiving a daily meal. This view, though not open to serious objection at a time when employment was very scanty, is no longer tenable when the season has further advanced; and it has been clearly pointed out to the Commissioner that kitchen relief in his Division must be

Month.	Nos. at kitchens.
June 30th ...	265,624
July 7th ...	354,192
July 14th ...	400,129
July 21st ...	480,952
July 28th ...	538,922

brought into line with that of the rest of the Province. The present system in Raipur if unchecked would soon degenerate into a large subsidy to all private employers and lower the rate of wages to a point at which no labourer who refused kitchen relief could subsist. The rush of people to kitchens in this district has been so extraordinarily rapid,* and the dissemination of orders over its large area takes so long, that immediate results from them cannot be expected; but the Commissioner had already enjoined the elimination of persons able to support themselves and their dependants, and the orders now issued to him, No. F-2035, of the 14th August (copy attached), should soon bear fruit.

12. The continued increase of the numbers on relief has excited adverse comments in the public press, to which the Government of India may expect the Officiating Chief Commissioner briefly to allude. I am to say that if the occasion should again arise the Officiating Chief Commissioner would not vary the orders passed in May respecting the free admission to kitchens. It was this measure alone which tided the people over the crisis of June. It succeeded in bringing them back from the works to their homes, and in rendering agricultural operations possible without that forcible expulsion from works which is so dangerous at that season of the year. The interval between the close of the hot weather, and the period when general field labour is available, is always a trying time for labourers. In normal years they eke out deficiencies with their store of edible forest produce collected in April, or by means of advances made them in anticipation of earnings by weeding. This year there were no such advances to be had, and no such store collected, while the period of waiting was protracted to twice its normal duration. Now that confidence has been restored, and agricultural employment is once more available, the time has come for restrictions. The enormous growth of the kitchen population was not anticipated; because the delay in the rains which was mainly responsible for it could not be foreseen.

13. Prices have fluctuated slightly; they have become easier in some districts, and where they have risen the rise has been slight. At the same time there has been a large decline in imports of foreign rice, and some of the stocks of this rice accumulated in some districts has begun to be re-exported to others. Prices cannot, however, be expected to fall materially until the critical month of September has successfully passed. Great difficulties have been experienced in the interior of Chanda and Betul in providing supplies owing to the heavy cost of transport, and the state of communications, and at some of the remoter works in Betul the price of grain rose to 6 or 6½ seers. Taking head-quarter markets, prices range between 9 and 10 seers in districts on the railway, and 7 to 8 seers in those not opened up by railway communication.

14. The condition of the people, so far as suffering from want is concerned is everywhere reported as satisfactory. In the districts bordering Indore, Bhopal and Central India some of the immigrants, who are attracted in large numbers by the kitchens, show signs of privation; but except for these, emaciation is rarely seen.

15. The mortality returns which accompany this report as usual relate to the preceding month; in this case, June. This was the most trying time of any yet experienced. Cholera raged; and in the western districts the evils of a short and polluted water supply were much intensified. The total number of deaths during the month were 70,728, of which 22,788 were due to cholera, and 1,006 to small-pox. The corresponding figures for May were 50,043, 14,989 and 973, respectively. The following are the death-rates per mille, district by district, as compared with those of May:—

District.	Death Rates in May.		Death rates in June.	
	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics.	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics.
Saugor	2·89	2·83	4·67	4·27
Damoh	2·54	2·52	2·88	2·86
Jubbulpore	3·07	2·34	3·82	2·87
Mandla	1·25	1·25	1·70	1·70
Seoni	1·59	1·58	3·54	2·79
Narsinghpur	2·14	2·13	1·97	1·95
Hoshangabad	3·81	3·31	6·41	4·27
Nimar	8·20	6·78	14·02	9·83
Betul	6·04	5·06	11·97	7·38
Chhindwara	5·22	3·59	13·38	6·34
Wardha	8·35	5·53	7·33	5·10
Nagpur	4·45	3·69	5·38	3·97
Chanda	8·85	5·05	16·63	7·78
Bhandara	3·97	3·44	6·74	5·52
Balaghat	2·41	2·33	4·04	3·56
Raipur	5·56	3·34	5·10	4·19
Bilaspur	6·51	3·57	6·69	4·15
Sambalpur	6·05	3·26	10·26	5·37

Over the Khalsa area of the Province the death-rate has risen from 4·80 per mille in May to 6·81 in June ; but excluding epidemic disease the rates are 3·42 and 4·58 respectively. In the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the rates for June are 6·91 including, and 4·01 excluding epidemic disease, as compared with rates of 5·19 and 2·21 in May.

16. The highest rates of those shown in the preceding paragraphs occur in Nimar, Chanda, Betul, Chhindwara, Sambalpur and Wardha. It is noticeable that wherever mortality from cholera has risen, the mortality from other causes has risen to an even greater degree. In Wardha, where cholera has diminished the non-epidemic mortality has similarly fallen. There is no reason to apprehend that deaths have occurred from starvation or even from direct privation, but the strain and exposure inevitable in life on relief works in the hot weather, without doubt, weakened the power of the people to resist the diseases connected with the bad state of the water supply and the abnormal weather conditions.

The persistently high mortality reported from Nimar for several months past led the Chief Commissioner to ask the Administrative Medical Officer to make special enquiries into this subject, and I am to attach to this letter a copy of an excellent report (No. 4445—84, dated the 9th August) by that officer on the subject. Mr. Fraser thinks that Colonel Scott-Reid has succeeded in establishing both that the true population of that district must have considerably increased, and that, owing to an influx of foreigners who contribute very largely to the death-rate the deaths among the indigenous population are not nearly as numerous as the returns show. It is therefore probable that the true death-rate upon the present permanent population is not higher than the rates in corresponding districts.

Cholera has continued throughout July and it now shows signs of abating ; but the months of August and September, in ordinary times the most unhealthy of the year, have still to be passed through ; and it is too much to hope that the death-rates will fall to their normal level.

17. In conclusion, I am to forward as usual for the information of the Foreign Department, a copy of the report of the Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories on the Famine administration of those States.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner concurs with the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division in thinking that, except for certain shortcomings in the Patnā State, which are now being rectified, the record of the month is satisfactory.

No. 5.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F-2183, dated, Nagpur, the 15th September, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly report of famine relief administration for the four weeks ending the 25th August. The usual map and statements accompany the report.

2. The rainfall of August was everywhere sufficient ; indeed, heavy falls, resulting in flooded rivers, have done a certain amount of local damage. The agricultural operations usual at this season of the year have generally been carried on briskly ; but heavy rain has retarded them in places. In the northern districts, in particular, a spell of fine weather is needed. The current month is a very critical period for agriculture. Up to the present the weather has been favourable. The final realisation of the high hopes now entertained of a good kharif harvest depends upon timely showers towards the close of the month ; but so far as these crops are concerned the risk of very serious failure

is now small. But for the distressful history of the past few years little anxiety would be felt. Maize and the early millets are now ripening, and the earliest rice is ready to be cut in Sambalpur; but these crops are later than usual, and their effect could not be felt in the month to which this report relates. By the time that the next report comes to be written the situation will have cleared, and the character of the kharif harvest should be known with certainty.

3. The changes during the month in the total numbers on relief and in receipt of the various kind of relief available are shown in the two statements below :—

Division.	Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.	
Jubbulpore	28th July, 1900	32,265	1,665	184,834	36,153	222,652	257,917
	25th Aug. "	32,640	870	146,811	35,018	182,699	215,339
Nerbudda ...	28th July "	86,934	8,551	295,390	19,855	323,796	410,730
	25th Aug. "	83,486	5,430	216,978	20,903	243,311	326,797
Nagpur ...	28th July "	189,128	17,824	387,879	77,958	483,661	672,789
	25th Aug. "	131,051	7,759	423,658	80,201	511,618	642,669
Chhattisgarh	28th July "	149,246	22,460	730,838	46,883	800,181	949,427
	25th Aug. "	45,191	8,519	775,953	39,618	824,090	869,281
Total ...	28th July "	460,573	50,500	1,598,941	180,849	1,830,290	2,290,863
	25th Aug. "	292,368	22,578	1,563,400	175,740	1,761,718	2,054,086

The various kinds of employment on which the workers shown in column 2 of the above table were engaged are shown below.—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B List.	
Jubbulpore ...	28th July, 1900	20,056	3,648	—	—	11,561
	25th Aug. "	12,173	408	—	—	20,059
Nerbudda ...	28th July "	51,558	19,609	246	7,244	8,277
	25th Aug. "	30,457	17,498	46	7,190	28,295
Nagpur ...	28th July "	121,492	11,432	5,419	20,974	29,811
	25th Aug. "	36,273	2,292	6,068	21,164	65,254
Chhattisgarh ...	28th July "	110,052	39,127	—	67	—
	25th Aug. "	30,097	15,000	—	94	—
Total ...	28th July "	303,158	73,816	5,665	28,285	48,649
	25th Aug. "	109,000	35,198	6,114	28,448	113,608

4. There has been, it will be observed, a decline in the numbers on all forms of relief of neary 237,000, or over 10 per cent. But the nature of the

decrease can best be appreciated with reference to the intermediate rise in the middle of the month. The figures week by week were as follows :—

Week ending				Numbers.
July 28th	...	...	...	2,290,863
August 4th	...	...	...	2,269,585
„ 11th	.	...	...	2,308,949
„ 18th	...	...	...	2,241,557
„ 25th	...	...	...	2,054,086

The decline now reported has been larger in the case of work-relief than under the gratuitous heads, but these also show a decrease of 68,500, the precursor of the further reduction reported in the telegraphic returns of the last two weeks.

5. Under the major head of work-relief, the principal fall has occurred on Public Works Department works. The number of charges has dropped from 128 to 76, 52 camps having been closed during the month. The average number of workers at each camp has fallen from 2,368 to 1,434; and the number of dependants has declined in an even greater proportion. Few, if any, Public Works Department works are likely to continue open after the close of the current month. In very few localities has the exclusion of the able-bodied from kitchens resulted in any return of labourers to relief-works.

6. Numbers on village works have declined by over a half; and if the persons relieved at the Betul depôts are removed to the head of B list relief, to which they properly belong, the numbers on those works outside Chhattisgarh become quite insignificant. Of those returned from the Chhattisgarh Division the majority belong to a portion of the Bilaspur District where distress is greatest and the character of the soil renders Village Works practicable in the rains. Forest roads in Chanda account for almost the whole of the numbers shown on forest works. Weaver relief continues unchanged.

7. Relief under the B list system has everywhere expanded, save in Chhattisgarh, where the great extension of kitchens and the free resort of the people to them rendered this form of relief unnecessary. If the 17,000 people of the Betul depôts are added to the B list numbers, the total is 130,000 against 68,000 similarly computed at the end of July. This system has been found specially useful to meet the case of the poorest cultivators, as was anticipated in paragraph 5 of my report for July; and it has also enabled a good deal of weeding to be done in the fields of those who could not afford to pay for weeding. As the early crops ripen, this form of relief will be discontinued.

8. Under the heads of gratuitous relief, poor-houses call for little notice. Needy vagrants have a tendency to crowd into head-quarters during the rains; but constant drafting has kept the numbers down, and the population of the eight poor-houses was only 1,620 at the close of the month, as compared with 1,200 at the end of July.

9. As in July, kitchen relief has been the main feature of relief measures. Comparison of the figures of the two months gives the following result :—

	Number of Kitchens.	Number Fed.		
		Adults.	Children.	Total.
On 28th July	No. 5,011	No. 679,972	No. 917,731	No. 1,597,703
On 25th August	6,301	641,654	920,126	1,561,780
Increase or Decrease	+ 1,290	- 38,318	+ 2,395	- 35,923

The increase in the number of kitchens represents the effort of the numerous Charge Officers to cope with the disorganization which the overcrowding of kitchens in the early part of the month entailed. Subsidiary kitchens were multiplied in order to relieve the pressure on the main kitchens. As was reported last month, the expediency of reducing kitchen relief as agricultural operations began to offer increased employment occupied the constant and anxious attention of the Officiating Chief Commissioner. But, owing to the necessity, in view of the backwardness of the crops and a high death-rate, of proceeding with great caution, and after careful consultation with local officers, the orders directing the gradual exclusion of the able-bodied could not issue before the middle of the month. The dissemination and explanation of these orders among all the various villages and circles was a work of time; and the results of this action are only now becoming apparent.

The policy of exclusion was accompanied in the case of districts less distressed by the voluntary departure both of adults and children as field employment increased; but up to the 25th August only a beginning had been made. During the last two weeks the numbers at kitchens have diminished by no less than 350,000. The branch kitchens of Chhattisgarh, which have now served their purpose, are being closed, and in every district a reduction in the number of kitchens is being gradually effected. To turn to particular districts, adult attendance at kitchens has fallen most satisfactorily in the following :—

District.	Adult Attendance.	
	On 28th July.	On 25th August.
	No.	No.
Saugor	24,426	12,305
Hoshangabad	47,835	17,272
Nimar	36,820	22,698
Wardha	28,017	15,374
Betul	35,869	25,245

On the other hand there was an increase of adult attendance in Nagpur, Chanda, Balaghat, Raipur and Sambalpur. In the first and two last districts there has been a large subsequent decrease. In Balaghat, cultivators have been more impoverished than elsewhere; while in Chanda it is feared that the area sown is shorter proportionately than elsewhere. The area transplanted is very short, and constant rain impeded field work, while the large extent of the district and the difficulties of communications have retarded the promulgation of the orders, contained in Famine Circular No. 53. A statement giving full details of kitchen-relief by districts is appended.

10. Village relief properly so called, or distribution of cash doles to people in their homes, shows a small decline from 180,849 to 175,740. There is nothing new to remark about this list. It will shortly, as early crops ripen, be considerably cut down; but on the other hand, the curtailment of kitchen relief will necessitate the temporary enrolment on the cash list of those debarred by infirmity from walking to a more distant kitchen.

11. Although there has been no general fall of prices common to every part of the Province, there is a distinct tendency in that direction. In part of Jubbulpore Division and in Sambalpur the fall had been marked. As these are the localities where the stocks are largest, prospects have acted on prices sooner

than elsewhere. The following is a comparative statement of prices in the districts mentioned :—

District.	Seers per Rupee.					
	Rice.		Gram.		Wheat.	
	July 28th.	August 25th.	July 28th.	August 25th.	July 28th.	August 25th.
Saugor	9½	10	10½	10¾	9½	9¾
Damoh	8¾	10½	10¾	12¼	9½	9¾
Jubbulpore	10½	11	10½	12½	10	11
Sambalpur	9½	11½	9½	10½	9	10½

Rice and wheat have also fallen 2 seers (from 7 to 9 seers per rupee) in Betul, where temporary difficulties of transport had previously enhanced prices very greatly.

Imports continue, but on a much reduced scale ; and the latest accounts show that old stocks are being produced in places where their existence had been stoutly denied. Such stocks must necessarily have been small ; and their production now indicates a general confidence in the coming harvest.

12. The condition of the people, so far as all appearances testify, continues to be good. In the north and west of the Saugor District, where a number of foreigners have been attracted by the kitchens, there are persons to be seen in bad physical condition ; and similarly in Nimar and Hoshangabad there are wanderers from neighbouring States who have plainly suffered from want. But these are no new features. Among the local population emaciation is rarely seen. But the general health has been far from good. Fevers and bowel-complaints have been rife among all classes of society ; and cholera has not died out. The mortality of June was high ; and there has been no fall in July. There is ground for hoping that August may show some improvement ; but there was none in July. The unfavourable conditions of June continued into the first week or ten days of July ; and it was some time before the water-supply improved.

13. The total number of deaths in these three trying months of May, June and July compare as follows :—

Month.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	All causes.
May	14,989	973	50,043
June	22,788	1,006	70,728
July	13,753	703	71,055

The Provincial rate per mille per mensem, excluding the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris, was 6·82, and in the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris 7·26. If epidemics be excluded these rates fall to 5·35 and 6·26. The corresponding rates in June were 4·58 and 4·01 respectively. Non-epidemic mortality thus increased very largely. The sudden change in climatic conditions was responsible for this. With kitchens extended as they have been, it is impossible that want of food has caused mortality. There cannot be deaths from starvation without some signs of starvation among the living.

14. The district details of total non-epidemic mortality compare as follows for June and July :—

District.	Death-rates in June.		Death-rates in July.	
	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics.	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics
Saugor	4·67	4·27	7·46	5·02
Damoh	2·88	2·86	2·42	2·25
Jubbulpore	3·82	2·87	4·00	3·17
Mandla	1·70	1·70	1·90	1·80
Seoni	3·54	2·79	5·61	3·72
Narsinghpur... ..	1·97	1·95	2·01	1·97
Hoshangabad	6·41	4·27	6·67	5·23
Nimar	14·02	9·83	14·34	10·18
Betul	11·97	7·38	13·65	9·90
Chhindwara	13·38	6·34	15·78	9·86
Wardha	7·33	5·10	10·68	7·47
Nagpur	5·38	3·97	6·37	4·72
Chanda	16·63	7·78	8·68	7·47
Bhandara	6·74	5·52	8·25	7·49
Balaghat	4·04	3·56	7·07	5·97
Raipur	5·10	4·19	4·42	4·19
Bilaspur	6·69	4·15	3·86	3·47
Sambalpur	10·26	5·37	9·09	7·25

The most unhealthy zone is the country comprised in Nimar, Betul, Chhindwara and Mandla. Not only were these the districts in which the drought of 1899 was most intense, but it was also in these that the current monsoon was latest established. Satisfactory features of the returns are the great decrease of total mortality in Chanda and Bilaspur and the continued low death-rate in the northern districts. In the four districts where death-rates are highest the poorer classes, whether on relief or not, have now been subsisting for many months on a rice diet to which they are wholly unaccustomed. In Chhindwara, which for the first time heads the list, cholera was largely responsible for the heavy death-roll.

15. The task which now lies before the Administration is the closure of relief institutions. The people must return to their normal life and their normal responsibilities. Complete cessation of relief is not possible until harvesting actually begins and prices fall; but during the remainder of this month and the first half of October, there will be great scope for the substantial curtailment of relief, especially in those tracts in which distress has from the first been less severe or where the harvest is earliest. To this end Commissioners have been addressed, and orders dealing in detail with the procedure to be followed are under preparation and will issue very shortly.

16. I am also to forward for the information of the Foreign Department, the monthly report on the famine arrangements in the Feudatories by the Acting Political Agent. Prospects in these States are everywhere excellent. The

early millets, which are more extensive and are harvested earlier than in the neighbouring Khalsa, are causing prices to fall, and distress should now pass away very soon.

No. 6.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 2325, dated Nagpur, the 18th October, 1900.

I am directed to submit the usual monthly statements and map to describe the famine relief operations during the five weeks ending on the 29th September last.

2. The rainfall of the month was excellent over the whole Province. In the northern districts in fact it was somewhat too heavy and continuous; but the slight injury which may have been done to til and juar on low-lying land has been more than compensated for by the great benefit done to the rice crop, and by the assurance that the soil will be in the best possible condition for the rabi sowings. It may be said generally that all the crops of the kharif season are in excellent condition and prospects are more favourable than they have been for many years. Statistics of the area sown are being collected, but the result will not be known for some little time. In some of the rice districts the area sown with rice is believed to be in somewhat serious defect, but in all other parts of the Province the kharif crops will, it is expected, prove to have covered at least a normal area.

3. For many months the burden of these reports has been the progress of relief measures to meet the growing distress. At the close of August the tide had begun to turn, and the report for September has to deal with the gradual curtailment of relief.

The difference in the numbers on the several forms of relief, at the close of August and September respectively are shown in the following statements:—

Division.	Relief Works.	Dependant on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.	
Jubbulpore	25th Aug., 1900	32,640	870	146,811	35,018	182,699	215,339
	29th Sept. "	14,594	425	64,415	17,200	82,040	96,634
Nerbudda ...	25th Aug. "	83,486	5,430	216,978	20,903	243,311	326,797
	29th Sept. "	25,740	677	68,936	19,968	89,581	115,321
Nagpur ...	25th Aug. "	131,051	7,759	423,658	80,201	511,618	642,669
	29th Sept. "	141,297	5,346	227,891	67,566	300,803	442,100
Chhattisgarh	25th Aug. "	45,191	8,519	775,953	39,618	824,090	869,281
	29th Sept. "	8,187	1,698	440,764	30,907	473,369	481,556
Total ...	25th Aug. "	292,368	22,578	1,563,400	175,740	1,761,718	2,054,086
	29th Sept. "	189,818	8,146	802,006	135,641	945,793	1,135,611

There has thus been a decrease during the period of 918,475, or 45 per cent., in the numbers relieved. The decrease has been proportionately greater in the districts where maize and early millets, which were harvested during the month, are of most importance. Thus in the plateau districts of Mandla, Seoni, Chhindwara and Betul between the 1st and 29th September the numbers have fallen from 231,000 to 80,000 or 65 per cent.; while in the Nagpur Division,

where these early crops are of very little account, the reduction in numbers (from 618,000 to 442,000) is much smaller.

4. Details of the numbers shown as on work relief, which have fallen from 292,000 to 190,000 are given below :—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.	
Jubbulpore	25th August, 1900	12,173	408	—	—	20,059
	29th September „	7,940	369	—	—	6,285
Nerbudda ...	25th August „	30,457	17,408	46	7,190	28,295
	29th September „	3,933	7,182	—	5,908	8,717
Nagpur ...	25th August „	36,273	2,292	6,068	21,164	65,254
	29th September „	36,460	2,279	5,332	17,902	79,324
Chhattisgarh	25th August „	30,097	15,000	—	94	—
	29th September „	6,646	1,541	—	—	—
Total ...	25th August „	109,000	35,198	6,114	28,448	113,608
	29th September „	54,979	11,371	5,332	23,810	94,326

The numbers on Public Works Department works have become insignificant everywhere except in the Nagpur Division. Here, as the work of transplantation was completed, some of those previously turned out of kitchens began to resort to the Public Works Department camps, and though their number was not large, it was found inadvisable to close camps too rapidly in this Division. Thirty-five Public Works Department camps were, however, closed during the month, and of the 41 still open on the 29th, 19 more had been closed during the first week of the current month.

Orders were issued that village works should be closed by the end of September, and the numbers shown on them represent the figure of the last week before closure.

Weaver relief is now being contracted, and will shortly come to a close, as the advances made are worked off.

The B list relief has shrunk to very small dimensions in the Northern divisions. In the Nagpur Division it was necessary to continue it in the case of petty cultivators who are without resource until their crops ripen. It is now being rapidly curtailed.

5. Under the various gratuitous heads, poor-houses remain as before, and the chief feature has been the reduction of kitchens. Thus :—

—	Number of kitchens.	Number Fed.		
		Adults.	Children.	Total.
On 28th July	5,011	679,972	917,731	1,597,703
„ 25th August	6,301	641,654	920,126	1,561,780
„ 29th September... ..	3,663	257,914	542,447	800,361

Reduction of kitchen relief continues day by day. In some of the northern districts, in which distress has been always less acute, kitchens are now being closed altogether; but where there are no early crops to reap, kitchen relief cannot be closed altogether for some time yet.

On the list of those receiving gratuitous cash relief in their villages there is a reduction of 40,000, in spite of the fact that the closure of a kitchen entails temporary additions to the list of those incapables who cannot be supported by their relations.

6. On the whole, the progress in curtailing relief made during September has in the Officiating Chief Commissioner's opinion been satisfactory. September is a critical period; it was not until the end of it that prospects became really assured. Prospects, however good, can only alleviate distress when it has been severe; they cannot terminate it. The food supply must be replenished, and prices must fall before relief can cease. But since the close of the month the curtailment has been proceeding with greater rapidity. Work relief will come to an end in a few days with the Devali holidays, and the relief in November will be confined to the tracts in which the crops are latest. The last rain of September has had the result of delaying the ripening of the rice crops in the south of the province.

7. Imports of rice from Bengal have almost ceased, but a great deal of rice previously imported is being sent about the country. Dealers are trying to get rid of surplus stocks of imported rice before the new crop brings down prices. These movements have resulted in a great deal of local fluctuation in prices, but the net result of the good prospects has been the cheapening of rice in Chhattisgarh by two to three seers to the rupee. In the Nagpur country there has been a very slight fall only; but in the two Northern Divisions the effect of the small millet harvest has begun to be felt. In Chhindwara, where prices were very high at the end of August, rice and wheat have fallen from $7\frac{1}{4}$ and $6\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{4}$ and $8\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee respectively.

8. The mortality returns of August have already been submitted to the Government of India. The hope was expressed in paragraph 12 of last month's report that there might be some improvement in August, but this hope has not been realized. The number of deaths has again risen over the province as a whole in spite of the fact that there has been a great abatement of cholera mortality. The following table shows the figures of the last three months:—

Month.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	All Causes.
June	22,788	1,006	70,728
July	13,753	703	71,055
August	8,639	541	78,753

The provincial death-rate per mille per mensem has thus risen from 6·82 to 7·50, and in the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris from 7·26 to 8·49.

9. While the total number of deaths has been grievously high, there has been a satisfactory decrease in the death-rate in Saugor, Jubbulpore, Betul, Chhindwara, Seoni, and Balaghat. In the following districts death-rates continue satisfactorily low:—

District.	Death-rate.
Damoh	3·58
Jubbulpore	3·91
Narsinghpur	3·50
Mandla	2·15
Bilaspur	4·26

The districts in which the rates are highest are :—

District.	Death-rate.
Sambalpur	17·76
Nimar	16·34
Chhindwara	13·09
Wardha	12·77
Betul	11·11
Chanda	9·35
Nagpur	8·31

The reports by the local officers on the results of a special inquiry into mortality in Sambalpur have only just reached the Officiating Chief Commissioner, and he has not yet had time to examine the conclusions formed. In Nimar, as reported in previous months, there are good reasons for believing that the rate is deceptive and is not so high as the figures show, though, of course, much above normal.

10. With all this heavy mortality it cannot be said that the condition of the people is bad, though the public health has been far from good. The amount of fever and bowel complaints to which all classes of the community have been subject has been very abnormal. It would be absurd to deny that a great portion of this mortality is due to the stress and strain which famine entails. But it is equally certain that, with the enormous extension of kitchen relief in July and August, few if any deaths can be ascribed to actual want of food. It has also to be borne in mind that the abnormally unhealthy conditions have prevailed among rich and poor, European and Native, alike. The returns for September are not yet fully available, but it is satisfactory to learn that, as far as can be judged, there has been a substantial improvement in some of the worst districts.

11. The monthly report on famine relief in the Chhattisgarh Feudatories is forwarded as usual for the information of the Foreign Department. In most of these States early rice is beginning to come into the market, prices are falling, and relief is being rapidly contracted.

No. 7.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 2465, dated Nagpur, the 19th November, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly famine report for the period ending the 27th October together with the usual statements. No map is forwarded this month, as distress is now so rapidly abating that it seems hardly worth while preparing a map to show its distribution.

2. Except in Chhattisgarh, where heavy rain fell in the first week of the month, there has been no rain in October. The weather has been clear and the nights cool with heavy dews at times. The fall at the beginning of October has finally secured the safety of the rice crop in Chhattisgarh. The harvesting of early rice has been in progress for some little time in that Division, and the main harvest is now just beginning. Excellent outturns are expected. In the Wainganga rice districts prospects are not quite so satisfactory, and the area sown has been smaller. Owing to the lateness of the monsoon, sowings were delayed and transplanting protracted. The heavy downpours at the end of

September would ordinarily have finally secured the crop, but, owing to its backward condition, the dry October has caused some damage, and there are complaints that the crop growing on dry lands has suffered a good deal and will not yield a full outturn. Juar and cotton both promise a good yield, but the former suffered a good deal from excessive rain in the north of the Province. Til has not thrived very well in the Nerbudda Valley, and the late millets in Betul will give but a poor yield. On the whole, however, prospects are bright; harvesting will shortly be at its height; and distress is passing away.

3. October was a month of general curtailment of relief. Works were closed, kitchens reduced in number, and the persons fed at them eliminated. Curtailment could be carried out more rapidly in the northern districts where early millets and miscellaneous food crops are of much greater importance than in the south of the Province. Famine Circular No. 56 prescribed a procedure, but left it largely to the discretion of local officers to decide the precise date at which each stage of that procedure should be carried out.

The usual tabular statements which follow show the extent to which contraction of relief was carried out in the several Divisions of the Province.

Division.	Relief Work.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total gratuitous.	Grand Total.	
Jubbulpore...	29th Sept., 1900 ...	14,594	425	64,415	17,200	82,040	96,634
	27th Oct. " ...	1,458	60	6,369	5,380	11,809	13,267
Nerbudda ...	29th Sept. " ...	25,740	677	68,936	19,968	89,581	115,321
	27th Oct. " ...	765	—	9,295	12,194	21,489	22,254
Nagpur ...	29th Sept. " ...	141,297	5,346	227,891	67,566	300,803	442,100
	27th Oct. " ...	26,574	227	79,300	38,873	118,400	144,974
Chhattisgarh	29th Sept. " ...	8,187	1,698	440,764	30,907	473,369	481,556
	27th Oct. " ...	—	—	134,722	21,357	156,079	156,079
Total ...	29th Sept. " ...	189,818	8,146	802,006	135,641	945,793	1,135,611
	27th Oct. " ...	28,797	287	229,686	77,804	307,777	336,574

Details of the numbers shown as on work relief are given below:—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.	
Jubbulpore	29th Sept., 1900 ...	7,940	369	—	—	6,285
	27th Oct. " ...	1,458	—	—	—	—
Nerbudda ...	29th Sept. " ...	3,933	7,182	—	5,908	8,717
	27th Oct. " ...	—	—	—	—	765
Nagpur ...	29th Sept. " ...	36,460	2,279	5,332	17,902	79,324
	27th Oct. " ...	1,715	942	—	—	23,917
Chhattisgarh	29th Sept. " ...	6,646	1,541	—	—	—
	27th Oct. " ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	29th Sept. " ...	54,979	11,371	5,332	23,810	94,326
	27th Oct. " ...	3,173	942	—	—	24,682

In the course of the month a million people have resumed their ordinary avocations, and 85 per cent. of the enormous total on relief in August are now able to support themselves. A good deal of relief was however arranged to close at the end of October, and the figures for the week ending November 3rd are as follows :—

Workers (B list)	...	...	...	5,233
Poor-houses	...	...	...	800
Kitchens...	...	...	...	132,273
Village doles	...	...	...	55,422
			Total	193,728

Complete figures are not available up to the 10th, but the telegraphed figures show 145,000 only on relief. Some districts report by telegram figures a week old, as the returns of the week are incomplete. The correct number is probably nearer 100,000.

4. By the end of the month relief had been totally or nearly closed in Damoh, Mandla, Seoni, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara and Nimar, and of those returned as on relief on November 3rd all but 15,000 belong to the south of the Province. The districts in which distress has been slowest to terminate are the rice districts of the south of the Province, and also Saugor, which has suffered from many years' depression, and Wardha, which depends almost entirely on the juar crop. In all of these a great reduction may be expected by the 25th current, and by the end of the month the relief lists should be clear of all but a few incapable paupers in poor-houses and pauper wards of dispensaries.

5. Imports have now come to a practical standstill, but prices in some districts have not yet fallen to a very marked extent. Imports having now ceased, dealers are able to hold out for full prices until the new grain can come into the market in sufficient quantities to compel a fall. The demand for seed for sowing has also enabled them to keep up the prices of wheat and gram. Still in many districts prices are much easier than in September. Rice has touched 15 seers in Chhattisgarh, and has cheapened a seer or two in Bhandara and Balaghat.

There is yet a month before the new rice and juar will come into market in large quantities, when the fall in prices should be very great. The grains of the rabi season are not, however, likely to fall to normal rates until next spring. In Chanda, where the area sown is believed to have been very short, and early varieties are this year very little grown, prices remain obstinately high, but a fall cannot now be long delayed.

6. The condition of the people is everywhere reported to be improving, but malarial fever has been very rife. Every class has suffered alike. The latest mortality returns available for the whole Province are those for September. This was the month in which the heaviest death-rate was apprehended, and it is satisfactory to find that on the whole there has been an improvement. The death-rates for the month of July, August and September compare as follows :—

District.	Death rates per Mille per Mensem.		
	July.	August.	September.
Saugor	7.46	6.51	5.60
Damoh	2.42	3.58	4.15
Jubbulpore	4.00	3.91	4.98
Mandla	1.90	2.15	2.51
Seoni	5.61	4.58	3.80
Narsinghpur	2.01	3.50	5.60

District.	Death rate per Mille per Mensem.		
	July.	August.	September.
Hoshangabad	6·67	7·44	6·18
Nimar	14·34	16·34	10·58
Betul	13·65	11·11	9·01
Chhindwara	15·78	13·09	9·01
Wardha	10·68	12·77	11·40
Nagpur	6·37	8·31	6·97
Chanda	8·68	9·35	11·40
Bhandara... ..	8·25	7·32	7·12
Balaghat	7·07	5·23	4·08
Raipur	4·42	5·90	4·69
Bilaspur	3·86	4·26	3·97
Sambalpur	9·00	17·76	15·89
Total Khalsa	6·82	7·50	6·75
Chhattisgarh Zamindaris	7·26	8·49	7·72

7. In 13 out of the 18 districts there has been a fall in the death-rate recorded in September, the decline in the case of Nimar being specially satisfactory. Wardha and Chanda, the two districts in which a rise has occurred, are also the two districts in which relief was slowest contracted. The grievously high death-rate in Sambalpur has been the subject of special inquiries. The reports of the local officers were incomplete in certain respects, and the Administrative Medical Officer was directed by the Officiating Chief Commissioner to visit Sambalpur in company with the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division, and to report. His report is awaited.

The returns for October are not yet to hand, but, so far as they are available, they show a further decrease in the death-rate. If further reports confirm this result there will be every prospect of mortality returning to a more normal rate in the current month, and in December all unfavourable conditions should have passed away.

8. This will be the last monthly report to be submitted, as the final report on the whole famine is under preparation and it only remains now to wind up relief. As already stated, the kharif harvest will be in most places excellent and nowhere bad, and the prospects of the young rabi crops are at present encouraging. With the regular cold-weather showers a full yield should be obtained, and even without them there should be no failure.

9. The report of the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatory States, is as usual attached for the information of the Foreign Department. Mr. Sly is able to write very hopefully of the prospects of the crops and condition of the people in these States. Relief has closed or is just closing in all of them. But in two States, Patna and Sonpur, the mortality of the last two months, principally attributable to fevers, has been very excessive. A serious outbreak of dacoity occurred in Patna, for the suppression of which a special Police Officer with a body of British police has been detailed. It is believed that the outbreak was largely due to the inefficiency of relief arrangements in a portion of that State, and the Political Agent is dealing with this separately; but it is noteworthy

that the heaviest mortality has occurred in the Sonpur State, where the arrangements made by the Chief have earned special commendation. The question will be further dealt with in the Final Report.

CROP STATISTICS.

No. 8.

Note by C. W. E. Montgomery, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, Central Provinces, on the Crop Statistics of the Central Provinces for the year 1899-1900, ending the 31st May, 1900, dated Nagpur, 31st July, 1900.

In accordance with the precedent of the last two years, I submit a brief note on the crop areas and yields of the past agricultural year, based on special returns compiled in the Forms B, C and D appended to the Chief Commissioner's Annual Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration.

Statistics for the Jagirs of the Chhindwara District are for the first time included.

The returns for the Zamindaris of Chanda were not received in time for compilation and, in default, the figures of the previous year were used.

2. The inclusion of the statistics for the Zamindaris is sometimes a source of weakness. For want of funds, the Land Record Staff in the Zamindaris is not yet fully organised and can with difficulty secure accuracy; and the area for which returns are made is liable to yearly increase. For this reason, separate figures for the *khalsa* area, excluding the Zamindaris and Jagirs, are in some cases given in this note.

3. The pervading feature of the season was a failure of the monsoon, so complete as to be unparalleled for sixty years, falling upon resources drained by previous failures. The north of the Provinces suffered somewhat less than the south.

4. The returns show the occupied areas for the last three years, as Statement C.I. follows, in acres :—

Year.	Including Zamindaris.	Excluding Zamindaris.
	Acres.	Acres.
1897-98	21,613,583	18,925,093
1898-99	21,647,422	18,923,134
1899-1900	21,718,066	18,968,734

The increase of 46,000 acres in the *khalsa* is satisfactory, but needs to be taken with qualifications; the cultivated and cropped areas are a more ready guide. The Jubbulpore Division shows a decrease, the other three Divisions an increase; but district figures vary greatly. The largest decrease in a district, however, is 3 per cent. in Saugor.

5. The following figures indicate the progress of cultivation as shown by the area cropped :—

Districts.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) of column 4 on column 3.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) of column 4 on column 2.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			
Saugor	754,777	697,711	686,544	—2	—9	
Damoh	438,283	403,344	417,914	+4	—4	
Jubbulpore	889,320	942,666	863,541	—8	—3	
Mandla	446,923	483,027	492,451	+2	+10	
Seoni	574,339	595,812	552,250	—7	—4	
Total Jubbulpore Division	3,098,642	3,122,560	3,012,700	—4	—3	
Narsinghpur	545,278	539,723	551,052	+2	+1	
Hoshangabad	857,227	857,342	812,942	—5	—5	
Nimar	562,069	578,966	585,332	+1	+4	
Betul	528,049	568,518	454,261	—20	—14	
Ohhindwara ...	Khalsa	691,617	720,543	608,634	—16	—12
	Jagirs	67,266	83,892	89,918	+7	+34
Total Nerbudda Division.	Including Jagirs ...	3,251,506	3,348,984	3,102,139	—7	—7
	Excluding do. ...	3,184,240	3,265,092	3,012,221	—8	—5
Wardha	916,854	903,035	783,552	—13	—15	
Nagpur	1,247,042	1,224,818	1,177,550	—4	—6	
Ohanda	Khalsa	615,688	607,360	550,444	—9	—11
	Zamindaris	202,746	191,184	191,134	<i>NIL</i>	—6
Bhandara	Khalsa	561,274	569,247	469,029	—18	—16
	Zamindaris	235,348	257,204	192,011	—25	—18
Balaghat	Khalsa	244,058	289,032	209,768	—27	—14
	Zamindaris	88,703	84,391	77,352	—8	—13
Total Nagpur Division.	Including Zamindaris	4,111,708	4,126,121	3,650,740	—12	—11
	Excluding do. ...	3,584,916	3,593,392	3,190,343	—11	—11
Raipur	Khalsa	1,978,588	2,054,369	1,948,748	—5	—2
	Zamindaris	403,720	431,962	453,874	+5	+12
Bilaspur	Khalsa	1,125,536	1,231,313	1,165,732	—5	+4
	Zamindaris	368,779	376,449	379,717	+1	+3
Sambalpur	Khalsa	618,032	648,453	637,273	—2	+3
	Zamindaris	499,407	552,661	525,028	—5	+5
Total Chhattisgarh Division.	Including Zamindaris	4,994,062	5,295,107	5,110,372	—3	+2
	Excluding do. ...	3,732,156	3,934,035	3,751,753	—5	+1
PROVINCIAL TOTAL.	Including Zamindaris	15,455,918	15,892,772	14,875,951	—6	—4
	Excluding do. ...	13,589,954	13,915,079	12,967,017	—7	—4

The Province shows a decrease of a million acres in the area cropped. Large areas were prepared for both *kharif* and *rabi*, but much was allowed to lie fallow for want of rain. The cropped area has sunk even below the level of 1896-97. In the *khalsa*, decrease is most marked in the Betul, Chhindwara, Wardha, Bhandara and Balaghat Districts, Damoh; Mandla, Narsinghpur and Nimar show a slight increase.

4. The contraction of the cropped area has occasioned a large expansion of the area under current fallows, which has increased by nearly a million acres from the area of 1898-99.

The area under old fallow has also increased since 1898-99 by a million and a-half acres.

5. *Double-cropping*.—The area double-cropped during the past three years is contrasted below :—

Year.				Including Zamindaris.	Excluding Zamindaris.
				Acres.	Acres.
1897-98	...	...	...	1,149,222	1,025,692
1898-99	...	..	...	1,235,684	1,089,618
1899-1900	...	...	...	167,855	142,370

The ground was far too dry for double-cropping and the current year's area is only one-eighth of that of the previous year. Double-cropping is of great importance in the two districts Raipur and Bilaspur, and in the *khalsa* of these two districts, the double-cropped area fell from 545,571 acres to 49,375. The fall was also serious in Jubbulpore, Mandla, Chanda, Bhandara and Balaghat, especially the two last.

Statement C-II.

6. The total area irrigated in each of the past three years is :—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area including Jagirs and Zamindaris	562,784	654,269	352,232
Percentage to total cropped area	3.6	4.1	2.3
Area excluding Jagirs and Zamindaris	468,171	523,786	274,085
Percentage to total cropped area including Jagirs and Zamindaris.	3.4	3.5	2.1

Since there was but little water in either tanks or wells, irrigation fell off greatly. The number of both temporary and durable irrigation wells has considerably increased, but without water they were of but little use.

7. The returns show the number of plough-cattle as having decreased by 190,696, or by 7 per cent. This, of course, does not include the loss of cattle which occurred in the hot weather after the patwaris had compiled their papers.

8. The following statement contrasts the Statements D-I. and D-II. kharif and rabi cropping for the three years 1897-98, 1898-99 and 1899-1900 :—

		1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	Increase or decrease of 1899-1900 from 1898-99.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Per cent.
Kharif...	Including Zamindaris ..	11,867,533	11,713,991	11,622,396	- 1
	Excluding do. ...	10,103,562	9,934,570	9,819,703	- 1
Rabi ...	Including do. ...	4,737,607	5,414,465	3,421,410	-37
	Excluding do. ...	4,512,084	5,142,127	3,289,684	-36
Total ...	Including Zamindaris	16,605,140	17,128,456	15,043,806	-12
	Excluding Zamindaris	14,615,646	15,076,697	13,109,387	-13
Deduct double-cropping.	Including Zamindaris	1,149,222	1,235,684	167,855	-
	Excluding Zamindaris	1,025,692	1,089,618	142,370	-
NET AREA	Including Zamindaris	15,455,918	15,892,772	14,875,951	- 6
	Excluding Zamindaris	13,589,954	13,915,079	12,967,017	- 7

The area under *kharif* was virtually the same as in the previous year, but the area under *rabi* fell off by over one-third and was even less than that of 1896-97. The gross cropped area decreased by 12 per cent., and the net cropped area by half as much.

9. The area under the principal crops of the *kharif* season contrast as follows with that of the two preceding years :—

Crop.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	Increase or decrease from 1898-99.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Per cent.
Rice ...	4,824,242	5,120,405	4,722,035	- 8
Juar ...	1,077,206	803,356	909,254	+13
Juar-tur ...	1,248,532	1,055,626	1,230,192	+16
Tur ...	175,887	166,288	193,049	+16
Cotton and Cotton-tur ...	734,477	734,538	805,289	+10
Til ...	557,362	510,587	806,654	+58
Kodon and Kutki ...	1,651,838	1,705,267	1,726,372	+ 1
Sugarcane. ...	27,081	25,687	25,205	- 2

Rice has fallen off substantially, and sugarcane slightly; the other crop have increased.

10. *Rice*.—There has been a contraction of 398,370 acres, or 8 per cent. in the area under rice. In the Chhattisgarh Division there has actually been an increase, and consequently the area under broadcasted rice, over four million acres, shows a small increase. It is in the Wainganga districts that the decrease chiefly occurs, and the area under transplanted rice—the speciality of those districts—shows a violent shrinkage from 839,000 to 423,000 acres. Transplantation was terribly hindered by want of rain.

The exports of rice for the last three years are as under :—

Year.	Maunds.
1897-98	866,218
1898-99	2,233,325
1899-1900... ..	788,124

Even the small export of 1899-1900 includes the reserved stocks of preceding years, and the needs of the Provinces were chiefly met by imports of rice from Calcutta and Burmah.

11. *Juar*.—Combining juar with juar-tur, the area under crop is :—

Year.	Acres.
1897-98	2,325,738
1898-99	1,858,982
1899-1900... ..	2,139,446

The area has increased by 280,464 acres, or 15 per cent. The increases occur particularly in the rice districts. Juar and tur were substituted for rice in fields which were too dry for rice.

Almost everywhere the juar crop began well and for a long time resisted the drought better than any other, but the continued absence of rain and abnormal heat eventually caused the plants to dry up without flowering. In Jubbulpore and Raipur, and in the districts of the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, the crop was almost a complete failure and most of it was cut for fodder. Ringni juar has generally done better.

12. *Tur*.—The area sown with tur has increased by 26,761 acres, or by 16 per cent. The rainfall was favourable to the crop at the time of sowing which accounts for the expansion in the cropped area. The increase is noticeable in the Nagpur and Chanda districts and in the Bilaspur Zamindaris.

13. *Cotton and Cotton-tur*.—The area under cotton and its admixture has increased by 70,750 acres, or by 10 per cent. The decrease in 1897-98 in the area under this crop was due partly to the desire of tenants to replenish food stocks and partly to their impoverished condition, owing to which they could not afford to pay for agricultural operations.

In 1898-99 trade was dull, and there was little incentive to sow. The current year's increase was an indication of the improved condition of the

cultivators and of brisker trade. The following are the figures for the chief cotton-growing districts :—

District.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Nimar	126,598	134,106	151,458
Wardha	284,147	305,228	309,968
Nagpur	140,764	153,533	177,404
Chhindwara, including Jagira	50,276	49,146	58,406

The exports of the past three years, from the 1st October up to the 17th June, are :—

District.	Bales of 8½ cwts.		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Nerbudda Division	48,116	48,581	31,828
Nagpur Division	60,136	89,785	66,312

The crop was very poor, but fortunately the market was brisk and exports were much larger in comparison with those of the two previous years than the outturn of the crop would have indicated.

14. *Til*.—The expansion of the area under til, by 296,067 acres, or 58 per cent., is one of the redeeming features of the season. The season favoured sowing operations, both of the early and late varieties, and this induced cultivators to place larger areas than usual under this crop. The difficulty experienced in obtaining wheat and other expensive rabi seed was a further stimulus in the same direction. The crop was poor, but the demand was good, and the very heavy exports put some money into the cultivators' pockets.

The exports for the past three years, for the period 1st October to 17th June, have been :—

Year.	Bags of 2½ Maunds.
1897-98	518,895
1898-99	425,102
1899-1900	783,776

The increased export is very satisfactory, even though it was partly drawn from reserved stocks.

15. *Kodon and Kutki*.—The area under these hill millets remained practically unchanged. The crop was a poor one, surviving best in Chhattisgarh.

16. *Sugarcane*.—The cultivation of sugarcane continues to decline; and this year the crop was poor.

Sugarcane never does well without a few heavy downpours in the rains. These it did not get. Moreover, in the majority of wells, water was insufficient for proper irrigation, and much of the crop was, therefore, cut before its time, and produced inferior *gur*.

17. *Other crops.*—The figures for these crops are contrasted below :—

Crop.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Urad, Mung and Moth	Acres. 522,906	Acres. 544,842	Acres. 273,045
Castor	317,961	363,508	243,283
San (Hemp)	53,664	38,767	42,963
Groves and Orchards	45,826	41,224	39,473
Garden crops	26,358	32,097	31,414
Miscellaneous Food-crops	345,474	313,680	344,179
Miscellaneous Non-food-crops	258,919	258,119	229,989

18. *Rabi crops.*—The following table shows the areas under rabi during the past three years :—

Division.	District.	1897-1898.	1898-1899.	1899-1900.	Increase or Decrease of 1899-1900 Figures over those of 1898-99.		Increase or Decrease of 1899-1900 Figures over those of 1897-98.		
					Actual.	Per-centage.	Actual.	Per-centage.	
JUBHUPUR.	Saugor	276,328	338,149	301,364	- 36,785	- 11.	+ 26,041	+ 9.	
	Damoh	189,957	204,426	178,973	- 25,453	- 12	- 10,984	- 6	
	Jubbulpore	523,350	557,970	378,808	- 179,072	- 32	- 144,452	- 28	
	Mandla	141,574	134,324	83,772	- 50,552	- 40	- 57,802	- 40	
	Seoni	239,470	285,781	248,692	- 37,089	- 13	+ 9,222	+ 4	
	Total	1,369,674	1,520,650	1,191,699	- 328,951	- 22	- 177,975	- 13	
NERBUDDA.	Narsinghpur	254,789	307,157	258,683	- 48,489	- 16	+ 3,879	+ 2	
	Hoshangabad	464,532	527,896	503,412	- 24,584	- 5	+ 38,880	+ 8	
	Nimar	43,810	60,087	7,140	- 52,747	- 88	- 36,470	- 83	
	Betul	164,338	194,302	86,668	- 107,634	- 55	- 77,670	- 47	
	Ohhindwara {	Khalsa	217,497	247,936	121,328	- 126,608	- 51	- 96,099	- 44
		Jagirs	19,744	15,397	15,978	+ 581	+ 4	- 3,766	- 19
	Total .. {	Including Jagirs ..	1,164,640	1,352,875	993,394	- 359,481	- 27	- 171,248	- 15
Excluding Jagirs..	1,144,896	1,337,478	977,418	- 360,062	- 27	- 167,480	- 14		
NAGPUR.	Wardha	214,262	259,373	66,333	- 193,040	- 74	- 147,929	- 69	
	Nagpur	485,708	523,309	324,361	- 198,948	- 38	- 161,347	- 33	
	Chanda .. {	Khalsa	241,467	248,585	180,806	- 67,779	- 27	- 60,861	- 25
		Zamindaris	16,941	17,062	17,062	-	-	+ 121	+ 1
	Bhandara .. {	Khalsa	242,812	262,728	141,466	- 141,262	- 50	- 101,346	- 42
		Zamindaris	72,338	82,336	17,969	- 64,367	- 78	- 54,369	- 75
	Bhalsaghat .. {	Khalsa	76,679	113,475	27,748	- 85,727	- 78	- 48,931	- 64
		Zamindaris	27,084	39,519	11,919	- 27,630	- 70	- 15,165	- 56
	Total .. {	Including Zamindaris ..	1,377,391	1,566,417	787,664	- 778,753	- 50	- 589,627	- 43
	Excluding Zamindaris..	1,260,928	1,427,470	740,714	- 686,756	- 48	- 520,214	- 41	
CHEHATGARH.	Raipur .. {	Khalsa	481,079	526,058	195,504	- 329,554	- 65	- 265,575	- 58
		Zamindaris	44,347	55,148	35,147	- 19,999	- 36	- 9,200	- 21
	Bilaspur .. {	Khalsa	266,856	319,681	180,950	- 138,681	- 43	- 85,906	- 33
		Zamindaris	38,536	52,551	30,508	- 22,043	- 49	- 8,028	- 21
	Sambalpur .. {	Khalsa	8,651	11,940	3,401	- 8,439	- 71	- 5,250	- 61
		Zamindaris	6,583	10,297	3,143	- 7,154	- 70	- 3,390	- 53
	Total .. {	Including Zamindaris ..	826,002	974,523	448,653	- 525,870	- 54	- 377,349	- 46
	Excluding Zamindaris..	736,586	866,529	379,855	- 476,674	- 56	- 356,731	- 49	
GRAND TOTAL.	Including Zamindaris ..	4,737,607	5,414,466	3,421,410	- 1,993,056	- 37	- 1,316,197	- 26	
Excluding Zamindaris..	4,512,084	5,142,127	3,289,684	- 1,852,443	- 36	- 1,222,400	- 27		

" The shrinkage in the south was much more stringent than in the north; the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions show a decrease of a quarter, but the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions a decrease of a half.

After the recovery of the previous year, it is deplorable to find the current year's rabi area below that of 1896-97.

19. *Wheat*.—The areas under wheat and wheat-gram for the past three years are as follows :—

Crop.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Wheat...	Acres. 1,570,726	Acres. 1,792,484	Acres. 1,078,938
Wheat-gram ...	744,845	890,744	698,771
Total ...	2,315,571	2,683,228	1,777,709

According to the accepted formula, the true area under wheat would be as shown below :—

Year.	Acres.
1897-98 ...	2,203,844
1898-99 ..	2,549,616
1899-1900 ...	1,672,893

The current year's area is 34 per cent. less than the previous year's.

The normal wheat area of the Central Provinces is four million acres. In 1896-97 the area shrank to less than two million acres, but in the present year it was even less. The decline is most marked in Nimur and Wardha, but there the normal area is unimportant.

The season was very unfavourable to wheat. The soil was dry, the heat above normal, and the usual dews did not fall. With so small a prospect of a successful crop many cultivators had left their fields unsown. Mandla is the only district which reports a normal outturn; elsewhere a normal outturn was impossible.

20. *Gram*.—The area under this pulse has also declined by 185,433 acres, and on the whole only half a normal outturn was got in.

21. *Linseed*.—The area under linseed has also shrunk largely. The area returned is only a quarter of the average. The shrinkage is most marked in the important linseed-growing parts of Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. The area under this crop during the past three years is as under :—

Year.	Acres.
1897-98 ...	635,770
1898-99 ...	766,578
1899-1900 ...	250,699

The outturns are very poor throughout the Provinces. In Mandla, where the rain in January benefitted the crop, the outturn is reported to be 70. No other district reports even half a normal crop; in Nimar and Wardha it was a complete failure. The outturn of the linseed crop is estimated this year at only 4,311 tons, and represents only one-fourteenth of either the previous year's crop or of the average.

22. The following statement shows the areas under peas, masur, and teori (lakh) :—

Crop.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Peas	92,280	129,020	72,190
Masur	188,534	180,353	132,203
Teori (lakh)	382,244	444 406	164,923

The decrease in area was accompanied by a fallure of the crops.

23. These are the true features of a year of universal agricultural depression, which has annihilated the improvement that followed the famine of 1897, and still further reduced the resources of the cultivators.

24. The average outturn (in the American notation) of all food stuffs was 53 in 1896-97, and 100 in 1897-98. It has fallen to 35 in the year under report. This is a clear indication that the gravity of the present famine is far greater than it was in the famine of 1896-97—1897-98.

25. Moreover, as the following table shows, the outturn of the year was only a quarter of the normal outturn of all crops on their normal area :—

District.	Outturn expressed in percentage of normal crop.	Percentage by which cropping has fallen below normal.	Out-turn of district. 100=normal out-turn on normal area.
Saugor	48	—33	32
Damoh	59	—28	43
Jubbulpore	34	—27	25
Mandla	50	—14	43
Seoni	47	—27	34
Narsinghpur	47	—19	38
Hoshangabad	39	—17	32
Nimar... ..	17	— 3	16
Betul	28	—30	20
Chhindwara	Khalsa	} — 4	26
	Jagirs		
Wardha	34	—16	29
Nagpur	37	— 6	35
Chanda ...	Khalsa	} —18	27
	Zamindaris		
Bhandara ...	Khalsa	} —38	12
	Zamindaris		
Balaghat ...	Khalsa	} —51	11
	Zamindaris		

Districts.	Outturn expressed in percentage of normal crop.	Percentage by which cropping has fallen below normal.	Outturn of district 100—normal outturn on normal area.
Raipur ... { Khalsa Zamindaris ...	26 30	} —38	16
Bilaspur ... { Khalsa Zamindaris ...	25 26		
Sambalpur ... { Khalsa Zamindaris ...	40 42	} — 2	39
Total for the Provinces ...	34			—24	26

No. 9.

Note by F. G. Sly, Esq., Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, on the Agricultural Statistics of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st May, 1901, dated Nagpur, the 20th August, 1901.

This brief note on the crop areas and yields of the past agricultural year is based on special returns compiled in the Forms B, C (1) and (2) and D (1) and (2) appended to the Chief Commissioner's Annual Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces. The crop statements have been re-cast in accordance with recent instructions, and, where possible, the figures of previous years have been revised in order to admit of true comparison, but in some few minor crops this has not been possible.

The returns relate to the same areas as those of the previous year with the exception of the addition of a few newly-settled ryotwari villages, which are of no importance except in Nimar. In portions of the districts of Chanda, Raipur, Bilaspur, and Sambalpur, in which the land record staff was employed upon settlement or map correction, the statistics are estimates only and not compiled from field inspection.

2. The monsoon set in about the middle of June, and during that month gave good rain in Raipur and Sambalpur, moderate rain in Saugor, Seoni, Nimar, Chhindwara, Nagpur, Chanda, Balaghat, and Bilaspur, but only light showers elsewhere. In most of the northern districts of the Province there was very little rain, and great anxiety prevailed in that part until the second week in July, when excellent general rain fell, the showers in the northern districts being particularly heavy. In the latter half of July the rainfall was heavy in Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Balaghat, and good showers fell in the remaining districts of the Province. The first week of August brought good rain to all the districts of the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, and the falls were still heavier in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions. In the second week of this month heavy rain fell over the whole of the Provinces. During the second half of the month the rainfall was light with short breaks in most of the districts of the Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions, but was heavy over almost the whole of the Jubbulpore Division, Narsinghpur, and the Chhattisgarh

country. During the first half of September heavy rain continued in Chhattisgarh and in Jubbulpore, Mandla, and Nimar, and moderate to light rain fell in the other districts of the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Slight showers only were received in the Nagpur country. In the latter half of September continuous but moderate rain again fell in the Jubbulpore Division, and there were more or less heavy falls in Chhattisgarh. In the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions slight showers fell in the third week, but were followed by heavy and continuous rain in the last week of that month. In the first half of October a cyclonic storm gave heavy rain in Raipur and Bilaspur, but with this exception the month was practically rainless and the monsoon withdrew unusually early, no rain being received in November. The rainfall was thus fairly suitable for kharif crops.

The rainfall in December was confined to the plateau and northern districts, but was unusually heavy. The weather during January was very unsettled and fairly general rain fell, the districts in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions receiving moderate falls, and the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh country light showers. Showery weather prevailed throughout the Provinces during February, the falls being heaviest in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Showers were also registered in March, April, and May. The distribution of rainfall during the second half of the year was thus most unusual, no rain for the most part being received in October and November, whilst exceptionally heavy showers fell in the following months. The conditions under which the rabi crops were sown were, therefore, not altogether favourable, and the subsequent heavy showers injured the crops when flowering and in the ear. The Provinces were visited by several hailstorms during the year. Taking the Province as a whole, the rainfall in the year averaged 55.46 inches, as compared with 44.65, the normal rainfall.

3. The season was generally a favourable one for kharif crops. Sowings were retarded in some districts, but the subsequent rainfall was sufficient. The outturn of rice was generally up to the average. Jubbulpore and Sambalpur reaped a bumper crop, whilst the outturn in the important rice districts of Raipur and Bilaspur was but little, if at all, below the average. Transplanted rice generally did better than broadcasted rice, but the crop did not equal the normal in Seoni, Bhandara, and Chanda. Juar gave a fair yield everywhere, and was quite up to the average in most of the important juar-growing tracts. The year was a most favourable one for cotton, and the yield was generally a full one. There seems but little doubt that the district estimates are below the mark. The outturn of til varied considerably from district to district; in the important til-growing tracts of the north an average harvest was reaped, but in Chhattisgarh it was somewhat below the normal. The smaller millets, kodon and kutki, which are important food-crops, gave a bumper yield in the north and an average yield elsewhere. Arhar was the only important kharif crop which did badly, being spoiled by rain at flowering time and by the attacks of caterpillars. The yield was generally only half the average, and was very small in Raipur, Bilaspur, the Nagpur country, and the Nerbudda valley.

The rabi crops were singularly unequal. The conditions under which wheat was sown were not altogether favourable owing to the absence of October rain, but a good crop was anticipated until prospects were injured by the excessive rain in January, February and March, which injured the grain in the ear and induced rust. The yield was about three-fourths of the normal, being better than this in the northern and plateau districts, but much worse in the Nagpur country. Gram fared still worse, principally owing to the attacks of caterpillars; the average yield was about half the normal, Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, and Raipur being even much below this. The yield of linseed was also a poor one, being little better than one-third of the normal, the northern districts again doing better, whilst the crop was almost a complete failure in the Nagpur country.

4. *Statement C (1).*—The statistics of the occupied area require some explanation. Unless formally relinquished, holdings left fallow are not struck off the records until they have been abandoned for a period of two years. The abandonment of land is, therefore, often not recorded in the year in which it occurs, and it is probable that in some districts the statistics overstate the occupied area. This has risen from 21,688,948 to 21,787,638, or by 98,690 acres. The Jubbulpore, Nerbudda, and Nagpur Divisions show increases over the figures of last year of 77,600, 35,600, and 25,800 acres respectively; while the Chhattisgarh Division shows a decrease of 40,400 acres. In the Jubbulpore Division the districts of Mandla and Seoni show the largest increases. Of the Districts in the Nerbudda Division the occupied area in Nimar has risen by 37,696 acres. The districts of Narsinghpur and Chhindwara (Khalsa) show slight increases, while the area in Betul has fallen by some 15,000 acres.

In the Nagpur Division, the areas in Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda (Khalsa), Bhandara (Zamindaris), and Balaghat (Khalsa and Zamindaris) show an increase, while the Chanda, Zamindaris, and the Khalsa portion of Bhandara exhibit a decrease.

In the Chhattisgarh Division, the statistics are not reliable owing to map correction being in progress, but the decrease largely consists of holdings abandoned in the famine of 1896-97, which have now for the first time been struck off the records. It is not improbable that other holdings subsequently abandoned should be struck off. There is some increase in Raipur (Khalsa), Bilaspur (Zamindaris) and Sambalpur (Khalsa), whilst the decrease is in the Raipur Zamindaris, Bilaspur Khalsa and Sambalpur Zamindaris. The severity of the last famine has left its mark upon this Division.

5. The area placed under crops in 1899-1900 was the smallest recorded for years past, smaller than in the famine year of 1896-97. The failure of the rains did not admit of sowing. The present figures show a small recovery of 480,131 acres, or 3 per cent. To judge of the effect of the famine, the present figures should be compared with those of 1898-99, and this comparison shows a falling-off of 560,120 acres, or 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. The sowing seasons were fairly suitable, and this decrease must be ascribed to deterioration caused by the last famine added to the fact that it was almost impossible in some districts to procure some grains for seed, notably rice, although there was money ready to purchase it. The fact that the decrease is not much larger is due to the assistance given to cultivators by agricultural loans and grants from the Charitable Fund. The effect of the famine has varied in different parts of the Provinces. In the Jubbulpore Division there has been no backward step but an advance, the area placed under crop been larger than in 1898-99. The Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions are also nearly as well off in this respect as in that year. It is the Chhattisgarh Division which shows the most deterioration in spite of the liberal famine relief, and these varying results are in accord with other ascertained facts of the comparative severity of the famine in the different divisions.

Taking the figures of the year, the cropped area increased in all the divisions, save Chhattisgarh. The increase in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions was 302,883, 183,664 and 482,739 acres respectively. This increase is most marked in Jubbulpore, Seoni, Chhindwara (Khalsa), Wardha, Nagpur and Bhandara (Khalsa and Zamindaris). The area in the Chanda Zamindaris fell by 62,000 acres.

The Chhattisgarh Division shows a decrease of 489,155 acres, which is common to all three districts, Khalsa and Zamindaris. Taking the year

1895-96, which was a fairly normal one, as a standard of 100, the decrease has been as follows:—

District.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
Raipur, Khalsa	99	94	91
Bilaspur, Khalsa	102	97	92
Sambalpur, Khalsa	110	105	91

Whilst this decrease is largely due to deterioration caused by the famine of the previous year, a good deal of it is accounted for by an actual inability to obtain rice seed by cultivators who had the means to purchase it, and a quick recovery is expected with good seasons. The cultivators who freely used Bengal rice for food had considerable mistrust of it for seed.

6. The expansion of the cropped area in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions has occasioned a contraction in the area under current fallows by 284,463, 145,937 and 415,589 acres, respectively. The area under current fallows in Chhattisgarh increased by 417,161 acres, but whilst the total fallow area in this division is probably not far different from that recorded, there is most likely considerable error in the classification between old and new fallow.

The area under old fallow has increased by 59,185 acres in the Jubbulpore and by 31,578 acres in the Chhattisgarh Division. The decrease in the Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions is 2,056 and 41,320 acres respectively. Land not cropped in the two previous years has now been transferred from new to old fallow, and in some districts where this has been accompanied by an increase of the occupied area, it is reported that cultivators have not again cultivated fallow lands overrun with *kans* (*Saccharum spontaneum*), but have preferred the easier task of breaking up waste land.

7. The double-cropped area rose from 164,567 to 959,739 acres. In the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions the double-cropped area is in excess of the areas of the two preceding years. In the Nagpur Division the area far exceeds that of 1899-1900, but falls short by 78,566 acres of that of 1898-99. In the Raipur and Bilaspur districts, where double-cropping is important, the area is in excess of that of the preceding year. The amount of double-cropping largely depends upon the suitability of the rainfall, and during this year the conditions admitted of raising a kharif crop in the wheat lands of the northern districts and of putting down a second crop in the rice lands of Chhattisgarh.

8. *Statement C (2)*.—In 1899-1900 the area irrigated fell to a minimum owing to the absence of water. This year has shown a recovery of 147,173 acres, but falls short of 1898-99 by 256,948 acres. Irrigation is comparatively unimportant in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, but it shows signs of recovery to the normal standard. In the districts of the Nagpur Division, Chanda (Khalsa and Zamindari) returns 86,501 acres less than in 1898-99, the decrease in the Khalsa area being 75,830 acres. The other districts show increases over that of 1899-1900, but they are still short of the area of 1898-99 except Wardha, which shows an increase. The irrigated area in Chhattisgarh (Khalsa and Zamindari) shows a decrease of 85,407 and 54,159 acres compared with 1899-1900 and 1898-99, the decrease in Sambalpur being most marked. The explanation is that owing to the favourable rainfall during the year, irrigation from tanks had but in very few cases to be resorted to.

9. The number of plough-cattle has still further decreased by 51,243. The decrease is observable in all the divisions except Chhattisgarh, where there is a slight increase of 250. The returns show a loss of over 200,000 plough-cattle, or 8 per cent. during the last famine.

10. *Statements D (1) and D (2).*—I now come to the detailed crop statistics which show the distribution of the crops between the two seasons. The area of crops grown in the kharif season during 1900-01 exceeds that of the two previous years by 301,680 and 42,076 acres, respectively. This for the most part represents real recovery, for it is accompanied by an increase of rabi cropping. The need for a quick renewal of food supplies and the cheapness of the seed of most kharif crops lead to an expansion of kharif cultivation after a famine. The Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions have contributed to the increase, the largest increase occurring in the Jubbulpore Division. The area under kharif crops in Chhattisgarh fell by 476,616 acres, the decrease being principally under unirrigated rice. The areas under the other principal crops, except tur and sugarcane, show an increase. The expansion is most marked in the Wardha and Nagpur Districts, where an exceedingly large area was devoted to valuable cotton and juar crops, which is entirely satisfactory. The increase is to be regretted in some of the northern districts where inferior kharif crops have ousted more valuable rabi. Betul shows the severity of its famine by the absence of recovery, short sowings being general amongst the aboriginal population; a severe outbreak of cholera at sowing time also interfered with cultivation in that district.

11. The ground lost in the famine has not yet been made up, the area being still short of the normal by about a million acres. The continuous rainfall at the time of sowing, and the scarcity of seed due to the failure of the crop last year, account for some of the decrease. The decrease is of most importance in the following districts, where the area sown with rice during the past three years is compared with that of 1895-96, which was a fairly normal year and is taken as a standard of 100 :—

District.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.
Seoni... ..	86	41	66
Chanda, Khalsa	102	46	48
Bhandara			
{ Khalsa	99	60	80
{ Zamindari	93	68	76
Balaghat			
{ Khalsa	88	63	72
{ Zamindari	74	71	68
Raipur			
{ Khalsa	95	95	77
{ Zamindari	121	128	78
Bilaspur			
{ Khalsa	88	89	69
{ Zamindari	105	106	92
Sambalpur, Khalsa	109	105	92

Chanda shows a most serious decline, the area under rice being only half of the normal, and the decline in Balaghat has been large. The Chhattisgarh Khalsa comes out badly, whilst the decrease is also important in Bhandara and Seoni.

A normal yield has been reaped in most districts. In Raipur this was reduced to about $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of the normal owing to the use of old seed, thin sowing, and careless weeding. The yield was also only about two-thirds of the normal in the important districts of Seoni, Chanda and Bhandara. The exports of rice up to date have amounted to the small quantity of 205,377 bags of $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds; so that the bulk of the crop has been reserved for the replenishment of stocks and for seed.

12. Of the kharif crops, juar is next in importance to rice, nearly two-thirds of it being grown as a mixture with arhar.

Juar.

The area occupied by juar shows a large increase, but does not quite equal that of 1897-98. The amount of seed required is small, and food-stocks are replenished by this crop earlier than by rabi. The increase is large in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions, while the area in Chhattisgarh Division, where it is unimportant, contracted. The increase in the Jubbulpore Division amounts to 26,000 acres and occurs in the Saugor and Seoni districts. The area under juar in Nimar, where its production is important, expanded slightly. In the districts of the juar country proper, viz., Chhindwara, Wardha and Nagpur, large increases are noticeable, and the outturn of the crop in these districts was good, being quite up to normal. The area under juar-tur also increased in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions, but decreased considerably in the Chhattisgarh Division. All the districts of these three divisions show an increase except Narsinghpur, Betul and Wardha, the largest increase being in Nagpur. The crop has yielded well in most districts, the exceptions being Mandla, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Bhandara, Raipur and Bilaspur, where three-fourths of the normal was obtained.

13. The area under these hill millets, which are important food-grains, has largely expanded in the Chhattisgarh Division, the increase being 250,686 acres, or 39 per cent.

Kodon and kutki.

Owing to the difficulty and expense of obtaining rice seed, much rice land was put down to these inferior millets, so that much of the increase must be regarded as deterioration. The increases in the Jubbulpore and Nagpur Divisions are 66,478 and 27,808 acres, respectively. The area in the Nerbudda Division fell by 15,373 acres, the largest decrease (13,000 acres) occurring in Nimar. The outturn has been good, being a bumper one in seven and normal in all the remaining districts except Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad and Bhandara, where the yield was about three-fourths of the normal.

14. The area sown with unmixed tur throughout the Provinces shows a decrease of 37,000 acres, and this decrease is shared

Arhar (Tur).

by all the districts of the Provinces, but is specially marked in the Nerbudda Division. This crop is, however, mostly grown as a mixture with juar, cotton and kodon, under which mixtures there are large increases. The district of Nimar, which grew 26,000 acres under this crop alone, devoted a much larger area to juar-tur and cotton-tur than in the previous year. The crop is of most importance in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, where there are large increases in it both sown alone and as a mixture. The outturn was generally poor, owing to damage from excessive rain and caterpillars. In Raipur the crop entirely failed, and the yield was only nominal in Bilaspur, Bhandara, Chanda, Wardha and Nimar. In other districts it yielded about half the normal.

15. In consequence of the relative cheapness of cotton seed, favourable conditions at sowing time and good prices, a very extensive area was sown.

Cotton.

The area under cotton and its mixtures has increased by 108,662 acres. This increase was most marked in the large cotton-growing districts of Nagpur, Wardha and Nimar. The year was most favourable for cotton, and there can be no doubt that the yield was much understated, and that in most districts it was a bumper crop. In the final forecast of last December, the yield was estimated at 190,616 bales of 400 lbs., but the exports from the 1st December up to date have amounted to 236,807 bales as compared with 110,150, 144,185 and 103,331 bales in the corresponding period of the previous three years. Exports have thus been very heavy, and high prices have made cotton the most remunerative crop of the year. The profits of cotton cultivators must have been enormous.

16. The area under til has increased by 25,242 acres. This area, however, represents that grown during the kharif season. The area devoted to this oilseed during the rabi season is included in the area under "Miscellaneous non-food crops." The area in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions has increased by 56,991, 7,063 and 10,842 acres, while the area in the Chhattisgarh Division fell by 49,654 acres. The season favoured sowing operations, but it did not continue favourable and the abnormal heat of November did much injury. The early sown crop was fairly successful, but the cold weather til was sown under much difficulty owing to continuous rain. The yield was normal in most districts, but was only three-fourths of the normal or less in Seoni, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Betul and Wardha. The exports from the Jubbulpore Division correspond closely with those of the previous year. Those of the Nagpur Division increased by 25,000 bags of 2½ maunds, while those of the Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh Divisions show a considerable falling-off. Altogether the total exports have been comparatively small.

17. The areas under castor, san (hemp) and miscellaneous food and non-food crops have increased, while the areas under Minor kharif crops. sugarcane, groves, orchards and garden crops have shrunk. A substantial export trade in hemp is springing up along the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

18. An increase of 973,623 acres in the rabi area has taken place, but it is still far short of the area in 1898-99. In every district except Saugor, Seoni and Hoshangabad, there has been an increase, the districts in which the increase is most marked being Jubbulpore, Mandla, Balaghat, Raipur and Bilaspur. The Jubbulpore Division shows much the best, the acreage being but little short of that of 1898-99, whilst the Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions show a decrease of 23 per cent. since that year. The Nagpur country received compensation in the large area put down to cotton and juar, but this is not the case in the Nerbudda Division. The unfortunate Hoshangabad district shows a still further decline even from the figures of the previous year.

19. The area placed under wheat and wheat-gram amounted to 2,189,508 acres and exceeded that of the previous year by 411,481 acres. If the mixed crop is resolved according to the accepted formula, the area under wheat is 2,018,290 acres, and is 24 per cent. above that of last year. Almost all districts have contributed to this recovery. But the area is still only half the normal preceding the famine cycle. To show the full decrease it is necessary to go back to 1891-92, which was a normal year. Taking this year as a standard of 100, the decrease in the important wheat-growing districts has been as follows :—

District.	1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.
Saugor	32	29	33
Damoh	36	35	42
Jubbulpore	77	46	71
Seoni	67	61	62
Narsinghpur	77	62	67
Hoshangabad	49	36	46
Chhindwara	89	44	55
Wardha	62	9	29
Nagpur	75	42	44
Raipur (Khalsa)	104	79	95
Bilaspur (Khalsa)	125	103	98

Wheat is not so important in the southern districts, where it has largely been replaced by valuable cotton and juar. Most of the northern districts show hopeful signs of recovery, but the decrease is still very serious.

The continuous rain during August and September interfered with the preparation of the land, whilst the absence of October showers was unfavourable to sowings in some districts. Continued showers in the cold weather injured the grain in the ear and induced rust. The year's yield has varied considerably from district to district. In the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions the outturn was generally but little below the normal, and in some districts exceeded it. Wheat suffered severely in the Nagpur country, where the yield was only about half the normal, whilst in Chhattisgarh the outturn was about three-fourths of the normal.

The export trade has been exceedingly dull, only 196,834 bags of 2½ maunds having been exported up to date, which is not a third of the amount exported in good years. Much of the crop has been withheld from the market for the replenishment of stocks.

20. The area sown with gram alone has risen by 118,353 acres, the cheapness of its seed compared with wheat being in its favour. The crop suffered everywhere from excessive moisture and from caterpillars, the yield being only about half the average. It did better than this in some northern districts, but the yield was very small in Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, the Nagpur country and Chhattisgarh.

The area under peas, masur and lakh (tiura) shows an improvement. The last-mentioned crop is generally sown as a second crop in Chhattisgarh, and 134,742 more acres have been so utilized this season.

21. The area under linseed and linseed-gram amounted to 518,082 acres and is in excess by 197,022 acres of that of the previous year. If, however, the area grown as a mixture is resolved into pure linseed, the area stands at 492,235 acres and exceeds that of the previous year by 185,302 acres. The conditions under which it was sown were similar to those already described for wheat. Continued showers in the cold weather injured the crop at flowering time and induced rust. The yield was about three-fourths of the normal except in the Nagpur country and Chhattisgarh, where there was practically a complete failure.

22. The area under tobacco, garden crops and miscellaneous food crops exceeds that of the previous year. The area under other rabi crops, miscellaneous non-food crops, however, shows a falling-off of some 52,000 acres.

23. This examination of the agricultural statistics of the past year, following upon a famine of unprecedented severity, gives cause for relief that the deterioration has not been worse than that now found. There has been but little abandonment by cultivators of their holdings and the occupied area is as large as it has ever been, a decrease in Chhattisgarh being more than counterbalanced by an increase elsewhere. The area sown with crops is only 3⅔ per cent. less than that sown prior to the last famine. The Jubbulpore Division has, indeed, done better than before the famine and it is again the Chhattisgarh Division which shows most deterioration. There is a considerable recovery in double-cropping throughout the Provinces. And this improvement has been effected although there has been a serious loss of plough-cattle. The less valuable kharif crops still displace the more valuable rabi in the northern districts, but there are signs that this form of deterioration is now arrested, whilst the expansion of cotton and juar in the Nagpur country is not a cause for regret. The year was generally up to the average, and perhaps above it in the northern districts. The kharif crops, with the exception of tur, generally gave an average yield, whilst the valuable cotton crop was above the average. The northern half of the Provinces, with the unfortunate exception of the Hoshangabad district, also

reaped a fairly good wheat crop, and fair gram and linseed crops. The rabi was extremely poor in the Nagpur country, but this was more than counter-balanced by the excellent cotton. The Chhattisgarh Division has fared worse; the season was favourable for rice, but the yield was reduced by the use of old or foreign seed and by insufficient weeding; the tur crop practically failed; and wheat was the only rabi crop that gave a fair outturn, the pulses being very poor indeed. And it must be remembered that these yields have only been obtained over much contracted areas.

SUSPENSION AND REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

No. 10.

Circular Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners, Central Provinces, No. F. 780, dated Nagpur, the 20th December, 1899.

I am directed to address you with reference to the suspension or remission of land revenue which may be necessitated by the present famine. It is essential that early orders should issue for the information both of the people and of the revenue officers with reference to the collection or suspension of the first kist. The decision as between collection and suspension must be made immediately; the decision as between suspension and remission can be made at leisure when more detailed information is available.

2. It is, however, impossible for the Officiating Chief Commissioner to issue any general orders applicable to the whole Province, as the circumstances of the various districts differ so greatly, not only as regards the crops just harvested, but also in respect to the recent history of the districts and the pressure of the revenue assessments. Wherever rice is the most important crop of the kharif harvest and has failed totally, an immediate and liberal measure of suspension appears to be necessary, and such small yields of the less marketable millets as may have been reaped will hardly affect the case. They will be needed for the food and seed supply of the cultivators. On the other hand, in districts where juar, cotton, tur, and til are the principal crops of the kharif season, it is probable that collection may be made, if not of the whole kist, at least of a fractional share of it.

3. One of the chief difficulties which surround the question is the extreme unevenness of the outturns. If every man reaped a six-anna crop (45 per cent. under the new notation), it might be fair to collect, say, a quarter of the rent and revenue due; but if the all-round outturn of six annas resulted from the fact that half the cultivators get in 75 per cent. and half only 15 per cent. of the normal outturn, it is obvious that a general order as to the proportion to be collected must be quite unfair. In these circumstances the nature of the order passed must depend upon the distribution of the areas which have yielded a crop of sufficient amount to justify the realization of rent. If in a large tract there has been general failure, but a few villages or a few fields have yielded a moderate outturn, it is not worth while to exclude them from the general orders at the cost of the delay and general uncertainty which must be involved before fair differentiation can be made. In the same way, if the failure is exceptional, and the bulk of a tract has yielded enough to warrant the payment of some rent and revenue, the general orders issued must be applicable to the tract as a whole, the particular exceptions being left for later concessions as details become known.

4. The Officiating Chief Commissioner believes that in most districts there will be well-defined agricultural tracts, e.g., rice tracts and juar tracts,

which can be differentiated, in the general orders which are made applicable to them, without detailed investigation ; and, for the reasons stated above, even in cases where ultimate remission is highly probable, he prefers suspension in the first instance. If subsequent investigation shows that too liberal a suspension has been granted in the case of a village or tract than the circumstances warranted, the fact can be considered when the collection or remission of the suspended revenue comes up for decision.

5. In determining what, if any, fractional share of the first kist ought to be collected in any tract the past history of the tract must receive due weight. For instance, in Sambalpur, or parts of Nimar, which have enjoyed previous good years, or are paying a low revenue, and were not much affected in the past famine, the same liberality is not required as in districts like Balaghat or Betul. A recent enhancement of the revenue demand is also a fact to be considered. It is better to be more liberal in the year of stress and collect the new revenue afterwards with regularity than to impose too severe a burden now and afterwards hamper the working of the revised settlement.

6. Furthermore, in estimating the share of the kist which may be levied as judged by the amount of the outturn, it must be remembered that we are not dealing with a crop failure which has occurred once in a way among a series of normal years, but with a failure which falls for the most part on people suffering from agricultural depression in various degrees of intensity. In the Katol Tahsil of Nagpur, the Arvi Tahsil of Wardha, or the Dhamtari Tahsil of Raipur, it might be possible to demand a larger share of the revenue in proportion to outturn than would be fair in the Umrer, Hinganghat, and Simghah Tahsils of the same districts. In the standing orders relating to suspension of revenue contained in Revenue Book Circular I—9, it is indicated for general guidance that an all-round four-anna crop (30 according to new notation) justifies the levy of the full rent. This normal percentage applies to occasional fields in which crops have been damaged by hail. But for widespread calamities, especially where they have followed previous failures, the scale must, the Officiating Chief Commissioner thinks, be much more liberal than this. And the scale adopted must be adjusted to the needs of each well-defined locality on the lines roughly indicated in this letter.

7. As the matter is one of urgency, Mr. Fraser desires that Commissioners will indicate to him as early as possible the general suspensions which they would at once authorise, discretion being given them to make further local concessions at greater leisure. We must remember that, on the one hand, the expenditure incurred on famine relief which falls on imperial funds is on an unprecedented scale, and that revenue which can be reasonably demanded should not lightly be foregone ; while, on the other hand, it is most desirable not to deprive cultivators of the small resources which they may have for maintenance until a good food supply can be obtained, and for seed for the next sowing season. It has also to be borne in mind that undue pressure now by landlords for rent might force cultivators to sell plough-bullocks which they will urgently need later on.

8. The orders given above relate solely to the first instalment. As regards the second instalment, although it is practically certain in the case of some districts that the rabi outturn will be quite inappreciable, there are other districts in which rain at the close of this month or early in January would materially alter the position for the better. It is unnecessary therefore at present to make any decision about the second instalment. This can be done at leisure. But it is incumbent on all Deputy Commissioners through the Circle Officers and Land Record Staff to obtain as early information as possible in detail as to areas and outturns of the crops of both seasons. This information will enable the Chief Commissioner to come to a decision better as to the necessity of remission of any portion of the first instalment and as to the orders to be passed in respect of the second instalment.

No. 11.

Circular Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, Central Provinces, No. F. 44, dated Nagpur, the 26th February, 1900.

I am directed to address you in continuation of Famine Circular No. 36, dated the 20th December, 1899, on the subject of the suspension and remission of land revenue necessitated by the famine.

The previous circular provided for the prompt suspension of the first instalment wherever general information without minute differentiation showed such a course to be necessary; and in the last paragraph it directed general inquiry in order that materials might be available in time for a decision as to the second instalment.

2. Some instructions recently issued by the Commissioner of Jubbulpore to his Deputy Commissioners were recently forwarded to the other Commissioners for information, and these instructions (which have been since slightly amplified by Mr. Fuller) have now been printed and are appended to this circular. With such modifications as local circumstances may show to be necessary, they will be found most useful as a guide to the framing of proposals.

3. The main principle to which the Officiating Chief Commissioner attaches importance is that the total revenue demand of the year should be considered as a whole. The instalments which were proper at the time that the settlement was announced may have become unsuitable since, owing to changes in cropping during recent years, and this disturbing element will be eliminated by considering the marketable crops as a whole and the revenue of the year as a whole.

4. The arithmetical check, indicated by Mr. Fuller, by comparison of the figure of production of the year with the normal figures of production will be a useful aid to conclusions on general grounds. In cases where the cropped area of the season was normal or nearly normal the comparison can be made with the normal outturn of the cropped area of the year. In other cases, as, for instance, in the rice districts of Bhandara, Chanda and Balaghat, where the area of transplanted rice has shrunk into insignificance, it must be made with the normal outturn of the cropped area of the year preceding; and in a district like Hoshangabad, where deterioration has gone on for several years, the comparison must be made with the area under the chief crops at the last settlement.

5. When it has been indicated in this manner what amount of the total demand it is fair to take, the next step will be to deduct from this amount the amount out of the first instalment which it has been decided to collect; the balance will be the demand on account of the second instalment. In all villages where the kharif crop was a total failure and the rabi crops have also failed or are quite insignificant, these calculations will of course not be needed.

In order to afford information as to the financial, as distinguished from the revenue, year which the concessions affect it will be convenient if the proposals are put into the following form:—

District.	First kist, Financial year 1899-1900.	Second kist, Financial year 1900-1901.	Total both kists.	Amount to be realised on account of both kists.	Balance to be suspended on account of both kists.	Amount already suspended on account of first kist.	Balance (col. 6—col. 7) = amount of second kist suspended.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

It must be understood that cesses are to be kept quite distinct from land revenue, and should not be shown in this table at all.

6. As was stated in the previous circular, the Officiating Chief Commissioner desired that all revenue which it was not decided to collect should in the first instance be suspended. This decision must also hold good as regards the second instalment. By this Mr. Fraser does not wish it to be understood that he contemplates the ultimate collection of suspended revenue in all cases, but he does not wish remission proposals to be sent up to him piecemeal. The immediate duty is to decide what sum to attempt to collect in the current revenue year ; this is quite a distinct matter from the sum which is to be finally remitted. It is not unlikely that the sum proposed for remission will be large, and that a reference to the Government of India will prove necessary. It is essential, therefore, that the question of remission should be separately considered after the current year's demand* has been decided. It will be necessary to consider each district on its merits. There are already arrears of the last famine and subsequent years outstanding which must be included in the reference, and the Officiating Chief Commissioner does not desire that the current year's demand should be complicated by consideration of the larger question.

7. Mr. Fuller has fixed the 1st of April as the date by which recommendations in regard to the current year should be sent in by Deputy Commissioners in his Division. This date will be equally suitable elsewhere. Commissioners should, after considering the district recommendations, send in a consolidated report for their Divisions, which should reach the Secretariat by the 15th of April.

8. The larger question of remission can conveniently be taken up in the rains. The revenue accounts of each district will have to be considered for several years back, namely, since 1894-95, their past treatment and history being contrasted with reference to the pressure of the demand, the re-settlement, if any, which has taken place or is about to be effected, the extent of arrears outstanding of suspended and unsuspended revenue, the suspensions of the current revenue year. Upon a consideration of all these circumstances will depend the decision of the amount of remission to be given, so far as a decision can be made independently of the character of future harvests. The information required can be summarised in a statement showing for each year from 1894-95 to 1899-1900, both inclusive, the following particulars :—

- (1) Revenue year.
- (2) The *current* demand (Land Revenue on the Roll only).
- (3) Actual collections—
 - (a) On current account.
 - (b) On arrear account.
 - (c) Total.
- (4) The cropped area, percentage of normal (the area of 1893-94 = 100 normal).
- (5) The outturn (100 = normal).
- (6) Proportion of produce to normal $\frac{\text{Column (4)} \times \text{Column (5)}}{100}$.
- (7) Percentage of total collection [Column (3) (c)] to current demand [Column 2].
- (8) Arrears—
 - (i) Already remitted.
 - (ii) Suspended.
 - (iii) Unsuspended.

9. A careful examination of the past history, of which the salient features will be shown in the above statement, will greatly facilitate the decision as to the extent of remission to be allowed, and will lend support where support is needed to liberality of treatment. Mr. Fraser does not desire in any way to

anticipate a decision by stating at this stage what his personal views on the subject are. It is for Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners to make their recommendations as to what concessions they believe necessary, and these recommendations will receive the Officiating Chief Commissioner's most careful consideration.

10. Land revenue not on the roll, which is now practically all revenue due from ryotwari villages, does not require such detailed examination, and proposals regarding suspension, remission, or collection of arrears may be submitted from time to time in the Revenue Department. As regards the current revenue year Commissioners are authorised to order such suspensions as they think fit. They should report for information, in replying to this reference, what action they have taken and the amounts suspended. Miscellaneous land revenue has no concern with the present reference.

11. One more point remains—the collection of cesses. Standing orders are that cesses and revenue must go together, and when it is merely a question of a few isolated remissions here and there on account of local calamities, this is the best and simplest principle to follow. But these cesses are devoted to certain objects, and though they may be suspended or remitted, the expenditure on those objects cannot be similarly suspended or retrenched. The several District Funds and the Provincial Patwari fund cannot close business, because the cesses on which they depend are not collected. As regards the current year it is best not to complicate the situation by demanding cesses and separating them from revenue, but it may well be decided to collect the cesses later on, even though the revenue be remitted. It is the same thing in the end whether Local Funds are replenished by cesses, or whether, an equivalent sum being collected and credited as land revenue, Provincial revenues have to come to the assistance of the Local Funds, and recoup the loss incurred in uncollected cesses; but if this aid has in any case to be given it is better that it should, if possible, be given by collection of cesses directly.

In the case of cesses the detailed statement required by paragraph 8 in respect of land revenue is not necessary. All that is needed is a statement showing:—

- (1) Outstandings at the commencement of the revenue year 1899-1900 with the year on account of which they are due, for—
 - (a) Settlement cesses.
 - (b) Additional rates.
 - (c) Malguzari patwari cess.
- (2) The demand of the revenue year 1899-1900.
- (3) The amount suspended for the same year.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Jubbulpore Division, No. C. 100, dated Camp Bilthara, the 27th January, 1900.

With the general approval of the Chief Commissioner, I have the honour to address you as follows in regard to the proposals to be submitted for the collection or remission of this year's land revenue.

2. It has been decided by the Chief Commissioner that so far as the kharif kist is concerned, nothing beyond suspension will be ordered. Whatever trouble may have been taken, the information on which your proposals in regard to this kist were based cannot have been complete.

3. The task is now before us of formulating final proposals for the year's land revenue as a whole. Having regard to the abrupt changes of soil which

generally characterize these Provinces, and to the extraordinarily uneven distribution of last monsoon's rainfall, I do not think that generally proposals will be satisfactory unless they are drawn up mauzawar. But where crops have failed altogether over a considerable and well-defined tract of country all villages included in the tract may be dealt with together, and in this case these instructions will not apply.

4. The first point to be considered is loss of cropped area since the year in which the present assessment was framed. For each village for which a suspension of total revenue is not obviously justifiable, there should be calculated the percentage of the current season's cropped area on the cropped area of the year of settlement, excluding from both totals, as non-revenue paying, the area under kodon-kutki and grass-birs. When the percentage is as low as 80, that is to say, when there has been a fall of as much as 20 per cent., it will generally be fair to reduce the revenue in proportion to such fall before considering the character of this season's harvests. Thus, if the cropped area of settlement was 593 acres and the present area is 420 acres, the percentage would be 71, and a revenue of Rs. 500 would be taken as Rs. 355 (for Saugor, Damoh and Jubbulpore only). But such a calculation will not, of course, be necessary in the case of villages, the revenue of which was abated last year, or will be abated with effect from the commencement of the current year. In their case the abated revenue will be taken as the full revenue payable.

5. In considering the revenue-paying capacity of this season's harvests, we need hardly concern ourselves with all crops, but merely with those which are sold to pay rent. These may be classified according to the way in which they have yielded or promise to yield this year, as—

1. Rice.
2. Juar alone or with arhar.
3. Cotton (with or without arhar), til and hemp.
4. Ramtilli (or jagni).
5. Pulses (arhar, mung, urad).
6. All rabi crops except masur and linseed.
7. Masur and linseed.

But this list is only meant to be suggestive. It may be that the kharif pulses are hardly worth considering, or, that where linseed has failed, masur has in your district not failed also. In the case of some villages which grow nothing but the small millets (kodon and kutki) it may be necessary to take them into account. But they are grown for food, not for sale, and I doubt whether they should be included.

6. For each village from which any revenue can be collected a line of figures should be given showing the area under its revenue-paying crops (classed in some such fashion as above) and below this line a second line showing in red ink the estimated outturn in American notation for each of these crops. To arrive at the outturn estimates is, of course, the most difficult part of the business. The villages should be listed by Patwaris' Circles and marked differences between the estimates of one village and of those near it should be looked into. I fear that there is an impression amongst the people that in the matter of revenue suspension or remission they are very much at the mercy of the Patwaris and Inspectors. The estimates which are sent in will, of course, be checked by the local knowledge of yourself and your Assistants and Tahsildars. Useful information will also be often obtainable from the Civil Surgeon and the District Superintendent of Police.

7. The two lines of figures taken with the percentage of total cropping will give you something definite to go upon in deciding what revenue should be collected. For myself I should like to assist my judgment by some such calculations as are prescribed by Revenue Book Circular I—9 for the suspension of revenue in cases of hailstorms. That is to say, I would compare the sum of the areas multiplied by the outturn figures with the sum of the areas multiplied by 100. But in making this calculation one important condition should not

be lost sight of, namely, that when the outturn of a crop falls below a certain quantity no rent-paying surplus is left, and indeed the seed sown may not be recovered, but that when the outturn exceeds this quantity, the rent-paying surplus increases in a much higher proportion than the increase in outturn. The less are the present resources of the people, the more important does this condition become. I think that it might be met by omitting from the calculation all outturn figures amounting to only 30 or less, and by deducting 10 from all outturn figures between 30 and 60 (both exclusive). Thus if the areas and outturns were as below—

	Rice.	Til.	Rabi.
	200	50	100
	25	120	50

the calculation would be $200 \times 0 + 50 \times 120 + 100 \times 40 = 10,000$ (for this year) compared to $350 \times 100 = 35,000$ (as the standard). To allow for loss in cropping (when such loss amounts to 20 per cent.) the standard figure would be raised in proportion: thus, if in this case the cropped area was 80 per cent. of the settlement area the figures 35,000

* i.e., be multiplied by 100 and divided by 80. would be raised* to 47,500 and the fraction of the revenue demandable would be $\frac{100}{175}$ lbs. or 21 per cent.

Where the harvest is a fair one some allowance should be made for the profits which will result from this season's high prices, and for instance an 85 per cent. or 90 per cent. crop can certainly be taken as equivalent to the average. I repeat that if you adopt such calculations as these as a guide to your judgment it would be unnecessary to make them, or even to record this season's crop areas or outturns, in the case of villages which lie in a tract of which the whole revenue will be suspended, as for instance a rice tract which has gathered less than a 3-anna crop.

8. The form in which the mauzawar list would be prepared would be such as the following:—

1	2	3	Crop Areas and Outturns 1899-1900.							11	12	13	14	15	16
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
No. of Patwari's Circle.	Name of village.	Percentage of this season's cropped area or cropped area of settlement.	Rice.	Juar and juar-arhar.	Cotton, til and hemp.	Rambilli.	Kharif pulses.	All rabi except linseed and masur.	Linseed and masur.	Revenue-paying capacity.	Land revenue demand.	Amount to be collected with percentage on full demand or proportion in annas.	Balance to be suspended.	Rental to be collected by malguzars.	Remarks.
25	Rampur..	80	260	10	40	—	5	85	10	40,000 100 × — 80 = 50,000 8,850	Rs. 500	Rs. 80 = 18 per cent.	Rs. 420	Rs. 120	

If you decide to make no use of arithmetical calculations column 11 would be omitted.

9. I have included a column to show the proportionate amount of rental the malguzar will be entitled to collect. This will be entered up after the return of the statement. Experience has shown the importance of expedition in informing malguzars of the share of the rental they are to collect, and as soon as this is settled, each malguzar should be informed of the amount by

notice and be called on to communicate to the Inspector or Patwari the details of its distribution amongst his tenants. This distribution must be shown in the jamabandi to be filed in July, and if the malguzar does not prepare and file a list he should sign the jamabandi. Unless there is precision in this matter, the rental accounts fall into great confusion. It is to facilitate the calculation of the rental due for collection that provision has been made for showing (in column 13) the proportion of revenue to be realised.

10. Villages should be arranged in the statement by revenue inspector's circles or by settlement groups. Totals should be struck for each circle or group, and should be shown in your forwarding letter.

11. Rents fall due on the 1st May or earlier, and it is of the utmost importance that the people should know what is expected of them in time to perform it. The rabi crops are this year much more forward than usual, and by the end of February it should be possible to frame as reliable an estimate of their outturn as could be arrived at without very numerous crop experiments. The statement should reach me by the 1st April at latest. It may be submitted in vernacular, but should, of course, be fully commented upon in your forwarding letter.

12. In forming your conclusions you will, of course, bear in mind that while on the one hand Government can afford to abandon no revenue to which it is fairly entitled, on the other hand, to exact money from impoverished tenants, who cannot pay it without trenching on their food supplies, may very possibly entail its redistribution to them in the form of famine relief. This is especially the case in localities where there is no sharp distinction between the cultivating and the labouring classes, as in the case of Gond villages.

13. In writing of revenue as to be suspended I do not, of course, mean to imply that any decision has been arrived at in favour of suspension as opposed to remission. I merely wish to avoid any appearance of anticipating the Chief Commissioner's orders.

No. 12.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 1175 F., dated Simla, the 6th June, 1900.

With reference to the circular instructions cited in the margin, which you have issued on the subject of suspension of the land-revenue demand, I am directed to request that the Government of India may receive at an early date a short report as to the suspensions of land-revenue already made in consequence of the present scarcity and the further suspensions likely to be made. The question to what extent the suspensions will be converted into remissions will, it is assumed, be kept over until the stress of the famine is over and a reasonable forecast of the next agricultural season can be made.

2. I am to invite attention to the paragraphs marginally given of the Land Revenue Administration Report of the Punjab for 1896-97 and 1898-99 on the subject of differentiating between well-to-do and needy landholders in granting or refusing suspensions, and to ask what course has been pursued in the Central Provinces.

Report, 1896-97. paragraph 15, page 33.

Report, 1898-99.

Resolution, paragraph 8.

Report, pages 39, 40.

Extracts from District Reports, Part I., pages 19, 20.

The Government of India wish to know on what principle suspensions have been granted, and whether the determining factor in the case of each estate has been the ascertained extent to which the crop has failed, or the ability of the proprietor to pay the land revenue from other resources.

No. 13.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I. C. S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F-1682, dated Nagpur, the 27th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1175-F, dated the 6th June, 1900, and to submit the following reply.

2. The two Circulars addressed to local officers on the subject of suspension of revenue, Nos. F-36 and F-44, dated respectively the 20th December, 1899 and the 26th February, 1900, are already before the Government of India, and I am to attach a statement showing the amount of revenue suspended in each district as the result of the inquiries carried out in accordance with the orders contained therein. This statement deals only with the land revenue actually on the roll, that is to say, the fixed demand payable by Malguzars and Zamindars. Action taken in respect of ryotwari villages will be referred to separately at the close of this letter.

3. The two factors which most influence the principles on which revenue has to be suspended in the face of a calamity like the present are, *first*, that under the tenancy law of the Province a suspension or remission of land revenue must precede a suspension or remission of rent; and, *secondly*, that great promptness is essential if the full benefits are to be derived from the suspension. Theoretically, no doubt, the proper method of procedure would be to enquire into each tenant's capacity to pay his rent with reference both to the actual crops reaped and to other independent resources which he might possess, add up for each village the total rental realizable, and demand the corresponding revenue from the landlord. This would be possible where a few isolated villages had been ravaged by locusts, or damaged by hail; but it is practically impossible where the whole country side has been stricken by drought; and it becomes doubly impossible when the energies of the whole revenue staff are concentrated upon famine relief. The time taken in enquiries so minute would be so great that the date for a decision would have passed long before the enquiries were complete. In such matters delays must be avoided at all costs.

4. In these circumstances capacity to pay independently of the crop must be disregarded so far as individuals are concerned. The Malguzar may be rich, but if we demand his revenue in full on this account, we cannot order him to suspend the rents due by his tenants, and he will have a free hand to harass them as he chooses. In order to protect them we must give him relief. To secure suspension of rent, we must grant suspension of revenue. It is the necessity of the tenants with which we have really to deal. Great masses of these have been severely stricken in the present calamity. There are some, no doubt, who could pay their rent independently of their crops; but (as has been said above) to differentiate would necessitate inquiries which it is impossible to make. While however it is impossible to extend inquiries into the capacity of each individual to pay independently of his crop, this consideration may be given some weight when it applies to a tract of country. In Nimar and Sambalpur for instance the people have enjoyed sufficiently prosperous years in the past to be able to pay a larger share of their revenue than could have been demanded had preceding seasons been as bad as elsewhere in the Province.

5. With these preliminary observations I am to turn to a consideration of the orders issued, and the action actually taken. The first Circular, F.36 of the 20th December, 1899, called for very early and general proposals regarding the first kist due in February, 1900. The rents leviable on account of it fell due in January, and it was most important that such suspension as was plainly necessary

should be announced at once, leaving any detailed differentiation by villages to be made subsequently and given effect to when the second instalment fell due. The only differentiation enjoined by this Circular related to differences in crop outturns which could be easily distinguished over homogeneous tracts of country ; and in determining the amount of the concession to be allowed regard was to be paid to such considerations as past history, the recent introduction of a new settlement, the lightness or heaviness of the demand with reference to the deterioration or progress of the tract since it was last resettled. These were all general considerations suitable for a summary investigation ; proposals were duly submitted and orders passed. It is, however, unnecessary to specify the details of these suspensions, as they have merged into the general concessions carried out in accordance with the more detailed enquiries ordered by Famine Circular 44. Before passing on to this latter Circular there is, however, one point in the earlier orders upon which the Officiating Chief Commissioner lays much stress.

6. The standing orders of the Administration, contained in Revenue Book Circular 1—9, dealing with suspensions necessitated by losses caused by hail, locusts, &c., and contemplating detailed enquiry holding by holding, lay it down that if a crop amounts to 4 annas (30 by the new notation) the full rent may be demanded. It was pointed out in Famine Circular 36 that this rule, though applicable to occasional failures in ordinary times, was much too strict a rule when the country is suffering under a widespread calamity. If a few individuals in isolated villages are called upon to pay a full rent out of a 4-anna crop, it is very probable that they will draw upon savings or borrow. They may dispose of surplus cattle or pledge ornaments, but the chances are that until the next harvest comes round they will have added to their liabilities. It is, however, not unreasonable that they should be called upon to make such sacrifices. They will obtain fair prices for their ornaments, or cattle, and reasonable terms if they borrow. But the case is different when the whole community is in this plight. It hardly needs demonstration that, if the great majority of cultivators have to sell ornaments and cattle or borrow money, the blow to the community as well as to the individual will be infinitely more severe than it was to the individuals in the hypothetical cases referred to above. The prices obtainable for surplus property fall, and it is disposed of at a ruinous loss ; credit sinks to a low ebb, and those already involved are turned into applicants for famine relief. Where the position is still worse than this, where the majority have not even reaped a 4-anna crop, where credit is already low and bad years have reduced surplus property to a minimum, it is quite evident that such rule-of-thumb scales, as the one that a 4-anna crop justifies the levy of a full rent, must be abandoned.

7. It was on this account that the Officiating Chief Commissioner approved and circulated as a general guide the instructions drawn up by Mr. Fuller, Commissioner of Jubbulpore, for the guidance of the Deputy Commissioners of his Division. These instructions were appended to Famine Circular 44. The revenue-paying capacity of each village is roughly computed by taking the areas multiplied by the outturns of the chief marketable crops in every village and comparing the figure thus obtained with the normal areas under the same crops multiplied by 100. Thus, if a village paying, say, Rs. 500 revenue had a normal area, cropped with cotton, wheat, pulses and oilseeds, of 1,000 acres, the normal outturn on a normal area, would be represented by the figure 100,000. In the recent famine year its areas and outturns, let it be supposed, were as follows :—

Crop.	Area.	Outturn per Cent.	Produce.
	Acres.		
Cotton	300	60	18,000
Wheat	300	15	4,500
Oilseeds	100	25	2,500
Pulses	100	40	5,000
Total	800	—	29,000

Its revenue-paying capacity would then be $\frac{21,000}{90,000}$ or 29 per cent. But on the principle that the rent-paying capacity of land disproportionately increases when its outturn exceeds a certain proportion and diminishes to nothing when it falls below a certain proportion, Mr. Fuller proposed that outturns not exceeding 30 should be disregarded altogether and outturns below 60 should be reduced by 10. Reduced in this manner the outturn figure in the case given above would be 21,000 only, or 21 per cent., and this would be the proportion to be levied. The revenue to be collected in the village given above will then be Rs. 105 out of the full demand of Rs. 5,000. This would be announced to the landlord, who would be ordered to put in a list showing how he proposed to distribute the concession among his tenants. If the rents of the village were Rs. 800 he would have to collect only 21 per cent. of Rs. 800, or Rs. 162, and suspend the balance, or Rs. 638. This distribution he would be allowed to make among his tenants; and his list would be handed over to the patwari for entry of the demand made in each ryot's account book. In this way the landlord who would know best what each man could pay would be able to distribute the required suspension roughly according to the resources of each ryot in a way in which no Government officer could do within the time required. It is true that the landlord is thus given a very wide discretion; but he would be very foolish if he attempted to levy rents from the poor and gave up his chance of collecting from the well-to-do.

8. It might of course be objected to Mr. Fuller's calculations that this system would, if, applied in almost any year, result in the reduction of the full demand; but the reply to this argument is that this is freely admitted, but the system is not intended to apply to ordinary years. Moreover, it is only prescribed as a general guide, and the main object sought is to arrive at such a rough computation of the relative revenue-paying capacity of the many thousands of villages to be dealt with as will serve as a useful check on generalizations. When the proportion of the outturn to the normal has been estimated, other considerations may come into play. It might be decided that any outturn exceeding 25 and 50 per cent. (after the deductions referred to have been made) would justify the realization of half and the whole demand respectively. The proportion of demand to follow the fraction of outturn need not be rigidly fixed, but may vary according to circumstances. This is practically what has occurred; and the arithmetical guides have not been slavishly adhered to, as will appear from the summary which follows.

9. The table which is attached to this letter shows that in the Jubbulpore Division the amounts suspended ranged from 45 per cent. in Damoh to 74 per cent.

Saugor	48	in Jubbulpore. The Damoh crops were, taken all round, better than those of any other part of the Division, but its previous history required consideration. Similarly, in the Saugor District, where 48 per cent. was suspended, different tahsils require different treatment. The deeply-distressed Khurai
Damoh	45	
Jubbulpore	74	
Mandla	55	
Seoni	60	

Tahsil could not be asked to pay anything, while the Rehli Tahsil will pay 83 per cent. of its revenue. In Jubbulpore the haveli wheat crop, which pays the lowest share of the revenue of the district, was very poor; and the extensive rice-growing areas in the north and east gave no crop at all worth mentioning. But throughout this division, where the amount of revenue suspended may seem to be disproportionately high as compared with the intensity of the famine, the previous history of the country has been a most important factor. The extent of deterioration has had to be considered.

10. In Narsinghpur also, in the Nerbudda Division, where there is hardly any famine-relief being given, and the district is rather affected than distressed, the proportion of revenue suspended (54 per cent.) may appear unduly high. The general outturn of the district, however, only amounted to about 39 per cent. of the normal, the district has not enjoyed very liberal concessions hitherto, although it has suffered a good deal from bad seasons and was somewhat severely affected in the famine of 1896-97. Moreover, when districts are hovering on the verge of famine, it is far better to forego a little revenue than to risk driving the poorer cultivators in to seeking relief and depriving the better ones of the means

to employ labour. It was on these grounds that rather more liberal suspensions were granted in these districts than the extent of the failure might seem to warrant. In Hoshangabad, another district which has suffered severely from a series of bad seasons, the proportion suspended is 58 per cent. ; and special care has been taken by the Deputy Commissioner to modify arithmetical deductions in the light of local knowledge ; but the full revenue has only been demanded in the few cases in which the outturn reached 70 per cent.

11. In Nimar, a district in which the current year's failure was very complete, the people were better off and had enjoyed good crops in previous years. The amount suspended is only 43 per cent. Viewed on the crops alone greater liberality would have been justified, but in this district the people are not so badly off as elsewhere. Facts justified our concession. For the crops are mainly kharif, and the people are accustomed to pay rents and revenue mainly in the first instalment. Before, therefore, the necessary calculations could be made, the Deputy Commissioner found that a considerable amount of rent had been collected and revenue voluntarily paid in. The Deputy Commissioner therefore framed his proposals mainly on the amount of rent collection. Of the two remaining districts of the Nerbudda Division, in Chhindwara arithmetical considerations pointed to a suspension of about Rs. 2,20,000, but this district has not appreciably deteriorated, and the amount actually recommended for suspension and sanctioned was Rs. 1,65,000 or 57 per cent. of the total demand. The difference arose from the fact that when the outturns were substantial the proportion levied exceeded the arithmetical share. In Betul the crop outturns were really nominal, and the amount to be collected, Rs. 6,000 out of Rs. 2,71,000, represents the demand made in a few fortunate villages which partially escaped the general ruin.

12. To turn next to the Nagpur Division, in the two districts of Wardha and Nagpur, where rice is of little importance (except in a strip of Nagpur which was specially treated), the only crops which yielded well were cotton (in parts) and til. These districts had hitherto avoided actual famine, and were accounted fairly prosperous, but they have had very indifferent seasons for several years and suffered severely (Wardha especially) in the present failure ; juar yielded hardly any grain, and the rabi crops practically gave no outturn. The Nagpur proposals were received late and have been returned for revision ; and the figures entered in the statement are, therefore, approximate only. It will probably only be possible to collect about 40 per cent. In Wardha 77 per cent. has been suspended. In this district also actual rent collections have been used to modify the deductions drawn from outturn calculations. In the three great rice districts of the Division the failure of rice was so complete that nothing can be demanded from the rice tracts. The sums shown for collection against Bhandara and Chanda represent the demand made on the non-rice tracts, which fared better than the similar country in Nagpur and Wardha. Balaghat has but little non-rice land, and it suffered so severely both in the present and previous years that it would have been impossible to collect anything.

13. In Chhattisgarh (excluding Sambalpur) only a few isolated tracts and some of the Zamindaris partially escaped the general failure, and the sums to be realized are quite trifling. But the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur suffered greatly in 1896-97. Sambalpur on the other hand profited by the high prices of 1896-97 ; its revenue is specially low, and its previous history favourable. Severe famine in the present year was confined in this district to a few localities. Suspension has been freely given in the areas most affected, but the amount is not large on the whole, only 15 per cent. of the total demand.

14. The foregoing summary will have indicated that, while there has been considerable weight allowed to general considerations which affect the several tracts and districts as a whole, the main basis of the calculation has been the crop of the year. Except in the few cases in which ability to pay has been demonstrated by actual payment without coercion, personal considerations have had no influence on the proposals for suspension. On the whole (accepting approximate figures for Nagpur) out of a total demand of Rs. 86,86,000, the sum of Rs. 60,25,000, or 70 per cent. in round numbers, has been suspended. This may be taken to represent an equivalent rent suspension of at least a crore

of rupees. Although it is improbable that any large portion of this could without resort to some coercion have been realized, yet the result of these liberal concessions will be to leave a large sum of money in the country which must have a beneficial effect upon the means and credit of the cultivating classes, even if it has not saved a good many cultivators from coming on relief. I am to express a hope that the action taken will meet with the approval of the Government of India.

15. I am now to make a brief reference to the case of ryotwari villages. The ryotwari demand over the whole Province only amounts at present to about 2½ lakhs of rupees. The only districts in which there are ryotwari areas of any importance are Nimar, Mandla, Chanda and Balaghat. In Mandla and Balaghat the ryots largely consist of Gonds with little or no capital. In Nimar and Chanda the ryots are of better cultivating classes. In both these last districts the failure of crops was very severe; and in Nimar particularly, unlike the malguzari areas of that district, the ryotwari tracts have had a series of bad years before they were even well established. Commissioners have been given authority to suspend revenue in the case of ryotwari villages. Complete information regarding them has not been received, but as yet very little capital has had time to be collected in ryotwari areas, and there is little likelihood that any substantial sum will be demanded from them this season. In these ryotwari areas, though the amount to be levied from the village could easily be calculated in the same manner as in malguzari villages, the Revenue Officer would not have the assistance of a proprietor to distribute the demand among the ryots. But as these villages become better established and the status of patels is improved (to which end steps are already being taken) there is no reason to think that village officers could not be trusted to give reliable advice on the distribution of the revenue demand between the ryots, provided that the reduced demand had been first worked out for the village as a whole. For the present, however, it has not been necessary to resort to such a procedure. But whether the tract be malguzari or ryotwari the general principle which has been followed in these proceedings, and M. Fraser would submit that it is the best one, is that where losses are isolated and few it is proper to work from detail to aggregate, but where the calamity is widespread the only possible course is to work from aggregate to detail.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Statement showing the amount of revenue suspended in each District (referred to in paragraph 2 of letter No. F-1682, dated the 27th June, 1900).

District.	Total demand for the revenue year 1899-1900.	Amount suspended.	Balance for collection.	Percentage of (c) on (a).
	(a)	(b)	(c)	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Saugor	5,23,326	2,52,277	2,71,049	52
Damoh	3,97,991	1,79,455	2,18,536	55
Jubbulpore	9,34,426	6,90,714	2,43,712	26
Mandla	1,04,871	58,012	46,859	45
Seoni	2,89,003	1,72,321	1,16,682	40
Narsinghpur	6,34,660	3,40,275	2,94,385	46
Hoshangabad	7,67,647	4,41,438	3,26,209	42

Statement showing the amount of revenue suspended in each District—continued.

District.	Total demand for the revenue year 1899-1900.	Amount suspended.	Balance for collection.	Percentage of (c) on (a).
	(a)	(b)	(c)	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Nimar	2,85,776	1,23,000	1,62,776	57
Betul	2,71,406	2,65,213	6,193	2
Chhindwara	2,91,437	1,64,684	1,26,753	43
Wardha	6,40,878	4,90,459	1,50,419	23
Nagpur	9,85,771	6,00,000	3,85,771	39
Chanda	2,88,519	2,13,959	74,560	26
Bhandara	5,03,027	4,32,417	70,610	14
Balaghat... ..	2,39,200	2,39,200	—	—
Raipur	8,51,271	8,36,387	14,884	2
Bilaspur... ..	5,11,576	5,00,965	10,611	2
Sambalpar	1,65,238	24,496	1,40,742	85
TOTAL	86,86,023	60,25,272	26,60,751	30

No. 14.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 1,578 F., dated Simla, the 20th July, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter, No. 1,682 F., dated 27th June, 1900, submitting a report on the suspensions of the land revenue demand in the famine stricken districts of the Central Provinces.

2. The Governor General in Council has read the report with interest and I am to express approval of the action which you have taken in the matter.

3. It is understood that the question of remissions of the suspended demand will be postponed until distress shows signs of declining, and the result of the autumn and the prospects of the winter crop are known. Remissions on a large scale will, doubtless, in any case, have to be made; but, should the crop prospects be good, a considerable portion of the suspended revenue should be capable of realization by instalments without hardship to tenants and landlords. It is almost unnecessary to observe that in collecting hereafter such portions of the suspended revenue as is considered capable of realization, care will have to be taken not to realise too quickly on the return of favourable seasons, as otherwise the good effect of suspensions might be undone.

RELIEF MEASURES AND REGULATION OF ADMISSION TO RELIEF WORKS AND KITCHENS.

No. 15.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 408 F., dated Calcutta, the 1st March, 1900.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter* No. 238, dated the 3rd February, 1900, replying to this departments circular letter of the 27th December, 1899, in which attention was drawn to the great rise in the numbers in receipt of famine relief, and the views of the Governor General in Council communicated on some of the principles of famine administration. The Governor General in Council observes with satisfaction that your views are in general accordance with the policy there described as to the more effective enforcement of proper precautions and adequate tests in the administration of famine relief. My present letter will be confined to two or three points in connection with the action taken or proposed to be taken by you to give effect to that policy, on which the orders of the Government of India are sought by you or an expression of their views is desirable.

2. In paragraph 17 of your Secretary's letter it is stated that you have decided, as a temporary measure, to prohibit further admissions to all Public Works Department relief camps in the Chhattisgarh Division, and to direct that persons applying for employment on such works shall be referred to the charge officers of their tract for employment on village works. For the views of the Government of India on such restrictions I am directed to invite attention to the correspondence on this subject (copy enclosed) which has lately passed between them and the Resident at Hyderabad. As in the somewhat analogous case of Berar, the Government of India approve the measures you have taken in the Chhattisgarh Division on the understanding that they are temporary, and that they have been advised to meet a temporary and peculiar emergency. The Government of India do not think that it would be either safe or practicable, as a permanent measure, to constitute the charge officer of the tract the judge in each case of a person's eligibility for relief by means of work, or to make the village work the sole door of entrance to large relief works under professional management. In assenting to your action as a temporary expedient, intended to give time for putting the large relief camps into thorough order, the Government of India wish to be informed how long the restriction is to continue in force.

3. Another reason for making this restriction a temporary one is the possible effect it may have on the number of persons employed on village works in the Chhattisgarh Division. The number is already very large in the Raipur district, and both in it and in the Bilaspur district the effect of your orders will be to considerably increase the relief population on village works, thereby making it increasingly difficult to ensure that these scattered works are properly supervised and that labour is duly tasked. It is indeed stated in your letter that in the Chhattisgarh Division a relief work managed by the Public Works Department is more attractive to the people than a village work. The Government of India are constrained to say that this is altogether opposed to experience elsewhere, and they imagine it could only be true as regards Chhattisgarh if the professionally managed relief works in that division are at present so imperfectly organized as to make the enforcement of discipline and the exaction of proper tasks impracticable. All experience shows that village works are liable to become dangerously attractive to the people, and as regards Chhattisgarh it seems probable that the one effective safeguard hitherto existing there against this danger is that the numbers are in practice kept down by the

* See page 448 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

ticket admission system. No one, it is understood, is allowed on a village work unless he obtains a ticket from a circle or charge officer or a Tahsildar, who is required, to satisfy himself that the applicant is necessitous, and in case of doubt has hitherto referred him to a Public Works camp. So long as this was the rule, there was no real equality of conditions between the two classes of works, and no conclusion could be founded on the fact that on professionally managed works the numbers increased more rapidly than on village works. Now that the charge or circle officer has no longer the assurance that an applicant has the professionally managed works open to him if refused a ticket for the village work, his inclination will be to admit more freely to the latter, and the check on numbers which has hitherto existed with regard to this class of works will become less operative.

On all grounds it is therefore desirable that the effect of the action taken in Chhattisgarh should, as you propose, be most carefully watched.

4. With regard to the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, the Government of India are glad to hear that there is no present necessity for similar action. With regard to the Jubbulpore Division you state that the Commissioner has already been successful in regulating admission to his test works by tickets and that you have authorised him to try whether a similar procedure cannot also be worked with success with regard to Public Works Department works. The Governor General in Council agrees to the proposal only as an experiment, to be confined to the Jubbulpore Division where the circumstances are special. He also considers it essential that efficient arrangements should be made in all villages by the circle and charge officers and the Tahsildars to give persons the opportunity of applying for admission tickets without a troublesome and uncertain journey, and that tickets should be granted not merely when destitution is clearly proved but also in all doubtful cases. The civil officers, in charge of relief works should also be authorised and required to admit all applicants whose physical condition indicates their need for relief, and their conduct in this matter should be strictly supervised.

5. I am to add that though the Government of India assent to the experiment in deference to your views, they are not by any means assured either that the ticket system is necessary in the Jubbulpore Division, where the Public Works organization is presumably sufficient, or that it can be exercised so as to safely discriminate between man and man, or can be kept free from corruption. They should therefore like to receive a special report on its working after it has been six weeks in force, and they consider that your sanction should be made strictly conditional on the results of further experience.

No. 16.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F-825, dated Nagpur, the 4th April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 408-F, dated the 1st March, 1900, conveying the remarks and orders of the Government of India upon special measures regulating admission to relief works in the Chhattisgarh and Jubbulpore Divisions, which were reported in paragraphs 17 and 20 of my letter, No. F-238, of the 3rd February last.

2. Your letter under reply was received by the Officiating Chief Commissioner while he was on a tour of inspection in the Raipur District in the beginning of March, and as he had arranged to visit the Jubbulpore Division later on in the month he has deferred a reply until that visit also had been made.

3. In respect of relief works in Chhattisgarh, you state that the Government of India approve of the action taken in closing works to new admissions, on the understanding that this proceeding was to be temporary only and designed to meet a temporary emergency. That the expedient should be a temporary one, to afford a breathing time while disorganised camps could be set in order and new ones opened, was all along the Officiating Chief Commissioner's intention. The effect of the measure can best be judged from the following figures :—

District.	27th January.			24th March.		
	No. of Camps.	No. of Relief Workers.	Average per Camp.	No. of Camps.	No. of Relief Workers.	Average per Camp.
Raipur	22	190,533	8,661	41	194,876	4,753
Bilaspur	13	102,978	7,921	24	81,465	3,394

The numbers on Village Works in the two districts on the same dates contrast as follows :—

					27th January.	24th March.
Raipur ... ..	...	...	...	...	186,276	200,300
Bilaspur ... ..	...	...	...	...	37,264	64,508

The aggregate of those employed on both kinds of works has not risen very much in either district—*i.e.*, from 376,800 to 395,000 in Raipur, and from 141,000 to 146,000 in Bilaspur—but the means of employing them and of enforcing discipline in the Public Works Department camps have much improved.

4. Mr. Fraser accordingly ordered on the occasion of his recent visit to Raipur that Public Works Department camps were to be again opened to free admissions, with the exception of a few works, to be specified from time to time, which had not reached a sufficient stage of organisation or had become temporarily disorganised. The Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer were to arrange the matter subject to the advice of the Commissioner. Weakly gangs were to be organised on all works, and all works without exception were to be open to the admission of persons only fit for employment in weakly gangs. It was clearly to be understood that the majority of works were to be open. There will be, the Officiating Chief Commissioner thinks, no risk under these orders of anybody being refused relief who really requires it. Nor does Mr. Fraser believe that the temporary closure of works had any bad effect. During the period of closure there was a large extension of village works and kitchens.

5. I am now to turn to the arrangements made in the Jubbulpore Division. The Officiating Chief Commissioner inspected a few works in the Jubbulpore and Saugor districts during his visit to the Division, and discussed the procedure in force with the Commissioner and the local officers. I am to forward a copy of the rules issued by Mr. Fuller, and of his letter, No. 2672, of the 18th March, showing the result of his action. The rules are of a simple nature and explain themselves, the principle being that everybody resident within a 4-mile radius of a relief work must procure a ticket before he can be admitted to the work. If he is rejected wrongly he can be admitted without question at another work, his acceptance of this distance test being admitted as qualifying him for relief. It is no doubt true that when distress is not very

severe there are many people in a village who will go to work at a camp close to their homes, but who are not really distressed and will not go on it unless it is easy accessible. A moderate rabi harvest has been reaped in a considerable part of the Division, and very acute distress is not apprehended. In these circumstances the rules seem to the Officiating Chief Commissioner to be well calculated to prevent money being wasted on persons not in real need ; and for the present, at least, the system is not attended by any risk. The condition of the people is very superior to that observed in rice districts, general health is good, and mortality low. Mr. Fraser would, therefore, ask the permission of the Government of India to allow the system to continue in this Division, unless and until it is found necessary to abandon it.

6. The question naturally arises whether a similar method of confining relief to the really distressed might not be introduced in other parts of the Province also ; but, after giving the matter full consideration, Mr. Fraser has come to the conclusion that this would now be impossible. When distress is severe, it is doubtful whether, even in its initial stages, such a procedure could safely be carried out. It is possible that if introduced from the first, before the people had left their villages, it might have proved workable ; but to examine into the circumstances of each individual of the vast hordes of people now on relief works in our rice districts, would at this stage be out of the question. Mr. Fraser has, therefore, no desire to extend the system to other parts of the Province.

7. Another point touched on in your letter is the alleged popularity of large Public Works Department Works as compared with Village Works. Where distress is not very acute the village work for the residents of the village where it is actually in progress would certainly be the more popular ; but it is not so in our rice districts. There the extra pice obtainable on the Public Works Department Work, the kitchen for dependants, the arrangements for water and for the purchase of grain, fully outweigh the disadvantage, if any, arising from the extra discipline enforced. To this discipline the relief-worker soon accustoms himself ; he is by nature a creature of routine, and when once he has made up his mind to a course of steady daily labour he readily accepts a stricter discipline in consideration of an extra pice and organised arrangements for his comfort. Different circumstances might no doubt produce a different case. But in the circumstances with which we are dealing, local officers are everywhere agreed that the large work is the more popular, and Mr. Fraser himself, when in Raipur, came across numerous instances of desertion from the Village to a Public Works Department Work. It is also far from being the case that the Village Work is unsupervised ; the numbers on it are small, the workers are concentrated within a small compass, and the malguzar who will benefit by the work will generally take care that a proper task is rendered. The task also is easily checked ; and the charge officers and other inspecting officers have been constantly on the move, and have supervised these works well. Mr. Fraser has inspected not a few, and has been satisfied of this. Certainly had not Village Works been largely extended in Chhattisgarh, the programme of useful Public Works would have been rapidly exhausted, and the camps would have been swamped by undisciplined rabbles.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, to the Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 2,672, dated Jubbulpore, the 18th March, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, a set of instructions which I issued last month to the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor, Jubbulpore, and Seoni—the only districts in which Public Works Department relief charges have been opened in this Division—under the authority given me by paragraph 4 of your letter, No. F. 173, dated the 22nd January, 1900. I did not issue them till I had ascertained by personal trial that the enquiries on which they depend were feasible.

2. At the time the instructions were acted upon the numbers on relief-works had fallen very greatly owing to the commencement of harvesting and (in Jubbulpore) to a reduction in wages which followed a fall in prices. Between the beginning and the end of February the numbers on Public Works Department relief-works in the three districts fell by 52 per cent. Persons of the better classes were the first to leave, and, in consequence, although previous enquiries had given ground for the belief that fairly well-to-do cultivating families constituted from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the workers, the instructions have led to the rejection of a much smaller proportion—less than 10 per cent. in Saugor and Jubbulpore, and about 15 per cent. in Seoni. It is reported, however, that on some works people left at the commencement of the enquiries when they saw that their result would be against them, without waiting for an order of exclusion. The instructions will be felt in lessening the number of fairly well-to-do persons who return to the works during the coming hot weather.

3. No reports have reached me of any difficulty in working the instructions or of complications arising out of them. Deputy Commissioners will watch their effect most carefully, and if there is any risk of their excluding the deserving they will be at once withdrawn.

Annexure to above.

Rules for the use of some discrimination in admitting to Public Works Department Famine Relief Works.

1. The object of these rules is to exclude from works families who are not at the end of their available resources, and who are not deterred from seeking admission by any "distance test." A consequential advantage will be that we shall be able to deal more leniently with relief-workers as a class, and can avoid the risk of driving away by hard tasks and low wages those who stand most in need of assistance.

2. The first step is to draw up a list of villages lying within 4 (or perhaps 5) miles off the relief-work or any part of it. The list will need revision as the work shifts its situation. Poor villages with infertile soil need not be included, unless they are grazing villages. A copy of the list should be given to the Officer-in-charge, and be posted conspicuously at the camp. No person should be admitted from these villages without an admission ticket.

3. The next step is to distribute tickets to present relief-workers belonging to these villages who need relief, and to refuse tickets to those who do not need relief. For this purpose the relief-workers belonging to these villages should be marshalled by villages and by families, and enquiries be made regarding each family with the assistance of the mukaddam, the patwari, and the patwari's cattle list. Tickets should be refused to families who possess more than two head of cattle other than plough cattle, or possess a cart, or who have sown five acres or more of rabi. The Deputy Commissioner may find it possible to add to this definition of the fairly well-to-do. A ticket should be given to each member of a family not excluded by this rule. The ticket need be nothing more than a slip of paper bearing the name of the village (in Hindi), a letter to signify whether the person is a man, woman, or child (M., W., W.C.), and the initials of the distributing officer. In a trial I made 950 persons were disposed of in three hours. I do not think that ordinarily more than 1,000 persons can be dealt with in a day, and the workers from 20 or 30 villages may occupy an officer for two or three days. Tickets should not be distributed by an officer of rank inferior to that of Charge Officer.

4. To provide for the admission in future of deserving persons belonging to the listed villages who are not on the work at the time of the enquiry, the Charge Officer or an officer of superior rank should visit the locality every eight or ten days, sending notice beforehand to the villages that persons wishing for admission should attend at a certain place and on a certain date. He will then go through them, and distribute tickets exactly as in dealing with relief-workers.

5. When the Officer-in-charge is a man of experience and judgment, authority to distribute tickets to new-comers may be given to him.

6. The difficulty will be to prevent non-ticket holders belonging to the listed villages from gaining admission by mis-stating their villages of residence. Mates should be made responsible for reporting any such cases, and I think that the services of the kotwars might be usefully enlisted, giving them a small fee in return. I believe, however, that when once the intention of Government is known, evasions of rule will be of rare occurrence.

No. 17.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. No. 775-F., dated Simla, the 21st April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter, No. 825-F., dated 4th April 1900, regarding the special measures for regulating admission to relief works in the Chhattisgarh and Jubbulpore Divisions.

2. The ticket admission system in force on the departmental famine relief works in the Jubbulpore Division is reported to be working satisfactorily, and permission is asked to allow the system to continue in the Division unless and until you should find its abandonment necessary. The rules are considered by you to be well calculated to prevent money from being wasted on persons not in real need, and for the present at least to be unattended by any risk, as the condition and general health of the people in the Division is good and mortality low. You are, however, of opinion that the procedure could not now be safely extended to the more acutely distressed districts of the province, as inquiry into the circumstances of each individual of the vast hordes of people on the relief works, which the system necessitates, is at this stage out of the question. You have therefore no wish to extend the rules to other parts of the province.

3. The Government of India accept without hesitation your opinion on this latter point, as it is in entire accord with the conclusion arrived at by the Famine Commission of 1880, which pronounced against the practicability of working any rule of selection where, as in an Indian famine, millions of people have to be dealt with. In the Jubbulpore Division "scarcity" rather than true "famine" conditions appear to prevail, and the numbers of persons in need of relief are comparatively limited. The circumstances are thus special, and the considerations which condemn the principle of individual selection as a basis for any general system of famine relief lose in this case part of their weight. The experiment initiated by Mr. Fuller is valuable and instructive, and it may be continued as long as you think its continuance is expedient.

4. Turning to the rules themselves it is observed that they do not specially provide, as the Government of India in my letter of the 1st March suggested, for the immediate admission to the work by the officer-in-charge of persons whose physical condition indicates their need of relief. Unless the officer-in-charge is given the special powers mentioned in rule 5, an applicant for relief belonging to a "listed" village cannot be relieved at the work, however urgent and apparent his necessities may be, until an officer of superior rank next visits the locality. It may be said that the distressed person has the option of repairing to a more distant work, to which he will be admitted without question. But that work may be twenty or thirty miles away, and the option in such circumstances is of little practical use to an exhausted famine stricken sufferer. The Government of India consider that the rules should authorise the officer-in-charge to admit temporarily, pending the next visit of the superior officer, any applicant whose physical condition is unmistakeably bad.

5. To prevent any possible misunderstanding of the rules, it is further desirable that they should explicitly state that applicants for relief who are not residents of the listed villages are to be admitted to the work without question by the officer-in-charge. This intention is clearly explained in your letter and may be inferred from the text of the rules. But explicitness in this matter is desirable, as it is within memory that in the Bilaspur District in 1897 relief was refused to thousands by subordinates of the Public Works Department on a misreading of the admission rules, which antecedently would not have been considered possible.

No. 18.

Famine Circular from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, the Superintending Engineer, and the Superintendent of Works, No. F-49, dated Nagpur, the 7th May, 1900.

I am directed to address you with reference to the arrangements for famine-relief to be made during the rains. The instructions which follow, as well as the principles upon which they are based, have been determined at a Conference held at Pachmarhi on the 20th and 21st of April, at which all Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioner of Hoshangabad were present. They will require careful study by all officers whose duty it is to carry them out.

2. Large relief works under the Public Works Department have been up to the present, save in a few special localities, the mainstay of our system of relief; and the first and principal question before the Conference was whether the policy of placing our chief reliance on these major works was possible, or desirable, in the rains. To this question the Conference unanimously returned an emphatic negative.

3. In the first place, the reason for the maintenance of large relief-works at selected centres disappears when employment is available in the villages. In the second place, these large works at that season of the year fail adequately to check mortality. The area they serve is curtailed, while the exposure and discomforts inseparable from them, even under the best arrangements, tend to cause sickness and increased mortality. Furthermore, it is the general belief that even if the Public Works Department camps were all kept open during the rains, a large number of the relief-workers would certainly desert them. Hutting accommodation must be provided for all camps that are kept open; and, if these were maintained at their present number, the cost of such accommodation would be very heavy, and would be almost wholly wasted if the anticipated departure of workers took place. Added to these arguments against relief by large works in the rains is the consideration that the exaction of tasks is always difficult, and often impossible, and that the money spent, viewed in proportion to the insignificant work done, could be utilised far more efficiently on other forms of relief. Lastly, if reliance were to be placed on Public Works Department works mainly, these would have to be increased so as to take on all persons now engaged on village works. This would be practically impossible in Chhattisgarh, and difficult elsewhere.

4. While, however, it is clear that Public Works Department relief-works cannot be depended upon as the backbone of relief during the rains, it is equally certain that they cannot all be simultaneously closed at a given date. The last Famine Commission wrote (paragraph 243 of their Report):—"We think that the policy of inducing people to leave the works before a famine is ended is a dangerous one, unless used with the greatest caution and supported by a large extension of gratuitous village relief. . . . The evidence we have taken is in favour of the view that, except perhaps in the case of very laxly and profusely managed relief-works, the cultivators and agricultural labourers leave works as soon as ever they see their way to getting a living off them, and often on the mere chance of so doing." Elsewhere in their report they condemn any attempt to drive people off the works, and prefer to see the works die a natural death by voluntary efflux of labourers.

5. The policy which the Officiating Chief Commissioner has decided to adopt is a policy of inducing the people to leave the works only by an assurance of support for their dependants. That policy is based on the known facts that in normal years the whole of the agricultural population now on relief finds support during the rains in agricultural operations, which support will be equally available during the coming monsoon period except in so far as (1) the wages to be earned will be less by the possible curtailment of the area sown, and (2) owing to high prices the wages earned will be insufficient to purchase

food for the whole of the labourer's family. In other words, during the rains Government will be required merely to supplement, and not to take the place of, private employment and wages. The mode of supplementing earnings will be by cooked food at kitchens to dependants and by expansion of the village cash relief lists.

6. In all districts where distress is comparatively slight, where a substantial amount of capital is still available to finance the cultivator, and agricultural operations are not likely to be curtailed to any material extent, the support of the labourer's dependants, extended if necessary hereafter to working members of his family according to rules to be presently explained, should suffice to relieve any distress which may occur. The reason for high mortality in the rains is usually not that the labourers cannot earn anything at all, but that he cannot earn enough to support all the members of his family. Either he feeds himself and leaves them hungry, or else he and they endeavour to subsist on a ration inadequate for the support of all. But in the most severely distressed districts, where capital will not be readily available, and employment will be specially scanty, it will probably be necessary to extend relief upon occasion to a certain proportion of the labourers themselves. Whenever it is necessary to give money doles to able-bodied persons other than children, the gift must be conditional on work done by the recipients under the supervision of the mukaddam.

7. These relief arrangements will enable the system of Public Works Department relief-works to be largely dispensed with ; but they will not enable them to be entirely superseded. There will be foreigners who have no home in the district and cannot be sent to their homes, a sprinkling of labourers and artisans who will not leave the works, and a certain number of waifs and strays, with no settled home, to be provided for. For these classes it will in most districts be necessary to keep a few Public Works Department charges open, for a short time at all events. These must be selected beforehand, and good hutting accommodation must be provided. As works become gradually deserted, the remnant of workers must be drafted to the selected works ; and the rest can be gradually closed. The approximate number of works which it may be advisable to keep open is indicated in the district notes which accompany this circular. The list is not, however, a final one, and is subject to modification, provided that the general principles of giving relief in villages are maintained.

8. The above being the principles of famine relief to be followed in the rains, the following instructions indicate the measures to be adopted to give effect to them :—

(1) PUBLIC WORKS.

- I.—Large works under the Public Works Department will occupy only a subsidiary place in the relief programme for the rains.
- II.—A limited number of works, chosen with reference both to the localities where work is most likely to be needed, to the utility of the work, and to the possibility of carrying it on in the rains, must be selected with the approval of the Commissioner, and hutting accommodation must be provided for as many workers (varying probably between 500 and 1,500) as may be determined in each case.
- III.—No action will be taken to drive people from the works, but they will be induced to leave by promise of support to their dependants. As a first stage to the clearing of the works Officers-in-charge will arrange with the Circle Officers concerned to put all members of weakly gangs on the cash-relief list of their villages ; and on the 20th May all such persons who are willing to leave the works will be given one

month's gratuitous dole and despatched to their villages, a list of such persons and the doles given them being furnished to the Circle Officer of the village to which they belong.

IV.—Early in June it will be generally proclaimed by beat of drum throughout the camp that on the rains breaking Government wishes the people to return to their villages, and that if they do so arrangements will be made for the support of their dependants in their villages, and that all kitchens will be open to free admission.

V.—As soon as the rains break an exodus from the works may be expected. Those works on which the numbers decline below a certain limit, to be fixed by the Commissioner, will then be closed, the residue being drafted to the next nearest work, until in time only the selected camps, where efficient shelter has been provided, remain open. Charge and Circle Officers will visit the camps in their charges which are about to be closed and see that all pauper dependants, who will not be within reach of a kitchen at their homes, are put on the village relief list.

(2) VILLAGE RELIEF.

VI.—Village relief will be the backbone of the relief system to be followed in the rains. It will consist of:—

A.—Gratuitous relief to the non-working population, and to children below 14 years of age; and

B.—In certain cases, relief in return for work to the working population, consisting of able-bodied adults over 14 years of age.

(A) *Gratuitous Relief.*

Gratuitous Relief will consist of:—

(i.) Kitchens; and

(ii.) Cash doles.

Kitchens will be multiplied in all tracts where distress exists, and sufficient kitchens are not at present open. Admission will be free to anybody who will accept cooked food, and is not being otherwise relieved. Shelters from the rain must be run up at all kitchens.

Cash doles will only be necessary to those who cannot walk to a kitchen, or who, being reduced in condition, have never taken food at a kitchen and refuse to do so. Children within two miles of a kitchen should rarely be put on cash relief. This relief list will be styled list A, and the numbers on it will be returned as on gratuitous relief.

VII.—During May, the village relief list A may be gradually expanded under the directions of the Commissioner, so as to include weakly persons who have been struck off the lists previously in the expectation that they would attend kitchens, but who have refused to do so, as well as those sent from Public Works Department works to their homes under Rule III., care being taken that these latter are not paid twice over. The Charge Officer will also see that dependants of workers on village works within his charge who have refused to accept cooked food are brought on to the village relief list, and doles given them on the village works being closed.

(B) *Village Relief Works.*

In tracts severely distressed.

VIII.—In districts severely distressed, in which this procedure is enjoined by the Commissioner of the Division with the previous sanction of the Chief Commissioner, a special list termed the B list will be prepared. On it will be entered the names of the heads of the poorest labouring families in each village, with the number of members in each family, to whom relief will be given if the need arises. The list will show how many members of the family are receiving relief gratuitously or at kitchens.

Note (1).—No farm servant in permanent employ can be put on this list.

Note (2).—Persons who habitually labour for hire will not be excluded from the list of labourers merely because they happen to own a small plot of land.

IX.—The preparation of this list can be put in hand at once by patwaris and mukaddams under the supervision of Circle and Charge Officers.

X.—Distribution of relief to able-bodied persons on the B list will only be given for one month at a time, and only when, owing to partial cessation of agricultural operations, there is insufficient field work available, and can only be allowed on the sanction of the Commissioner, who shall at once inform the Chief Commissioner of the orders passed by him. An application by the Deputy Commissioner to the Commissioner for permission to distribute relief to able-bodied persons on the B list must contain an estimate of the numbers likely to be relieved.

XI.—Relief to able-bodied persons under these rules will be conditional on work which will be exacted from them by the mukaddams. The mukaddam must be ready to inform the Circle or Charge Officer what work persons on the B list have been put on; and the kind of work will be generally arranged with the mukaddams by Charge officers. It may consist of petty local improvements, as well as weeding or transplanting in fields of ryots unable themselves to employ labour; but Circle Officers must not be permitted to interfere with the discretion of the mukaddam.

In tracts not severely distressed.

XII.—In districts not severely distressed, it will not be necessary to prepare formal B lists beforehand; but if, later on, in the rains, distress is found to increase, discretion must be given to Charge Officers to expand the gratuitous list by the addition to them of dependants of labourers without special reference to their capacity for work. But persons added on in this manner will be distinctively marked on the list, and the mukaddams will be required to exact work from them.

9. The twelve rules embodied in the preceding paragraph convey the general instructions to be observed; but, owing to the great differences in local circumstances, it is impossible to frame instructions in sufficient detail applicable to all periods of the season or to all localities. Subsidiary instructions will, therefore, be necessary, which Commissioners have discretion to issue, provided that they do not conflict with the spirit of the rules, and are reported for the Chief Commissioner's approval. For instance, in regard to the B list, selections may prove difficult, and it may be necessary to limit the numbers on this form of relief to a certain percentage, on the basis that if a certain proportion of labourers are assisted by Government, the rest will find work. It may also be found advisable to prescribe limitations as to the total amount of relief which

may be given to a single family. The relief is intended to supplement, not to take the place of, what the family may earn. These are all matters on which it is impossible to lay down strict rules at this juncture, but in respect of which the Officiating Chief Commissioner will be glad to consider any suggestions which local officers may have to make when the situation is further developed.

10. It is of the greatest importance that no time should be lost in making the arrangements whereby the system of relief may be changed from camps to villages without a hiatus of insufficient relief. The actual workers in the camps will probably have a small saving, and in the first burst of sowing operations will find sufficient employment; but their dependants have to be provided for. These have hitherto been accepting cooked food at the camp kitchens, and should continue to receive this form of relief in their homes. It would be quite unnecessary to put them on the village relief list if there are kitchens within reach. It will, therefore, be necessary in those tracts in which kitchens have not been widely extended, and where distress is apprehended, to open kitchens in advance of the tide of returning dependants. They are the ultimate means of saving life, if the distressed person has failed to attract the notice of the Circle Relief Officer.

11. There are certain tracts in the Province, the wilder zamindaris and the hilly regions of the Satpura districts, in which, owing to the great distance between villages, kitchen-relief cannot be managed. In some local areas of this description, distribution of dry grain at depôts has taken the place of cooked food. This plan may be necessary in a few local areas, but it can never be worked side by side with kitchen-relief, and it still requires cash doles paid in the villages to the infirm who are unable to come to the depôt. Any tracts in which resort to distribution of dry grain is considered to be necessary on any ground should be distinctly specified by Commissioners, and the necessity for the system, as well as the plan on which it is to be carried out, should be clearly explained.

12. In conclusion I am to forward some district notes showing in general terms the plan of relief in each district which seems to be *prima facie* necessary. It is, of course, subject to modification, but may be of general use.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Note appended to Famine Circular No. F-49, dated the 7th May, 1900, regarding arrangements in the rains.

The following district notes indicate generally the views of the Commissioners as expressed at the conference. Under the estimates it is probable that the number of Public Works Department camps will be reduced from 180 to about 50, with further gradual reduction as the season advances.

2. The estimates of the number of kitchens required to serve each district are based on the calculation that a kitchen will serve effectually a radius of three miles or 27 square miles. The area under Government forest is deducted from the total area of the district. Some districts show already more kitchens than this number, but a very slight reduction in the radius adds greatly to the number of kitchens. For instance, if a district of 2,700 square miles requires 100 kitchens for a three-mile radius, it will require 225 for a two-mile radius.

3. As regards the numbers likely to return to the works after the rains break, it will be observed that in certain districts, *e.g.*, Raipur, Bilaspur, Betul, Balaghat, and to a small extent in Nimar and Bhandara, the percentage of population on relief exceeds the percentage of labourers. In such districts the number of cultivators on works must be very large, and the numbers when the rains break should drop very rapidly.

DISTRICT NOTES.

SAUGOR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
8.1	16.1	24.2	9.85	6.63

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 120

Number of kitchens at present open 45

Distress of a severe character will probably be confined to the two northern tahsils of Khurai and Banda. Commissioner thinks that two Public Works Department works in the rains will suffice, and that kitchens (which will be considerably increased) and a liberal gratuitous village relief list, expanded if necessary under Rule XII., will meet the needs of the district.

DAMOH.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
8.1	8.2	16.3	18.32	2.31

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 75

Number of kitchens at present open 32

Distress in this district is slight, no Public Works Department work has been opened and none will be required. Kitchens must be increased, but no B list will be necessary.

JUBBULPORE.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
11.7	10.0	21.7	12.95	7.24

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 126

Number of kitchens at present open 70

The Commissioner thinks that two Public Works Department works, preferably metal-breaking, will suffice for the rains in this district, for a time at all events. It will be necessary to expand gratuitous relief and to increase the number of kitchens. But he does not anticipate that a B list will prove necessary. Distress will practically be confined to the non-haveli tracts.

MANDLA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
9.7	6.9	15.16	10.8	1.00

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 86

Number of kitchens at present open 37

There is only one Public Works Department work in this district, and none will be required in the rains. Kitchens will be difficult to manage in remote villages, and in forest areas; and gratuitous and village work relief must be the main stand by. List B will therefore probably be necessary in order to deal with petty cultivators who also fall in the category of labourers. Kitchens will however be expanded as far as possible.

SEONI.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
7.0	10.9	17.9	5.23	12.60

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 86

Number of kitchens at present open 64

Two Public Works Department works will probably be maintained in the Seoni Tahsil and possibly one in Lakhnadon. As far as practicable the railway camps will be selected. There is little distress in the haveli, and if a B list is required it will be in the Korai, Ugli, and Barghat tracts, where rice is most important. Kitchen relief must be extended.

NARSINGHPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
6.8	17.0	23.8	15.96	1.68

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 60

Number of kitchens at present open 38

The district is very slightly distressed; the kitchen attendance is small. No Public Works Department works will be required, and no B list will be necessary. In the hilly portion of the district, gratuitous relief, both cash doles and kitchens, will be extended. In the plains portion a few test kitchens should be established; they can be very rapidly extended there if distress is found to increase.

HOSHANGABAD.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
6.1	15.1	21.2	13.80	13.22

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 102

Number of kitchens at present open 26

Two Public Works Department camps during the rains will certainly be necessary for foreigners who do not return, and cannot be returned, to their homes. Two more will probably be required for local workers. Kitchens will have to be greatly expanded all over the district, and in two tahsils, Harda and Hoshangabad, a B list will be necessary.

NIMAR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
14.7	4.0	18.7	1.19	19.01

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 77

Number of kitchens at present open 70

The inclusion of the Harsud Tahsil and opening of ryotwari villages has added to the labourer and labouring-cultivator classes since the census. Kitchens may still be increased, and in view of the high mortality in the district, this kind of relief should not be stinted.

The two works on the Khandwa-Akola Railway, one at Manjrod and one at Jaswari, must be kept open, principally for foreigners. It may be necessary to keep one work in the Harsud Tahsil, though land reclamation by persons on the B list will probably suffice for relief of the able-bodied. It is most important in the ryotwari tracts to keep the ryots to the villages.

Burhanpur can probably be served by kitchen and town relief; but, if necessary, a Public Works Department work, to which admission will be by ticket, can be kept open sufficiently near Burhanpur to allow hutting to be dispensed with.

A B list will only be necessary in the Harsud tahsil, and possibly in the ryotwari areas elsewhere in the district.

BETUL.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
12.1	6.2	18.3	8.07	34.36

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 95

Number of kitchens at present open 123

The district is poor, and very deeply distressed. It will probably be necessary to keep three Public Works Department works open along the Nagpur-Itarsi Road, at first at all events. Kitchens have already been greatly extended, their distribution has only to be considered. B lists will be necessary. The possibility of distributing relief to those on the A and B lists in jungly tracts by means of existing depôts must be considered, but dry-grain doles and kitchens cannot be kept going side by side, and arrangements for infirms unable to walk to a kitchen or depôt must be made.

CHHINDWARA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
15.9	2.7	17.16	4.82	18.54

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 145

Number of kitchens at present open 82

Distress is less severe than in Betul. Commissioner considers that three to four works in the Chhindwara tahsil will probably be necessary, especially in areas which chiefly produce rabi crops, where there will be less field labour available. The jagirs and the Ambara and Khamarpani tracts may be served by a depôt system like that in force in Betul. Kitchens may be extended wherever possible. In the Sausar tahsil arrangements under Rule XII, if required should meet necessities in all open tracts.

WARDHA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the present.
29.6	5.6	34.12	2.11	16.75

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 84

Number of kitchens at present open 63

Distress is at present severe in this district; but agricultural work in the rains will probably provide for the able-bodied. Three public works may be maintained for a time, preferably ballast-breaking for the railway. All that is believed necessary is relief to labourers by supporting their dependants by kitchens and cash doles; and Rule XII. should meet all requirements. Kitchens will need extension.

NAGPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
17.3	4.7	21.10	2.40	5.96

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 122

Number of kitchens at present open 26

It is not expected that any Public Works Department relief-work will be required here, as the most distressed part of the district (Dongartal) is not very populous and is served by village works, but a B list may prove necessary in this tract.

Kitchens will have to be extended everywhere for the dependants of labourers and distressed artizans, as a test of distress as well as a means of relief. With the possible exception of the Dongartal tract, Rule XII should meet all requirements.

CHANDA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
17.8	3.7	20.15	1.5	15.65

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 272

Number of kitchens at present open 54

The rice tracts of this district are severely distressed, and the distances and wildness of the zamindari areas make relief arrangements difficult. Three Public Works Department works only should be maintained, viz., Chanda, Mul and Brahmपुरi. Kitchens must be very largely extended, B lists framed and relief given liberally to dependants of the labouring classes.

BHANDARA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
14.9	2.1	16.10	5.76	16.95

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 127

Number of kitchens at present open 188

It is expected that one work at Gondia, and two more, to be selected after local consultation, should suffice as Public Works Department relief camps. Kitchens have already been widely extended, but their distribution must be examined. B lists will be necessary, but exception may be made in a few tracts where distress is less severe.

BALAGHAT.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
12.7	2.6	14.13	18.15	29.69

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 82

Number of kitchens at present open 133

Kitchen relief has been well extended. Commissioner think that four camps may be needed in the rains, probably two along the railway, one, at Katangi.

a very distressed tract, and one at Waraseoni. But these may very likely be susceptible of reduction.

List B will be necessary here ; and arrangements for the Behir tahsil will require special consideration.

RAIPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
6.2	4.7	10.9	6.77	36.02

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 383

Number of kitchens at present open 612

There are nearly 50 Public Works Department works open, and over 200,000 people on village works. A very large number of the people on these works must be cultivators (compare percentage on relief with percentage of labourers). These will all return to their villages for agriculture. B lists will be necessary. Kitchens appear to be sufficient. It is estimated that 10 Public Works Department camps will have to be maintained, but the estimate seems high.

BILASPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
5.2	6.5	11.7	12.81	22.15

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 285

Number of kitchens at present open 321

It will probably be possible to reduce the number of works to six. B lists will be required, with plenty of kitchens.

SAMBALPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
0.5	10.9	10.14	35	4.17

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 168

Number of kitchens at present open 89

It is thought that no large work will be necessary. Kitchens will meet most of such distress as continues. In a few tracts village relief lists may be expanded under Rule XII.

No. 19.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 1130. F, dated Simla, the 1st June, 1900.

The Governor General in Council has read with interest Famine Circular No. 49.F., dated 7th May, 1900, which you have caused to be issued to divisional and district officers with reference to the arrangements for famine relief to be made during the rains.

2. His Excellency in Council has no doubt that in a province like the Central Provinces with a heavy rainfall, great distances, and imperfect communications, major relief works cannot be made the main basis of relief during the rains. The prosecution of such works during the rainy season is difficult in any part of India, and in the famine of 1897 this method of relief had everywhere to be accompanied with a considerable expansion of village and kitchen relief, and with considerable grants of money in the form of loans or gifts to the cultivating classes, to enable them to resume their home occupations and to give employment in the villages to the labouring and menial classes. In the Central Provinces in 1897 the rainy season was marked in many districts by a deplorable increase of malarial diseases and mortality, and experience clearly proved that in such circumstances large public works were kept open with difficulty and failed to give suitable relief to the classes which most required it.

3. The scheme of relief described in your circular is framed on very generous lines, and in a famine of less intensity would unquestionably be open to the charge that it erred on the side of excessive liberality. It practically amounts to the offer of cooked food throughout the distressed area to all comers, irrespective of their bodily condition or material circumstances, and to the establishment of kitchens in such numbers as to bring this offer within easy reach of nearly every village. It may be doubted whether in any previous famine relief has been made so easy and universal, or so free from any test of want other than the test imposed by the scruples of the higher classes or castes to eat cooked food. Such scruples appear to be less strong in the Central Provinces than elsewhere, and they are known to diminish or disappear altogether under the force of circumstances.

It is further provided that persons in weakly condition who refuse to accept cooked food are to be brought on the gratuitous cash relief list of the village, and that able-bodied labourers may similarly be brought on the cash relief list of their village on the condition that they perform any work which the headman of the village may prescribe. Such work, it is stated, may include weeding or transplanting in the fields of the headman or of the other ryots of the village if they are unable themselves to employ labour. As the discretion of the headman in the matter of prescribing work is not to be questioned by the circle officer, this particular condition may be considered elastic.

4. This scheme of relief has been framed by you in concert with the most experienced relief officers of the province, and is considered to be the best, if not the only, way of bringing the great mass of the labouring classes back to their villages and their usual occupations, without exceptional mortality or privations at the close of a famine of unprecedented severity. In these circumstances the Governor General in Council refrains from dwelling on the possible objections which might be taken to it on various grounds. He is willing that it should be fairly and fully tried, recognising that the problem of famine relief during the rainy season is one of very great difficulty, and that in the Central Provinces in 1897 it was not satisfactorily solved by the usual methods. But he trusts that vigilance will be exercised in seeing that the liberality of the State is not abused, that the scheme will be tightened up if abuses should become general, and that relief under its provisions will not be maintained, especially in the case of the able-bodied, longer than is necessary for the avoidance of mortality. The particular feature of the scheme which is open to the greatest abuse is that enabling the village headmen to carry out the cultivation of their own fields and

that of their friends by State paid labour. Unless very close check in the manner suggested in paragraph 9 of your circular is kept on the numbers so employed, the cost of such relief may outrun all bounds, and substantial cultivators, who have received large sums of money for cultivation expenses from the State and the Charitable Relief Fund, will escape their natural obligations. Between 50 and 60 lakhs of rupees are being distributed for this purpose in the Central Provinces, and the addition of so much capital to the remaining resources of the cultivators should create a substantial fund for the employment of field labour during the coming rains. The Governor General in Council accepts the opinion of yourself and your officers that this fund, though substantial, is in itself insufficient this year for the full employment of the labouring classes, and will require to be supplemented in the manner proposed. But he must ask that the B lists be very closely regulated and kept within proper limits, that they be disallowed altogether by the district officer in villages which he considers can pay for their own labourers, and that the number of labourers placed in each district on the B lists be shown in a separate column in the weekly detailed statement of relief operations compiled for the province.

No. 20.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S. Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F.1604, dated Pachmarhi, the 18th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1130.F., dated the 1st June, conveying the observations and orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council upon the programme of relief operations during the rains, contained in this Administration's Famine Circular No. F.49 of the 7th ultimo. I am to express the thanks of the Officiating Chief Commissioner for the permission accorded to him to carry out relief administration on the undoubtedly liberal lines provided in the Circular.

2. The general caution enjoined by your letter and the instructions contained in the closing paragraph will be strictly and loyally observed, and I am to forward for the information of the Government of India copy of a letter (No. F.1603, of to-day's date) which is issuing to all Commissioners in regard to the regulation of the B lists. The necessity for caution had been insisted on at the Conference which preceded the issue of the Circular; but the Officiating Chief Commissioner has thought it well to call special attention to it now.

3. I am to represent, however, one or two matters in which the orders contained in Famine Circular No. 49 have been construed by the Government of India to imply more than was intended. Although it was laid down in Rule XI. (paragraph 8 of the Circular) that Circle Officers were not to interfere with the discretion of the headman in regard to the work taken from labourers on the B list, it was not intended to give the headmen an absolutely free hand. The nature of the work to be taken was to be settled by the Charge Officer. Though it may occasionally happen that B list labourers are put to weed the headman's fields, it is not contemplated by the rules that this should be the general practice. The fields to be weeded are those of cultivators unable to employ labour, and the village headman will seldom or never fall within this category.

4. I am further to submit, with reference to another remark made in paragraph 4 of your letter, that takavi and charitable grants have not been given to substantial cultivators. The takavi advances have generally been made to cultivators who can command but little credit, and grants from the Charitable Fund have been confined to tenants who are poorer even than the recipients of takavi. In order also to make these sums go as far as possible individual loans and grants have been kept small, and the recipients will not have much to spare for wages to labourers.

5. As desired by the Government of India the number on the B lists will duly be shown in a separate column in all returns. Orders have issued which will secure this.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Circular Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners of Divisions, Central Provinces, No. F.-1603, dated Pachmarhi, the 18th June, 1900.

With reference to paragraph 9 of Famine Circular No. 49 enjoining the issue of subsidiary instructions by Commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the orders of that Circular, I am directed to impress upon you the necessity for exercising special caution in regard to the preparation of the B lists, and the distribution of relief to persons entered on these lists.

2. In particular it is necessary to limit the number of labourers upon these lists, since all labourers will not be unable to find employment. Where relief-works are kept open according to the set programmes, no persons should be entered on the B lists within a certain radius of such relief works, otherwise such persons might after receiving the dole present themselves at the relief works and thus obtain double relief. Again such lists should be dispensed with, or curtailed to the narrowest limits in all villages in which the villagers are sufficiently well off as a body to pay for their own labour. In such cases it must be remembered that dependants will under the Circular still be eligible to receive support. The distribution of relief to those on the B lists should also be very closely supervised and watched, so that abuses which may come to light may be promptly checked. Persons entered on these lists should not be led to anticipate as a matter of certainty that they will receive relief; for it is from the B list as originally framed that selections will be made of those labourers who have, as a matter of fact, failed to obtain employment, who are unlikely to resort to kitchens, and who actually appear to be in want.

3. Rule XI (paragraph 8 of the Circular) allows a considerable discretion to the village headman to decide upon the work to be taken from labourers on the B list, and it is stated that Circle Officers must not be permitted to interfere with that discretion. This discretion is intended to prevent the risk of ill-advised interference by Circle Officers of small experience or lacking in tact; but it is also clearly provided that the kind of work must be generally arranged with Mukaddams by Charge Officers. The kind of work to be done should as far as possible be work which, owing to want of funds, could not have been carried out but for the help given by Government; and if a Circle Officer finds that the Mukaddam is generally employing these State-paid labourers on work which he or others could easily afford to pay for, it will be that officer's duty to bring the facts to the notice of the Charge Officer. All these points, together with any other safeguards which may, without prejudice to the success of relief, occur to you to be advisable, should be made clear in the subsidiary instructions which you issue under paragraph 9 of the Circular.

4. This letter does not issue as an ordinary Famine Circular, because the circumstances of different districts differ so much that it is desirable that the preparation and regulation of B lists should be left in the first instance to the initiative and control of Commissioners. General orders which would filter down to Charge and Circle Officers might lead to excessive or insufficient liberality, as the case might be, in different localities. The Officiating Chief Commissioner desires here rather to indicate and enforce the responsibility of Commissioners for the issue of necessary instructions.

No. 21.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, Raipur, No. F. 1805, dated Nagpur, the 11th July, 1900.

I am directed to address you with reference to the various matters relating to famine relief discussed with yourself and the local officers on the occasion of the Officiating Chief Commissioner's recent visit to the districts of your Division.

2. Not much progress has as yet been made in reducing the number of Public Works Department charges in the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur, and there is reason to suppose that, as already reported by yourself, the Public Works Department works are still too attractive. The measures to be adopted in order to encourage the people to return to their homes, without actually refusing this form of relief to those at present resorting to it, were fully discussed, and the following course of action met with general approval :—

- (i.) To exercise greater strictness in the matter of tasks, which had been somewhat relaxed during the period of greatest heat.
- (ii.) To abolish the rest-day wage. This had, in fact, already been done, except in the Janjgir tahsil of Bilaspur, where it will now be carried out.
- (iii.) To double up adjacent charges and draft the workers.
- (iv.) To close all works to new admissions except in the case of the charges selected for maintenance during the rains, and a few others which the Deputy Commissioner may select.
- (v.) To refuse admission to applicants at Public Works Department kitchens not being dependants of workers in the camp, except in the case of persons requiring hospital relief, who could not with safety be directed to the nearest Civil kitchen.

3. These were the measures advocated which were, or could be made, applicable to both districts. In Bilaspur it was also determined to lower the wage basis so far as the 25 per cent. rule admitted. In Raipur there was no scope for further action under this rule. The Deputy Commissioner urged the adoption on Public Works Department works of the lower scale of wages paid at Village Works, but it was considered that this was a measure to be held in reserve, and one which it was hardly safe to resort to at the present juncture.

4. It was also determined to confine admissions to open camps, in the case of residents of villages within a five-miles radius of the work, to persons certified by the Charge Officer, or under his orders, to be fit recipients for relief. In this connection I am to forward a copy of the rules relating to admission by ticket which were introduced into the Jubbulpore Division. These rules related to a different season of the year and may require some modification, but they will probably be of use to you as a general guide. You will observe that the grant or refusal of tickets is reserved to Charge Officers, and Mr. Fraser thinks that this is the wisest course to follow, even though it causes some delay. Practically it may be said that the persons who would be allowed tickets would be the persons who would otherwise be entered on the B list, but it is important to remember that if small cultivators are refused B list relief on the ground that they can go to the work, their chances of cultivating their land will be very small.

5. Another measure which was approved in Raipur, was the handing over of relief workers to mukaddams of their villages who apply for labour for weeding and guarantee employment and wages to the labourers. It was

not an uncommon complaint in the last famine by malguzars that they could not secure labourers for weeding. The complaint, in many cases, was found to be due to the desire of the malguzars to underpay agricultural labour; but, if the mukaddam is a trustworthy man, and can be relied upon to pay reasonable wages, there is no risk in handing over to him labourers resident in his village. The extent to which resort is successfully made to this expedient, should be noticed in the weekly and monthly reports. There is, of course, no reason why this same procedure should not be followed in Bilaspur also.

6. It was brought to notice that able-bodied persons are now resorting to kitchens in increasing numbers. But the general

II.—Kitchens.

No. 49 should be adhered to for the present. If the able-bodied man is excluded, and is unable to find work, he will before long cease to be able-bodied, and will be unable to do agricultural work when it does become available. For the present, therefore, admission to kitchens must continue free. The position can be reviewed later on when it is seen how far persons for whom work in the field is really available, prefer idleness and a meal at the kitchen. The feasibility of exacting some work on the analogy of B list relief from able-bodied persons attending kitchens is a matter for local experiment and report. The issue of general orders must await further experience of the working of the free admission rules. The system of branch kitchens started by Captain Hardinge, Charge Officer of Drug, appears to be very successful. The officiating Chief Commissioner would be glad of a note from that officer describing in detail the system on which they are worked, and the advantages gained thereby.

7. The B lists have not yet been completed in Raipur, but are, it is understood, ready in Bilaspur, though no distribution

III.—B list relief.

has yet been sanctioned. It was represented that in the Janjgir tahsil it is possible to keep a certain number of Village Works open in the rains; and it was suggested that in such cases the distribution of B list relief would be unnecessary. Village Works are, however, carried out by piecework, and even in the most favourable soils it would not always be possible to ensure regularity of employment and wages. It is doubtful, therefore, whether a village worker having no means of subsistence, could earn enough to maintain himself upon these works. The following rule was accordingly adopted:—

“ If in any charge there are villages in which minor village works are feasible during the rains, such works may be opened from time to time as the weather permits. On these works may be employed—

- (i) People on the B list who have actually received a dole.
- (ii) Applicants to be paid by the day on the ordinary village-work system, such persons being admitted by the mukaddam in accordance with the orders of the Charge Officer.”

In villages where such works are feasible the B list will be restricted, and it may even be dispensed with in any village where the work available is likely to afford regular employment. But care will be necessary that small cultivators labouring in their own fields do not suffer. So far as present information goes, such persons are likely to accept food at kitchens if in real want, but their case must not be overlooked. This rule was decided upon at the conference at Bilaspur, but there is no reason why it should not be applied to any charge in Raipur where the character of the country admits of such village works being carried on in the rain.

8. I am now to turn to the Sambalpur District, where the circumstances differ considerably from those of the other two

The Sambalpur District. districts of your Division. There are at present two Public Works Department works in Sambalpur—at Dabra in the Chandarpur Zamindari, and at Barpali in the Bargarh tahsil. Two more works

started with) from 1891 to 1899, and for the first six months of the current year :—

Year.	Deduced Population.	Births.			Deaths.			
		Total Births.	Birth-rate per Mensem.	Birth-rate per Annum.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate per Mensem.	Death-rate per Annum.	
1891	286,612*	11,402	3.31	39.78	9,428	2.74	32.89	
1892	286,421	10,403	3.02	36.32	9,013	2.62	31.47	
1893	291,340	11,453	3.27	39.31	7,909	2.26	27.15	
1894	290,814	9,079	2.60	31.22	11,361	3.25	39.06	
1895	290,120	10,395	2.98	35.83	12,746	3.66	43.93	
1896	285,830	11,015	3.21	38.53	12,324	3.59	43.11	
1897	285,801	12,731	3.71	44.54	17,030	4.96	59.58	
1898	280,743	12,374	3.67	44.07	9,777	2.90	34.82	
1899	285,939	16,860	4.91	58.96	13,043	3.45	41.40	
1900 {	January ...	287,766	1,110	3.86	46.29	1,726	6.00	72.00
	February ...	287,387	1,056	3.67	44.09	1,435	4.99	59.92
	March ...	286,693	1,405	4.90	58.80	2,099	7.32	87.85
	April ...	285,903	1,306	4.57	54.82	2,096	7.33	87.97
	May ...	284,711	1,185	4.16	49.94	2,377	8.35	100.19
	June ...	281,730	1,042	3.69	44.38	4,023	14.28	171.35

* This figure has been arrived at by adding the births up to the end of June to, and subtracting the deaths during that period from, the census population.

Cæteris paribus, the number of births ought to bear a fairly constant relation to the population, and conversely; yet we find that, at the end of 1899, the former had increased by nearly a half, while the latter is shown as having actually decreased. In the absence of any special circumstances influencing the procreativeness of the Nimeris, I can only conclude that their number has been largely added to by immigration, and, that at the end of the period quoted, it really stood at something like 423,632 instead of 285,939. Assuming the former figure to be the more correct, and using it in the calculation of the death-rate for June, it would reduce the ratio from 171.35 to 113.95 per mille per annum, or, excluding deaths from epidemic disease, to 79.96. The latter is still a high figure, but it must be remembered that the influx of foreigners, which I consider a more potent factor, has been left out in the calculation.

The following table shows the birth-rates of the different Provinces of India for 1899 :—

Province.	Birth-rate.	Province.	Birth-rate.
Punjab	48.40	Central Provinces (including Chhattisgarh Zamindaris).	47.25
Bengal	42.96	Madras	31.30
N.-W.P. and Oudh	33.19	Bombay	36.42
two Chanda	35.45	Hyderabad Assigned Districts	50.50

The rate for the Nimar District was 58·96.

It is true that since then the figure has fallen to 44·38 in June, 1900, the time at which the effects of the famine, and in no other direction are they usually more apparent, would, in the course of nature, commence to be felt. Still 44·38 is a high ratio for even a prosperous year,—in such a season as this phenomenally so—and I cannot believe that it has been calculated on anything like a correct basis.

(2) DEATH-RATE.

A similar deduction may be drawn from the death-rates. That in Nimar for 1898, an exceptionally healthy season, was 34·82 (calculated on the deduced population), that is to say, 9·38 above the provincial rate (excluding Zamindaris), 25·44, for the same year, although, on other grounds, the district is known to be one of the healthiest in the Central Provinces. However, it seems unnecessary to pursue this argument further.

(3) COLONISATION.

Since last census, a number of new villages have been opened up in the Nimar District, which must have undoubtedly encouraged immigration, but I do not possess sufficient knowledge on this subject to do more than allude to it. I was informed by the Deputy Commissioner that the village of Bhorekheda, near Singaji Station, was reckoned as having a population of 100, while, early in October last, there were over that number of residents on relief in it.

3. As regards II., the district has a border line with Holkar's State, extending to some 150 miles, and also marches with Khandesh and Berar. From these tracts hordes of outsiders appear to have swarmed into Nimar, doubtless attracted by the liberal measures of relief offered, especially that in the form of free kitchens, and, from their wretched condition, causing a mortality, although not a birth-rate, out of all proportion to their actual numbers. What the latter are, it is at present impossible to form even an approximate estimate, nor, if all goes well, will the fact appear in the coming census. As diffused among the general population, it is difficult to discriminate foreigners from permanent residents, the former concealing their domicile from fear of deportation, and it is only by cross-questioning and catching them out in their statements that the truth is occasionally ascertained. ~~In communities under immediate control and supervision, the task, however, becomes easier, and the following instances may serve to demonstrate the proposition:—~~

- (a.) When I inspected the District Jail on the 28th July, out of 226 prisoners 107 were foreigners.
- (b.) On the same date in the Khandwa poor-house only 10 of 68 inmates were Nimaris.
- (c.) In the relief kitchen half of the 1,800 recipients were believed to be foreigners.
- (d.) In the Burhanpur poor-house on the preceding day 268 out of 314 were outsiders, and in June, 13 of the 16 deaths were in the same category.
- (e.) In the Harsud poor-house 21 out of 47 were foreigners.

FAMINE RELIEF WORKS.

- (f.) Renka—948 out of 2,634 known to be foreigners.
- (g.) Jaiswari—No returns.
- (h.) Manjrod—74 per cent. reported to be foreigners. (Deaths during June 32, out of 44, foreigners.)
- (i.) Kalimachak, 28th July, 1900—184 out of 331 found to be foreigners on closing the camp.

KITCHENS REPORTED ON BY HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS.

- (j.) Mundi Circle, said to have no foreigners, and yet when the Deputy Commissioner recently checked the deaths in two villages of this Circle, he elicited the following results :—

VILLAGE MUNDI.—Nominal population 2,121, June, 1900

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Mundi Khas	8	7	15
Apparently Nimaris	14	24	38
Apparently outsiders (non-Nimaris) ...	26	23	49
Total	48	54	102

i.e., 49 foreigners out of a total of 102. The Police had returned 7 out of 103 (1 more than the Deputy Commissioner's verified number).

VILLAGE SIWARIA.

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Siwaria Khas	4	5	9
Outsiders (non-Nimaris)	—	11	11
Total	4	16	20

i.e., 11 foreigners out of 20, the Police having returned none out of 19 deaths (1 less than the Deputy Commissioner's number).

The same villages for 18 days of July, as verified by the Deputy Commissioner show—

MUNDI.

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Mundi Khas	—	3	3
Apparently Nimaris	—	17	17
Apparently outsiders (non-Nimaris) ...	1	16	17
Total	1	36	37

i.e., 17 foreigners out of 37 deaths.

SIWARIA.

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Siwaria Khas	1	3	4
Outsiders (non-Nimaris)	4	1	5
Total	5	4	9

i.e., 5 foreigners out of 9 deaths.

The police returns for the same period showed no foreign deaths in the whole of the Mundi Circle out of their total of 156, and yet the Deputy Commissioner ascertained, by personal verification, that in two villages alone, 22 deaths out of 46 were in this category. Can there be any doubt that if the same test were applied to a larger area, similar results would be obtained? To my mind there is none.

(k.) Pandhana—101 admitted foreigners out of 2,035.

(l.) Further, Mr. Pasley, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, reports that 20 per cent. of persons fed at kitchens in his circle (Khandwa) are foreigners, and that in checking returns in villages, he finds that out of every three or four deaths, two are non-Nimaris; and yet for the past two months the Police have shown only 7 per cent. of the total mortality as foreign. I am convinced that the truth is nearer 30.

(m.) Harsud, which is known to be the most distressed tahsil in the district, but in which there are few foreigners, gives only the average mortality of Nimar.

(n.) Some indication, too, of the presence of foreigners is seen in the comparatively low percentage of mortality of children under five years of age. Although the district is severely distressed, the percentage of deaths of children within this age-limit has mostly been under the average of the eight previous years, *e.g.*, only 30.47 in June and 42.15 in May, against a previous eight years' average of 48.14. This must, I think, be ascribed to the comparative preponderance among wanderers of adults and older children. Otherwise, the reverse result should have been obtained, for experience elsewhere has shown that famine tells most severely on young children.

(o.) Finally, under this heading, I would point out that there are at present in the Nimar District some 86,000 persons on relief, which, on the deduced population, gives a percentage of over 30. As the census percentage of field and general labourers, the class that would be principally affected, is only 18.7, it is difficult to account for such an enormous proportion, unless on the supposition of a great increment to the population from immigration and the influx of foreigners; in my opinion especially the latter.

4. Passing to point III.—the general unhealthy character of the season as contributing to the high mortality. This appears to me to require little or no demonstration, and the subject has been alluded to in several of the printed famine monthly reports. Last year's rainfall in the Nimar District was both absolutely and relatively the shortest in the Province, and, as one of the

results, the scarcity of water alone was sufficient to lay the foundation of an abnormal amount of sickness. The influence of this cause has lately been shown in a striking manner by the immunity from cholera which the workers at the relief camps, where a tight hold was kept over the water-supply, enjoyed compared with the residents of the surrounding villages. But it is not with regard to this disease only that the importance of a pure supply is recognised. Where the people are compelled, as many were, to drink from any available source, however foul, the prevalence of other affections, and especially bowel-complaints, is inevitable.

5. Point IV.—the prevalence of famine in the district. This has of course been the *fons et origo mali*, for without famine, or the conditions which produced it, the causes which I have alluded to under II. would certainly, and those under III. probably, not have arisen. Relief measures have been instituted on a most generous scale, and I believe that, at this moment, a hungry man need hardly go two miles for a good meal. Although no doubt thousands of lives have thus been saved, the result, as affecting the death-rate, has, if my deductions are correct, to some extent been counterbalanced by the crowds of foreign starving wanderers whom they have attracted. The Deputy Commissioner writes that “no general deterioration in the physical condition of the people has been noticed,” and this statement accords with my own observation of several thousands whom I saw attending a fair during my visit to Khandwa.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

MONTHLY REPORTS.

No. 31.

Summary for the five weeks ending 31st March 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—The several private charitable institutions mentioned in the previous months' reports continued their operations. One cheap grain shop was opened at Poona during the month under report. In several districts relief was given to deserving persons out of private charity funds raised locally; 7,462 persons were thus relieved in the Surat District, 200 in the Poona District and 698 in the Thar and Párkar District. The districts of Panch Maháls, Ahmednagar and Sholápur received during the month under report grants of Rs. 500, Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 10,000, respectively, from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund, which were mainly devoted to providing clothes for such of the relief workers, inmates of poor-houses and kitchens and recipients of village doles as were in need of them, to relieving respectable destitute persons, and to supplementing hospital comforts at relief camp hospitals. Similar relief was also given in the Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts out of the grants received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 371 villages in Ahmedabad, 530 in Kaira, 115 in the Panch Maháls, 412 in Broach, 343 in Surat, 10 in Thána, 1,848 in Khándesh, 670 in Násik, 1,274 in Ahmednagar, 1,619 in Poona, 704 in Sholápur and 4 in Thar and Párkar. Two poor-houses were opened during the month under report in the Poona District, and one was started at Surat by the Municipality of that town.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 209 relief works under the Public Works Agency, besides three Local Fund and Municipal works and seven test works. The works were of the same character as reported in the preceding month. Useful works, consisting of tank excavation, road construction or earth-work for railways, are being substituted wherever possible for metal-breaking works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The condition of people on relief works and of the children in kitchens was generally good, but there were outbreaks of cholera in several camps in Násik and Khándesh. The condition of the people in the villages was on the whole fairly good. Deterioration is however reported among the aboriginal tribes in Northern Gujarát and Khándesh, whom it is very difficult to induce to resort to relief works in spite of specially lenient treatment. Special measures on the lines indicated by the Famine Commission have been taken for the relief of these classes. Since the close of the month under report severe outbreaks of cholera have been reported from the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Maháls.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—Attention is requested to the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry is being made regarding the high mortality in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Panch Maháls, Surat, Khándesh and Ahmednagar Districts and about the deaths attributed to starvation in those districts and in Thána and Násik, and the result will be separately reported.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on relief largely increased during the month under report. The daily average in the last week of the month was 1,308,843, as compared with 1,167,177 in the corresponding week of the preceding month. The arrangements for relief have been made as efficient as possible, but the gravity of the situation is greatly enhanced by the increasing scarcity of water and spread of cholera. The mortality among cattle is estimated to be from 50 to 60 per cent. in Kaira, and only about 20 or 30 per cent. are expected to survive the hot season. In Northern Gujarát and Khándesh as a whole the proportion of survivals may be below this estimate. Measures have been taken to assist the cultivators as far as possible by means of takávi advances or from Charitable Funds to purchase cattle required for tillage, and to keep them informed of the places where plough bullocks are available for purchase. Experiments have been recently made by the Deputy Director of Agriculture in this Presidency to adapt bullock power tillage implements for use by manual labour, and the instructions drawn up by him on the subject have been widely circulated among landholders.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 32.

Summary for the four weeks ending 28th April, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from private charity funds raised locally was continued in several districts during the month under report. The following allotments to the districts named were made from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	1,000
Broach	5,000
Khándesh	90,980
Násik	35,000
Ahmednagar	37,000
Sholápur	76,000
Sátára	10,500

The Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts also received grants from the Fund. Arrangements have been made to provide out of these grants seed, bullocks, and cheap fodder for the poorer agriculturists. In the Kaira District a large quantity of Government grass was sold to cultivators at the rate of Rs. 2 per 1,000 lbs., the difference between this amount and the price of Rs. 10 charged by Government being made up from the Famine Relief Fund. Mr. Ratansi Mulji and certain other gentlemen of Bombay supplied food for a poor-house at Pokhran, near Thána, which was specially opened for such of the famine-stricken

immigrants from Gujarát and Káthiáwár into Bombay as were incapable of work, the able-bodied being employed on two works opened in the vicinity. One poor-house under private agency was also opened in Broach.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 311 villages in Ahmedabad, 547 in Kaira, 180 in the Panch Maháls, 413 in Broach, 549 in Surat, 26 in Thána, 1,445 in Khándesh, 416 in Násik, 1,233 in Ahmednagar, 1,982 in Poona, 702 in Sholápur, 143 in Sátára, 670 in Bijápur, and 3 in Thar and Párkar. More poor-houses were opened in the districts of Kaira, Broach, Násik, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, and Sholápur.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—Besides works of the character described in previous reports, ballast collection for railways is being undertaken wherever possible.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—There were outbreaks of cholera in all districts of Gujarát and the Deccan except Poona, both in relief camps and poor-houses and in villages. The physical condition of the people was generally good.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—Attention is requested to the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry is being made regarding the high mortality in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Panch Maháls, Surat, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, Násik, and Sholápur Districts, and about the deaths attributed to starvation in the Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Surat, Thána, and Násik Districts, and the result will be separately reported. It will be observed that the death-rate was higher than in March in all the Gujarát districts except Broach. The decrease in that district was probably due to the departure of immigrants owing to the temporary reduction of wages.

(f) *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The daily average numbers on relief rose from 1,308,843 in the last week of March to 1,352,163 in the corresponding week of April. The situation became considerably more serious during the month under report owing to violent outbreaks of cholera, especially in Gujarát, Khándesh, and Násik. The supervising staff of the affected districts, both medical and other, has been largely increased to assist in checking the spread of the disease, and to deal with those people who have fled from the works on account of it. Village and poor-house relief is being at the same time largely extended. Steps have been taken to prepare suitable programmes of works for the rains, so as to admit of the concentration of famine labour on large relief works, and also of the provision of work as far as practicable nearer the homes of the agricultural population to afford them facilities to resume tilling operations.

(i) *Rates of Wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 33.

Summary for the four weeks ending 26th May, 1900.

(a.) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during

the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	17,500
Násik	20,000
Sholápur	50,000
Sátára	12,000

Additional allotments were also made in the Broach, Khándesh and Ahmednagar Districts, which brought the total amounts received from the Fund in those districts to Rs. 81,000, Rs. 2,37,000 and Rs. 2,02,000, respectively. In the Ahmedabad District during the month of April last Rs. 7,030 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 11,762 persons by gifts of clothing or blankets or in other ways. In the Násik District the expenditure from such funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 5,374, of which Rs. 3,641 were for purchasing seed and bullocks for the poorer agriculturists. Relief was also given by Missionary institutions in the Kaira and Násik Districts.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 529 villages in Ahmedabad, 553 in Kaira, 497 in Panch Maháls, 416 in Broach, 581 in Surat, 75 in Thána, 1,075 in Khándesh, 497 in Násik, 1,357 in Ahmednagar, 1,066 in Poona, 718 in Sholápur, 315 in Sátára, 1,015 in Bijápur and 4 in Thar and Párkar. Nine additional poor-houses were opened in the Khándesh district, and one in each of the districts of Surat, Poona, Násik and Bijápur. There was a large increase in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of May being 154,576 as compared with 111,705 in the corresponding week of April.

(c.) *General character of relief works.*—The general character of the relief works in progress during the month under report was the same as that described in previous reports; 188 relief works under the Public Works Agency were in progress during the month, and 28 under Civil Agency or local bodies.

(d.) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera in an epidemic form prevailed during the month throughout Gujarát and in several of the Deccan Districts, and accounted for a considerable part of the enormous mortality in several districts. Owing to the outbreak of this disease large numbers of people fled from the works and poor-houses in a panic. Probably many deaths amongst them which were really due to cholera have not been attributed to that cause. The Medical Staff and supervising establishments were largely increased, and search parties were organized to pick up the incapable and send them to poor-houses or put them on dole. By the end of the month the epidemic had been brought under control and the mortality from it had greatly diminished. The inquiry by the Sanitary Department regarding the causes of the high mortality has not yet been completed.

(e.) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry is being made about the deaths attributed to starvation in the Panch Maháls and Surat Districts. The deaths in the Ahmedabad City attributed to starvation are almost invariably those of wanderers, and the antecedent circumstances are not known.

(f.) *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g.) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Owing to the cholera scare the numbers on relief works decreased from a daily average of 1,240,458 in the last week of April to 1,035,910 in the last week of May. On that account gratuitous relief was gradually expanded. Since the close of the month confidence has been restored, and people have begun to return to the works in large numbers. Otherwise the general situation has not up to date much improved. Some rain has fallen in the affected districts of the Deccan and Karnátak, which has had the effect of drawing away some people from the relief works for resumption of agricultural operations. The almost total absence of rain in Gujarát, however, is causing grave anxiety, and the numbers on relief in that Province are largely increasing.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 34.

Summary for the five weeks ending 30th June, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	1,15,300
Surat	10,000
Khándesh	2,26,147
Násik	1,15,000
Sholápur	45,000
Sátára	60,000

Additional allotments were also made in the Broach and Ahmednagar districts, which brought the total amounts received from the fund in those districts to Rs. 1,46,250 and Rs. 3,70,000, respectively. In the Násik district the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 32,213, of which Rs. 26,268 were for purchasing seed and bullocks for the poorer agriculturists. In the Ahmedabad district during the month of May last Rs. 2,650 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 3,463 persons by gifts of clothing and blankets, or in other ways. Relief was also given by Missionary institutions in the Kaira, Panch Maháls, and Ahmednagar districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 683 villages in Ahmedabad, 564 in Kaira, 566 in Panch Maháls, 414 in Broach, 618 in Surat, 1,444 in Khándesh, 511 in Násik, 1,359 in Ahmednagar, 1,109 in Poona, 707 in Sholápur, 554 in Sátára, 1,186 in Bijápur and 14 in Thar and Párkar. Two additional poor-houses were opened in the Násik district, and one in each of the districts of Thána, Poona, Sátára, and Bijápur. There was a considerable increase in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of June being 270,102 as compared with 154,576 in the corresponding week of May. Several village kitchens have been opened in Broach, Násik, and Ahmednagar.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—The general character of the relief works in progress during the month under report was the same as that described in previous reports. There were in progress during the month 208 relief works under the public works agency and 66 under civil agency or local bodies.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—During the month under report cholera prevailed with more or less virulence in the affected districts and contributed largely to the high mortality. The continued absence of rain is pressing very hardly on the people of Northern Gujarát, and the numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief are fast increasing.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry has been made about the deaths attributed to starvation in the Khándesh and Násik districts.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds largely increased during the month, the daily average number during the last week of June being 1,416,036, as compared with 1,190,486 in the corresponding week of May. The rainfall up to date has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes throughout the Deccan and Karnátak and in Khándesh and Surat, and the present prospects in these tracts are fair or good. In the affected districts of Northern Gujarát the situation has become intensely grave, as the rainfall which only began in the second week of July in a few places did not continue or extend to other parts. Ploughing and sowing operations are at a stand-still, and if rain holds off for another fortnight there will be no kharif crop. Even fairly well-to-do cultivators are reported to be at the end of their resources, and the cattle which were saved with difficulty, and newly imported bullocks, are perishing.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 35.

Summary for the four weeks ending 28th July, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund, and from other private funds, was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	18,000
Broach	30,000
Surat	15,000
Khándesh	59,008
Násik	78,100
Ahmednagar	45,000
Sholápur	32,000
Sátára	2,500

In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 76,433, of which Rs. 74,829 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer agriculturists. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Panch Maháls and Ahmednagar Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 776 villages in Ahmedabad, 569 in Kaira, 597 in the Panch Maháls, 415 in Broach, 643 in Surat, 118 in Thána, 1,404 in Khándesh, 749 in Násik, 1,362 in Ahmednagar, 1,125 in Poona, 713 in Sholápur, 743 in Sátára, 76 in Belgaum, 777 in Bijápur, and 16 in Thar and Párkar. One additional poor-house was opened during the month under report in the Thána District, two in each of the districts of Násik and Sátára, and three in Bijápur. Considerable increase occurred in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of July being 469,078, against 270,102 in the corresponding week of June. Several village kitchens were opened in the Kaira District during the month.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—The general character of the relief works in progress during the month under report was the same as that described in previous reports, except that several of the tank works had to be closed owing to the rise of water in the tank beds caused by more or less heavy rain. There were during the month in all 288 relief works in progress, of which 196 were under the Public Works Agency, and 92 under Civil Agency or local bodies.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—During the month under report cholera was prevalent in all the affected districts, and in most of them the total death-rate was higher than in the previous month.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Generally sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—There was considerable increase in the numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds during the month under report, the daily average number during the last week of July being 1,611,420, as compared with 1,416,036 in the corresponding week of June. The increase was especially large in the districts of Northern Gujarát, where rain continued to hold off till the last week of the month. Since then there has been ample rain, and the general situation has materially improved. Agricultural operations, which were at a standstill, have now been far advanced in those districts, and the prospects of the kharif crop will be assured if there is another good fall of rain in a week or two. The kharif crops in the rest of the affected area are in excellent condition except in some tracts of Bijápur, where more rain is urgently needed. The difficulty as to the supply of water, both for man and beast, has ceased altogether throughout the affected area. Green grass is now available almost everywhere, and the condition of cattle is improving. Large amounts, both from takávi allotments and from charitable funds, have been advanced to cultivators for plough-cattle and seed, and for subsistence while engaged in cultivation, and every other practicable measure is being taken to enable them to resume their usual occupations.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 36.

Summary for the four weeks ending 25th August, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	36,500
Broach	40,000
Surat	15,000
Khándesh	12,000
Násik	9,000
Ahmednagar	12,000
Sholápur	29,000
Sátára	9,000
Belgaum	3,300

In the Násak District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 83,321, of which Rs. 65,068 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 62,021 out of the same funds were similarly disbursed in the Poona District. In the Ahmedabad District during the month of June last Rs. 40,802 were spent from the charitable funds in assisting 6,367 persons by gifts of clothing or in other ways. An amount of Rs. 5,000 was received from the Americo-Indian Relief Fund in aid of the scheme of relief to distressed weavers in Sholápur. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Panch Maháls, Ahmednagar, and Poona Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 761 villages in Ahmedabad, 570 in Kaira, 598 in the Panch Maháls, 315 in Broach, 642 in Surat, 114 in Thána, 1,641 in Khándesh, 1,032 in Násik, 1,362 in Ahmednagar, 1,095 in Poona, 714 in Sholápur, 956 in Sátára, 774 in Bijápur, 80 in Belgaum, and 15 in Thar and Párkar. Two poor-houses were closed in the Ahmedabad District during the month under report ; one additional poor-house was opened in Kaira, two in Khándesh, and fifteen in Bijápur. There was a further increase in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of August being 553,338 against 469,078 in the corresponding week of July.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There is no material change in the general character of relief works in progress. In the Broach District several minor road works have been substituted for tanks and other large works, which it is not found possible to carry on in that district during the rainy season. Twenty-two small works under Civil Agency for the employment of cultivators near their homes were started in the several affected districts during the month under report.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera accounted for fewer deaths in the month under report than during the previous month, but the general death-rate continued high in all districts, and in the Panch Maháls, Khándesh, and Poona, it was higher than in July.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Generally sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains continues on a fairly large scale in the affected districts.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The general condition of the affected area materially improved during the month under report. The rainfall in Northern Gujārat, although late in the season, was in excess of the average, and generally well distributed, thus enabling kharif sowings to be pushed on vigorously. The standing crops are flourishing throughout the affected area, except in the eastern tracts of the Deccan and Karnātak, where the prolonged break in the rains since the middle of August proved injurious to the crops, especially in light soils. Good rain has, however, been recently reported from several talukas where it was most wanted, and the prospects are a great deal better than they were at the end of the month under report. The numbers on relief of all kinds fell from a daily average of 1,611,420 in the last week of July to 1,282,192 in the corresponding week of August.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages. The average rates of jowāri and bājri for the affected districts during the month of August were 18 lbs. and 15·6 lbs. to the rupee against 17·2 lbs. and 14·8 lbs. respectively in the month of July, which shows that the prices show a tendency to fall.

No. 37.

Summary for the five weeks ending 29th September, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahāls	10,000
Broach	10,000
Surat	3,000
Khāndesh	71,000
Nāsik	9,000
Ahmednagar	17,000
Sātāra	15,000
Belgaum	1,000

In the Nāsik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 13,632, of which Rs. 7,912 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 33,350 out of the same funds were disbursed in the Poona District. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Panch Mahāls, Ahmednagar and Poona Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 670 villages in Ahmedabad, 567 in Kaira, 566 in the Panch Maháls, 415 in Broach, 540 in Surat, 147 in Thána, 2,015 in Khándesh, 812 in Násik, 1,361 in Ahmednagar, 1,155 in Poona, 717 in Sholápur, 1,033 in Sátára, 862 in Bijapur and 81 in Belgaum. Three additional poor-houses were opened during the month under report in the Ahmedabad District, and one in each of the districts of Kaira, Khándesh and Bijapur. There was a decrease in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of September being 461,359 against 553,333 in the corresponding week of August.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There is no material change in the general character of relief works in progress. Seventy-one small works under Civil Agency for the employment of cultivators near their homes were started in the several affected districts during the month under report. Four new large works were also opened, while forty-five such works were closed during the same period.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera was prevalent in all the affected districts during the month under report, though to a less extent than in the previous month. The general death-rate declined in all the districts, and in Sholápur, Sátára and Bijapur it nearly approached the normal. As even in normal years fever is very prevalent in Gujarát in September and October, rural hospitals with travelling dispensaries attached to them were established during the month under report at convenient centres for the distribution of medicines as well as of milk and Mellin's food in the surrounding villages.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains continues on a fairly large scale in the affected districts.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on relief of all kinds fell from a daily average of 1,282,192 in the last week of August to 888,514 in the corresponding week of September. The rainfall in Gujarát was generally sufficient for the kharif crops, which were doing well at the end of the month under report, but more rain was then required for maturing the crops, especially rice, bávto and kodra, and for rabi sowings, and very little has since fallen. In the Deccan and Karnátak generally the rainfall of the month was much below the average, and the standing kharif crops in inferior soils withered in consequence and rabi sowings were retarded. In the Karnátak, however, good or moderate rain has fallen in most tálukas since the close of the month, reviving to some extent the withering crops and enabling some progress to be made with rabi sowings. The Deccan districts on the other hand during the first three weeks of October have had little or no rain and good falls are urgently required, especially in Sholápur, the greater part of Ahmednagar, and in the eastern portions of Poona and Sátára. The present situation is becoming critical in the tracts of the Deccan mainly dependent on rabi crops; apprehensions have been expressed by the local officers that if sufficient rain does not fall at an early date there will be severe scarcity of water, especially in Sholápur and parts of Ahmednagar.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages. The tendency of prices to fall continues, but the decline is very slow. The average rates of jowári and bájri for the affected districts during the month of September were 18·6 lbs. and 16·7 lbs. to the rupee against 18 lbs. and 15·6 lbs., respectively, in the month of August.

No. 38.

Summary for the four weeks ending 27th October, 1900.

(a) *Private Relief*.—The following additional allotments were received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund during the month under report in the districts named—

	District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls		40,000
Broach		50,000
Khándesh		12,228
Ahmednagar		12,000
Sholápur		14,000
Sátára		14,000

In the Ahmedabad District during the months of July, August and September last, Rs. 249,011 were spent from the charitable funds in assisting 49,555 persons by gifts of clothing, grants of seed and cattle, or in other ways. In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 14,566, of which Rs. 10,557 were devoted to providing the poorer cultivators with the means to cultivate their lands. Rs. 16,600 out of the same funds were similarly disbursed in the Poona District. Missionary Institutions also afforded relief in the Ahmednagar, Poona and Sholápur Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief*.—Village relief was largely contracted during the month under report in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, Khándesh, Násik, Poona, Sátára and Bijápur, and to a less extent in Kaira, Panch Maháls and Thána. Two poor-houses were closed in each of the Districts of Ahmedabad, Thána and Poona, and one in each of the Districts of Kaira, Panch Maháls, Broach and Ahmednagar. The daily average number of persons relieved in poor-houses and in villages in the last week of October was 235,555 against 461,359 in the corresponding week of September.

(c) *General character of relief works*.—Fifty large works in charge of the Public Works Department were closed during the month under report, while 11 small works under Civil Agency were opened in the several affected districts for the employment of cultivators near their homes. There were in progress during the last week of October 88 large works in charge of the Public Works Department, besides 41 small works under Civil Agency and one such work under Municipal Agency. Of the 88 large relief works, 2 were railway earth-works, 24 tank works, 6 works of excavation of canals, 30 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 26 metal collection works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people*.—The physical condition of the people on relief works and in villages showed improvment in most districts. Cholera declined considerably and existed nowhere in an epidemic form, but fever largely prevailed in the Northern districts of Gujarát. The general death-rate fell in all the affected districts, except Ahmedabad and Broach. In Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona, Belgaum and Bijápur it nearly approached the normal, while in Sholápur and Sátára it was below the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation*.—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks*.—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues as before.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—There was a considerable decrease in the numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds during the month under report, the daily average number during the last week of October being 407,883 as compared with 888,514 in the corresponding week of September. There was no rain in Gujarát and the Northern Deccan during the month under report, while in the Southern Deccan light to fair showers fell in the last week, which refreshed the withering crops to some extent. In the Karnátak the rainfall, though much below average, was sufficient in many places to revive the withering crops, and to allow of rabi sowings being continued. Since the close of the month moderate showers fell in parts of Sholápur, Sátára, and Bijápur. The outturn of the early kharif crops, which are being harvested, is likely to be much below the average and previous expectations, while the late sown kharif and young rabi crops are already withering over a large part of the affected area. Sowings have been retarded for want of rain over more than half of the total rabi area in Gujarát and over one-third of the area in the Deccan and Karnátak. Unless the situation is relieved to some extent by unexpected rain, the prospects are not encouraging, and it is apprehended that relief operations will have to be continued on a more or less large scale in several of the affected districts. The numbers on relief have already begun to increase in some districts, and especially in Sholápur. The apprehensions of water scarcity expressed by the District Officers in Sholápur and Ahmednagar are likely to be realised, but every endeavour is being made to husband the supply from existing sources, while old wells are being deepened and new wells constructed.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There was a material fall in the prices of the staple food-grains in Gujarát and the Deccan, while they rose slightly in Bijápur and Belgaum. The average rates for jowári and bájri for the affected districts fell from 18·6 lbs. and 16·7 lbs. per rupee in the month of September to 19·2 lbs., and 20 lbs. respectively. The prices of both these grains are however exceedingly high for the time of year. The wages on relief works were lowered in proportion to the fall in prices.

No. 39.

Summary for the four weeks ending 24th November, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was continued in the several districts during the month under report. An additional allotment of Rs. 527 from the Fund was received in the Khándesh District. In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month amounted to Rs. 13,637, of which Rs. 8,325 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 4,700 out of the same funds were disbursed in the Poona District. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Ahmednagar and Sholápur Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 271 villages in Ahmedabad, 120 in Kaira, 569 in the Panch Maháls, 415 in Broach, 69 in Thána, 1,035 in Khándesh, 210 in Násik, 1,168 in Ahmednagar, 408 in Poona, 719 in Sholápur, 357 in Sátára, and 536 in Bijápur. Eleven poor-houses were closed in Khándesh, 5 in Násik, 4 in Kaira, 3 in Sátára, 2 in Broach and 1 in each of the Districts of Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Ahmednagar, Poona and Bijápur. There was a decrease in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of November being 97,975 against 235,555 in the corresponding week of October.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of November 51 large works in charge of the Public Works Department, besides 18 small works under Civil Agency. Of the 51 large relief works, one was a railway earthwork, 19 tank works, 5 works of excavation of canals, 16 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 10 metal collection works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera disappeared altogether from the affected districts except Bijápur, Belgaum, Poona and Sholápur, where a few sporadic cases occurred. The general death-rate declined in all the districts except Thána, where it was only a small fraction in excess of that of the preceding month. In Surat, Thána, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, and Belgaum it approached the normal, while in Násik, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur and Bijápur it was below the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains continues on a fairly large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 407,883 in the last week of October to 240,466 in the corresponding week of November. There was no rain in Gujarát during the month under report, but light showers fell in parts of Sholápur and Sátára in the Deccan and in a few places in the Karnátak. Late sown kharif crops have suffered greatly and the unirrigated rabi crops are withering almost everywhere in Gujarát and over the greater part of the Deccan and Karnátak, in several places of which deficiency of water is being already felt. It is now unfortunately certain that famine conditions will prevail to a greater or less extent in most of the affected districts for another season. Agricultural stock are for the present generally in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There was a material fall in the prices of the staple food-grains in the affected districts except Sholápur, Sátára and Bijápur, where the decline was not considerable. The average rates for jowári and bájri for the affected districts during the month of November were 21 lbs. and 23·6 lbs. to the rupee against 19·2 lbs. and 20 lbs., respectively, in the month of October.

No. 40.

Summary for the five weeks ending 29th December, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was continued in the several districts during the month under report. In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month amounted to Rs. 17,753, of which Rs. 12,411 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 100 and Rs. 234 out of the same funds were spent in the Poona and Khándesh Districts respectively. Relief was also given by Missionary institutions in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 303 villages in Ahmedabad, 468 in the Panch Maháls, 97 in Broach, 45 in Khándesh, 928 in Ahmednagar, 124 in Poona, 718 in Sholápur, 254 in Sátára, and 657 in Bijápur. Three poor-houses were closed in Broach, two in each of the Districts of Ahmedabad and Bijápur, and one in the Panch Maháls. There was a large decrease in the number of recipients of poor-house and village relief, the daily average number in the last week of December being 36,511, against 97,975 in the corresponding week of November. There were four village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of December 29 large works under the Public Works Department, besides 12 small works under Civil Agency. Of the large works, one was a railway earthwork, 12 tank works, four works of excavation of canals, four works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and eight metal collection works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—There was no cholera in the affected districts, except Poona and Bijápur, where a few sporadic cases occurred. The general death-rate declined in all the districts except Poona, where it was only a small fraction in excess of that of the preceding month and of the normal. In all other districts of the Deccan, and in Bijápur, it was below normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains to the required extent continues.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—There was a further decrease in the numbers on all kinds of relief, the daily average number in the last week of December being 187,568, against 240,466 in the corresponding week of November. Excepting a few insignificant showers in parts of Ahmedabad during the second week of December, there was no rain in any part of the Presidency. The rain which fell in most of the affected districts since the close of the month was beneficial to some extent to the late-sown rabi plants, but it proved injurious to the early-sown crops which had attained maturity. It was also not sufficient to improve the water supply to any material extent. Agricultural stock are generally in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—The prices of staple food-grains declined considerably in Gujarát, where they were close to normal, and moderately in the Deccan and Karnátak. The rates of wages, which are regulated according to prices, decreased in proportion.

No. 41.

Summary for the four weeks ending 26th January, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was given in the several districts during the month under report, though to a less extent than before. Rs. 1,600 and Rs. 168 were spent out of charitable funds in the Poona and Khándesh Districts, respectively. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 368 villages in Ahmedabad, 434 in the Panch Maháls, 47 in Broach, 18 in Thána, 63 in Khándesh, 1,095 in Ahmednagar, 110 in Poona, 715 in Sholápur, 241 in Sátára and 709 in Bijápur. One additional poor-house was opened in the Khándesh District, while one poor-house was closed in each of the districts of Ahmedabad and Bijápur. There was a slight increase in the number of recipients of poor-house and village relief, the daily average number in the last week of January, 1901, being 37,297 against 36,511 in the corresponding week of December, 1900. There were five village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of January 26 large works under the Public Works Department, of which one was a test work, besides 25 small works under Civil Agency. Of

the large works one was a railway earthwork, 15 tank works, 4 works of excavation of canals, 3 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 3 metal-breaking works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair to good generally. There was practically no cholera in the affected districts, except Belgaum, during the month under report. The general death-rate declined in all the districts except Násik, and considerably in the Gujarat Districts. In the Panch Maháls, Broach, Surat, and Belgaum, it approached the normal, while it was below the normal in all the other affected districts, except Ahmedabad, where it was nearly 57 per cent. above the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected areas.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 187,568 in the last week of December, 1900, to 181,531 in the corresponding week of January, 1901. There has been no material change in the general prospects. Moderate to light rain fell in the affected districts about the middle of the month under report, which partially improved the water supply in a few places, but was generally injurious to the ripening crops. The agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—Prices have fallen to a more or less extent throughout the affected districts and the rates of wages on works have proportionately declined.

No. 42.

Summary for the four weeks ending 23rd February, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was given in the several districts during the month under report. Further allotments, amounting to Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000, were received during the month in the Panch Maháls and Broach Districts, respectively. Rs. 2,136, Rs. 28 and Rs. 1,500 were spent out of charitable funds in the Broach, Khándesh and Poona Districts, respectively. Rs. 2,983 were also disbursed out of the same funds in the Broach District during the month of January, 1901. In the Ahmedabad Districts during the months of October, November and December, 1900, Rs. 3,74,839 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 72,561 persons by gifts of clothing, grants of seed and cattle or in other ways. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 360 villages in Ahmedabad, 8 in Kaira, 457 in the Panch Maháls, 20 in Broach, 57 in Khándesh, 1,057 in Ahmednagar, 196 in Poona, 618 in Sholápur, 251 in Sátára, and 880 in Bijápur. One additional poor-house was opened in the Bijápur District, while two poor-houses were closed in the Khándesh District. There was no material variation in the number of recipients of poor-house and village relief, the daily average number in the last week of February being 37,594 against 37,297 in the corresponding week of January. There were seven village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of February 26 large works under the Public Works Department besides 23 small works under Civil Agency. Of the large works one was a railway earthwork, 18 tank works, 3 works of excavation of canals, 3 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 1 metal-breaking work.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair to good generally. There was no cholera in the affected districts, except Belgaum, during the month under report. The general death-rate declined in all the districts, except Surat and Ahmednagar, where however the increase was not material. In Surat, Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona and Belgaum it approached the normal, while it was below the normal in all the other affected districts, except Ahmedabad, where it was about 33 per cent. above the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 181,531 in the last week of January to 176,773 in the corresponding week of February. But the numbers are expected to rise as the hot season advances. The general condition and prospects have improved owing to prices having fallen, to the outturn of crops being better and field employment more extensive in several districts than was at first anticipated. The agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—Prices have further fallen throughout the affected districts and the rates of wages on works have proportionately declined.

No. 43.

Summary for the five weeks ending 30th March, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was given in the several affected districts during the month under report. Further allotments, amounting to Rs. 40, Rs. 16,750, and Rs. 20,000, were received during the month in the Khándesh, Násik, and Ahmednagar Districts respectively. Rs. 4,680, Rs. 16,775, and Rs. 500 were spent out of charitable funds in the several Districts of Khándesh, Násik and Poona. Rs. 30,000 were also allotted in Broach for the purchase of bullocks for distribution among the poorer cultivators. In the Ahmedabad District during the month of January, 1901, Rs. 5,525 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 818 persons by gifts of clothing, grants of seed and cattle, or in other ways. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report the distribution of village dole was commenced in the Districts of Násik, Belgaum and Dhárwár, and was extended in Kaira, Panch Maháls, Broach, Khándesh, Ahmednagar, Poona, and Bijápur. In Sholápur and Sátára the number of villages in which gratuitous relief was given was less than in the preceding month, but in the former district the numbers on dole rose moderately and in the latter they were nearly doubled. In Ahmedabad there was a contraction in the numbers on dole as well as in the area of distribution, mainly owing to the extension of small village works easily accessible to all in need of relief. There were eleven village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District, and several also in the Násik District. Four additional poor-houses or kitchens were opened during the month in the Bijápur District, while one poor-house was closed in each of the districts of Ahmedabad and Khándesh. The numbers in poor-houses and on village dole rose from 37,594 in the last week of February to 48,582 in the corresponding week of March.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 28 large works, one test-work, and four small works under the Public Works Department, besides nearly 60 small works under Civil Agency. Of the large works one was a railway earthwork, 19 tank works, four works of excavations of canals, and four road works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is reported to be generally fair to good. During the month under report there was no cholera in the affected districts, except Belgaum and Bijápur, but in Ahmedabad, Surat, Khándesh, Násik, Poona, Sátára and Belgaum plague was more or less prevalent. In all the affected districts except the Panch Maháls the general death-rate showed a slight increase. In the latter district it was less than half the normal, and in Kaira, Broach, Khándesh, Sátára, Sholápur, and Bijápur it was below the normal, while in Surat, Ahmednagar, Násik, and Poona it but slightly exceeded the normal. In Ahmedabad it exceeded the normal by about 30, and in Belgaum by 40 per cent., exclusive of plague.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-st cks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 176,773 in the last week of February to 208,178 in the corresponding week of March. The increase was neither as large nor as rapid as was anticipated, owing, probably, first to a considerable fall in prices, which still show throughout the affected area a tendency towards decline, and secondly to the existence in abnormally large quantities of grass seeds, roots, and other wild products on which the poorer classes are able to subsist. It is, however, now expected that the exhaustion of such resources as those mentioned above and the return of emigrants will have the effect of bringing people on relief in larger numbers. Agricultural stock are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient. The water supply still causes anxiety in some places, but on the whole the difficulty is being successfully overcome.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—Owing to further fall in prices of staple food-grains, the rates of wages on works proportionately declined.

No. 44.

Summary for the four weeks ending 27th April, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 35,529 were spent out of Charitable Funds in Khándesh, Rs. 165 in Násik and Rs. 6,350 in Poona. Rs. 4,898 were spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during the months of February and March in assisting 1,071 persons by gifts of clothing, by grants of seed and cattle, or in other ways. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District. The districts of Sholápur and Ahmednagar received further allotments of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 85,000 respectively from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there was a general expansion of village gratuitous relief throughout the affected area, particularly in Kaira, Khándesh and Belgaum. One additional poor-house was opened in Ahmedabad and one in Bijápur. There were twenty-six village kitchens open in Ahmednagar and four in Násik. The daily average numbers in poor-houses and on village dole in the last week of April were 64,347 against 48,582 in the corresponding week of March.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 37 large works, three test-works and four small works under the Public Works Department, besides 133 small works under Civil Agency and one under Municipal Agency. Of the large works one was a railway earthwork, 22 tank works, 6 works of excavation of canals, and 8 road works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—During the month under report cholera prevailed to a large extent in Dharwár and to a slight extent in Bijápur and Belgaum, and mainly accounted for the increase over normal mortality shown in those districts. In the districts of Gujarát and the Deccan the death-rate was below the normal and generally lower than that in the month of March.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 208,178 in the last week of March to 303,817 in the corresponding week of April. The increase, though not so large as was expected, indicates the increasing strain on the resources of those classes of people who ordinarily resort to State relief. Light scattered showers in the first week, and moderate to heavy rain in the last week, of April fell all over the affected area except Northern Gujarát. These and later falls have tended to allay the anxiety about water supply, which is now fairly sufficient over the greater part of the Deccan and Karnátak. Preparation of land for monsoon cultivation is progressing generally and sowing has been commenced in several places. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient. Cattle are being purchased in large numbers out of takávi and Charitable Relief Funds and distributed to cultivators in the Gujarát Districts.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—The prices of staple food-grains showed during the month a general tendency to decline. There were no important changes in the rates of wages.

No. 45.

Summary for the four weeks ending 25th May, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 54,571 were spent out of charitable funds in Khándesh, Rs. 2,295 in Násik, and Rs. 954 in Poona. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District. The following further allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported to have been received in the districts named:—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls...	25,000
Broach ...	15,000
Khándesh ...	60,000
Násik ...	17,500
Ahmednagar ...	30,000
Sátára ...	20,000

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there was a further expansion of village gratuitous relief in all the affected districts except Panch Maháls, Broach, and Dhárwár. Two additional poor-houses were opened in Bijápur and one in Ahmedabad. There were 32 village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District and four in Násik. The daily average numbers in poor-houses and on village dole in the last week of May were 81,461 against 64,347 in the corresponding week of April.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—During the month under report there were in progress 51 large works under the Public Works Department, besides 145 small works under civil agency. Of the large works, one was a railway earthwork, 25 tank works, 5 works of excavation of canals, 19 road works, and one work of metal collection.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera continued to prevail in Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dhárwár. In all the affected districts the mortality was less than in April, and except in Belgaum and Dhárwár it was also below normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 303,817 in the last week of April to 381,881 in the corresponding week of May. During the month under report there was fair to heavy rain in the Deccan and Karnátak, except Khándesh, where it was light. Since the end of the month it has been light to moderate and partial until last week, when good rain was reported from several tálukás. In Gujarát there was no rain during the month under report. But since then heavy rain has fallen in the southern coast tálukás of Surat, and during the last few days good falls have also been reported from the northern tálukás of that district, and from several tálukás of Kaira, Ahmedabad, and the Panch Maháls. Preparation of land for kharif crops is generally in progress, and sowing has been commenced wherever moisture is sufficient. Locusts having appeared in parts of Sholápur and Bijápur, collectors of all districts have been instructed to be on the watch, and to lose no time in taking energetic action for their destruction. No serious injury has yet been caused by them. Agricultural stock are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient. The deficiency of stock in Gujarát and elsewhere is being supplied from takávi grants and charitable relief funds.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report prices of staple food-grains have risen in all the affected districts except Khándesh, Násik, and Belgaum, where they have slightly declined. There were no material changes in the rates of wages.

No. 46.

Summary for the five weeks ending 29th June, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 55,973 were spent out of charitable funds in Khándesh and Rs. 10,380 in Poona. Rs. 64,258 were spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during the months of April and May, 1901. The following further allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund were received in the districts named:—

District.					Rupess.
Panch Maháls ...	...	...	...	...	43,000
Broach ...	...	...	...	...	40,000
Khándesh ...	...	...	...	...	45,330
Ahmednagar ...	...	...	...	...	75,000
Sholápur ...	...	...	...	...	50,000
Belgaum ...	...	...	...	...	12,000

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there was a further expansion of village gratuitous relief in all the affected districts, except the Panch Maháls and Dhárwár. The increase was particularly noticeable in the Khándesh District, where, owing to the exhaustion of grass seed, mhowra and other resources, a large number of Bhils had to be put on dole while engaged in cultivating their fields. Two additional poor-houses were opened in the Bijápur District and one in each of the districts of Násik and Sátára. Two poor-houses were closed in Khándesh. There were 38 village kitchens open in Ahmednagar and five in Násik. The daily average numbers in poor-houses and on village dole in the last week of June were 119,071 against 81,461 in the corresponding week of May.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—During the month under report there has been no change in the general character of relief works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—In Belgaum and Dhárwár the mortality was above normal, the increase being principally due to cholera and plague. In all the other affected districts the death-rate was below normal, and except in Khándesh it was lower than in May. The physical condition of the people as observed by the inspecting officers has been generally satisfactory.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 381,881 in the last week of May to 477,480 in the corresponding week of June. Except in the southern coast districts of Surat there was practically no rain throughout Gujarát till the 25th June. After that date rain fell in all districts. The distribution, however, was irregular, the rain being plentiful in the south, moderate in the north-east, and deficient in the north-west. After a fortnight's break good falls have again been reported from all parts of Gujarát. During June the western hill tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak received good rain, which has since continued. In the eastern tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak the rainfall of June was deficient, but satisfactory falls occurred during the first half of July and enabled retarded sowings to be resumed. Since that time, however, the rainfall in these tracts has been very light and more is urgently wanted to save the young crops, which are reported to have commenced to wither in some places. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient. The deficiency of stock in Gujarát and elsewhere has been supplied largely from takávi grants and charitable relief funds.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report prices of staple food-grains rose in all affected districts except Dhárwár, where they slightly declined. There were no material changes in the rates of wages.

No. 47.

Summary for the four weeks ending 27th July, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 30,765 were spent out of charitable funds in Ahmedabad, Rs. 5,305 in Khándesh, Rs. 14,365 in Násik and Rs. 19,687 in Poona. An allotment of Rs. 20,520 was received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund in Khándesh. The sum of Rs. 105 was collected by private subscriptions in Belgaum and was spent in purchasing clothes for the poor in the Athni Táluka.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—The numbers on this kind of relief increased from 119,071 in the last week of June to 156,715 in the last week of July. The districts of Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Khándesh, Sátára, and

Belgaum mainly contributed to this increase. On the other hand the numbers decreased in Kaira, Broach, Surat, Poona, and Dhárwár. There were during the month 40 village kitchens in Ahmednagar and seven in Násik.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month 56 works under Public Works Agency and 92 works under Civil agency. There was no change in the character of the works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The death-rate was below normal in all districts of the Northern and Central Divisions and in Bijápur. In Belgaum and Dhárwár the death-rate was above normal, mainly on account of plague. It was higher than in the previous month in Surat, Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur, and Bijápur; in other districts it was lower except in Khándesh, where it was the same as in June. The physical condition of the people was generally satisfactory.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—There were no deaths from this cause during the month under report.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 477,480 in the last week of June to 460,478 in the corresponding week of July. The rainfall during the month under report and up to date has been generally satisfactory throughout Gujarát and Khándesh, and in the western hilly tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak. The crops in these tracts are flourishing, but some damage has been caused in a few places by rats, locusts, or other insects. In eastern Deccan and Karnátak on the other hand the rainfall up to date has been below requirements except in a few talukás, and a part of the area usually devoted to kharif crops has remained unsown, and standing crops in some places have begun to wither. These tracts are, however, mainly dependent on rabi crops.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—The prices of food grains rose in the Panch Maháls, Násik, Belgaum, and Dhárwár districts and fell in Kaira, Broach, and Khándesh during the month under report. In other districts they were almost the same as in the previous month. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 48.

Summary for the five weeks ending 31st August, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 14,728 were spent out of charitable funds in Khándesh, Rs. 5,071 in Násik and Rs. 8,690 in Poona. Rs. 65,268 were spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during July, 1901. The following further allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund were received in the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Broach	5,000
Khándesh	182
Belgaum	20,000

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there occurred a gradual contraction of this kind of relief. The numbers relieved in the last week of August were 120,480 against 156,715 in the corresponding week of July. There were during the month 42 village kitchens in Ahmednagar, and eight in Násik.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 49 works under Public Works Department, and 40 works under Civil Agency. There was no change in the character of the works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people was generally satisfactory. The mortality in August was higher than that in July in all the affected districts, except Belgaum and Bijápur, but the general death-rate was below normal, except in Belgaum and Dhárwár. In these two districts the excess over normal was mainly due to plague.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—None.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 460,478 in the last week of July to 375,930 in the corresponding week of August. The rainfall of the month was deficient in Surat, Broach and Western Kaira, and in the Eastern Deccan and the Karnatak. Elsewhere it was generally sufficient. Since the middle of September good and opportune rain has fallen throughout Eastern Deccan and the Karnatak, and has revived the previously withering kharif crops and enabled rabi sowings to be commenced. In Gujarát, however, there has been practically no useful rain since the end of August, and the rice crop there is withering; other kharif crops are in an unsatisfactory condition and rabi sowing has been delayed. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of food-grains fell in all the affected districts, except Khándesh and Násik, where they were stationary. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 49.

Summary for the four weeks ending 28th September, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 1,401 were spent out of charitable funds in Násik and Rs. 5,552 in Poona; Rs. 18,596 were also spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during August, 1901.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—There occurred a further decline in the numbers on gratuitous relief except in Poona, Bijápur, and Belgaum. The numbers relieved in the last week of September were 77,381 against 120,480 in the corresponding week of August. One additional village kitchen was opened in Ahmednagar, while six such kitchens were closed in Násik.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 46 works under Public Works Department and 35 works under Civil Agency. The Baroda-Godhra Chord Railway earth-work was closed during the month. There was no change in the character of relief works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—In all the affected districts except Poona and Sholápur the mortality in September was higher than in August. In Gujarát the high mortality is reported to have been mainly due to seasonal fever. In the Deccan and Karnatak the mortality was nowhere abnormal except in Sátára, Belgaum, and Dhárwár, in which districts plague alone contributed no less than 58, 64, and 74 per cent., respectively, of the total number of deaths. The general death-rate, exclusive of plague, was below the decennial mean except in Broach, Kaira, Belgaum, and Dhárwár, where it was higher.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 375,930 in the last week of August to 293,133 in the corresponding week of September. During the month under report the rainfall was exceedingly short of the average in Gujarát and generally deficient in the Deccan, but generally sufficient in the Karnátak. Since the close of the month good rain has fallen throughout the Deccan and Karnátak, and in Surat and parts of Broach, and has much improved the situation in those tracts. In other parts of Gujarát, owing to the almost total failure of the late rains, the rice crop over large areas is entirely lost, the outturn of other kharif crops is expected to be poor, and there has been no rabi sowing except on irrigated lands. Locusts have also caused serious damage to crops in the districts of Ahmedabad and Kaira. Scarcity of water is also apprehended in northern Gujarát, and steps are being taken to improve the water-supply. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food-grains fell in Ahmednagar, Sholápur, Sátára, and Bijápur; were stationary in Broach, Násik, Poona, and Belgaum; and rose in other districts. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 50.

Summary for the month of October, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Rs. 12,618 were spent out of charitable funds in the Poona District. Rs. 1,570 were also spent from the same source in Ahmedabad in September.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—There was a further contraction of this kind of relief in all the affected districts. The numbers relieved in the last week of October were 50,674, against 77,381 in the corresponding week of September. Three poor-houses in Ahmedabad and three village kitchens in Ahmednagar were closed.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 37 works under Public Works Department, and 13 works under Civil Agency. There was no change in the character of relief works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—In all the districts except Broach, Surat, Khándesh, Ahmednagar, and Sholápur, the mortality in October was higher than in September. In Kaira malarial fever, and in Sátára, Belgaum, and Dhárwár, plague mainly contributed to the high mortality. The general death-rate, exclusive of plague, was below the decennial mean except in Kaira, Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dhárwár.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 293,133 in the last week of September to 131,632 in the corresponding week of October. Excepting parts of Surat and Broach, which received good falls, there was no appreciable rain in Gujarát during the month of October. No rain has since fallen in any part of that Province, and rats also continue doing damage to crops. The situation

has, therefore, become critical, especially in the northern districts, where the numbers on relief have already commenced to rise. In the Deccan and Karnatak there was generally good rain in October, which benefited the late-sown kharif crops and enabled rabi sowings to be nearly completed in all districts. There has, however, been no useful rain since the end of the month, and the outturn of rabi crops is not expected to be on the whole satisfactory, unless good showers are received within the next fortnight. Locusts appeared in parts of Poona, Sátára, Bijápur, and Belgaum, and caused slight injury to crops. Agricultural stock are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient. Special measures for the improvement of water supply in Northern Gujarát are being continued.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food-grains declined in all the affected districts except Ahmedabad and the Panch Maháls, where they rose. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 51.

Summary for the month of November, 1901.

(a.) *Private relief.*—Rs. 400 were spent out of charitable funds in the Poona District.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—In Nasik, Poona and Satara all gratuitous relief was stopped during the month under report. Two poor-houses in Sholapur and nineteen in Bijapur and twenty village kitchens in Ahmednagar were closed, while two poor-houses were opened in Ahmedabad. The total numbers relieved in the last week of November were 17,728 against 50,674 in the corresponding week of October, but in the three Northern Gujarat districts alone the numbers increased from 3,376 to 4,969.

(c.) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 16 works under Public Works Department and 6 works under Civil Agency. There was no change in the character of relief works.

(d.) *Physical condition of the people.*—In the districts of Ahmedabad, Broach, Surat, Khandesh, Nasik and Poona the total mortality in November was higher than in October, the excess being mainly due to plague. The general death-rate exclusive of plague was below the decennial mean except in Kaira, Broach, Belgaum and Dharwar.

(e.) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f.) and (g.) *Food-stocks and importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h.) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 131,632 in the last week of October to 42,335 in the corresponding week of November. Light to fair showers fell during the first week of November in the whole of Karnatak and in the South Deccan districts, and proved useful for late kharif crops and for rabi sowing. But there has been no rain since in any district of the Deccan and Karnatak, and standing rabi crops are withering. Gujarat received no rain either in November or since. Late-sown kharif crops which were withering at the end of October have been completely lost in most places, and no rabi crops are expected except in irrigated areas. Rats also have continued to do damage to standing crops. Another period of scarcity has in consequence commenced in Northern Gujarat, and the numbers on relief are increasing. Relief measures

also continue in some parts of the Deccan and Karnatak, where the prospects are unsatisfactory.

(i.) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food grains fell in all the affected districts except Kaira, where they rose. The rates of wages on works varied proportionately.

No. 52.

Summary for the month of December, 1901.

(a.) *Private relief.*—Rs. 3,984 were spent out of charitable funds in the Ahmedabad District during October, 1901.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Eight village kitchens in Ahmednagar and five poor-houses in Bijapur were closed, while two poor-houses were opened in Thar and Parkar. The total numbers relieved in the last week of December were 18,990 against 17,728 in the corresponding week of November. In the three Northern Gujarat Districts alone the number rose from 4,969 to 8,934.

(c.) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 24 works under Public Works Department and 25 works under Civil Agency. In the Panch Mahals the Baroda-Godhra Chord Railway earth-work was re-opened. There was no other change in the character of relief works.

(d.) *Physical condition of the people.*—Except in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals, Khandesh, Nasik and Poona, the total mortality in December was less than in November. In Ahmedabad seasonal fever and in Khandesh, Nasik and Poona plague mainly contributed to the high mortality. The general death-rate exclusive of plague was below the decennial mean in all Districts except Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Belgaum and Dharwar where it was in excess.

(e.) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f.) and (g.) *Food-stocks and importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h.) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 42,335 in the last week of November to 81,768 in the corresponding week of December. There was no rain during the month in any of the affected Districts, but light scattered showers fell about the middle of January 1902 in parts of Gujarat and Ahmednagar. In Gujarat rats have continued to damage the crops on the ground, the area under well-irrigation has in consequence been greatly contracted and distress is likely to be far more intense than was at first anticipated. In Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals the numbers on relief are rapidly rising. In the Deccan and Karnatak also owing to the absence of the November-December showers the rabi outturn is expected to be poor and the demand for relief is likely to increase as the season progresses. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient.

(i.) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food-grains rose in all the affected districts except Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Bijapur, where they declined. The rates of wages varied proportionately.

FINES FOR SHORT WORK.

No. 53.

*Abstract of Bombay Public Works Department Circular Memorandum
No. 581 F., dated 9th March, 1900.*

Requesting superintending engineers of divisions to direct all the executive engineers in charge of relief operations to enforce fines for short work as a general rule on certain scales given, the officers and subordinates in charge of relief work being, however, enjoined to so exercise their discretion as to fining, when labourers are working in gangs, as to prevent, so far as possible, honest workers suffering for the fault of others.

NOTE.—The text of the above circular has not been received in the India Office.

No. 54.

No. 2080, dated Bombay Castle, 23rd April, 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3327, dated 26th March, 1900 :—

“ I have the honour to submit one or two remarks on the Circular No. F.—581 of 9th instant, issued by the Public Works Department, graduating the fine for short work on relief operations. I trust to be absolved from any suspicion of wishing to cavil at orders, or of anything but a desire to bring to the notice of Government difficulties that occur in practical work.

“ 2. In most districts a problem of famine work is how to make people do real work with a system of minimum wage, how to stir up the lazy, and how to save the industrious from becoming lazy too.

“ 3. Now there are yet many honest workers in some districts, 50 per cent of the mass. They generally do from 90 to 110 per cent. of their task. To fine such people nearly 20 per cent. of their wages for 1, 2, or 5 per cent. short work must be demoralizing in effect. For when they realize (as they speedily will) that they are fined the same amount for 99 as for 75 per cent. work they will naturally get slack, and as one of our ablest engineers lately put it, ‘having once tasted the sweets of laziness, there is no knowing when they will stop. They will soon drop to 50 per cent.’ Thus the general rule will make way for popular deterioration—a peril to my mind more to be dreaded than starvation.

“ 4. Supposing the work done is 99 per cent., the wages will work out as follows on the basis of 18 lbs. for 1 per cent. of short work :—

Class.	Code of Wages in Pice per Day.	Fine Pice.	Percentage of Fines to Wages.
I.	8	1½	19
II.	7	1	14
III.	5	1	20

“ 5. It may be thought that the measurer should give a ‘grace mark,’ and so prevent such an extreme case. But this is precisely the latitude which a subordinate should not have, for he is sure to use it arbitrarily. I would rather suggest that a

definite margin should be left by the rules, say 90 per cent. and 70 per cent., within which the fine should not be imposed at all. I am informed that a majority of good, willing, honest workers fall slightly below the 100 per cent., and this is also what one would expect. To discourage them by a disproportionate fine will have the reverse effect of what is desired."

Letter from the Collector of Ahmedabad, No. F.—1112, dated 22nd March, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to refer to Government Circular memorandum No. F—581, dated 9th March, 1900.

"2 The way these fines work out with grain at 17 lbs. and 18 lbs. a rupee (the most common prices) is as follows :—

Percentage of work done.	Payments at 17 lbs.	Payments at 18 lbs.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Between 75 and 100 per cent.	Diggers	0 1 9
	Carriers	0 1 6
	Children	0 1 0
Between 50 and 75 per cent. ...	Men	0 1 6
	Women	0 1 6
	Children	0 0 9
Below 50 per cent.	Men	0 1 0
	Women	0 1 0
	Children	0 0 9

"3. Thus a woman gets the same (with grain at 17 lbs. the rupee) if she does 50 per cent. or 99 per cent. of the work, while generally men and women get the same and some of the wages are equal to, and others below, the value of the poor-house ration.

"4. Till now the Executive Engineer has had an excellent arrangement by which fines have been nicely proportioned to the amount by which work fell below the standard. If a gang found itself unable to do full work, it was still to their interest to do 90 per cent. rather than 80 per cent., 80 per cent. rather than 70 per cent., and so on, and the excellent work done by the workers which so far has resulted, I believe, in the accomplishment of work at a rate per hundred cubic feet, far below that usual in famines, has been due not only to the personal care of the Executive Engineer and his staff, and to frequent visiting by district and taluka officers, but to those orders issued by the Executive Engineer.

"5. Even taking the orders of the Circular memorandum as they stand, I submit that it is unwise to make no distinction between a worker who does 75 per cent. and one who does 99 per cent of the work, but when the rates work out as I have shown, then I submit that their unsuitability appears still more marked."

Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer, N. D., No. 2283, dated — March, 1900 :—

"Forwarded with compliments.

"Hitherto on all works the scale of fining has been more nearly proportional to the work executed than now ordered by Government."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3529, dated 30th March, 1900 :—

"Submitted to Government.

"The undersigned has already ventured to represent his own view in his No. 3327, of 26th March, 1900."

RESOLUTION.—The course suggested by the Honourable Mr. Lely is entirely opposed to the repeated instructions of the Government of India, which have been cordially accepted by this Government, that full tasks should be

strictly enforced as a test of the need of relief. Moreover, it could have no other effect than that of reducing the task. If a rule were passed that full payment should be made for 90 per cent. of the task, precisely the same considerations would affect payment for 89 per cent., as the Honourable Mr. Lely suggests with regard to 99 per cent. It is understood that such a rule was in force in Ahmedabad and Broach, and that full payment was often made when the deficiency was several degrees below the limit of 90 per cent., and this practice is probably among the reasons why the average cost of relief in these districts has been much in excess of that in other districts. It is presumed that the wages due are determined by superior officers, or at least by subordinates of a comparatively high grade, and minute deficiencies may be discarded if the circumstances justify such course, but the principle that the full wage is due for performance only of full task must be enforced as far as possible. There is less risk of demoralization from excess of strictness than from excess of leniency.

2. Government, while desirous that payment between the maximum and minimum should be in proportion to results, are of opinion that with the establishment available to deal with such large bodies of workers as are now employed it is not expedient to attempt more accurate measurements than are required for the scale of payments prescribed in Public Works Department Circular memorandum No. F.-581, dated 9th March, 1900. As the people to whom the scale is applied are paid weekly and not daily, the results mentioned in paragraph 3 of the letter of the Collector of Ahmedabad do not occur. It is also to be observed that the object in view is not to get the work done at low rates, but to exclude people who will not prove their need of relief by doing a fair task for a low wage. For that purpose the scale of payment referred to is not less efficacious than would be one with more gradations.

(Signed) J. MONTEATH,

Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 55.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine), No. 1108-28-15-F., dated Simla, the 30th May, 1900.

Public Works Department Circular Memorandum No. 581-F., dated 9th March, 1900.

Famine Department Resolution No. 2080, dated 23rd April, 1900.

Famine Department Resolution No. 2099, dated 25th April, 1900.

The Governor General in Council has read the instructions cited in the margin which have been issued by the Government of Bombay concerning the tasking of famine relief workers and the reduction of wages for short work.

2. In the Resolution, dated the 23rd April, "the repeated instructions of the Government of India" are given as one of the reasons which led the Government of Bombay to reject the proposal of the Commissioner of the Northern Division that a definite margin should be left by the rules within which a fine for short work should not be imposed. In making this proposal that officer went on to say that the majority of good, willing, honest workers often fail to exactly fulfil the prescribed task and that to discourage them by a disproportionate fine was impolitic.

3. The Government of India think it necessary to point out that although in the early stage of the present famine, when the relief population was by all accounts in an exceptionally vigorous and robust condition, they approved and advised a policy of strictness in the matter of enforcing tasks and directed that

“persistent failure to perform the allotted task due to causes other than physical inability” should be rigorously dealt with, they have never rejected the expedient of a margin, such as the Commissioner of the Northern Division has proposed. On the contrary, in paragraph 9 of their Circular Letter* No. 2-Famine, dated 27th December, 1899, they expressed approval of the rules in force in the North-Western Provinces with regard to the imposition of fines for short tasks, which distinctly provide a margin of the kind recommended by the Commissioner of Gujarat. The margin in the North-Western Provinces Code is 12½ per cent.

Code, Appendix D—XIV, Rule 45.

4. In the correspondence on the Broach case which gave rise to the Bombay Government's Resolution of the 25th April, 1900, the necessity for some definite rule of clemency to temper the ingrained rigidity of subordinate officials in the Public Works Department is very clearly brought out. And although the literal construction placed by that Department in the Broach district on the Public Works Department Circular of the 9th March has been over-ruled by the Resolution of the 25th April, and permission has been given to overlook “trifling deficiencies” in measurements, it seems to the Government of India doubtful whether this will prove a sufficient guide to the class of officers ordinarily placed in charge of relief works.

5. The condition of the relief works population in the northern districts of the Bombay Presidency, the terribly high death-rates which are now being reported, and the marked decline during the last few weeks in the numbers on relief, give rise to some apprehension lest rigorous tasking may possibly be pushed too far by zealous subordinates. For this reason the Government of India desire to state that, instead of disapproving, they approve of the principle of a definite margin recommended by the Commissioner of the Northern Division.

No. 56.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2554, dated Bombay Castle, 15th June, 1900.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 1108-28—15 F., dated 30th ultimo, I am directed to request that you will submit to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council the following explanation of the orders of this Government to which reference is made.

2. The Government of India in their letter No. 3 F.—77-1, dated 24th December, 1896, called attention to “the importance of exacting a full task at all stages of relief operations.” The tenour of your Circular letter No. 2-FAM., dated 27th December, 1899, was understood to emphasize that view, and in the final paragraph Local Governments were asked to consider whether greater strictness in enforcing the conditions of relief and tests of distress was not required. It appeared therefore to the Governor in Council that the Government of India had repeated instructions that full tasks should be strictly enforced as a test of the need of relief. It was not supposed that the marginal reference to paragraphs 45—47 at pages 131-132 of the North-Western Provinces Famine Code, 1899, was intended as a suggestion that the detailed method of tasking and fining therein prescribed should be generally adopted.

* See page 439 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

3. Reasons for the adoption of a penal minimum having been given in my letter No. 235, dated 15th January, 1900, it was stated in paragraph 3 of your letter No. 287—28-2 F., dated 8th February, 1900, that "the wish of the Bombay Government is, it is understood, to fix a fair task, the performance of which will entitle the workers to the prescribed wage of 19 chatáks for the digger and 15 chatáks for the carrier respectively, and to reduce the wage proportionally as the work done falls below the prescribed task down to a penal wage of 9 chatáks. This proposal the Government of India consider reasonable, provided the tasks are fair, regard being had to the condition of the people." Instructions were issued accordingly, it being on several occasions explained that the object was to have payment by results as nearly as possible within the maximum and reduced minimum, but this Government have not ceased to enjoin that the tasks should be in proportion to the physical condition of the various classes of people, and that the deficiency of work for which deduction may be made must be due to wilfulness and not to weakness. On some works there was prescribed a table under which the weekly wage might be varied according to every 10 per cent. of outturn, but the professional advisers of this Government considered it impracticable with the establishment available to attempt so much gradation, and the Public Works Department Circular No. F.—581, dated 9th March, 1900, was accordingly issued.

4. This Government have thus, as they understood, with the concurrence of the Government of India, adopted a system which differs from that prescribed in the North-Western Provinces Code. It was considered important that the full wage should be held to be due only for what might reasonably be regarded as the full task, but in Government Resolution No. 2080, dated 23rd April, 1900, as well as in Government Resolution No. 2099, dated 25th idem, it was pointed out that minute deficiencies might be overlooked. A practice which obtained in two districts of prescribing that the full wage should be given if 90 per cent. of the task were done, and of giving the full wage if the outturn was even several degrees lower appeared to be precisely the relaxation of test against which the Government of India had given this Government a caution. The North-Western Provinces Government give the wage for an outturn which may either be some degrees above or below the prescribed task, but a definite rule that the wage should be given for 90 per cent. of the task would be nothing more nor less than a reduction of the task. In the case of metal-breaking, where the individual tasks can be stated in basketfuls, this would be obvious to every worker.

5. I am to add that in the month of April in the district of Ahmedabad, in which the reduction in the number of workers has been greatest, the outturn was 37,329,206 as compared with 39,127,430 cubic feet of the total tasks set, and that the total fines were only about 2 per cent. of the wages earnable, the remainder of the deficiency in work being due to the fact that new-comers are not fined until they are accustomed to the work. These facts indicate in a very clear manner that there is nothing oppressive in either the tasks or in the manner of enforcing them, and that notwithstanding the high mortality in the district, which cannot be in any way attributed to the labour conditions imposed on relief works, there has been no lack of vigour amongst the people employed on works. Similar information is not available for other districts, but the Collector of Kaira states in his last progress report, "On the whole the people in this district are now doing the task without difficulty and resort is had to penal fining in very few cases. On many works the full task is completed and there is no fining at all." The number of relief workers increased largely after effect was given to the Public Works Department Circular No. F.—581, dated 9th March 1900, and the subsequent decrease was due entirely to cholera. Except in the case of Broach and only in the case of very few of the works in that district for two or three of the weeks when a reduced scale of wages was in force the reports of the medical and other inspecting officers on the physical condition of people who have been for some time on the works have been uniformly favourable. The Government of India are aware that there was simultaneously in Broach a decrease in mortality.

6. I am to inquire whether in view of this explanation it is the desire of His Excellency the Governor General in Council that the orders passed by this Government in this matter should be cancelled or modified.

No. 57.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine), No. 1317 F. 28-19, dated Simla, the 28th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2554, dated 15th June, explaining the considerations which gave rise to the instructions as to the tasking of famine relief-workers, and the reduction of wages for short work, cited in paragraph 1 of my letter of the 30th May. It is asked whether in view of the explanations the Governor General in Council desires that the orders in question should be cancelled or modified.

2. The main objection taken in your letter to the adoption of a rule prescribing for the guidance of subordinate relief officers a margin within which short work may be overlooked, is that it is likely to result in the virtual reduction of the nominal task. But a rule of a very similar character seems to have been actually in operation in the Ahmedabad district up to the end of March, and according to the collector of that district worked well, and did not result in demoralisation. It seems to the Governor General in Council that if in any district less fortunately situated, or on any particular relief work, the workers are found deliberately to take improper advantage of the rule, the difficulty can readily be met by the temporary suspension of the rule by the controlling district authority, on the specific ground that contumacy and determined idleness have to be dealt with. All that the Governor General in Council had in view was the desirability of preventing misapprehensions on the part of subordinate relief officers similar to that reported in the Broach district, and of giving them a reasonably definite standard of allowances for short work in cases in which neither contumacy nor determined idleness exists. For this class of officers permission to overlook "minute deficiencies," and "variations of one per cent. in measurements," appeared to the Governor General in Council to be insufficiently precise, and is open to the further objection that it contravenes the principle that pay should be proportioned to work. For it is obvious that if a relief-worker is fined to the extent prescribed in the Public Works Circular of the 9th March, 1900, for failing to reach the full task by 2 per cent., the proportional principle to which the Government of India assented, and to which the Government of Bombay rightly attach importance, is seriously violated. Even allowing that there are theoretical objections to the alternate expedient of a "margin," the Governor General in Council considers that in the late stage of a famine of exceptional intensity and destructiveness, and in view of what actually occurred in the Broach district, and of the high mortality prevailing throughout Gujarat, a marginal allowance is both reasonable and politic: and he would be glad to see it recognised as a rule of guidance by the Government of Bombay on their relief works.

3. In conclusion I am directed to enclose copy of Madras Government Order No. 513, dated 25th May, 1900,* from which it will be observed that the Government of Madras have adopted the principle of a marginal allowance for short work.

*See page 411 (Madras).

FAMINE FORECASTS FOR THE YEARS 1900-1901
AND 1901-2.

~~No. 58.~~

Letter from the Government of India to the Right Honourable Lord George F. Hamilton, His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 4 (Revenue and Agriculture), dated Calcutta, the 24th January, 1901.

We have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter dated 7th January, 1901, from the Government of Bombay, reporting that famine conditions will certainly prevail to a greater or less extent for another season over a large part of the area affected in 1899-1900, and advising us that a direct expenditure on the relief of distress of over one crore of rupees will probably have to be incurred in the next financial year.

2. We deeply regret the disheartening and unfortunate occurrence of a second season of privation and agricultural loss in Western India. The rainfall throughout Northern and Upper India, the Central Provinces, Rajputana and Central India during the last fortnight of December and the first half of January has been exceptionally abundant and widely distributed, and there is every anticipation that good harvests over an exceptionally large area of cultivation will be reaped this spring in the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and in Behar, and that a surplus of food grains for the supply of less fortunate provinces will be secured. In the Central Provinces, Rajputana and Central India, the loss of stock and other agricultural capital has interfered with the ability of the cultivators to take full advantage of the favourable season: but except in a few localities of limited area no recrudescence of distress is anticipated in these regions. A portion of the Madras Presidency has been somewhat affected by the lightness of the north-east monsoon. But the earlier rains provided good irrigation from the tanks, and the general situation gives no cause for anxiety. Our information regarding the Nizam's Dominions is at present imperfect, but it is believed that the crop failure from which the Bombay Deccan is suffering extends to some of the Hyderabad districts. In Baroda the crops now on the ground are 50 per cent. below normal, and distress is anticipated by that State until the next rains.

3. We refrain from offering observations on the last paragraphs of the Bombay Government's letter in which that Government adheres to the view that in determining and apportioning revenue suspensions and remissions it is not advisable to adopt with equity any course other than that which has been hitherto followed in the Presidency, and that there are no practical difficulties in the way of giving satisfactory effect to this policy. The Famine Commission, which is at present engaged in taking evidence in Bombay, has been instructed to report on this subject, and we propose to await its recommendations.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) CURZON.
E. H. H. COLLEN.
A. C. TREVOR.
C. M. RIVAZ.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.

Enclosure in No. 58.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 54, dated Bombay Castle, 7th January, 1901.

In the weekly telegrams and monthly famine reports submitted from this Department the Government of India have been kept informed of the general condition and prospects of the affected area in this Presidency. As it is now unfortunately certain that famine conditions will prevail to a greater or less extent for another season over a large part of the area affected in 1899-1900, I am directed to submit a report on the situation and future requirements.

2. I am to append a statement* of the rainfall of the season of 1900 as compared with the normal at the head-quarters and other selected stations of each of the districts likely to be affected, and to give below a description of the character of the season :—

GUJARÁT.

The entire month of June was rainless with the exception of a few light showers in Surat in the last week and in the Panch Maháls in the second week. Sowings could only be partially commenced in those two districts. In July the total fall was everywhere much below the average except in the southern tálukas of Surat. Rain fell mostly between the 12th and 15th, and kharif sowings were then generally commenced, but they were checked again by the subsequent break and could only be resumed at the close of the month when regular monsoon conditions set in throughout Gujarát. The rainfall in August was widely distributed, heavy and continuous, and improved the situation everywhere. The standing crops were thriving and sowings were in full progress at the end of the month, when a break was generally needed. The rainfall of September exceeded the average in Broach, the Panch Maháls, the eastern tálukas of Surat and Kaira and the Gogha and Modása Petas of Ahmedabad ; elsewhere it was below the average. At the end of the month the kharif crops were doing well, but more rain was required for maturing them, especially rice and the inferior millets bávto and kodra, and also for rabi sowing. During the months of October, November and December there was no rain, and except in a few places during December the customary dews of the cold season also did not fall. The result has been that among the early-sown kharif crops in the three northern districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Maháls bájri alone will yield a fairly good outturn, while rice and bávto have been almost total failures ; the late-sown kharif crops have partially withered and yielded but little grain ; they are expected however to produce a fair outturn of fodder. In Surat and Broach late-sown jowár and cotton crops will be poor. Rabi crops which have been sown over about 50 per cent. of the total area reserved for them are withering except in irrigated lands.

DECCAN AND KARNÁTAK.

The rainfall in June exceeded the average in the greater part of Sholápur, Ahmednagar, Bijápur and Belgaum, the western tálukas of Dhárwár and the eastern tálukas of Poona and Sátára ; elsewhere it was much below the average. In July the fall was short of the average in Khándesh, Násik and Dhárwár, but in most tálukas of the other districts it was above it. The rain was sufficient and useful for resumption of retarded sowings. These were nearly completed at the end of the month, when more rain was required in the eastern tracts of the Kárnaták. The rainfall of August exceeded the average in Belgaum, the hilly tracts of the Deccan and the western portion of Dhárwár, but in the whole of Bijápur and the eastern tálukas of Dhárwár and the Deccan it was light and

deficient, and the crops, especially those on light soil in Sholápur, Bijápur, Ahmednagar and the eastern part of Poona, began to suffer. In September the rain was much below the average except in the western hilly tracts of Poona and Sátára. At the end of the month kharif crops were generally good in these tracts and the western portions of Belgaum and Dhárwár and in Khándesh and Násik, but elsewhere they were withering, and rabi sowing was generally retarded. In October there was no rain in Khándesh and Násik, while the districts of Sholápur, Poona and Sátára three tálukas of Ahmednagar and the greater part of the Karnátak received light to fair showers, which refreshed the withering crops to some extent and enabled rabi sowings to be continued. Beyond light scattered showers between the 5th and 7th of November in some places in Sholápur, Sátára and Bijápur there was practically no rain in November and December throughout the Deccan and Karnátak, with result that late-sown kharif crops have suffered greatly everywhere and unirrigated rabi crops are generally withering.

3. It will thus be seen that the almost total failure of the late rains in Gujarát and their deficiency in the Deccan and Karnátak have blighted the hopes which were entertained in August last of a bumper kharif harvest, and have destroyed the chances of obtaining any rabi crops at all except in irrigated lands and a few other favoured tracts.

4. The Commissioner, N., D., in a report dated 12th December, 1900, describes the situation in Gujarát in the following terms :—

“ There is reason to fear in many parts of this Division scarcity deepening as the season advances into famine among at least the lower classes. The situation has recently been somewhat improved by heavy dews and would be still further improved in the rabi areas by a fall of rain within this month.

“ Owing to the loss of plough cattle the area sown with kharif crops was much below the normal. The proportion sown with rabi is probably still less, owing to the failure of the later rain and to the enervation of the people by fever, dysentery and other diseases which have been remarkably rife.

“ Of the kharif crops rice has, with insignificant exceptions, totally failed. Bájri and jowár have done well or ill according to whether the rain began earlier or later, and perhaps also according to the promptitude of the cultivator in getting the seed in. Generally it may be said that early-sown bájri has done well—in some tracts very well. Jowár not so well, the great bulk of this crop being nothing but fodder though looking well in the field to a superficial observer. The other kharif crops vary from about 8 annas in the best parts of Kaira District to nil in the worst parts of the same, in parts of the Panch Maháls and elsewhere. The outturn of cotton is conjectured at 6 annas in Ahmedabad and 4 annas in Vágra and adjacent villages. Elsewhere in the affected areas mentioned below this crop is not grown.

“ Rabi would have been good if there had been an inch or two of rain in October or November, but it did not come. Heavy dews often make up for want of other moisture, but they too have been absent till recently. Hence not only is the area very small but except on wells the outturn as it appears at present will be poor.

“ The area of British territory in this Division likely to be affected may be thus described :—

Ahmedabad District.—The whole except Daskroi Táluka and Gogha Mahál, parts of Sánand Táluka and other small portions where the kharif has been fair.

Kaira District.—Mátar, Thásra and Kapadvanj Tálukas will be more or less distressed.

Panch Maháls.—The whole district more or less. Probably least in Kálol and most in Jhálod.

Broach.—A portion (say 30 villages) of Ámod Táluka, a portion (say 30 villages) of Jambusar Táluka, 7 ‘Bara’ villages of Broach Táluka and almost the whole of the Vágra Táluka.

Surat.—Western half of Olpád Táluka, eastern half of Mándvi Táluka, sea coast and south-east corner of Bulsár, east and south sides of Párdi.

“ Outside these areas there will be much scattered distress which will need limited measures of relief in the hot weather, partly because all over the country some crops have more or less failed, and partly because everywhere a large proportion of the normal area has been left unsown altogether.

“ The economic condition of the people throughout the four districts* and the affected parts of Surat is not encouraging. Last year’s famine acting upon a peasantry unused to privation has left them enfeebled and dispirited. Many have not had the cattle or else the energy to cultivate land at all. Again the Collector of Ahmedabad writes demi-officially : ‘ The

striking feature of this year’s distress will be the large sums of money put into the

* Ahmedabad.
Kaira.
Panch Maháls
Broach.

ground compared with the small returns.' The loss of the milch cattle has been a paralysing blow to people to whom milk in its various forms was the only animal food. In the better parts of Gujarát it was the custom of the well-to-do cultivators to keep large herds of buffaloes and cows and to give the *chás* (whey) away among their poorer neighbours. No one went without. Now in the villages one constantly hears the piteous cry 'when shall we get our *chás*.' Lastly a wave of sickness has lately passed over the country not sparing Europeans and the best fed native classes and still further depressing the general vitality. In my opinion the present condition of the agricultural classes is such as to call for very careful and considerate treatment, especially in those parts of the province detailed above."

In a later special report regarding 108 "Bara" or sea-coast villages of Broach the Commissioner, N., D., states that nearly all the people (including some of the most respectable) are living at present on grass seed, especially an unwholesome variety called "Anchi-banchi," that no kharif crops are sown in this tract, that the prospects of the rabi crops are extremely poor, that the staple jowár has not yet germinated, and that owing to use of bad seed and ravages by insects only 10 per cent. of the sown crop is expected to yield about 8 annas. In a report dated 15th December, 1900, the Collector of Ahmedabad gives the following account of the state of crops in that district:—

"As the supply of grass seeds is failing, doles will have to be increased and works provided soon in the Bhál tracts of Dholka and Dhandhuka, where the one crop of the year, unirrigated wheat and gram, has practically failed. What little remains—roughly half the area sown—is still being eaten up by insects, and the damage already done and still continuing is enormous. The tracts adjoining the Sábarmati (Sánand, Dholka and Daskroi Tálukas) are fairly covered with rabi crops, some of which look moderately healthy in their present stage. The rice crop has failed entirely in most places, but in a few Nalkántha and west Sánand villages there will be a little to harvest. In the Virangám Chuval the kharif crop has been estimated at 6 to 8 annas, which is fortunate considering that this with the Bhál tract is generally the first to demand relief measures. Parántij will not, I learn, be disappointed of all harvest, but Modása has not done very well so far. To sum up, the prospects vary very much from village to village, and while the Bhál and most rice villages have a total failure to face, in other parts the cultivators at least will be able to pull through, and I do not anticipate any great demand for works till the hot weather, when all chance of field labour is over."

In a later report the Collector of Ahmedabad estimates the average outturn of jowári at 5 annas and that of bájri at 6 annas for the entire district.

In Kaira the rice crop is practically a failure as in other parts of Northern Gujarát, while the yield of bájri averages about 11 annas and that of other kharif crops about 4 annas.

5. As regards the Deccan and Karnátak it appears that a continuation of relief measures will be necessary in the whole of Sholápur and Ahmednagar except the Akola Táluka of the latter district, in about three-fifths of Bijápur, the eastern tálukas of Poona, Sátára and Belgaum and parts of Khándesh and Násik. The outturn of crops in these districts as estimated by the collectors is shown below:—

District.	Kharif.	Rabi.
Sholápur	8 annas in 1 táluka, 4 to 6 annas in 3 tálukas, and 2 to 3 annas in 3 tálukas. Average for district 4 annas.	4 to 6 annas in 1 táluka and portion of another. Almost none in other tálukas.
Ahmednagar	9 annas in Akola. Average for the rest of the district 6 annas.	None excepting a slight crop in a few scattered places.
Poona	4 to 6 annas in the affected parts of Indápur. Almost complete failure in the affected parts of Sirur, Purandhar, Bhimthadi, and Dhond. Harvest much below normal in the remaining parts of these tálukas. Average outturn in the western portion of the district 10 annas.	Total failure in the affected parts.

District.	Kharif.	Rabi.
Sátára	In Mán, Khatáv and Khánápur an average of 2 annas on high lands and of 4 annas on low lands. In Karád 6 annas and in Khandála 5 annas on the average. In the rest of the district which is not affected 6 to 10 annas in 3 tálukas, 7 annas in 2, and 8 to 12 annas in 1.	Entire failure in the affected parts except where irrigated. Fairly promising in the rest of the district.
Khándesh	Outturn expected to be fairly good in eastern Khándesh except in certain limited areas of poor soil. In western Khándesh, except Sháháda and the Dangs, crops have suffered severely over most of the area and the outturn will be generally poor.	Almost total failure except on irrigated lands.
Násik	10 annas on the average in the western half and 6 to 8 annas in the eastern half of the district.	Almost total failure except on irrigated lands. Irrigated crops will probably yield 12 annas in the western half and perhaps 8 annas in the eastern half.
Bijápur	Excepting 117 villages of Bádámi, 87 of Bágalkot, 35 of Sindgi and 12 of Bijápur, where it varies from 7 to 12 annas, the outturn ranges between $\frac{1}{2}$ anna and 5 annas.	From $\frac{1}{2}$ anna to 4 annas except in 15 villages of Bágévádi where it is 6 annas, 58 of Bágalkot where it is from 6 to 10 annas, and 117 of Bádámi where it is 5 annas.
Belgaum	From fair to very good except in the extreme east, where crops have failed badly. The affected portion comprises parts of Athni, Gokák, and Parasgad Tálukas and Murgod Mahál.	Rabi for most part not sown in the affected portion.

It is to be observed that in all the affected tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak the rabi crops are far the more important, but in the current year the early rain induced the sowing of kharif crops in many places to a larger extent than usual.

6. The fodder-supply is everywhere reported to be sufficient, and the quantity available will probably last throughout the season in most districts. On the other hand the water-supply is running short in many places, and as the season advances there is likely to be great scarcity of drinking water for man and beast over a wide area in the Deccan and Karnátak, and in some parts of Gujarát. The deficiency of water will also, it is apprehended, affect seriously the outturn of irrigated crops. In a letter dated 31st October, 1900, the Collector of Sholápur reported as follows:—

“The depletion of the tanks and wells is everywhere causing anxiety. The Ekruk, Mhasvad, Ashti and Koregaon irrigation tanks are all unprecedentedly low, and irrigation from all of them has been partially stopped to prevent them from running quite dry. The level of the sub-soil water throughout the whole district is seriously reduced. At Akalkot last week I found the large well from which the town used principally to be supplied, and the bottom of which had not been seen before, quite dry except in one corner, where there were 15 inches of water; there ought to be 25 feet. At Bársi I found the wells threatening to give out, and the big nála, whence water was fetched last year, nearly dry, which does not look well for the chance of getting much water from ‘hels’* in it next hot weather. At Bhámurdi one of the main wells which supply the camp is failing, and so it is throughout the district. The rain we have just had has been all absorbed by the parched surface soil and has not replenished the springs. In my opinion it is urgently necessary to do all in our power to improve the water-supply now by deepening as many village wells as possible. The prospect of a water-famine is alarming.”

Again, in a letter dated 1st December, 1900, he reports that the level of the sub-soil water has never been so low within living memory. Similar reports have been received from all other districts of the Deccan and Karnátak,

and such expenditure as has been considered necessary for temporary improvement of the water-supply has been authorised in all districts. It is also probable that there will be a large demand for tagái for deepening wells, and some of the collectors have already asked for additional allotments. The total requirements are being ascertained from the Commissioners, and the Government of India will be separately addressed in the matter.

7. The following statement shows the prices of the staple food-grains as they stood in the several districts in the second week of December, 1900, and in the corresponding week of 1899 :—

District.	Jowári.				Bájri.			
	1900.		1899.		1900.		1899.	
	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
Ahmedabad	15	6	9	7	14	11	8	6
Kaira	14	0	9	2½	15	8	8	14
Paich Maháls	15	13½	9	5½	13	12	8	4
Broach	13	0	8	13½	13	2	8	4
Surat	11	8	9	8	12	8	8	1
Sholápur	9	10½	9	10½	11	10½	9	6½
Ahmednagar	9	8½	8	9½	12	0	8	2½
Poona	11	4½	9	9	11	12½	8	8
Khándesh	13	5½	8	12	12	8	8	8
Násik	9	10½	9	3	12	10½	8	8
Sátára	9	13½	8	15	10	11½	8	15
Belgaum	11	7	11	0	10	12	9	12
Bijápur	10	1	11	4	12	5	10	5
Dhárwár	11	5	13	0	12	2	—	—

It will be seen that both in Gujarát and in the Deccan prices are at present generally considerably lower than they were in the preceding year, but in some districts of the Deccan and Southern Marátha country the difference is not very wide. It is probable that they will again rise when the new grain in the market is exhausted, but they will presumably not reach the level of last year as the harvests in other parts of India have been good, and any deficiency of stock will, therefore, be more readily supplied than it was in that year.

8. In Sholápur, where the demand for field labour has already slackened, people are rapidly returning to the relief works. Thousands of people from this district and from Ahmednagar and Bijápur are also reported to have emigrated to the neighbouring native states and the Berárs in search of field work or other employment, but in a later report the Collector of Ahmednagar states that this emigration is now checked to some extent, and that many of the emigrants are returning disappointed. The Collector of Sátára also reports that an unusually large number of people have left the Mán Táluka of that district in search of work in Bombay, Khándesh and other places. This migration coupled with the fall in prices and the limited area of distress will, it is hoped, tend towards lessening the suffering of the people, but, as remarked by the Collector of Sátára, "the famine of 1899-1900 has told severely on the pockets of nearly all classes, and many persons who are ordinarily in fairly well-to-do circumstances will this year require relief, having last year parted with practically all their surplus wealth, both cattle, jewellery, and cash." Sales of cattle for subsistence have already been reported from parts of Sholápur and Ahmednagar, and the collector of the former district states that in the Karmála and Málsiras Tálukas cattle have been sold by thousands for a song, and in many villages there are hardly any left.

9. The Commissioners have submitted estimates of the numbers likely to require relief from January, 1901, onwards. It is anticipated that if the next monsoon is normal, relief measures will have to be carried on in the three northern Gujarát districts at least till the end of July, and in the other districts till the end of September or October, 1901. The following statement shows the estimates for each district reduced to units as compared with the numbers of units actually relieved in the corresponding months of last year :—

Month.	Ahmedabad.	Kaira.	Panch Mahals.	Broach.	Surat.	Khándesh.	Násik.	Ahmednagar.	Poona.	Sholápur.	Sátára.	Bijápur.	Belgaum.	
January ...	{ 1900 ...	2,321,704	522,592	489,468	2,641,632	243,264	6,573,840	1,430,212	2,797,900	632,884	3,823,372	499,688	178,892	37,576
	{ 1901 ...	1,054,000	122,535	108,500	248,000	—	93,000	62,000	2,945,000	421,900	3,100,000	341,000	700,000	43,800
February ...	{ 1900 ..	3,373,328	1,175,356	520,940	3,086,748	306,152	7,074,984	2,462,040	5,056,128	1,282,736	4,279,352	673,624	230,720	50,120
	{ 1901 ...	1,372,000	174,874	152,066	394,800	—	168,000	84,000	4,200,000	855,100	3,080,000	420,000	987,058	52,800
March ...	{ 1900 ...	4,803,295	2,971,745	723,905	3,646,545	532,665	9,468,305	3,698,240	8,407,210	2,647,540	5,928,160	1,069,635	470,505	76,825
	{ 1901 ...	2,139,000	1,213,403	592,487	663,400	469,067	465,000	868,000	5,580,000	1,765,000	3,720,000	620,000	1,780,058	78,600
April ...	{ 1900 ...	4,483,920	3,063,200	1,366,008	2,389,688	460,180	6,044,164	2,309,552	6,985,608	2,628,780	4,768,148	1,344,672	688,744	75,432
	{ 1901 ...	2,370,000	1,475,490	699,420	687,000	684,144	1,200,000	840,000	5,700,000	1,752,500	3,900,000	900,000	2,897,762	143,660
May... ..	{ 1900 ...	3,555,440	2,422,504	1,046,836	2,211,468	268,352	6,138,496	2,433,816	6,842,444	2,693,320	4,545,604	1,617,504	665,196	60,368
	{ 1901 ...	2,449,000	1,663,596	783,618	725,400	947,806	1,240,000	1,333,000	5,890,000	1,795,400	4,340,000	1,085,000	3,110,486	151,600
June ...	{ 1900 ...	4,590,250	4,377,345	2,554,615	2,635,080	812,490	7,141,890	3,265,535	9,429,525	3,216,780	5,996,725	1,962,800	767,060	110,845
	{ 1901 ...	2,370,000	1,629,966	974,280	486,000	1,135,980	600,000	1,290,000	6,000,000	2,144,400	4,200,000	600,000	3,162,712	138,600
July ...	{ 1900 ...	5,280,296	6,268,416	3,121,636	3,450,916	1,006,628	5,790,624	2,656,612	7,070,728	2,281,244	4,415,292	1,121,736	537,320	130,956
	{ 1901 ...	2,449,000	1,379,500	713,000	241,800	713,000	465,000	1,085,000	5,580,000	1,520,700	3,720,000	558,000	2,257,296	151,800
August ...	{ 1900 ...	5,401,452	5,939,360	3,476,844	3,141,376	920,836	5,014,408	2,482,964	6,137,768	2,035,460	3,700,676	1,301,496	333,396	60,172
	{ 1901 ...	—	—	—	167,400	155,000	310,000	775,000	4,650,000	1,357,000	3,100,000	372,000	1,299,982	79,600
September ...	{ 1900 ...	4,917,990	3,870,440	3,271,135	2,685,865	491,785	4,800,320	3,031,245	6,141,450	2,581,250	3,365,040	4,195,005	284,795	32,690
	{ 1901 ...	—	—	—	90,000	75,000	210,000	450,000	3,600,000	1,721,000	2,700,000	240,000	691,574	50,100
October ...	{ 1900 ...	1,077,412	1,939,420	906,332	1,788,304	207,088	2,001,160	1,509,340	2,540,188	1,452,108	1,900,668	531,356	188,272	30,212
	{ 1901 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	229,354	21,600

In view of the account given by the Commissioner, Northern Division, of the crops and the comparatively low level of prices in Gujarát it would seem possible that the extent of relief likely to be needed there has been over-estimated, but the circumstances of Gujarát are so peculiar, the immigration from Native States in particular being an incalculable quantity, that it has not been deemed advisable to reduce the estimates of the local authorities. The Commissioner, Southern Division, considers that relief measures will also be necessary in portions of the Navalgund, Hubli, Kalghatgi and Bankápur Tálukas of the Dhárwár District, but as the estimates of outturn reported for these Tálukas are nowhere below 5 annas on the average it seems to the Governor in Council improbable that need for relief will arise there. The Dhárwár district has, therefore, been eliminated from the estimates.

10. The price of the staple food-grains (bájri and jowári) in the famine districts averaged 17 lbs. per rupee during the 14 months ending October, 1900. As the area on which crops have now failed is not nearly so large as last year, and as crops are good in places both inside and outside the Presidency, the average price is not likely to exceed 20 lbs., and it is proposed to take this as the basis for calculating the future expenditure. On this basis the rate of expenditure may be taken to be Rs. 91 per 1,000 units, and the result is shown below:—

Estimated units to be relieved during January to March, 1901—

District.	Number
Northern Division	8,704,000
Central Division	28,788,000
Southern Division	3,642,000
Total	41,134,000

The cost of the relief at Rs. 91 per 1,000 units will be Rs. 37,43,194, or say, Rs. 37,43,000.

Estimated units to be relieved during the year 1901-02—

District.	Number.
Northern Division	25,065,000
Central Division	77,224,000
Southern Division	14,386,000
Total	116,675,000

The cost at Rs. 91 per 1,000 units will be Rs. 1,06,17,425, or say Rs. 1,06,17,000.

11. The total expenditure under the major head "33—Famine Relief" for the current year amounted to Rs. 2,52,55,000 till the end of October, 1900, Rs. 1,76,47,000 in the Public Works and Rs. 76,08,000 in the Civil Department. The expenditure in the Civil Department during the month of November, 1900, amounted to Rs. 5,92,000, and that during December is estimated at Rs. 3½ lakhs. The expenditure during November and December in the Public Works Department is expected to be about Rs. 10 lakhs. This will bring the total expenditure on famine relief in this Presidency up to end of December, 1900, to Rs. 2,71,97,000, and that for the months of January to March, 1901, is estimated above at Rs. 37,43,000, of which one-third is likely to be incurred in the Civil and two-thirds in the Public Works Department. The total actual and estimated expenditure for the year is thus estimated at

Rs. 3,09,40,000 (Rs. 97,98,000 in the Civil Department and Rs. 2,11,42,000 in the Public Works Department). This estimate

* Rs. 92,64,000 in the Civil Department.

Rs. 1,80,28,000 in the Public Works Department.

exceeds the grants (Rs. 2,72,92,000*) already sanctioned by the Government of India by Rs. 36,48,000. I am directed to request that you will be good enough to move the Government of India to sanction an additional grant of Rs. 36½ lakhs for expenditure during the current year on famine relief in this Presidency, viz., Rs. 5,34,000 for expenditure in the Civil Department and Rs. 31,16,000 for that in the Public Works Department. As regards next year the Accountant General will be instructed to make the necessary provision in the Budget estimates.

12. As regards suspensions and remissions of land revenue the Commissioners have not yet submitted any definite estimates. Their attention has been drawn to the orders on the subject conveyed in the Resolution of this Government, No. 3,265, dated 5th September, 1900, of which I am to append a copy for ready reference. At the close of paragraph 5 of this Resolution it is directed that in cases in which, owing to the small size of the holding or the poverty of the crop, the outturn is insufficient to leave any balance after discharging the year's assessment and supplying the means of subsistence until another year's harvest, the arrears may be at once remitted. The following supplementary instructions have now been issued :—

“ It may be assumed (unless there is some special reason apparent) that arrears for years prior to 1899-1900 should be remitted at once, and in many cases it will be clear that arrears of that year should not be recovered according to the principles which have been prescribed. As regards the current year's revenue, the grant of suspensions will be regulated on the same principles. Those cultivators, however, whose case is covered by the orders in paragraph 5 of Government Resolution, No. 3,265, dated 5th September, 1900, and whose crops for this year are insufficient to justify the levy of the revenue from them, should be granted a remission at once, instead of merely a suspension. In the case of other cultivators not so badly circumstanced, the question of converting suspensions into remissions must await decision until the prospects of the season 1901-1902 are known. Government desire that in dealing with cases of remissions of arrears for past years, the principles already laid down should be followed in a liberal spirit, and the benefit of every reasonable doubt should be given to the cultivator.”

13. This further extensive failure of crops will render necessary remissions and suspensions of the land revenue on an unusually large scale. Many occupants who have managed to pay their way so far will be able to do so no longer. Many who, with a good outturn might have paid part or whole of the arrears of the past year, will not be able to do more than discharge the dues of the year. Thus the collection of much of the revenue of another year will have to be suspended, and the suspended revenue of the past year will have to be remitted to a larger extent than was anticipated. But for the determination of the concessions required it is not, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, advisable to adopt with equity any course other than that which has hitherto been followed. Undoubtedly it is a disadvantage of the rayatwari system that it makes the difficulty of granting this form of relief much greater than it is under a zamindari system. Under the latter the average crop of a tract can be estimated, and Zamindars or Malguzars can be trusted to distribute among the tenants relief to the extent to which they may be severally entitled to it. In this Presidency Government stand to the rayats in the relation of Zamindars to their tenants. The occupants have to be dealt with individually by Government officers. If a rough estimate of the outturn of a tract were adopted as the basis of the remission of a general proportion of the assessment, the necessity for discrimination of individual cases would be obviated only to the extent to which revenue is needlessly sacrificed. All who had any hope of showing that their outturn was below the assumed standard would apply for further remission, and some could no more pay a proportion of the assessment than they could pay the whole. Even if the failure of crops were uniform over large tracts, suspension and remission could not equitably be granted in the same proportion to capitalists and to impoverished cultivators. But the failure except where it is absolute is never uniform, and in the current season the outturn is said to vary in the same villages in Gujarat from 2 to 12 annas, while many fields have not been sown at all. It is the duty of the village officers to record annually the actual facts as regards each field and of Circle Inspectors

and superior officers to test the record. In the circumstances, it is best when there is time to base the estimate of the extent to which remissions or suspensions should be granted on a consideration of the individual cases, but even if a preliminary estimate is based on a conjecture of the average outturn, the actual relief to be given must depend on the circumstances of the individual occupants. It would get rid of no difficulty to fix the amount of revenue to be remitted or suspended in the lump on an estimate of general outturn. The amount would probably be found either too large or too small, but in any case the relief would remain to be distributed according to the circumstances of individuals, and the distribution would have to be supervised by superior officers; if it were left to the discretion of village officers, there would be favouritism and fraud; the most influential would benefit unduly and the most needy would suffer.

Annexure.
Statement showing Rainfall of the season of 1900.

District.	Station.	June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
		Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.
Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	5.24	..	12.57	4.73	8.44	7.86	4.61	3.53	0.80	..	0.63	..
	Dhandhuka	4.77	..	10.42	4.72	6.62	14.15	4.45	3.23	1.00	..	0.43	..
	Dholka	4.90	0.03	14.14	0.91	6.58	13.21	5.03	1.43	0.38	..	0.75	..
Kaira	Kaira	5.56	..	16.16	2.29	9.31	16.64	4.59	2.61	0.65	..	0.71	..
	Matar	5.22	..	14.28	3.75	10.12	16.00	5.05	2.22	0.48	..	0.67	..
	Thasra	6.37	..	13.72	2.18	9.30	14.0	5.43	4.64	0.70	..	0.38	..
Panch Mahals	Godhra	6.82	0.54	14.79	5.32	11.85	16.4	5.54	10.19	0.81	..	0.38	..
	Hajol	5.72	0.08	16.35	3.00	11.74	17.20	5.95	6.08	1.54	..	0.28	..
	Jhalod	5.07	0.27	10.20	3.13	8.72	13.80	5.12	7.30	0.82	..	0.60	..
Broach	Broach	9.09	..	17.72	4.33	8.17	20.46	5.29	8.01	1.44	..	0.25	..
	Vagra	7.38	..	13.81	7.28	0.21	20.37	4.71	7.55	1.32	..	0.24	..
	Jambosar	7.18	..	13.37	2.50	7.9	16.14	4.37	4.09	1.17	..	2.39	..
Surat	Surat	0.58	0.10	21.04	13.38	7.17	17.84	5.78	2.77	1.99	..	0.30	..
	Olpid	7.45	..	18.21	6.29	6.78	14.88	4.58	2.32	1.45	..	0.18	..
	Pardi	13.89	2.85	32.05	32.38	10.78	48.32	11.37	6.29	1.40	..	0.50	..
Khandesh	Dhulla	6.30	0.41	6.77	3.05	3.85	0.84	6.19	3.50	1.24	..	1.02	..
	Jalgaon	5.89	3.03	9.98	9.63	7.33	10.34	6.72	2.36	1.30	..	0.62	..
	Bhusaval	4.48	1.91	9.27	8.05	6.01	7.17	6.01	2.15	1.72	..	0.49	..
Nasik	Nasik	6.15	3.36	8.74	9.43	4.18	10.36	6.04	8.51	3.17	..	0.58	..
	Malegaon	4.35	2.27	4.49	3.70	3.23	3.23	6.86	3.70	1.68	..	0.61	..
	Yeola	4.29	0.61	5.19	10.27	2.85	2.44	7.50	0.80	2.17	..	1.23	..
Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	4.01	0.15	2.87	5.21	2.37	2.71	6.87	3.77	3.50	0.01	1.23	..
	Shrigonda	3.10	4.29	2.09	3.78	1.53	2.19	7.21	0.17	3.01	0.30	1.24	..
	Kopergaon	4.07	4.19	3.05	5.77	2.39	2.67	5.99	0.95	1.82	..	1.28	..
Poona	Poona	6.23	1.77	8.98	13.11	3.95	11.60	5.88	3.10	6.06	1.95	1.47	..
	Ghodwadl (Strur)	4.24	5.90	2.28	0.69	1.61	1.61	8.10	1.10	3.05	0.91	1.30	..
	Dhond	5.38	2.47	3.10	3.15	1.78	1.59	6.82	1.36	3.45	0.72	0.84	..
Sholapur	Sholapur	3.77	6.36	3.88	4.05	4.33	1.23	8.26	4.18	4.03	1.09	1.08	0.05
	Karmala	3.38	4.70	3.91	5.56	2.90	3.01	9.45	0.41	3.52	0.47	1.17	..
	Sangola	3.38	6.44	1.61	3.62	3.72	0.79	7.00	1.43	4.00	3.11	1.06	0.01
Satara	Satara	7.09	4.85	14.38	14.49	7.83	16.89	4.15	1.17	5.90	1.95	0.94	0.62
	Khandala	4.04	1.77	4.07	9.74	2.37	4.38	4.34	1.29	4.37	0.22	0.94	..
	Dahivadi (Man)	3.30	7.02	2.64	3.31	1.76	2.24	6.05	0.18	5.41	0.88	1.49	0.30
Bijapur	Bijapur	4.00	3.97	2.17	4.50	2.54	0.53	7.38	1.34	4.48	1.04	1.00	0.41
	Indi	3.72	6.67	2.72	3.25	4.06	0.68	7.76	2.68	5.27	1.05	1.15	0.36
	Muddebihal	3.96	5.97	2.75	1.97	3.83	1.67	7.41	3.15	6.17	3.08	1.71	0.20
Belgaum	Belgaum	8.67	10.82	15.42	20.29	8.73	24.71	4.78	0.89	6.51	4.26	1.78	0.03
	Athni	2.87	2.85	2.31	1.05	2.37	2.43	5.34	1.63	4.70	1.34	1.25	..
	Murgod	4.19	2.78	3.51	4.74	2.20	5.64	5.05	..	5.30	2.19	1.46	..

NOTE.—The rainfall shown under "Normal" is the average of eleven years—1887 to 1897.

No. 59.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 709, dated Bombay Castle, 22nd February, 1901.

In reply to your telegram No. 170, dated 16th January, 1901, and in continuation of the telegram from this Government No. 226, dated 18th idem, I am directed to state for the information of the Government of India that the Commissioners, Central and Southern Divisions, have reported that the recent rain has not improved the situation in any of the affected districts in their Divisions, and that consequently no modification can be made in the forecast of relief expenditure for those Divisions.

2. The Commissioner, Northern Division, however, intimates that there is no ground for hoping that the forecast for that Division was unnecessarily high in all districts except Surat, and requests that the estimates of numbers on relief for the Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Kaira and Broach Districts, previously furnished by him, may be reduced by 23, 15, 50, and 50 per cent. respectively.

3. These reductions necessitate the following modification in the forecast of famine expenditure in this Presidency, as reported in paragraph 11 of my letter No. 54, dated 7th January, 1901 :—

—	Forecast as already Reported.	Forecast as now Framed.
Revised estimate for 1900-1901 :—	Rs. in Thousands.	Rs. in Thousands.
Civil Department	97,98	97,98
Public Works Department	2,11,42	2,09,07
Total	3,09,40	3,07,05
Budget estimate for 1891-1902 :—		
Civil Department	35,39	33,28
Public Works Department	70,78	66,56
Total	1,06,17	99,84

4. I am to request that you will be so good as to move the Government of India to make the requisite modifications in the estimates in accordance with the figures given in the foregoing paragraph.

No. 60.

Letter from the Government of Bombay to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India in Council, No. 1,256, dated Bombay Castle, 19th April, 1901.

About the middle of November last, when, owing to the failure of the autumnal rains, it became evident that this Presidency would be subjected to another season of scarcity, we directed the Commissioners of Divisions to submit reports on the situation with estimates of the extent to which relief would be

required in their respective charges. On receipt of these estimates we addressed to the Government of India a consolidated report* for the Presidency on the agricultural situation and future requirements in respect of famine relief. We have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of this report* and of a further letter, No. 709, dated 22nd February, 1901,† to the Government of India, modifying the previous estimates in the case of Gujarát.

2. We have now the honour to report for your Lordship's information that the actual numbers relieved during the last three months have fallen far short of the estimates. This result is mainly due to the crops having yielded a better out-turn in several districts, to prices having generally remained much lower than was originally anticipated, and to extensive emigration from the affected parts of the Deccan and Karnátak to more favoured tracts in British as well as Native States territory. In the circumstances it now seems to us improbable that so much relief as was anticipated will be needed in the current and subsequent months, but the local officers in Gujarát apprehend that the grass seed, on which large numbers of people have subsisted for some months, will soon be exhausted, and that distress will then be widespread. Although the low range of prices still prevailing does not seem to support the view of the local officers, it will, in our opinion, be safer not to reduce their estimates largely before the expiry of the time when the exhaustion of the grass seed was expected. We also consider it desirable to see how the situation will be affected by the completion of the rabi harvest. By the close of this month we expect to be in a position to revise, if necessary, our previous estimates of the numbers to be relieved, and of the relief expenditure for the current financial year. We shall report our proceedings in due course to the Government of India and to your Lordship.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) NORTHCOTE,
E. C. K. OLLIVANT,
J. MONTEATH.

No. 61.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 1389—17-9, dated Simla, the 15th May, 1901.

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to address you as follows in regard to the extent to which famine relief is being given in the Bombay Presidency.

2. So far as appears from the latest information which has been received, the apprehensions entertained last January of a marked rise in prices have fortunately not been fulfilled. It was then feared that grain would rise to 20 lbs. per rupee, and this rate was taken as the basis for estimating the probable famine expenditure. Grain is now obtainable in Guzarat at from 34 to 38 lbs. per rupee, a marked fall having occurred within the last four months. In the Deccan prices are higher, ranging from 25 lbs. per rupee in Bijapur and Satara to 27 lbs. in Ahmednagar and Sholapur. These rates represent a fall of from 10 to 20 per cent. on those which were current last January. They are lower than those current in some parts of the Central Provinces, and very much lower than those with which the people of those provinces were making shift six months ago.

3. Of British districts relief is being given most largely in Sholapur and Ahmednagar, where between 8 and 9 per cent. of the population are dependent

* See page 173. † See page 182.

on Government. The percentage is between 4 and 5 in Kaira and the Panch Mahals and between 2 and 3 in Ahmedabad, Poona and Bijapur. Elsewhere in British territory the amount of relief granted is not considerable. But in the Native State of Jath it is actually supporting 25 per cent. of the population. Numbers have fallen very largely in Sholapur since January last and there has been a considerable decrease in Poona. In other districts they have been rising more or less rapidly, the increase having been proportionately largest in Guzarat in spite of low prices. Taking all British districts together the numbers on relief have risen from 187 to 312 thousands within the last four months.

4. The Government of India fully appreciate the danger of relying too absolutely on prices as an indication of the condition of the lower classes. They realize that a calamity such as last year's famine cannot pass over the country without leaving in its track large numbers of destitute persons who can only find in prosperous seasons a chance of finding for themselves. In present circumstances the grant of gratuitous relief on a considerable scale is no doubt necessary if fresh suffering is to be prevented, and the Government of India have no wish to interfere with any measures which the Government of Bombay may consider necessary for affording such relief in the way either of cash doles or cooked food. But relief is now being given to the able-bodied to a larger extent than the pitch of prices would *primâ facie* justify, and care seems necessary to provide that it is really restricted to those who need it. Experience has shown that such work tests as can be enforced are not an entirely reliable means of discriminating between the deserving and the undeserving, especially in the case of those who live near the works, and I am to ask that measures may, if possible, be taken to scrutinize those who come to the works from a distance of five miles or less and to eliminate by the personal discrimination of enquiring officers those whose condition and apparent circumstances do not entitle them to State charity.

No. 62.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1507, dated Bombay Castle, 3rd June, 1901.

[Extract.]

With reference to the last sentence of the despatch from this Government to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 1256, dated 19th April, 1901,* of which a copy was forwarded to the Government of India with my letter No. 1262 of the 20th idem, I am directed to submit the further report promised regarding the estimates of numbers on relief and of expenditure.

In paragraph 2 of the despatch referred to above it was remarked that the actual numbers relieved during the months of January to March in this Presidency had fallen far short of the estimates. The following are figures for those months and the month of April and first fortnight of May :

Month (1901).	Estimated Relief Units.	Actual Units Relieved.	Percentage of Actuals to Estimates.
January	8,795,700	5,280,000	60
February	11,317,300	4,972,080	43·9
March... ..	18,434,600	6,600,405	35·8
April	21,518,718	7,500,654	34·8
May (1st fortnight)	11,819,797	4,701,228	39·7

* See page 183.

Taking Gujarát alone the proportion of actuals to estimate rose from 25·5 per cent. in March to 46·3 per cent. in April, but in the Deccan and Karnátak on the other hand it declined from 38·2 to 32 per cent. The rate of increase in the numbers relieved from week to week during the month of April and the first two weeks of May is shown below :—

For Week ending				Units Relieved.	Weekly Increase.
30th March, 1901	...	...	...	1,457,246	—
6th April, 1901	...	...	...	1,619,996	162,750
13th "	...	...	...	1,781,346	161,350
20th "	...	...	...	1,970,493	189,147
27th "	...	...	...	2,128,819	158,326
4th May, 1901	...	...	...	2,269,155	140,336
11th "	...	...	...	2,432,073	162,918

It will thus be seen that there has not been that extensive development of distress or rapid rise in the numbers on relief which was expected to occur after the conclusion of the rabi harvest and the exhaustion of the grass seed, on which large numbers of people, especially in Gujarát, were reported to have subsisted during the earlier months of the year. This favourable result is mainly due to the low range of prices, which continued to decline till the end of April last, but have since assumed an upward tendency. In the following table are compared, for each district, the average prices of jowári and bájri as they stood in the first week of January with those in the last week of April and the first two weeks of May :—

District.	Week ending 5th January, 1901.		Week ending 27th April, 1901.		Week ending 4th May, 1901.		Week ending 11th May, 1901.	
	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.
Ahmedabad ...	Lbs. 33½	Lbs. 30½	Lbs. 37½	Lbs. 34½	Lbs. 35½	Lbs. 34	Lbs. 33½	Lbs. 31½
Kaira ...	33½	32½	38	38½	38½	38	37½	34½
Panch Maháls ...	32½ (maize).	32½	34½ (maize).	35½	32½ (maize).	36½	32½ (maize).	36
Broach ...	30½	28½	37½	31	36½	31	36½	31
Surat ...	33	23 (rice).	32	13 (rice).	32	—	32	—
Khándesh ...	29½	26	33½	32	33	32	32	31
Násik ...	20½	25½	28½	28½	26½	28½	—	28½
Ahmednagar ...	20½	24½	26½	26½	25½	25½	26½	24½
Poona ...	23½	24½	27½	26½	27½	25½	26½	25½
Sholápur ...	23½	25½	25½	26½	25½	26½	25½	25½
Sátára ...	21½	22	24½	25½	23½	24½	23½	24½
Bijápur ...	20½	—	25½	—	25	—	24½	—
Belgaum ...	22	18 (rice).	24	18 (rice).	25	—	24	—
Dhárwar ...	22 to 28	16 to 22 (rice).	26½	20½ (rice).	26½	—	26½	—

It is probable that the rise which has now commenced will continue till the prospects of next kharif season are assured.

Looking to the rate of increase in numbers during April and the first half of May and the level of prices, the Governor in Council considers that it may be safely assumed that if next monsoon is favourable, the actual numbers on relief during the current year will not exceed 40 per cent. of the original estimates. The following revised estimates for May and subsequent months are accordingly proposed :—

Month.	Original Estimate of Units.	Revised Estimate of Units.	Percentage of Revised to Original Estimates.
May	23,639,000	9,900,000	41.8
June	22,983,000	9,500,000	41.3
July	19,353,000	7,500,000	38.7
August	12,182,000	4,500,000	36.9
September	9,783,000	3,500,000	35.7
October	251,000	251,000	100
Total	88,191,000	35,151,000	39.8

In paragraph 10 of my letter No. 54, dated 7th January last, the cost of relief was calculated at Rs. 91 for 1,000 units on a basis of 20 lbs. as average price. The actual cost during the months of January, February, and March works out to—

Month.	Rs.
January	115 per 1,000 units.
February	92 " "
March	83* " "

* The rate for March is approximate, as the total actual expenditure for the month is not yet known.

The expenditure for these three months taken together comes to Rs. 96 per 1,000 units, while the prices of the staple food-grains have, during the same period, ranged between 27 and 29 lbs. on an average. The rate of expenditure is thus very high as compared with the range of prices, but this is mainly due to the fact that the cost of supervising small works is comparatively high, and to the necessity of maintaining large establishments to meet possible influxes on to works, and of ensuring effective supervision of subordinate officers employed on village inspection and relief. The duty last mentioned has been peculiarly difficult and important in parts of Gujarát, where it has been necessary to discriminate carefully between those persons who, though requiring relief, could not be persuaded to go to a distance for work, and those who, while able to make a livelihood, were only too eager to seize the opportunity of getting relief with little exertion at the expense of the State. The heavy expenditure on establishments has not, however, escaped the notice of this Government, and their officers are on the alert to keep it down. Figures of expenditure for the month of April are not yet available, but the rate per 1,000 units is likely to diminish with the increase in numbers. At the same time, as the prices already show a tendency to rise, it would not, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be safe in calculating the expenditure for the current financial year, to assume

a lower rate than Rs. 83 per 1,000 units. Although actuals may be less with increasing numbers during May, June, and possibly July, yet when numbers begin to fall the estimate will again, in the later months, very possibly be exceeded. Adding the actual numbers relieved in April to the revised estimate for subsequent months proposed in paragraph 3 above, the total comes to 42,652,000 units, and the cost of relieving this number at the proposed revised rate of Rs. 83 per 1,000 would be Rs. 35,40,000 in round figures. Assuming a normal monsoon the expenditure on famine relief in this Presidency during the current year is not likely to exceed this amount.

In connection with the revised estimates proposed above, your letter (No. 1389—17), dated 15th May, 1901, regarding the extent to which famine relief is being given in this Presidency, has been considered by the Governor in Council, and I am desired to communicate the following observations.

As already reported in my letter (No. 54) dated 7th January last, there was very extensive failure of crops in the last season in a large part of this Presidency, and it is not therefore the case, as would appear to be suggested in the letter under reply, that the effects of the famine of the previous year are all that have to be dealt with. In the letter referred to the estimates of outturn in the several districts were also reported, and it was shown that over large areas in the Deccan the crops had failed no less disastrously than in the previous year and in 1896—97. Reference was also made to the exceedingly patchy character of the crops in Gujarát, where the outturn varied from village to village in the same taluka, being as low as 2 annas in some and as high as 12 annas in others, and there was even noticed as much difference between one field and another in the same village. Communications are now so extensive that good crops in other parts of India keep prices low; but the fact that prices are low does not dispense with the need for aiding those who have had no crops and who cannot get private employment. This Government has held the view that with cheap food distress was not likely to be so severe as the District Officers anticipated, and that the sudden exhaustion of grass seed in Gujarát which was expected by them was not probable, and that view has proved correct. But there is no indication that relief has been given unnecessarily for any length of time, checks being constantly applied. The attention of the Commissioner, Northern Division, was directed by this Government, at the very commencement of this year, to the low level of prices in Gujarát, and the replies to this reference showed that relief was indispensable, but was being restricted within the narrowest limits compatible with safety. In Gujarát the total numbers on relief are, after all, insignificant, and the system adopted there is described in the report of the Commissioner, Northern Division, forwarded to the Government of India with my letter (No. M.—444) of the 28th ultimo. This report shows that great care is taken to send on to large works any of the able-bodied class who are inclined to take unjustifiable advantage of the village works. In the Deccan there has been no change of the system carried out with success in previous years, and, in particular, no relaxation of tests.

The numbers have been prevented from rising to a much higher level than they have only by the subsistence in Gujarát of many persons on grass seed, the abundance of which is due probably to the unfortunately large area which has been left untilled in consequence of the disastrous mortality among the cattle. In the Deccan no such means of subsistence exists. Large numbers have emigrated, or, in those districts where the crop failure was only partial, have taken advantage of such opportunities of private employment as were available. In this part of the country the works have been few and large, and whenever any work has been found to become unduly popular as a source of employment to the immediate neighbourhood, the tendency has been corrected by drafting to more distant works. It has to be remembered that in Sholapur, Ahmednagar, and other severely distressed districts of the Deccan, the present is the third famine in five years. In such circumstances the conditions necessitating extensive State relief cannot fail to arise at a much lower level of prices than when the failure of crops follows a series of prosperous years. In judging as to the extent to which relief is required, the Local Government has had to rely, and has relied with confidence, on the judgment of the district officers helped

by those of the Sanitary Department, as to the condition of the people. The danger of demoralization has, however, never been forgotten, and all classes of officers have been on their guard against the grant of relief without discrimination.

No. 63.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3069—17-12, dated Simla, the 30th July, 1901.

Now that prospects are more assured and labour is in demand for field work, I am directed to suggest the expediency of giving relief workers an effective stimulus to return to their ordinary avocations. The Government of India realize that it is owing to the uncertainty of prospects that the commencement of the Monsoon has had so little effect in decreasing the attendance at relief works, and they have noticed with satisfaction the reduction in numbers shown by the telegraphed returns for the 20th July. There are no doubt areas in which cultivation is still impeded by want of rain and where it would be hazardous to curtail relief very largely. But generally the rainfall of the Deccan districts is up to normal and the latest information available indicates that crops are flourishing. In Gujarat rain has been light and irregular. But good falls have been registered during the past week at Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Surat and prospects must have substantially improved. Prices in Gujarat are much below famine level, grain being obtainable at from 16 to 18 seers per rupee. In the Deccan, prices are higher ranging from 11 to 13 seers per rupee, rates which are, however, easier than have of recent years been associated with severe famine. The condition of the people is reported to be generally satisfactory, save in some limited areas of Ahmednagar and Sholapur. The death-rates of these two districts for June were under 2 per mille, and in only one of the affected districts (Ahmedabad) was the death-rate as high as 2·32.

2. In these circumstances it appears to the Government of India to be very doubtful whether the State is justified in spending on famine relief about ten lakhs of rupees a month. —The latest returns give the numbers on relief at half a million of whom nearly 3,50,000 are still employed on works. In Native States there has been a fall in numbers since the first week of June, but in British districts numbers are in spite of the recent reduction, still higher by 15 per cent. than six weeks ago. The numbers on work relief show a small decrease, but those gratuitously relieved have increased by 50 per cent., owing in most part to a large extension of State charity in the Khandesh district, where numbers have risen from 10,000 to 40,000 though prices are easy and there is believed to be no distress in the adjacent districts of the Central Provinces and Berar. Labourers who have been maintained through the hot weather months in fair condition may of course be expected to take advantage of the demand for field labour which springs up with the rains. When, owing to high prices, the usual cash wages have lost in purchasing power, labourers of the poorest class may reasonably be assisted by the grant of gratuitous relief to their children, or to some of them, and it is in acknowledgment of this that gratuitous relief is ordinarily expanded during the rains. It may be urged that owing to a contraction in cultivation the demand for labour is short of the normal. But losses in population have very considerably reduced the numbers of labourers for employ.

3. I am accordingly directed to commend to the consideration of the Government of Bombay the suggestion that the time has come for a very substantial reduction in the numbers of the able-bodied relief workers, to be brought about either by materially increasing the stringency of the terms of employment or by personal elimination of those who are in good physical

condition. If the former course is adopted and the task is raised, care should be taken to exempt the weakly, who should be separately ganged, and tasked, if indeed this is not already the case. It is probable that the raising of the task can be advantageously combined with a certain amount of personal elimination as the officer introducing one measure can himself undertake the other. As already stated when field wages at present prices provide insufficient grain for the subsistence of labouring families, assistance may reasonably be given by the grant of doles to some at all events of the non-working members.

No. 64.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine). No. 819-P., dated Poona, the 9th August, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3069—17-12, dated 30th July, 1901, suggesting the adoption of certain measures calculated to bring about a very substantial reduction in the numbers of the able-bodied relief workers in this Presidency, and in reply to state that the Commissioners of Divisions have been requested to report immediately to what extent they are in a position to give effect to the suggestions of the Government of India.

2. When your letter was written the latest figures which the Government of India had before them were those for the week ending 20th July, 1901. The daily average numbers of relief workers for that week are compared below with the numbers telegraphed for the week ending the 3rd instant—

—	Week ending 20th July, 1901.	Week ending 3rd August, 1901.
Ahmedabad	19,560	14,525
Kaira	23,616	4,733
Panch Mahals	9,507	5,812
Broach	665	Works closed.
Sholapur	61,977	62,240
Ahmednagar	75,790	79,817
Poona	22,557	21,656
Khandesh	1,415	1,418
Nasik	6,691	5,655
Satara	13,184	13,905
Bijapur	20,731	22,896
Belgaum	12,544	13,937

The good rain which has recently fallen in the kharif tracts in Gujarat has already caused a substantial reduction in Kaira. The decrease in Ahmedabad and the Panch Mahals is not so large, but a further satisfactory reduction may soon be expected in those districts also. In the Deccan and Karnatak on the other hand the latest figures on the whole show an increase over those of the week ending 20th July, 1901. This is due to the fact that in the Eastern Deccan where famine is most acute rain has hitherto been very partial and the

kharif crops are there of small importance as compared with the rabi. In this tract the numbers are likely to remain high as in previous famines until the month of September, when the prospects of the kharif harvest and of the rabi sowings are assured. As has been previously reported to the Government of India, as the present year of scarcity is the second in succession and the people had not time to recover from the effects of the famine of 1896-97 before they were overtaken by a similar calamity, the people require to be treated with a certain degree of leniency, and the level of prices does not afford a correct gauge of the necessity for relief.

3. I am at the same time to observe that the situation everywhere is being carefully watched and every effort is made to restrict relief to what is absolutely necessary. The large increase in the numbers on gratuitous relief at Khandesh noticed by the Government of India had attracted the attention of this Government, and I am to append a copy of their Resolution No. 1866, dated 1st instant, on the subject for the information of the Government of India. On works the weakly are separately ganged and tasked and the rest paid according to results, but the Commissioners will be desired to direct a reduction of the rate for work done wherever they consider that private employment is available for such as may leave the works.

4. I am to add that attempts have been made to weed out from large works those who do not appear to be in need of relief in accordance with the suggestion made in paragraph 4 of your letter No. 1389—17, dated 15th May, 1901, but such attempts have hitherto been attended with a very small measure of success. In a recent report the Commissioner, Central Division, observed as follows :—

“The Collectors were asked to take steps to give effect to the orders of the Government of India for the elimination from works of those who are not fit objects of charity, but no appreciable reduction in numbers has been effected anywhere. It is difficult to exercise any such discretion except in the most obvious cases, and reliance must be placed, as in the past, on the maintenance of discipline and the rigorous exaction of tasks.”

Enclosure in No. 64.

Extract from the Proceedings, to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 1866, dated 1st August, 1901.

Government memorandum to the Collector of Khandesh, No. P—724, dated 17th July, 1901 :—

*Week ending	Daily Average Numbers.
22nd June	15,545
29th June	25,542
Increase	9,997
6th July	34,196
Further Increase	8,654

“The undersigned presents compliments to the Collector of Khandesh and is directed to observe that the weekly returns in famine Form 17 for Khandesh for the weeks ending 29th ult. and 6th inst. show a large increase* in the numbers on village gratuitous relief in that District. The Collector is requested to be good enough to furnish Government with an explanation of this large increase.”

Letter from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1550, dated 22nd July, 1901 :—

“With reference to Government memorandum No. P-724 of the 17th instant to the address of the Collector of Khandesh, I have the honour to state that the increase in the number of dole recipients had previously attracted my notice and was made the subject of a reference to the Collector. The rise in numbers is explained by him as due to the admission to dole of all Bhil cultivators in Nandurbar, Pimpalner, Taloda, Navapur, Shahada and Shirpur Talukas. This measure of relief will probably not be necessary after the end of August, when it is expected the maize crop will be ready. The Collector is satisfied that no fraud is being practised by subordinates. The lists have been checked by Mr. McIver as well as Mr. Vernede, and both are constantly moving about and supervising the distribution of doles. The former looks after the Pimpalner Taluka and the Navapur Petha, while the latter has Taloda and Nandurbar in his charge. Mr. Vernede will also scrutinise the Shahada lists and Mr. French will be asked to examine those for Shirpur.

"2. Government wished that small works should be carried on simultaneously with the grant of dole, but, owing partly to rain and partly to weeding operations being in progress, it has not been found possible to give effect to this order and the people are leaving the small works. The Pimpalner Road works and a forest work in Shirpur are almost the only works which are drawing a few hundred persons each. Liberality in the matter of dole is, in the Collector's opinion, keeping down crime and inducing the Bhils to stick to their villages. In about six weeks more the numbers on dole in all probability will begin to fall, and I hope that Government will concur in the Collector's view that until then no reduction in the numbers on dole should be attempted. Even as the numbers are at present, they can hardly be regarded as excessive for five talukas where there was great distress last year. The effect on crime is most satisfactory."

RESOLUTION.—Some extension of gratuitous relief to members of aboriginal tribes in the rains is admissible, but there should be selection of those in need of it. The admission to the dole of all Bhil cultivators in five talukas and one petha, which involves the gratuitous relief of many who in the dry weather did not find it necessary to seek employment on works, seems to go beyond the necessities of the case. Efforts should be made to restrict the dole to those who cannot obtain other means of livelihood, and tagai for subsistence should preferentially be given to cultivators who, though requiring temporary aid, are likely to be able to repay advances.

No. 65.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3242—17, dated Simla, 26th August, 1901.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter No. P.-819, of 9th August, 1901, on the subject of the contraction of famine relief in the Bombay Presidency, I am directed to express a hope that the conditions now prevailing in Gujarat, where prices have now fallen in some places to 20 sirs per rupee, will render it possible to close all relief works by the end of this month and to gradually withdraw gratuitous relief by the end of September. The Government of India appreciate the effect of previous calamities on the people of the Deccan, but I am to suggest that, after the middle of next month, relief might cease to be given to the able-bodied, gratuitous relief continuing in gradually decreasing extent for a month or six weeks later.

No. 66.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2040, dated Bombay Castle, 9th September, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 3242—17, dated 26th ultimo, on the subject of the contraction of famine relief in this Presidency, I am directed to state for the information of the Government of India that unless the monsoon takes any unfavourable turn there is a fair hope that relief of all kinds will be closed in Gujarat and Khándesh by the end of this month.

2. As regards the rest of the Central Division and the Southern Division, I am directed to forward a copy of the Resolution* of this Government passed on the reports received on the subject, and to state that the Governor in Council is convinced that it would not be safe to

* No. 2032, dated 7th September, 1901.

adopt more stringent measures for the contraction of relief than are proposed in the orders. I am to point out that in 1896-97, as well as 1876-77, the need for

relief in the Eastern Deccan, including Bijápur, continued to be very great in September; indeed in Bijápur the maximum of relief given was reached in September of 1897. In the current year the kharif prospects are better, but in many places are not good, and in any case agricultural labour is not needed on an extensive scale until the season of weeding rabi crops. With every desire to meet the wishes of the Government of India, this Government feel that a summary closure of all works in the middle of the current month in the Eastern Deccan would be disastrous. Agricultural labour is both more remunerative and more agreeable than labour on relief works, and when enough of it is available the people will not remain on relief works.

Enclosure in No. 66.

No. 2032, dated Bombay Castle the 7th September, 1901.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 8502, dated 15th August, 1901 :—

“With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 1908, dated 12th instant, the Commissioner, Northern Division, has the honour to remark that the numbers on relief works for the week ending 10th August have sunk—

In Ahmedabad to 4,728,

In Kaira to 727.

“2. The question in those two Districts is therefore rapidly ceasing to be a practical one. In the Panch Mahals, after a great drop on 3rd August, the numbers have slightly risen on 10th to 5,865, and the Collector is being consulted.”

Letter from the Commissioner, S. D., No. F.—735, dated 16th August, 1901 :—

“With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 1908 of the 12th instant, calling for report as to the extent to which the suggestions of the Government of India can be given effect to, in regard to the reducing of able-bodied workers on the relief works, I have the honour to reply as follows.

“2. Experience in the Belgaum and Bijapur Districts, during the famines of 1896–1897 and 1899–1900, indicates that people in these parts do not remain on relief works when the need for relief is over. In 1896–97 the number in August in Bijapur was 104,301, in September it was 103,483, but owing to sufficient rainfall in the last week of September and subsequently it fell to 19,786 in October, and to less than 2,000 (1,286) in November. In Belgaum in 1896–97 very much the same thing happened, and in the famine of 1899–1900 the works were voluntarily abandoned in a similar way.

“3. The famine-stricken regions in this Division are, normally, for by far the greater part, rabi. Consequently the rain for them and the time for cultivating them and the time when people would find employment in the fields has not come yet. Had good rain already fallen throughout the area, the people would no doubt have sown a deal of kharif in rabi land, but the rain has not, by any means, everywhere been good enough to enable the people to sow kharif in even all the land that in a normal year is sown with kharif, and a good deal of such kharif as has been sown is now in a precarious condition.

“4. Consequently, I am afraid that we cannot at present hope to reduce at all the number on our works, as there is no sufficient field labour or any other employment for them, and they would remain in their houses and fall into bad condition.”

Letter from the Collector of Ahmednagar, No. F.—3776, dated 17th August, 1901 :—

“With reference to your memorandum No. F.—1691, dated 14th instant, I have the honour to report that in consideration of the good physical condition of the able-bodied workers on relief works there will be little danger in raising the present tasks by 25 per cent. for earthwork. In my opinion the present tasks for metal-breaking should not be raised. I recommend the raising the tasks for earthwork, because Classes I, II and III are now capable of turning out more work. I do not think there will be any large demand for field labour for some time, probably until the kharif harvest is about to be reaped. For this reason it is not wise to effect a substantial reduction in the number of relief workers by a system of elimination on a large scale. The raising of the task will probably effect a small reduction and will make the people eager to leave the works at the first opportunity. And this is, I think, all that can be safely done at present.

"2. It is the unanimous opinion of my Assistants and myself that there is no scope at present for a substantial reduction in the dole lists."

Letter from the Collector of Sátára, No. 7112, dated 17th August, 1901 :—

"I have the honour to reply to your Memorandum No. F.—1691, dated the 14th August. I regret I do not see how it is feasible at present in this District to eliminate people from the relief works. In the first place, in the period between one harvest and another the need for relief increases steadily and surely because the resources of people, who have any resources (in the way of small stocks of grain) to start with, get gradually exhausted and obviously cannot be replenished until the next harvest. In the second place, though in a district in which relief works are managed according to the famine code and a minimum wage, sufficient to support life in reasonable comfort, is paid, it is probable that large numbers of lazy people may be attracted to a relief work, yet this is not the case in a district like Satara, in which there is no minimum wage and people are paid by results.

"When payment is made by results on a relief work, the wages earned are less than an agricultural labourer could earn in the open market. There is an obvious incentive therefore to an able-bodied labourer to abandon relief work in favour of agricultural labour at the first opportunity; and I have heard of many cases of people deserting their relief work and going to distant villages where employment could be found. They returned, however, as soon as their agricultural work was completed. Another reason for not adopting severe measures for the elimination of able-bodied persons from relief works in this district is that a very large proportion of the workers are women and children, and there are generally a good many non-working children attached to them. There is, therefore, a difficulty in finding enough men to enable us to arrange gangs properly. This difficulty would be increased if many of the men were eliminated, and on the other hand elimination of women would have an unfortunate effect on the children dependent on them.

"In a District in which relief works were numerous it might be possible to arrange to have distance test, and to refuse to allow people to attend relief works near their homes. But this is out of the question in Satara at present, for there are only three relief works, and one of these is in a hilly taluka with a heavy rainfall, and another will have to be closed shortly on account of the completion of the work. Another expedient would be to increase the task. I am prepared to do this at once with your permission in the Patan Taluka, in which the task assigned is only 75 per cent. of the ordinary famine task. But I do not think we should be justified in increasing the task in the Khatao Taluka (at the Nehar and Goregaon work), where the ordinary famine task is already assigned, until the crops are in a more forward condition.

"In your third paragraph you suggest a reduction of the dole lists. I am having inquiries made with this object. But just as the time before the harvest is the time when the need for employment on the relief works is necessarily greatest, so it is the time when the demand for dole is greatest on the part of those who have been unable to go to relief works."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1719, dated 21st August, 1901 :—

"Copies submitted to Government with reference to their Resolution No. 1908, dated the 12th instant.

"2. The Collector of Ahmednagar considers that there will be little danger in raising the present tasks by 25 per cent. for earthwork, no change being made in the task for metal-breaking. The Collector of Satara proposes a similar enhancement of the tasks in the Patan Taluka only.

"3. Subject to the rule for the separate ganging and tasking of the weekly, the Commissioner considers that these suggestions may be approved from and after the week ending 31st instant.

"With reference to paragraph 2 of the Resolution, the administration of the dole has been recently very carefully inquired into and the relief is well administered, and, where necessary, on the lines indicated."

Letter from the Collector of Nasik No. 11040, dated 21st August, 1901 :—

"I have the honour of replying to your No. F.—1691, dated 14th August, 1901.

"2. One of the main obstacles in the way of contracting relief operations has been the continued dearness of food-grains as compared with normal rates. Twenty per cent. above normal is not unusual; and this is the level at which Section 11 of the Famine Relief Code implies that famine may be regarded as imminent and relief measures called for.

"3. But the present conditions are peculiar. Even in Yeola, where there has been very little rain, the poor-house is not overfull, and the taluka contributes but few persons to the relief works in the neighbouring talukas of Chandor and Sinnar.

The death-rate, too, continues normal everywhere. These facts prove, I think, that the standard of living and the rate of wages have adjusted themselves to meet the high prices prevailing, and that, when agricultural work is possible, the labourer can earn a living wage.

"4. Moreover, unless the rains stops abruptly (as it did in 1896), the kharif harvest over a large area should be fair to very good, and may be expected to begin about the end of September or soon after. In other parts the crops have been kept alive by frequent showers, but are nevertheless backward, and the harvest will probably be late. And in Yeola, Eastern Sinnar, and a quadrilateral roughly bounded by the Satana-Malegaon Road, the Malegaon-Manmad Road, the northern boundary of Chandor and Chandor-Satana Road, there has been very little rain indeed, and some land still remains unsown.

"5. I consider, therefore, that in Igatpuri, Dindori, Peint, and Nasik all relief may be discontinued after the end of this month; except, perhaps, the Nasik poor-house, of which more presently. I do not think that any material hardship would be occasioned by adopting the same course in Nandgaon and in the part of Kalvan and Baglan west of the Chandor-Satana-Pimpalner Road.

"6. In the east of Kalvon, Baglan and Malegaon (exclusive of the quadrilateral already referred to), in Niphad and in Chandor, I hold it advisable to continue relief till the end of October. It might be discontinued earlier, if Government insist; but, if so, they must be prepared for a possible rise in the death-rate.

"7. In the areas mentioned at the end of the paragraph 4 above, I am at present quite unable to say when relief can stop. All the elements of famine are present—high prices, scanty rainfall, a bad outlook for harvest, scarcity of employment. But, as I have said, the death-rate keeps down. If relief is discontinued in these areas shortly it must be only a tentative cessation, and the mortality must be carefully watched.

"8. The small work in south-west Malegaon (Sonai Tank) is full. Admissions are made at the discretion of the officer in charge, the works in best case having to make way, if necessary, for new arrivals in poor condition. The Odal tank work in Chandor is not very largely patronised; but, as I have said in paragraph 6, it would be well to keep it open till the end of October, if only to take drafts from the Nasik poor-house. The Sinnar-Wavi Road has some 3,500 people on it, and here a difficulty has arisen which to some extent accounts for the steady increase of dole recipients. People come to this work who are obviously not so feeble as to require the special treatment meted out to the weakly, the hill-folk, &c., but whose inclusion in the other gangs is keenly resented by the stronger and more able-bodied workers lest their admission should reduce the wage-earning capacity of the gangs. I have referred this to the Executive Engineer, with a view to employing this intermediate class on a lower task. The forest demarcation works in Kalvan and Baglan have been completed.

"9. The poor-houses in Nasik and Yeola should be kept open at present, people from the former being drafted to the Odal Tank: and, in order to prevent their persistent return at the earliest possible opportunity, I think it would be well to refuse re-admission to sturdy beggars, and to deal with such under Section 109, Criminal Procedure Code. This would tend to a decided abatement of the beggar nuisance. At present I think there can be no doubt that many people well able to earn a living are, by choice, living by means of charity, poor-house relief, and petty theft.

"10. I have given relief to the needy of the Nasik weavers at their own trade, but have warned them that they cannot expect this after funds run short, which will probably happen next month.

"11. I beg, therefore, to inquire whether you approve the suggestions contained in paragraphs 5 to 9 above."

Reply of the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1743, dated 26th August, 1901 :—

"In reference to No. 11,040, dated the 21st instant, from the Collector of Nasik, the Commissioner has the honour to reply as follows.

"2. The Collector's proposal that relief should cease after the 31st instant in the following areas is approved :—

Talukas Igatpuri, Dindori, Peint, Nasik, and Nandgaon, and in the Kalvan and Baglan Talukas, west of the Chandor-Satana-Pimpalner Road.

"3. It is presumed that in the above the Collector wishes also to include West Sinnar.

"4. In the rest of the District relief should cease gradually as the situation improves, and a further report should be submitted by the end of September next. The closure of the poor-houses must be left to the Collector's discretion."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1744, dated 26th August, 1901 :—

“Copies submitted to Government for information in continuation of this office No. F.—1719 of the 21st August, 1901. memorandum* quoted in the margin.”

Letter from the Collector of Khandesh, No. F. 1367, dated 23rd August, 1901 :—

“With reference to your memorandum, No. F.—1691, dated 14th instant, I have the honour to report that I had already anticipated the orders of the Government of India embodied in their letter quoted in the preamble of Government Resolution, No. 1908, dated 12th idem, and issued orders accordingly, directing contraction of famine operations in West Khandesh.

“2. Finding that the agricultural outlook had greatly improved, and a demand for labour was arising, I first gave orders on the 3rd August to cut down the dole list, so as to set free such of the dole recipients as could obtain agricultural employment in the fields. These orders have resulted in reducing the number of doles by 29 per cent. Further on, when I found that the prospects were well assured, that maize was fast ripening, and roots and vegetables were available almost everywhere, I directed, on the 15th August, that in Nawapur and Sindkheda, where the Bhils could be left safely to themselves without any assistance from us, the doles should stop from date of receipt of the orders, and that in other places they should be further reduced, retaining on the list only such cultivators, not exceeding two in each family, as would not be able to carry on their operations without our help. I have further directed that in all other talukas the doles will close by 31st instant except in Pimpalner, where, as previously reported, they will continue till 15th September next.

“3. Moreover, I found that the special rates of wages were not needed on the relief works, and that the time had come to make the conditions of the wage more stringent; so on the 11th August I asked the Executive Engineer to reduce the wages to the level of the Code rates, and make payments strictly in proportion to the work done. I have also closed the Nandurbar-Bhadwad Road work, and other works will follow suit.

“4. The effect of these orders will, I hope, be noticeable in the returns for the week that closed on the 21st. It will thus appear that every endeavour has been made to reduce the famine operations and restrict the relief to where it is absolutely needed, and that nothing is now left to be done in reference to suggestions of the Government of India.

“5. Since writing the above I have heard from the Divisional Forest Officer that all the Forest Famine Works which were in progress in Nandurbar, Shirpur, and Taloda Ranges, have been closed.”

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1751, dated 27th August, 1901 :—

“Submitted to Government in continuation of this office memorandum quoted in No. F.—1744 of 26th August, 1901. the margin.”

Letter from the Collector of Sholapur, No. D.—2761, dated 20th August, 1901 :—

“With reference to your memorandum, No. F.—1691, dated 14th instant, I have the honour to report that, in my opinion, until the kharif crop has been reaped, no reduction of the dole lists is possible. The present system of relief must be continued as it is till the end of September, by which time the kharif crops will have ripened and the prospects of the rabi crops will be fairly definite. As this District has suffered from successive famines and scarcity since 1896, the resources of the people are exhausted, and they deserve the most lenient treatment. Strict instructions have, however, been issued to all Relief Head Karkuns not to admit to dole any persons who are fit and able to maintain themselves, and to strike off the lists any such who have crept in.

“2. As regards the contemplated reduction in the number on works, all that is possible is being done. The numbers, I am glad to report, have already commenced to go down.”

Reply of the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1752, dated 27th August, 1901:—

“The Collector is requested to be good enough to state whether at least on some works the task may not be raised for earthwork by 25 per cent. It should not be so raised without the previous permission of Government. Prices are easier and prospects in some talukás good, and no hardship would apparently be caused by the raising of the task. The Collector’s opinion is therefore invited on the subject after consulting the Executive Engineer.”

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1753, dated 27th August, 1901:—

“Copy, with a copy of the Collector’s letter, submitted to Government in continuation of this office memorandum quoted in the margin.”
No. F.—1751, dated 27th August, 1901.

Letter from the Collector of the Panch Maháls, No. 5775, dated 23rd August, 1901:—

“With reference to your No. 8533 of 16th August, 1901, I have the honour to state that the daily average number of persons on relief works for the week ending 10th August was 5,815 and not 5,865 as stated in your memorandum. The figures were thus identical with those of the previous week, 5,812.

“2. Nearly the whole of the workers were in the Eastern Maháls. In the Western Maháls there was only the Godhra-Baroda Chord Line work, which has now been closed. The reason why there was no decrease in the Eastern Maháls was that the rains had not been sufficient up to the dates of the reports under reference. The people had not therefore had much incentive to leave the works.

“3. I am very desirous of reducing the numbers as soon as practicable. But it is the opinion of the local relief officers that few of the Bhils have grain in their houses, and until the ‘samo’ is ready, which will be in about three weeks from this date, it is not safe to turn the people off the works without some fear of deterioration which has already been noticed in some parts of the Division. The local demand for labour cannot be expected to take off many of the workers, as there are few well-to-do cultivators who employ labour, while the cultivation on the lands belonging to the Bhils themselves, which is not of an elaborate nature, has been performed by the members of the families who have remained at home.

“4. There has now been good rain in Dohad and Jhálod, and, with the near approach of ripe ‘samo,’ it will be safe to begin to get the people off the works in the next week, and I shall take steps to do so. I propose to close works which do not appear absolutely necessary, and on others to reduce the wage. As regards the Muwália Tank, the only large work now remaining, I am now in consultation with the Executive Engineer.”

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 8822, dated 31st August, 1901:—

“Copy submitted to Government with reference to this office No. 8502, dated 15th instant.”

RESOLUTION.—The orders issued by the Commissioner, C. D., to the Collector of Násik in his memorandum No. F.—1743, dated 26th August, 1901, are approved.

2. The proposals for raising the tasks by 25 per cent. in the Ahmednagar District and in the Patan Taluka of the Satara District, contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1719, dated 21st August, 1901, are also approved. The report of the Collector of Sholapur called for by the Commissioner in his memorandum No. F.—1752 of the 27th idem, regarding the raising of the tasks in that District, and the report for the Poona District, which has not yet been submitted, will be awaited.

3. The Commissioner, S. D., should be requested to consider at once whether it would not be safe to raise the task in Bijapur as has been done in Ahmednagar and is likely to be done in Sholapur and Satara.

No. 67.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C. I. E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3478—17—16, dated Simla, the 23rd September, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 2040, dated the 9th instant, regarding the contraction of famine relief operations, I am directed to say that the Government of India learn with satisfaction that the grant of relief of all kinds in Gujarat and Khandesh will probably terminate by the end of the current month.

2. As regards the operations in other parts of the Presidency, I am to invite the attention of the Governor in Council to paragraphs 144 and 153 of the Report of the Indian Famine Commission, 1901, and to state that the policy therein formulated for the administration of work relief during the monsoon season has been accepted by the Governor General in Council and that it is trusted that the Government of Bombay will give it due effect.

COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE—SUSPENSIONS
AND REMISSIONS.

No. 68.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine, No. 1058—171-1-F, dated Simla, the 23rd May, 1900.

The Governor General in Council is aware that the policy of the Bombay Government this year in the matter of land-revenue suspensions and collections in Gujarat and elsewhere has been the subject of considerable criticism in the public press, and has called forth numerous memorials and representations, some of which have reached this Government. His Excellency in Council is also aware from the monthly proceedings of the Bombay Government that the officers charged with the duty of giving local effect to the instructions of the Government have felt considerable doubt as to whether those instructions will not result in a degree of pressure upon the revenue payers that must seriously militate against the return of agricultural prosperity after the immediate effects of the drought have passed away.

2. The Governor General in Council is ordinarily reluctant to interfere with the details of the administration of the land revenue in the Bombay Presidency, and he is sensible that in adopting the policy which has given rise to so much controversy the Presidential Government have been actuated by a wish to guard the fiscal interests of the imperial exchequer. He is anxious, therefore, that the present communication should not be regarded as a censure on the line of action which has been pursued, but rather as an enquiry whether, in view of the present emergencies of the agricultural population in the Northern Division, a somewhat more liberal policy in dealing with the land revenue question may not with propriety be adopted.

3. The Governor-General in Council is deeply impressed with the magnitude of the calamity which has befallen the districts of Gujarat, and with the many and obvious signs that the spirits and energy of the people have given way under the unparalleled losses which they have sustained. Destitution not only has befallen the small and struggling cultivator, who measures his resources by the crop of each year, but it has also extended to classes who in ordinary years are more or less independent of the vicissitudes of the season, and enjoy good credit at reasonable rates. Credit, the Governor-General in Council believes, is virtually dead at present in Gujarat so far as agriculturists are concerned. Jewelry can only be disposed of with the greatest difficulty and at ruinous rates, and assets which were once easily realisable at fair market values are greatly depreciated. These facts, though they appear to have been questioned* in the early months of the famine, are now matters of common notoriety, and must be accepted as elemental truths in any discussion as to the

*Bombay Government's Resolutions, No. 8370, dated 23rd November, 1899, and No. 236, dated 16th January, 1900.

resources of agriculturists whose crops have failed and whose cattle have died this year.

4. The principles laid down in the latest orders of the Local Government

Bombay Government Notification, No. 82, dated 8th April, 1900.

that suspensions should not be granted to persons who are able to pay the revenue "without inconvenience or difficulty," and that "no coercion should be used to recover from an occupant assessment which he cannot pay out of resources other than those needed for the efficient resumption of agricultural operations" are theoretically reasonable. So also is the underlying principle that in granting or refusing suspensions of revenue regard should, so far as may be practicable, be had to the general financial circumstances of individual revenue payers and their respective ability to meet the Government demand from resources other than the actual crop of the year. But the practical application of these principles in a year of widespread destitution is exposed to two difficulties. In the first place, if rigorous discrimination is insisted on, it devolves minute and inquisitorial inquiries as to the circumstances of thousands of petty farmers upon already overworked revenue establishments, and it opens the door, as the Famine Commission of 1878 pointed out, to the evils of personal favouritism and official corruption. In the second place, the issue of such inquiries is so largely a matter of opinion that it is liable to be largely influenced by

Report, Part II., Section III., paragraphs 5 and 8.

any general views which the Government may be thought to entertain as to the amount of revenue to be collected within the year. The remedy for the first difficulty is not to insist upon a rigorous discrimination or a close investigation of individual resources, but to accept a somewhat broad classification of the revenue payers with reference to their obvious circumstances. The remedy for the second is for the Government to show that it wishes to be liberal, or, at least, to give the divisional and district authorities permission to suspend revenue up to a definite sum in the aggregate.

5. The Governor-General in Council is constrained to think that the instructions and observations contained in the orders of the 23rd November, 1899, and of the 16th January, 1900, are calculated, even when read in the light of the explanatory orders of the 8th April last, to create the impression that a rigorous discrimination, and a close and jealous scrutiny of assets, are made essential preliminaries to granting postponement of the current year's demand in the distressed districts. If such an impression has actually been created, it is antecedently improbable that the procedure of the district and taluk officers, acting in compliance with instructions thus interpreted, will result in liberality to the revenue payers. The Governor-General in Council has not observed that any definite indication has been given by the Government to its officers as to what proportion of the total demand of the year may with propriety be suspended. In some other provinces, on occasions of widespread drought

necessitating large postponements of the demand, the Local Government has found it convenient to settle a limit of this kind for the division or the district in consultation with the Commissioner or the Collector, and on a general consideration of all the attendant circumstances. Within a limit thus fixed, the Divisional Commissioner is free to apportion the amounts to be suspended in each district, and the Collector does the same for each taluk in his district. Discrimination between one village or another, or between individual revenue payers, can then be more readily pursued and with better results, so far as it may be thought necessary ; but it usually takes the form of excluding a small and well-defined majority of well-to-do persons, who by common repute are fully able to pay the demand "without inconvenience and without difficulty."

6. In commending this course to the Governor in Council for his consideration, the Government of India desire to express their opinion that a considerable proportion of the year's land revenue demand should be suspended in Gujarat. The incidence of the land revenue on the cultivated area in several of the districts of Gujarat is exceptionally heavy, and the assessment has been admittedly made on the supposition that these districts were practically immune from any such drought as periodically visits the lightly assessed Deccan. The circumstances of Gujarat in the present year are thus quite as abnormal as the circumstances of the Chenab irrigation tract in the Punjab would be were the headworks to be temporarily injured, and the tract thereby reduced to a desert. In the latter case, the revenue would under the system of assessment in force in the Chenab tract automatically disappear ; but, even were it legally leviable, the idea of attempting to collect any large portion of it would be regarded as wholly wrong and impolitic. Yet the case is sufficiently analagous to that of the highly assessed and now barren lands of Gujarat to enforce the argument in favour of treating the revenue payers of Gujarat this year with special liberality.

7. The effect which the Government of Bombay may be disposed to give to these suggestions will, it is foreseen, depend in a measure upon the extent to which the land revenue may have already been realized. As to the progress of the collections up to date, the Government of India have no knowledge, and they would desire to be informed on this point. They also desire to learn what decrease in the budget estimates of land revenue for the current financial year is likely to occur by reason of any action taken on this letter. My recent telegrams with regard to the probable requirements of the Government of Bombay for advances for seed and cattle will have acquainted His Excellency the Governor in Council with the decision of the Government of India to come to the aid of the agriculturists of distressed tracts in a very special manner. In connection with this measure, they are anxious to ensure that the policy of the several Local Governments in the matter of the collection or postponement of the land revenue demand shall be so shaped so as not to impede or interfere with the effect of the measure, but rather so as to co-operate with it in restoring agricultural prosperity.

No. 69.

Letter from J. Montcath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2599, dated Bombay Castle, 21st June, 1900.

I am directed to request that you will be so good as to submit for the consideration of the Government of India the following remarks with reference to your letter No. 1058—171-1-F., dated 23rd ultimo.

2. It is stated in paragraph 5 that the Governor-General in Council has not observed that any definite indication has been given by this Government to its officers as to what proportion of the total demand of the year may with propriety be suspended. I am to invite a reference to paragraph 12 of the Honourable Mr. Muir-Mackenzie's letter No. 124-Fam., dated 2nd October, 1899, in which an estimate was given of the maximum amount of which the collection was likely to be suspended in the Northern Division, to which Division your letter of May 23rd makes especial reference. In the letter above referred to the proportions for the several districts of this Presidency are definitely stated. The first step which is taken in this matter of revenue collection is to desire the Commissioners and Collectors to report how much will in their opinion be recovered in accordance with the general principles prescribed. If the forecasts of these officers are accepted by Government, they of course form the standards up to which they are expected to work. In the case of the four Northern districts of Gujarat, the Governor in Council was, for reasons stated in the letter above quoted and in Government Resolution No. 8370, dated 25th November, 1899, unable to adopt the estimates of the Collectors and therefore prescribed different standards. But in Government resolution No. 236, dated 16th January, 1900, it was explained with reference to further representations from the Commissioner that it was not intended to direct that all the revenue which this Government considered that the occupants in these districts might reasonably be expected to be able to pay should necessarily be recovered; that what was important was to apply properly the general orders which had been given, and that the result would show whether the estimates of Government or those of the Commissioner were the more correct.

3. The orders referred to are those contained in Government Circular No. 9704, dated 2nd December, 1896, and Government Resolution No. 98-Fam., dated 9th January, 1897, and the method of applying them is explained in Government Resolutions No. 236, dated 16th January, 1900, and No. 1965, dated 7th April, 1900. The general principle adopted is the same as that stated at the close of paragraph 5 of your letter, but the classes of people who are *primâ facie* held to be not entitled to concession are somewhat more definitely designated. Besides occupants who have reaped crops of fair value, with regard to whom there is presumably no difference of opinion, they are non-agriculturist occupants, who are in other words, or at least for the most part, money-lenders, mortgagees, who are almost invariably men of capital, and occupants who are by common repute well-to-do. As regards the last, it has been directed that they should have the benefit of any doubt. To these people only are even notices issued; the rest are not presumed to be able to pay without borrowing, and if revenue is collected from any of them, it is because they or people on their behalf pay of their own accord. So far it is clear that no minute and inquisitorial inquiries such as are referred to in paragraph 4 of your letter are involved in this Government's procedure. If, however, people of the classes above described, who may *primâ facie* be held to be able to pay, refuse to comply with the notices issued to them, the burden of proving their inability clearly rests upon them, and of course further inquiry is necessary. To such an extent only do the principles applied by this Government involve proceedings which can in any sense be called inquisitorial, and in the opinion of his Excellency the Governor in Council they are not open to objection, and cannot be avoided unless payment is made a mere matter of option. It may be observed, however, that for the purpose of these proceedings as well as for a satisfactory classification of the kind above described the officers of this Presidency possess special qualifications. An Assistant or Deputy Collector is required to travel at least seven months in the year, and generally does travel more. He visits every part of his charge, and comes within easy reach of every village as a rule twice a year. A Collector also generally travels through every taluka once in a year. These officers have, therefore, a closer acquaintance with the people and their circumstances than is usual in most of the other parts of India. It has been ordered that the question whether distraint should be resorted to in any case is to be decided by an officer of not lower rank than that of Assistant or Deputy Collector, and in these circumstances personal favouritism and official corruption in this matter are practically impossible.

4. The Governor in Council cannot but think that the course which has been followed in this Presidency differs in no material respect from that which is commended for his consideration. If, however, there is any misapprehension, this Government will be glad to know precisely what amendment of the procedure is desired, and will most willingly adopt any measure by which his Excellency the Governor-General in Council may consider that the revenue which is equitably recoverable can be collected with less inconvenience to the people. There is certainly no wish on the part of this Government that the landholders of the Bombay Presidency should be treated with less liberality than those of other parts of India. Executive officers are universally in sympathy, and are aware that Government is in sympathy, with cultivators, and are most anxious to do all that is possible to promote the prosperity of that class, and to avoid anything calculated to have the opposite effect.

5. Undoubtedly according to present indications distress in Gujarat is very much more severe than was anticipated by this Government to be possible in a province of such reputed wealth, and it has been necessary to abandon the standards of revenue recoverable which seemed exceedingly moderate when compared with what had been realized in less favoured and equally-afflicted tracts of country in 1896-97 with no more pressure than was required to check organized opposition. The revised estimates of the Collectors are shown in column 3 of the accompanying statement, and now form the standards up to which it is thought these officers will be able to work. The Governor in Council cannot at present say that any other standards would be more suitable, and if they are not adopted, the only alternative in the direction of greater liberality is to forbid any further pressure in the collection of revenue.

6. But for the purpose of assisting the Government of India to form an opinion as to the propriety of adopting such a course I am directed to bring the following facts to the notice of the Government of India. The preambles

No. 2165, dated 3rd May, 1900. of the accompanying copies of Resolutions quoted in the margin contain the replies of the Collectors

No. 2240, dated 10th May, 1900. of Gujarat to an inquiry made by the Commissioner, N. D., as to whether any considerable section of

the occupants who could afford to pay the assessment were contumaciously withholding it, and there is also appended a more detailed report* from the Collector of Kaira. It will be seen that there is ample evidence of

combined opposition on the part of notoriously wealthy people, and that savkars and merchants have been removing valuable property to Native States, and that even people who have reaped irrigated crops of abnormal value in this year of famine have endeavoured to defeat the recovery of the assessment from them. Vigorous measures were taken by the Collector of Surat, in the greater part of which district there was a considerable outturn of fodder which in the circumstances possessed this year an abnormal value, and a fair yield of grain, and of cotton, with the result that there is now but a small balance of the year's revenue outstanding. Columns 7 and 8 of the accompanying statement show the collections, and their proportion to the demand in all the districts of the Presidency proper, the figures having been obtained by telegraph for the purpose of this report. The proportion recovered is higher in the Panch Mahals—the poorest district in Gujarat—than in the rich districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and Broach, and the figures for these districts offer a remarkable contrast to those for all districts of the Central Division except Ahmednagar. The amount shown for Ahmedabad is said to include adjustments on account of remissions for enhanced assessment. It is doubtful whether the amount recovered in that district is equal to the assessment of the irrigated land, which is not far short of one-tenth of the whole occupied area, and is of course more highly assessed than other land. The facts that the revised estimates of the Collectors of the four Northern Gujarat districts are very far short of the original estimates of Government and that the collections in these districts are far short of the lowest estimates which have been framed indicate that the action of the local officers has not been unduly influenced by

any views expressed by Government. It seems more probable that many landholders who are well able to pay their assessment have been encouraged to withhold it by their belief that the Commissioner and some of the Collectors had advocated very extensive suspensions. Proof of the theory is not possible but there is little doubt that when a Collector or Commissioner reports on a matter of this nature the purport of his report or recommendation leaks at once out of his office and speedily becomes public property.

7. The Governor in Council, therefore, is of opinion that if the concession above indicated or any other concession beyond what has been authorised by this Government is granted, it will benefit only wealthy people, and it will strengthen their tendency to organize opposition to the recovery of the revenue, and be productive of trouble and difficulty for many years to come. Cultivators will not profit, for capitalists will only make advances to tenants and debtors when there is favourable rain, and will do so in that case equally whether the Government dues have been discharged or not. But if the concession is granted in Gujarat, there would be no justification for not extending it to the Deccan, which, however, would even thus profit far less, because in it a much larger share of the revenue has already been paid. In his

evidence before the Famine Commission of 1880, Sir Richard Temple said* :—"In Bombay, the people of the Gujarat province, including the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, and Surat, are morally and materially the most prosperous of any province in India." Portions of Gujarat have no doubt suffered in more recent years from unfavourable seasons, floods and other causes, but not more than the Deccan has done even up to the year 1896-97. In that year that Division was in the throes of acute famine, which did not extend to Gujarat. Intervening seasons were less favourable in Sholapur and the East of Poona and Ahmednagar than in any district of the Northern Division, and in this year the loss of crops in Khandesh, Eastern Nasik, Eastern Ahmednagar and Eastern Poona has been not less complete. To these tracts the remarks made at the close of paragraph 6 of your letter apply quite as fully as to any part of Gujarat. That province undoubtedly contains a large number of very poor people, but it also contains a much larger number of wealthy inhabitants than any other part of the Presidency. Many of these persons are prone to make complaints, and the Governor in Council is unable to perceive that Gujarat has a more valid claim than other parts of the Presidency to specially favourable treatment.

8. As already stated column 7 of the accompanying statement shows the collections up to date, and it seems probable that about 11 lakhs more may be paid voluntary, making a total of nearly two crores. If further pressure is prohibited, it will be necessary to reduce the budget estimate of land revenue for the current financial year by at least 37 lakhs. It has been assumed in framing the budget that a considerable portion of the revenue suspended in the current revenue year will be collected before 31st March, but it is improbable that a substantial part of what may be postponed in the circumstances referred to will be readily paid. If the course which has hitherto been followed be continued, and the Collectors' estimates are realized, the collections will still be nearly 18 lakhs below the budget estimate, and this deficiency occurs almost entirely in Gujarat.

Enclosure 1 in No. 69.

Statement of Land Revenue Collections, &c.

District.	Total Land Revenue for Collection.	Amount now Estimated by Collectors as likely to be Collected.	Amount Originally Estimated by Government as likely to be Collected.	Percentage of Column 3 on Column 2.	Percentage of Column 4 on Column 2.	Amount of Revenue now Reported as Collected.	Percentage of Column 7 on Column 2.	Difference between Columns 4 and 3.	Difference between Columns 4 and 7.	Area Irrigated in the Season of 1899-1900.	Area under Cultivation in the Season of 1898-99.
1.	2.	3.	4.*	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Acres.	Acres.
Ahmedabad	15,32,000	5,70,000	12,25,600	37.2	80	3,00,000	19.6	6,55,600	9,25,600	79,451	8,19,162
Panch Mahals	3,25,503	1,22,130	2,60,403	37.5	80	1,17,130	35.9	1,38,273	1,43,273	6,426	4,51,205
Kaira	21,00,000	11,00,000	16,80,000	52.4	80	7,00,000	33.3	5,80,000	9,80,000	41,161	6,33,533
Broach	21,37,465	7,15,154	17,09,972	33.4	80	3,13,000	14.6	9,94,818	13,96,972	997	8,49,335
Surat	23,00,111	22,38,876	20,70,000	97.3	90	22,17,266	96.4	-1,68,876	-1,47,266	4,959	4,14,372
Thana	12,23,518	11,50,000	11,01,166	94	90	10,00,000	81.7	-48,834	1,01,166	3	4,33,819
Ahmednagar	15,81,000	8,81,000	10,51,000	55.7	66.5	5,07,277	32	1,70,000	5,43,723	88,691	23,85,298
Poona	12,07,216	7,04,326	7,07,216	58.3	58.6	6,64,326	55	2,890	42,890	58,378	17,53,388
Nasik	15,50,000	12,25,000	12,24,000	79	78.9	11,00,000	70.9	-1,000	1,24,000	44,312	15,98,431
Satara	19,43,000	14,45,000	11,63,000	74.3	58.1	12,95,000	66.6	-2,82,000	-1,32,000	66,418	14,97,927
Sholapur... ..	11,20,000	8,20,000	9,60,000	73.2	85.7	8,02,000	71.6	1,40,000	1,58,000	1,10,074	18,18,178
Khandesh	41,00,000	30,50,000	28,00,000	74.4	68.3	24,50,000	59.7	-2,50,000	3,50,000	29,583	16,47,444
Belgaum... ..	15,60,000	15,20,627	15,43,000	97.5	98.9	14,74,056	94.5	22,373	68,944	26,243	14,87,454
Bijapur	13,90,000	11,40,000	11,05,000	82	79.4	10,70,000	76.9	-35,000	35,000	10,608	22,60,833
Dharwar... ..	24,81,943	24,50,688	23,48,943	98.7	94.6	24,40,688	98.4	-1,01,745	-91,745	17,530	15,36,149
Kanara	9,87,375	†9,52,375	9,52,375	96.4	96.4	9,46,000	95.8	—	6,375	—	2,10,558
Kolaba	12,82,709	12,82,709	12,82,709	100	100	11,32,709	88.3	—	1,50,000	—	3,97,730
Ratnagiri	8,33,979	8,23,979	8,28,979	98.8	99.4	6,89,800	82.7	5,000	1,39,179	—	16,858
Total	2,96,55,819	2,21,91,864	2,40,13,363	74.8	80.9	1,92,19,252	64.8	18,21,499	47,94,111	5,84,834	2,02,14,674

* Figures in Column 4 are for the revenue year, being the land revenue for that year, minus the suspensions originally estimated by Government to be necessary, not the budget estimates for the financial year.
 † Figure for Column 3 has not been reported by the Collector of Kanara; that in Column 4 for that district has therefore been adopted for Column 3 also.

Enclosure 2 in No. 69.

No. 2165, dated Bombay Castle, the 3rd May, 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., to the Collectors in the Northern Division, No. 3324, dated 26th March, 1900 :—

“ I have the honour to ask if you have any reason to believe that any considerable section of khatedars in your district who can afford to pay the assessment are contumaciously withholding it. If so, I shall be glad to be informed what steps you have taken to break down their opposition.”

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3924, dated 8th April, 1900 :—

Thana Collector's No 2517, dated 27th March, 1900.
Kaira Collector's No. R.-2242, dated 28th March, 1900.
Ahmedabad Collector's No. F.—1309, dated 4th April, 1900.

“ Copy with copies of the replies received up to date from three Collectors submitted to Government for information.”

Letter from the Collector of Thana, No. 2517, dated 27th March, 1900 :—

“ In reply to your letter No. 3324, dated the 26th instant, I have the honour to report that no considerable section of khatedars in this district are contumaciously withholding their land revenue.”

“ 2. There are, of course, a few isolated instances of the kind in which I have ordered either attachment of property or sale of land, and a good number of land-owners, small and large, are putting off payment in the hope of getting suspension or waiting for higher prices for their grain. But in those talukas in which the Mamlatdars have taken sufficient trouble over the matter land revenue has come in very well, and the fact that in some parts the collections are backward is, in my opinion, simply the fault of the Mamlatdars concerned, about whom I shall most likely have something to write later on.”

Letter from the Collector of Kaira, No. R.-2,242, dated 28th March, 1900 :—

“ With reference to your No. 3,324, dated 26th instant, I have the honour to state that I have every reason to believe that a large number of the well-to-do patidars of this district, who, as I am informed, can afford to pay the assessment, are contumaciously withholding it. The only action being taken against them is that orders are being issued for the distraint of their holdings. An effort is, I believe, being made by the sub-divisional officers to take proceedings first against the leaders of the contumacious parties in the various villages in the hope that when the other various people see the influential men being severely dealt with they will become more amenable. In cases of undoubted contumacy, the one-fourth fine will be levied in addition to the amount of the assessment due. I am glad to be able to report that a certain amount of success has attended the action taken, as will be seen from the fact that Rs. 19,532 have been recovered during the week ending 24th instant, as against Rs. 3,510 in the preceding week. The sub-divisional officers are proceeding carefully and making as thorough enquiries as are practicable in each case.”

Letter from the Collector of Ahmedabad, No. F.-1,309, dated 4th April, 1900 :—

“ With reference to your No. 3,324 of 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that considerable numbers who can pay are contumaciously withholding. In some cases moveable property is being attached, in some cases land is to be forfeited.”

Letter from the Collector of Broach, No. Fam.-2,762, dated 12th April, 1900 :—

“ With reference to your No. 3,324, dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, though no combined action under the directions of any organised leading is apparent in the district, every holder who can avoid paying up his dues seems to have made up his mind not to pay it. Mamlatdars have been directed to serve persons who, in their opinion are well-to-do, with notices of demand and the rayats have been informed that if they hold back payment through pure obstinacy their lands will be forfeited. But the fear of forfeiture does not act so readily in the case of rich persons possessed of property as the fear of attachment and sale of their moveable property which consists of gold and silver ornaments and hard cash. Besides, they say that Government will forfeit their holdings and will again give them back free of occupancy price and the arrears. It is under this impression that they have intentionally

withheld payment. I have therefore directed the Mamlatdars that in the case of extreme recalcitration where attachment of moveable property would produce the desired effect to attach it and to follow the usual procedure. I have also directed them to distinctly inform the cultivators that if their lands be forfeited they will never be given back to them but will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder. I have issued these instructions with a direction that this measure should be adopted with very great caution and discretion. I hesitated much before I gave this power to Mamlatdars, but when I found that the savkars and merchants systematically sent out their valuables to the neighbouring states to avoid its being attached, I had no other alternative but to issue the order."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 4144, dated 14th April, 1900 :—

"Submitted to Government in continuation of this office No. 3,924, dated 8th instant."

RESOLUTION.—Recorded.

Enclosure 3 in No. 69.

No. 2240, dated Bombay Castle, 10th May, 1900.

Letter from the Collector of Surat, No. F.-1137, dated the 26th April, 1900 :—

"In reply to your letter No. 3324, dated 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that some sawkars and well-to-do khatedars of the Mandvi, Bardoli, Valod (Mahal) and Olpad Talukas combined to exaggerate their distress and to withhold paying in the assessment. When my camp was at Mandvi I found that the collection of land revenue was proceeding very slowly and that the sawkars and well-to-do had combined to refuse payment of the assessment. The attachment of lands had absolutely no effect as they imagined that the lands would be restored or at any rate recovered on easy terms next year. I accordingly issued warrants for the arrest of three of the leading defaulters—sawkars. One warrant only was executed with the result that Rs. 10,000 were paid in by sawkars on the same day and the combination in Mandvi and the Olpad Sub-Division practically disappeared.

"2. At Valod I found a similar combination among the sawkars which was broken up by the attachment, at my suggestion, of the moveable property of one of the ringleaders.

"3. In Olpad and Bardoli Talukas the opposition did not extend beyond passive resistance instigated by the better classes and was broken down by firmness on the part of the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Mamlatdars.

"4. In the Bulsar Sub-Division associations were formed by some of the leading Anavlas of Chikhli, Bulsar and Pardi Talukas, but when the leaders themselves were made to pay the assessment first the rest followed their example and the movement died a natural death.

"5. In the Jalalpur Taluka I found that the Kolis of one village, Bodali, had met in panch and passed a resolution to fine and outcast any who paid their revenue. I called the leading members of the panch and pointed out to them the illegality and the consequence of such action and insisted on their paying first in the presence of the whole village.

"6. It may be said to the credit of the Kali Paraj and poorly classes of cultivators that they did not join in any such movement and in spite of their comparatively limited resources have paid off their dues as far as lay in their power."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 4724, dated 1st May, 1900 :—

"Submitted to Government in continuation of this office No. 4144, dated 14th ultimo."

RESOLUTION.—The Collector should be informed that Government approve of the action taken by him, which in the circumstances was judicious.

Enclosure 4 in No. 69.

Letter from the Collector of Kaira to the Commissioner, N. D., No. R—3434, dated the 9th May, 1900.

I have the honour to return your No. 4364, dated the 21st ultimo, and to report as follows :—

2. The steps taken to collect Government demand this year are these : Early in December last the statement prescribed in paragraph 3 of Government Resolution No. 8345, dated the 22nd November, 1899, was ordered to be prepared for every village. It was ready by the beginning of January, and notices of demand were issued against those who fell into any of the classes specified therein. But they were regarded by the people as mere waste paper. Compulsion had, therefore, to be resorted to, and detailed orders consistent with the declared policy of Government were issued. Forfeiture of lands in respect to which the arrears were due was as a preliminary step authorised. Attachment of moveable property was also allowed only in cases in which it was known to be sufficient to meet with the Government demand without causing deprivation of necessities to the defaulters. The authority to order distrainments was of course restricted to the Sub-Divisional Officers, *i.e.*, Assistant and Deputy Collectors.

3. The above processes were carefully and steadily applied. The better results in the beginning of February were due to them. But the effects were only temporary and a lull began towards the end of that month, as the preliminary step of simple forfeiture was regarded as a mere threat by the people, whose attitude in the matter of collection is well known to you. Day by day it became more astute. So far as my information goes, subscriptions were raised to send deputations and to meet other charges in this connection. Memorials were printed and forwarded to all offices in large numbers by all alike protesting against the levy of assessment this year. All possible obstacles were thrown in the way of Government officials. Valuables were removed to safe quarters or buried. Orders regarding the precautionary measures were openly defied, and crops removed and stored in secure places to avoid attachments. Some of the patels too took a leading part, and I had to set an example by suspending the worst of them. Those who were honest enough to pay were looked upon with utter contempt and threatened with excommunication. They were, however, careful enough to pay punctually the judi due on their inam land to save it from forfeiture. Such land can, however, be legally attached for arrears due on account of Government khalsa land, and orders accordingly issued.

4. More stringent measures were thought necessary, and sales of forfeited lands were ordered, but I am happy to say not a single sale has up to now been allowed to be completed. In test cases, distraint of moveable property was ordered, and in the worst cases action had to be taken under Section 142 of the Land Revenue Code. The steady increase in the flow of collections is the result of these steps, as will be seen from the statement marked "A" appended to this letter. And with a view to deal a final blow at the combination I have ordered the levy of notice fees and $\frac{1}{4}$ penalties in cases of obstinacy after the 15th instant. This, I think, will bring round the Bania, who has hitherto kept in the back ground.

5. In conclusion I beg to bring to your notice the case of the Talukdars, Udhadars, and other large landholders. A heavy amount is due from them, but as yet I have taken no steps against them, as practically they have received no rents this year. The question is engaging my close attention, and I will very shortly decide what to do in their case.

6. The above will, I hope, satisfy you as to the action taken and the results achieved in the matter.

Annexure.

Statement showing total land revenue collections during the year 1899-1900.

Week Ending.		Total Collections During the Week.	Remarks.
3rd February, 1900	... ..	Rs. 49,982	
10th "	" "	33,388	
17th "	" "	14,854	
24th "	" "	22,213	
3rd March	" "	8,762	
10th "	" "	4,044	
17th "	" "	3,510	
24th "	" "	19,532	
31st "	" "	27,597	
7th April	" "	22,248	
14th "	" "	15,941	Decrease owing to Easter holidays.
21st "	" "	24,669	
28th "	" "	30,132	
5th May	" "	34,311	
Total		3,11,183	

No. 70.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine), No. 1409 F. dated Simla, the 7th July, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2599, dated 21st June 1900, reporting on the policy which has been pursued in the present famine by the Government of Bombay with regard to the collection of the land revenue.

2. The figures appended to your letter show that in four out of the five districts in Gujarat, very considerable leniency has in point of fact been exercised in the collection of the land revenue by the collectors, and it is inferred that their estimates for the remainder of the year, though very much below the estimates reported to this Government in October last, are accepted by the Government of Bombay as a reasonable standard which may be attained so long as coercion is kept within strictly reasonable limits, and which will not be exceeded. On these estimates about 30 lakhs remain for collection, of which 11 lakhs more may, it is thought, be voluntarily paid in, if further pressure is prohibited. The prohibition of further pressure will thus affect the sum of about 19 lakhs, and the Government of India are asked as to whether such prohibition is desired or not by them.

3. I am to remark that no suggestion was made in my letter of the 23rd May 1900 that the enforcement of all coercive processes should be stopped. There are undoubtedly cases even in a year of very great distress, in which coercion is justifiable and necessary. The Government of India neither had nor have any intention of interfering with the discretion of the Government of Bombay in the matter.

4. The Governor-General in Council in my letter above referred to confined himself to the general principle that, in a period of widespread and severe distress originating from general failure of the crops over large areas, it is advisable to grant suspensions freely and promptly, and to confine coercive processes to the small and well defined minority of persons who can pay the demand without inconvenience and difficulty. It is urged in your letter that this is the actual practice which has been enjoined on district and divisional officers this year in the Bombay Presidency, and that the procedure described in paragraph 3 does not involve minute and inquisitorial inquiries. If this view of the position be correct, there is no difference of opinion between the two Governments as to the proper policy to be pursued. It is impossible however, to peruse the proceedings of the local Government without being struck with the fact that this estimate of the procedure prescribed for divisional and district officers was not the opinion

Letter No. 3389, dated 27th March 1900, from the Commissioner, Northern Division.

formed respecting it by the officers who were responsible for its application. They appear to have found it a difficult, it not an impossible, problem to divide with accuracy the general body of agricultural occupants in a year of the present severity into those who were not well-to-do, and those who were sufficiently well-to-do to justify pressure to pay. It is of course possible that these officers were mistaken as to the difficulty of the task or that they set about it in the wrong way. But the impression which the correspondence has left on the mind of the Government of India is that the task would have been made easier for them had they been told at an earlier date that the Government had seen cause to reconsider the standard of revenue collections reported to the Government of India in October 1899, and that it was prepared to accept a much lower one. From paragraph 2 of your letter it is understood that the October estimate of collections was communicated to collectors provisionally for guidance. It is now recognised to have been an impossible standard, and has been in practice set aside. But the process of setting it aside has been lengthy, and has been accompanied by much argument and disputation between the Government and its officers, by much uncertainty on the part of the latter as to what the Government actually expected them to accomplish, and by active controversy in the public press, European and Native. These disadvantages might, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, have been avoided, had liberal limits for suspensions been fixed at an early date for each district.

5. In paragraph 4 of your letter it is said that there is no wish that the landholders of the Bombay Presidency should be treated with less liberality than those of other parts of India, and enquiry is made as to what is the practice elsewhere. The correspondence enclosed in this letter will show that in the Central Provinces this year 70 per cent. of the year's demand has been suspended. In the famine tract of the Delhi Division of the Punjab, which is the part of that province most severely affected by drought, more than one half of the demand has been suspended. In the famine of 1897 revenue to the amount of about one and a half crores was suspended in the north-western Provinces and Oudh, the suspensions being distributed over the several districts in proportion to their respective crop losses and their general condition. In the same famine suspensions

* Kurnool.
Bellary.
Anantapur.
Cuddapah.

aggregating Rs. 33,60,000 were given in four Deccan* districts of Madras on the year's demand of Rs. 63,09,000. Had the Madras Presidency this year suffered to the same extent as Gujarat, there is no doubt that, under the rules which are in force in

that Presidency, suspensions would have been given at once, and before the issue of notices, on a very liberal scale, with reference mainly to the extent to which the crops failed in each district, sub-division, or group of villages, and without inquiry into the individual circumstances of the ryots. The Government of India do not suggest that the practice of other provinces in this matter is in all respects suitable to the land-revenue system of the Bombay Presidency. But they think the answer to the inquiry contained in paragraph 4 of your letter is that greater liberality in suspensions of land-revenue is, as a rule, shown in other temporarily settled provinces than has been the practice in the past in the Bombay Presidency. At the same time they willingly admit that the collections

up to date this year in several districts of the Presidency, are practical evidence that a large portion of the revenue demand has been left with the occupants.

6. These observations are confined to the question of suspensions. There is no reason why every suspension should involve ultimate remission of a corresponding amount of land-revenue. The case for liberality and promptitude in the matter of revenue suspensions, when the country is suffering under a wide-spread calamity, is well put in paragraphs 6 and 14 of the letter of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. As regards remissions, however, the case is different. If the land-revenue assessment is light or moderate, if the general condition of the landholders before the famine was good, and if the tract shows signs of prompt recovery at its close, a large portion of the suspended revenue should ultimately be capable of collection. There is then time (which is wanting in the stress and hurry of famine relief) to make careful inquiries into the circumstances of individual landholders; while with the revival of credit pressure on the part of the revenue authorities has then a less injurious effect, and is then accepted as reasonable by the great body of landholders. It seems to the Government of India that, if this distinction between suspensions and remissions is clearly preserved, increased liberality in the matter of suspensions need not necessarily be attended by corresponding loss of revenue.

No. 71.

Resolution of Government, No. 3265, dated Bombay Castle, the 5th September, 1900.

As the revenue year 1899-1900 has now closed, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers it desirable to issue the following further instructions with regard to the collection of land revenue pertaining to that or previous years, and at the same time to call attention to certain provisions of the law which there may be some risk of being misconstrued.

2. If, as is hoped, the harvests of the current year are good, it will be legitimate, and no doubt in many cases expedient, to adopt the precautionary measures authorized in Sections 140 and 141 of the Land Revenue Code. The revenue of the current year is properly a first charge on the crop, and the lien should be enforced where the crop is good and leaves after discharge of the Government dues a balance sufficient for the maintenance until another harvest of the cultivator and those dependent on him. But it is important to bear in mind that this lien is only to the extent of the current year's revenue and the utmost care must be taken to avoid any action likely to lead to the mortgage of the crops on account of arrears of revenue of past years. When the crops are reaped, it will be a question for consideration whether the outturn is or is not such as will enable the occupant, without borrowing, to pay also part or the whole of what is due for the previous year.

3. In any case in which land has not been cultivated owing to the occupant's want of means, the responsibility for the assessment, in consequence of notice of relinquishment not having been given before the date prescribed in Section 74 of the Land Revenue Code, should not be enforced. In almost all such cases it will be in accordance with the principles which have been laid down to remit the arrears of previous years. But care should be taken to confine the benefit of these concessions to persons who, being in actual occupation directly under Government, have not the means of cultivation. Superior holders, whether registered as occupants or not, who are not impoverished, but who, for reasons other than inability to provide the cost of cultivation have allowed land to remain fallow are not entitled to it.

4. In the recovery of arrears, the orders already issued should be very strictly carried out. There should be no further delay in rigorously enforcing the provisions of the law against defaulters about whose possession of means to pay there is no doubt. For the present, others should be in no way pressed. The instruction that no order of distraint, which of course should be held applicable to forfeiture of land, shall be issued by an officer below the grade of Assistant or Deputy Collector must be adhered to pending further orders without any modification whatever, and Government will notice with severe displeasure any departure from it which comes to their knowledge. The Collectors should make all subordinate officers clearly understand that the adoption by them of any measures which are not authorised by the law or orders will meet with punishment.

5. When, however, the condition of the crops is definitely known, it should be considered whether the outturn is such as to admit of the payment of a part or whole of the arrears, as well as of the current year's revenue, without unduly curtailing the cultivators' means of subsistence. Such occupants as get good crops on a considerable area of land, may be able to discharge all their dues without difficulty. In other cases in which the occupants are not clearly well-to-do, it may be desirable to recover a part only of the arrears and leave the balance for levy in future years. In cases in which, owing to the small size of the holding or the poverty of the crop, the outturn is not such as will leave any balance after discharging the year's assessment and supplying the means of subsistence until another harvest, the arrears may be at once remitted.

6. His Excellency the Governor in Council recognizes that considerable trouble will be involved in carrying out these orders, but it is impossible otherwise to combine the recovery of such revenue as in the interests of the State ought to be levied with such relief as may be fairly accorded to impoverished cultivators, and he confidently relies on the officers of Government to spare no pains to secure that object. Timely steps should be taken to obtain such detailed information as is necessary for the purpose, the Circle Inspectors being required to complete their inspections and write up their books without any avoidable delay. As regards the kharif crops Village Form No. 3, Part I., should be filled up by village officers before the end of September. The Circle Inspectors should conduct their inspections and checks of the forms, not merely after the completion of the form by the village officers, but during its compilation, in order that its progress and the genuineness of the field inspections by the village officers may be assured. A second inspection of the rabi-sown areas should be made by the village officers in November, and should be subjected to similar check by the Circle Inspectors. The check should be principally directed to the correct registration of the areas left unsown. Returns of such areas should be compiled number by number for each village and submitted to the Collector under the certificate of the Circle Inspector that he has personally inspected the village and believes the return to be correct. The work of the Circle Inspectors must be diligently supervised and checked by the Mamlatdars and Assistant and Deputy Collectors, as well as by the District Inspector and Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture. As soon as possible after the prospects of the rabi harvest are known, there should be submitted to Government estimates of the amounts likely to be collected on account of the revenue of the year, and on account of arrears, also of the amount of arrears which should be held over for recovery in future years, and of the amount which should be remitted at once.

MORTALITY IN GUJARAT.

No. 72.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine, No. 1010-F. dated Simla, the 18th May, 1900.

Your letter No. 471-M., dated 10th May. Government of India are greatly concerned at terrible mortality shown by March death-rates of districts in Northern Division, and they fear that no improvement has since taken place. They would suggest that expansion of village gratuitous relief and of kitchen relief may possibly be required.

No. 73.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2369, dated Bombay Castle, the 26th May, 1900.

With reference to your telegram No. 1010-F. of 18th instant, I am directed to make the following remarks for the information and consideration of the Government of India in amplification of my telegram No. 678, dated 24th instant, which was as follows :—

“Your telegram 1010-F. of 18th. Extension of dole to people leaving works from illness and to such scared away by cholera as are in danger of starvation has been for some time authorised. This Government having consulted Commissioner think more liberal gratuitous relief would involve great danger of general demoralization and abandonment of works. Letter follows.”

2. The exceedingly high mortality in Gujarát districts has been for some time a matter of the gravest anxiety and perplexity to His Excellency the Governor in Council. The causes of it are still being investigated by the Sanitary Commissioner, to whom all assistance available for the purpose has been offered. The Commissioner, N. D., has expressed the opinion that the general cause is the novel shock of famine to people used to good wages and comparatively luxurious food and easy life. This theory, which has been adopted by some of the Collectors, clearly cannot apply to the Panch Maháls, where the death-rate has been highest, as the great bulk of the inhabitants of that district are more inured to privation than those of any other district in the Presidency. In Ahmedabad and Broach whilst the mortality has been very high the average cost of relief on works has been materialy greater than elsewhere, partly it is believed because the wage was calculated on a basis very favourable to the worker and partly because deduction for short work was not common. So far as experience in any other part of India is a guide, the wage which it is open to every able-bodied person to earn is sufficient for the maintenance of health and strength and the moderate amount of work which is exacted is calculated to be beneficial rather than injurious. Further, the testimony, medical and other, is virtually unanimous that with rare exceptions, almost all of new-comers, the physical condition of people while on the works is good.

3. As regards gratuitous relief this Government have continuously enjoined on the collectors the necessity of giving it to all who are entitled to it under the rules of the Code. It has been directed that in any case in which the death of a resident is considered to be due to starvation it should be explained how it became possible if village inspection and village relief were properly organized. Preference has been expressed for relief by cooked food so far as it is convenient

and practicable, but it has been repeatedly ordered that infirm people should not be required to go an unreasonable distance for the purpose and that the dole should be given to any who have *bonâ fide* scruples about the receipt of cooked food. The need of giving temporary relief to destitute wanderers until they can be sent to a poor-house has also been pointed out, and an order* of which a copy

* Government Resolution
No. 2289, dated 15th May,
1900.

accompanies, has been passed for the conveyance of such persons to a poorhouse and for their compulsory residence there unless or until they are able and willing to work. It has been reported from several districts that people falling ill on works will not go to the hospital but return to their homes. The admission of them to the dole until they are able to work has been authorised, it being at the same time directed that all possible efforts should be made to keep them on the works, such as have a repugnance to the hospital being, if practicable, treated in separate huts. It has also been ordered that such of the very large numbers of people frightened from the works by outbreaks of cholera as are in danger of starvation should receive gratuitous relief, but that the principles enunciated in Sections 49 (f) and 61 (a) of the Famine Relief Code should be adhered to. There can be little doubt that if there is any lax distribution of gratuitous relief to able-bodied people, the works will be abandoned and general demoralization will result. The Commissioner, N. D., reports that "many if not most of the deaths have been among person returning sick from the works or already on the dole or otherwise moderately provided for; most of the remainder are among vagrants, very difficult to deal with." On the whole His Excellency in Council is of opinion that the high mortality cannot be attributed to any undue restriction of gratuitous relief and that no material expansion of it is possible without risk of widespread demoralization.

4. At the same time it is recognized that the situation is exceedingly grave and that no measure which gives promise of alleviation should be omitted. The mortality already high from causes not discovered has been greatly increased by cholera and it can scarcely be hoped that it will be possible to give relief in time to all of the many thousands of people who have deserted the works on account of violent outbreaks of that disease. The Commissioner, N. D., has been authorised to open small village works to the extent to which reasonably efficient supervision, including that of influential non-official gentlemen, is available. It is probable that many who are deterred by fear of cholera from returning to the larger works will accept employment nearer home on somewhat smaller wages. At the same time the larger works on which cholera has been epidemic are closed and others opened in their stead. There have been appointed to Gujarât Districts 33 additional European officers, including six medical men, and one native Commissioned officer to assist in checking the spread of cholera, to induce able-bodied persons in need to go to the works and to see that gratuitous relief is properly administered. Such intelligent native non-commissioned officers and privates as the military authorities can spare are also being employed. It does not appear to the Governor in Council that it is possible to do more with hope of effect or without risk of evil results, but if any other measure likely to be useful suggests itself to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, this Government will willingly try it.

5. Reverting to the question of the probable causes of the exceedingly high death-rates, I am to state that His Excellency in Council hesitates to express any definite opinion until the investigation is complete. There will however be found in another letter which will follow evidence of extensive immigration into at least one district. A large proportion of the immigrants arrive in a reduced and many in a moribund condition. This is especially the case with those attracted to large towns by the hope of private charity, and these will neither go of their own accord to or willingly stay in poor-houses. The deaths of these immigrants disproportionately increase the registered rate of mortality, which is calculated on the resident population. There is however little doubt that the mortality amongst that population is also great. The diseases returned are mainly diarrhoea, dysentery and fever, but the Sanitary Commissioner says that the symptoms as regards the last are not those of famine fever. The unusual brackishness of water in this year of excessive drought which was found to be

injurious to many of the irrigated crops may be also deleterious to the human system. Works on which virulent outbreaks of cholera occurred have been specially mentioned as those which many people previously left on account of illness, and in both cases it seems probable that the cause was to be found in the water. A full report will however be submitted as soon as the investigation is complete.

Enclosure in No. 73.

No. 2289, dated Bombay Castle, the 15th May, 1900.

Resolution.—The Commissioner, N.D., has already been authorised by telegram to direct that all destitute wanderers be taken by force if necessary to a poor-house and compelled to stay there unless or until they are able and willing to work. In the Gujarat Districts, where cholera is prevailing in an epidemic form, a notification under the Epidemic Diseases Act would place the legality of this course beyond question.—But His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that similar action should be taken wherever there is acute famine and that it is justified by the fact that it constitutes the only effective means of saving the lives of these people. In the Report of the Indian Famine Commission of 1880, Volume III, page 181, it is stated with reference to suggestions to give power of compulsion by legislation:—“It does not appear however that the absence of this legal authority hampered officers to any material extent in doing what they felt to be the wisest and most humane thing for these paupers.” It has generally been assumed that a poor-house as distinct from a kitchen is a place where the ordinary inmates are compelled to reside, and effect should be given everywhere to this principle.

2. Separate orders have been or will be issued on the questions of dealing with people who have left works on account of cholera and of supplying more European officers.

Annexure I. to Government Resolution, Famine Department, No. 2289, dated 15th May, 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D. to the Chief Secretary to Government, Famine Department, No. 4738, dated 1st May, 1900.

I have the honour to report the information I receive from the distressed districts of this Division in order to place on record some hint of the conditions the Collectors and their staffs have now to deal with and also for any instructions that Government may be pleased to issue.

2. The Collector of Ahmedabad says the number of starving destitute round the city is “appalling.” They won’t go to the poor-houses of which there are several if they have to stay in them. Nor will they work. The only condition on which they will accept help is that they are allowed to wander away after a meal and hang about the roads for casual charity. The ambulance system started under this office circular of 31st March, of course, only touches them when they have reached the stage of exhaustion. The foolish practice of giving alms without any system is no doubt largely responsible for this. It has drawn and continues to draw the lazy and the vagrant as to a great centre from miles around. Additional troubles are a recent outbreak of cholera in the Government poor-house, and the death yesterday from small pox of Mr. Manibhai Premabhai, President of the Municipality, a most benevolent and energetic citizen, who will be greatly missed.

3. In Kaira cholera has broken out on five large works, and the people are leaving them in large numbers. The problem is what to do with them in their villages. If they are put on the dole right off, every one will leave the works and go home to live for nothing. If not given dole, they will die in crowds. At present the Collector is holding his hand in the hope that cholera will decrease and that there will be a reflux back to the works.

4. In the Panch Mahals the Collector has already officially reported direct to you in his No. 2,523 of 28th ultimo the outbreak of cholera on the Kanelao Tank, the "horror" of which is described by a cool-headed man like Mr. Stewart as "beyond description." The people of course have left and the same difficulties threaten as in Kaira.

5. The only immediate course I have to respectfully suggest is that, if anyhow possible, more European help of the right sort may be afforded. The unexpected difficulty of dealing with people even in the Kaira District who are unwilling to go upon any work indicates the necessity of dividing the district up into smaller sections than hitherto with a superior officer over it responsible for supervision of all phases of famine relief, including village inspection.

Annexure II.

Telegram from the Chief Secretary to Government, Famine Department, to the Commissioner, N. D., No. 409, dated 4th May, 1900.

Your letter 4,738 of 1st instant, paragraph 2. You are authorized to direct that all destitute wanderers be taken by force if necessary to a poor-house and compelled to stay there unless or until they are able and willing to work.

No. 74.

No. 2,407, dated Bombay Castle, the 30th May, 1900.

Government memorandum to the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. M.—505, dated 12th May, 1900 :—

"The undersigned presents compliments to the Collector of the Panch Mahals, and is directed to request that he will be good enough to submit at once a report on the statements contained in the letter from Mr. F. C. Aldrich published in the *Times of India* of the 11th May, 1900, and if they are true, or even approximately true, to furnish an explanation how, and why, and through whose negligence things have been allowed to reach such a pass."

Government memorandum to the Commissioner, N. D., No. M.—506, dated 12th May, 1900—Forwarding a copy of the above.

Telegram from the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), dated 17th May, 1900.

"Attention of Government of India has been attracted to article headed 'Famine scenes in Dohad,' published in *Pioneer*, 14th May, and they will be glad to receive at an early date a report as to the amount of truth there is in this article."

Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 3,122, dated, 22nd May, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to submit the following report on the letter from Mr. F. C. Aldrich, published in the *Times of India* of the 11th instant, as called for in your memorandum No. M.—505 of the 12th instant.

"2. I would premise by saying that neither I nor any other officer in this district has any idea who Mr. Aldrich is. I gather from his letter that he went to Dohad by the only train in the day from A'nand, arriving there at 12.52, and left by the only returning train at 15.43. The result of this visit of something under three hours is a letter which is not only highly coloured, but as misleading as casual observation and most imperfect enquiry could make it.

"3. The Dohad-Limdi Road work being nearly completed, work was opened on the Dohad Tank in the middle of March and in the week ending April 28th there was an average daily attendance of 7,317 workers with a daily average of 936 dependants and children fed in the kitchen. As Government are aware cholera broke out in a very severe form over a great part of the country in the end of April. On May 1st, as cases were reported from Dohad, I went there for the day to see that proper arrangements were made for the prisoners in the jail and inhabitants of the poor-house. There had then been two or three cases on the relief work, but it was hoped that anything like a severe outbreak might be prevented. On the 2nd, however, 54 deaths occurred, and on the 3rd, 67, and on that date Captain Southey who is in

charge of the works in Dohád and Jhálod under the Executive Engineer closed the tank work and made immediate arrangements for opening work on the Dohád-Alirájpur Road at a spot about 4 miles from Dohád town. As a matter of fact men had been working for some days at that spot and at two other places close by, digging wells to secure an adequate supply of water in case an outbreak of cholera rendered it necessary to move the camp. Work was opened at the new camp on the 7th, and subsequently the people were transferred to the Muwála Tank site which is between two and three miles from Dohád. There has been for months a work in progress at Garbádu, 12 miles from Dohád to the south, and since the middle of March a large tank work also at Jhálod, 22 miles to the north. So much for the arrangements for workers. No one was ever transferred to a work 25 miles off. Every one coming was taken on at the nearest work which was less than five miles off.

"4. Next as to people unable to work. From the beginning of January there has been a poor-house in Dohád, not hidden away as one might imagine from the fact that Mr Aldrich fails to mention it, but open to everyone asking for relief and open to everyone to inspect. The average daily numbers in it were 718 in the week ending April 21st, 584 in the week ending April 28th, and 501 in the week ending May 5th, a large decrease, though, as I will show, numbers of people were collected in Dohád town and sent into it. It needs more than a casual visit to appreciate the difficulties of dealing with Bhils. With regular meals they cannot be got to stay in the poor-house, and though given clothing to cover their naked bodies, they sell it and appear as naked again. When I went to the poor-house on the 1st there were holes all round the enclosure where people had broken out during the night urged by fear of cholera or by some wandering instinct which will not let them keep still. Presumably Mr. Aldrich was not informed of the outbreak of cholera, as he says nothing of it. Anyone who knows what it means when cholera breaks out in a camp of 7,000 Bhils, when the sweepers strike and the Hospital Assistant, the only available medical aid, promptly applies for leave as was the case at Dohád, would scarcely be surprised at seeing dead bodies; but the picture presented by Mr. Aldrich's letter is a misrepresentation which, when made without any attempt at enquiry, is very little removed from a deliberate falsehood. In his very first paragraph he presents a terrible scene of starving people sitting down beneath trees to shelter themselves from the pitiless sun. Considering that his visit was at the hottest time of the day when no work is done and everyone seeks what shade can be got, the description is nothing but sensational nonsense. If Mr. Aldrich could speak to the people he would very soon have found out the truth, but as he has lamentably failed to do so, it is but fair to conclude that he does not know the language, and is drawing entirely on his imagination when he retails their statements that there is no one to give.

"5. As to the second paragraph it is true that there were bodies in the nála east of the town. They had been collected there to be burned, but it most emphatically is not true that there was lying in the town the body of a woman who had died two days before. It is also true that the non-official members of the Dohád Municipality have done nothing to help. The richer people of the town promised handsome subscriptions, of which they have paid nothing, and in January, when I camped at Dohád, the Hindus were giving indigestible food to a disorderly mob of people and children without arrangement or method, but that the official members of the Municipality have made no arrangements is not true. From the beginning emaciated people have been regularly removed from the town to the poor house, and when, owing to the almost total failure of the mhowra crop, the number of destitute Bhils thronging into the town increased, it was divided into four regular wards with a special peon in charge of each, and two carts were employed to carry people to the poor-house. When cholera broke out the District Deputy Collector came into Dohád from his camp, and on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th was moving about in the town from 7 to 11 each morning, and on the 4th itself had a dozen carts working. The number of people thus conveyed to the poor-house by the Municipality from within Municipal limits was, for the week ending April 21st, 435, for the week ending April 28th, 350, for the week ending May 5th, 739, the total number admitted to the poor house for the three weeks aggregating 1,911, and the total of those sent to work and those who ran away 1,224. It will thus be seen that it was only by the persistent efforts of the Municipal executive that people could be kept in the poor-house at all. In case the large number of runaways may be ascribed to unkind treatment, I may point out that the same difficulty has been experienced in Jhálod, where for some time a most kindly and sympathetic missionary was in charge of the poor-house, and in Godhra, where the chance of a small handful of grain from some shopkeeper has induced people over and over again to break out of the poor-house at night. The concluding paragraphs of Mr. Aldrich's letter are pure sensation, and do not seem to call for any special remarks. On the day he went to Dohád there were there besides the local officials, viz., the District Deputy Collector and the Mámálatdár, Captain Southey, I.S.C., on duty at the relief camp, and Lieutenant James, I.S.C., who went there especially on the 3rd to look after the poor-house. Mr. Aldrich can scarcely have failed in his walk through the town to see the fort in which the Mámálatdár's office is situated, or the bungalow in which the European officers were living, yet to not one of these officers did he go to enquire what was being done or could be done. Captain Southey writes to me that on the 4th he was engaged the whole morning in collecting from the tank and its vicinity the bodies of those who had died of cholera the previous night and that day, and that in the evening he went round again and could not see one left. He adds that there was great difficulty in getting the work done as the sweepers had all bolted

and he considers that so far from doing nothing, the municipal authorities had got the place cleared as soon as they possibly could. He himself saw the municipal carts at work at 5.30 a.m.

"6. I am sending this report through the Commissioner, who himself went to Dohád on the 5th, and he will be able to say whether the state of things on that day gives any ground for believing the picture presented of the previous day, and I would merely add a hope that Government will not allow an imputation of this sort published in the public press to rest upon officers who had been working for now nearly nine months to save life amongst a people who will not work nor be regularly fed, and who, if they are to be saved at all, must be saved by force in spite of themselves."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 5,640, dated the 23rd May, 1900 :—

"Forwarded.

"The Commissioner can corroborate Mr. Stewart's report of his personal knowledge, having been in Dohad on the 5th, 6th, and 7th May. That distressing scenes were to be witnessed is too true, but nothing else could be expected after such a violent outbreak of cholera, which not only resulted in many deaths on the work, but dispersed 7,000 panic-stricken and destitute people, many of them already seized or about to be seized by the disease. At the poor-house an organised ambulance service was at work, and the poor people, as they were brought in, were either kindly treated in the cholera wards, or, if only exhausted, were fed with milk under the care of a European nurse. All this was as noteworthy as the apathy of the townspeople and the reluctance of the unhappy wanderers to come into the poor-house so long as they thought there was a chance of getting a few grains of corn outside from ill-advised charity. Such was the effect of the efforts made that Mr. Lely, on going through part of the town with Captain Southey on the morning of the 7th to see the site of the new work being prepared at Muwala, remarked to his companion that no one would believe from what they saw that there was so much distress in the country."

RESOLUTION.—In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council the letter of the Collector of the Panch Mahals and the endorsement of the Commissioner, N. D., show conclusively that there are no substantial grounds for the more serious allegations made in a letter signed "F. C. Aldrich," and published in the *Times of India* and *Bombay Gazette* on the 11th instant. In particular it is clear that the persons whose corpses could be seen on the 4th instant were not starved to death but died of cholera, and that there was no avoidable delay in disposing of the dead. The real facts are very deplorable but they could not have been prevented by any exertions on the part of the local officers, while the writer has, through manifestly imperfect information, so distorted them as to make them reflect on the vigilance of these officers, who are carrying out most difficult and unpleasant duties with zeal and determination worthy of all praise.

2. Copies of the letter of the Collector, memorandum of the Commissioner, and of this Resolution, should be forwarded to the Government of India with reference to their telegram of the 17th instant. Copies should also be placed on the Editor's table.

No. 75.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 1,160-F., dated Simla, the 4th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2,369, dated 26th May, replying to my telegram of the 18th May, in which it was suggested that, in view of the great mortality occurring in the Northern Division, an expansion of village gratuitous relief and of kitchen relief might possibly be required.

2. It is stated in your letter that the Governor in Council is, on the whole, of opinion that the high mortality cannot be attributed to any undue restriction of gratuitous relief, and that no material expansion of it is possible without the risk of widespread demoralisation; but that he recognizes that the mortality from causes not yet discovered is very high and the situation exceedingly grave.

3. In suggesting that gratuitous relief should be expanded the Governor General in Council did not intend to imply that it had been unduly restricted in the early stages of the famine, or that the present high mortality was attributable to such restriction. What he perceived was that the widespread prevalence of cholera had made the relief work system of the code obnoxious to the people, that there was very great and increasing distress, and very great and increasing mortality, and that along with this urgent and increasing necessity for greater relief the actual amount of relief given was week by week decreasing. In particular the amount of gratuitous relief given in the Gujarat districts was according to the latest figures,* on a much smaller scale than

* See appended statement A. was accepted as reasonable and prudent in other provinces in 1897, and appeared incommensurate with the current reports as to the debilitated condition of large masses of the people. From these considerations the Governor General in Council could not but feel that the relief system in force in Gujarat, however closely it adhered to the prescriptions of the famine code, failed in point of fact, in the special circumstances of the situation, to cope with the prevailing distress, and required to be reconsidered and supplemented by other expedients. The Governor General in Council has no wish to demoralise the people, but at the present time the paramount necessity is to mitigate extreme suffering and to save life, and this will not be attained so long as, owing to the local unsuitability of the relief system in force, relief contracts instead of expanding.

4. The Governor General in Council believes that there is no difference of opinion on this point between himself and the Government of Bombay. He refers to it in order to assure the Government of Bombay that any measures which they may think proper to take in the direction of temporarily relaxing the rules of the famine code, and of bringing effective relief to the people, will have his warmest sympathy and his fullest support. He still considers that the gratuitous relief figures of the Gujarat districts indicate that this kind of relief will admit of considerable expansion before it reaches the point at which demoralisation among the able-bodied is likely to set in. There must be considerably more than 2 per cent. of the population not on relief works, which stands in need of relief and is not able bodied in the usual acceptation of the term. For the able-bodied employment is obviously preferable to gratuitous relief. The Governor General in Council notices with satisfaction that permission has been given to the Commissioner of the Northern Division to open small works and to relax the rule regarding compulsory residence on large works. It is hoped that these concessions will have the effect of attracting again to work the labour which of late has drifted from the large works and is at present wandering aimlessly about the country. The situation appears to be pre-eminently one which requires large discretionary powers and full liberty of action to be entrusted to the chief controlling authority on the spot. If this is not the case at present, it may be advisable for His Excellency in Council to consider whether greater delegation of powers may not be advantageous.

Statement A showing the numbers on relief in the Gujarát districts of the Bombay Presidency on the 17th March, and 19th May, 1900.

District	Population.	Relief Workers.	Dependants.	Total on Works.	Gratuitous Relief.			Grand Total.	Percentage on Population of Figures in						
					Poor-houses or Kitchens.	Village Doles or other Relief.	Total.		Column 3.	Column 4.	Column 5.	Column 6.	Column 7.	Column 8.	Column 9.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
<i>17th March, 1900.</i>															
Ahmedabad	921,712	92,146	35,429	127,575	8,709	3,996	12,705	140,280	9.9	3.8	13.8	.9	.4	1.4	15.2
Kaira	871,589	67,884	7,582	75,466	5,193	4,608	9,801	85,267	7.8	0.8	8.6	0.6	0.5	1.1	9.7
Panch Mahals	313,417	15,622	2,573	18,195	2,174	270	2,444	20,639	5.0	0.8	5.8	0.6	0.1	0.7	6.5
Broach	341,490	99,400	15,889	115,289	1,424	2,725	4,149	119,438	29.1	4.6	33.7	0.4	0.8	1.2	34.9
Surat	649,989	15,391	792	16,183	—	553	553	18,247	2.4	.1	2.5	...	.1	.1	2.8
<i>19th May, 1900.</i>															
Ahmedabad	921,712	66,716	20,222	86,938	9,164	8,176	17,340	104,278	7.2	2.2	9.4	1.0	0.9	1.9	11.3
Kaira	871,589	53,890	7,437	61,327	3,637	15,239	18,876	80,203	6.2	0.8	7.0	0.4	1.7	2.2	9.2
Panch Mahals	313,417	23,635	4,316	27,951	3,215	4,575	7,790	35,741	7.5	1.4	9.0	1.0	1.4	2.5	11.4
Broach	341,490	59,780	10,191	69,971	2,138	6,296	8,434	78,405	17.5	2.9	20.5	0.6	1.8	2.4	22.9
Surat	649,989	4,669	1,123	5,792	290	2,565	2,855	8,647	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.3

No. 76.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2,586, dated Bombay Castle, the 19th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,160-F., dated 4th instant, communicating remarks on the advisability of temporarily relaxing the rules of the Famine Code with a view to bringing effective relief to the people in urgent need of it. In reply I am to state for the information of the Government of India that copies of the correspondence ending with the letter have been forwarded to the Commissioner, N. D., and he has been authorized to direct such an expansion of gratuitous relief as is desired by the Government of India in all places where the circumstances appear to require it and also to adopt any other measure to which in his opinion immediate effect should be given for the purpose of meeting the difficulties now existing in the administration of relief.

2. With reference to the suggestion at the close of your letter, I am to state that it has been the practice of the Commissioners in accordance with the principle embodied in Section 29 of the Famine Relief Code to issue orders at once in all cases of urgency not involving a departure from a principle of importance, and report their proceedings for approval. This course has been generally adopted by the Commissioner, N. D., in the matter of gratuitous relief, and no objection has been made to any of the directions issued by him; in fact, on recent occasions he has been authorized to show even increased liberality. The reference to Sections 49 (f) and 61 (a) of the Code is not an exception, for it was made with regard to the statement in paragraph 3 of his letter No. 4,738, dated 1st May, 1900, that if people leaving the works on account of cholera "are put on the dole right off, every one will leave the works and go home to live for nothing." When in his instructions to the Collector of the Panch Mahals he said that to those who are able-bodied or only temporarily weak from the want of food "relief cannot be offered except for work without bringing about a yet greater evil than starvation," this Government in their Resolution No. 2,439, dated 1st June, 1900, pointed out that in accordance with paragraph 486 of the Famine Commission's Report, the recommendations contained in which had been ordered to be adopted in the Panch Mahals, the dole must be given temporarily to "persons showing signs of emaciation or physically capable of doing only very light nominal work." Other orders have been issued for the purpose of ensuring that gratuitous relief shall be given to all entitled, and none for the purpose of restricting any measure of relief of this kind proposed by the Commissioner or any Collector. If therefore the last two sentences of your letter are intended to imply that sufficient powers may not have been delegated to the Commissioner and that as a consequence there may have been an undue limitation of gratuitous relief, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to assure the Government of India that such is not the case.

3. I am to add that the process of getting on the dole list such of the people deserting works on account of cholera as are in need of gratuitous relief is necessarily a slow one, but there has been in all the Gujarat Districts except Broach since the beginning of May a continuous increase, and the proportions on the population of persons gratuitously relieved in villages in the week ending 9th instant were as follows :—

Village.	Percentage.
Ahmedabad	3.50
Panch Mahals	5.97
Kaira	2.35
Broach	2.80
Surat (only partially affected) ...	1.77

People are also returning rapidly to the works in all Gujarat Districts and the Collector of Kaira reports that such as he saw on their way back did not seem to have suffered.

Enclosure in No. 76.

No. 2,439, dated Bombay Castle, the 1st June, 1900.

Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 3,071, dated 19th May, 1900 :—

“I have the honour to invite your attention to the diary of the special Aval Karkun of Godhra for the week ending the 11th, which I forward herewith. In forwarding the previous week's diary I pointed out that the Aval Karkun had put on the dole list over 10 per cent. of the population of the villages visited. In the week for which the diary is now submitted, in seven villages, with an estimated population of 2,850 people, he has put on the list 505, or just under 18 per cent. Under existing orders to consider the idiosyncrasies of the people, the Aval Karkun is not wrong, but I desire to point out clearly that the idiosyncrasy here is nothing but a distaste of work. Very many of these people can work and will not. If they are left alone they get gradually weaker and die, and as Mr. Rendall points out, they very soon find out that the alternative to going to a relief work is starvation for a few days and then the dole, or in many cases merely refusal to work and then the dole. Daily payments are being made on all the works, and I have just sent 39 school masters to aid in the payments and have got a large supply of copper. The choice lies between facing an enormous mortality and facing a dole list which means practically the pauperization of the whole district. To avoid the former we are rapidly attaining the latter, and I bring it specially to your notice before things go further.”

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., to the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 5,528, dated 21st May, 1900 :—

“There is no doubt that in your No. 3,071 of 19th inst., you have stated a very real dilemma of famine administration. It is more pressing in your district because of the large population of Bhils and others, who though more civilized in some respects than their compereers elsewhere, retain the aversion to regular life and work which characterized their forefathers.

“2. The following is the course which I think you should take.

“3. Unless you have already done so, I should split up each Special Aval Karkun's charge into smaller sections, more easy of management by one man. You have probably done this already, as several officers have been put at your disposal who know Gujarati and are therefore fitted for this work.

“4. I should then instruct each officer in charge of a section to go from village to village, and assemble in each village all those who had no means of subsistence, including all on the Aval Karkun's list. By preference he should select the day on which dole is distributed. Those who are really unable to work even after a few days' feeding he should confirm on the dole list. Those who are able-bodied or only temporarily weak from want of food he should call up and warn very clearly that Government would not feed them unless they worked and insist on their going to the works. The weaker ones he should send in carts to the works with a note to the officer in charge to take them on at first as nominal workers.

“5. You are I know starting more small works, and this is necessary, for it is too much to ask people of this sort to go at this season of the year, and when cholera is prevalent, 15 miles from their villages.

“6. Something will depend on the personal influence of the officer, but I am not unaware of the difficulties. Many will decline to go or will run away at the first opportunity. To such it seems to me that relief cannot be offered except for work without bringing about a yet greater evil than starvation. The last device of the lazy will be to stay in the village or return to it and share the dole received by the real incapables. You have already, I believe, noted on the readiness with which the Bhil will share his handful of grain with his friends and relations. Something may still be done by insistence and tact on the part of the local officer, and that is in this last resort all we have to look to.”

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 5,529, dated 21st May, 1900 :—

“Copy together with copy of Collector's letter No. 3,071, dated 19th May, 1900, submitted to Government for information.”

RESOLUTION.—The instructions issued by the Commissioner, N. D., are in accordance with the orders of Government, provided the dole is given temporarily to “persons showing signs of emaciation or physically capable of doing only very light nominal work” (paragraph 486 of the Famine Commission’s report), and subject to that proviso are approved. If by “existing orders to consider the idiosyncrasies of the people” the Collector refers to Government Resolution No. 2,069, dated 21st April, 1900, it is not clear that he has correctly understood it. There is no authority in it for giving the dole to people who can work, but the idiosyncrasies of really infirm people entitled to gratuitous relief are to be considered by giving them the dole if they will die rather than go to a poor-house or kitchen.

No. 77.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 1,307 F., dated Simla, the 26th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2,586, dated 19th June, 1900, reporting that the Commissioner, Northern Division, has been authorised to direct such an expansion of gratuitous relief as is desired by the Government of India in all places where the circumstances appear to require it, and also to adopt any other measure which he may consider to be immediately required for the purpose of meeting the difficulties now existing in the administration of relief.

2. The Governor General in Council is relieved to find that this action has been taken, and trusts that it may result in a perceptible diminution of the death-rate, and in ameliorating the condition of the distressed population of the famine districts. He observes that the latest returns from the Presidency show a material expansion of relief under all heads, and he is glad to learn that the relief-workers, whose numbers have of late greatly decreased owing to the mortality and panic occasioned by virulent outbreaks of cholera, are now reported to be rapidly returning to the works in all the districts. His Excellency in Council desires to record again his deep sympathy with the Government of Bombay in the great difficulties which have beset the administration of famine relief in Gujarat, and his anxiety to place at their disposal whatever assistance may be in his power.

3. His Excellency in Council is glad to receive, and readily accepts, the assurance that sufficient powers have throughout been accorded to the Commissioner of the Division. The remarks made in my former letter as to the desirability of such delegation of powers for the successful conduct of a famine campaign were meant to lay stress on a principle of primary importance, which the Governor General in Council could not omit to mention in passing under review the possible remedies for a very exceptional and critical situation.

No. 78.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1,367-P., dated Poona, the 21st July, 1900.

I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India the accompanying copies of reports from the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, and the Panch Mahals on the subject of the causes of excessive

mortality in these districts, together with a copy of the memorandum from Government calling for them. The Governor in Council had hoped to have by this time more complete material for consideration of the question, but the report of the Sanitary Commissioner, which should form the most important contribution, is not likely to be ready for several weeks to come. In the circumstances it is considered desirable to put his Excellency the Governor General in Council now in possession of all the information which this Government have so far obtained. The purport of it has already been communicated, but the detailed reports may be of use.

2. It is impossible at present to gauge the extent to which the recorded rates of mortality have been swelled by the deaths of immigrants, but there is no doubt that the mortality amongst residents has been very high. It would be premature to attempt now an analysis of the causes. But the prominent fact is that the character of many of the classes of the people is such as to render futile all attempts to give them relief on reasonable conditions. The Government of India are aware from copies of the orders which have been sent to them that wherever the progress reports, which have for some months past been submitted every fortnight, or other reports, indicated that a relaxation of test was desirable, it has been promptly directed, and every effort has been made to restrict fines to cases of contumacy. But many would not go to works on any conditions or even remain in poor-houses. It is possible that the mortality might have been somewhat less if all such had got relief in their own homes. But such a course could not have been adopted without the risk of pauperizing the greater part of the community. It has been directed throughout that the recommendations of the Famine Commissioners with regard to aboriginal tribes should be made applicable to the Bhils in the Panch Mahals, and they have been applied in the later stages, but in the earlier stages of the famine these people lived mainly on the flesh of animals which died or were killed by them. Even according to these recommendations, however, the dole can be given temporarily only to such as show signs of emaciation, or are physically incapable of doing the ordinary work. It is exceedingly difficult with such establishment as is available to have this criterion properly applied, and, as is indicated in the letter of the Collector of the Panch Mahals, the digestion of a person subsisting on innutritous food may be ruined before he is considered eligible for the dole.

3. Since cholera dispersed people employed on works, there has been a gradual increase in gratuitous relief, and there are now nearly 218,000 persons in receipt of the dole in Gujarat, the number in the rest of the Presidency being under 103,000. It is impossible to contemplate this fact without apprehension of the ultimate consequences. At the same time, however, very large numbers have returned or gone anew to the works.

Enclosure 1 in No. 78.

Memo. from J. Monteath, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, to the Commissioner of the Northern Division, No. M-269 (Famine), dated Mahableshwar, the 23rd April, 1900.

The undersigned presents compliments to the Commissioner, Northern Division, and in forwarding the accompanying statements of mortality in whole districts, and on relief works, and in poor-houses respectively for Gujarat districts for three months ending February, is directed to point out that, although the mortality on works and in poor-houses has in some cases been excessively high, it in no case amounts to a large proportion of the total mortality, and leaves a very large mortality in towns and villages to be accounted for. The Honourable Mr. Lely is requested to report, after very careful inquiry, whether, in view of these figures, he is able to say that village inspection and village relief are being carried out with proper care and vigilance. If every village is visited every week or 10 days by a Circle Inspector, and the

work of these Inspectors is thoroughly supervised, it is difficult to understand how many people can die of actual insufficiency of food. Some inquiry should also be made as to the registration. Village officers are not ordinarily, perhaps, apt to err in the direction of recording deaths which do not actually occur, but the death-rate in some of the districts has, it is believed, far exceeded that ever recorded in any famine district before, and as no adequate explanation seems yet to have been discovered, inquiry regarding all points which might affect the rate of mortality is necessary. The Sanitary Commissioner is also being asked to make careful investigation of other points.

Enclosure 2 in No. 78.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. F. S. P. Lely, Commissioner, Northern Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, Memo. No. F-365, dated Ahmedabad, the 26th May, 1900.

Two reports from the Collectors of Ahmedabad and Kaira are submitted to Government with reference to their memorandum No. M-269, dated 23rd April, 1900. Reports from the Collectors of Broach and Panch Mahals will be submitted as soon as received.

2. The Commissioner does not propose to forestall the complete summary of evidence regarding the great mortality which no doubt will be made after the famine is over and when there is more time to study the facts. At present he entirely agrees with the estimate of the main causes as given by Mr. Quin and, less fully, by Mr. Gibb.

3. As indicating how a large number of the deaths may be due to causes other than simple "starvation," it may be mentioned that in the Mahipatram Orphanage at Ahmedabad there were 800 children, who were all well fed and in good condition. During the first 20 days of May 150 of them died of influenza or some such disease.

4. For village inspection the staff was sufficient, but their task has been greatly embarrassed by the fact that many refused to go to work who could not be put on dole without demoralizing both them and the rest of the people. This consideration naturally had more weight in the earlier part of the year when there were still many small helps to a living in the villages. Judging by the diaries received, the Inspecting Officers have been active, though it goes without saying that their work has not always been perfect, especially with respect to the large numbers of wanderers from outside which, especially in Ahmedabad, have largely swelled the death roll.

Annexure I.

Letter from M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector of Ahmedabad, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. F-1875, dated Ahmedabad, the 10th May, 1900.

I have the honour to report on the subject of your No. 4608 of 27th April, 1900, below Government memorandum No. 269 of 23rd idem.

2. I append a statement showing the deaths in the different circles for December, January, and February, with monthly rates per mille.

3. It will be seen that far the heaviest death-rates occur in the Viramgam and Prantij (which includes Modasa) rural circles, and in the Ahmedabad, Gogha, Viramgam, and Dholka town circles.

4. The high death-rate in Ahmedabad city and Viramgam and Dholka towns is in great part attributable to the large number of deaths among immigrant paupers. A good many deaths in the rural circles are probably attributable to the same cause.

* I have not verified this.
The high death-rate in Gogha town is probably due to deaths on the work being included.*

5. The death-rate from fever and bowel complaints among people who are not actually famine stricken is large and I should attribute this partly, at all events, to their having to live on less nutritious food than usual. Thus persons who usually can afford a little milk or ghee may be this year only able to afford just enough to buy absolute necessities, and, without their usual small luxuries, fall an easy prey to disease. Numbers of persons who are not accustomed to it, lived on the roots of nulreeds (bir), a diet to which usually only a few of the poorer classes, living near the *nul*, resort. I am told that in Dhanduka there were numerous deaths from bowel complaints due to eating this unsuitable food.

6. In Ahmedabad, and possibly elsewhere, there has been a good deal of influenza, and the infant mortality has also been high.

7. When workers get ill they frequently leave the work and wander about instead of going to hospital. Numbers again stay on in their villages earning only just enough to support life by selling head-loads of firewood or digging up roots of grass.

8. I cannot attempt any answer to the question asked in (1) of your paragraph 1, though your suggestion appears reasonable; as to your question (2), I have answered that to some extent in paragraph 7 above.

9. Regarding question asked in your paragraph 3. The *talatis* stay in their villages more regularly than usual, but neither they nor the *mukhis* do what they ought in finding out distress. The Circle Inspector staff is, I think, sufficient except perhaps in Daskroi. Even in Daskroi the Circle Inspectors can visit each village once a fortnight. In most talukas he can, and does, visit each village oftener. Generally speaking, those who die of actual starvation are wanderers, and though village officers have orders to put such on dole if really starving they have very insufficiently carried them out.

10. Ambulance parties are working in and near Ahmedabad, Viramgam and at some other places.

11. Your last paragraph. The works are visited frequently but I have given no directions as to how often each work should be visited by each Assistant Deputy Collector or Mamlatdar. I have always found that all these officers were thoroughly cognizant of how works were going. I am confident that the works have on the whole been very well managed though there have been instances, such as you refer to, of people not getting taken on at once and consequently going away. Such, however, have been the exception, and generally I think have occurred through no fault of the superior staff, the parties applying to some temporary low-paid subordinate who has neglected to tell them where to go.

Annexure II.

Letter from H. O. Quin, Esq., Collector of Kaira, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. R-3742, dated Camp, Nariad, the 19th May, 1900.

With reference to your No. 4608, dated 27th ultimo, I have the honour to submit the following report:—

2. The enormous mortality in this district which is arousing anxiety had been noticed by me before my attention was drawn to it by the remarks of Government. As I have already stated I am of opinion that it is on the whole due to what I would call general famine conditions. That is to say it has not been caused by any epidemic (I omit all reference to the outbreak of cholera which has for the last month been claiming large numbers of victims), nor is it the result of any special or particular cause which can be singled out. The large majority of persons who now swell the death-roll are *dharalas*, a caste of *kolis* whose general characteristics would almost mark them out as designed by nature to fall an easy prey to such a scourge as is now afflicting Gujarat. In the first place, in common with other inhabitants of this favoured Province, they are entirely unused to privation. They have always had no difficulty in getting, without exerting themselves, enough to live on, and I take it that they have been unable to realise what famine would mean to them, or to devise any means of saving themselves. In the second place they are idle, apathetic and thriftless to the last degree. In an ordinary year they are accustomed to do just as little work as they possibly can. In consequence, they have I believe become innately incapable of steady labour; their constant idleness through generations has brought about a constitutional inability to bear the strain of any prolonged effort. The results have been, first, a very great dislike to go to relief works, and subsequently, when imminent starvation has driven them there, failure to do the task demanded of them and to bear the fatigue and exposure which are the inevitable concomitants of labour under famine conditions. The wages they have been able to earn have generally been but scanty and have certainly not sufficed to provide them with the quantity of food to which they are accustomed. A third fact which has tended to the deterioration of the *dharalas'* condition is his unwillingness, resulting indeed in positive refusal, to leave his cattle while they still live. Almost every *dharala* household had at the beginning of the famine a few cows, or buffaloes, and here and there a pair of bullocks, and the insoluble problem for the people was, how to look after and feed their cattle and at the same time to labour on relief

works where of course the animals could not accompany them. To the *dharala* his live stock represented all he had in the world, and it is not surprising that he should have been loath to leave his cows and his buffaloes to perish of starvation in order that he might toil for a living wage at work which he detested, and to which he had never been accustomed. Efforts were made to induce the people to arrange for one or two members of the family to feed the cattle while the rest went to a relief work, but they were not successful, and it must be remembered that the providing of food for the cattle was no easy matter nor one that required only a small expenditure of time. It involved slowly driving the enfeebled animal round the hedges and fields, so long as they contained any edible weed or creeper, and mounting trees to pick off, often one by one, the leaves which for thousands of cattle throughout the district were practically, through several months, the only nourishment, they obtained.

3. The causes then that I would assign to the high mortality are these :—

- (a) The not being accustomed to privation and the failure to realise what it would mean ;
- (b) The dislike to and constitutional unfitness for steady work : and
- (c) The attachment to their cattle, which tied them to their villages till they became weak and enfeebled themselves, and were unable to resist any disease which subsequently attacked them.

4. As regards the distribution of the mortality it appears that the death-rate is by no means equal all over the district. To analyse the statistics thoroughly would occupy more time than I can now spare, but I have taken out some figures for February and March which are instructive. On comparing the numbers of deaths during those months, in each taluka with the three-year average number during the same months, the excesses work out as follows :—(The figures are not absolutely correct but are nearly so).

Taluka.	February Excess Percentage.	March Excess Percentage.
Matar	17	40
Mehmadabad	65	157
Nadiad	44	32
Anand	95	99
Borsad	166	162
Thasra	120	93
Kapadwanj	220	208

In these figures the Municipal areas have not been taken into consideration as the deaths in them are largely composed of non-residents, many of whom may have come from other talukas. It will be seen that in Kapadwanj is to be found by far the highest mortality and in Borsad the second highest. Thasra was third in February, but only fifth in March, when the third place was taken by Mehmadaabad. Anand is fourth in both months. Matar and Nadiad show the lowest death-rates. As regards Matar, I would explain this by the fact that large numbers of persons left the taluka for Ahmedabad and other places at the beginning of the famine, whole villages almost in the south-west being deserted. Nadiad is a wealthy taluka; and the large towns of Nadiad and Mahudha provide a certain amount of labour.

5. The unenviable pre-eminence of Kapadwanj is not hard to understand. The taluka is the poorest in the district and has the largest population of *dharalas* and the distress was felt there first. The people began early to wander, and large numbers of them became quickly enfeebled. This was evident from the state of affairs visible in the Kapadwanj poor-house and town at an early stage. The relief work was specially unpopular and attracted only an inconsiderable section of the people. The Thasra taluka is also very poor, and in the Mahi side villages there are no wells. The position of Borsad is the most difficult to understand. The north part of the taluka is one of the most fertile and prosperous parts of the district, and in the west there are large and rich villages. The south and east portion, however, along the Mahi has all along been recognised as being in a very bad way, and presumably the highest mortality has taken place there. Anand also is a very prosperous taluka on the whole, but its death-rate is excessive.

6. Turning to the distribution of the mortality amongst different villages, it is impossible without more elaborate statistics than I have before me to say which villages have suffered the most and why. I have, however, some figures for Anand taluka for the four months January to April, which show that the death-rate in that taluka, taken over that period, varied from about 21 per mille per annum in one village to 294 per mille per annum in another. Of course, in dealing with these figures it must be remembered that all percentages are based on the populations as they were before the famine (or perhaps as

they were in 1891), and there is no doubt that some villages have been deserted by their inhabitants to a far greater extent than others. Still making due allowance for this source of error it is clear that the mortality varies immensely between one village and another.

7. Continuing the analysis of the Anand figures, as an illustration, I find that most of the worst affected villages are those in the north and north-east of the taluka, and along the Mahi. These last are badly supplied with wells, which means lack of local work and therefore of the means of earning subsistence. The others are, I believe, inhabited very largely by *dharalas*, amongst whom, as I have already stated, the great majority of the deaths are taking place.

8. I regret that with my present incomplete information I am not able to give details as to other talukas, but I think the figures available show clearly that the mortality has not been evenly distributed over the district, that some talukas have suffered far more than others, and that certain smaller areas can be pointed out wherein the mortality has been excessive, owing to local conditions which tended to bring the people more quickly to the end of their means, or to the fact that there is a very high proportion of *dharalas* amongst the inhabitants. To support the contention that the great majority of deaths are those of *dharalas*, I may state that from figures supplied me by the District Deputy Collector, it would appear that the following are the percentages of deaths amongst *dharalas* to total deaths in three talukas of his charge for the period from January to April :—

						Taluka.	Percentage.
Kapadwanj	...	...	...	...	...	78
Thasra	..	...	...	...	...	64
Anand	...	...	...	...	...	50

9. As regards the measures adopted for village inspection you are aware that the whole district was divided into circles in the month of November, 1899. The average circle contained about 15 villages except in Borsad where one large circle contained 32 villages, there being but little distress in that neighbourhood. At first, and in order to make himself acquainted with his charge, each Inspector was ordered to visit each village of this circle within a week. Subsequently the Inspectors were ordered to visit each village once in 15 days, and the Famine Aval Karkuns and Mamlatdars were directed to note the last dates on which any village inspected by them had been visited by the Circle Inspector. Recently the number of circles and Inspectors has been increased, and now each man has 12 villages only, on the average, and has been ordered to visit each once a week. So far as I am informed, and as I have myself seen, the work of the Circle Inspectors has been on the whole well done, and I think most persons eligible for gratuitous relief under the code rules have been admitted to the dole. Each Circle Inspector submits a weekly diary which is checked by the Sub-Divisional officer. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Beyts, reports as follows :—

“ From the Circle Inspector's diaries and my own village inspection, I can say fairly that in circles up to 15 villages each village was visited at least once in 12 or 13 days, and in circles of 20 villages once a fortnight. Any longer interval was noticed officially by me. I rarely find a person struck off the dole without valid reason, and find that those I consider neglected are nearly always cases in which it is merely a matter of opinion and not of careless work.”

The District Deputy Collector, Mr. Modi, is also of opinion that the Circle Inspectors have worked well.

10. No special steps have hitherto been taken by me to ascertain the special cause of the high mortality. It had not occurred to me, nor do I think it likely, that any special enquiries would elicit any information of which we are not already in possession. The general conditions, as reported from the villages in the diaries of the Famine Aval Karkuns being in themselves sufficient to account for a high death-rate no special enquiry was set on foot. In the case of some of the villages near Dakor and one or two in other places I asked the District Medical Officer to visit them, and report as to the condition of the people, my suspicions being aroused by the large numbers put on the dole, but I was given no reason to believe that further investigation would disclose any facts of which we were not already aware.

11. It is true that large numbers of wanderers have died in the vicinity of towns whither they have been attracted by the hope of alms or wages, but I do not consider that these deaths have affected the total mortality of the district to such an extent as you seem to suspect. The excess mortality in the whole district as compared with

the average mortality of the previous years for the months January to March has been as follows :—

Month.	Percentage.
January	99 per cent. or 2,603
February	82 " " 2,363
March	141 " " 3,814

In municipal areas—and in these poor-houses are included—give the following figures :—

Month.	Percentage.
January	203 per cent. or 841
February	172 " " 691
March	215 " " 966

Taking the three months together we see that the excess number of deaths over the whole district was 8,780, while in municipal areas the excess number was 2,488, that is to say, that deaths in the neighbourhood of large towns account for a little more than 28 per cent. of the total excess. The proportionate increase in the death-rate of the municipal areas is larger than that in the villages, but the absolute number of deaths in villages remains very high. Ambulance parties are now at work in the vicinity of all towns and some of the larger villages. Orders were long ago issued to village officers to make arrangements for dealing with destitute wanderers; but I am afraid they are not observed as closely as they should be.

12. As regards the management and supervision of works, I can only say that from the first this matter has received the most careful and constant attention of myself, my Assistants, and my Deputy. Under orders from me the Sub-Divisional officers visit each work in their charge at least twice a month. These orders were issued in December last, but even before their issue the Sub-Divisional officers were regularly inspecting the works. The works in the neighbourhood of head-quarters have been periodically inspected by my Personal Assistant, Mr. Swifte, as well as by the assistant in charge of the talukas. The visits to relief works are entered in the diary of the officers concerned, and I am thus in a position to check the work done. I have myself spared no pains to visit all the works in the district as often as I could without neglecting my office work.

13. As regards the question of accuracy of registration which is alluded to in the Government memorandum which has given rise to this report, I have the honour to express my opinion that the registration in this district is distinctly good, and that there is no likelihood whatever of the registered number of deaths being in excess of the actual. Indeed I have reason to believe that all the deaths which have occurred have not been reported to the Sanitary Commissioner, from whom, I presume, Government have received their information. Owing to some misunderstanding the deaths on relief works have been registered by the Special Civil Officers, but not in all cases reported to the village or Municipal authorities, hence the figures for the whole district have not reached the Sanitary Commissioner in a complete form. I am now making enquiries into the matter, and whatever omissions are discovered will be rectified.

Enclosure 3 in No. 78.

Letter from G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector, Broach, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 3983-F., dated Broach, the 26th May, 1900.

With reference to your No. 4608, dated the 27th April last, forwarding Chief Secretary's No. 269-M., dated 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to state that I quite concur with you in thinking that the increased mortality in the district during the months of January, February, and March last was in a measure due to the causes referred to by you. It is a fact that the people in this district have never been inured to privation, and they never had within living memory experienced anything like the terrible distress they have to stand during the present famine. They have for the most part enjoyed favourable harvests, and, except in the case of the poorest classes, the people have lived in greater ease and in much better style than the *rayats* in the Deccan. Even the poorer classes

have always had enough of suitable food superior in kind to that available to their poorer brothers in the south. They have in consequence become more soft and less able to stand on insufficient and unaccustomed food for any length of time than the people in the Deccan. In the Deccan district the people, even in ordinary times, have for the greatest part to live on simple bread and onion with a little salt and *chillies*. On this side the ordinary *rayats* use wheat, pulse, rice and other comforts as part of their usual food. These they cannot afford to get in the present scarcity, and find it difficult to live on the coarse food that they can get. I have noticed that many of the peons getting only 7 or 8 rupees a month daily take tea in the morning, a thing which is certainly not known to many of the clerks or *karkuns* in the Deccan.

2. The land in Gujarat is certainly rich, that is, it gives a good yield in case the rains are favourable, even if the agriculturists do not take so much care about their holdings. In the Deccan, and particularly in Konkan, the case is different. There the cultivators are required to work very hard in their soil to get the small yield their land gives them. The consequence is that they become hardy and are usually accustomed to live on scanty fare from their very boyhood, and so can stand to a far greater extent small distresses. From my own experience I can say that though severe famine was raging in the Bijapur District for about 14 months I did not find a single dead body lying on the roads or in the fields. I cannot say that the grain was cheaper there, or that the relief measures were more favourable. They were just what they are at present, and still I am sorry to say that I find dead bodies lying by the roadside and relief works. The reason is not far to seek. It can be summed up in one word—that the general delicacy of constitution does not permit the Gujaratis to bear the stress of the present scarcity. The lower classes, like *bhils*, are too fond of parched rice, cocoanuts, green dates, sweetmeats, and like kinds of eatables. Even in their present circumstances they cannot withstand the temptation of spending something on these items, which cannot be said to be the necessaries of life, and the consequence is they have to live on insufficient food, and this being continued for some time undermines their condition and disables them to bear any kind of strain. They thus become emaciated and fall easy victims to exhaustion brought on to some extent by themselves.

3. The climate of Gujarat is no doubt enervating, and along with other causes it has not failed to produce its own effects on the condition of the populace. Here one cannot observe fast, or live on coarse food, with the same immunity as one can do in the Deccan.

4. The prominent factor of the high mortality is the mortality among street beggars and wanderers. These beggars and wanderers are an envious sort of people. They cannot be persuaded to go to works or to poor-houses. They will continue their course of begging from house to house without getting sufficient quantity to live upon. This brings on slow but steady emaciation. They flatly decline to join the poor-house as tobacco and opium are not provided therein. For the sake of trial some were forcibly put in the poor-house, but they all stealthily left it in a day or two. They thus become quite lean and weak, and when ridden to the ground they are taken at the eleventh hour to the poor-houses only to die there. Every kind of medical help, and the hospital rations, prove ineffective in their case, and many of them succumb to death, some even within a couple of hours after their admittance to the poor-house. Every attempt to persuade these ignorant and headstrong beggars to go to poor-houses has become futile. On account of the high rate of mortality among the inmates of the poor-house it has become a firm belief among them that they are taken there simply for being killed. As an instance of this it may be pointed out that during the last week no less than 65 wanderers died in the city. There is a Government poor-house, and one more is opened by the charitable persons in the city. Such being the case, can anybody say that there is no provision for weak and emaciated persons? But these people do not avail themselves of the provision made for them, and are paying the full penalty of their sheer foolishness. On finding that the mortality had gone high in the city I directed the police not to allow the people to wander, but send the emaciated of these to the poor-house and the able-bodied to the work.

5. Some of the lower classes, more especially the *bhils*, are habitually lazy and not used to regular work. They are therefore disinclined to join relief works, and struggle on to earn a miserable subsistence by headloads of grass or firewood and some other kind of labour, and stick to their homes until they are too far exhausted and unable to further help themselves in any way. The increased mortality among cattle helped these people for a time to provide themselves with some subsistence, and in many cases they subsisted on unwholesome meat which only served to bring on diarrhoea and dysentery which, in the absence of any treatment in villages, in many cases proved fatal. Another circumstance was the people taking too freely to the exclusive use of Burma rice, which sold cheaper than *jowar*, which was the usual staple food of the people. The rice had not the same staying power as *jowar*, and the people not being used to it suffered by the exclusive use of this new food.

6. During January and February many of the poor people, especially on the works, suffered from exposure during the rather severe cold which prevailed in those months.

7. As regards village inspection and village relief I have been doing all I can to make it as efficient as possible. I have already submitted to you copies of circular orders issued by me to village officers and Circle Inspectors in connection with village relief. The copies are appended hereto for ready reference. The former are strictly enjoined to give timely relief from village dole in every case where it may be necessary, and not to allow any death by starvation to occur. For this purpose small grants have been placed at the

Vernacular, not forwarded.

disposal of the officers in charge of police stations, and the Circle Inspectors have been ordered to spare no pains to inspect the villages in their charge and supervise the work of the village officers and submit regular diaries which are checked, by Mamlatdars, Sub-Divisional officer and by myself. The Mamlatdars have been relieved of all their criminal work and the greater part of their revenue work by giving them extra head *karkuns*, and by investing the Sub-Judges with criminal powers, and they have been specially ordered to move rapidly from village to village, and to particularly supervise the work of the village officers and the Circle Inspectors in the matter of the administration of the famine relief. The Divisional officers have also been requested to supervise this work, and the poor-houses and the relief works in their charge, and for better management, three out of the five poor-houses in the district have been placed in charge of the local Sub-Judges and the one at Broach in that of the Civil Surgeon. The Municipalities have also been exhorted to take their proper share in the famine administration by looking after the town beggars and starving people within their limits, and to keep up an ambulance system and to take such persons to the local poor-houses for timely relief. The same system is also introduced on relief works and villages. The special civil officers have also been instructed to issue credit *chits* to such of the workers as cannot obtain supplies on credit. Orders have also been issued under section 52 (d) of the Famine Code.

8. As regards relief works I may be permitted to observe that they are often visited by Sub-Divisional officers and the District Medical Officer. As far as I have seen newcomers have been taken on all the works and then drafted, but no one is ever refused relief. I myself have visited all the works and found the arrangements satisfactory.

9. I have thus done all that was necessary and possible for affording timely relief to the sufferers. I myself and my assistants, the District Medical Officer, and the Executive Engineer have been moving throughout the district and visiting the several works and watching the general condition of the people with particular care. The mortality has no doubt gone high for the reasons stated above. I shall, however, spare no pains to prevent death from starvation.

No. 385-F., dated Ahmedabad, the 28th May, 1900.

Forwarded to Government.

Mr. Panse has a special right to be heard when comparing the habits and stamina of the people in the Deccan and in Gujarat.

There have been in the Broach District ever since the famine began to make itself felt a Circle Inspector to on an average every 14 villages, and a special mamlatdar (under the name of Aval karkun) in every taluka. The supervision has been in the exceptionally vigorous hands of Messrs. Painter and Maneklal Narbheram and of Mr. Panse himself who has been very active in moving about among the villages. The relief works have been so numerous as to lead Government to apprehend that an excessive number were receiving relief. It is too early to express any final opinion, but the Commissioner believes that no human agency at command could have reduced the mortality in this district.

F. S. P. LELY,
Commissioner, Northern Division.

Enclosure 4 in No. 78.

Letter from H. Rendall, Esq., Assistant Collector, Panch Mahals, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 3638, dated Godhra, the 9th June, 1900.

In reply to your No. 4608 of the 27th April below Government memorandum No. M.-269 of the 23rd idem, I have the honour to report as follows. The report applies also to Government memorandum No. M.-617 of the 20th May, forwarded under your No. 5631 of the 23rd idem.

2. I would first point out that the distribution between relief works, poor-houses and villages given in the statement received from Government is altogether misleading. Column 4 of the statement for December, January, and February is headed "Number of deaths in Relief Works Hospitals," while that for March is headed "Number of deaths in Relief Works Hospitals and Camps." Memorandum No. M. 269 speaks of the proportion which the mortality on relief works bears to the total mortality, and I presume, therefore, column 4 of the statement should include all deaths at the relief camps whether in hospital or not, for it unfortunately happens that many people die outside the hospital; that the

figures in the statement do not show the correct proportion is obvious for the total number of deaths on works shewn in the statement is 114 in January and 169 in February, for the whole district, whereas at the village of Doki in Dohad taluka which I visited this morning, there were 195 deaths in January and 239 in February, and almost every one occurred in the camp (including kitchen and hospital) of the Dohad-Limdi road work, which was at Doki during those two months. The population of Doki is 216 and the number of deaths in December was two and in March four. The same is the case with Ambali in Godhra taluka where the death rate has attracted attention, and in fact at every place where relief camps have been situated. Separate registers ought to have been kept, but were not. When this was brought to notice special orders were issued for registers to be kept, but the practice of registering deaths in the village registers has continued, and after consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner, I think it would probably merely cause worse confusion to alter the practice now. I do not think there has been double registration, but for the total number of deaths the figures reported by the mamlatdars to the Sanitary Commissioner should be taken, those entered in the weekly famine returns being left out of consideration.

3. As to the causes of excessive mortality they are firstly, laziness and disinclination to work or to the restraint of a kitchen or poor-house, and secondly the fact that though a large proportion of the people is accustomed to live a very hand-to-mouth existence, they have refused to recognize the fact that their usual summer supply of jungle products, mowra and toddy, would not be forthcoming and waited on until their strength was exhausted and their digestion ruined by eating rubbish. Even when the hope of mowra and toddy had to be abandoned many people, especially amongst the *kolis*, have refused to go to work saying deliberately that they would die in their villages. Immigration has undoubtedly swelled the mortality returns to a considerable extent. The Mamlatdar of Dohad puts down 25 per cent. of the deaths in his taluka to immigrants from the Central India States, and there is no doubt the number has been large though an accurate enumeration is impossible as the names of many who died were not known, and false names and villages are usually given.

4. With regard to your 3rd paragraph I have examined the detailed returns for each taluka and mahal. The mortality is of course highest at the large central towns of Godhra, Dohad and Jhalod, but leaving these out, and omitting also villages in which deaths on relief camps are recorded, the mortality appears to be pretty evenly distributed.

5. There are at present 22 Circle Inspectors working in 692 villages, of which 13 are permanently uninhabited. I have sanction for 7 more, but cannot get men suitable for the work. There are over these Circle Inspectors, five Special Aval Karkuns and three Forest Officers, while Mr. Ryan supervises Kalol and Halol in addition. Each Circle Inspector submits a weekly diary to the divisional officer, and each supervising officer submits a weekly diary to me which I forward to you. There are ambulance parties in the five chief towns, and at the relief works, and every effort is made to bring in wanderers.

6. There is no rule as to the number of times the divisional officers should visit relief works. I see from the diaries of the special civil officers when the works are visited and I get frequent demi-official reports. At present there are only two works (excluding Champaner which is very small) which have not European officers resident or practically resident on them, viz., Wadatalao and Dohad Ali-Rajpur road. Wadatalao was started at the end of March and has been visited by the District Medical Officer, the Executive Engineer, Mr. Ryan and myself, and the Dohad Ali-Rajpur road work shares with the Muwalia tank the attentions of Captain Southey.

7. There is one point which has possibly not been brought to the notice of Government, and that is the number of *inam* villages (talukdari, mewasi, &c.) in the district. In Halol more than half the mahal is *inami* while in Kalol there are 31 *inam* villages out of 65. The proportion in the other talukas is smaller, but still considerable. Now, with the exception of one or two bright examples, such as the Naik of Tanda, in Dohad, and the *Inamdar* of Goraj, in

Halol, the owners of these villages do practically nothing whatever for their people. Our Circle Inspectors visit the village and give the dole to deserving persons at Government expense, but the *inamdars* are required to do nothing but pay their assessment to Government, and they neither look after the people themselves nor keep efficient village officers to do it for them. It is only to be expected that their people will starve and wander. As for the Government villages, I can only say that with people such as we have to deal with either the high mortality must be accepted or the famine code principles altered. Government find it hard to understand how, with thorough supervision, people can die of actual insufficiency of food. I would remind you of an attempt, at the beginning of the famine, to define a "death from starvation." In a district like this, where the life of a *bhil* or a *koli* is of no value, and where the higher castes are, as a rule, absolutely indifferent to the suffering of the town, deaths from actual want of food can occur, and I fear that some do occur; but until death from starvation is defined it is impossible to account satisfactorily for the mortality ascribed to that cause. If a man is set on by robbers and severely injured, and fever supervenes and he dies, fever would not, I imagine, be given as the cause of his death; and, similarly, if a man refuses work on relief under a system which admits of proper control, and wanders about eating rubbish till his stomach is ruined and a decent meal causes diarrhoea from which he dies, I see no remedy but to ascribe his death to starvation. It is starvation which he could have avoided, and for which no one is to blame but himself, but it is, nevertheless, starvation. The famine code requires that a man who is able to work and needs relief should work for it, and it is a perfectly fair principle. If it is to be observed there must, amongst people like these, be a high mortality. They will not work while they can, but go on until, in the majority of cases, they die because they cannot digest the food given them.

No. 79.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture. No. 1,372-P., dated Poona, the 22nd July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1,367-P., dated 21st instant, I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of the papers specified in the margin, regarding the causes of high mortality in the districts of Northern Gujarat in the month of January, 1900.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 3,878, dated 7th April, 1900.
Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 2,275, dated 19th April, 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 79.

Memo. from the Commissioner, Northern Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 3,878, dated Camp, Broach, the 7th April, 1900.

In accordance with Government memorandum No. 1,505, of 15th March, the Commissioner, Northern Division, has the honour to report on the very high death rates in Gujarat, especially in Broach, Kaira and Panch Mahals in the month of January. The opinion of the Collector of Panch Mahals has not yet been received.

2. The district officers of Kaira and Broach do not think the excessive cold has much to do with it. That this opinion is right seems sufficiently proved by the fact that the mortality has tended to increase since the weather became milder. The Commissioner has no compiled statistics at hand, but from daily observation he has no doubt that this is so.

3. Mr. Quin, Collector of Kaira, writes :—

“ It is true that for a few days the cold was excessive and this no doubt increased the mortality largely for the time, but on the whole I think the majority of deaths above the normal were due to the general famine conditions prevailing in the district. Large numbers of persons having no means of subsistence and refusing to go to relief works were wandering about the district in January trying to maintain themselves by begging. These persons were to be found generally in the neighbourhood of large towns, and the death-rate amongst them was naturally very high.”

4. Mr. Painter, Assistant Collector of Broach, writes on 23rd January, that a large number of the deaths are traceable to the relief works, that he knows it to be a fact that “ many deaths in the villages are those of persons who had been to relief works and falling ill there returned to their homes to die. The symptoms are generally looseness of the bowels and fever.” He conjectures that it may be due to bad water, or to the fraudulent mixture of lang with the *jowar* flour, but he admits that he has no definite grounds for the suggestions.

5. On the 24th March the same officer writes :—“ The view that cold was not to any large extent responsible for the steady increase of deaths, has, I think, been borne out by the fact that the advent of the hot weather has not reduced the figures as it should were the deaths chiefly due to a transitory phenomenon.”

6. The subject is obscure, but the Commissioner's impression is that the main cause is to be sought for in the peculiar condition of the province. The very words used by Mr. Mollison to describe the Gujarat bullock may be applied to the Gujarat human. He is soft and not inured to get on with insufficient food or unwholesome food. He succumbs much more quickly to privation than the Deccani who is more accustomed to hardship. In this view the high death-rate in Broach is not so remarkable as would appear at first sight. The Commissioner believes that the destitution in that district is much underestimated by those who have not studied it. A larger proportion of the population than elsewhere are in ordinary years employed on day labour at about 5 annas per day for men, and proportionately high wages for women and children. These high wages they freely spend on liquor and nourishing food without a thought for the morrow. They have not much stamina and the shock of reduced food and other privation breaks them down. The Commissioner fears that the mortality will continue to increase though it may or may not be shown in the returns, as doubtless many who died in the first months were wandering foreigners.

7. In the Panch Mahals again things are altogether different. There the Bhil, unless he is under special influence, wanders about or stays at home rather than work, and dies.

8. Steps are being taken to distinguish the local residents from immigrants.

9. More vigilance than ever is necessary over the latrines, the water supply, and the food shops of the relief works.

Enclosure 2 in No. 79.

Letter from R. B. Stewart, Esq., Collector, Panch Mahals, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, Ahmedabad, No. 2,275, dated Camp, Godhra, the 19th April, 1900.

In reply to your No. 2,982, forwarding a copy of Government memorandum 1,505, of 15th March I have the honour to report as follows :—

The high death-rate in this district in January last was undoubtedly due in a great measure to the extreme cold, and the Civil Surgeon, Godhra, attributes a considerable proportion of deaths to influenza, small-pox, and measles also. The fatal result of these diseases is, however, due to privation. As stated in the return accompanying the Government memorandum, 15 cases of deaths ascribed to starvation were medically examined in Godhra town. Elsewhere none of the cases were medically examined, the cause being stated by the village

officers to the best of their knowledge. In Dohad taluka there were 196 deaths on the relief works, 89 being children, and out of these 35 adults and 21 children are said to have died of cold. Of the 43 deaths in Godhra town ascribed to starvation none were those of local residents, but it is impossible to say whether the wanderers belonged to the district or outside. Of the eight deaths from starvation in Dohad and Jhalod one was that of a local man who had been on the relief work and left it, while the other persons were outsiders.

No. 80.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine). No. 3,419, dated Bombay Castle, the 1st October, 1900.

In continuation of the letters from this Government specified in the margin, I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of a letter from the Surgeon General with the Government of Bombay, No. 8,452, dated 24th August, 1900, and its accompaniments, containing a report on the high mortality in the Gujarat Districts during the months of January, February, and March, 1900, and to make the following remarks.

2. There is little doubt that all the causes enumerated by the Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner have had some effect. When the census is taken—but not till then—it may be possible to estimate how far the death-rates have been raised by the deaths of immigrants; it is not now and apparently never will be possible to determine the extent of the effect of other causes. Although there has not been discovered the existence of any unusual disease, the fact that the mortality amongst residents in towns—exclusive of those who were merely temporary sojourners—has been exceedingly high indicates that the year has been a very unhealthy one.

3. The figures given in paragraph 7 of the Surgeon General's report require correction, the real percentages being as follows:—

Collectorate.	Percentage of Population on Relief.	Percentage of Gratuitously Relieved to Total Relieved.	Death-rate per Mille per Annum, January to March.
Ahmedabad	13	34	96
Kaira	6	23	114
Panch Mahāls	6	18	163
Broach	31	19	134
Khāndesh	17	27	88
Sholāpur	20	33	42

These figures cover too short a period to form a safe basis for deduction, but even so far as they go they hardly support the view that the death-rate depended largely on the extent of relief given. The mortality was very much

higher in Broach than in Ahmedabad, although the proportion of people in receipt of relief in the former district was more than double that in the latter. The following table has been prepared contrasting the extent of relief with the mortality in each of the districts until August (the figures for the last month for the Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts, however, being taken from the Collectors' weekly telegrams and being, therefore, probably incomplete) :—

District.	Percentage of Population on Relief of All Kinds.							
	January, 1900.	February, 1900.	March, 1900.	April, 1900.	May, 1900.	June, 1900.	July, 1900.	August, 1900.
Ahmedabad	<i>7.32</i>	<i>7.50</i>	<i>9.33</i>	<i>10.53</i>	<i>24.01</i>	<i>14.68</i>	<i>15.82</i>	15.18
	9	13	15	17	13	14	20	21
Kaira	<i>8.58</i>	<i>7.97</i>	<i>12.07</i>	<i>12.66</i>	<i>22.17</i>	<i>11.41</i>	<i>14.67</i>	13.37
	2	5	10	13	10	14	26	24
Panch Maháls	<i>9.58</i>	<i>12.58</i>	<i>18.69</i>	<i>27.44</i>	<i>46.60</i>	<i>24.56</i>	<i>21.79</i>	26.11
	6	6	7	16	12	23	36	40
Broach	<i>9.34</i>	<i>10.23</i>	<i>14.05</i>	<i>12.03</i>	<i>31.62</i>	<i>12.03</i>	<i>14.09</i>	13.69
	28	35	31	25	23	22	36	33
Khándesh	<i>4.10</i>	<i>5.95</i>	<i>10.71</i>	<i>12.67</i>	<i>5.81</i>	<i>6.02</i>	<i>11.31</i>	12.91
	16	17	18	15	15	14	14	12
Sholápur	<i>3.57</i>	<i>3.48</i>	<i>3.64</i>	<i>4.61</i>	<i>7.07</i>	<i>6.13</i>	<i>9.10</i>	5.89
	18	20	23	23	22	23	21	18
Ahmednagar	<i>3.48</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>5.76</i>	<i>8.26</i>	<i>8.23</i>	<i>6.77</i>	<i>9.04</i>	7.84
	11	20	27	28	27	30	28	25

NOTE.—The figures in italics represent the death-rates per mille for the several months and those in block type for August represent death-rates calculated from the number of deaths reported by the Collectors in their weekly famine telegrams.

It can scarcely be said that a very great extension of relief has had a very material effect so far in diminishing mortality.

4. There are two statements in the Sanitary Commissioner's report which require modification. He states in the section regarding Ahmedabad City that it appears that "at first the village relief was given freely, but it was used so largely that it was found necessary to restrict it, and perhaps the restrictions were applied too stringently by the village authorities." It was found in November that village relief was given in Kaira on a much larger scale than in other districts, including the adjoining districts of Ahmedabad and Broach, and the Collector was instructed to restrict it to actual requirements with the result that there was a contraction in that district. But in the Ahmedabad district there was a continuous expansion. Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson states in the section regarding the Ahmedabad district that the people "eked out their food with leaves of trees and roots and stayed on till their cattle perished and then when they came on the works they could not perform the task imposed, and so of course the minimum wage only was given, which being dissatisfied with (*sic*) the workers would leave and wander back to their villages." From the time, however, at which the Code system was introduced people received full wages for an appreciable interval after joining the works in the Ahmedabad district, and very few have been paid the minimum wage at any time in that district.

5. It is very difficult to draw the line between deaths of which privation is a contributing cause and deaths due to starvation, and although the question was discussed at an early stage of the famine,* no instructions regarding it have been issued. The Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner apparently give to the term "starvation" a much wider meaning than has been usual. It is impossible to prevent deaths from want of food amongst people who wander from their homes and who do not seek for Government assistance until emaciation has set in, and the meals which village officers are required to give to such as are unable to go to a poor-house probably in many cases accelerate the end. But this Government has throughout insisted on the view that people who remain at their homes in British villages cannot die from want of food without negligence on the part of village officers and of some at least of the inspecting officers, starvation not being a rapid process. Wherever there has been any allegation of such deaths among residents special inquiry has been ordered, but in no case in Gujarat has the allegation been substantiated.

6. I am also directed to forward the accompanying copies of the reports* of the Sanitary Commission for the Government of Bombay, No. B.F.—6277-P., dated 24th August, and No. B.F.—6996-P., dated 17th September, 1900, on the result of the chemical analysis of samples of water and foodstuffs obtained from certain relief camps and poor-houses in the four Northern Districts of Gujarat and in Sholapur, and to state that the attention of the Collectors concerned has been drawn to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson's remarks contained in them.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 80.

Letter from the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to Government, Famine Department, Bombay, No. 8,452, dated the 24th August, 1900.

In forwarding herewith letter No. B. F. 5,935, dated 9th instant, from the Sanitary Commissioner for Government, I have the honour to state that, so far as I am in a position to judge from the information submitted, I agree with the Sanitary Commissioner in his opinion as to the causes of the very high mortality which has occurred in Gujarat during the past few months, as compared with that in the famine-stricken portion of the Deccan.

2. The report does not contain evidence that any infectious disease, or special form of fever was prevalent, and the increased mortality appears to have been mainly recorded under the heads of Fever, Diarrhœa and Dysentery; but the Sanitary Commissioner draws no comparison between the mortality from these diseases and the mean annual death-rates from the same causes.

3. The report does not say whether or not, scurvy was observed to be prevalent, and yet it probably existed in a considerable degree as a result of the general deprivation of wholesome food and contributed to swell the mortality. Fever would no doubt occur in many cases of privation, and especially in those attended with intestinal disorders; but it would have assisted in forming an opinion, if the results of the observation of typical cases of privation admitted into hospitals and poor-houses had been reported in some detail, as evidence of the effects of scarcity in producing a febrile condition and of the general physical condition of the sufferers from a clinical aspect.

4. I think it may be said that the cases of privation among pilgrims and other ill-fed and over-wrought travellers, who are so often admitted in a dying condition into Indian Civil Hospitals, even in prosperous times, are almost invariably attended by fever; and I regard a febrile state as a very frequent symptom of the later stages of starvation. I consider therefore that, having regard to one of the most prominent symptoms which would be observed or

complained of before decease, it is not surprising that a large number of deaths were registered as due to fever. But I am equally of opinion that these, together with a large proportion of the excess mortality attributed to other causes, cannot be ascribed to any other cause than starvation.

5. The death-rate in the Surat Collectorate during the first quarter of 1900 only rose to 55 per mille per annum, as compared with 134, 163, 114 and 96 in the districts of Broach, Panch Mahals, Kaira and Ahmedabad, respectively; and I think it is not unreasonable to infer, that had the excess mortality been due to any epidemic fever, this would probably have affected also the Surat Collectorate, the death-rate of which would then have approximated more nearly to that of the other districts. I do not, however, wish to lay much stress upon this suggestion.

6. I therefore concur in the views expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraphs 7 and 8 of his report; but I am disposed to attach somewhat more importance to the bad quality and deficient quantity of the water-supply than Lieut.-Colonel Clarkson appears to do. For the sake of clearness I may thus summarise the causes which, in my opinion, have contributed directly or indirectly, and in varying degrees, to cause the deaths from starvation—

- (1) insufficient and unwholesome food,—the latter including leaves and roots of trees and other plants and wild fruits;
- (2) the unwonted nature of some of the grain (*e.g.*, Rangoon rice) which was otherwise wholesome;
- (3) imperfect cooking of food, especially of rice and vegetables;
- (4) bad quality of the drinking water;
- (5) the originally prosperous and well-fed condition of the people, and their consequent inferior adaptability to resist the ill-effects of a sudden change to a poor and scanty diet as compared with the poorer and hardier people of the Deccan;
- (6) the unwillingness of certain of the people to apply for, or accept, relief sufficiently early;
- (7) the aimless wandering of some of the distressed population in search of work or of alms, and the attendant fatigue and exposure to sun and cold when in weakened health;
- (8) the immigration of large numbers of destitute persons from adjoining Native States.

With regard to the remarks contained in the Sanitary Commissioner's paragraph 8, I subjoin the following summary of those figures in Tables XV. and XVI. attached to the report which bear upon the connection between the death-rate and the percentage of the population relieved in each collectorate:—

Three Months—January to March, 1900.			
Collectorate.	Percentage of Population on Relief.	Percentage of Gratuitously Relieved to Total Relieved.	Death-rate per Mille per Annum, January to March.
Ahmedabad	13	32	96
Kaira	6	24	114
Panch Mahals	6	18	163
Broach	34	16	134
Khândesh	17	27	88
Sholâpur	19	33	42

It will be seen that in the cases of Kaira and the Panch Mahals the death-rate was proportionate to the comparative smallness of the percentage of the population on relief; and that in the Panch Mahals and Broach it was also in direct ratio to the lower percentages of persons gratuitously relieved than in other districts. Whether these facts stand in the relation of cause and effect, I am unable to say; and possibly there were influences which prevented the full extension of relief in Kaira and the Panch Mahals. But I would observe that in the Broach Collectorate, which had the largest percentage of relieved to population, the better opportunities for gratuitous relief were taken advantage of to a less extent than in any of the other collectorates, and the death-rate per mille per annum was only second to that of the Panch Mahals.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Famine Department, No. B. F. 5,935-P., dated the 9th August, 1900.

No. M.—158, dated 19th April 1900.

" M.—213, " 18th do.
 " M.—270, " 23rd do.
 " M.—313, " 26th do.
 " M.—419, " 5th May 1900.

With reference to your memoranda marginally noted, I have the honour to submit the accompanying reports on the high mortality of the Gujarat Districts, and to state that I have endeavoured to reply to all the questions asked.

2. First of all as to the general condition of the people in Gujārat. It will be seen from the separate reports that in normal times the mass of the people are in good condition and feed well, with the exception of the Bhils, who in the hot weather are pressed for food; but even then with a good mhowra crop they suffer little. If those on relief works do not own land, and as far as my enquiries have gone, about one in ten stated they owned land for which they paid Rs. 20 more or less to Government, the usual practice is for the employer to feed them with two good meals a day of a pound of the usual grain at each meal, besides other things. In addition, some stated, they got one or two annas, and others, that they only got clothes. Sometimes a light morning meal was taken. Those who cultivated their own land stated that their usual grain meal was at least two pounds a day. Nearly all questioned stated they took either toddy or liquor. Of toddy a good draught would be taken, but liquor not in large quantity. The Bhils, however, I am informed, take liquor whenever they can get it. In a way then, no doubt, ordinary Gujaratis living in a moist and usually warm climate, earning fairly easily what is sufficient to live upon well, have soft constitutions and feel the change to lesser diet; but it seems to me that if at first they had gone on to works, what with the wage they could earn and the resources they had besides, and the reserve of latent power in well fed bodies, they would soon, after the first discomforts, have become inured to the harder work and lesser food. In all the districts it is reported that the people came on to work in an impoverished condition due to waiting on their cattle and living on what grain they could secure, mixing it with leaves and other deleterious substances. Then not finding the work to their liking they wandered away, trying to subsist by begging and getting more and more reduced, so that when they did get relieved by food at villages it did them no good.

3. It has also been stated that the eating of Rangoon rice, which was imported in large quantities and sold cheaper than other grain, had something to do with the illness terminating in so many deaths. Rangoon rice is of a smaller grain than the rice usually eaten in this part of the country, and in many parts is not the usual food of the people. A certain amount of lime is added to it to keep it of a white colour and preserve it from insects. Samples of it have been sent to the Chemical Analyser to Government, and he has pronounced the rice to be good from a chemical point of view and the amount of lime contained in it to be harmless. Now, although a change of diet from jowari or bajri to rice may give rise to intestinal disorder, especially amongst those in poor condition, I am of opinion that most of the workers would soon have got accustomed to it if they had prepared it properly. In numerous kitchens children and dependants have been fed on this rice, which has been properly prepared, and it has not appeared to have any deleterious effect. In the kitchens I have seen the children, some time in residence, were, as a rule, in good condition, and the dependants, mostly old people, were stated to have maintained their condition. Moreover those who assisted in the actual kitchen operations, and partook of the same food as the inmates of the kitchen or poor-house were, as a rule, in remarkably good condition. The reason why the rice did harm, and the amount it did cannot be justly estimated, is that the people on the works did not properly cook it, often ate it half boiled, and children especially would pick the grains out of the dirt and eat them without cleansing. What is said of rice would be true of any of the grains usually eaten if improperly cooked and mixed with deleterious substance.

4. With regard to the purity of the water supply. Of the 23 samples forwarded to the Chemical Analyser for the Government of Bombay and reported on, only five have been pronounced fit for potable purposes. In the best of times, however, most of the

drinking water would be found unfit for potable purposes from a chemical point of view, especially when taken from rivers and surface wells. Brackish water exists in all the severely famine-affected districts in Gujarat, but I cannot find any positive evidence to connect it with the high mortality, for this is not confined to the talukas in which brackish water exists.

5. Then as to the "caste" of those died (*see* Tables Nos. XIII. and XIV.*), by far the great majority are "Hindus of low caste." Classes such as Christians and Parsis must be left out of account, as their numbers are so small that a few deaths more affect the percentage very greatly. There must have been some error in registering the caste, as it is impossible to suppose, especially in Broach and the Panch Mahals, that none of the people coming under the head "All others" escaped death from some cause or another.

6. In considering the cause of the high mortality, it must be borne in mind that the registration, though it may be, and probably is, accurate as regards the numbers dead, is not likely to be accurate as regards the cause of death. As will be seen in looking over the returns from the different Collectorates, in some the bulk of the deaths (Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals, Broach) is put down to "Fever," in another (Surat) the deaths are divided between "Fever" and "Other causes," whilst in another (Kaira) the majority of deaths is put down to "Other causes." If, however, the mortality as registered in Rural Circles is separated from that registered in Town Circles, it is seen that a very high percentage of the deaths continues to be attributed to "Fever" in the Rural Circles of all the Collectorates except Kaira, whilst in the Town Circles of each Collectorate, except the Panch Mahals, the largest percentage of deaths is put down under the heading "Other causes."

7. Enquiry has been directed to find out if any particular form of fever has been prevalent, but so far the enquiry has failed to elicit that any specific fever has been present. A sharp look-out was kept for relapsing fever, but none of the medical officers in the districts, or microscopical observations in a head-quarters town, have found any indications that this fever existed, nor has skilled expert investigation lately made found the diagnostic spirillum which should be if there was much relapsing fever about. So, as the death-rate in all the districts of Gujarat has steadily increased, and as there has been but one cause steadily at work all the time, viz., famine, the high death-rate must be ascribed to privation of the usual food and comforts of the people.

Why it should have told upon the people so much when work and wage was to be obtained must be attributed to :—

1. The restriction in their food and their supplementing it with deleterious and indigestible substances.
2. People clinging to their homes on this insufficient food to look after their cattle and then coming on to works in an impoverished condition.
3. The large influx of people from the Native States round each Collectorate.

8. It is to be noted also that the percentage of population on relief was in the Gujarat Districts, except Broach, for December, 1899, and the months following, very small and low compared with the Deccan Districts : *see* Table No. XV. The large numbers in Broach were due to the large influx of strangers, more coming into this Collectorate, I understand, than into the others. In this connection also a table, No. XVI., compiled by Major Dyson, I.M.S., the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Gujarat Registration District, is appended, which shows the percentage of gratuitously relieved to the total on relief from October last. In the two Deccan Districts put in for comparison the number gratuitously relieved has been consistently high, but the death-rate in them did not reach to a very high figure except in February and March in Khandesh. Now the gratuitous relief is mostly given to children and old people, and it will be seen from the tables of deaths by ages that the greatest mortality occurred at the extremes of life. As the majority of people in Gujarat live from hand to mouth, their resources are at an end by the time the new kharif crops are ready, and in ordinary years the buniah comes to their relief ; but, as Major Dyson writes, "Last year there was no kharif harvest, and the pinch of famine must have become severe towards the end of the year, and it is more than probable that large numbers of people, especially the young and the old, became so enfeebled during the last three months of the year that they fell easy victims during the cold of January and February, and even when they came on relief many were too far gone to receive any benefit."

9. As to deaths from "Starvation" which have been shown in some Collectorates and not in others, it appears to be a question of the heading under which the Registrars have chosen to enter them. In one town a few post-mortems having been made and the deaths certified as due to starvation, all those found dead have been entered as "Dead from starvation," whilst in another town people picked up dead are entered as dead from "Diarrhoea" or "Fever," according as their clothing was soiled or not. Of course, when numbers are picked up dead, unless cholera or some other specific disease is known to exist, the only guide to the cause is the condition of the body. It is absurd to ascribe the death to fever. If the clothing is soiled, it is justifiable to enter the death as due to diarrhoea, but if there is emaciation, the probabilities are, certainly in famine time, that the death is due to want of proper food, and starvation is the proper term, for many of those people really

* Not printed.

did starve themselves to death. In Ahmedabad Town, where the deaths ascribed to starvation have been many, beggars were taken to the poor-house, I was informed, over and over again; but as long as they had strength to break out they would do so, and take their chance in the city, until they were reduced to such a state that they either had to remain in the poor-house or perish near the city. In order to avoid being taken to the poor-house they would remain in the outskirts, and the search parties would find them dead or moribund. What has happened at Ahmedabad City has happened at other places, and though the deaths have not been entered under the same heading, the cause of death in the majority of those picked up dead is the same as at Ahmedabad.

Annexure II.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Ahmedabad Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

The Ahmedabad Collectorate is made up of 7 Rural Circles and 4 Town Circles besides one Military Cantonment.

Of the total population 78·93 live in Rural Circles and 21·07 in the Town Circles and Cantonment.

The Collectorate is surrounded by Native States except on the south, where it borders on the Kaira Collectorate.

The Kolis and Thakurs and Bhils in the Parantij Taluka are those who have suffered most in the present famine. In ordinary times they eat bajri and dall with chas, and in hot weather, in certain parts, they eat mhowra, as well as collect it for sale. A little liquor is taken daily, but not to any excess. They earn enough usually to keep themselves well without very hard labour, but not being thrifty do not save anything.

A table, No. I., of deaths by causes, for the first three months, is appended, and of the total mortality in each month: 70·04 per cent. in January, 67·86 per cent. in February, and 66·7 per cent. in March occurred in Rural Circles, whilst in the same months 29·96, 32·14, and 33·3 took place in Town Circles. Thus there is a slight decline in each month from January in the percentage mortality in Rural Circles, with a corresponding slight rise in the mortality in Town Circles.

Whilst as regards the ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population for the whole zillah, the ratio is 7·32 in January, 7·50 in February, and 9·33 in March, but when the calculation of deaths per 1,000 of population for Rural and Town Circles separately is made, it is seen that the ratio is much higher in Town than in Rural Circles. Practically, whilst the mortality in Rural Circles went up under 2 per 1,000 of population from January to March, in Town Circles it went up over 4 per 1,000 in the same time, due to the large number of people attracted to large towns either in the hope of work or of charity.

A table, No. II., is given, showing deaths by ages and sexes. The chief mortality is among infants and children under 5 years of age, and then the other extreme of life shows the next highest mortality. The lowest death-rate is shown amongst those from 15 to 20 years of age, followed by those of ages ranging from 10 to 15 years. The deaths amongst males are in excess of those amongst females.

In all the Rural Circles during the three months, the principal mortality is ascribed to "Fever," and very few to "Dysentery" or "Diarrhoea," which are the causes one would expect in famine times to be most prevalent. In Town Circles, on the other hand, more than half the total mortality occurring in them is put down to "Other causes." An analysis of the deaths in the largest Town Circle and Viramgam Town Circle has been made, and the result shown separately. It shows also what a large number of strangers or "outsiders" have come in to swell the total of deaths, and there is little doubt that in Rural Circles also the death roll has been increased by the number of wanderers from Native States, by which this Collectorate is almost surrounded. The mortality has been increased, not only by these wanderers from outside, but by the mass of people not coming on to work till they were in very low condition. They eked out their food with leaves of trees and roots, and stayed on till their cattle perished, and then when they came on the works they could not perform the task imposed, and so of course the minimum wage only was given, which, being dissatisfied with, the workers would leave, and wander back to their villages. This, in my opinion, has been the chief cause of the high death-rate. The village agency has entered the mass of deaths under the head of "Fever," but no specific fever has been discovered to have existed, and in the majority of cases the cause of death has been due to insufficient food. Contributory causes, though in a minor degree, were, in January, the cold, which led many workers to leave camps, and may have prevented others from coming on, but as the mortality has been steadily increasing, the effect of the cold weather can only have been temporary. There also, I was informed that in some cases the task was not equally apportioned by the subordinate officers in charge of works, and this had the effect of sending people off the works, but even presuming it did happen at one or two works, it could not have had a bad effect on the great mass of the people, and the cause of the excess mortality is to be found in the habits of the people, disinclined to go far from their villages and to work for a living wage.

Annexure III.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the High Death-rate and Deaths from Starvation in Ahmedabad City.

Ahmedabad is a city, the population of which, by the census of 1891, is 144,451, but since then, up to 1899, the population must have largely increased, because in 1891 there were only 9 mills, whilst in 1899 there were 22 mills and 3 factories, which must have attracted a large number of people, and the Health Officer is of opinion that the city is overcrowded, and, in addition, a large number of people have come in again, and remained with friends and relations. Lately, owing to the bad state of the mill industry, numbers of hands have been unemployed.

The ten-year mortality mean and the number of deaths in the first quarter is shown in the table appended, No. I., and also the ages at time of death in this Town Circle is shown in another table also appended, No. II.

The table below shows the total deaths and deaths by causes and sex in the city for January, February, and March, 1900.

Months.	Total Deaths.	Deaths by Causes.						Sex.	
		Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Dysentery and Diarrhoea.	Injuries.	Other Causes.	Male.	Female.
January	1,454	—	2	468	47	14	923	793	661
February	1,582	—	1	356	41	7	1,177	857	725
March	2,140	—	10	554	78	12	1,486	1,118	1,022

There is a slight preponderance of males dying to females. The infantile mortality is high.

The deaths ascribed to "Other causes" are in each month much more than half of the total number of deaths.

The chief diseases which help to make this total of "Other causes" are given below.

Months.	Deaths ascribed to Other Causes.	Chief Illness ending in Death entered under heading "Other Causes."			Remarks.
		Bronchial Affections.	Want of Lactation.	Starvation.	
January	923	478	102	246	826 deaths out of 923
February	1,177	392	66	539	997 " " 1,177
March	1,486	477	96	590	1,163 " " 1,486

The "Want of lactation" and starvation are causes directly due to famine.

In famine times it is notorious that people leave their homes and go to big cities in hopes of employment, and among these outsiders not known to reside in the city, 442 deaths occurred in January, 684 in February, and 902 in March, or a percentage on the total deaths of 30.4, 43.2, and 42.2 in each month respectively.

In cases of death in the streets, or on the outskirts in which there are no relatives to claim the body, and in which no information can be obtained, a panchnama is held by the Mukhi and Police, and according to the appearance of the body the cause of death is registered. All these cases put down as dead from "Starvation" are those of outsiders wandering to the city and dying unknown. Thus in January 442, in February 684, and in March 902 "outsiders" died, and of these, in each respective month, 246 or 55.7 per cent., 539 or 78.8, 590 or 65.4 per cent. were put down as died from starvation, being picked up dead.

An estimate of their ages was made, and the heaviest mortality was among adults who were stated to be mostly "Kolis" and "Thakurs."

The verdict of the panchnama has to be accepted, and then the question arises how were these people allowed to get in such a low state when Government had expressly

instituted a system of village relief to help these wanderers to the famine camps, or the place they wanted to go to? Although I was not in office at the beginning of the year, it would appear, from enquiries I have made, that at first the village relief was given freely, but it was used so largely that it was found necessary to restrict it, and perhaps the restrictions were applied too stringently by the village authorities, or many of these people may have been from foreign territories or very distant villages, who did not know where to get relief on the road. For instance, in the Sarungpur poor-house at Ahmedabad there were 496 admissions from January 22nd to April 2nd, 1900. They came from 134 villages, of which 73 cannot be identified. Of the 61 villages identified, 9 were in the Ahmedabad District, 38 in the Kaira District, 5 in Mahi Kantha, 7 from the Baroda territory, 1 from Cambay State, and 1 from Gwalior. The large number of villages not identified offers the presumption that they were not in British territory. According to the distances of the villages, some of the people must have come 40 miles before reaching the poor-house.

Also many did not care about staying, either on works or in the poor-house, and would break out, preferring to beg in the city until they were unable to beg any longer and would die in the streets.

Eliminating the deaths among outsiders, the increased mortality over the normal average is due in part to an outbreak of influenza, the Medical Officer of Health of Ahmedabad ascribing indeed all the deaths from fever during January, February and March to this cause. In part, also, the heavy mortality is due, the Health Officer considers, to the overcrowded state of the city, and in this I am inclined to agree with him, especially as the large number of deaths ascribed to "Bronchial affections," which are included under the heading "Other causes," points that way.

Annexure IV.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Viramgam Town Circle.

The Viramgam Town Circle returns, although of late years, since drainage channels were dug, the death-rate has been reduced, still have usually shown a high death-rate. The mortality ascribed to "Other causes" has not been so strikingly high as in Ahmedabad, the deaths attributed to fever being most numerous. Of the deaths ascribed to "Other causes" (*see* Table No. I.) the following analysis has been made:—

Cause of Death.	January.	February.	March.
Bronchial affections	51	86	49
Measles	17	18	17
Convulsions	18	20	18
Delirium	21	—	—
Starvation	8	4	2
Minor ailments	18	12	8
Total	128	140	94

In January there were a number of deaths from bronchitis, and in February an outburst of pneumonia.

Annexure V.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Kaira Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

In the Kaira Collectorate there are seven Rural and four Town Circles. 92.4 per cent. of the population of the district live in the Rural Circles, and 7.6 per cent. in the Town Circles.

The Dharalas form the bulk of the population, there are no hill tribes or forest people, and hardly any Bhils.

The staple food in ordinary times is bajri, bavto and dhall. They are not, I am informed, addicted to liquor. They work in their own way and at their own time, and earn a comfortable living without any great exertion.

A table of mortality for the first three months in the year is appended, Table No. III. Of the total mortality in each month, 88.36 per cent. took place in Rural Circles and 11.64 per cent. in Town Circles in January, 83.04 and 16.96 per cent. respectively in February, and 86.38 and 13.62 respectively in March.

For the Collectorate as a whole, the greatest mortality is, in each month, attributed to "Other causes," but if the deaths in Rural and Town Circles are taken separately, it will be seen that it is, in the Rural Circles, the deaths ascribed to "Other causes" preponderate, whilst in Town Circles the chief cause of death is due to dysentery and diarrhoea, and so no separate analysis of the death causes in the Town Circles has been made.

A table, No. IV., giving the deaths by "ages" and "sexes," shows that the mortality was greatest amongst people 50 years of age and upwards, both in the Collectorate as a whole and in the Rural Circles. In Town Circles deaths among children under five years of age preponderate. Young adults between 15 and 20 years of age suffered least.

The deaths amongst males are, in every month, much higher than amongst females. As the mortality in Thasra Taluka was very high, an analysis of the deaths put down to "Other causes" was made, and the principal cause of death is attributed to bronchial affections, which cannot be put down as due to "overcrowding," though probably living in small huts with an insufficiency of clothing may have caused many, at the extremes of life, to be liable to disease attacking the lungs.

Cause of Death.	January.	February.	March.
Bronchial affections	506	240	325
Dropsy and dropsical swellings...	46	81	74
Senility	60	61	95
Want of lactation	40	18	35
Anæmia and debility	11	29	51
Emaciation... ..	39	40	39
Measles	13	8	25
Ricketts	39	1	14
Erysipelas	21	10	18
Minor causes	75	62	81
Total	650	550	737

The District Medical Officer reports that, from enquiries he has made, it appears that the crops, which had almost matured at Heranj, Khandli, and Machial, in the Matar Taluka, were destroyed by irrigation with brackish water. The people did not drink this water; but even if they did, the effect was not harmful, as the mortality in the Matar Taluka is the lowest of all the talukas in this district.

Annexure VI.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Panch Mahals Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

The Panch Mahals is a district in which are many Native States. It consists of five Rural Circles and two Town Circles. It is roughly divided into the Eastern and Western Mahals, of which the Bhils live chiefly in the eastern part, whilst the Kolis and Nikvas occupy the western portion. The staple food in ordinary times is Indian corn for those living in the east and bajri for those in the west, whilst on relief camps the Rangoon rice and mug dhall have been used.

The Bhils are reported to drink whenever they get a chance, but are of active habits and hardy, and will work after their own fashion. The Kolis also drink as a regular habit, but not to any extent—they are not hardy and are not inclined for work (only) except at their own times and in their own way. Of the total population 91.2 per cent. live in the Rural Circles and 8.8 per cent. in the Town Circles.

A table, No. V., is appended, showing the deaths by causes in the Rural and Town Circles, and this shows that in all the Rural Circles the deaths returned as due to fever far outnumber the rest of the deaths.

The difficulty is to explain this high percentage. There is little doubt that many of the deaths ascribed to fever are not due to it, but from the village agency for registration too much cannot be expected. Plague has not been prevalent in the zilla, nor influenza, nor relapsing fever. The causes appear to be in the people themselves. Mostly agricultural, they have held on as long as any cattle remained alive, supporting themselves by selling wood, &c. The Bhils also have been waiting for the mowra crop, which has failed, and as these people were averse to State aid, averse to the work offered, the death-rate went up, and even when they did come on to work, being in poor condition, they were not able to recover, and the death-rate increased.

A table, No. VI., is appended, showing the deaths by "ages" and "sexes." As regards "ages" the largest number of deaths occurred amongst those 60 years of age and upwards, both in the Collectorate generally and in the Rural Circles. The infantile mortality is also high, and so is also the mortality after the age of 30. The Rural Circles and Town Circles, but especially the latter, show a large number of deaths of people aged between 30 and 50 years of age.

The deaths amongst males far exceed those amongst females.

Of the two Town Circles, Godhra and Dohad, the population is a little over 8 per cent. of the whole population of the zilla.

The mortality statistics for Godhra Town Circle are appended (Table No. VII.). For the early months they have to be amended, as the deaths occurring in the poor-house have not been included.

Of the total deaths in the first quarter of the year, 65.4 per cent. occurred amongst males, and the very great majority were Hindus of low caste. 48.7 per cent. of all the deaths are ascribed to "Fever" and 43.9 per cent. to "Other causes." The sudden drop in March of deaths put down to "Other causes," with a corresponding rise in the number of deaths under the head "Fever" is very noticeable.

Regarding the analysis of deaths from "Other causes," in January and February there occur 43 and 77 deaths from starvation. These are amongst people picked up dead, or nearly so, in the vicinity of the town. In February occurs the large number of 132 deaths ascribed to "General debility." All these are attributed to famine. After February the deaths which arise from famine causes would seem to be transferred to the heading "Fever," as there is nothing else to account for such a sudden and heavy rise in the fever rate. The deaths in Godhra Town Circle for April and May are also included in the above table. Cholera commenced in the town, but the incidence, as shown in the returns, was very slight. The number of deaths ascribed to fever still continue high.

The increase in the Dohad Town Circle mortality is due to the inclusion in the Town Circle register of deaths occurring in the poor-house, the tank work, and the hospital. No deaths are ascribed to "Starvation," but of the numbers picked up dead in the outskirts, if there were signs of purging the death was ascribed to "Diarrhœa," if not, then to "Fever."

Annexure VII.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Broach Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

The Broach Collectorate consists of six Rural Circles and two Town Circles, and on the north and east is bordered by Native States.

Throughout the Jambusar and Vagra Talukas and the Hansot Mahal the water is brackish. Between the upper stratum and a lower one, about 13 or 14 feet down, the sweet water-supply is obtained, and this is drunk. The brackish water is not used for drinking or irrigation.

The inhabitants are mostly Kunbis, Borahs, and Girasias, with a small number of Bhils and Talavias. Of the total population 84.7 per cent. live in the Rural Circles and 15.3 per cent. in the Town Circles. With the exception of the Bhils, the inhabitants do not take much liquor, and their food in ordinary times is jowari, kitcheri, and chas, and three-meals a day are usually taken. A table, No. VIII., showing the number of deaths and the death-rate, and the average ten years' mortality for the months of January, February, and March, is appended, and also a table of deaths by ages and sexes (No. IX.). Of the total mortality in January, 83.5 per cent. occurred in Rural Circles, and 16.5 per cent. in Town Circles; in February the percentages were 82.7 and 17.3 respectively; and in March 79.5 and 20.5. Thus there is a gradual increase in each month in the percentage mortality in Town Circles. More than half the deaths in each month are ascribed to "Fever." The mortality attributed to "Other causes" is also high, but the percentage to the total deaths diminishes slightly from January to March, whilst that from dysentery and diarrhœa goes up.

Amongst Rural Circles the highest mortality occurs in Vagra and A'mod, then in the Jambusar and Broach Talukas, and then Hansot and Anklesvar; and in March there is a very decided rise in the mortality in the Anklesvar Taluka, and it was in March that the people were drafted to the works in this taluka.

There were no deaths from cholera and but one from small-pox. From starvation 26 deaths were reported in January, 5 in February and 10 in March.

The mortality in the Rural Circles is ascribed in January to a large number of the people and strangers wandering about and not getting subsistence, also to the cold which, it is stated, drove many from the works and prevented others going there, and to the alteration in the mode of living and working; but as the cold was not prolonged and the people must soon have got to know where employment was obtainable, and as the mortality increased every month, the cause is to be attributed to the people not coming on the works. Jowari was first eaten and then Rangoon rice and then jowari again; but change of diet appeared to make no difference in the mortality. Also, as noted above, brackish water is present in part of the district, but as the people are reported to have used the sweet water they were always accustomed to, this could not account for the mortality.

The Table No. IX. shows that the heaviest mortality occurred amongst children between 1 and 5 years of age, and next to this those 60 years and upwards in age were the chief sufferers.

In this Collectorate also the deaths amongst males are in excess of those amongst females.

Annexure VIII.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Broach Town Circle.

In the Town Circles the deaths ascribed to fever and dysentery and diarrhoea were comparatively few in number. The deaths from dysentery and diarrhoea increase in number gradually from January to March. The largest number of deaths is, however, put down to "Other causes."

In Broach Town these have been examined and the following table is appended. The general death causes are shown in the table of deaths for the district:—

Months.	Total Deaths.	Deaths amongst Strangers.	Sex.	
			Male.	Female.
January	402	112	226	176
February	492	170	291	201
March	733	239	386	347
April	584	150	306	278
May	929	309	466	463

There were more male than female deaths, and the infantile mortality was heavy. The low-caste Hindus—Bhils, Talavias, Dhers—suffered most, losing over 65 per cent. of the total number of deaths recorded, and then the Mahomedans over 20 per cent. in the first quarter of the year. In May 210 deaths took place from cholera. Of the mortality ascribed to "Other causes" the chief causes of death and the numbers dying therefrom are:—

Cause of Death.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.
Bronchial affections	89	103	205	104	118
Measles	44	90	246	191	102
Senility	91	90	102	82	88
Convulsions	24	27	25	26	24
Anæmia	63	90	25	19	18

The measles and convulsions mostly occurred amongst the infants. The deaths put down to anæmia and senility were probably due to famine causes.

All picked up dead were strangers, and the cause of death was certified by a medical man; but there is no record as to the numbers picked up dead in and around Broach Town. Leaving out the deaths amongst strangers, the mortality in Broach has been very high, and is due to overcrowding and bad ventilation, to which is due the spread of measles and the large number of bronchial affections.

Annexure IX.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Surat Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

Surat consists of 8 Rural Circles and 2 Town Circles. The worst affected district is Mandvi, but there is also distress in East Bardoli and parts of Bulsar and Pardi. The people mostly affected by famine are the Kaliparaj, but also Kolis and Mochis have suffered. The staple food of these people is nagli, kodra, baoti and rice, and three meals are usually enjoyed. Dhall does not seem to be used, but wal (a kind of bean) is eaten with nagli bread. Toddy is largely drunk and country liquor also. The Kaliparaj are similar to the Bhils in habits and like to live in scattered hamlets. There is much brackish water in Olpad, but not used for drinking or irrigation. The water in Mandvi is not brackish, but dries up very quickly. A large number of people from the neighbouring Native States are reported to have come into this taluka.

Tables Nos. X. and XI. are appended giving the causes of deaths and the ratios and the deaths by ages and sexes. In the Collectorate on the average for the first three months three-fourths of the total deaths occurred in the Rural Circles, and although the majority of deaths in each month are ascribed to fever, the deaths attributed to "Other causes" are also very high. In the Rural Circles the deaths due to fever are twice as high as the deaths from "Other causes," but in the Town Circles the reverse is the case and deaths due to "Other causes" are greatly in excess. Whatever numbers of strangers may have come into the taluka of Mandvi, not many found their way to the head-quarter town, and the number of deaths ascribed to fever is due to people wandering about and not going on the works.

As regards the deaths in the Surat Town Circle (*see* Table No. XII.), which are in each month a little more than double the usual number, a table is given showing the causes of death. The deaths entered under the heading "Other causes" are in the great majority, and the analysis of them shows that to lung affections and measles the increase is due. The number of deaths increases from January to March and then falls in April, and would have continued to fall in May but for an outbreak of cholera.

The short table of the causes of deaths in Mandvi Town is appended (No. XII.).

FAMINE RELIEF MEASURES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

No. 81.

NOTIFICATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

No. M. 1360, dated Maháleshwar, the 16th November, 1901.

The following correspondence between the Government of Bombay and the Government of India is published for general information:—

Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. 2159, dated the 3rd October, 1901:—

"I am desired by the Governor in Council to acknowledge receipt of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 12—43-30 of the 26th August, 1901, with which was forwarded copy of the Indian Famine Commission Report of 1901.

"2. In submitting some preliminary observations upon the report I am to say that the Bombay Government fully appreciate the value of many of the recommendations made by the Commission attaching special importance to that regarding the appointment of a Famine Commissioner when relief operations are on a considerable scale, and are anxious to discuss in an entirely conciliatory spirit the questions regarding which they are not at present able to accept the views of the Commission. The Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that the exact position occupied by the Bombay Government during the late inquiry should be placed formally on record, not from a desire to embark on any controversy, but with the view of making it clear why this Government feel constrained now to make some remarks on certain paragraphs in the Commissioners' Report.

"3. When the Resolution appointing the Commission was communicated to this Government it was noticed that no representative of the Bombay Presidency had been appointed to serve with the Commission. The Governor in Council acquiesced in this omission, because he felt the force of the argument that an inquiry into the manner in which famine had been dealt with in Bombay should be carried on by an entirely independent body. But some portions of the report of the Commission cause this Government to regret that they did not at the time of its appointment suggest to the Government of India that the precedent of the Famine Commission of 1898 should be followed, and a Commissioner appointed from Bombay, not to assist in the preparation of the ultimate report but to watch the evidence given before the Commission so far as it affected Bombay, and to call the attention of this Government to points on which, in his judgment, it would have been well for them to have offered explanations to the Commissioners.

"4. The Government of Bombay do not claim for a moment that, in their endeavours to deal with a famine of unprecedented severity, and one which devastated districts where famine had been unknown within the memory of man, they have made no mistakes. Neither do they complain of the manner in which the Commissioners have embodied their criticisms—on the contrary, they fully appreciate the well-deserved tribute the Commissioners pay to the local officers of this Government as a body for the zeal and ability with which they discharged their very arduous duties. The observations made further on in this letter on certain paragraphs (up to paragraph 236) in Part II. of the report are, therefore, merely dictated by the desire of this Government to lay before the Government of India certain considerations and facts which, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, may not have been fully brought to the notice of the Famine Commission.

"5. The general tenour of the Commissioners' remarks, in so far as they are unfavourable to Bombay, is to the effect that, whilst in the earlier stages of the famine relief was extravagantly given in the Central Provinces, it was not given with sufficient liberality in Bombay. The Governor in Council acknowledges that at the commencement of the famine the Government of Bombay underestimated the resources and staying power of the inhabitants of Gujarát, which, as the Governor General in Council is aware, had long been regarded as one of the most fertile districts in India. Famine had been unknown there for 75 years, its population were well-to-do; and in Gujarát, if anywhere, it might reasonably have been supposed the cultivators would have saved money against a time of need. The Governor in Council therefore submits that the then Government of Bombay had good reason to believe at the outset that the distress in Gujarát might be dealt with on principles analogous to those which had proved amply sufficient in 1897 in the far poorer districts of the Deccan. I am to add that the Government of Bombay felt that the language of the Government of India's Circular No. 2-FAM. of 27th December, 1899, imposed upon them the absolute necessity for economy in the expenditure of monies contributed by the Government of India for famine expenditure; and that the knowledge that this Government had already been constrained to appeal to the Government of India for liberal assistance in connection with Plague expenditure rendered them especially anxious to incur no imputation of waste of public money.

"6. With regard to the specific criticisms of the action of the Bombay Government made by the Commissioners in Part II. of their report the Governor in Council is not of opinion that it is necessary to reply to each of them in detail since he apprehends that the main object of the appointment of the Famine Commission was to devise improved means for dealing with possible future conditions rather than to criticize in detail incidents of the late famine. It is also inferred from the terms of the Resolution of the Government of India that a separate communication will be received regarding some of the important general questions reserved for further discussion, and at any rate it would not be appropriate to express a final opinion regarding them until the principal officers engaged in the administration of famine relief in the Presidency have been consulted and there has been an opportunity for mature consideration. The object of the present communication is to point out certain facts and considerations to which, although they have a material bearing on some of the views expressed in their report, the attention of the Commission has not been directed but which would have been brought to their notice if a representative of this Government acquainted with them had been present at the inquiry. As the remarks made below amount largely to corrections of statements of fact, it is hoped that the same publicity will be given to them as to the report of the Commission."

I.—Paragraph 63 of the report speaks of 'Orders' given by the Chief Secretary. The Government of India are aware that the Chief Secretary had no power to issue orders, and the responsibility for their issue must rest with the Bombay Government themselves by whom the orders were promulgated.

II.—With reference to the statement in paragraph 31 of the report quoted in the margin it is to be observed that the correspondence with the Government of India regarding the report of the Famine Commission of 1898 was not completed when the last famine began. All the correspondence was communicated to the local officers and their attention was called to the more important points. The principles accepted by this Government and approved by the Government of India, which were in the main those followed with success in the famine of 1896-97, could not have been more clearly put before these officers. Special instructions were issued at a very early stage regarding the relief of hill tribes, the trial of systems of piece-work and supply of fodder, and not long afterwards regarding the classes of works to be selected in various circumstances, the organization of village relief and the treatment of persons newly arriving on works.

III.—In paragraph 26 of the report it is recommended that in Bombay the village accountant should be placed under the supervision of the Circle Inspector, who in his turn should be brought more immediately under the control of the District authorities. This is the arrangement actually in force so far as the duties of the Circle Inspector other than technical work connected with survey are concerned. These officers are appointed by the Collectors and are subordinate to the Māmlatdāra, and the rules provide that the village accountants shall as regards the duties referred to be under the control of the Circle Inspectors. It is intended by this Government to assign to the latter class of officers general land revenue duties as well as duties connected with land records, as desired by the Government of India, with as little delay as possible, and they will then be in all respects part of the general administrative staff. It is the case that the statistical information is compiled so far as it relates to agriculture in the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture and so far as it relates to mortality in the office of the Sanitary Commissioner, it being held that this course would avoid delay in obtaining the general results. As at present advised the Governor in Council anticipates no difficulty in giving effect to the view of the Commission and of the Government of India that the returns should go through the Collector's office and be collated under his supervision, but as a matter of fact that officer is made aware of any failure of crops and of any increase of mortality long before the statistics are compiled. His relations with the subordinate officers are so close that nothing abnormal should long escape his notice, and there is no chance of any distress occurring without his having had an opportunity of preparing for it.

IV.—It is recognized, however, that the interval between the time of ascertaining that there will be a failure of crops and the time when it is necessary to provide relief is so short that preparations should always be maintained to meet the contingency, and it is admitted that for the reasons mentioned by the Commission such arrangements were not sufficient to meet adequately the emergency which arose in this Presidency. The recurrence within two years of a more extensive famine than those of 1876-77 and 1896-97 was not considered to be a danger to be seriously anticipated. It is pointed out in paragraph 16 of the report that there were relieved in this Presidency in 1899-1900 385 millions of units as compared with 119 in 1896-97. If the number employed on works be taken separately, it is found that in 1876-77 the maximum reached was 361,172 and in 1896-97 321,203, while in 1899-1900 it was 1,011,279. Possibly the number would not have been so large if tests could have been more carefully applied, but the system was the same in 1899-1900 as in 1896-97, and in the opinion of the Governor in Council this Government could not have obtained an establishment sufficiently strong to deal adequately with more than a million workers in the manner recommended by the Commission. The Governor in Council is in entire accord with the Commission as to the desirability of paying the able-bodied strictly according to results and of daily disbursements, but these objects cannot be fully attained unless there is an establishment competent to adjust the tasks to varying circumstances and especially to the powers of the workers for the time being and to make daily measurements. Sufficient establishment for these purposes, the first of which involves the constant exercise of very careful discretion, was not available in this Presidency, and though the object aimed at will be worked up to as far as possible, it is feared that if so wide-spread a calamity recurs the difficulty of obtaining an establishment which can effectually carry out the system proposed will not be overcome unless very complete changes take place promptly in the social economy of the province.

V.—The view that all sources of supply were not tapped is expressed in paragraph 28 of the report. So far as superior officers of the Public Works Department are concerned, as many as possible were placed at the disposal of this Government by the Government of India, but some of these as well as one of the officers belonging to this Presidency were employed in Native States. Lists of candidates were also obtained and offers were made to such of them as seemed likely to be of use and applications were invited by advertisement. The same course was followed with

regard to Public Works subordinates, and application was made for aid also to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and the Punjab, and to the Principal of Thomason College. It does not appear to the Governor in Council that it was possible to do more than was done in the Public Works Department to obtain persons fitted for the technical part of the management of works.

VI.—It is suggested in paragraph 28 that persons who had not received a professional training might have been employed. This course was adopted as far as was considered to be practicable. In all offices, and especially in Collectors' offices, there are maintained lists of all candidates qualified for Government employment. But they were all needed for other duties. The Commission has perhaps overlooked the extent of the demand for clerical work and duties of inspection which has been created by plague as well as famine. The Governor in Council entirely concurs in the view expressed in paragraph 71 that the pay of a Special Civil Officer should in no case be less than Rs. 50 per month with a horse allowance of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, and that on special important works men of a superior class with a higher salary may with advantage be employed and has always urged the importance of engaging men fit for so responsible a post. Men on smaller salaries were appointed for the simple reason that more competent men were not available in sufficient numbers. Unfortunately many have proved unworthy of the trust which it was inevitable to impose on them, and prosecutions for fraud have been somewhat numerous.

VII.—In paragraph 42 of the letter to the Government of India, No. 155-FAM., dated the 5th October, 1899, the need for European supervision was strongly urged by the Governor in Council, and repeated applications were made both to that Government and to the military authorities in this Presidency for Staff Corps Officers, but owing to military exigencies comparatively few could at any time be spared and some had to be withdrawn when they had become most useful. The Government of India rendered valuable assistance by the deputation of officers of the Postal and Burma Police Departments and during the monsoon of Covenanted Civilians and officers of the Northern India Salt Department, and such commissioned and non-commissioned Native officers as the Military authorities in this Presidency could spare were employed. The services of officers of the Customs, Salt and Forests Departments were also utilized for famine duty, and retired European officers and private gentlemen were engaged. No opportunity was lost of securing such aid, and it proved most valuable both in the management of works and in the supervision of other forms of relief, but it could not compensate for the deficiency of a trained subordinate staff.

VIII.—A greater use of non-official agency is recommended in paragraph 34, and in paragraph 136 it is hinted that more reliance should have been placed on it in this Presidency, especially in the matter of village gratuitous relief. It does not appear to be contemplated that such agency should be employed in the supervision of public works, but it is pointed out in paragraph 54 that it should be enlisted for the management of works under civil agency and that there may be similar works constructed by private individuals or communities with or without aid from the State. The Governor in Council fears that the Commission has not taken sufficiently into account the circumstances which differentiate this Presidency from other provinces. There are few large land-owners, and such as there are do not evince much willingness to aid in the administration of relief. What has been possible in this direction has been attempted by the grant of tagai for various land improvements, and much relief has been given in this very beneficial form. Village communities no longer exist as active organizations. In towns, as the Commission recognise, missionaries and native gentlemen of influence have co-operated, especially in the supervision of poor-houses. All such aid has been cordially welcomed and public testimony has been given of Government's high appreciation of it. But in the villages there has been little or no such aid procurable. According to the Code the dolo should be distributed in the presence of village committees, but the Collectors continue to report that no reliance can be placed on them, that they will not assert themselves, and that they exercise no check on dishonesty. When cholera broke out in April, 1900, Government were anxious that as many small works as could be supervised with reasonable efficiency should be carried on, and suggested that local men of influence might witness payments, and again in the rains of that year urged that as many small works as could be supervised with fair efficiency should be opened. The Commissioner, N.D., also instructed the Collectors that no effort should be spared to stimulate persons capable of helping to lend a hand. There is no reason to suppose that the local officers omitted any means of enlisting the aid of non-official agency, but their efforts were practically fruitless. Where small works were opened, the supervision had generally to be exercised by a karkun of low grade with the assistance of the patel and village accountant. In the current year the number of people in need of relief in Gujarat has hitherto been comparatively small, and it has been possible to employ the majority of them on village works, but official supervision was found to be essential. The Collector of Ahmedabad reported that the village panches had proved a broken reed, patidars being found as useless as kolis, and all showing complete apathy as regards what did not affect their immediate personal interest. The fact is much to be regretted and it greatly enhances the difficulty of administering relief in this Presidency, but it must be recognized that outside the towns little reliance can be placed on non-official agency to supplement the deficiency of official supervision.

IX.—In these circumstances it seems to the Governor in Council that it would not have been possible to employ the majority of the people in need of relief in 1899–1900 on village works. If the supervision was inadequate when the people were concentrated on large works, it could not have been effectual at all if they had been scattered over numerous small works. This Government have always recognized that there are advantages, especially in certain seasons, in the employment of distressed persons on village works and there have generally been some such works entered in their programmes, but such employment on a large scale has always been reported to be impracticable with anything like the establishments this Government have hitherto been able to secure. It is admitted that the programmes were defective, particularly those for Gujarat, which was supposed to be immune from famine. But it was not only on that account that there was difficulty in employing the people on village works in that province. There is virtually in every village a tank which can be deepened, and there is scarcely any other form of employment available. The difficulty was entirely one of supervision. The utmost efforts of the local officers succeeded in providing on village works for but a small proportion of those in need of relief. The highest numbers were found in Kaira in July and August, when they were respectively 15,697 and 10,499, but the numbers on works managed by the Public Works Department in that district in the same months were respectively 127,524 and 80,526. The Commissioner, N.D., expressed his belief that the village works in 1900 were mere dole camps. In the current year more people have been employed on such works with more satisfactory results, but the reason is that the total number to be provided for has been of manageable dimensions, and that although the works are shown as being under Civil Agency, the Public Works Department aids in the supervision. For these reasons this Government cannot accept without reservation the view expressed in paragraph 58 that much of the panic and some of the mortality in Gujarat would have been avoided if there had been a more complete scheme of village works in reserve.

X.—As regards Medical and Sanitary establishments the Governor in Council concurs in the remarks made in Section XVIII. of the report, but it is not clear that in respect of this matter also the Commission has taken sufficient account of the magnitude of the famine and of the military exigencies which prevented such aid being obtained from the Military Department as might otherwise have been possible. In February, 1900, it was reported that all local resources had failed to supply sufficient Hospital Assistants, and applications to the Military authorities and to the Governments of Bengal and Madras were unsuccessfully made. The Sanitary Commissioner was then authorized to employ 115 compounders and also to offer a consolidated salary of Rs. 60 instead of the ordinary salary of Rs. 40 for temporary Hospital Assistants, but only six were attracted by the increased rate of salary. On the outbreak of cholera in April the Government of India were requested to send 40 Hospital Assistants, but could supply only 21, and these had to be recalled in July for military duty, being replaced by Civil Hospital Assistants and Assistant Surgeons. Later in the year more were needed on account of the virulent epidemic of fever, and it was fortunately then possible to meet the demand almost fully. There was some delay in issuing salary slips and consequently in payment of salaries owing to a defect in the system of communicating the appointments to the Accountant General, but on the defect being reported it was at once removed.

XI.—As already indicated, the Governor in Council does not dissent from the view stated in paragraph 28 that, if there were sufficiently strong and competent establishments, a penal wage as well as an ordinary minimum wage would be unnecessary. But the implication in paragraph 102 that the nine chataks wage was regarded by this Government as sufficient for subsistence when received in idleness is based on defective information. The intention of the penal wage was properly described in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of India, No. 287—28-2-F., dated 8th February, 1900, as follows :—

‘The wish of the Bombay Government is, it is understood, to fix a fair task, the performance of which will entitle the workers to the prescribed wage of 19 chataks for the digger and 15 chataks for the carrier respectively, and to reduce the wage proportionately as the work done falls below the prescribed task down to a penal wage of 9 chataks.

‘This proposal the Government of India consider reasonable, provided the tasks are fair, regard being had to the condition of the people; and provided that it is recognized that nine chataks is a penal wage and is not a safe subsistence standard in ordinary circumstances for the masses.’

The District Officers were informed accordingly, and it was impressed on them that the order for reduction of the minimum applied only to able-bodied adults. They were constantly reminded that it should not be enforced if there was reason to suppose that deficiency of outturn was due to causes other than wilful idleness, and members of the aboriginal tribes were exempted from it altogether. It is the case that large numbers of people in the Deccan who were apparently well able to do so would not earn more than the penal wage. The reason on some works was found to be that beef could be obtained at a very low price and elsewhere there must have been adjuncts to the wage. As observed in paragraph 77, the minimum wage was abandoned in Satara on account of the abuses to which it gave rise, but in that district the

following proportion of the workers earned no more than the penal minimum in four of the weeks in which distress was most severely felt:—

Week ending	Penal minimum. Per cent.	Less than penal minimum. Per cent.
12th May, 1900	20·67	36·28
19th "	22·96	49·83
30th "	23·83	60·75
6th June, 1900	30·80	42·55

If it is legitimate to pay strictly according to results even when the earnings continue small, it cannot be a hardship to restrict to a penal minimum such as are able but refuse to earn more.

XII.—As regards gratuitous relief, the Commission has not in the opinion of this Government in paragraph 140 correctly understood the intention of this Government in directing that kitchens and poor-houses should be utilized as far as they conveniently could be. The object was not to make the condition of going a considerable distance a test of need, but to keep the relief under more effective control. This Government found that it was scarcely possible to get officers of lower grades to exercise a reasonable discretion in determining who should be allowed gratuitous relief, and the risks of abuse of the grant of such relief in the villages are serious. It was considered that the difficulty would be to some extent removed if such as could go to kitchens and poor-houses were thus brought under the constant supervision of superior officers, whilst there would be left in villages near the poor-houses and kitchens for relief by the dole only the destitute unable to walk, whom even village officers could discriminate. As regards the view expressed in paragraph 142 that the people will cook their own food better than it will be cooked for them, it may be mentioned that one of the reasons assigned for great mortality in Gujarat was that those who got a grain dole often did not cook it properly and one of the advantages attributed to kitchens was that the infirm as well as children got food well cooked.

XIII.—The statements quoted in the margin occur in paragraphs 187 and 188 of the report. According to the distribution of the districts for Administrative purposes Satara and Sholapur are in the Central Division. But the important point is that Sholapur was one of the most severely distressed districts. The failure of crops was not quite so complete as in Gujarat, but there was very little grain produced. The district also suffered as much as any other in 1896-97 and the intervening seasons were not good. The proportion of the population seeking employment on works was greater than in any other district except Ahmednagar. Attention is specially called to this misunderstanding, because it has a material bearing on the discussion of the causes of high mortality in Gujarat.

"Excluding the isolated and desert district of Thar and Parkar, the figures for which appear to be altogether unreliable, the districts of the Presidency affected by famine fall naturally into three groups, viz:—

the four districts of the Southern Division—Satara, Sholapur, Belgaum and Bijapur ;

the four districts of the Central Division—Khandesh, Nasik, Poona and Ahmednagar, with the addition of Thana, which geographically belongs to them; and

the five districts of Gujarat—the Panch Mahals, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach and Surat.

In the Southern Division there was little distress and the death-rates were relatively not high."

specially called to this misunderstanding, because it has a material bearing on the discussion of the causes of high mortality in Gujarat.

XIV.—In the extracts quoted in the margin from paragraphs 128, 135, and 195 of the report the Famine Commission comment on what they consider to be the inadequacy of village relief in Gujarat and of works near the people's homes in the Kaira and Panch Mahals districts at the commencement of the famine. Now it need scarcely be said that the instructions which were issued in regard to this matter were as fully applicable to Gujarat as to the rest of the Presidency. The necessity for timely organization of village relief was pointed out at a very early stage, but it was held both by the Government of India and by this Government that the traditional and family obligations of the social system of the country should be infringed as little as possible, and this principle was duly inculcated on district Officers. The wealthier classes of Gujarat have always had the reputation of being exceptionally charitable, and there is no doubt that private charity was extensive in that province in the early stages of the famine and was continued on a considerable scale for several months. As shown

128. We think that in the Bombay Presidency, especially in Gujarat, the distribution of gratuitous relief in the homes of the people began too late, and ended in being profuse.

135. *Village gratuitous relief.*—In Gujarat the provisions of the Code were not acted up to for many months; and we agree with the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner in attributing to this cause much of the great mortality which occurred there.

195. We have no doubt that the mortality in the period up to May would have been less had more works been opened near the people's homes in the Kaira and the Panch Mahals Districts, and had the provisions of the Famine Code in regard to the distribution of gratuitous relief in the villages been acted upon with due liberality.

doubt that private charity was extensive in that province in the early stages of the famine and was continued on a considerable scale for several months. As shown

in the statement appended, village relief was commenced in Gujarat as soon as elsewhere, and although there were considerable variations in districts from time to time it was on the whole granted even up till June with little less liberality than in the equally distressed districts of Sholapur and Ahmednagar, where the mortality notwithstanding much immigration is admitted by the Commission to have been not very high, and it is to be remembered that it was supplemented by the relief in kitchens and poor-houses of persons residing within easy reach of them. It was given much more extensively in Gujarat in the period referred to than in the Deccan in the corresponding months of 1896-97 and 1876-77. The Governor in Council is unable to see that there are sufficient grounds for the general charge against the local officers in Gujarat that they did not observe the provisions of the Code relating to this matter or to admit that excess mortality was to any material extent due to restriction of gratuitous relief.

XV.—It cannot be denied that some mortality might have been averted in the Panch Mahals as well as in Khandesh if effect had been given at an earlier date to the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1898 regarding aboriginal tribes. But the difficulties of the situation are recognized by the Commission; the local officers had reasons for believing that sufficient provision was made for the time for those belonging to British territory, and the anticipation of the Collector of the Panch Mahals that Bhils would do no work if they could get a subsistence wage without working was realized. In Khandesh many of the Bhils were employed on grass operations and in both districts the emaciation first observed was amongst immigrants from Native States. It does not, however, appear to the Governor in Council that there are sufficient grounds for attributing excess mortality in Kaira to a paucity of works. There were eight relief works open in that district in October, before which month few crops are ever reaped, that is more than the rate of one for each sub-division recommended by the Famine Commission of 1880, while the district is compact without any forest. There were 12 works open in February and 14 in March, when there was employment available for everybody within a short distance of his home. It could scarcely have been desirable to multiply the works to a greater extent unless an attempt were made to employ all in their villages, and it would not have been practicable to do so consistently with efficient supervision.

XVI.—In Kaira especially and also in other districts there were able-bodied people who persistently refused to leave their homes for work. When it was found that gratuitous relief was given to save their lives, they were thereby encouraged to continue this practice. The fact was patent to all officers engaged in the administration of relief. There were thousands who deliberately remained in their villages till they were emaciated while there were works open within two or three miles. The stage of emaciation at which gratuitous relief becomes legitimate is not easy to determine, and if it is not permitted until there is manifest physical deterioration, there must be an increase of mortality amongst people with the proclivities of some classes in Gujarat. Doubtless the village officers and Circle Inspectors in the earlier stages of the famine not infrequently failed to carry out the orders that immediate relief should be given to all persons in obvious danger of death from starvation, but in the opinion of the Governor in Council no such material diminution of mortality as the Commissioners appear to believe would have resulted from such extension of gratuitous relief as would have been admissible under the provisions of the Code.

XVII.—The statement in the last sentence of paragraph 226 of the report quoted in the margin does not accurately express the opinion of this Government, which was explained in the letter to the Government of India, No. 849-FAM., dated 22nd December 1899. The Governor in Council considers it expedient to give relief by employment in their own craft to such weavers as are physically incapable of earning a sufficient livelihood on the ordinary relief works, including such as are not susceptible to the ordinary labour test without risk of impairing or injuriously affecting manual skill or delicacy of touch necessary for the successful production of fine cloth. Weavers of this class are for the most part found in Municipal towns, and it is important that for the efficient supervision of this form of relief the Municipal Councillors should be associated with the officers of Government. The Municipalities are offered loans on favourable terms for the purpose and Government undertake to bear half of any loss which may be incurred. Relief has been given in this manner on a considerable scale to weavers. Collectors are also authorised to give special relief in places other than Municipal towns to such as under a fair construction of Section 151 of the Bombay Famine Relief Code are entitled to it.

"7. For the reason stated in paragraph 6 of this letter, the Government of Bombay feel it incumbent on them to submit the above explanations to the Government of India, as they consider that the opinions expressed by the Commissioners are to some extent founded on incomplete knowledge of facts. They do not, however,

desire to enter upon any discussion in connection with any of these points unless further explanations of any of them should be required by the Government of India.

"8. By far the larger part of Part II. of the report consists of suggestions for dealing with future famines. It would not be possible to discuss all these proposals in detail within the limits of this letter; but I am to repeat that this Government realize that many of them are likely to prove of great value in future, and that the Governor in Council will be prepared to consider with care and endeavour to carry into effect such reforms as the circumstances of the Presidency may require.

"9. Paragraphs 236 to 287 of the report deal with the question of suspensions and remissions of land revenue. As the Government of India are aware, this question has been debated over and over again by this Government and themselves; and the Governor in Council considers it unnecessary to repeat arguments that have already been adduced and considered. I am, however, to communicate the following remarks on a few points which call for notice.

I.—The Commission in paragraph 266, though without giving the data on which it is formed, express the view that the assessment in the Deccan Districts is a full assessment for tracts where the soil is sterile and the climate precarious, and in paragraphs 268 is recorded the conclusion of the majority of the Commissioners that it is full in the Presidency generally. As the Government of India apparently accept the estimate referred to in paragraph 265 that in the Deccan the revenue absorbs about 7 per cent. of the gross produce, they presumably do not endorse that conclusion, which is not reconcilable with the very high value which the Registration records show that land ordinarily bears, with the fact that cultivation has extended in a materially greater proportion than the increase of population, and with the ease with which practically the whole demand is generally realized. As regards, however, the reference to the precarious climate, and the statement in paragraph 266 that whether the assessment be moderate or full it cannot be collected in short years without forcing the rayats into debt, it is to be observed that this Government's intention from the first has been that the rates should be such as could be paid in all but abnormal seasons. The Governor in Council is quite prepared to extend to the cultivators of this Presidency the benefit of any concessions which the Government of India may be willing to grant and will, if so desired, introduce such a system of varying the demand on account of crop failure as is recommended by the Commission, but he considers it necessary to put on record that the reason assigned for the application of the recommendation to this Presidency is inconsistent with a cardinal principle* which has hitherto always been kept in view in determining the assessment and that a sacrifice of revenue will be entailed beyond what has already been allowed to secure fixity of demand. This Government cannot avoid expressing their apprehension that interference with the custom of punctual payment which has become established is likely to result in difficulty in realizing what is determined to be fairly due and consequently in their being frequently compelled to take steps to secure payment which may be unpalatable to the people. The following comparison of the proportions of distraints (including forfeitures) to holdings in three years in this Presidency with those in the Rayatvari tracts of Madras in which the demand is varied on account of crop failure is instructive :

Provinces.	Number of holdings.	Number of compulsory processes such as distraints and forfeitures and sales of moveable and immoveable property.	Percentage of column 3 to column 2.
1	2	3	4
Bombay Presidency proper :—			
1897-1898	1,220,878	2,407	·19
1898-1899	1,226,110	5,004	·41
1899-1900	1,229,361	4,400	·35
Madras :—			
1897-1898	3,412,231	339,252	9·23
1898-1899	3,434,826	455,703	13·27
1899-1900	3,459,449	423,851	12·25

* In a letter No. 3899, dated 5th October, 1847, the Government stated :—" All the Superintendents agree in opinion that as a system remissions ought not to be granted in (surveyed) districts, and in this opinion the Honourable the Governor in Council most fully concurs. One of the principal objects Government had in view when sanctioning the revision of assessment was the doing away with the necessity of making abatements

II.—The view expressed by the Commission in the last sentence of paragraph 275

"275. In Bombay there is at present no system of suspensions or remissions in ordinary years; but the terms of the Famine Code give Collectors ample powers of suspensions in the case of 'an abnormal failure of the harvest causing total or almost total destruction of the crops over a considerable area,' and direct that such suspension should be eventually followed by an inquiry into each case as to the desirability of collection or remission. It appears, however, that the executive orders of the Bombay Government have taken away the discretion allowed to Collectors by the terms of the Code."

of their report quoted in the margin is not correct. There has been no interference with the power of the Collector to postpone the collection of an instalment or instalments pending inquiry. The instructions relate to the action to be taken after inquiry, which includes not only immediate remission but in accordance with the recommendation of the Famine Commission of 1880 suspension in the expectation of an early return of prosperity till the Government by a special order direct the collection of the arrears or

if the circumstances are unfavourable their final remission.

III.—This Government will, of course, loyally accept the view which may finally commend itself to the Government of India in the matter of general suspensions and remissions adapted to the harvest conditions of whole villages or tracts without regard to the position or means of individual cultivators or landholders. But they desire respectfully to point out the result of adopting the recommendation of the Commission in such cases as those of Bijapur in 1896-97, and of the portion of Gujarat north of the Nerbudda, of Khandesh and the greater part of the Deccan in 1899-1900. There was no crop whatever in these places in the years specified except under wells and in a few spots on the banks of rivers, while in the latter year in order to encourage the cultivation of fodder crops it was announced that they would not be held liable to attachment for the revenue. If, therefore, the recommendation had been applied, it would have been necessary at least to suspend the collection of the whole of the revenue. Nothing short of this absolute measure would have sufficed to secure uniformity. The poorer cultivators could have no more paid a proportion—even a small proportion—of their dues than they could have paid the whole. Whether or not the whole is remitted in such circumstances, it will be necessary to sacrifice a large part of what could otherwise be recovered without hardship. If the well-to-do are not required to pay their assessment in the year in which it is due, it will not be readily recovered in a subsequent year, when it becomes an additional burden to them.

IV.—With reference to the remark in paragraph 242 of the report quoted in the margin, the evidence on which the conclusion

"We feel bound to record our opinion that much misunderstanding and much harassment and loss to the people would have been avoided; had the Local Government fixed definitely at an earlier date what the limit of suspension was actually to be, and had fixed that limit on a liberal consideration of the existing pressure."

has been arrived at has not been stated, but the view is expressed in paragraph 241 that the local officers felt themselves restrained by the limit which in October, 1899, the Government assigned to the estimates of suspensions. But it was distinctly pointed out before the time for recovering any revenue had arrived that what was necessary

was to apply the orders properly and the result would show which estimate was the more accurate. The orders referred to were briefly that even notices were not to be issued to any persons except those who were considered well-to-do unless they had reaped at least a 4-anna crop. It was also directed that no order of distraint (including forfeiture) should be issued by an officer of lower rank than an Assistant or Deputy Collector, and any person to whom a notice was issued was to be allowed to show cause why the revenue should not be recovered from him. There was thus no justification for local officers causing loss or harassment to the people. In 1896-97 it was estimated that there would be recovered in Bijapur 60 per cent. of the revenue; there was actually paid with practically no pressure 80 per cent. The Government of the time estimated that the province of Gujarat, then reputed especially wealthy, would be able to pay as large a proportion of revenue as Bijapur did in 1896-97. The Governor in Council admits that events have not justified that estimate. But neither have they justified the estimate of the local officers. If either had been made the basis of a limit of suspension the result would have been much hardship. Under the system which was followed nobody was materially affected by the incorrect estimate, for it was made known throughout the Presidency that Government did not wish the

save in years of unusual scarcity. * * * Indeed the assessment should be so moderate as to enable the cultivators to accumulate funds sufficient to pay the assessment in years of more than average failure."

Captain (afterwards Sir George) Wingate in a letter No. 176, dated 14th November, 1846, recorded the opinion that unless for some cogent reason every unrealized balance of the survey assessment due at the end of July in each year should be written off as a remission, and this view appears to have been accepted by the Government. The levy in good years of revenue held over from short years was thus not contemplated.

The manner in which allowance is made for precariousness of climate is explained in paragraph 58 of the Resolution of Government, No. 2619, dated 26th March, 1884, containing an exposition of the policy of Government in regard to the assessment:—"No consideration is more potent in the adjustment of rates than the security or insecurity of the crops in the area under settlement. A taluka is often divided into five or six groups for no other reason than the comparative certainty of the rainfall. Thus allowance is made in the assessments for the fluctuations in agricultural returns caused by variations of season by what may be called a standing remission co-extensive with the settlement in favour of the less fortunate tracts. The principle certainly is that the assessments thus carefully adjusted to the average production should be punctually paid."

This practice is in accordance with what is said in paragraph 167 of the report of the Famine Commission of 1880, to be the generally accepted theory that "where settlements are made for a long period of years an average moderate demand should be fixed which should not vary with the ordinary fluctuations of the seasons but can and should be paid in good and bad years alike."

assessment to be exacted from anybody who had not the means to pay it. As already pointed out, if no account is to be taken of the circumstances of individuals, no limit of suspension at all should have been fixed for the greater part of Gujarat and other parts of the Presidency; no revenue at all should have been collected, as none can be recovered from the poorer occupants when the failure of crops is complete. The Bombay Government are prepared with the concurrence of the Government of India to prescribe this course for the future, but they could scarcely have been expected in the light of previous experience to have prescribed it of their own accord.

V.—The remarks in paragraph 253 of the report which are quoted in the margin

“The advances made under the Land Improvement Loans Acts, 24 lakhs from November to the end of May, appear to have been timely. But of 82½ lakhs issued under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 49½ lakhs were distributed after the end of June, and 30 lakhs after July. We have already noticed the character of the rains policy in Bombay, and we think that had relief operations in this Presidency been conducted from the outset on the lines we have indicated, it might not have been either necessary or desirable to make such very heavy advances after June. We do not say that in the actual circumstances of these later months the advances ought not to have been made, but the impression left upon our minds is that a large portion of them cannot be recovered, and that they were to a large extent gratuitous relief in another form.”

can apparently be applicable only to advances made for subsistence, which up to the end of August aggregated only Rs. 4,12,116. Advances for seed and cattle were withheld until the approach of the monsoon for the special purpose of avoiding misappropriation. Large amounts were needed for cattle in Gujarat and it was clearly not desirable to bring cattle into the province until there was a prospect of grass being available. A considerable number which were imported prematurely were lost as the rain held off until the end of July, and on that account and also because in some places seed was sown without result, advances had to be increased. It is, of course, also possible that some of these advances were really devoted to subsistence, although they were made after

careful inquiry, but it is not clear how such misappropriation could have been prevented by any change in the system of relief.

“10. The Governor in Council does not think it necessary on the present occasion to offer any detailed remarks on the question of the establishment of Agricultural Banks in this Presidency as the general question of their establishment is now under the consideration of the Government of India; he fully agrees, however, that if they can be successfully established and maintained they may be of great value to the cultivator. I am to add that the Governor in Council has been much impressed by the very clear and concise suggestions as to the working of these Banks embodied in the Famine Commission Report and will be glad to take the matter up in due course.

“11. The remarks about advances by Government in Section V. of Part III. of the report shall receive the careful consideration of this Government.

“12. The question of indebtedness in the Bombay Presidency dealt with in Section VI. of the report is one of such magnitude as to require separate communication with the Government of India. In the meantime, as was pointed out to the Commissioners at the conference with them last January in Bombay, steps are being taken by this Government to establish a record of proprietary rights in land in the Presidency—as indeed has been recognized by the Government of India in paragraph 5 of their letter No. 1518 of 9th July, 1901.”

Statement referred to in paragraph 6, clause XIV. of the letter to the Government of India, No. 2159, dated 3rd October, 1901.

District.	Percentage of persons relieved gratuitously in villages to the population of the affected area.																				
	October.			November.			December.			January.			February.			March.			April.		
	1876.	1896.	1899.	1876.	1896.	1899.	1876.	1896.	1899.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.
Ahmedabad	—	—	0'01	—	—	0'02	—	—	0'26	—	—	0'53	—	—	0'53	—	—	0'44	—	—	0'32
Kaira..	—	—	0'03	—	—	0'32	—	—	0'17	—	—	0'15	—	—	0'32	—	—	0'73	—	—	1'20
Panch Mahals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'01	—	—	0'02	—	—	0'05	—	—	0'13	—	—	0'22
Broach ..	—	—	0'12	—	—	0'40	—	—	0'57	—	—	0'60	—	—	0'87	—	—	1'01	—	—	1'49
Surat ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'05	—	—	0'14	—	—	0'34
Thana ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'05	—	—	0'45
Khandesh ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'23	—	—	0'51	0'02	—	0'93	0'03	—	0'70
Nadk..	—	—	—	—	—	0'01	—	—	0'02	0'01	0'00	0'04	0'01	0'01	0'08	0'00	0'17	0'15	0'00	0'02	0'21
Ahmednagar	—	—	—	—	—	0'01	—	—	0'05	0'14	0'00	0'36	0'12	0'11	1'34	0'16	0'25	2'35	0'25	0'49	1'84
Poona..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'10	0'08	0'53	0'22	0'36	0'55	0'26	0'71	0'72	0'46	1'19	1'35	0'53	1'32
Sholapur ..	—	—	0'02	—	—	0'11	—	0'16	0'47	0'14	0'37	1'07	0'19	0'80	1'51	0'11	0'83	1'49	0'31	0'99	1'59
Satara ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'00	—	—	0'00	—	0'00	0'00	—	0'04	0'00	0'03	0'14	0'00	0'07
BJappur ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'03	—	0'02	0'46	—	0'02	0'82	0'09	0'05	1'06	0'33	0'13	1'16	0'85
Belgaum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0'00	—	0'07	0'05	—	0'09	0'12	—	0'19	0'16	0'01	0'59	0'16	0'64
Thar and Par- nar.	—	—	0'32	—	—	0'62	—	—	1'00	—	—	1'28	—	—	0'75	—	—	0'08	—	—	0'07

Statement referred to in paragraph 6, clause XIV., of the letter to the Government of India, No. 2159, dated 3rd October, 1901—continued.

District.	Percentage of persons relieved gratuitously in villages to the population of the affected area.																				
	May.			June.			July.			August.			September.			October.			November.		
	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.
Ahmedabad	—	—	0'78	—	—	3'80	—	—	6'28	—	—	8'88	—	—	10'14	—	—	3'06	—	—	1'44
Kaira ..	—	—	1'70	—	—	2'07	—	—	7'66	—	—	12'78	—	—	9'81	—	—	7'13	—	—	1'02
Panoh Mahals	—	—	1'18	—	—	7'13	—	—	11'27	—	—	22'76	—	—	23'93	—	—	9'18	—	—	4'42
Broach ..	—	—	1'81	—	—	3'82	—	—	14'87	—	—	20'69	—	—	17'44	—	—	16'49	—	—	9'74
Surat ..	—	—	0'55	—	—	2'06	—	—	5'72	—	—	6'51	—	—	2'80	—	—	1'47	—	—	0'03
Thana ..	—	—	0'80	—	—	1'15	—	—	2'06	—	—	2'26	—	—	3'78	—	—	1'49	—	—	0'65
Khandesh ..	0'01	—	0'56	0'00	—	0'72	—	—	1'14	0'03	0'00	1'99	0'03	0'04	3'75	0'06	0'01	3'23	—	—	0'78
Nasik ..	0'01	0'04	0'22	0'04	0'10	0'37	0'02	0'18	0'84	0'04	0'16	1'04	0'07	0'10	1'19	0'06	0'04	0'81	—	—	0'27
Ahmednagar	0'52	0'61	2'57	0'82	0'78	2'94	0'47	1'32	3'08	0'44	1'83	2'86	0'51	2'44	2'81	0'67	1'68	2'69	—	—	1'93
Poona ..	2'36	0'60	1'47	4'00	0'85	1'75	3'91	1'05	2'47	6'81	1'28	3'04	7'69	2'25	3'32	2'58	2'25	2'55	—	0'43	1'31
Sholapur ..	0'80	1'12	1'79	2'24	1'09	1'99	1'45	1'32	2'55	1'29	1'63	3'60	2'45	2'08	2'38	1'98	1'55	1'86	—	0'44	1'77
Satara ..	0'59	0'01	0'23	0'82	0'08	0'38	0'66	0'11	0'81	1'16	0'25	1'35	2'24	0'41	1'48	1'54	0'27	0'96	—	0'01	0'43
Bijapur ..	0'88	1'26	0'96	1'31	1'42	1'13	1'67	1'64	1'25	1'62	1'69	0'72	2'30	1'87	0'48	1'83	1'44	0'41	—	0'00	0'37
Belgaum ..	1'51	0'16	0'06	1'59	0'19	0'11	1'09	0'22	0'21	1'77	0'24	0'23	2'75	0'30	0'26	1'89	0'19	0'81	—	0'04	0'08
Thar and Parkar.	—	—	0'03	—	—	0'25	—	—	0'46	—	—	0'42	—	—	0'21	—	—	0'01	—	0'01	—

NOTE.—The figures of 1876-77 are inclusive of the numbers relieved gratuitously in poor-houses, as it is not possible to show the figures for village gratuitous relief separately.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine) to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3885-48-51, dated 31st October, 1901 :—

“ I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2159 of 3rd October, 1901, making certain representations in regard to the Report of the Famine Commission, and am to state that the Governor-General in Council, while sharing the desire of the Bombay Government not to enter into any discussion of the points raised in paragraph 6, sees no objection to the publication of the letter in the local gazette.

“ 2. A further communication will be addressed to you in regard to the question of suspension and remission of land revenue and other questions of future policy which have been discussed by the Famine Commission.”

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS AND FAMINE RELIEF. FORECASTS FOR 1902.

No. 82.

Letter from H. S. Lawrence, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. 133, dated Bombay Castle, the 17th January 1902.

I am directed to submit for the information of the Government of India the following report regarding the agricultural prospects and the extent of relief likely to be needed in the several districts in the current year.

2. It is now quite certain that there will be more or less pronounced scarcity for another season over the greater part of Gujarat and in parts of the Deccan and Karnatak, as well as in the desert portion of the Thar and Parkar District in Sind. The following statement shows the rainfall of the season of

1901 as compared with the normal at the head-quarters and other selected stations of each of the districts of Gujarat, Deccan and Karnatak :—

District.	Station.	June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
		Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.
Ahmedabad..	Ahmedabad ..	5'24	1'30	12'57	8'02	8'44	8'11	4'61	0'22	0'60	0'08	0'53	—
	Dhandhuka ..	4'77	—	10'42	9'49	5'62	8'95	4'45	1'30	1'06	0'75	0'43	—
	Viramgam ..	4'91	0'71	13'76	3'59	7'03	6'25	4'50	0'12	0'19	—	0'82	—
Kaira	Kaira	5'56	0'09	16'16	8'23	9'31	9'13	4'59	0'02	0'65	0'25	0'71	—
	Matar	5'22	0'38	14'28	6'35	10'12	5'01	5'05	0'10	0'48	—	0'67	—
	Thasra	6'37	8'37	13'72	7'17	9'30	10'18	5'43	0'39	0'70	—	0'38	—
Panch Mahals	Godhra	6'82	3'59	14'79	8'48	11'85	11'49	5'54	1'15	0'81	0'04	0'38	—
	Halol	5'72	2'38	16'35	11'25	11'74	11'72	5'95	0'95	1'64	0'53	0'28	0'06
	Jhalod	5'07	1'95	10'20	11'41	8'72	5'19	5'12	0'38	0'82	0'27	0'60	—
Broach	Brosch	9'69	—	17'72	16'86	8'17	4'57	5'29	0'24	1'44	0'37	0'25	—
	Vagra	7'36	0'25	13'81	11'04	6'21	6'99	4'71	0'95	1'32	1'96	0'24	—
	Jambusar ..	7'18	0'17	13'37	17'74	7'09	3'43	4'37	0'13	1'17	3'14	0'39	—
Surat	Surat	9'59	0'21	21'04	12'27	7'17	3'45	5'78	0'95	1'99	0'44	0'30	—
	Olpad	7'45	0'98	18'21	11'76	6'78	2'20	4'56	0'47	1'45	1'85	0'18	—
	Mandvi	9'71	1'98	24'22	17'33	10'95	8'19	6'45	2'00	1'54	1'74	0'64	—
Khandesh ..	Dhulia	6'30	6'22	6'77	4'32	3'85	3'14	6'19	1'02	1'24	3'59	1'02	—
	Taloda	7'09	3'58	11'30	9'09	6'79	8'50	4'55	0'46	1'19	3'77	0'33	—
	Shabada	6'09	2'47	8'45	9'27	5'79	4'39	4'78	0'48	1'15	3'12	0'31	—
Nasik	Nasik	6'15	2'84	8'74	4'78	4'18	5'23	6'04	2'62	3'17	0'80	0'56	—
	Malegaon ..	4'35	6'36	4'49	2'33	3'22	1'91	6'86	1'18	1'68	8'30	0'61	—
	Yeola	4'29	3'61	5'19	2'04	2'85	3'17	7'50	2'25	2'17	2'62	1'23	0'02
Ahmednagar	Nagar	4'61	7'84	2'87	1'22	2'37	1'46	6'87	2'32	3'50	1'71	1'23	—
	Shrigonda..	3'10	3'48	2'09	1'26	1'53	0'89	7'21	2'47	3'01	3'05	1'24	0'17
	Kopergaon ..	4'07	2'44	3'65	1'17	2'39	2'75	5'99	4'02	1'82	3'67	1'28	—
Poona	Poona	6'23	4'02	8'98	8'32	3'95	6'13	5'88	3'73	6'06	2'78	1'47	—
	Ghodnadi (Sirur)	4'24	2'78	2'48	1'65	1'61	1'46	8'10	1'54	3'65	3'73	1'30	1'15
	Dhond	5'38	1'44	3'16	2'68	1'73	2'29	6'82	3'75	3'45	2'56	0'84	1'18
Sholapur ..	Sholapur ..	3'77	7'81	3'88	5'36	4'53	4'06	8'26	2'83	4'03	0'74	1'66	0'03
	Karmala ..	3'38	2'50	2'91	2'39	2'96	2'28	9'45	6'17	3'62	1'70	1'17	0'69
	Sangola ..	3'38	1'28	1'61	1'88	3'72	0'87	7'00	5'10	4'00	1'92	1'06	0'63
Satara.. ..	Satara	7'69	2'67	14'68	11'26	7'83	9'77	4'15	5'25	6'60	3'28	0'94	0'19
	Khandala ..	4'04	2'55	4'07	5'33	2'37	4'54	4'34	4'49	4'37	3'58	0'94	0'17
	Dahivadi (Man)..	3'36	2'41	2'64	2'48	1'76	1'82	6'05	5'37	5'41	2'51	1'49	—
Bijapur	Bijapur	4'00	7'07	2'17	0'92	2'54	0'67	7'38	5'15	4'48	2'34	1'60	0'93
	Indi	3'72	2'51	2'72	3'69	4'06	1'61	7'76	3'37	6'27	5'39	1'15	0'12
	Sindgi	4'16	1'56	3'81	8'33	4'33	0'46	7'21	3'12	4'19	1'60	2'06	0'82
Belgaum ..	Belgaum ..	8'67	9'60	15'42	11'81	8'73	9'40	4'78	9'38	6'51	6'33	1'76	0'53
	Athni	2'87	0'95	2'31	1'68	2'37	1'19	5'34	5'29	4'70	2'18	1'26	0'56
	Gokak	3'90	2'80	2'76	0'96	2'29	1'07	4'52	4'97	6'34	3'19	1'25	0'10

The character of the season is briefly described below :

GUJARAT.

Except in the southern coast talukas of Surat there was practically no rain till the 25th June. Between that date and the end of July rain fell in all districts, but it was irregularly distributed, being abundant in the south, moderate in the north-east and deficient in the north-west. Kharif sowings

were nearly completed by the end of the month. The young crops were then in a promising condition although slight damage had been caused in all districts by rats and caterpillars. The rainfall of August was short of the average in Surat, Broach, the western parts of Kaira and the Jhalod Petha of the Panch Mahals and was up to or above the average elsewhere. The rains so far were sufficient for all crops except rice, but rats and insects continued their depredations. In September the total fall was far short of the average, not reaching even an inch in many places, and it was received generally in very light and scattered showers mostly between the 1st and 13th. In October, November and December, there was no useful rain except in Surat and parts of Broach, where the situation was much improved by the good falls which were received after the middle of October. Elsewhere owing to the almost total failure of the late rains the rice crop over large areas has been entirely lost, the outturn of other kharif crops except such as were sown early in the season has been very poor, and there has been no rabi sowing except on irrigated lands. The damage caused by rats, locusts or other insects has also seriously affected the outturn in all the districts. Owing to deficient rainfall for the last three years in succession the water level in wells and tanks has become very low, and serious difficulties regarding supply of water for man and beast are apprehended.

DECCAN AND KARNATAK.

The monsoon commenced in the second week of June. The rainfall in that month was generally sufficient for sowing in the western hilly tracts, but deficient in the eastern plain country. In July and August the rainfall was sufficient and seasonable throughout Khandesh and in the western hilly tracts of Nasik, Poona, Satara, Belgaum and Dharwar, while elsewhere it was not up to requirements except in a few places. In the former area kharif sowing was everywhere completed and the standing crops were in good condition. In the eastern tracts on the other hand part of the area usually devoted to kharif cultivation remained unsown, and standing crops began to wither in some places. In parts of Khandesh, Nasik and Ahmednagar some damage was also caused by rats and locusts or other insects. In September while Ahmednagar, Sholapur and the eastern talukas of Poona and Satara received some useful rain, which helped to revive the withering crops, the fall was generally insufficient in Khandesh, Nasik and the western hilly tracts of Poona and Satara, where standing crops began to suffer at the end of the month and rabi sowing was retarded. In the Karnatak the rainfall of September was sufficient and beneficial to standing crops and gave a good start to rabi sowing. In October there was most useful rain for late sown kharif crops and for rabi sowing throughout the Deccan and Karnatak and it more than made up for the deficiency of the preceding month in the Northern Deccan Districts. Locusts however appeared in parts of Poona, Satara, Bijapur and Belgaum and caused slight injury to crops. During the first week of November some useful showers fell in the whole of Karnatak and in the Southern Deccan, but there has been no rain since in any district. Standing rabi crops have consequently suffered seriously in all districts and their outturn generally is not expected to be satisfactory.

3. In a report of 11th December, 1901, the Collector of Ahmedabad observed :—

“The prospects of the crops now on the ground are very gloomy.

“Cotton pods are torn to pieces by rats as soon as they ripen; and the ‘til’ crops in the Bhal, which might have produced some outturn even after the locust invasion, are being reaped wholesale by the rats, which gnaw the thick stalk through at the base and eat the green pods when the plant has fallen. They are also injuring the young wheat and will probably cause very heavy damage as soon as the ears begin to form and ripen. Nevertheless the people refuse to protect themselves by attempting to destroy the rats; and it is only in Modasa that good progress has been made in this direction under the superintendence of Mr. Alcock. The Bhils and wild Kolis of that Mahal are not restrained by religious scruples from earning the Government reward.”

Details of the losses caused by locusts were thus described in a letter from the Collector of that district dated 6th December 1901 :—

“In the Daskroi charge the main damage was done in the Daskroi Taluka where about 22 villages round about Ahmedabad and in the tract of country to the north were completely stripped of their standing crops, the damage varying from 12 to 16 annas in

the rupee. Many other villages were damaged, but their losses were not so heavy, varying from 3 to 8 annas.

“The Assistant Collector Mr. Alcock reports as follows :—

“I find the serious damage to have been restricted to the villages of Daskroi beyond the river (*i.e.*, north-west), and those few between the river and the Parantij Railway. Parantij Kasba and Ambavada Mahadavpura of this taluka have been injured; the injury is confined to less than 25 per cent. of the bajri and Kamalpuri jowari which form the chief crop sown in Parantij Modasa, and which were saved almost completely and in almost every case in other villages of this taluka and mahal.

“For Daskroi I found that the greatest damage had been done near the City (to the north), and in Hansol, Naroda and also on a line through Ranip and Vadaj to the north-west direction. Khoraj, Khodiar were very badly hit, Dantali (slightly off the line) rather less so. Gota, Chenpur, Jagatpur, &c., being mostly rice and (later) jowari villages had suffered so much from drought that there was little harm left for locusts to do. Adalaj similarly is a badly off village; Jamiatpur, Uwarsad, and Tarapur on either side of the line have rather escaped.

“Chandkheda on the north and Lilapur, Labkaman, Usmanbad, &c., on the south of the direct line of destruction are less badly hit, but cannot have saved more than 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. of their best earlier bajri.

“It is to be noticed that castor oil does not seem to have been affected to the same extent as in Sanand, where it seems to have been young and tender. In Bhadaaj, Sola, Thaltej the castor oil has been damaged in varying degrees, though I believe these villages to have saved 25 per cent. to 35 per cent. of their bajri and to have jowari still in the ear worth 10 per cent., and also to have got some good tobacco. For unparalleled destruction I think the Hansol-Naroda stretch of jowari fields to be the worst though the fields near the city and those just across the river are almost as bad.

“As to Parantij I have observed the taluka from the entire length of the railway and from the Hansol Road which take in the larger part of the important tracts, and the Aval Karkun, Mr. Hussein, has just returned from a tour in which he has seen half the affected villages of the taluka. The report is encouraging; in three villages only is the damage considerable. Bajri and “Kamalपुरi” jowari have been grown everywhere and were safely reaped almost in every village and secured in threshing floors or in stacks from damage.

“In the Sanand Taluka the principal damage was done on the east and the west; the central portion is the rice-growing tract and as the rice was already a failure the locusts could not make matters much worse.

“The bajri crop in this taluka fared better than in Daskroi and the damage to the standing crops nowhere exceeded 8 annas and averaged about 5. On the other hand, the jowari and banti crops were completely destroyed and castor oil suffered heavily, the damage being estimated at 10 annas. The pulses had already withered from want of rain. The damage done to cotton was estimated at 8 annas, but though fresh leaves sprouted after the departure of the locusts, it is feared that there will not be any appreciable outturn.

“In the Dholka and Viramgam Talukas the arrangements made for promptly ascertaining the damage were not so good as in the talukas which I have already described, and my information is less complete and reliable.

“The principal kharif cereals grown in the Viramgam Taluka are bajri and jowari; they had suffered severely from drought and grasshoppers before the locusts came, and it may be estimated roughly that perhaps 20 per cent. of such of these crops as had come to maturity were saved.

“Cotton was also attacked; plants which were completely stripped of their leaves put out fresh leaves in a few weeks and bear no apparent marks of damage. But the effect has been to stunt and retard the plants, and it is doubtful if they will come to maturity. The outturn in any case will be but small.

“In Dholka the extensive Bhal tract has escaped with comparatively little loss, for the main crop here is wheat, which was hardly above ground when the locusts passed through.

“But even in the Bhal many fields of young wheat were devoured and very heavy damage was done to the standing kharif crops of bajri, tal, bavto, banti, and fodder jowari. The damage was probably greater owing to the concentration of the locust swarms on a comparatively small area of standing crops. In the village of Sinaj, where I am now camped, out of a total cropped area of 250 acres of bajri the unreaped stalks and ears are still standing in no less than 100 acres; the locusts have removed all that was worth removing.

“The same is true of the Western Nalkantha tract; the only matured crop of which the people have been able to save a little, perhaps 2 to 4 annas, has been bajri.

“Dhandhuka, according to my present information, appears to have suffered but slightly. Not more than 20 villages were attacked; the cotton plants were not seriously damaged and have since had the benefit of 75 cents. of rain.

“Gogho was not attacked at all.

"From first to last the locusts did not stay in the district more than a week or ten days and a two days' camp in any one village sufficed to cause wholesale loss of crops. There was no time to infect them with the 'locust fungus,' though an attempt was made to do this, and no other measures of protection were found to be of any use."

In Kaira the collector estimates the outturn of kharif bajri, the principal crop at 6 to 3 annas in Matar, 10 to 3 annas in Mehmadabad, 12 annas in Nadiad, 8 to 10 annas in Borsad and Thasra, and 4 to 8 annas in Kapadvanj. Jowari is estimated to yield 8 to 2 annas in Mehmadabad; bavto only 2 annas in Mehmadabad and 4 annas in Nadiad, Anand and Borsad; kodra 2 annas in Mehmadabad, 4 annas in Nadiad, 6 annas in Borsad and 8 annas in Anand. Til was a good crop in Borsad, but tur is estimated at 3 annas only. In Kapadvanj castor seed and til are expected to yield 2 to 4 annas. In the Panch Mahals early sown maize and bajri turned out well, averaging 10 to 12 annas in the west of the district, but the late sown crops there were estimated to yield only 2 to 6 annas, the average being nearer the former. In Dohad the estimated average outturn was from 3 to 5 annas only, and in Jhalod 6 to 8 annas. The above estimate was submitted by the Collector on the 16th October, 1901, but in a later report of 29th November, 1901, he states that the outturn had been worse than expected owing to the damage done by rats. In all the three districts, Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals, there will be no rabi crop except on irrigated areas, but the Collector of the Panch Mahals states that well cultivation is also greatly discouraged by the continued damage caused by rats. On the 4th November, 1901, the Collector of Broach reported that cotton appeared to be excellent, and that other standing crops generally were not altogether a failure. Later (on the 21st idem) he reported that the rabi crops—cotton, jowari and tal, which are the main crops—were good, that those of Broach Taluka were about 14 annas, and that probably the average elsewhere was not below 12 annas. Rats, however, had eaten away 2 or 3 annas, and might do twice as much damage or more before the crops are reaped. He therefore estimates that the rabi crops will not exceed 8 annas when harvested, and may be even less. In Surat the rice crop in Chorasi and Olpad has been almost a total failure. In Jalapor even irrigated rice is not expected to yield more than 8 annas. In Bardoli the early sown rice yielded something, but the rest completely withered. The outturn of rice is estimated to be 6 annas in Valod Mahal, 4 annas in Mandvi, and 10 annas to 14 annas in the Bulsar Sub-Division. Kharif jowari is estimated to yield about 6 annas in Chorasi, Olpad, Chikhli, and Bardoli, and slightly more in Jalapor. In Mandvi it was injured by rats. Of the minor crops, bajri is estimated at 12 annas in Chorasi, and 4 to 6 annas in Olpad; sugar-cane at 8 annas in the Chorasi Sub-Division, and 10 annas in the Bulsar Sub-Division; banti, kodra, &c., &c., at not more than 4 annas. There is no hope of a rabi crop except on irrigated lands in the Bulsar Sub-Division.

4. In the Deccan and Karnatak the season was on the whole less unfavourable than in Gujarat. In East Khandesh the kharif crop was fairly satisfactory, and the rabi also is expected to be fair. In West Khandesh a long break towards the end of the monsoon, and locusts and rats did considerable damage to what was a promising kharif crop. Cotton yielded about 8 to 10 annas, but it is sown on a very small area. Kharif bajri and jowari, which are the main crops, have yielded only about 3 annas. Rabi crops, for which there was excellent rainfall, may turn out well or not, according as the rat pest is active. The cropped area is, however, too small for a good rabi harvest to make up for a bad kharif harvest. In the Nasik District the estimated outturn of kharif crops is 9 to 12 annas in Igatpuri, Peint, Nasik and Dindori; 6 to 9 annas in North Malegaon, Nandgaon, West Sinnar and the hilly parts of Kalvan, Baglan and Chandor; and 4½ annas in the plain country of the last mentioned talukas, in South-west Malegaon, Niphad, Yeola and East Sinnar. According to an estimate framed by the Collector of Ahmednagar early in October, 1901, the kharif outturn was 3 annas in Parner, Shrigonda and Sangamner; 4 annas in Nagar, Karjat and Kopargaon; 6 annas in Rahuri, 8 annas in Jamkhed, 10 annas in Shevgaon and Nevasa, and 12 annas in Akola. According to a later estimate, however, the average for the whole district is

4 annas only. The rabi crops promised well in the beginning, and would have yielded a bumper harvest had rain fallen in November. As little rain did fall in that month, the outturn will be poor. In Poona the kharif outturn is 8 annas in the western talukas, and about 3 annas in the eastern talukas. The rabi outturn is estimated at 4 to 6 annas all round. In Sholapur the kharif outturn averaged 6 annas in Madha, Sangola, Malsiras and Karmala; 8 annas in Pandharpur, and 12 to 14 annas in Sholapur and Barsi. The rabi harvest is not expected to exceed 4 annas in the four talukas first mentioned, and the average for the whole district is estimated at 8 annas. In Bijapur the estimated kharif outturn is $2\frac{2}{3}$ annas in Muddebihal, 3 to 4 annas in Sindgi, 6 annas in Indi, Bijapur and Badami, $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas Bagevadi, and 8 annas in Hungund. In Bagalkot the crops "were in good condition," but no estimate of outturn has been reported. In a later report, dated 7th December, 1901, the collector expressed the apprehension that these estimates might prove too high. As regards rabi crops the Commissioner, S. D., states in a report of 20th November, 1901, that they are certainly not satisfactory in the north of the district, but that they have been somewhat benefited by later showers. In Belgaum the kharif outturn in Gokak, Parasgad and Athni amounted to about 4 to 8 annas, and in the remainder of the district 12 annas or a little more. The rabi harvest is not expected to be good in Gokak and Athni, owing to the deficiency of late rains and to damage caused by grasshoppers. In other talukas rabi harvest will be fair to good. In Chandgad Mahal it will be excellent.

5. In Gujarat relief is at present being given in Ahmedabad, Kaira, the Panch Mahals and Broach. Later in the year it may have to be given in parts of Surat also. As regards the Deccan, the Commissioner, Central Division, reports that the general result so far as can be seen at present is that there will certainly be no need for relief in Satara, and probably none for it in Poona and Nasik, but that some relief will be required in Khandesh, Ahmednagar and Sholapur. In the Karnatak relief will be needed in the northern parts of Bijapur, and in Athni and the northern part of Gokak in Belgaum. In Dharwar the only relief at present given is gratuitous dole to a few shetsandis in Navalgund and Nargund, but it is stated that such relief will be necessary only till the end of January, 1902. Some relief will also be required in the desert talukas of Thar and Parkar in Sind, where owing to insufficiency of rain, the outturn is estimated to be—*nil* in Chachro, $\frac{1}{4}$ anna in Mithi, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna in Nagar, 3 annas in Diplo. The areas affected or likely to be affected in the Presidency are thus :—

Ahmedabad	...	Greater part of the district.
Kaira	...	Do. do.
Panch Mahals	...	Whole district.
Broach	...	Parts of a few talukas.
Surat	...	Parts of Olpad and Mandvi Talukas.
Khandesh	...	Parts of Taloda, Dhulia, Pimpalner and Nandurbar Talukas in West Khandesh.
Ahmednagar.	...	Whole district except Jamkhed, Shevgaon, Nevasa, and parts of Sangamner and Akola.
Sholapur	...	Madha, Karmala, Sangola and Malsiras Talukas, and probably Pandharpur Taluka also.
Bijapur	...	Indi, Sindgi and Badami Talukas.
Belgaum	...	Athni Taluka and northern part of Gokak.
Thar and Parkar	...	Desert talukas.

6. In Gujarat the general condition of the people is naturally worse than in the preceding year, and although the extent of relief likely to be required in the course of the season cannot at present be accurately estimated, still it is apprehended that the numbers on relief will largely exceed those relieved in 1900-1901. In support of this view the following extracts from the reports of the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals are quoted :—

AHMEDABAD.

Letter No. F.—3754, dated 23rd November, 1901 :—

"The condition of the cultivators who have through this series of bad years been incurring all the expenses of cultivation with little or no return is more serious ;

and even the most prominent members of this class are very badly hit. . . . Immigration from Kathiawar and Marwar will probably be greater in this season than in the last, and the supply of edible grass seeds is this year much smaller."

KAIRA.

Letter No. Fam.—312, dated 9th December, 1901 :—

"Even if the damage done to the crops by locusts and rats this year is left out of account, it must be borne in mind that there has not been anything like the same supply of wild seeds, such as *samo*, *manki*, and *khasli* that there was last year."

PANCH MAHALS.

Letter No. 6954, dated 16th October, 1901 :—

"In the Eastern Mahals rice has been everywhere a failure, while rabi crops are impossible. The latter makes the condition of the Eastern Mahals, where the Bhils depend much on their late sown crops, more unfavourable."

Letter No. 7886, dated 29th November, 1901 :—

"The damage done by rats, and the absence of *samo*, will, I consider, cause more people to come to the relief works than came last year."

In the Deccan and Karnatak also the areas affected in the current year have not had good harvests in any of the last five or six years excepting 1898-99.

7. The supply of fodder is generally sufficient, and no difficulty is anticipated in this respect. But the supply of water has already run short in parts of Gujarat, and there as well in the Deccan and Karnatak great scarcity of drinking water for man and beast over a wide area is apprehended. So early as 12th October, 1901, the Collector of Ahmedabad reported that "water was everywhere low in tanks and wells." About the same time the Collector of Kaira reported as follows :—

"*Water-supply.*—This is everywhere scanty. The tanks and rivers are everywhere dry or abnormally low except in Borsad, Mahudha, and parts of Anand. Irrigation by wells is also considerably restricted owing to the same cause. The supply of drinking water for cattle will be a difficulty in almost all the talukas except Borsad and Anand, but the supply for men will generally suffice except in parts of Kapadvanj. Steps are being taken to improve the supply wherever possible."

8. The following report by the Superintendent Engineer, N. D., will show the extent to which the water level in Gujarat has been affected by the defective rainfall in the past three years :—

Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer, N. D., No. 5432, dated 30th September, 1901 :—

"Undersigned has the honour to draw attention to the following figures regarding the water supply of 1901-1902 in Gujarat. Rainfall averages for Gujarat and a portion of Kathiawar taken out for the last 26 years show the following results :—

	1876 to 1886.	1887 to 1893.	1899 to 1901 (up to date).
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Surat	44.06	44.87	23.44
Broach	44.21	43.16	21.30
Kaira	37.13	37.20	15.17
Panch Mahals	43.24	40.96	21.69
Ahmedabad	29.92	32.58	13.45
Baroda	40.58	41.42	20.23
Sadra	32.06	32.65	13.28
Palanpur... ..	34.58	28.99	15.09
Rajkot	29.53	28.35	19.68
Wadhwan	19.69	20.75	8.08

and show that till 1899 the average rainfall was very even, indeed a comparison of the first two periods giving approximately the same figures, while the last period of three years shows an alarming decrease, the average being over 51·2 per cent. in defect, the figures for each year being—

Year.							Per cent.
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	79·05 defect.
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	21·80 „
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	52·8 „
Average							51·2 defect.

or a total loss compared with 23 previous years for the three years' period of—

—							Inches of rain.
Surat	...	...	...	...	...	...	63·10
Broach	...	...	...	...	...	...	67·07
Kaira	...	...	...	...	...	...	65·97
Panch Mahals	...	...	...	...	...	...	61·08
Ahmedabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	53·57
Baroda	...	...	...	...	...	...	62·37
Sadra	...	...	...	...	...	...	55·94
Palanpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	49·70
Rajkot	...	...	...	...	...	...	27·68
Wadhwan	...	...	...	...	...	...	36·47

“Such a large defect for so long a period must cause a reduction in both the surface and subsoil water of the country, and it is but to be expected that rivers will run low, tanks dry up, and depth of water in the wells decrease very largely, probably to an extent that may cause almost total failure of existing supplies in certain districts. The situation appears graver than in 1899 as regards water, and unless some abnormal rainfall alters conditions, there may be a very serious situation to face. Admitting the above facts, the first step necessary appears to conserve all surface water-supply still existing by holding it up in rivers and nalas where practicable; the second, to deepen wells when necessary and advisable; and, third, to sink new wells in districts where they may be necessary to prevent migration of cattle and people.

“A great deal has been written about water-supply and subsoil water in Gujarat, as also on the possibility of tapping artisan wells, but so far as my knowledge goes there is little or no reliable data to go upon, and I doubt if the country has (within existing records, at any rate) ever been in its present condition, and looking at the light nature of the soil of the larger portion of Gujarat it appears more than probable that some districts must run short of water for drinking purposes for man and beast, to say nothing of irrigation requirements.

• • • • •
 “P.S.—The above report was written on 30th September, but not despatched, as undersigned met the Commissioner, N.D., and decided after consultation with him to keep it pending further developments, in the meantime steps being taken for observations in all Collectorates and also arrangements being commenced for deepening wells by boring, &c., where deemed advisable.

“In October a little rain has fallen in Surat and Broach, and though tanks are more or less low or empty in some cases, and wells lower than in normal years, it is not at present anticipated that there will be any failure of water. In the Panch Mahals also, the situation is not yet bad, except in Dohad and Jhalod Talukas. In Kaira there is a diversity of opinion, as no one seems to know what the deep wells of the district will do, and though some are lower than in normal years, the village people do not seem to think they can ever fail entirely.

“In Ahmedabad water has already failed in some places, and villagers have to go two and three miles from their homes to find water. This is specially the case in the Viramgam Taluka, and it is impossible to yet say with any certainty to what extent

the water failure may develop. One thing, however, is certain, that the whole area of Gujarat is in large defect of rainfall as the result of the last three years' monsoon failure, and the situation is one which no one now living can give an opinion on from actual experience, and therefore I feel it only my duty to put the facts as they are before Government" (4th November, 1901).

9. The Deccan is not much better in this respect. In his report of the 17th December, 1901, the Commissioner, C. D., states that there will be considerable scarcity of water in the Desh Talukas of the Deccan. In his monthly famine progress report for October last the Collector of Sholapur observed :—

"The scarcity of water, however, must cause increasing distress to both man and beast as the season advances. The wells and springs have not been properly replenished, and even now (20th November, 1901) there are complaints that will multiply and grow louder during the hot weather. Government have kindly given another grant of Rs. 8,000 for the improvement of the water-supply, and all that is possible will be done. The serious thing, however, is that in many places, do what one may, no water is to be got. The continued short rainfall of the last five or six years has resulted in so extensive a shrinkage of the sub-soil water over the whole district that the old sources one used to be able to tap in time of need have nearly run dry. A good idea of the loss this part of the country has sustained in this particular may be gained from the statement kept up and now being revised to date by the G. I. P. Railway Company of the wells along their line whence they get water for their engines. The figures of the present supply, its quantity and the depths at which it is found, as compared with those of ten years ago, evoke a most alarming vision of the total disappearance of a huge volume of subterranean water all over the Deccan, on which it was formerly possible to draw in a year of drought, but which now we seek in vain. Every year now the wells all over the district yield too little water for the bagayat crops, hardly enough for drinking; hundreds of them run dry altogether."

The affected parts of the Karnatak also are not free from anxiety on this account. In his monthly famine progress report for November last the Collector of Bijapur reported that "failure of the water-supply is threatened in many villages, especially in the Bagalkot Taluka." And in his famine progress report for the same month, the Collector of Belgaum observed that "water-supply is still deficient in Athni Taluka."

10. No definite estimates of the probable numbers likely to require relief have been furnished except for Ahmedabad, Kaira, Surat and Belgaum. The Collector of Ahmedabad estimated a daily average of about 8,000 on works and 4,000 on gratuitous relief for the eight months, December, 1901, to July, 1902, but the daily average number relieved has already gone up to more than 21,000 according to the latest report. The estimate of the Collector of Kaira for the same period is about 1,200 on all kinds of relief, but according to the latest return nearly 8,000 people are already being relieved daily. The Collector of the Panch Mahals expected the numbers on works to rise to 7,000 by the end of December, 1901, to 15,000 to 20,000 in the hot weather, and to decline to 5,000 as the rains approached. He thought that the dole figures would not exceed 3,000 in the hot weather. On relief works in the Panch Mahals, however, the numbers have already gone above 27,000, or nearly double the number relieved in December, 1899. From a communication, dated 3rd January, 1902, received from the Commissioner, N. D., it appears that the demand for relief in the three Northern Gujarat Districts is already assuming large dimensions. It is therefore certain that relief on a much larger scale than was previously estimated by the collectors will be needed in those districts. The Collector of Surat does not think that any relief work will be needed. He estimates that a daily average number of 1,000, 1,700, 4,500 and 8,000 will require gratuitous relief in April, May, June and July, 1902, respectively. The estimate for Belgaum is a daily average of about 9,000 for seven months, April to October, 1902.

11. In the last season the numbers on relief did not on the whole show a marked upward tendency till February or March. But in the current season they began to rise in November last and have since continued to increase in Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals. As regards the Deccan and Karnatak the numbers are still going down in Sholapur and Ahmednagar, but in Bijapur they showed an increase of more than 1,000 in the last week of December as compared with the preceding week.

The following statement shows the daily average numbers relieved in the districts which are now affected from December, 1899, to October, 1900, and from December, 1900, to October, 1901 :—

Month.	Ahmedabad.	Kaira.	Panch Mahals.	Broach.	Surat.
December 1899 ...	35,946	15,700	14,942	63,716	4,726
January 1900 ...	82,918	18,664	17,481	94,344	8,688
February „ ...	120,476	41,977	18,605	110,241	10,934
March „ ...	137,237	84,907	20,683	104,187	15,219
April „ ...	160,140	106,945	48,786	85,346	16,435
May „ ...	126,980	86,518	37,387	78,981	9,584
June „ ...	131,150	125,067	72,989	75,288	23,214
July „ ...	188,582	223,872	111,487	123,247	35,951
August „ ...	192,909	212,120	124,173	112,192	32,887
September „ ...	140,514	109,609	93,461	76,739	14,051
October „ ...	38,479	69,265	32,369	63,868	7,396
December „ ...	7,429	245	8,797	5,716	11
January 1901 ...	7,049	—	5,209	4,216	—
February „ ...	8,896	130	5,944	1,851	—
March „ ...	9,677	6,436	8,693	1,276	176
April „ ...	17,895	33,868	16,554	1,619	947
May „ ...	27,602	48,730	16,993	1,706	1,538
June „ ...	34,749	47,612	15,991	2,154	2,082
July „ ...	36,011	36,076	13,049	1,725	1,829
August „ ...	26,221	2,279	11,612	418	—
September „ ...	10,085	328	8,482	121	—
October „ ...	3,218	254	2,119	10	—

Month.	Khandesh.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.
December 1899 ...	187,355	41,390	68,042	1,745	1,538	2,970
January 1900 ...	234,780	99,925	136,549	6,389	1,342	3,256
February „ ...	252,678	180,576	152,834	8,240	1,790	3,892
March „ ...	270,523	240,206	169,376	13,443	2,195	3,825
April „ ...	215,863	249,486	170,291	24,598	2,694	8,621
May „ ...	219,232	244,373	162,343	23,757	2,156	10,794
June „ ...	204,054	269,415	171,335	21,916	3,167	5,928
July „ ...	206,806	252,526	157,689	19,190	4,677	3,607

Month.	Khandesh.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.
August 1900 ...	179,086	219,206	132,167	11,907	2,149	2,199
September ,, ...	137,152	175,470	96,144	8,137	934	592
October ,, ...	71,470	90,721	67,881	6,724	1,079	35
December ,, ...	3,657	37,322	94,067	6,946	—	—
January 1901 ...	653	48,839	83,382	9,854	—	—
February ,, ...	553	56,720	66,225	10,359	—	—
March ,, ...	880	59,275	56,315	13,807	390	—
April ,, ...	3,024	74,726	60,917	18,912	1,896	—
May ,, ...	5,990	100,102	67,251	22,983	2,486	—
June ,, ...	16,115	118,915	82,907	29,673	7,968	—
July ,, ...	42,633	125,277	95,576	33,530	19,406	—
August ,, ...	32,727	125,145	87,367	36,474	26,922	—
September ,, ...	1,859	118,039	64,554	46,659	22,939	—
October ,, ...	—	63,840	41,197	33,651	18,927	—

During the four weeks of December, 1901, the numbers on relief fluctuated as follows :—

District.	1901.			
	Week ending.			
	December 7th.	December 14th.	December 21st.	December 28th.
Ahmedabad	8,073	11,108	16,026	21,769
Kaira	1,292	2,724	4,729	7,683
Panch Mahals	7,960	14,340	18,085	27,165
Broach	—	251	583	1,224
Ahmednagar	12,324	11,794	11,028	10,361
Sholapur	3,727	3,391	3,234	2,481
Bijapur	10,373	9,798	8,930	9,933
Dharwar	11	20	11	5
Thar and Parkar	99	146	162	158
Total	43,859	53,572	62,788	80,789

As shown below, prices of food-grains are likely to be easier this year than last year. But the grass seed (Samo) which was so abundant in Gujarat last year, and on which large numbers of people subsisted for several months, has not been produced this year in any appreciable quantity. Immigration from Native States is also a factor to be taken into consideration this year. In

Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals relief will therefore be required on a much larger scale than last year, but considering the description of crops as given by the collectors, the Governor in Council thinks that the numbers in Ahmedabad and Kaira will not probably rise to more than half of what they were in 1900. In the Panch Mahals present conditions indicate that the numbers may approach the figures of 1900. In Broach and Thar and Parkar relief on a small scale will, it seems, be necessary. In Surat and Khandesh a very small measure of relief if any may be required later in the season. In Ahmednagar and Sholapur the outturn of crops is much better, and prices are easier than last year, and if relief has to be continued throughout the season it will probably be on a much smaller scale. In Bijapur the number on relief in the last week of December was equal to the average of January, 1901, and the numbers show a tendency to rise. In consideration of these circumstances and on the assumption that next monsoon will be favourable, it is estimated that the daily average numbers to be relieved in the current season will be as shown in the following table:—

Month.	Ahmedabad.	Kaira.	Panch Mahals.	Broach.	Surat.	Khandesh
<i>Actuals (in round figures).</i>						
November, 1901	4,000	400	3,000	—	—	—
December „	14,300	4,000	17,000	500	—	—
<i>Estimates.</i>						
January, 1902	35,000	15,000	40,000	2,500	—	—
February „	55,000	25,000	45,000	4,500	—	2,000
March „	75,000	40,000	50,000	6,000	—	3,000
April „	95,000	50,000	60,000	7,500	1,000	6,000
May „	105,000	60,000	70,000	9,000	2,000	10,000
June „	115,000	75,000	75,000	10,000	4,000	15,000
July „	100,000	70,000	70,000	8,500	8,000	12,000
August „	40,000	30,000	30,000	3,000	2,000	5,000
September „	15,000	10,000	10,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
October „	2,000	1,000	2,000	500	—	—

Month.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.	Nasik, Poona Satara and Dharwar.
<i>Actuals (in round figures).</i>						
November, 1901	16,500	14,300	19,300	6,000	25	1,500
December „	11,400	3,200	9,800	—	200	—
<i>Estimates.</i>						
January, 1902	10,000	3,000	12,000	—	500	—
February „	10,000	3,000	15,000	—	1,000	—
March „	20,000	8,000	18,000	—	2,000	—
April „	35,000	15,000	25,000	4,000	3,000	—
May „	50,000	20,000	30,000	5,000	5,000	—

Month.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.	Nasik, Poona Satara and Dharwar.
<i>Estimates—cont.</i>						
June 1902	60,000	30,000	35,000	7,000	3,000	—
July „	80,000	40,000	40,000	9,000	1,500	—
August „	70,000	30,000	30,000	12,000	1,000	—
September „	40,000	15,000	15,000	12,000	500	—
October „	10,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	—	—

12. According to these estimates the numbers of units likely to require relief from January to October, 1902, will be as shown below (the actuals from April to December, 1901, are also shown) :—

—							Number.
<i>Actuals—</i>							
April to October 1901							74,498,000
November 1901							2,276,000
December „							1,692,000
<i>Estimates—</i>							
January 1902							3,304,000
February „							4,494,000
March „							7,770,000
Total from April 1901 to March 1902 ...							94,034,000
April 1902							8,442,000
May „							12,810,000
June „							12,012,000
July „							12,292,000
August „							8,855,000
September „							3,374,000
October „							882,000
Total from April 1902 to October 1902							58,667,000

13. The following table shows the prices of jowari and bajri as they stood at district headquarters in the middle of December in the years 1900 and 1901 :—

District.	Jowari.		Bajri.	
	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.
	Seers. chataks.	Seers. chataks.	Seers. chataks.	Seers. chataks.
Ahmedabad	15 0	15 6	14 0	14 11
Kaira	17 8	14 0	14 8	15 8
Panch Mahals	(Not sold)	15 13½	14 8	13 12
Broach	15 0	13 0	13 8	13 2
Surat	15 4	11 8	14 13	12 8
Khandesh	16 10	13 5½	15 6	12 8
Nasik	15 5	9 10½	15 6	12 10½
Ahmednagar... ..	16 8	9 8½	16 1	12 0
Poona... ..	11 8	11 4½	14 15	11 12½
Sholapur	17 14	9 10½	19 3	11 10½
Satara... ..	18 6	9 13½	20 13	10 11½
Bijapur	17 4	10 1	19 13	12 5
Belgaum	16 10	11 7	17 9	10 12
Dharwar	22 1	11 5	22 1	12 2

14. It will be seen that in December last the prices were generally easier than at the same time in 1900, and prices in 1902 are not likely to rise higher than in 1901. In framing the estimates of expenditure in the current season the same rate per 1,000 units as that resulting from the actual expenditure during April to October, 1901 (of which audited account figures are available) has therefore been adopted. The rate works out to Rs. 80.*

*Rs.	Thousands of Units.
59,28,000	74,498

15. The budget provision for famine expenditure in the current year amounts to Rs. 33,28,000 in the Civil and Rs. 66,56,000 in the Public Works Departments. The actual expenditure in the Civil Department up to end of November last amounted to a little over Rs. 24,44,000. The balance still available out of the Civil budget provision will more than suffice for expenditure in the remaining months of the current year. The actual expenditure in the Public Works Department up to end of October last amounted to Rs. 35,91,684, and the Public Works Department is considering what amount out of the budget grant should be surrendered to the Government of India after retaining sufficient amount for the requirements of the remaining months of the current year.

16. The estimated total number of units to be relieved from April to October, 1902, is 58,667,000 or 59 millions in round figures. At the rate of Rs. 80 per 1,000 units the total estimated cost of relief in next year will therefore amount to Rs. 47,20,000. During the period from April to October, 1901, the proportion of Civil to Public Works expenditure was about 2 : 3. During that period relief was given in Gujarat on a comparatively large scale on small works under Civil Agency. From a communication of the 3rd January, 1902, received from the Commissioner, N. D., however, it appears that owing

to the rapid increase in the demand for relief, relief on large works will have to be more freely resorted to in the three Northern Gujarat Districts in the current season than was previously contemplated. In the circumstances the proportion between the Civil and Public Works expenditure may be fixed at 1 : 2 as in the current year's estimates. Then the budget estimate for 1902-1903 will be—

	Rs.
Civil	15,73,334
Public Works... ..	31,46,666

or in round figures Rs. 16 lakhs and Rs. 32 lakhs, respectively.

17. The total assignment sanctioned by the Government of India in the current year for takavi advances was 64 lakhs of rupees. Almost the whole of this amount has been allotted to the Commissioners and no more is likely to be required in the current financial year. For next year it has been proposed in the budget estimates for provincial loans and advances to apply for the present for a grant of Rs. 45 lakhs under Class I—Loans to Agriculturists under Acts XIX of 1883 and XII of 1884. If it is found later in the year that further funds are necessary, application will be made to the Government of India at the proper time.

18. The following rough estimates have been furnished by the collectors of the collections, suspensions and remissions of land revenue of the *current revenue year* :—

Districts.	Estimated land revenue demand of the revenue year 1901-1902.	Estimated collections.	Estimated suspensions.	Estimated remissions.
	Rs.	Rs. Not reported.	Rs. reported.	Rs.
Ahmedabad		Rs. Not reported.		
Kaira... ..		Rs. Not reported.		
Panch Mahals	3,20,760	93,964	2,26,596	200
Broach	21,50,000	14,35,000	4,65,000	2,50,000
Surat... ..	22,76,559	18,54,312	4,22,247	—
Thana	13,18,500	13,03,500	5,000	10,000
Khandesh	41,15,000	39,15,000	1,20,000	80,000
Nasik*	20,30,000	16,00,000	4,00,000	30,000
Ahmednagar	16,36,000	6,06,000	10,30,000	—
Poona	13,18,800	9,46,300	3,03,800	68,700
Sholapur	11,16,535	8,19,097	2,10,938	86,500
Satara	19,46,000	16,56,500	2,71,000	18,500
Bijapur	14,05,700	5,72,000	7,80,200	53,500
Belgaum	15,72,356	14,47,856	1,09,000	15,500
Dharwar	24,87,300	24,57,300	30,000	—
Kolaba	12,67,600	12,67,600	—	—
Ratnagiri	9,00,300	8,94,927	5,200	182
Kanara	9,90,950	9,87,700	2,550	700
Total	2,68,52,369	2,18,57,056	43,81,531	6,13,782

* The figures for Nasik include arrears on account of former years.

As another unfavourable season has occurred, both suspensions and remissions will have to be made on a large scale. In view of the instructions contained in the letter from the Government of India in the Legislative Department, No. 1,184, dated 2nd August, 1901, there will be collected little or none of the arrears of previous years. The collection of about 64 lakhs of rupees out of the revenue for 1899-1900 and 1900-1901 has been suspended during those two years, and it is probable that after so long a series of bad years it will be necessary or at least desirable to convert the whole or a large part of the suspensions into remissions. Some arrears also will be wiped off if advantage is taken of the Land Revenue Code Amendment Act. As regards the revenue of the current year it has been directed that in Gujarat suspensions should be granted in accordance with the scale suggested in paragraph 271 of the recent report of the Famine Commission, and that elsewhere in view of the losses which have been incurred in past years, collections from *bonâ fide* agriculturists should be liberally suspended in cases in which not more than an eight-anna crop has been reaped. The collectors have, of course, power to postpone all collections until any inquiries which may be necessary are made. According to the rough estimates of the collectors in the Presidency proper (including Ahmedabad and Kaira, for which figures have not been reported) given in the above table the collections out of the land revenue of the current revenue year are not likely to exceed 236 lakhs of rupees, and with the estimated collections in Sind, Bombay, Baroda and Kathiawar (amounting in all to 94 lakhs) will amount to 330 lakhs of rupees. Taking these circumstances into consideration the Governor in Council has fixed next year's Budget Estimate under "I—Land Revenue—Ordinary Revenue" at 340 lakhs of rupees.

No. 83.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 290—18-2, dated Calcutta, the 7th February, 1902.

I am directed to communicate the following observations on your letter No. 133, dated 17th January, 1902, in which you report upon the present agricultural situation in the Bombay Presidency, and upon the extent to which measures of famine relief appear likely to be required during the coming year.

2. The Government of India were aware that the autumn harvest was exceedingly poor in Gujarat, that the area sown with spring crops was very much short of the normal, and that, having regard to these circumstances and to the impoverished condition of the people, it was probable that a very considerable expenditure on famine relief would be needed in this tract of country. But they did not realize that the situation was so grave as it is now reported to be, nor did they expect to learn that relief measures on a considerable scale would be required in the districts of the Deccan, which were favoured above most other parts of India by receiving timely rain in October. The Governor-General in Council recognizes, however, that the information which is now available is more definite and complete than that which it has been possible to furnish earlier in the season, and that the effect of the October rainfall was prejudiced by irregularity in its distribution. But he finds it difficult, on the basis of past experience, to reconcile the present apprehensions with the moderate pitch of the rates at which grain is now procurable. Prices are, it is to be observed, generally much lower than those which have been ruling in adjoining provinces during the past twelve months. So far as the Government of India are aware, the existence of famine has never previously been recognized with prices at the level they now hold in Bombay. Nor would it appear that the grain market can be materially influenced by the prospect of importation from neighbouring provinces, in which the outturn of the autumn harvest has generally been unsatisfactory. The Government of India fully admits that prices, taken alone, may not give a satisfactory clue to the position of the poorer classes. Low

prices may be of little benefit to those who have no means of earning wages. But prices have hitherto been taken as one of the principal indications of the pressure which results from failure of crops, and past experiences have generally shown that they actively respond to unusual deficiencies in the local food supply, and, moreover, that the acuteness of distress depends very materially upon their pitch. In these circumstances the Government of India cannot feel altogether certain that the view which is taken of the present situation by the Bombay Government may not be over gloomy. Nor is the information which is given as to the actual state of affairs sufficiently definite to altogether counteract the impression which a consideration of existing prices is calculated to convey. It is difficult to combine the facts which are stated in the local officers' reports so as to obtain a general idea of the situation, and I am to ask that the Government of India may be furnished as soon as convenient with an estimate, for each district as a whole, of the percentage by which the autumn produce fell short of the normal, calculated by comparing the area and average outturn, multiplied together, with similar figures for a normal year, and with a similar estimate for the spring crop now on the ground.

3. It may be urged that the best possible proof of the existence of distress is the eagerness which the people are displaying to obtain relief. But experience has shown that willingness to accept State charity is not a trustworthy sign of destitution in the case of a population which has become accustomed to rely upon Government for its support, unless it is proof against tests of a more searching character than are always applied. The work test is often uncertain, and it is not quite clear that under the system of management which is adopted in Bombay it has always succeeded in excluding from the receipt of relief those who do not deserve it. The Government of India are aware of the risk of drawing deductions from circumstances with which they are imperfectly acquainted. But they have observed that the cost of famine work has in some cases been so high as to lead to a presumption that the workers were not under the control which is desirable, and they do not feel persuaded that in the districts of the Deccan the relief workers did not remain in famine employ longer than was really necessary. It is, moreover, impossible not to contrast the rapidity with which numbers are rising in Gujarat with their slow advance in Rajputana, notwithstanding a much higher range of prices in the latter tract of country, and, so far as appears, at least an equal deficiency in the past season's outturn. Recent correspondence connected with the recommendations of the Famine Commission has illustrated very strongly the divergences which exist between the famine relief procedure of different provinces,—an expedient which has practically succeeded under one Government being not unfrequently condemned by another as impracticable, although local conditions do not apparently afford any reason for such discrepant conclusions. An instance to which reference may be made is the reluctance displayed by Bombay officers to adopt the system of daily payment which in the provinces of Northern India has been established by the experience of the two last famines as a cardinal principle of relief works administration. The Government of India believe that Local Governments might advantageously gain a more practical acquaintance with the results of one another's experience of famine relief than they possess at present, and that an interchange of ideas might lead to useful reforms. In the present circumstances they would be glad to be in a position to institute a comparison between the systems on which relief works are managed in Bombay and in Northern India, and they have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to depute an officer whose experience would be representative of that gained in Northern India during the two last famines, to visit the relief works of the Bombay Presidency and examine such features in their organization as are peculiar to Bombay. They earnestly hope that the Government of Bombay will agree with them in the view that the exceptional features of the present situation and the financial responsibility of the Government of India for the large expenditure now anticipated furnish an adequate ground for undertaking these enquiries. The officer to whom the Governor-General in Council proposes to entrust them is Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner of Jabalpur, who has served through two famines with distinction. In view of the rapidity with which relief measures are expanding, it is desirable that he should visit the works as soon as

possible, and I am to express a hope that the Government of India may receive by telegram the assent of the Governor in Council to this proposal.

4. In their letter No. 84, dated 13th January, 1902, the Government of Bombay have expressed an opinion in favour of the abolition of the minimum-wage save where severe famine is widespread. I am to intimate the desire of the Governor-General in Council that, pending the result of the enquiries which it is proposed to institute, its abolition should be enforced so far as able-bodied workers are concerned, that the importance of exacting a fair task from relief workers be borne in view, and that wages be strictly calculated according to the price of the cheapest food-grain procurable.

5. I am to add that budget provision will be made for meeting expenditure on the scale anticipated in your letter.

No. 84.

Telegram from Secretary, Famine Department, Bombay, to Government of India, Calcutta, No. 364, dated 11th February, 1902.

Your letter 290 of seventh. This Government accept proposal of India to depute Mr. Robertson to visit relief works in Bombay Presidency.

No. 85.

Letter from H. S. Lawrence, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. 387, dated Bombay Castle, 14th February, 1902.

With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter No. 290—18-2 of the 7th instant, I am directed to confirm the intimation conveyed in my telegram No. 364, dated the 11th instant, that the Governor in Council assents to the proposed deputation of Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., to visit the relief works in this Presidency and examine such features in their organisation as are peculiar to Bombay.

2. I am to state that orders have been issued for the preparation of the estimate called for in paragraph 2 of your letter, and that the information will be furnished as soon as it is ready. In anticipation of the detailed report, however, I am to invite the attention of the Government of India to the enormous loss of crops in Gujarat from the plague of rats, of which no mention is made in your letter under reply. I am to subjoin for your information the following extracts from reports by the Collectors of the Panch Mahals and Kaira Districts on the progress of relief measures :—

Extract from a report by the Collector of the Panch Mahals.

The damage done by the short rainfall was enormously increased by the plague of rats. Great efforts were made to get rid of these and many thousands were killed. For a time it seemed as if these efforts were being successful, but the apparent decrease was probably due to the rats leaving the crops temporarily for the wild rice. With the destruction of the latter, of which there was little this year, they returned to the crops, and in many cases ensued scarcity where want would not have otherwise been felt. Every crop, including cotton and oilseed, seems to come alike to them, and it was not possible for the cultivators to cope with their constantly increasing numbers. It is to be hoped that these numbers will lead to their dying from starvation in the hot weather. Locusts scarcely visited the district, but a species of grasshopper did considerable damage.

Extract from a report by the Collector of Kaira.

The locusts first appeared in the Mehmabad Taluk from the Ahmedabad side, staying in the villages where they had settled for the whole night and devouring the promising bajri and bavto crops which had not been reaped. The estimated yield of several of the crops was, therefore, lowered, and towards this result rats contributed in a much greater degree than locusts. In fact, but for rats Thasra would have had fair crops, and there would have been no talk even of relief measures in Borsad, Anand, and Nadiad.

In Gujarat, as a whole, the damage caused by rats has converted what would have been moderate scarcity into intense distress.

3. I am to add with reference to paragraph 4 of your letter that the abolition of the minimum wage so far as able-bodied workers are concerned, has been enforced in every district since September last, and that the importance of exacting a fair task from relief workers has never ceased to be inculcated. Moreover, the rest-day wage and allowances to dependants have been withheld in any cases in which there seemed to be ground for suspicion that the works were resorted to by persons not in absolute need of relief. The rule of the Code is that wages shall be calculated on the cheapest staple food grain of the quality in general use, and every effort has been made to secure the observance of it. It will now be directed, as desired in your letter, that wages should be calculated strictly according to the price of the cheapest food grain procurable, but it is improbable that the effect will be materially different from that of observing the existing rule.

No. 86.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 351, dated Calcutta, the 17th February, 1902.

I am directed to express the satisfaction of the Governor General in Council at learning from your telegram of the 11th instant that the Government of Bombay agree to the proposed deputation of Mr. Robertson. I am to enclose a copy of the instructions which have been sent to Mr. Robertson through the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. He will inform you of the date of his arrival in Bombay, and is to ascertain in personal interview with you the wishes of the Bombay Government as to the course which his tour may most conveniently take. The Government of India would be glad could it be arranged that he should first visit the Gujarat districts. They trust the Government of Bombay will permit the Commissioners and Collectors to render him all assistance needed for the purpose of his visit.

Enclosure in No. 86.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 352, dated Calcutta, the 17th February, 1902.

I am directed to inform you that the Government of India, considering it probable that famine relief administration in the Bombay Presidency might profit by experience gained in other provinces, have decided to depute Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., to visit the relief works in Gujarat and the Deccan, and to ascertain how far, in his opinion, their management secures the object in view of admitting to relief all who need assistance, but of excluding those who do not require Government support. Mr. Robertson might at the same time advantageously contrast the system of gratuitous relief which has been

adopted in Bombay with that which was practised in the Central Provinces. And the Government of India would further be glad if he would use the experience he has acquired of famine conditions to form a judgment of the present outlook in the various districts which he visits. So far as now appears, Mr. Robertson's tour of inspection should not occupy him for more than eight or 10 weeks. It has been already ascertained by telegram that you will be able to spare his services for this period.

2. I am to ask that arrangements may be made to enable Mr. Robertson to start for Bombay as soon as possible after the receipt of this letter. The districts which he should visit are Panch Mahals, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Khandesh, in the order named, if possible, but Mr. Robertson should arrange his programme in communication with the Secretary to the Bombay Government in the Famine Department, on whom he should call on his arrival in Bombay and before he leaves the Presidency. He will, of course, make the fullest possible use of opportunities for personal communication with the divisional and district officers. The object of his deputation is that he should assist as well as criticise, and he will appreciate the importance of meeting local opinions in a conciliatory spirit. During the period of his deputation he will be under the orders of the Government of India, and I am to ask that he would submit a brief weekly report.

3. During the period of his deputation Mr. Robertson will draw pay at R2,360. He will be allowed travelling allowance under the rules, the rate of daily allowance being R10. He is authorised to convey two horses by rail at Government expense, as well as any necessary camp equipage. Should tents be required in any district, he will, no doubt, be able to secure them on loan from the local authorities.

4. A copy of these orders should be given to Mr. Robertson. He should be instructed to report by telegram the date of his departure for Bombay.

PUNJAB.

EXTRACTS FROM DISTRICT MONTHLY REPORTS.

No. 87.

REMARKS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING 28TH APRIL, 1900.

HISSAR.

Sowings.—Nothing was sown on dry land for want of rain. -

Condition of crop.—Canal rabi crop harvested, and the outturn was of an average character.

Fodder.—Very scarce in unirrigated villages.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle out of condition in dry tracts.

Water-supply.—Many of the village tanks have got water-supply by the recent rainfall sufficient for one or one-and-a-half months' requirements, but many of them are still waterless.

Grain stock.—There are no grain stocks. Food stuffs are imported in sufficient quantities to meet local requirements.

Condition of the people.—As bad as before.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons receiving relief in this district during the last week of the month as compared with the same week of March represents a decrease of 4,603, which is chiefly due to the harvesting season of canal crops and the outbreak of cholera. Increase is expected again in May and June, which are the severest months of famine.

Health of the district.—Bad. Cholera and fever prevalent. Cholera is subsiding now, but it has spread in many villages of all the tahsils of the district.

ROHTAK.

Fodder.—Very scarce still. Cattle are either fed on straw or on leaves of trees.

Bhusa is being taken out.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of cattle is very bad. Rinderpest prevailed in a mild form in two villages of Sampla and one of the Jhajjar Tahsils.

Relief works.—The number of relief works in progress under the Public Works Department is six, or the same as last month. The daily average of workers and dependants was—

	No.
Relief workers	25,206
Dependants	2,782

as compared with 29,137 and 1,228, respectively, for the last month.

The piece-work system is still in force; under which the wages are paid according to the work done.

Physical condition of people.—Generally good. Fever and small-pox prevailed throughout the district.

Sporadic cholera has broken out in a few villages of Tahsil Rohtak, and also on relief works at Pir Baha-ud-din and Bhapraudah.

GURGAON.

Relief works.—All the test works were converted into relief works during the month. The number of works now in progress is six. The number of persons attending has again gone up. The total average number of persons on works during the last week of the month was 14,133 :—

	No.
Relief workers	11,667
Paid dependants	1,863
Unpaid dependants	603

Physical condition of workers.—The people were all healthy on the works. There was no sickness of any severe type prevalent, and people were treated for only ordinary complaints at the camp hospitals.

Condition of cattle, fodder and crops.—A few showers of rain accompanied with hail were received during the month, and the most which was recorded was 1.57 inches at Farrukhnagar and 1.12 inches at Gurgaon. Rabi has been harvested, and extra rabi is being tended. Sowings of chari and china are going on in the Rewari Tahsil on sweet wells. Cattle are out of condition for want of fodder, which is scarce everywhere, though the present harvest has furnished some.

DELHI.

Private relief and village relief have not yet been started, as there is no actual famine area in the district. There was one poor-house at Badarpur during the month in which indigent and infirm persons who are unable to work are relieved. The people so relieved are for the most part wanderers from Native States, &c. Arrangements are being made to transfer them to their own residences.

Earthwork on the Delhi-Agra Chord Railway line continues in the shape of relief work. The workers are also mostly wanderers from Native States, &c., and those transferred from the Rohtak District: only a few of the workers belong to this district.

The physical condition of the workers is good, and no deaths from starvation have yet been reported. Cholera had broken out on the work and lasted for about a fortnight in the month under report, and about 40 deaths were reported from the epidemic. It has now completely disappeared.

Food-grain stocks are sufficient for the present. The imports are higher than exports, and prices are almost stationary.

Stocks of fodder are almost exhausted, and cattle are in a weak state. The rabi fodder is quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the zamindars.

The unirrigated area has completely failed. Rabi crops on irrigated area have been reaped and promise only an average outturn. The rain in the beginning of the month was followed by hail, which did damage to the rabi crop. No part of the district is at present affected by famine.

Work is done on the piece-work system and the labourers are paid according to the quantity of work performed.

KARNAL.

Gratuitous relief was given to 1,438 persons daily in villages in the Kaithal and Thanesar Tahsils from District Funds and to 212 persons in Kaithal Town from Municipal Funds.

There is no need of a poor-house yet.

At present three large (village) works are in progress, *viz.*, tanks at Padla, Chhatar and Dasirpur, which afforded relief to 8,881 souls daily, including non-working children and dependants during the month. The fourth work, "Excavation of Kurukshetra Tank," was stopped, as the number of workers thereon had considerably fallen. Kitchens for children and dependants have been started at Padla and Chhatar tanks, which have been working very satisfactorily. A kitchen on the third work will also be started soon.

The physical condition of the people is good.

Food stocks have been exhausted, but the rabi harvest is being reaped. During the month 10,852 maunds of grain were imported. Grain can be easily obtained in all the larger villages of the district. Fodder is scarce. None can be had in Kaithal Tahsil.

MOOLTAN.

In Mooltan itself there is no famine. There is an influx of Bikaneris and people from Jhelum District. Private relief is as usual; no village and poor-house relief is given. Earthwork in filling in the city ditch is the only kind of work carried out. Physical condition of the people of Mooltan good. Food stocks are ample. Importation of grain is abnormal, but less than in previous years.

LAHORE.

The work at the Annhi Nullah has now been declared a Relief Work. The arrival of officials from the Bikaner State to take back the Bikaneris to that State is awaited. No sickness of any kind, nor deaths in the area affected. Food stocks seem sufficient.

SHAHPUR.

The distress in this district is almost entirely agricultural. Wheat now standing at 14 seers. Persons in receipt of wages are not seriously affected.

About 5,000 Hissaris are now on the canal. Something like 1,500 appear to have left, probably having saved enough to carry them to Hissar. Local famine labourers have shrunk from 2,000 to 1,300, the balance finding employment in the harvest; but they and more also will almost certainly return. These are the kamins (menials) of the villages, who being paid by customary dues in kind, are hard pressed.

Nearly 50 per cent. of the cattle have died, quite that in the Salt Range, and little can be done until rain brings fodder.

There is no sickness, but the prolonged scarcity is being felt by zamindars, who are too proud to work on the canal. They are getting somewhat demoralised and are applying for gratuitous relief.

No. 88.

REMARKS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING 26TH MAY, 1900.

HISSAR.

Fodder.—Fodder available in canal villages, but it is very scarce in dry tracts. The recent rain has produced a certain amount of grass in some unirrigated villages.

Cattle.—Cattle out of condition in dry tracts.

Grain stock.—There are no grain stocks, but food stuff in sufficient quantities is imported from out-stations to meet the requirements of this district.

Water supply.—Water supply sufficient for a few weeks in dry villages where tanks were filled by the recent rainfall. In other dry villages wells are resorted to.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons receiving relief by various forms at the end of May amounted to 98,318, or 11,013 less than last week of April. There are several reasons at work—heat, hard work, canal, harvest and jungle fruits.

Famine relief work programme.—There are sufficient works, mostly consisting of large agricultural tanks, to meet all requirements throughout the famine.

ROHTAK.

Fodder.—Fodder is still very scarce; straw of rabi crop only is procurable at a high price.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle are in a miserable condition and have become weak, having been fed on *bhusa* and leaves of trees. No sickness among the cattle at the end of the month.

Food stock.—Rabi produce of the district is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the district. Importations from North-Western Provinces make up the deficiency. The price of grain has again risen.

Physical condition of people.—Generally good, but fever and small-pox are still prevailing in the district. Cholera also prevails in some villages of Tahsils Rohtak, Sampla, and Jhajjar.

GURGAON.

Relief works.—Six works are in progress. The total number of persons on works on the last day of the last week of the month was :—

	No.
Relief workers	13,402
Paid dependants	2,024
Unpaid dependants	451

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the people was good on all the works, and the heat and task do not seem to have affected them. There was no sickness of any severe type prevalent, and at camp hospitals people were treated only for ordinary complaints.

Food stocks.—The imports by rail have been 39,112 maunds, against 16,748 in the corresponding month last year.

Condition of cattle, fodder, and crops.—A few showers of rain (accompanied with hail in some places) were received during the month, and the most which was recorded in one day was .93 inch at Hathin and 1.35 at Palwal. Sowings of cotton are in progress in Palwal on irrigated areas. Recent rains have caused bajra sowings to be made in the Gurgaon Tahsil, and ploughings everywhere. Extra rabi is in average condition, and outturn is expected to be average. Indigo and sugarcane crops are in fair condition. Cattle are lean and weak except in Palwal, and fodder is scarce in all the tahsils except Palwal.

Changes in rates of wages.—No change. The unlimited piece-work system on the Ghata and Raisina Bunds is attractive to the people. The Ghata Bund will be completed in two to three weeks, when it is proposed to start work on the Alipur-Ghamranj Bund.

Mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. The death rate in municipal towns and rural circles was high during the month on account of small-pox, which is dying out.

Programme.—The programme provides sufficient village works and public works to meet all requirements throughout the district.

DELHI.

No private relief and village relief in the district yet, as there is no actual famine area in the district. One poor-house at Badarpur, in which indigent and infirm persons who are unable to work are relieved. The average number of persons so relieved have decreased now, owing to the transfer of a number of persons to their own States.

Earthwork on the Delhi-Agra-Chord Railway continues in the shape of relief work. The average number of these workers have decreased to a great extent, partly owing to the transfer of immigrants and partly to the desertion of persons on hearing of their going back to their States.

Physical condition of the workers is at present good, and no deaths from starvation have yet been reported.

Food-grain stocks are sufficient for the present, but the prices are increasing owing to abnormal exports.

Stocks of fodder are almost exhausted, and cattle are in a weak state.

The rabi crop has been harvested. Outturn on irrigated area average, and on unirrigated area is poor. Kharif ploughings have begun in parts of the district.

Work is done on the piece-work system, and the labourers are paid according to the quantity of work performed.

KARNAL.

Relief works.—Three large village works are in progress in the most affected parts of the Kaithal Tahsil, which afforded relief to 7,118 persons daily.

There are also three kitchens (one at each work), where 1,742 non-working children and dependants are fed daily.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population is good. Cholera has broken out in a few villages in the Kaithal Tahsil. Fever, cold, and sore-eyes, are also very prevalent.

LAHORE.

Most of the Bikaneris have been taken back to Bikaner by the State officials. The poor-house and hospital at Shahdera are being closed, and the Executive Engineer, Lahore, has been asked whether the Anghi Nala Relief Work can be closed, since it will not be possible to go on with it as an ordinary work.

No sickness of any kind, nor any abnormal mortality in the area affected. Food stocks seem sufficient.

SHAHPUR.

Private relief still given, no village relief, and poor-house only for friendless dependants amongst the Hissaris.

Test works still on the Jhelum Canal, but numbers of workers decreasing and likely to still further decrease, as contract work is opened up.

The famine work for Hissaris will be closed during the next fortnight, as they are to return to Hissar.

The physical condition of the people is still good.

Food stocks are adequate ; importation continues.

No. 89.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1900.

HISSAR.

Fodder.—Fodder very scarce in dry tracts.

Cattle.—Cattle out of condition in dry tracts and dying for want of fodder.

Grain stock.—There are no grain stocks. Food-grain is imported in sufficient quantities from out-stations.

Water-supply.—Water-supply sufficient in canal. It is scarce in unirrigated tracts, and wells are resorted to where tanks are waterless.

Death from starvation.—None.

Health of the district.—Very bad. Cholera and fever prevalent.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of irrigated standing crops is good.

Fodder.—Still very scarce.

Condition of cattle.—The same as reported before. No sickness among the cattle. Cattle are dying of starvation in the Jhajjar Tahsil for want of sufficient fodder.

Food stocks.—Not sufficient to meet the requirements of the district ; importation from North-West Provinces makes up the deficiency.

Relief works.—Two village works in the Jhajjar Tahsil and one in town Rohtak have been opened this month. The total number of relief works now in progress in the district is therefore nine, or three more than during May.

The total average number of persons on the last day of the last week was—

—	No.
Relief workers	29,746
Dependants	3,026

as compared with 23,241 and 2,173 respectively for last month, thus showing an increase of 6,505 in the number of relief workers, and of 853 in that of dependants. This is due to the lateness of the rains.

Physical condition.—Good. The people show but few signs of physical deterioration. Fever and cholera are still prevalent in the district.

GURGAON.

General character of relief works.—The number of works in progress is six. The total daily average number of persons on works on the last week of the month was—

—	No.
Relief workers	11,923
Paid dependants	2,028
Unpaid dependants	255
Total	14,206

Physical condition of people.—The physical condition of the people was good on all the works. There were 49 cases of cholera at Raesina Bund, but through the exertions of Mr. Charters, Civil Surgeon, and Mr. D. McGregor, Sub-Divisional Officer, the disease has been stamped out. There was no sickness of any severe type on any of the other works, and at camp hospitals people are treated only for ordinary complaints.

The health of the district may be considered as fair. A number of villages were attacked with cholera, but the disease appears to be dying out.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there are no stocks of fodder and grain.

Condition of cattle, fodder and crops.—There have been slight showers of rain in some parts of the district. The villagers are ploughing and sowing where rain has fallen. A number of villages which took advantage of the first rain in Rewari and ploughed and sowed have lost their young crops, which have been buried by sand in heavy dust storms. Cattle are in poor condition except in Palwall, in which tahsil alone fodder is not scarce.

Changes in rates of wages.—No change. The Ghata Bund will be completed shortly. Most of the labourers have been transferred to Raesina. The numbers have run down so much on Raesina that it is not considered advisable to start the Alipur Ghamrauj Bund at present.

Mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. The death-rate in municipal towns and rural circles was high during the month on account of small-pox and cholera, which are dying out.

Programme of relief works.—The programme provides sufficient village works and public works to meet all requirements throughout the district.

KARNAL.

Relief works.—The three large village works in the Kaithal Tahsil, where famine is very acute, are still in progress, and afforded relief to 8,163 persons daily.

There are also three kitchens (one at each work), where 1,854 non-working children and dependants were daily fed.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population is good. Cholera has broken out in many villages in the Kaithal Tahsil and also at Padla relief work.

Food stocks.—The grain stock is sufficient for the present. During the month 10,817 maunds of grain have been imported. Fodder is very scarce; none can be had in Kaithal Tahsil.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There has been no improvement since the submission of the last report. The slight rain that fell during the month was of no use.

No. 90.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1900.

HISSAR.

Rainfall.—Rains set in in the middle of July, but ceased after one partial fall, and, owing to strong western winds which set in immediately after, sowings were stopped. The rains set in again, however, at the end of the month and gave good rain throughout the district except in the Sirsa Tahsil, where only partial showers were received and sowings recommenced.

Sowings and condition of crops.—Sowings are in progress in all unirrigated tracts. Good floods have been received in the Ghaggar and Rangoi streams, and sowings in tracts subject to river inundation are busily being made. Sowings on canal land are also going on, but coming to an end. Bajra on canal lands is nearly ripe, whereas bajra on lands dependent on rainfall is in many places not yet sown.

Condition of crops.—Condition of canal-irrigated tracts good.

Fodder.—There is no stock of fodder, which has been selling in places at 20 seers for the rupee, but green grass is springing up and there will be abundant fodder for cattle very soon.

Cattle.—So far the cattle have been out of condition, but they will improve speedily when sufficient grass grows to feed them.

Condition of the people.—Taccavi is being distributed, and the zamindars are making speedy arrangements to resume their agricultural pursuits. The recent rainfall has brightened the agricultural prospects of the district and revived the broken spirit of the people.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons in receipt of relief in various forms at the end of July amounted to 106,515, or 3,552 more than last month, which is due to the break in the rains and strong western winds.

Famine Relief Works Programme.—There are sufficient works on the famine programme to meet all requirements during the current famine. Agriculturists are leaving the works, and by the end of August or so it is expected the relief camps will be able to be closed if no unfavourable changes take place before then. Gratuitous relief operations will have to be continued till the middle of October probably, owing to the lateness of the rains.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of irrigated standing crops is good, but barani crops are beginning to dry up where no rain has fallen.

Fodder.—Fodder is still very scarce owing to failure of rain.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of cattle is the same as reported before. No sickness among the cattle. Cattle are dying for want of fodder.

Village relief.—The daily average number of recipients for the last week was 6,030 against 5,441 relieved last month, and the total expenditure for the month was Rs. 7,048-1-0 as compared with Rs. 8,815-7-0 for June, 1900.

The increase in the number of recipients is due to failure of rain.

Relief works.—Six more village works, *i.e.*, five in the Jhajjar and one in the Rohtak Taksil, were opened during the month. Thus the number of relief works in progress during July was 15, of which 3 have been completed.

The average number of persons for the last week was—

					No.
Relief workers ...	...	...	...	...	33,158
Dependants ...	...	...	...	...	3,516

as compared with 29,746 and 3,026 respectively for the preceding month, showing an increase of 3,412 in the number of relief workers and 490 in that of dependants.

Physical condition.—The physical condition is good. Cholera is decreasing.

GURGAON.

General character of relief works.—The number of works in the beginning of the month was six, but the Ghata Bund has been completed with the exception of the masonry sluices which are in progress. The work of the Delhi-Agra Chord Railway in this district has been completed and the Camp has been transferred to the Delhi District. On the close of the Ghata Bund the people were drafted to Raesina Bund, but owing to the outbreak of cholera the Ghata people had to be separated and put on to the Alipur Ghamranj Bund. The work on the Rewari-Phulera Railway at Chandpura and Tobra Camps has been completed, and only dressing of a portion of embankments remains to be done. The British subjects from Chandpura Camp have been drafted on to Khol Bund. Thus the number of works at the close of the month was five.

The total daily average number of persons on works in the last week of the month was—

					No.
Relief workers ...	...	...	...	...	11,139
Dependants ...	...	...	...	...	2,661
Total ...					13,800

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people was fair on all the works with the exception of that of a few State people who have

returned to the Raesina Bund and who are in an emaciated condition. Unfortunately cholera re-appeared at Raesina, and the camp had to be broken up into units, and the Ghata people amongst whom the disease re-appeared had to be separated from the Raesina people and put on the Alipur Ghamranj Bund. There were a few cases of cholera in the Jatusana Camp, but the disease has disappeared from both the camps. There was no sickness of a severe nature in any of the camps. The ordinary cases of fever, &c., were treated in the camp hospitals.

The health of the district is fairly good. There is cholera still in a few villages of the district, but it is of a mild form, and is gradually disappearing as preventive measures are taken for purification of wells in villages in which cholera has appeared.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there were no stocks of fodder and grain.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There have been very fair showers of rain in different parts of the district, and ploughing and sowing are progressing. Where there has not been rain the pinch of scarcity is being keenly felt.

DELHI.

Workers from the Gurgaon District arrived in this district during the month, and resumed the earth-work on the Delhi-Agra Chord Railway, which has been almost completed. Stone-breaking work at Badarpur will be taken in hand. Workers have a tendency to leave the work now, and their average on this account is decreasing day by day.

The physical condition of the workers was fair during the month, though there were some deaths from cholera, but it has now quite disappeared.

Food grain stocks are sufficient for the present, but prices are rising owing to heavy exports.

Stocks of fodder are exhausted and cattle are in a weak state.

Kharif sowings are in progress : prospects are fair for the present.

Labourers are paid according to the quantity of the work performed.

KARNAL.

Out of the sum received from the Provincial Famine Committee, Rs. 70,000 have been advanced to officers for distribution as gifts to cultivators, &c., in the Kaithal Tahsil for the purchase of seed and cattle. Nearly Rs. 2,00,000 have been distributed as Government Taccavi and in gifts from charitable Relief Funds during the month.

Village relief.—Gratuitous relief in villages, &c., was also given to 1,697 persons daily during the month in the Kaithal Tahsil from District Funds and to 247 from Municipal Funds. The total amount thus given on village relief amounted to Rs. 2,737-3-1.

Poor-house.—No poor-house has been opened, nor is there any need to open one now.

Relief works.—There were three large village works in progress in the Kaithal Tahsil during the month, which afforded relief to 9,199 persons daily. One of these works has been closed during the month, owing to the considerable fall in the number of workers and to the place having been filled up by flood water. A daily average number of 1,836 non-working children and dependants were also fed at the three kitchens at works during the month.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population is good. Cholera is still prevalent at some of the villages in the Kaithal Tahsil, but at the relief works it has practically died out.

No. 91.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1900.

DELHI.

Relief works were closed at the end of July.

HISSAR.

Rainfall.—Sufficient rain fell throughout the district in August, and heavy floods were received in the Ghaggar stream.

Sowings.—Sowings were immediately undertaken and completed by the end of August.

Condition of crops.—Prospects of crops both on unirrigated and irrigated land good up to this time. A good harvest on dry land is expected if sufficient rain falls in September.

Bajra is being reaped on canal land.

Fodder.—Dry fodder scarce, but green grass is available in all parts of the districts.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle improving.

Condition of the people.—Zamindars have received taccavi to the extent of about Rs. 14,65,000 both from Government and charitable funds and are busy with their agricultural pursuits. Field labour is available in villages, and zamindars are anxious to have their menials back for field work. All tank works have been closed with effect from 31st August. Indigent people have been given a fortnight's allowance for their maintenance. Infirm dependants who have no means of support will be put on gratuitous lists and relieved till the middle of October. About 500 people in each tahsil will be employed on road repair works till 15th September.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons in receipt of relief in various forms at the end of the month amounted to 48,156, out of which 24,016 were on works.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of both irrigated and unirrigated standing crops is very good so far. Bajra on canal lands is nearly ripe. The jowar crop needs further showers of rain.

Fodder.—Green grass is procurable for cattle everywhere except in those zails of the Jhajjar Tahsil, in which rainfall has been scanty.

Condition of cattle.—Improving; no sickness among the cattle at present.

Relief works.—The average number of persons for the last week was—

	No.
Relief workers	24,134
Dependants	2,794

as compared with 33,158 and 3,516 respectively for the preceding month, showing a decrease of 9,024 in the number of relief workers and of 722 in that of dependants. These decreases were due to good rain.

The number of works in progress during August was 12 as detailed below :—

	No.
Large relief works	6
Village works	6

Orders have been given for all the relief works to be closed from 1st September, 1900.

Physical condition.—Good. Cholera is still prevailing in a few villages of Tahsils Gohana and Rohtak and epidemic fever in Tahsil Gohana.

GURGAON.

The number of works in the beginning of the month was five, but the works on the Rewari-Phulera Railway have been closed on completion. The Khol Bund has been started during the month. Thus the number of works in progress at the close of the month was four.

The total daily average number of persons on works during the last week of the month was—

	No.
Relief workers	5,572
Dependants	1,882
Total	7,454

Physical condition of people.—The physical condition of the people was fair on all the works. Cholera was stamped out at Raesina, but unfortunately it reappeared in a mild form. It has disappeared now.

There was no sickness of a severe nature in any of the camps. Ordinary cases were treated in the camp hospitals.

The health of the district is good with the exception of a few villages in the Ferozepore Tahsil and Rewari town, in which cholera still exists. Measures are being taken to stamp out the disease.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there were no stocks of fodder and grain.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There have been very fair showers throughout the district, and advantage has been taken of them, as well as of the taccavi advances to bring as much land under cultivation as possible. Rupees 1,62,268-9-4 have been distributed in taccavi up to the week ending 18th August, 1900.

The cattle are now improving as green grass is available everywhere, and the fodder scarcity has diminished.

KARNAL.

Out of the sums advanced to the Famine Charitable Relief Sub-Committees Rs. 914-10-4 were distributed during the month on the relief of 1,151 respectable poor persons and pardanashins. As shown above, 13

destitute persons in Ladwa town were given free gifts from the Charitabel Fund for the reconstruction of their houses which were washed away by the floods. About Rs. 17,900 more have been distributed as Government taccavi and in gifts from Charitable Relief Funds for the purchase of seed and cattle during the month.

Village relief.—Gratuitous relief in villages was also given to 1,800 persons daily during the month in Kaithal and Thanesar Tahsils from District Funds, and 254 persons from Municipal Funds. The total sum given on gratuitous relief amounted to Rs. 3,051.

Poor-house.—No poor-house has been opened.

Relief works.—Two large relief works were in progress in the Kaithal Tahsil during the month, which afforded relief to 5,304 persons daily up to the third week in August, 1900, when both these works had to be closed, as the number of workers had decreased greatly owing to the good fall of rain.

The Patiala subjects working on the Chhatar tank have been sent away to their State under an official who came for the purpose. One thousand and two hundred non-working children and dependants were also fed at the three kitchens. The Dasirpur kitchen was closed on the 11th, and the others at Chhatar and Padla tanks were closed on 18th August, 1900.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works, as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population, was good.

Cholera is prevalent in Karnal, Panipat and Kaithal Towns, also in some villages in the Karnal, Panipat and Kaithal Tahsils.

Food stock.—Food grain stock is sufficient : 23,271 maunds of grain have been imported during the month.

Fodder is abundant, and cattle are much improved in condition.

No. 92.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1900.

HISSAR.

Rainfall.—There has been copious rainfall during the month, and the agricultural prospects have brightened in all parts of the district.

Sowings.—Kharif sowings completed and rabi ploughings commenced.

Condition of crops.—The standing crops both on irrigated and unirrigated lands are in a flourishing condition. Bajra is being reaped on irrigated tracts. Cotton and chilly crops have been damaged to some extent by the heavy rainfall. In certain Sailaba villages the rice cultivation has been affected by the excessive and repeated floods of the Ghaggar stream, but good rabi harvest is expected in such villages.

Fodder.—Green grass is plentiful in all parts of the district.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle greatly improved.

Grain stock.—Food grain imported from other parts of the country is sufficient to meet all local requirements. The circumstances have, however, now changed, and the surplus quantity of grain imported is being exported to other places for sale.

Water-supply.—Water-supply is abundant both in irrigated and unirrigated tracts.

Prices.—The prices of food grains are falling owing to the good prospects of the kharif harvest.

Condition of the people.—The condition of the people is now improving. Zamindars are hopeful and busy with their agricultural pursuits. There is ample field labour available for kamins, and spontaneous herbs, which form a part of the food of the poorer classes of the country, have grown plentifully in all parts of the district.

Famine relief operations.—As the people can now earn their livelihood without Government aid, the famine relief operations of all kinds have been closed with effect from 30th September, and a fortnight's allowance given to those who were in need of help.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of the standing crops is very good.

Fodder.—The fodder supply is ample.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of the cattle is very good. There was no sickness among the cattle.

Food stock.—The food stocks are exhausted, but there was importation from North-West Provinces.

Relief works.—Only one village work, that is Samdasar tank, was in progress up to 7th September, 1900, when it was also closed. The average number of workers for the week ending 8th September was :—

	No.
Relief workers	1,074
Dependants	15

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the people was generally good. Epidemic fever is prevalent.

GURGAON.

General character of relief works.—The number of works in the beginning of the month was four, but these were closed during the month.

The total daily average number of persons on works during the fourth week of the month was—

	Total of Four Weeks.	Daily Average.
Relief workers	7,589	1,897
Dependants	4,008	1,002

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people on works was fair. The health of the district is generally good, with the exception of a few villages in the Nuh and Ferozpur Tahsils and Rewari town, where cholera is still prevalent in a mild form. Steps are being taken to stamp it out.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there were no stocks of fodder and food grains.

Condition of cattle, fodder and crops.—The heavy rains during the month have damaged a part of the bajra crop. Grass is plentiful for cattle, which are in good condition. Rs. 2,46,334-9-4 have been distributed as taccavi up to the 29th September, 1900.

KARNAL.

Out of the sums advanced for the distribution of Famine Charitable Relief Rs. 741 were distributed during the month on the relief of 963 respectable poor and *pardanashin*.

The total sums distributed up to date for the purchase of seed and bullocks (as free gifts from Charitable Relief Funds) amounted to Rs. 61,674. Besides this Rs. 2,000 worth of cloth was purchased and distributed to the people on different relief works and the list of gratuitous relief in villages.

Village relief.—Gratuitous relief in villages was given to 1,406 persons daily during the month, mostly in Kaithal Tahsil, and to some in the Thanesar Tahsil from District Funds, and to 270 persons from Municipal Funds in the town of Kaithal. The total sums given as gratuitous relief amounted to Rs. 2,807.

Poor-house.—No poor-houses are open in this district.

Relief works.—All the relief works were closed during August, 1900. None are in progress now.

Physical condition.—The general health of the people in the district is bad. Though cholera, which was prevalent during the previous month, has died out, fever is still raging in a very severe form.

Food stock.—The food grain stock is quite sufficient. New Indian corn and paddy have begun to come into the market. During the month under report 13,686 maunds of grain were imported into the district. Fodder is abundant, and cattle are in good condition.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Crops are everywhere in excellent condition, except in a few villages of the Thanesar and Karnal Tahsils, where they were destroyed by flood, and in some places cotton, bajra, chari and chillies were damaged by excessive rain. Since the 28th September there has been bright sunshine, which has improved the prospects and enables gram-sowing to be vigorously pushed on.

REGULATION OF RELIEF WORKS.

No. 93.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 177, dated the 22nd March, 1900.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of my letter (circular) No. 126 of this date, which, I trust, will meet with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 93.

Circular letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Rohtak, Delhi, Gurgaon and Hissar, No. 126, dated the 22nd March, 1900.

With the approach of the summer heats, which indeed are already upon us, but may be expected to diminish again for a time, I have the honour to invite

your special attention to the following points connected with our relief works, and to request your early attention to the subject in consultation with the Executive Engineer of the Division.

2. *Water and huts.*—The subjects of the supply of water and provision of huts capable of affording reasonable relief from the sun were mooted and partly discussed at our Hissar Conference three weeks back. As regards water, Superintending Engineer has ordered that four wells shall be made available for each work, and this is no doubt being seen to, and people living in the villages adjoining the work have been ordered to bring one gharra supply per family with them on to the work, and this order is no doubt being enforced. Both points should be seen to at all inspections, and it is desirable, I think, that you should be furnished with a list of the wells available for each work, and be assured that there is no risk of failure of their supply. We cannot afford to leave anything to chance in the matter of the water-supply of ten thousand people in May or June.

3. As regards the huts provided, we must make these as good protection from the sun as possible. The sirki huts constructed in some of the camps are, I am afraid, very poor affairs; but so far as huts can be well "leaped" and pits can be dug inside them, I think we must now *oblige* the occupants to make these improvements, and if they will not do so on Sundays, they should be set to do so on a week day receiving only the minimum wage for such work. Water to enable them to make mud plaster must in any case be supplied to them. I am afraid it is impossible to get any long grass or tree branches in Hissar wherewith to make an additional thatching of the huts, but this may perhaps be possible in some districts. Farash and pilchi cuttings make excellent huts.

4. There remains the question of shelter and shade for the people not residing in relief camps. I am afraid that in most cases there is very little of this available on the spot, though it is wonderful what shade they can contrive under jal and jand bushes by means of clothes, &c., and tattis may no doubt be properly given out to help them in this. The necessity did not arise in the famine of 1896-97, when most of the people were employed on village works, and much of what should now be done in this direction depends upon how they will prefer to work during the hot days. Will those who do not reside in the camps work from very early—say 5 a.m.—and go off to their homes at 11—12 o'clock, or will they work say from 6.30—10.30 and again from 4.30 or 5 p.m. to 7, as no doubt all the people in the camp will do. In the latter case they will need more shelter in the middle of the day—in the former case we shall probably have to reduce the tasks now demanded. This is a point upon which the opinions of leading Lambardárs, Zaildárs, &c., should be sought as well as of officials. In any case some shelter must be provided, and the best way of providing it should receive careful attention.

5. In this connection I shall be glad of your opinion whether children and other dependants should not be left in their villages instead of being brought on to the works during the great heat. The labourers on each work are changing very little now, I fancy, and for all non-residents who have been for some time on the work dependant's allowance can perhaps safely be paid according to the amounts paid in the previous two or three weeks, while as regards new-comers who are pretty certain to come from adjoining villages it can be ascertained from the Lambardárs what the number of dependants is. This idea is against the continuation of kitchens for dependants in the Gurgaon and Karnal Districts, but I am not sure we could very well keep up such kitchens during the great heats of May and June. The dependants residing in the camps need, I think, attend only the morning roll-call after 1st April, but a very careful double camp roll-call should always be taken on Sundays.

6. Finally, as to the task to be done. We must, I imagine, reduce this somewhat for the summer, and I am disposed to think that after 15th April we should reduce it by 20 per cent. This does not in any way affect the principle of fixing and demanding a full task lately laid down and enforced: the task will still be the full one which can be reasonably demanded of the workers with due regard to all conditions, and especially the conditions of heat. I am disposed to think that in view of the fact that our tanks are now becoming so deep

more relief will be needed in the task of the carriers, especially older women and carrying children, than of the diggers, and this must be carefully considered, and the opinion of the Civil Surgeon should be sought on it, as well as of Department Public Works Officers. So far I am quite satisfied with the general condition of the workers which has been maintained during nearly six months of famine, and we must be careful that it does not run down during the next four months, before they return to their ordinary agricultural avocations. It must not be understood that I consider it would be proper to raise the grain wage again in the above circumstances. That wage is, in my opinion, sufficient for the objects which it professes to attain, but we must be careful not to over-tax the strength maintained by that wage, as such strength does not represent the full robust vitality of a labouring population at its best.

7. Should small numbers still come on to our works till the end—if large numbers still come on, we must go on opening other large relief works as we may be compelled—we shall have to consider whether it will be wise to open a certain number of village works from May onwards, and I should be glad to learn your general idea as to this. I am disposed to think that we should not allow any village work to be confined to one village alone, but should in ordinary cases make all such works common to four or five villages at least. Such works would, apparently, have to be managed much as village works for which advances are taken—see my unofficial No. 178, of 19th March, 1900—and I should be glad of the expression of your opinion on this point also.

8. There is one aspect of village relief works connected with the action to be taken in connection with what may be called domestic relief, upon which I am addressing you to-day.

There can be no doubt, I think, that as soon at least as a second good fall of general rain assures general sowings in July we should sweep the people as far as possible off our relief works, and get them, zamindars and kamins alike, back into their villages. To do this we shall have to provide them with means of subsistence for six weeks or two months, roughly speaking, say from 20th July to 10th September. The cost of this may be taken at 2 annas per head per adult, or say Rs. 4 each for the two months, excluding children. The question here for consideration is, should we give the whole of that allowance in cash, or should we require the women and children, at least, to earn part of it by labouring on village relief works while the men work in the fields? There will be a good deal to be done in restoring the old home, even in the most favourable of circumstances; but, on the whole, I am disposed to think that we should require those who can spare the time to work on village relief works up to September, and that the cash sum given to people leaving the works for their homes should be based on this.

9. I shall be obliged if you will favour me with your opinion and the opinions of the Department Public Works Officers in your district (I enclose two spare copies of this letter for Executive Engineer, which he can circulate to his subordinates) upon paragraphs 1—6 of this letter within ten days. Executive Engineers will kindly send copy of their opinions to Superintending Engineer, to whom a copy of this is being sent.

No. 94.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 628, dated Lahore, the 26th April, 1900.

With reference to your letter, No. 177 dated the 22nd March, 1900, I am directed to say that, subject to the following remarks, the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the instructions given in your circular No. 126, dated the 22nd March, 1900, regarding summer arrangements on relief works.

2. As regards paragraphs 4 and 6 of your circular, I am to forward for your information extract of a note by Colonel S. L. Jacob, Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of your circular, the Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to doubt whether it is necessary to dispense with the attendance of the dependants of those relief workers who are not resident on the works. No such measure seems to have been found necessary in Hissar or elsewhere in the last famine. There are certainly difficulties in the way of carrying out your proposal, and I am to suggest that these may be avoided if some more of the tanks are worked, as Colonel Jacob has proposed for Kaluwas, by a task work system, which includes the dependant allowance. If Colonel Jacob's proposal works well it might be extended as far as desired during the hot months. Your matured proposals in regard to dependants will be awaited.

4. As regards paragraph 7 of your circular, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor, as at present advised, is inclined to think that the large works should go on as at present all through May and part of June. That the people should be able to get back to their villages by the time that good rain falls appears to be all that is wanted, and it should be sufficient to get the people back to their villages before the rains break, but only just before. It would be better not to pay them in cash, and it would be preferable to give them work in their villages at favourable rates, and (though this is not in consonance with your proposals) to restrict the work in each village to the people of that village. Sir Mackworth Young thinks this would be less demoralising than giving cash, but work might be given at, say, double the ordinary rate, so that plenty of time may be left for the people to work in the fields. Every endeavour should be made to measure such work correctly, but, at the same time, the rates allowed should be liberal. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that payment for such work might be weekly or fortnightly, as convenient; and, if necessary, given in advance, though it is of importance that this should not be done if it can be helped.

5. Copies of this correspondence will be supplied to all the Deputy Commissioners of your Division (except Simla).

Enclosure in No. 94.

Extract of a Note by Colonel S. L. Jacob, R.E., Chief Engineer, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated the 12th April, 1900, on the Commissioner, Delhi's No. 126, dated the 22nd March, 1900.

The Commissioner says the necessity for shade did not arise in the famine of 1896-97. This is not quite correct. The Ghaggar Canals and Hansi Branch cuts off were in full swing in the hot weather, and shade was very much wanted.

I am of opinion that no particular lowering of the task is required, but what is wanted is leniency during dust-storms. Dust-storms rage with great severity and frequency in May and June, and render anything like a full task on those days impossible. The nearer Bikaner the worse they are.

I should not, therefore, reduce the daily task, but I should give the normal wage whenever a dust-storm occurred of such strength or duration that a full task could not be done, and a minimum wage for no work. If a dust-storm rages the first half of the day, the workers should be encouraged to come and work for the other half. We had to do this last famine, and the work was very materially reduced in consequence. In and on the border of Bikaner it made a difference of 40 per cent., but less elsewhere. I would work this matter leniently, even though there were some abuse of the leniency, for work in the constant winds of May is most unpleasant and trying to health.

As to the latter part of paragraph 6 of Commissioner's note, I think it is important, and I am inclined to think that the local officers are not sufficiently careful about the weaker people. I should like to see more weak gangs than I have seen, and no doubt very high lifts such as will obtain in the hot weather are specially trying to all but the strong.

No. 95.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 235, dated the 18th April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 177 of 22nd March, 1900, I have the honour to forward a copy of my letter No. 167 of this date and the original correspondence* referred to in it, a list of which is annexed, and to request that printed copies of the whole may be supplied to officers as requested in my letter No. 189 of 26th March, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 95.

Circular from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to (1) the Deputy Commissioners, Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon, and Karnal; (2) the Executive Engineers, Provincial Divisions, Hissar, Rohtak, Delhi, and Umballa; (3) the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle—No. 167, dated Delhi, the 18th April, 1900.

All the replies to my circular No. 126 of the 22nd ultimo having now been received, I have the honour to issue the following orders on the subjects noticed therein.

2. *Drinking water arrangements.*—The importance of this subject seems to be well understood. The number of wells, four, which the Superintending Engineer has directed should be made available may seem large, but it must be remembered that with an outbreak of cholera one or two of these may at any moment go out of use for a time, and that we must not be left open to the risk of hastily improvised substitutes then. I do not understand why the order that workers coming from their own villages are to bring with them one small gharra of water per family is difficult to enforce, and I observe that Captain Burlton says it is complied with in Rohtak. It is surely simple to arrange with the Lambardars of the village to see to this before the workers start in the morning, and persistent refusal to comply with the order can always be met with refusal of admission to the work. We are bound to save what cost of water arrangements we can in this way, but it must be clearly impressed on all subordinates that in no circumstances is the supply of drinking water to be allowed to run short when the great heats set in, and additional carriage arrangements must be devised as necessary to meet any greatly increased demand for water.

3. *Huts.*—I am afraid the opinions offered do not help very much. So far as cowdung is needed for leeping the huts, I can hardly believe that this cannot be arranged for if application is made to the Tahsildar of the tahsil, and probably the workers from villages would bring baskets of fresh cowdung for payment. So far as I observed in the villages the making of oplas and the storing of them in botoras was proceeding in nearly all places in spite of the

* Not printed.

losses of cattle. With reference to Mr. Humphrey's objection that huts dug out are liable to be flooded even with light rain, and that such huts are not perhaps healthy in any case in very hot weather (they were made primarily in this form as protection from the cold), it must be very easy to change the huts to one side or other of the hole and fill that up again, at the same time making low bank walls outside the huts as suggested by Mr. Humphreys, and if necessary this can be done on a working day. If there is no shade round about, and I am afraid this is the case with many of the works, the huts, or else specially improvised shelter, must provide sufficient shelter from the direct rays of the sun; and officers will be responsible for this, and must spend on this object such sums as may be really necessary. The securing of huts against dust-storms must also be specially seen to.

4. *Shade.*—The general opinion is that the people coming on to the works from the villages should be allowed to commence work when they like in the night and morning, and this will certainly be the best plan. In that case they will require little shade, if any, but whatever is necessary for them, or for people in the camp whose huts do not afford sufficient shade, must be provided. The Chief Engineer, whose letter was circulated with my letter No. 151 of the 7th April, is in favour of trees supplemented with bits of thatch, or of thatch shelters on poles with no sides, and the Superintending Engineer proposes frames of bamboo matting 8 by 4, and Mr. Orr thinks that shelters against the sides of the excavation pits will be best. Each officer, subject to the orders of his executive engineer, can try his own system, but it must be understood that adequate shelter from the sun's rays must be provided for all who remain on the work or in camp during the full heat of the day.

5. *Hours of work.*—There is a general consensus of opinion that the people should be allowed to work as they like, and I think there can be no doubt that this view is sound. The people from the villages will no doubt come on the works very early, and on moonlight nights will probably work all night, and the people in camp can be allowed to do the same or to divide their work into two portions in the morning and evening. It is obvious, however, that this necessary relaxation of work hours will have a considerable effect upon our present organization and may have such an effect upon the outturn of work, and it will be necessary to issue very careful orders to all Naib Tahsildars in this connection. I shall be glad to see the general orders which executive engineers may pass on the subject for the guidance of all subordinates.

All officials must, of course, be on the work before sunrise (this will be, of course, the most comfortable arrangement for them as for the workers), and all work of returns, estimates, &c., can be done in shelter during the heat of the day. Naib Tahsildars and all members of our establishment will need a good deal of working up with reference to these new arrangements, and I trust they will receive it. If desired by executive engineers, I am sure Deputy Commissioners will be glad to place at their disposal for a few days on each work the services of Tahsildars or Extra Assistant Commissioners or Assistant Commissioners to help to introduce these changes with as little dislocation of system and organization as possible. This change means, of course, that the workers must keep their tools and baskets themselves, so that they can get at them for work at any time, and with responsibility for this Government property duly impressed on mates and muharrirs I do not see that there need be much risk in this plan.

6. *Dependants.*—As regards leaving children in the villages, opinions are a good deal divided, but the general conclusion is perhaps that it would be sufficient for them to be present on the two pay days, and this plan should be tried for the present. The piece-work system would, of course, do away with this altogether, but the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak is disposed to think that the children of the menials are beginning to suffer under this system, and that some of them must be fed at small kitchens. If, however, the parents come on to the work at night, this will hardly be possible, and we shall probably have to fall back upon requiring the Lambardars to see to the proper feeding of these children in the villages. It is not likely, I think, that the people will want to bring children on to the works with them when working at night, but if they

do, they need not be prevented. Children can probably come on to the works pretty easily on pay days soon after sunrise, and arrangements could be made by Tahsildars in the villages to send them to the work under care of the chaukidars and one or two others, but any very old and feeble or lame dependants need not come to the work at all, and can be paid through the Lambardars, one of whom should come on the work each pay day and take back and disburse in the village the allowance due to such persons. Arrangements should be made for a single roll-call of dependants residing in camps when the people and officials leave the work at 10-11 o'clock. After a few days' regulation and experience no special trouble need, I think, be caused by this.

7. *Task.*—As regards the task, Colonel Jacob, Mr. Campion, Mr. Orr and Mr. McGregor do not consider any reduction necessary at present, while Captain Burlton and Mr. MacDonald and the Civil Surgeon of Gurgaon think a reduction of even 20 per cent. is too small. All agree with me that there is no doubt that we must watch the effect of the task very carefully as the heat increases and must be prepared to reduce it if necessary, but in view of Colonel Jacob's experience in 1897, there does not seem to be sufficient reason to reduce it at present, and I agree now with Mr. Campion that a reduction of 20 per cent. would not be called for in the first instant at least, and that the reduction of one working hour would suffice. The matter rests primarily with Deputy Commissioners and Executive Engineers, and these officers must please keep a very careful eye on it, and report for sanction of reduction of the task when this is considered really necessary, reducing the task in anticipation of sanction if really satisfied that this is called for. The Civil Surgeon should be requested to issue instructions to all inspecting and local medical subordinates to pay very careful attention to this.

8. The Superintending Engineer has suggested that an enhancement of the wage may be needed again during the severe heat. I should be very averse to adopting this plan, and it could only be supported on the ground of clear proof of general falling off in the condition of the people on the relief works. Their condition must be carefully watched as the great heat comes on, but the last remedy I consider to be applied is that above suggested.

9. Colonel Jacob's proposal regarding the interference with work by dust-storms should be adopted, viz., that the full normal wage should be given when a dust-storm prevents the full task being done, and the minimum wage if it prevents any work being done at all.

10. Mr. Campion draws attention to the possible necessity of providing some armed night watchman at camps in neighbourhoods where wild animals may be at night. Naib Tahsildars should find no difficulty in arranging at once for these through the Tahsildar of the tahsil.

11. I hope that a printed copy of the correspondence in this case will be shortly in the hands of all officers.

No. 96.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 919, dated Simla, the 25th June, 1900.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a

1. From Commissioner, Delhi, to Punjab Government, No. 277, dated the 22nd May, 1900, and enclosures.

2. From Punjab Government to Commission, Delhi, No. 899, dated the 20th June, 1900.

relief works to their homes when the rains set in.

copy of the correspondence noted in the margin regarding the arrangements to be made for dependants on relief works during the remaining weeks of relief, and the measures to be adopted to remove people from the

Enclosure 1 in No. 96.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 277, dated Delhi, the 22nd May, 1900.

I have the honour to address Government upon the two questions noted below, which are dealt with in paragraphs 3 and 4 of your letter No. 628 of 26th April, viz. :—

- (1) The arrangements to be made for dependants on relief works during the remaining weeks of relief ;
- (2) The measures to be adopted to remove people from the relief works to their homes when the rains fairly set in.

2. My circular No. 167 of 18th April, forwarded to Government under cover of my letter No. 235 of the same date, had been issued before the receipt of your letter in question, and on receipt of it I issued my Deputy Commissioner, Roh-tak, No. 184 G., of 10th May, 1900. Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, No. 652 G.F., of 11th May, 1900, paragraphs 6 and 7. No. 195 of 5th May, copy of which is enclosed, with copy of the answers to it noted on the margin.

3. These answers are not complete, but I have discussed the subject on the spot with the local officers in Gurgaon, Hissar, Rohtak, and Karnal, and I have come to the conclusion that the importance of the question is realised by all Civil and Public Works Officers, and that the question of arranging for dependants during the hot months may now be safely left in their hands. The old people among the dependants will be swept on to the gratuitous relief lists as far as possible—the dependants in camp are easily arranged for—and so far officers find that they can carry on the system hitherto pursued in each case without difficulty, *e.g.*, on the Karnal works the children come regularly to meals at the kitchens twice a day still, and in Hissar they are brought daily to the roll call. It appears that while men and some of the women come on to the work early in the night and do the digging, the mass of the carriers do not come till daylight, and that the children can and do come with them. As above said, therefore, I would now leave the matter in the hands of the local officers.

4. As regards the removal of workers from the relief works when good rains set in, it will be seen that all officers share the opinion of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor that we should continue the system of large relief works till then, and believe that the great majority of the people will then leave the works of their own accord, and will manage somehow to carry on in their villages until the autumn crop ripens. Mr. Humphreys, who has written a careful letter on the subject, thinks that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the $\frac{1}{3}$ who will go off at once, or, say, one-half of the whole, will be able to support themselves in some way or another, and that one half will have to be provided for later. I confess that when I proposed starting village relief works for these people in paragraph 8 of my letter No. 126 of 22nd March, and in paragraph 9 of my No. 130 of 26th idem, I overlooked the fact that the village tanks will probably be full of rain water from 15th July on, and that relief work can hardly be started on them. I do not know how this difficulty was met in Hissar in 1897, but I observe from paragraph 41 of Major Dunlop-Smith's report that whereas 247 village relief works were in progress just before the rains, only 100 were in progress at the end of July, and that the numbers on relief works, which were 67,500 on 3rd July, were 21,500 on 31st July, and fell under 10,000 after second week in August. We cannot, I think, expect so rapid a desertion of works by any natural process in the present year, as the circumstances of the people are very much worse than they were in 1897, and much larger numbers will certainly cling to the works if we allow this till September, or even October. Therefore it is that I proposed to remove these persons and to pay them a small sum in their villages calculated to support them for two months, or for so much of the two months as may be necessary. (An allowance for two weeks could be given to the family on leaving the works, and the subsequent fortnightly

allowances would be paid by the Circle Inspector under the special order in each case of a Tahsildar or Naib Tahsildar or higher official). His Honour is disposed to consider that this might prove a demoralising process, and there is a risk of demoralisation resulting from nearly every form of relief. The object in the present case is to get the people back to field work, and that work will certainly be as hard as any we can exact from them on relief works. Captain Burlton would start village relief works; Mr. Humphreys is opposed to these. Personally I have no belief in such works, or in the possibility of effective management of them. The whole facts of the case are now before Government, and I shall be glad to receive early orders as to what policy is to be adopted. Personally I would still close all our large tanks at the end of July, and send off to their homes with a monthly allowance of Rs. 5 (Rs. 4 would be too low I now think. Rs. 5 represents 2 annas 8 pies per diem for a family of 4-5), to be paid fortnightly, all who still wished to remain on them. The alternatives to this are either to keep a certain number of the large works open, concentrating the remnant of workers on them, which would be the better though more expensive plan of the two, I consider, or to start village relief works. For the sake of supervision I think these must be confined to one for every group of 4-5 villages. The people need not, I think, be moved back to their villages until the rains actually break. In most cases they are at a distance of only one day's journey from them, and so can reach them almost immediately. As a matter of fact, the half of the people who will be able to manage without assistance from 15th July—15th September will slip off gradually during the 10 days before the monsoon comes.

5. The cost of maintaining people in their villages for two months would be roughly as follows :—

Village.	Nos. of Families.	Cost at Rs. 10 for two months.
Hissar	10,000	Rs. 1,00,000
Rohtak	4,000	40,000
Gurgaon	1,500	15,000
Karnal	1,500	15,000
Total		1,70,000

I have been informed by the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee that they will be able to place Rs. 2,00,000 at my disposal for expenditure under head IV. of the objects of the fund, and I think myself that this money might be best spent in restoring by an early date to their homes landowners and cultivators who otherwise will not be able to return there till later. If it is not considered desirable to spend money on the above object, or if Government consider it necessary to require work from these people, then the two lakhs in question will be available for advances for the purchase of oxen and seed, regarding which I have addressed you in my letter No. 278 of this date.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Gurgaon, Hissar, Rohtak, and Karnal. Circular No. 195, dated Delhi, the 5th May, 1900.

In continuation of my circular letter No. 167 of 18th ultimo, I have the honour to invite your attention to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No. 628 of 26th idem, regarding certain measures to be adopted for the management of relief works during the summer months.

2. As regards dependants, it will be seen that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor is in favour of the plan proposed by Colonel Jacob on the Kaluwas tank in the Hissar District (copy enclosed). That plan might no doubt be the simplest, but it means a change of system, which is hardly desirable at the present advanced stage of relief works, though I am entirely in favour of the principle embodied in it, and as I noted in my letter of the 18th ultimo, Captain Burlton has found it necessary to change the plan as regards the children of menials on certain of the Rohtak relief works. The Executive Engineer of Hissar believes that there will be no practical difficulty in the children dependants coming on the works daily with their parents, even in the hottest weather, and that it is not safe to allow them to come only on pay days. So long as the parents do not object to bringing the children dependants daily from the villages—children at the breast would presumably have to come in any case—there is no strong reason perhaps why they should not come. The whole bearings of the question are not perhaps very clear yet, and I shall be glad of a further expression of your opinion and of that of the Executive Engineer on it about 15th May, when we shall have had two weeks' experience of this hot weather.

3. As regards the question treated in paragraph 4 of the letter of the Punjab Government, I shall be glad of a full expression of your views by an early date. The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor is in favour of my proposal of keeping the people on the large relief works as long as possible, but would transfer them to their homes before the rains break, but with so capricious a rainfall as that of this division, I doubt if we can safely transfer the people from the works, or can give them advances for ploughing, until the rains have fairly set in in each individual tahsil. His Honour also considers that we should then start village relief works in each village, and should require the village people to maintain themselves by working on these at double rates of wage. This would involve a very large number of works, and I doubt if we could possibly exercise any proper supervision over them, at least at any reasonable cost. Your reply to this portion of the present letter should be sent separately as an answer to my No. 130 of 26th March, which should now be furnished as soon as possible.

Annexure II.

Note by Colonel S. L. Jacob, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, on the Kaluwas Tank Famine Work, dated the 7th April, 1900.

Piece-work is just started. The idea is that it is necessary to have a wage which includes allowance for dependants to prevent the necessity of bringing children from Bhiwani in the hot weather. The idea is doubtless commendable, but the way of working it is very defective. I have not seen a satisfactory solution of the piece-work system except where the family party system is followed. Where this is the case, the net earnings are handed over to the head of the party and nothing more is needed. This works fairly well at the Jhelum Canal and Delhi-Agra Railway (both unlimited piece-work). It is not proposed to follow this here. What has been actually done is as follows:—

- (1) A rate has been determined omitting the Sunday wage, but otherwise professedly following orders of Chief Engineer, including an allowance for dependants.
- (2) A normal task for the gang has been marked out and also an additional 20 per cent. to this.
- (3) The actual work done is worked out in money at the rate prescribed.
- (4) This money is approximately divided into equal amounts for each—
 - Digger.
 - Carrier.
 - Working child.

The mistakes or defects are the following:—

- 1st. The rate was not rightly calculated, for the reduced lead was too short. Sub-Divisional Officer does not see that the lift is necessarily the height to which the basket must be lifted between the place of filling until it reaches destination (I have found gross mistakes in this matter elsewhere). The lead too as taken by him was somewhat short, hence the rate was too low.
- 2nd. The (4th) method above described was badly done. Let us take some examples:—

The grain rate is 12 seers 10 chataks per rupee. The normal wage of—

Digger is	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 pice.
Carrier	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 „
Working child	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 „

without any allowance for dependants.

Gang No. 5—Had a task of	...	...	...	...	...	630
Work done	...	...	...	...	...	630
Each digger was paid	...	...	...	...	...	6
Carrier was paid...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Working child was paid	...	...	...	...	...	2

Here only the carrier had any advantage from supposed allowance for dependants, and working children were cut for nothing. Rs. 4-6-6 was the value of work; Rs. 4-6-0 payment; Rs. 0-0-6 saved.

Gang No. 4—Task 480, work 480.

Each digger got	...	...	...	...	...	7
Carrier got	...	...	...	...	...	4
Working child	...	...	...	...	...	3
						<i>Rs. a. p.</i>
Value of work	...	...	...	...	...	3 5 9
Payment	...	...	...	...	...	3 5 3
Saved	...	...	...	...	...	<u>0 0 6</u>

Here the diggers got extra, not carriers. It is plain that the working is very unequal in its incidence, and mistakes are easily made.

A much simpler system is possible and should be followed.

The normal wage without allowances is 6, 4, 3 respectively. Add 20 per cent. for dependants and we have the following :—

7·2, 4·8, 3·6.

Take for a new normal wage 7, 5, 3 (it might be said that 3·6 should be taken as 4, but I take it as 3 because the 3 is in itself somewhat high for 8 chataks value).

Now proceed as follows :—

- (1) Mark out normal and 20 per cent. extra task as before.
- (2) Suppose the normal work is done, do not use a rate at all but pay 7, 5, 3 as above. Suppose 20 per cent. extra is done, then instead of 7, 5, 3, the wage would be 8·4, 6, 3·6.

In this case pay 8, 6, 4 respectively.

- (3) Short work should be prevented, but if short work does occur within 20 per cent. of normal task, then 6, 4, 3 may be given; if less than this, then 3, 3, 2, but habitual short work should, if the gangs are in health, be met with turning off the work. If, however, short work is caused by bad dust-storms and a fair task has been done, then the normal of 7, 5, 3 may still be given.
- (4) The payments are for three days. Short work, if any, on first two days should be made up on the other day.
- (5) If any extra work short of the 20 per cent. is done, the balance to get extra for one day in three may be made up on the other days.

Thus suppose 10 per cent. over normal is done on the first day and the same on second day, then the wage for—

First day will be 7, 5, 3,

Second day will be 8, 6, 4,

but this can only apply to the three days for which payment is made at one time.

Now for the camp people who get Sunday allowance. Normal, without allowance, is 6, 4, 3; add one-eighth and we have 6·75, 4·5, 3·375; add 20 per cent. for dependants and we have 8·25, 5·4, 4·05, or by approximation 8, 5, 4, the carrier getting as before here; so 8, 6, 4 may be given.

For 20 per cent. more pay 10, 7, 5,

For 20 per cent. less 6, 4, 3,

Less than this 5, 3, 2,

habitual short work as before to be met by turning off.

Annexure III.

Letter from Captain P. S. M. Burlton, Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 184 G., dated the 10th May, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your office Circular No. 195, dated 5th May, 1900, and with reference to paragraph 3 submit the following.

2. The Department Public Works Relief Works, with the exception of Pir Baha-ud-din Tank, will last us until the rains break, *i.e.*, right up to the end of June, and as the proportion of people residing on the works is such a small one, no steps are necessary to get the people back to their homes. Pir Baha-ud-din will last till the first week in June, and even longer, if I am given permission to start a "village work" within the Municipal limits of Rohtak, to which the Rohtak workers on Pir Baha-ud-din (over 1,000) may be withdrawn. As soon as sufficient rain has fallen everywhere all the agriculturists will leave the works, or rather will not leave their villages for the works, and the question then remains whether we are to start village works or pay them in cash sufficient to keep them going till the harvest is reaped. I have already in this office letter No. 138G., dated 12th ultimo, in reply to your Circular No. 130 of 26th March, 1900, expressed my opinion that cash should not be given. There must be large numbers who will not be able to participate in the agricultural operations which will take place as soon as good rain has fallen, and work must be found for them somewhere or other. The starting of village relief works will do this, and at the same time give the necessary relief to the zamindars, who will be able for the most part to carry on their agricultural operations and village works together.

There is, however, one aspect of the case, which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has apparently overlooked. This is, how are we to dig village tanks when they are mostly full of water from the rains.

It is quite impossible to start village works in each village, and to restrict the work in each village to the people of that village. The number of works would be enormous, and supervision of any sort would be impossible even if the present staff were quadrupled. If the objection as to the tanks filling up with water can be got over, I would advocate selections of certain villages for village works and the allotment of certain other villages to each village work. The parcha system should be employed; all should work who require relief, any honourable exceptions being given cash help when absolutely necessary.

That is, I would advocate both systems being tried, and preference being given to village works where feasible, and the extension of each system would depend on conditions, which it is impossible to foresee or foretell at the present moment.

Annexure IV.

Extract of Letter, No. 659 G. F., dated the 11th May, 1900, from R. Humphreys, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division.

As regards what arrangements it will be necessary to make to get the people back from the works to their villages opinions are rather more divided. Last famine village works were largely resorted to in the later stage of the famine, and when the rains broke, the rates of wages on the large works were lowered to induce the people to go to their villages.

It is not proposed to start any village works if possible this time.

In my No. F., dated 8th April, 1900, in reply to your Circular No. 126, I suggested that at the beginning of June a certain number of village works should be started for the people on works who belong to villages more than 20 miles from a large work. Subsequent enquiry shows that except in Sirsa there are no such works, and that in that tahsil it does not appear to be necessary to make any special arrangements for them, as in every case they can reach their homes in two days from where they are now employed. The intention, therefore, is that relief workers should remain on our large works until the rains have set in well and that they should then go to their villages and plough.

To carry out this policy we are confronted with two questions which must be answered :—

- (i) How are the people to be made to leave the works?
- (ii) How are they to live until they get up some crops?

When the rains break probably four-fifths of the people will go off to their villages of their own accord, and probably two-thirds of them would be able to manage, in ways best known to themselves, until the crops come up. In this connection I leave out of consideration entirely advances for seed and bullocks, as they will be rigorously calculated so as to be only sufficient for the purpose for which they are given. The remaining fifth therefore must be got back to their villages, and the third kept alive for, roughly, two months. As the fifth will most certainly be included in the third, it seems out of the question to force it off the works by reducing the wages. It must consequently either be done by providing them with work in their villages or by relieving them gratuitously. As I have above explained, it is practically certain that a certain number of people would leave the works of their own accord, who if the works were kept open indefinitely, would be inevitably driven back to them again after a fortnight or three weeks. We must arrange, if possible, to get hold of these people before they go off in the first instance. I should consequently advocate that say a week after the second good fall of rain has come the works should be definitely closed and the people sent back to their villages.

We thus come to our second question, work in their villages versus gratuitous relief. Now in this question we need only legislate for good average rains, for if the rains fail us again there will be no closing of relief works.

As the only work practicable in villages is tank digging, and as we are counting on average rains having commenced a week before this remnant from our works arrive in their villages, it is only natural to assume that the village tanks will be full of water and will not be available for work.

Accordingly we are forced back on the method of giving the people on the works when they are closed an allowance per family sufficient for a month with the promise of a second instalment for a second month if required afterwards. There is, of course, the objection of demoralisation to be raised to this, but I do not know what other alternative we can adopt, and it seems to me that perhaps, considering our general famine administration, in which such a large number of people are regularly gratuitously relieved, the extra demoralisation of this method would not be so great after all.

Sums expended on this purpose would, in my opinion, come properly within the scope of the charitable relief funds. It is rather difficult to make any reliable estimate of what amount would be required for this purpose, but I think it would not be far wrong to say that if the works are closed as above explained, there would probably be about 50,000 people on them then, including dependants, *i.e.*, 10,000 families of an average of five to a family. If we take Rs. 4 per mensem as the sum necessary to keep this average family going we get Rs. 80,000 for the two months, which does not seem to be excessive.

Enclosure 2 in No. 96.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 899, dated Simla, the 20th June, 1900.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter (No. 277) dated 22nd May, 1900, and to say, with reference to the treatment during the hot weather of the dependants of relief workers, which is the first of the two subjects therein discussed, that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with you that the matter may now be safely left in the hands of District Officers.

2. The second subject dealt with in your letter is that of the measures of relief necessary in the later part of the summer and in the rains. It is now universally agreed that famine relief on public works should be continued until good rains set in. Thereafter, you propose, about the end of July, to close all large works and to send off to their homes, with a monthly allowance of Rs. 5 per family, all those who still cling to the works, and who will be thereby shown, in your opinion, to be unable to hold out on their own resources till the reaping of the kharif harvest. With reference to His Honour's apprehension that this might prove a demoralising process, it is true no doubt, as you say, that there is a risk of demoralization resulting from nearly every form of relief. But it seems to His Honour that there is another objection to the proposed system. You propose, His Honour understands, to wait until the people have in most cases left the works, and then in regard to those who remain and are not willing to leave them, to make this unwillingness the criterion of their receiving not only a viaticum but a maintenance allowance for two months.

3. Let it be considered how such a system will work in practice. In the first place if the people know beforehand what is going to be done, the prospect of such an allowance will act as an inducement to keep them on the works to the detriment of agricultural operations. If the secret is kept (which will, His Honour thinks, be difficult) then those who have gone off the works first will, as soon as they find others coming off with a maintenance provision, feel that they have been unequally treated. On the other hand, it is undoubtedly of great importance to enable all people now on relief works to turn to cultivation as soon as possible after the rains set in, and if, therefore, it is found two or three weeks after that date that the numbers on the works are such as you anticipate, His Honour will not object to your removing them from the works and providing them with a sufficient sum to support each family for a fortnight. The Lieutenant-Governor understands it to be your intention to arrange that during that fortnight careful enquiry should be made to ascertain whether the people

who have received these allowances are engaged on agricultural work, or can manage to support themselves till the kharif harvest ripens. In cases where the results of this enquiry are not satisfactory a small additional allowance would be made. I am to say that, subject to what is said below on the subject of village works, Sir Mackworth Young agrees to these proposals.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that while Mr. Humphreys is in favour of the system advocated by you, Captain Burlton is strongly of opinion that cash gratuities should not be given to the people who have been on relief works. It appears to His Honour that this difference of opinion may be due to different local conditions, demoralization not having in Rohtak reached the stage it has in Hissar. Whatever conclusion may be come to in regard to Hissar, Captain Burlton's proposal is approved as regards Rohtak that some large works should be kept open even after the rains have set in, and that village works should be opened as well.

5. And, although precise instructions would be out of place before the situation has further developed, Sir Mackworth Young thinks that the same system should, as far as possible, be followed in Hissar. Some large works should be kept open (unless the rain makes this impossible) in order to meet emergencies, such as a long break in the rains or even a failure of the monsoon. And the futility of starting village works does not appear to His Honour to be fully established. You mention in your letter under reply that village tank work went on in Hissar in 1897 even after the commencement of the rains, and so there would appear to be no insuperable obstacle to such work being undertaken in the present year. Existing village tanks may be extended, even if full of water, by means of excavations made close to them; or new tanks may be dug. And the Punjab Famine Code prescribes (Correction Slip, No 15, to Section 106, based on the recommendations of the last Famine Commission) that village tanks may usefully be brought into requisition in order to keep the people at their homes when the time for the preparation of the land for the harvest comes. The Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, is pleased to direct that in Hissar, as well as in other districts, village works should be started, and should be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in paragraph 4 of my letter No. 628, dated 26th April, 1900, except in places where it is absolutely impossible to provide them.

6. In the concluding paragraph of your letter under reply you suggest that the allotment placed at your disposal by the Executive Committee of the Charitable Fund might be devoted to restoring, by an early date, to their homes, land-owners and cultivators who otherwise would not be able to return there till later, *i.e.*, to the carrying into effect of the system which, in the previous part of your letter, you have recommended to Government. In regard to this I am to say that as His Honour has now decided that it is for Government to undertake this obligation, the system referred to in paragraph 3 of this letter should be worked wholly at Government expense.

No. 97.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1378-F., dated Simla, the 4th July, 1900.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 919, dated 25th June 1900, with which you forward a copy of correspondence regarding the measures to be adopted to remove people from relief works to their homes when the rains set in.

2. The Government of India understand that the district officers are to be authorized to place on gratuitous relief for a limited time such able-bodied labourers and their dependants as still remain on the large relief works after

the rains have set in, with the object of enabling them to return to their villages. At the same time some large works are to be kept open and village works also started. It is assumed that arrangements will be made to secure that persons thus gratuitously relieved will not be allowed to receive pay for work on village works, or on any large work which may be kept open in the vicinity of their homes.

3. Subject to this caution the Government of India have no objection in the circumstances to the measure in question. I am, however, to suggest that, in view of the hesitation felt by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to this extension of gratuitous relief, it may be found less demoralising to give the desired aid in the form of advances for subsistence under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. The rules on which these advances are given provide for this, and in Bombay takavi grants to the ryots are now being made with the object not only of enabling them to prepare and sow their fields, but also to support themselves and their farm labourers until the first crop ripens. It will no doubt be necessary to write off eventually a considerable portion of the loans, but their immediate effect as compared with gifts is probably less open to objection on the score of demoralisation.

ADVANCES FOR AGRICULTURISTS.

No. 98.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esquire, Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 552, dated Lahore, the 10th April, 1900.

I AM directed by the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor to address you on the subject of the budget allotment made to the Punjab by the Government of India for the year 1900-01 for advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, in Resolution No. 1361 A*, dated 16th March, 1900, in the Finance and Commerce Department.

2. The allotment amounts to Rs. 13,82,000 only as compared with a budget estimate of Rs. 19,00,000, and while it is stated that if in Bombay, the Central Provinces, and Madras, further advances are found to be absolutely necessary for relief of distress, applications for additional allotments may be made during the course of the year, no such permission is given in respect of the Punjab.

3. I am to say that when the budget estimate for the current year was framed, it was not possible for the Punjab Government or the Financial Commissioner to gauge the full extent to which famine conditions would develop, and the estimate of requirements on account of advances to agriculturists was consequently an imperfect one. It was not till near the end of the financial year that the Commissioner of the Delhi Division found himself in a position to be able to calculate the needs of his Division with any exactness, and his letter No. 145, dated 9th March, 1900,* of which a copy is herewith forwarded for the information of the Government of India, was received too late for the Lieutenant-Governor to take action upon it before the estimates for the current financial year had been dealt with by the Government of India. But, I am to say, the letter in His Honour's opinion, clearly establishes the necessity for a very much larger amount being distributed in advances to agriculturists than that originally contemplated, which included only five lakhs of rupees on

* Paragraph 9.

* The allotment to the Punjab for advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts was Rs. 13,82,000.

account of the Delhi Division, instead of the 14 lakhs now thought necessary by the Commissioner. The allotment to the Punjab for this purpose, far from being reduced below the budget estimate should, His Honour thinks, be in excess of it, if the Government of India are in a position to provide the money.

4. The reduction of the allotment to the Punjab below the amount of the budget estimate is explained in paragraph 5 of the Government of India Resolution above quoted to be due to the fact that when the estimate was framed it was not expected that there would be a Charitable Famine Fund, whereas such a fund has since come into existence. In regard to this, I am to say that advances to agriculturists are beyond the scope of that fund. One of the objects to which it has been recognised that the fund should be devoted is certainly the restitution of the destitute, but in connection with a reference to the Central Committee from the Executive Committee of the Fund in this Province on the subject of loans for the purchase of fodder for well cattle, the former body have unanimously decided that the practice of granting loans should not be adopted, and that all relief should take the form of free gifts. Now, while there are certain classes who may, when destitute, suitably receive free gifts of cash to help to restore them to their original position, Sir Mackworth Young is of opinion that the class to whom advances may be made under the Agriculturists' Loans Acts is not one of those, and the effect of relieving its members by means of free gifts instead of by the grant of loans would be demoralising and politically bad. The existence of the Charitable Fund therefore is no reason for diminishing the amount to be lent to agriculturists, nor does it relieve Government of its responsibilities towards that class.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor fully understands that the Government of India, as stated in paragraph 4 of its Resolution quoted above, cannot at present allot more than Rs. 13,82,000 for the needs of the Punjab. But for the reasons which have been given above, viz., that those needs were not fully represented in time, and that the Charitable Fund cannot help the Province to the extent anticipated by the Government of India, His Honour hopes that if the Government of India hereafter finds itself in a position to augment the allotments which have been made, the case of the Punjab may receive full consideration.

Enclosure in No. 98.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 145, dated the 9th March, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith an estimate of the probable expenditure upon famine relief in the Delhi Division during the year 1900-01.

2. I assume that we shall receive such summer rains as will enable a fair harvest to be sown. I am unable to form any idea of what the distress would be or what its successful relief would cost should such an awful calamity as yet another failure of the summer rains take place in the Hissar District.

UMBALLA.

3. My estimate submitted to Government under cover of my letter, No. 50 C. of 18th September last included a total expenditure of Rs. 1,25,000 on relief in the Umballa District, and of Rs. 2,00,000 in the Delhi District. Luckily, Umballa shortly afterwards received some rain in time to make spring sowings, and the people devoted themselves strenuously to raising well crops, and fair to good rains everywhere in the district since Christmas have secured a crop which removes all fear of famine. Should any ordinary work be required in any part of the district to tide the people over a few weeks, this can be provided by ordinary funds.

DELHI.

4. In Delhi, contrary to my expectations at the time, based on the recorded facts of 1897, distress has hardly made its appearance, and it is not likely that it will now do so to any extent, as the spring crop will be reaped in another three weeks at the outside. Fortunately, business in the city has been brisk in all branches, and, in consequence, the poorer classes have been able to find work to do; and the workers on the Delhi-Agra line have been either refugees from Rájputána, or labourers transferred from Rohtak. These are in all about 4,000 now, and allowing for 5,000 for four months, *i.e.*, to end of July, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per day, we may put the probable cost of relief operations in the Delhi District at 56,400 next year (it will amount to about 50,000 this year), or as numbers on such a work will probably melt away more rapidly when the rains come than on a work manned from the villages round it, say 50,000.

HISSAR.

5. I have just completed a somewhat extensive tour in this district, and my general conclusions on the subject of famine relief in it have been separately submitted to Government, and need not be repeated here. In September last, whilst recognising that distress would be severe and far reaching in Hissar, much more severe and far reaching than in 1897, I estimated for an expenditure of 8 lakhs this year and a similar sum next year. This, however, will not be nearly sufficient. Our numbers on relief works have gone up in Hissar at the rate of more than 10,000 a week during February, and now stand at 130,000, and it is quite possible that we shall gradually touch the number of 200,000, all recipients of relief, though possibly we may halt somewhere between 150,000 and the higher number (I have given my reasons in the letter above referred to for considering that relief to the present extent is absolutely necessary, and that it is being properly administered). Should that be the case we must provide much as follows—at the rate of Rs. 3 per person per mensem:—

Month.	Persons.	Cost.
April	170,000	Rs. 5,10,000
May	190,000	5,70,000
June	200,000	6,00,000
July	100,000	3,00,000
August... ..	50,000	1,50,000
September	25,000	75,000
Total		22,05,000

The provincial cost per unit last famine was a little under 7 pice per day, which gives Rs. 3·4-0 per head per mensem—on gratuitous relief we are at present paying Rs. 2 as the equivalent of the minimum wage—and though grain rates are less now than then, the establishment charges will be higher, and probably Rs. 3 will be found to be pretty near our mark. This gives the very large sum of 22 lakhs of rupees to be spent next year on Hissar relief as against 8 lakhs originally calculated by me, and I am afraid the actual cost of relief will not come to less than this. I believe that we shall have to help a great many people to leave the works by advances of a month's subsistence wherewith to carry on their homes, and I have attempted to allow for this in the numbers estimated for July, August, and September.

ROHTAK.

6. I calculated the expenditure of Rohtak as 4 lakhs in all—Rs. 1,50,000 this year, and Rs. 2,50,000 next year. The first estimate was exceeded before the end of January, and the total expenditure up to 31st March alone is likely to be some 4 lakhs. There are now over 30,000 people on the works, and we must expect this to rise to 45,000, I fear. One new work will be opened directly, and two more will, I think, be needed probably. In that case the forecast will be somewhat as follows:—

Month.				Persons.	Cost.
April	...	...	...	40,000	Rs. 1,20,000
May	...	...	...	45,000	1,35,000
June	...	...	...	45,000	1,35,000
July	...	...	...	20,000	60,000
Total				...	4,50,000

and the cost would amount to 4½ lakhs; the total cost being double of my estimate. As Government is aware, the system followed in Rohtak is piece work, on which the dependant's allowance is included in the wage paid, and is not given separately. In consequence, the cost per unit is taken as 1½ annas higher here than elsewhere, as the 15 per cent. allowed for dependants should be added for dependant units to the above numbers. I feel sure that in Rohtak the people will leave the works very much more rapidly than in Hissar as soon as good rains fall. The numbers of people living in the camps on the Rohtak relief works is everywhere small, and even these will be only too anxious to return to their home permanently, and as their villages are in no case half deserted, and the houses left by them will have suffered but little, they will go off all the more readily.

GURGAON AND KARNÁL.

7. The cases of Gurgaon and Karnál may be dealt with more summarily as below:—

Month.	Gurgaon.		Karnál.	
	Numbers.	Cost.	Numbers.	Cost.
Present
April
May
June
July
Total

In both these districts people are likely to leave the works as soon as good rain falls. I observe that this was not the case in Karnál in 1897, but it will be so

in 1900, I take it. My original estimates for these districts were Rs. 2,25,000 and Rs. 88,000. These estimates, as all the others, were made purely with regard to the facts of 1896-97, and possible deductions from them.

8. The outcome of the above is an expenditure as follows :—

						Rs.
Hissar...	...	...	...	...	...	22,05,000
Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	4,95,000
Gurgaon	...	...	...	...	...	2,40,000
Delhi ...	...	...	...	...	...	50,000
Karnál	...	...	...	...	...	1,95,000
Total ...						31,85,000

My estimate in September last was for an expenditure of Rs. 15,38,000, or barely half, which I regret to say has proved altogether inadequate. As will be seen below, I think it will be well to add something to the above amount as a margin to make the estimate complete.

TAKAVI.

9. There remains the question of the amount to be given in advances for seed and plough cattle, and in Hissar at least the sums needed for these purposes will be very large. The figures below show what was given in 1897, and what I would roughly estimate now as necessary :—

						In 1897.		1900.
						By Government.	From the Charitable Relief Fund.	
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar...	...	...	...	...	...	4,79,000	2,35,000	7,75,000
Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	6,000	44,000	2,00,000
Gurgaon	...	...	...	...	...	8,000	6,000	2,00,000
Delhi ...	...	...	...	...	...	31,000	4,500	75,000
Karnál	...	...	...	...	...	35,000	49,000	1,50,000
Total ...						5,59,000	3,38,500	14,00,000

This is a very large sum, but nothing less will, I fear, set the people fairly on their feet again. I am not aware how far the Provincial Charitable Fund will be able to help us again in this direction. As a matter of fact I would very much prefer to see that all these advances should be made matters of business, and that they should all be gradually recovered, or at least that half should be so. In that case the funds of the Provincial Committee might be specially devoted (1) to enabling people to return to and repair their homes when the rains fall, and live there until the next harvest is ripe for reaping, and (2) to assisting respectable people and especially pardah-nashin women to struggle through the present crisis, which would greatly reduce our lists of gratuitous relief. In

Hissar at least, as above noted, we shall have to remove many of the people from the works and get them back to agricultural pursuits, and we shall need to give them enough to live on for a month or six weeks when we do this. The Commissioners of Divisions are not, I observe, being consulted by the Provincial Charitable Committee regarding the grants in aid sought by Deputy Commissioners.

GENERAL ESTIMATE.

10. Taken altogether, expenditure on relief and in advances will amount to Rs. 46,10,000, and to be on the safe side we had better increase this by about 10 per cent., or say 50 lakhs. I wish it were possible to reduce it largely, but this is quite impossible. I regret that my original estimates should have been so low, but we had very little to go upon in September last, and though I have steadily forecasted a great increase from 1896-97, my forecast has not been nearly sufficiently wide in its scope. But that prices are ruling so moderately (our famine wage is paid for the most part on grains selling at 11 to 12 seers per rupee), and are likely to fall to some extent at least a month hence, the cost of our large works which have been found inevitable on the present occasion would be working out to a considerably larger sum than that estimated by me.

No. 99.

Telegram from Government of India (Financial Department) to Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 2,339-A., dated Simla, the 14th May, 1900.

Your letter to Department of Revenue and Agriculture, 552, of 10th April. Additional allotment of five lakhs for agricultural advances during current year sanctioned.

No. 100.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 1044-F., dated Simla, the 22nd May, 1900.

I am directed to say that as a special measure undertaken with the object of facilitating the recovery of agriculturists in famine tracts from the losses sustained from drought, the Government of India are pleased to direct :—

- (1) That all advances made in famine tracts under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for seed, cattle, and subsistence of cultivators in connection with agricultural operations undertaken during the approaching rains may be made free of interest.
 - (2) That the first instalment in repayment of the principal of such advances may be postponed for 12 months from date of the advances. The dates for the remaining instalments will be determined by the Local Government with reference to the existing rules applicable to advances under the Act.
 - (3) That the Local Government may hereafter grant remissions in respect of the principal of such advances, according to the circumstances of the debtors, up to one-half of the aggregate sum advanced in the Province.
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No. 101.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 1048-F., dated Simla, the 23rd May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1044, dated the 22nd instant, and with reference to your telegram, No. 36, dated 10th instant,* I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 12 lakhs for advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act during the current financial year to cultivators in the districts of the Punjab affected by famine.

2. I am to state that this grant is exclusive of the allotment for advances under the Act made in the orders on the Local Loans Estimates for 1900-1901 (Financial Resolution No. 1361 A., dated 16th March, 1900) and of the additional grant of five lakhs sanctioned in telegram No. 2339 A. dated 14th May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Finance Department.

No. 102.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 843, dated Simla, the 6th June, 1900.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the orders* passed by the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor on receipt of your letters No. 1044 F., dated 22nd May, 1900, and No. 1048 F., dated 23rd May, 1900, intimating the concessions which have been made by the Supreme Government in regard to advances to agriculturists in famine tracts for seed, cattle, and subsistence of cultivators, and conveying sanction to an additional grant for the Punjab of 12 lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. A copy of the correspondence marginally noted† is also forwarded for reference.

2. Sir Mackworth Young trusts he may be permitted to express in behalf of the Province his gratitude for the generous treatment it has received at the hands of the Government of India as regards both the amount allotted for loans to agriculturists and the liberal terms allowed for the grant and recovery of advances.

Enclosure 1 in No. 102.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esquire, Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, No. 840, dated Simla, the 6th June, 1900.

In continuation of the endorsement from this office, No. 770, dated the 25th of May, 1900, I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. 1048 F., dated the 23rd of May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Department

* Forwarding estimate for advances to cultivators for cattle and seed before the setting-in of the rains.

† Not printed.

of Revenue and Agriculture, in which sanction is conveyed to a grant of 12 lakhs for advances under the Agriculturists Loans Act during the current financial year in the districts of the Punjab affected by famine, in addition to the grant of five lakhs sanctioned in letter No. 2339 A., dated the 14th of May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce. I am to point out that the additional allotments of 5 and 12 lakhs respectively will enable the Financial Commissioner to meet the demands of the Delhi Division.

2. I am further directed to say that in view of the liberal terms for recovery of taccavi allowed by the letter from the Government of India, No. 1044 F., dated the 22nd of May, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my endorsement No. 770, dated the 25th of May, 1900, no such announcement would seem to be necessary as is contemplated in paragraph 3 of the Commissioner of Delhi's Circular No. 130, dated the 26th of March, 1900, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my endorsement No. 643, dated the 27th of April, 1900, while the proposals contained in paragraph 6 of the Circular are within the spirit of the terms offered by the Government of India. The case of village menials, which is dealt with in paragraph 7 of the circular, should, I am to say, be considered by the Financial Commissioner, and if he agrees with the Commissioner the loans may be given as proposed.

3. I am to add that the concessions made in the letter from the Government of India, No. 1044 F, dated the 22nd of May, 1900, should be freely made in the affected parts of the Delhi Division. How far and in what districts or parts of districts elsewhere they should be allowed is a matter which the Lieutenant-Governor would prefer to leave to the discretion of the Financial Commissioner, but I am to request that a copy of the instructions which the Financial Commissioner proposes to issue to Commissioners on the subject may be forwarded for the information of the Government.

Enclosure 2 in No. 102.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 278, dated the 22nd May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 277 of the date, I have the honour to address Government on the subject of advances needed to restore the prosperity of the cultivators of this Division.

2. I regret to find from your letter No. 552 of 10th April that the figures contained in my letter No. 145 of 9th March, which I believe were telegraphed to Government three days earlier, were too late for consideration and inclusion in the current financial estimates of the Government of India. I should have addressed Government immediately on the receipt of that letter had I not already issued my Circular No. 130 of 26th March (forwarded to Government under cover of my No. 135 of that date), but having issued that it seemed to me desirable to await the replies of officers before addressing Government. Unfortunately these are not complete yet, and I can only submit those noted in the margin ; but the time when these advances may be needed is coming so nigh and the assignment of four lakhs of rupees which the Financial Commissioner has been able to make me in his letter No. 2447 of 22nd April is so utterly inadequate that I dare not delay this reference any longer.

3. In my letter No. 145 of 9th March I estimated the wants of the Division at 14 lakhs of rupees, but I regret to say this is no longer adequate, and I am now obliged to ask for 18 lakhs as the minimum with which the restoration of

prosperity can be effected, and I should be very grateful if this sum could be made 20 lakhs. The figures given in my letter of March and now asked for compare as follow :—

District.	1897.	Originally proposed by Commissioner.	Present Estimate of Deputy Commissioner.	Now Proposed by Commissioner.
	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	7,14,000	7,75,000	10,00,000	10,00,000
Rohtak	50,000	2,00,000	4,00,000	2,75,000
Gurgaon	14,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000
Delhi	35,500	75,000	75,000	50,000
Karnál	84,000	1,50,000	3,25,000	2,00,000
Umballa	—	—	25,000	25,000
Total	8,97,500	14,00,000	20,25,000	17,50,000

I will proceed to note on the case of each district briefly.

HISSAR.

4. Mr. Humphreys has given detailed figures upon which his estimate is based. Hard hit as the poor people of the Hissar District are, I think he has underestimated their powers of self-help, and that the sum for which he asks, *viz.*, ten lakhs of rupees, should be sufficient for the purpose which we have in view with perhaps a little additional help next year. At any rate as the Deputy Commissioner observes, we cannot safely go further on the present occasion, the debt of the district being already 16 lakhs of rupees, which the addition of ten lakhs will raise to nearly five years' revenue.

ROHTAK.

Captain Burlton and his Revenue Officers have painfully acquired a very minute knowledge of the revenue conditions of the Rohtak District. I consider however, that, compared with Hissar, his estimates are too high, and I cannot recommend a larger sum than Rs. 2,75,000 for the Rohtak District.

GURGAON.

Though the actual distress in this district has not been so great as in Rohtak, the losses of cattle have been spread over a larger area, and on the whole I think the district is in need of about as much help as Rohtak is. I would therefore assign it Rs. 2,50,000.

DELHI.

I have reduced the estimate from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 50,000. The district could do with more, but must be content with so much.

KARNÁL.

Captain Lewis has asked for Rs. 3,25,000 (for oxen and seed Rs. 15,000). Compared with the demands of other districts I consider this somewhat high, though the Kaithal villages have undoubtedly suffered terrible losses of cattle and I would fix the amount at Rs. 2,00,000 or Rs. 50,000 more than I did in March.

5. The sum of 18—20 lakhs now recommended for expenditure in an area not larger than two large districts is probably unprecedented, but I confess I do not see any prospect of restoring the prosperity of the people and recovering the sums overdue to Government without this aid. I am strongly opposed to any of it being given by way of gift, but I am altogether in favour of the greatest possible generosity by way of loans and of suspension of the land revenue when our cultivators are overtaken by the dreadful calamity of famine, and I would beg that generous assistance may be afforded to the people of the Delhi Division on this occasion. The question of the merits of gifts and loans for the purchase of seed and plough cattle has been discussed in paragraph 4 of your letter of 10th April, and I need not advert to it here. Should it not be possible to devote the two lakhs of rupees which the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Committee propose to place at my disposal to the object of replacing people in their homes who will otherwise have to remain on our relief works, then this money also should no doubt be spent on gifts for the purchase of plough cattle.

6. Fortunately the expenditure on famine relief which I anticipated in my letter No. 145 of 9th March, 1900 has

			Estimate.	Actuals.
			Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	..	...	10,80,000	3,41,792
Rohtak	...	...	2,55,000	94,017
Gurgaon	...	...	1,35,000	44,521
Dethi	...	...	23,000	13,394
Karnál	...	...	1,05,000	32,350
Total	...	...	16,03,000	5,26,074

proved over the mark, and the money saved in this direction will be available for a larger Provincial taccavi grant. The actual expenditure during April and the first two weeks in May shows a saving of Rs. 10,76,926 as per margin, and it is certain I think that the additional sum of six lakhs of rupees now sought will be recouped twice over in the savings in the anticipated expenditure on Relief Works.

7. I trust I may receive very early orders upon this letter, of which I have sent a copy to the Financial Commissioner. As the subject demands a further immediate reference to the Supreme Government, and as it is closely intertwined with actual measures of famine relief, my course in addressing the Government direct upon it will not I think be disapproved. Another reason why orders are urgently needed is that we may be able to announce throughout the Malwa country and the Ganges Doab that large advances are being made by Government for the purchase of plough cattle in the west of the Delhi division, so that owners of spare cattle there may bring their animals over for sale. We cannot expect any supplies of cattle from Rajputana, as was the case in 1897.

8. I should be glad to learn if the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor is able to approve of the views expressed in paragraphs 3, 6 and 7 of my letter No. 130 of 26th March. Paragraph 7 is one of those points I think with regard to which we should try to keep up the responsibilities of the landowners towards the cultivators.

Enclosure 3 in No. 102.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 189, dated the 26th March, 1900.

In forwarding for the information of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor copy of my letter No. 130 of this date, regarding the measures to be taken for the restoration of agricultural prosperity upon the cessation of famine in this division, I have the honour to request that the Deputy Commissioners of the Division may be supplied with printed copies of the letter as per margin.

Hissar	...	...	...	12
Rohtak	}	...	...	7 each
Gurgaon				
Karnál				
Delhi	}	...	...	5 each
Umballa				

Annexure I.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Hissar, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal, Circular No. 130, dated Delhi, the 26th March, 1900.

As I hope that more than half the bitter period of famine and distress through which our people are passing (I trust both without undue suffering and without demoralisation) is now over, I have the honour to address you on the subject of the relief needed to establish them once more in their homes when the rains again descend in their accustomed quantity.

2. The annexed paragraph of my forecast of the cost of famine relief during the coming year will give you a general idea of my views on this subject. I will now proceed to express them in detail with the view of eliciting your own opinions upon all points connected with it.

There remains the question of the amounts to be given in advances for seed and plough cattle, and in Hissar at least the sums needed for these purposes will be very large. The figures below show what was given in 1897, and what I would roughly estimate now as necessary :—

	1897 By Government.	From the Charitable Relief Fund.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	4,79,000	2,35,000	7,75,000
Rohtak	6,000	44,000	2,00,000
Gurgaon	8,000	6,000	2,00,000
Delhi	31,000	4,500	75,000
Karnal	85,000	49,000	1,50,000
Total	5,59,000	3,38,500	14,00,000

This is a very large sum, but nothing less will, I fear, set the people fairly on their feet again. I am not aware how far the Provincial Charitable Fund will be able to help us again in this direction. As a matter of fact I would very much prefer to see that all these advances should be made matters of business, and that they should all be gradually recovered or at least that half should be so. In that case the funds of the Provincial Committee might be specially devoted (1) to enabling people to return to and repair their homes when the rains fall and live there until the next harvest is ripe for reaping, and (2) to assisting respectable people, and especially purda-nashin women, to struggle through the present crisis, which would greatly reduce our lists of gratuitous relief. In Hissar at least as above noted we shall have to remove many of the people from the works and get them back to agricultural pursuits, and we shall need to give them enough to live on for a month or six weeks when we do this. The Commissioners of Divisions are not, I observe, being consulted by the Provincial Charitable Committee regarding the grants in aid sought by Deputy Commissioners.

3. I am disposed to think that the amount which need be given in advances for seed, at least outside the Hissar District, will not be very large, and that on the advent of good rains the village traders will have the sense to make sufficient advances for such purchases. Unless they do so they are not likely to be able to immediately recover any portion of the debts due to them; and it will be well in this connection to make it widely known that if Government has to make advances for seed and recover them from the crop sown, there will be little or no balance available for the satisfaction of debts and decrees, which will therefore have to stand over.

4. As regards plough cattle you are, I believe, having a careful enumeration made of the stock remaining in the villages and sent away from them for the time being, and you will no doubt be able to presently furnish me with data of approximate accuracy under this head. The losses have no doubt been very severe, but we cannot profess to do more than to help to provide a sufficiency of oxen for ploughing the lands, and our estimates must be strictly limited to this. Please therefore supply general data of the number of ploughs for which help is needed and the area usually ploughed by one pair of oxen, as a check on the number of oxen wanted after deducting those still present in the villages. In Hissar largely, and in Rohtak to some extent, advances for oxen have in the past been devoted to hiring animals, and as it has been ruled that there is no objection to this we must take the fact into consideration in framing our estimates of the sums needed, for the cultivation of a full kharif crop.

5. I do not think that there will be any necessity for us to arrange to procure plough cattle. As soon as it is known in the Punjab proper, and in the Doab (and we will ask

Deputy Commissioners and Collectors to make it known) that large sums are available for the hire and purchase of plough oxen in the Hissar District, traders will, I feel sure, bring over as many animals as we shall need for hire or for purchase.

6. I am afraid that it will prove the case that in many instances those in want of loans will no longer have unencumbered landed security to offer, this being already pledged to Government or to traders for former loans. This need not, I think, deter us from making loans. It must be understood that the grant and repayment of all of these is "imán ki bat" which is thoroughly appreciated by the people, and though we shall of course take formal agreements for recoupmnt, our real security will be in this, that we will take care in future that sums due are collected from the crop on which it is payable. The above principle being fully recognised and the agency of the Lambardárs and Zaildárs being properly used in the matter, we shall experience no difficulties in our realisation. Such rough details as may be possible must be given of the amounts to be advanced to persons not already indebted to Government for previous loans and to those so indebted, and the amount of the existing debt in the latter case should also be given.

7. In making advances on this occasion we must, I think, stipulate that the village menials also benefit from them. I am told that on the occasion of the first crop following the last famine the menials were kept out of the agricultural operations carried on by means of loans, and it was in consequence of this that in many cases they remained for a longer time on relief works than they really need have done. Apparently advances to such persons who could offer no security were made largely from the Charitable Relief Fund in 1897, but I should prefer to see advances made in the above manner so far as possible as keeping up the economic tie of owner and tenant. To occupancy tenants advances can be made on the security of their occupancy rights.

8. The greatest care will have to be taken to have ready by 1st July all our arrangements for immediately making advances as soon as the second rains fall. As to this, the details of Captain Dunlop-Smith's report should be studied. It will be possible in Hissar and Rohtak to place a superior officer over this work in each tahsil, and with this officer and the Tahsildár and Naib Tahsildár all at work at once the whole distribution should be accomplished in 4—5 days at the outside.

9. We now come to the question raised in paragraph 8 of my letter No. 126 of 22nd March, 1900, on the subject of relief works, viz., how far we are to remove the people from these works to enable them to resume agricultural operations and with it to the question of help from the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Fund. As you are aware, it has been decided that all such help shall be in the form of out-and-out gifts, and therefore all aid by way of advances must come from the side of Government. As I have already indicated in my letter, No. 107, of 9th ultimo, I am very much opposed to free gifts for the purchase of cattle and seed. I think these must tend to demoralise the people and induce them to look to Government instead of helping themselves; and though I would be very easy in the terms of repayment on an occasion like the present, yet as such advances are now a well-understood feature of revenue administration in the Punjab I would deal with them all in the usual way and would take repayment of all. It is much less demoralising, I think, to remit some of the land revenue due to Government (and I am not prepared to recommend anything of this kind yet) than to make free gifts to restore agricultural stock. The matter will, however, of course be decided by Government, and you are invited to express your opinion freely upon my own views. But as noted in my letter of the 22nd ultimo many of the relief workers who have been living in our camps will have to restore their homes—in some villages, again, money will be needed for putting the drinking wells into order—and other expenditure of a special and general kind will doubtless also be necessary, and we may well ask for large grants from the Famine Relief Fund for these purposes, I think, and I shall be glad to know for what sum you would ask for your districts. My idea is that we should try to sweep off the relief works as many people as we can as soon as good rain have twice fallen, generally in July, and that in doing so we should allow a small sum to each family to carry them on until some early crop comes to hand in September, say for two months. This sum must be enough to support the men engaged on agriculture, but where it is possible to start village relief work I would require the women and children to supplement the sum by labouring on these works. Roughly speaking I should say Rs. 6 should be enough for each family for two months, or Rs. 10 where work on village tanks is not available—prices will become lower of course when the summer rains fall,—and half of this would be paid when the family leaves the work and half through Circle Inspectors or other agency in the middle of August. I shall be glad if, on the above dates, or any others which you think preferable, you will furnish an estimate of the sums needed. Half of the amount might, I would suggest, be sought from the Charitable Relief Fund as aid to enable the people to restore their homes and half be paid by Government in lieu of the relief work wages which would otherwise be paid.

10. In addition to the above general needs there will of course be cases of children who have lost parents, and mothers with families who have lost their husbands during the famine, which will need special aid to enable these unfortunates to settle once more in their homes, and such cases must not be overlooked. They are suitable for aid from the Charitable Relief Fund.

11. I have said nothing about arrears of land revenue, which I reserve for a future communication. At present I am disposed to think that we shall be able to collect only very small sums of such arrears, as nearly all that we can safely collect over and above

the year's demand will have to go in the first place to pay off loans for seed made last year and to be made this year, and loans already made for cattle and now overdue. Till we see in September what the harvest is really likely to be it is idle to make any detailed conjectures on the subject.

12. I have thought it desirable to address you in detail on these subjects now, but I recognize that an early reply can hardly be sent to this letter. I shall be glad, however, to receive your reply, after you have talked the matter fully over with your Assistants and some of the leading agriculturists of the district, not later than 1st May. I have asked Government to send you copies of this letter in print.

SUSPENSION OF LAND REVENUE.

No. 103. •

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1563-F., dated Simla, the 19th July, 1900.

The Government of India have recently been furnished with reports showing the action taken in the Central Provinces and Bombay in regard to the suspension of the land revenue demand in the districts suffering from famine. In order to complete their information on the subject I am directed to say that they will be glad to receive, at an early date, a report showing what has been done in the Punjab.

2. I am to enclose a copy of the report received from the Chief Commissioner No. 1682-F., dated 27th June, of the Central Provinces as indicating the nature of the information required.
1900.*

No. 104.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1213, dated Simla, the 7th September, 1900.

In reply to your letter No. 1563-F., dated the 19th July, 1900, I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. 223-S., dated the 27th August, 1900, and enclosures, from the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, showing what action has been taken in the Punjab in regard to the suspension of the land-revenue demand. I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor concurs in the Financial Commissioner's remarks.

Enclosure in No. 104.

Letter from the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 223-S., dated Simla, the 27th August, 1900.

In accordance with the request contained in your endorsement No. 1059, dated 24th July, 1900, I am directed to submit the following brief report on the suspensions of the demand of the past kharif and rabi harvests.

2. The two statements attached show the *khalsa* demand for each harvest, the amount of *khalsa* land revenue suspended, and the balance remaining for collection. The amount of assigned revenue suspended is shown separately in the fifth column.

* See page 83.

Taking *khalsa* revenue alone, the total figures for the Province are as follows :—

Harvests.					Demand.	Suspensions.	Balance.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kharif, 1899	...	...	...	...	1,14,82,857	24,50,167	90,32,690
Rabi, 1900	...	...	...	...	1,07,06,833	17,09,803	89,97,030

For those parts of the Province in which there has been famine, viz., the Delhi Division (excluding the Simla district) and for the districts of Sialkot, Gujrat, Shahpur, Jhelum, and Lahore which are included because the suspensions there were large and the areas affected by drought considerable, the figures for the year are as follows :—

Name of Tract.	Demand.	Suspensions.	Balance.	Proportion of Demand Suspended.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Delhi Division (excluding Simla)...	51,31,825	22,36,741	28,95,084	44
Sialkot	13,98,243	2,06,350	11,91,893	15
Gujrat... ..	7,83,169	2,24,762	5,58,407	29
Shahpur	5,67,743	2,11,918	3,55,825	37
Jhelum	6,90,012	4,88,658	2,01,354	71
Lahore	8,54,305	1,41,448*	7,12,857	17

* A little over one-half of these suspensions was given in the Sharakpur Tahsil alone.

3. Except with regard to the differential treatment of rich and poor revenue payers, which will be noticed below, no special instructions were issued by Government or the Financial Commissioner as to the principles to be observed in granting suspensions in famine tracts. The standing orders contained in Revenue Circular No. 31 were considered to be sufficient. It may be said that in the Punjab, as in the Central Provinces (*vide* the first sentence of paragraph 14 of Mr. Craddock's letter of June 27th), while weight has been allowed to general considerations, the main basis of calculation has been the crop of the year. The general principle followed throughout the Province has been that the amount of suspensions required should be measured by the power of the revenue payer to pay the demand made on him out of the surplus of the current crop after providing for the needs of his family till the next harvest. Where, however, the resources of the people have already been crippled by previous bad harvests, this circumstance too has been taken into account, and held to justify more lenient treatment than the crop returns alone indicated; and where, as in Hissar and Rohtak the recent fiscal history was a record of mere misfortune, and in the distressed tracts—that is in Hissar, nearly the whole district—there was no crop, suspensions were allowed on a very liberal scale.

4. With regard to the differential treatment of rich and poor revenue payers, no hard and fast rules have been laid down, and Mr. Tupper will add, probably none will be eventually thought necessary. For the suspensions in the kharif harvest the practice was guided by the orders contained in Financial Commissioner's circular letter No. 4922, dated 30th August, 1897. The following extracts will indicate the nature of these orders :—“The principle to be ordinarily observed in such cases should be that suspensions are intended for those who could not pay their revenue at the time without borrowing the money, not for those, be they money-lenders, or belonging to any other class, who can pay without any undue strain on their resources.” “It is not intended to subject Deputy Commissioners to the observance of any rigid rules in the matter. The broad principle which has been laid down is that suspensions of revenue ought not to be allowed to revenue payers who have the means of paying, but district officers may exercise all reasonable discretion in applying this principle in practice so far as varying local circumstances permit. At all events there can be no question that suspensions ought not

to be granted to landed proprietors of substantial means who own entire estates or subdivisions of estates, or who have acquired in ownership or on mortgage a considerable footing in any estates." Objections were from time to time raised against the principle laid down by the Financial Commissioner, especially by officers serving in the Delhi Division. These objections were summarised and noticed in paragraph 15 of the Land Revenue Report for 1897-98 as follows:—"The chief objections raised against the principle apart from the complaint as to the trouble it involves is that it deprives tenants of the protection of section 30 of the Punjab Tenancy Act. Where rents are kind rents this objection has little force, for, in the first place, the division of the crop takes place before the orders of suspension or the order under section 30 can be passed, and the landlord gets his share whether revenue is suspended or not, and in the second place where there is no crop the landlord can get no share and therefore he cannot demand rent even if his revenue is collected. Where rents are paid in cash the tenants are no doubt deprived of the protection of section 30, but the penalty imposed in section 30 (5) is so slight that it must in any case usually be ineffective. If the landlord sues the tenants for his rent the court can adopt the plan followed by Captain Dunlop Smith in Hissar, and give a decree for payment at a future date." In order to remove the objections Government ordered in its letter No. 253 of 18th November, 1899, that the principle of differentiation should not be enforced—

- (a) In true village communities in which intruders are not revenue payers.
- (b) Against landlords *quâ* the holdings of their occupancy tenants, whether such tenants pay rent in cash or in kind.

5. Generally the practice has been to determine from the crop returns of the whole village what proportion of the total demand should be suspended, and then to deduct from the amount to be suspended so much as is payable by rich landowners. In some districts suspensions have been granted after an enquiry into the assets of each holding, but this procedure has usually been held to be beyond the powers of the district staff. In Hissar, where the effects of the famine have been felt by all classes, no differentiation has been made. In Rohtak also differentiation was considered impracticable, and it may be pretty confidently said that in those parts of the district which were really hit by famine and in the Kaithal tahsil of the Karnal district which was similarly afflicted there was a suspension of the total demand. The same remark applies to parts of the Gurgaon district. The percentage of suspensions to demand in districts as a whole do not, except in the case of Hissar, give a true idea of the state of the case, at least in the Delhi Division.

6. It will be seen that instructions similar to those issued in the Central Provinces have not been required in the Punjab. In the first place the calamity here has been neither so widespread nor so intense in the areas where it has occurred. In the second place the tenures in the two Provinces differ. In the Central Provinces there are a large number of tenants under the *malguzars* who have to be protected; whereas in the Delhi Division (excluding Simla) out of a total cultivated area of 7,858,042 acres, 6,851,265 acres are cultivated by the owners themselves or by tenants holding under them without any right of occupancy, and in the Province as a whole the corresponding figures are 27,328,190 acres and 24,113,015 acres. Thus in almost all cases it is only the capacity of the owner himself to pay the land-revenue demand which has to be considered. Thirdly, the procedure followed in this province has been somewhat different. The standing orders contained in the Revenue Circulars were not only sufficient, as might be expected for divisions where there has been no real famine, but they also enabled the Commissioner of the Delhi division to administer this important branch of famine relief without seeking any fresh orders either from the Financial Commissioner or from Government. Mr. Fanshawe discussed the matter with all his Deputy Commissioners and sent them various instructions from time to time, but he did not find it necessary to submit these instructions for approval. The Financial Commissioner so far as he is able to judge of the results up to the present time, considers that Mr. Fanshawe's proceedings in this matter have been quite judicious.

Annexure I.

Statement showing the Fixed Land Revenue Demand for Kharif, 1899, the Amount Suspended and the Balance to be Realised.

Name of District.	Fixed Land Revenue (Khalsa) Demand for Kharif, 1899.	Amount Suspended.	Balance.	Amount of Assigned Revenue Suspended.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hissar	6,00,881	5,09,660	91,221	10,848	
Rohtak	5,28,174	3,30,725	1,97,449	—	
Gurgaon	6,14,570	2,71,851	3,42,719	6,636	
Delhi	3,79,580	1,02,118	2,77,462	7,133	
Karnal	4,03,748	1,19,450	2,84,298	26,925	
Umballa	3,71,587	82,111	2,89,476	65,256	
Simla	7,960	—	7,960	—	
Kangra	4,48,366	2,828	4,45,538	—	
Hoshiarpur	6,70,964	—	6,70,964	—	
Jullundur	8,15,714	—	8,15,714	—	
Ludhiana	4,87,519	211	4,87,308	1,799	
Ferozepore	4,47,863	29,672	418,191	5,597	
Multan	2,97,593	34,405	2,63,188	99	
Jhang	1,07,227	8,096	99,131	—	
Montgomery	55,062	26,075	28,987	53	
Lahore	3,76,566	68,329	3,08,237	10,129	
Amritsar	5,12,770	51,454	4,61,316	6,873	
Gurdaspur	7,32,020	59,038	6,72,982	2,457	
Sialkot	6,97,366	1,11,172	5,86,194	4,650	
Gujrat	3,61,566	1,28,543	2,33,023	9,159	
Gujranwala	3,11,733	41,872	2,69,861	30,716	
Shahpur	2,41,886	1,05,503	1,36,383	—	
Jhelum	2,94,377	2,14,256	80,121	10,002	
Rawalpindi	4,58,110	69,704	3,88,406	2,092	
Hazara	1,35,097	3,109	1,31,988	—	
Peshawar	5,10,383	25,544	4,84,839	3,021	
Kohat	52,321	9,132	43,189	—	
Bannu	1,33,498	16,588	1,16,910	—	
Dera Ismail Khan	67,344	14,036	53,308	5,078	
Dera Ghazi Khan	1,70,259	13,688	1,56,571	2,981	
Muzaffargarh	1,90,753	997	1,89,756	—	
Total	1,14,82,857	24,50,167	90,32,690	2,11,504	

Annexure II.

Statement showing the Fixed Land Revenue Demand for Rabi 1900, the Amount Suspended and the Balance to be Realised.

Name of District.	Fixed Land Revenue (Khalasa) Demand for Rabi, 1900.	Amount Suspended.	Balance.	Amount of Assigned Revenue Suspended.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hissar	1,25,570	85,177	40,393	5,077	
Rohtak	3,98,512	2,28,379	1,70,133	1,366	
Gurgaon	5,52,834	2,37,915	3,14,919	—	
Delhi	4,13,287	99,629	3,13,658	7,710	
Karnal	4,03,731	68,539	3,35,192	13,607	
Umballa	3,39,351	1,01,187	2,38,164	93,180	
Simla	7,961	—	7,961	—	
Kangra	2,68,049	6,900	2,61,149	—	
Hoshiarpur	6,51,431	—	6,51,431	—	
Jullundur	5,66,137	—	5,66,137	—	
Ludhiana	4,37,145	684	4,36,461	—	
Ferozepore	4,39,045	51,409	3,87,636	13,772	
Multan	2,64,836	4,357	2,60,479	—	
Jhang	2,12,530	8,863	2,03,667	392	
Montgomery*	1,28,397	35,991	92,406	891	* Fluctuating land revenue amounting to Rs. 1,343 is also under suspension.
Lahore	4,77,739	73,119	4,04,620	10,073	
Amritsar	5,18,950	21,812	4,97,138	2,512	
Gurdaspur	6,76,918	49,491	6,27,427	2,549	
Sialkot	7,00,877	95,178	6,05,699	3,412	
Gujrat	4,21,603	96,219	3,25,384	6,975	
Gujranwala	4,05,775	33,905	3,71,870	32,586	
Shahpur	3,25,857	1,06,415	2,19,442	3,800	
Jhelum	3,95,635	2,74,402	1,21,233	14,403	
Rawalpindi	4,52,919	—	4,52,919	—	
Hazara	94,765	—	94,765	—	
Peshawar	4,07,627	1,244	4,06,383	—	
Kohat	33,438	2,669	30,769	—	
Bannu	1,98,060	25,125	1,72,935	—	
Dera Ismail Khan	96,006	—	96,006	—	
Dera Ghazi Khan	91,034	317	90,717	509	
Muzaffargah	2,00,814	877	1,99,937	—	
Total	1,07,06,833	17,09,803	89,97,030	2,12,814	

MORTALITY IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

No. 105.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 806-F., dated Simla, the 25th April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 586* (Revenue—Scarcity), dated the 18th April, 1900, forwarding the special monthly death-rate return for the month of March last, and to say that the Government of India will be glad to be favoured with a report as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded in the Hissar District during the month.

No. 106.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 825, dated Simla, 4th June, 1900.

With reference to your letter, No. 806-F., dated 25th April, 1900, calling

Sanitary Commissioners No. 39 (not printed), dated 19th March, 1900, and its enclosures.

Letter No. 232 and its enclosures, from Commissioner, Delhi, dated 17th April, 1900.

A Note dated 15th May, 1900, by the Sanitary Commissioner.

Letters Nos. 268 and 270 (not printed), dated 14th and 15th May, 1900, from the Commissioner, Delhi, and enclosures.

for a report as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded in the Hissar District during the month of March, 1900, I am directed to say that the mortality in that district has for some time formed the subject of anxious inquiry on the part of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, and I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the correspondence marginally noted, which contains all that can be ascertained in regard to the causes of deaths during (1) the period from September, 1899, to March, 1900, inclusive, and (2) the subsequent period to the end of April, 1900, and a statement showing (1) the normal death rate of the district for each month from September to April, and (2) the actual death rate for each week from that ending September 2nd, 1899, to that ending April 28th, 1900.

2. In the earlier of the two periods dealt with in the correspondence, there occurred in December and January a comparatively brief outbreak of cholera in which 394 persons died, nearly all of them upon our relief works. The total number of deaths from all causes was 14,382, or 79 per diem, corresponding to an annual death rate of 36. In the second period there was a more severe outbreak of the disease, which has not yet ceased and which accounted for 2,063 deaths during this period. The total number of deaths from all causes was 10,098, or 240 a day, corresponding to an annual death rate of 113. Excluding deaths from cholera, the daily number of deaths was 77 in the former and 191 in the latter period. In both periods more than half the total number of deaths are attributed to fever in the returns, and rightly so, in the opinion of the Commissioner of the Division and in that of the Civil Surgeon, though the Deputy Commissioner is inclined to suspect that all illnesses, in which fever supervened before death, have roughly been classified as fever. The latter view is to some extent supported by the analysis of the Sanitary Commissioner, whose conclusion is that the high mortality from fever may be due to privation or to influenza and pneumonia.

* See page 234 of Command Paper No. 205, presented in 1900.

3. The Deputy Commissioner concludes, from a comparison of the table in paragraph 6 of his Note with the figures in Statement B appended to it, that the death rate was higher among the population on our relief works than it was among the population not in receipt of relief. The rate in column 4 of the table is the *per mille* rate of the number of deaths in the month, in column 3 on the average daily number relieved during the month shown in column 2, multiplied by 12, to give the equivalent annual death rate. This may fairly be compared with the rate found by a comparison of the total number of deaths in the same month with the total population of the district; because, in the later months at any rate, the relief workers and their dependents consisted of entire families, and were, therefore, similar in composition to the population of the district. But the rate entered in column 10 of the Deputy Commissioner's Statement A, has been obtained by a comparison of the number of deaths among the ordinary population shown in column 9 (*i.e.*, after deducting deaths among persons under relief) with the total population of the district, 776,006. This is, of course, a mistake, because for the purpose of this comparison, the total population of the district should have been diminished by the number of persons in receipt of relief. On the population so diminished, the annual rate of mortality works out for December, January, and February, to 43, 44, and 38, respectively. And even these figures are below the real rates, because it is known that the population of the district is below normal, owing to large numbers having migrated. There is, therefore, in His Honour's opinion, no ground for supposing that the rate of mortality on relief works was any greater than among the population not in receipt of relief, except so far as it was pushed up by outbreaks of cholera confined to the works. That the death rate should be higher in poorhouses and among the recipients of gratuitous relief than among the ordinary population of the district, is only to be expected for the reasons given by the Deputy Commissioner in his Note.

4. Sir Mackworth Young is, therefore, of opinion that, at any rate as regards the mortality from causes other than cholera, the Government has nothing to reproach itself with. The special features of the present famine appear to have generated a new form of disease, or at any rate made an existing disease more virulent. As to cholera, it must seemingly be admitted that the disease is encouraged by the congregation of large numbers of people on relief works. But the casualties from this cause are small compared with the total number of deaths; they have been kept down by the medical arrangements on the works, and they represent part of the expense at which the many thousands on relief works have been kept alive by the Government.

5. Sir Mackworth Young is satisfied that, speaking generally, the attention paid during the famine to the condition of the people in the Hissar District has been most minute, and that it may confidently be stated that, apart from isolated cases which in such times of general distress must escape the powers of vigilance, and the most capable staff of officials, deaths from actual starvation have been unknown, and this may, His Honour thinks, be maintained, though, after the period about which the Government of India have made inquiry, the death rate went up to a much higher figure. Still it would, in his opinion, be absurd to deny that the high death rate had its origin in famine causes, even when every allowance has been made for the other fatal influences of cholera, small-pox, influenza, and a special form of fever.

Enclosure 1 in No. 106.

Letter from the Civil Surgeon, Hissar, to the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, No. 321, dated 24th February, 1900.

In compliance with your letter No. 347, dated the 19th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward the following remarks with reference to the increase of mortality in the district, and regret that an earlier report could not be submitted from the pressing official attention to other urgent matters.

Assistant Surgeons Maya Das, Lachman Das and Ramji Lal and Hospital Assistant Rughu Nath Mal and Alf Din, in charge respectively of Civil Dispensaries at Sirsa, Bhiwani, Hissar, Hansi and Fatahabad were deputed to make necessary enquiries in their respective towns. I have also made personal enquiries in Bhiwani, Hansi and Hissar, and have arrived at the following consolidated conclusions and regret that I have been unable to visit Fatahabad and Sirsa, but since information regarding this subject is urgently needed and that the same circumstances conducing to the increased rate of mortality most probably affect Sirsa and Fatahabad, the omission may not be important. The causes are as follows :—

- (1) The prevalence of bowel complaints, the result of eating indigestible food ; pneumonia, the result of severity of weather and lack of physical resistance ; measles, the result of winter causes and of crowding together ; and the increase of certain diseases which are generally in this district associated with fever and from their obscure characters not generally understood, and consequently included under the heading of fevers, and to some extent to malarial fevers in certain parts of the district, involving this high rate of mortality.
- (2) The increase of town population due to advent of persons from famine-stricken villages both of this district and from neighbouring Native States.
- (3) Insufficiency of food stuffs in the villages.
- (4) Insufficiency of clothing in the poorer classes exposed to intense cold.
- (5) The influx of wanderers, insufficiently clothed, insufficiently fed, and insufficiently sheltered while travelling under influence of severe cold.
- (6) Low caste persons depending for their existence upon the prosperity of the zamindars residing in famine-stricken villages.
- (7) Aged persons and children of tender years exposed to severity of weather when insufficiently clothed and homeless.
- (8) The influx of debilitated persons in poor-houses, whom no amount of care and attention could save.

Enclosure 2 in No. 106.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 232, dated Delhi, 17th April, 1900.

I have the honour to forward for the information of Government a Note recorded by Mr. Humphreys upon the high rate of mortality lately prevailing in the Hissar District.

2. This Note is the outcome of various communications on my part, written and oral, and I need not follow it in detail. It is a fact that the mortality from fever has been very high in all adjoining districts this winter, and is so still, and especially in Delhi City, with regard to which we are able to say with certainty that the deaths are not due to privation. There seems to be very little doubt that a number of the deaths attributed to fever were really due to pneumonia, and the Sanitary Commissioner, I believe, is inclined to think that an influenza epidemic has run through the districts concerned.

3. The comparatively low death-rate on relief works is eminently satisfactory, I think. That in the case of gratuitous relief is very high, but this is only to be expected where we have all the most miserable specimens on the country-side to deal with. And I believe the gratuitous relief is being well administered and that the amount of it is sufficient. Many of the *very old*

people had no doubt run down greatly during the bad year 1898-99 before we commenced famine relief, and according to my experience such people never recover and generally die soon after a famine is over if not actually during its progress. As regards the poor-houses we were perhaps a little late in sweeping all wanderers into them, whether they wished to enter or not, and in consequence many, and again especially the very old, had run down badly before we got hold of them. The number of deaths was largest in Bhiwani, which certainly had much the largest number of really wretched inmates, but a very great improvement had taken place generally in these when I saw them last.

4. My conclusion is that there is nothing in the death-rate which points to any defects in the administration of relief. Owing to antecedent conditions it was inevitable that the rate should be very much higher on this occasion than in 1896-97, and the severe form of fever which has prevailed has taken it up even higher than was to be expected.

5. If I do not add more it is because I feel sure that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor will cause the figures, reports, and our conclusions on them, to be independently tested and noted upon by the Sanitary Commissioner.

6. I should be glad if a copy could be sent me as soon as possible of the report and returns, which I forward in the original.

Annexure I.

Note recorded by R. Humphreys, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, on the increased death-rate in the Hissar District.

1. According to the Sanitary Report the average death-rate for the Hissar District is 30 per 1,000.

2. During the famine year of 1896-97 it rose to 45, and the increase was attributed to the scarcity, the greatest mortality occurring among children under 10 and persons of 50 and over.

3. Famine operations commenced again in September 1899 under circumstances in which every condition existing in the previous famine was present in an intensified form. It was therefore to be expected that the death-rate would go up considerably during the ensuing months, but yet to be modified by the fact that famine relief operations were started before signs of physical deterioration in the people became marked. In fact, it has been noted generally by inspecting officers that physically there were very few signs of famine at the beginning, and that as the famine increased in intensity the physical appearance of the people kept up wonderfully. If any wretched specimens were to be seen they were usually old men and young children.

4. We now take the actual figures month by month. They are given in the annexed table for the six months, September to February inclusive.—

Month.	Number of Deaths.	Per Thousand per Year.
September, 1899	1,693	26
October, 1899	1,724	27
November, 1899	2,092	32
December, 1899	3,075	47
January, 1900	3,185	49
February, 1900	2,613	40
Average	2,397	37

5. I have had a special table* made out, showing the death-rate and total number of deaths for the district exclusive of those which occurred on famine works, in poor-houses, or among the recipients of gratuitous relief, and these figures are not by any means out of the common. The highest was in December, when the average only reached 38 per 1,000, a figure which hardly calls for any special remarks. It is, therefore, clear that the increase in the death-rate was almost entirely due to the prevalence of

* Statement A.
I asked Deputy Commissioner to get this done.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

famine, and it does not seem unwarranted to presume that, but for famine, the season would have proved an exceptionally healthy one. Another point which may be noted in this connection seems to be that the famine relief appears to have reached all the needy cases. It may be urged on the other hand, that the fact of the high mortality occurring among recipients of relief would tend to show that, either relief reached the necessitous too late, or that something connected with the famine administration itself was a cause of the great mortality.

6. I give below the deaths and averages for the three kinds of relief :—

Month.	Average Number Relieved.	Number of Deaths.	Average per Thousand per Year.
1.	2.	3.	4.
<i>A.—Relief Works.</i>			
September	50,122	11	2
October	51,307	79	19
November	44,237	138	30
December	74,558	339	54
January	86,904	430	59
February	1,33,817	860	32
Total average	73,990	226	34
<i>B.—Poor-houses.</i>			
October	—	—	—
November	1,585	71	531
December	2,643	137	622
January	3,006	145	578
February	3,971	134	406
Total average	2,801	122	522
<i>C.—Gratisious Relief.</i>			
December	14,189	113	95
January	14,919	140	112
February	16,383	134	98
Total average	15,160	129	102

N.B.—Poor-houses were started in October, and gratisious relief in December.

7. As to relief being too late, this could only apply to poor-houses and gratisious relief, and even then I am of opinion that if it did occur it could only be in the case of immigrant wanderers from the neighbouring Native States and especially from Bikaner.

Wandering immigration was very rife in the autumn when the prospects of the kharif got gradually worse, but slackened considerably as winter approached, a good deal, I imagine, on account of the physical difficulties of journeying on foot through a country where water could only be found at long distances, and then often of a bad and brackish quality, and when the rigour of the climate were so severe. The people, therefore, who did succeed in getting into the district arrived in an extremely wasted and exhausted condition, and were either too far gone to be able to pull round, or suffered the penalty of their rashness, on getting food, by eating immoderately and dying of indigestion. I do not

Yes.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

consider it possible that there can have been any considerable number of our own people who died because they could not get relief. The organisation of our village relief is, I hold, considering the agency we have to work through, all that can be expected or hoped for. The Circle Inspectors, village Headmen, and Deputy Inspectors of Police were all made responsible in this matter.

8. As regards the second objection, whether our system was to blame, this could only affect poor-houses and gratisious relief in the matter of judiciously tending people greatly reduced by privation. The poor-houses all have a medical attendant attached to them, and

are in the special medical charge of the Assistant Surgeon or Hospital Assistant of the town in which they are situated, so I do not think anything more can be done in this direction. As regards gratuitous relief, of course such cases cannot be avoided: a village Headman or a Circle Inspector cannot be expected to know sufficiently about or to give sufficient care to such cases. The main bearing of this objection, however, is on the famine works, and on the responsibilities involved in collecting large numbers of human beings into a limited area. This is not a point which comes within the scope of the present question. Suffice it to say that one of the limits which must be put on the number of

Yes.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

persons on a particular relief work is that of the practicability of making proper sanitary and medical arrangements for the camp. This is a point which we have kept prominently before us in the famine administration of the district, and up to the present I do not see that we have anything to reproach ourselves with, notwithstanding the outbreak of cholera.

9. As far as the returns from our famine works are concerned, they may be taken as being quite reliable, but I fear the same cannot be said of the other returns except as concerns the number of deaths reported. With the agency at our disposal it is impossible to hope for anything like a correct classification. Now the ordinary feverish season should have come to a close in October, yet a glance at the tables will show that the main increase in deaths during the subsequent months occurred under the head "fever." At the same time reports from my tahsils showed that fever was not prevalent; the explanation must accordingly be that other causes were at work, and that the deaths were recorded as being due to fever, because the person affected, as is so often the case, had fever before they died.

10. There seems, therefore, little doubt when we consider the fact that the increase in mortality was mainly among those in receipt of famine relief, that privation and consequently decreased vitality played a considerable part in the matter.

11. Another cause is undoubtedly to be found in the fact that towards the end of the year large quantities of peas and "kisari" were imported from down country. These grains were forms of food to which our people were unaccustomed, and they were, moreover, of a class which could with only a slight stretch of imagination be declared unfit for human food.

The sale of these grains was forbidden on our relief works, but, after consultation with the Civil Surgeon, the conclusion was arrived at that there were no grounds for interdicting the sale of them generally. These grains sold usually at a rate of about a seer to two seers cheaper than "bejar," which was the cheapest ordinary form of grain in common use, and the advantage in weight led to their being largely used by the poorer classes, with very general deleterious results. Again, during the months of December and January, measles and pneumonia were very prevalent, especially in the towns.

This also was my order.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

12. The cholera outbreaks speak for themselves. I append a table showing the deaths from cholera on each work attacked. In this connection I may remark that it has been argued* that our people who were drafted to Jhelum took the cholera with them. However, at the time the people went off there was no cholera in the district, and the outbreak which subsequently took place in the Fatahabad Tahsil, which was the first after the commencement of famine operations, did not begin till 14th December, *i.e.*, twenty days after it broke out on the Jhelum Canals, and there was no outbreak in the Sirsa Tahsil, from which the larger portion of the people went.

* It has been established.

W. M. YOUNG.

13. There is no doubt about the cholera being prevalent in an epidemic form, but from the way it has behaved and from the season of the year at which it made its appearance in the district, it appears to be more of a special famine kind than of the ordinary virulent type.

Yes.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

14. As regards deaths from starvation, only three were reported during the six months under report, and these at the worst with one exception, who was a Bikaneri, were very doubtful cases, as it is almost impossible to discover enough of their previous history to be able to say confidently what the real cause of death was. They should in all probability be classed as cases of privation.

15. Apart from the cholera, which of course is a special cause when one considers the general condition of the people, and the fact that all cases of wanderers dying are included in the returns of the circle in which they die, I do not think the death-rate, although high, can be looked on as excessive. The severity of the famine cannot be exaggerated, and when one takes into consideration all that this unfortunate district has passed through during the last five years, one only wonders that things are not worse than they really are.

Enclosure 3 in No. 106.

*Note by Lieut.-Col. C. J. Bamber, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab—
dated 15th May, 1900.*

The first thing to do is to find out whether the mortality in Hissar is much higher than it should be in a healthy year like the present. To get some idea of this I deduct the fever death-rate of the Punjab for November and December, 1899, January and February, 1900, from that of the average of the last ten years of the same months, excluding famine districts like Hissar and Rohtak. I find that in the Punjab, November gives a fever death-rate of 21·08 per mille, whereas the average for ten years is 36·83; so that last November was 15·75 per mille healthier than usual.

2. Now in Hissar in November it was 21·52 and the average for the last ten years 28·25, giving a difference of only 6·73.

In December the rate in the Punjab was 20·46 and the average for ten years 29·01, giving a difference of 8·55.

In December in Hissar it was 26·54 and the average for ten years 22·32, showing a difference of 4·15.

In January in the Punjab it was 20·58 and for ten years 24·24, a difference of 3·66.

In January in Hissar it was 30·95 and for ten years 20·39, a difference of 10·56.

In February in the Punjab it was 17·35 and for ten years 19·70, a difference of 2·35.

In February in Hissar it was 28·36 and for ten years 18·80, a difference of 9·56.

In the Punjab generally during these months fever has been much less prevalent, and it should have been the same in Hissar; the difference may be considered due to privation, or influenza and pneumonia.

3. We see from the figures given above the difference between the figures for these months, and the average for ten years becomes less month by month for the Punjab, that is, that the effect caused by a dry year passes away, the death-rate that remains being much the same as the average for ten years. In the case of Hissar it is different, as the months go on the death-rate increases and the difference becomes greater. This difference may be considered to denote, roughly, deaths caused by famine and not malarial disease at any rate. The Commissioner, Delhi, mentions Delhi City as a place where fever has been more prevalent than usual, and I find that he is right; the difference noted in Hissar is to be found in the Delhi fever death-rates for December, January and February.

4. It has been asked whether cholera may not be encouraged by gathering large numbers of people together. This may be answered in the affirmative to a certain extent. That is to say, where a large number of people drink from one or two sources, and these become contaminated, it is certain that a large number will become affected by the disease. It is necessary, therefore, that such water-supply should be most carefully protected, and as far as possible the human element should be eliminated. It is better for instance to lock up the cover of a well than to leave it open and place a man to guard it.

Enclosure 4 in No. 106.

Note dated 15th May, 1900, by the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, on the death rate in the Hissar District for the period stated below:—

Week Ending—	Number of Deaths from—		
	All Causes.	Cholera.	Fever.
24th March, 1900	988	75	618
31st March, 1900	1,521	355	835
7th April, 1900	1,920	549	919
14th April, 1900	2,077	485	1,031
21st April, 1900	1,875	348	1,044
28th April, 1900	1,717	251	928
Total	10,098	2,063	5,375

1. This is a terribly heavy death tale, the deaths from fever having risen from two-thirds of the whole in the first week to more than a half of the whole in the last three weeks, and being proportionately worst in the last two weeks.

2. The mortality of the district has been carefully watched by all local officials from Circle Inspectors upwards, and there is no ground to suppose that the main cause of it is not fever. This is proved to be the case as regards deaths on relief works, and it is the case in all surrounding districts as well, though to a less extent. For example, in the city of Delhi, where the causes of death are capable of easy ascertainment and no distress exists, the number of deaths has for weeks past been 100 over the average of 125 per week, and this increase is entirely under the head of fever.

3. The fever seems to be of a special malarial or pneumonic type. I have asked Civil Surgeon, Delhi, to obtain data and to report upon it specially, and his report may throw some light on the subject.

4. The total number of deaths in Hissar shows a fall in the last two weeks, but under fever only for the last week. We must hope that there will be a rapid fall now.

No. 107.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1201-F., dated Simla, the 12th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 825, dated 4th June, 1900, forwarding a report as to the causes of the high rate of mortality prevailing in the Hissar District, and, in reply, to say that the Government of India will be glad to receive further information in this connection when the Civil Surgeon, Hissar, has completed the enquiries which he has been directed to make by the Commissioner of the Delhi Division as reported in paragraph 3 of his note of 15th May which accompanied his letter No. 270 of the same date to your address.

No. 108.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 1382, dated 22nd October, 1900.

With reference to correspondence ending with your letter No. 1201 F., dated 12th June, 1900, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 460, dated 8th September, 1900, from the Commissioner of Delhi, and its enclosures, containing a further report on the mortality in the Hissar District during the six weeks ending 1st April, 1900. I am also to enclose a copy of a letter No. 2581, dated 22nd September, 1900, from the Sanitary Commissioner of the Punjab, submitting a very interesting account of the inquiries he has instituted regarding the fevers prevalent in the tract affected by famine. This account will, the Lieutenant-Governor trusts, afford the Government of India the information asked for in your letter above quoted.

2. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner have made a very thorough examination of the statistics available, but there are many elements of uncertainty, and it seems to His Honour impossible at present to draw any exact conclusions from the inquiry which has been made under Mr. Fanshawe's orders. The death-rate in Hissar was terribly high during the period under investigation, and was probably higher than would appear from the figures now before us in which it is calculated on the population at the time of the census of 1891, for there is unfortunately reason to suppose that the population is now less than it was in that year. And, as is pointed out by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, the mortality rate for the irrigated tract is really lower than it appears to be, as the population there must have been increased by immigration, and the converse is the case in the unirrigated tracts of which the greater part of the district consists. It is impossible, however, to say to what extent the figures are vitiated by these facts, and on the whole there is no reason to suppose that the death rate has been materially higher in the tract affected by famine than in the tract not so affected. Nor is there any ground for believing that the measures taken for the relief of famine have been other than effective and beneficial.

3. The census now about to be undertaken will afford more reliable *data* than are now available, and when its results are being tabulated an opportunity will be offered of judging what has been the effect on the affected and the unaffected tracts respectively of the past decade and of the two famines which have occurred during its course. It is needless, Sir Mackworth Young thinks, to formulate conclusions further till the Deputy Commissioner has examined the matter in his district Census Report. A copy of the correspondence on the subject will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Census Operations in the Province in order that he may direct his attention to it.

Enclosure in No. 108.

From the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, C.S.I., Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 460, dated 8th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 270 of the 15th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward copy of a report* by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar upon the high rate of mortality in that district during the six weeks following 1st April, together with a copy of my instructions † upon which the report is based.

* Unofficial No. 1,060, dated 1st September, 1900.

† Unofficial No. 401, dated 17th May, 1900, from Commissioner, to Deputy Commissioner, Hissar.

2. Mr. Humphreys has written a full and thoughtful note, and I do not know that I can add much to it. The examination which has been made in the canal and distressed tracts embraces a population of 90,000, and has therefore been pretty broad. The results are that cholera and small-pox have been ascertained to have been the causes of mortality to a greater extent than appeared before, and the results for the two tracts are as follows :—

Tract.	Average per Thousand.	
	Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
Irrigated tracts	17	14
Distressed tracts	25	18

If, however, the figures of the Fatahabad Tahsil, which gives a rate of 7 per 1,000 only in each case, are omitted, the rate in both cases for the other four tahsils is about 20 as compared with 25 in the one case and 18 in the other case, *i.e.*, of cholera cases excluded in distressed villages of the five tahsils. The highest death-rate of all is 36 and 28 in the irrigated villages of the Hansi Tahsil, while the villages with a mortality above 45 per 1,000 compare as follows :—

Irrigated Tracts.	Distressed Tracts.
Ratera 61 ($\frac{2}{3}$ cholera and small-pox).	Rawalwas 77 ($\frac{1}{4}$ cholera and small-pox).
Nalwa 61 ($\frac{2}{11}$ ditto).	Bohal 56 ($\frac{1}{2}$ ditto).
Kawari 48 ($\frac{2}{3}$ ditto).	Bhattu 49 ($\frac{1}{2}$ ditto).
Kotli 52 (no cholera cases).	

Practically therefore there is no great difference between the results in irrigated and unirrigated (or distressed) tracts taken as a whole, nor in the three tahsils of Hissar, Hansi and Sirsa taken separately, the figures being as follows :—

Tahsil.	Average per Thousand.			
	Including Cholera Cases.		Excluding Cholera Cases.	
	Irrigated Tracts.	Non-irrigated Tracts.	Irrigated Tracts.	Non-irrigated Tracts.
Hissar	20	19	16	14
Hansi	36	25	28	25
Bhiwani	13	32	13	15
Fatahabad	7	32	7	27
Sirsa	12	16	12	12
Average	17	25	14	18

In the Bhiwani and Fatahabad Tahsils cholera and small-pox (under which only 3 cases are entered in the irrigated villages, while 187 and 150 cases are entered in the distressed villages) account mainly for the difference between the two classes, the difference excluding cholera and excluding the Fatahabad Tahsil being in favour of the distressed tracts. But as pointed out by Mr. Humphreys, the population assumed in the case of the irrigated tracts is probably too low, and in the distressed tracts almost certainly too high.

3. In the irrigated villages there has been no actual distress, and the death-rate in them can have been affected by privation to only a very small degree. In the unirrigated tracts, putting aside the deaths due to cholera and small-pox, the principal cause of mortality has been fever, which, however, accounts for only one-third of the whole (428 out of 1,177) as against half in the irrigated villages (444 out of 758). No doubt fever has proved fatal in many instances because of the poor condition of the people, but the fact that fever accounts for half of the cases in the tracts not actually distressed as compared with one-third in the tracts distressed would seem to show that this cannot have been the case to any great extent. It is possible, however, that the fever figures for the irrigated tracts include a number of cases which were really cholera, these figures not having been checked on the spot as in the unirrigated tracts. Of the deaths in the distressed tracts one-third have occurred in families which are fairly well-to-do, and two-thirds in families in distressed condition, and this is not more than is to be expected I should say. The mortality has been greatest in infantile life, and this must always be expected in severe famine accompanied by serious losses of milch cattle, as I have previously pointed out. There is no ground, I think, for believing that exposure on the relief works was an additional special cause of infantile mortality, though the conditions of work and even residence in camps have probably not been without their small effect. Among the recipients of relief a larger proportionate number of deaths has occurred as would be expected among the people on gratuitous relief who are for the most part the most decrepit members of the community, and about one-fifth have occurred in families badly off but not in receipt of relief.

4. As regards the mortality from fever, the Civil Surgeon is disposed to consider that the disease was of an ordinary type, and this is the conclusion arrived at in Gurgaon, Delhi and Rohtak as well in all of which there has been a high mortality from fever. I have several times drawn the notice of Government and of the Sanitary Commissioner to the prevalence of the fever, and I believe Lieutenant-Colonel Bamber is making special bacteriological enquiry into its nature. An examination by him of the figures now submitted will perhaps shed more light on them than I can myself throw.

Annexure I.

Letter from R. Humphreys, Esq., C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, unofficial No. 1060-G.I., dated the 1st September, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith my report on the abnormal death-rate of the district called for by Government and conducted on the lines laid down by you.

2. I regret the inordinate delay which has taken place in forwarding this report which was due in the first place to the incompleteness of some registers in the Civil Surgeon's office, which had to be completed before detailed instructions for the local enquiry could be issued, and secondly to the press of taccavi work which took all the available time of every officer, and was of such a nature as could not be put off.

ENQUIRY INTO THE HIGH DEATH-RATE IN THE HISSAR DISTRICT.

I have already reported on the rise in death-rate in the district for the six months ending February 28th. During March and April the death-rate, already high, gradually rose and reached a maximum in May, after which it declined again, and has since been

almost uniformly declining, so that at the time of writing it has resumed quite favourable proportions, considering the period of distress and abnormal heat through which the district has passed.

2. In compliance with orders from the Commissioner detailed enquiries were made with a view to finding out, if possible, among what classes of the community the death-rate was highest, and whether any deductions could be drawn as to its causes and possible remedies.

For this purpose the period of six weeks during which the death-rate was highest, *i.e.*, April 1st to May 12th, was chosen, and six irrigated and six unirrigated villages were chosen in each tahsil in which the death-rate had been high. The irrigated villages may be taken as not having felt to any great extent the effects of famine while being, with the exception of the irrigation, subject to much the same climatic conditions as the unirrigated villages. The unirrigated villages were then taken in detail and enquiries made to show (a) how far the actual causes of death had been correctly recorded in the village death registers; (b) what proportion of the deaths occurred among well-to-do families and families in distress, and of the latter how many were in receipt of relief and how many were not; (c) what proportion of the people who died were biswadars, tenants, and kamins, and (d) what reason, if any, could be assigned for the unusually high mortality.

The results of the enquiries as to (a), (b), and (c) have been tabulated, and are appended herewith.

The enquiries in the various tahsils were entrusted to the following officers:—

District.	Officer.
Bhiwani	Mirza Zaffar Ali, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Hansi	Lala Sansar Chand ditto.
Hissar	M. Allayar Khan.
Fatahabad and Sirsa ...	Lala Gurditta Mal, Officiating Extra Assistant Commissioner.

I must here record my appreciation of the excellent and careful report submitted by Mirza Zaffar Ali.

6. Before proceeding to comment on the figures, I wish to point out that in many cases the figures furnished by me from the Sadr returns of the deaths that occurred in the villages in which enquiries were made do not tally with the numbers as actually found by the officers on inspecting the village death registers. The point seems hardly an important one, as the figures given from the Sadr may be neglected in face of the figures found actually recorded on the spot, but the explanation appears to be simple and to lie in the fact that the Sadr returns were compiled from the returns furnished from the police stations at which the village chaukidars perhaps do not attend as regularly as they should, and as they attend on different days of the week, the weekly returns would not all start the same date. The seeming discrepancy need not therefore impugn the accuracy of the figures or the value of the enquiry in any way.

4. Now the first point to which I wish to draw attention is that in two tahsils, namely, Hissar and Bhiwani, it was found that a number of cholera deaths had not been reported; for instance, in Rawalwas, Hissar Tahsil, 12 deaths from cholera were reported, whereas 36 actually occurred, and that while 22 cases of fever were reported only 3 actually occurred. In the Bhiwani Tahsil the case was even more glaring. In 5 out of the 6 villages cholera occurred, and in all five cases the number of cholera deaths was under-reported, while in one village, Tigrana, 43 cholera deaths actually occurred, whereas not a single one was reported. The total for the tahsil accordingly shows 187 actual cholera deaths to 82 reported, and 90 fever deaths as against 194 reported. The fact here demonstrated clearly justifies a remark I often saw occasion to make in forwarding the weekly death returns for the Commissioner's information, *viz.*, that circles in which cholera deaths were reported very often showed an increase in the death-rate out of all proportion to the number of cholera deaths and to the death-rate in cholera circles which had not been visited by cholera. These facts do not show up our Lambardars and chaukidars in a very favourable light, but taking them as a whole I do not consider they are really very much worse than those found in almost every district in the Province. The explanation seems to be that they often dread the enquiry and trouble necessary on a reported outbreak of cholera, and do all in their power to minimise the matter or to avoid reporting it at all. This feeling, however, I consider, is rapidly losing ground, and during the whole of the famine, and the large number of outbreaks of cholera which occurred, I never received a single complaint against any of the medical staff except one, and that was about a hospital assistant who was alleged to have shut himself up in a house and refused to come out and help the people. In fact generally the reports were

readily made and medical aid demanded. Where the benefits of medical aid were once experienced in dealing with an outbreak of cholera, it was afterwards eagerly sought for—a fact which is most creditable to the medical arrangements in the district.

5. Small-pox and measles were extremely prevalent during the period under report, and as a rule enquiries went to show that the recorded deaths were below the real figures. This is especially noticeable in village Jamalpur in the Hansi Tahsil where it was shown that 78 persons had died from small-pox and measles, whereas in the chaukidar's book only one death had been so recorded. These deaths of course took place mostly among children. In fact excluding cholera which attacked people without respect of age or sex the death-rate has been proved to have been high almost exclusively among children. Lala Sansar Chand reports that of the 97 deaths in Jamalpur 82 occurred among children under 12 years of age. In Fatahabad also the deaths from these causes were found to number 102, whereas only 17 had been recorded. I have little doubt but that the majority of these deaths were really measles, and not the more serious disease small-pox, though the latter was undoubtedly also prevalent to some extent and probably to a greater extent than in a normal year; but as regards the means taken to prevent it, I need only refer to the Annual Vaccination Report, which has just appeared, and to the very large number of vaccine operations performed during the year. The large mortality among children from measles and its kindred diseases may be accepted as a fact, but I cannot express any opinion as to how far the epidemic had any of its causes traceable directly or indirectly to famine, for myself I cannot see any connection. The mortality resulting from the epidemic may, however, have been heavier than it would have been in a normal year owing to the reduced vitality of the people, due to famine.

6. Keeping in view what has been said on the subject of cholera and small-pox including measles, the deaths recorded under head "Other causes" (which means all other causes not specified in the statements) calls for no remark, and we can therefore turn to the head "Fever," which of course enquiry has shown to be smaller in proportion as increases were found under the other heads. Thus the net result comes to this that out of 608 cases returned as deaths from fever, only 428 were actually found to have so occurred.

This prevalence of fever has been one of the puzzles in connection with the death-rate of the district, and of course it is beyond my province to offer any remarks on its nature; suffice it to say that I believe Dr. Weston, the Civil Surgeon, considers that it offers no special features traceable directly to famine, though it is beyond a doubt that the famine has tended to make it more deadly.

7. I now come to consider the different classes of people affected by this high death-rate from ordinary causes excluding cholera. As a rule the death-rate is higher among the people in reduced circumstances, but this was only to be expected.

No cases of death by starvation were discovered, and Mirza Zaffar Ali in his report writes:—

"The enquiries made showed that deaths from all causes took place amongst every class of people with almost equal frequency, and in proportion to the population of each class."

The figures in the statements in this connection give one very little help in drawing any inferences owing to the impossibility of gauging with any accuracy the proportion of the community coming under each head. The only column which seems to call for any remark is that showing deaths among distressed families not in receipt of relief. As regards these the consensus of opinion by the officers making the enquiry is that although distressed they were not absolutely destitute, and only one specific hard case is mentioned. This occurred in the Hansi Tahsil, and Lala Sansar Chand says "the woman was the wife of a biswadar who himself had gone away to an unknown place for labour, leaving her unprovided for at home"; so that although she was badly off and might have been relieved from the charitable funds, yet she had her husband's land to fall back upon.

8. Practically the same remarks as in paragraph 7 apply to the figures showing deaths among proprietors tenants, and menials. The figures seem fairly equally distributed as a rule, but in Bhiwani Tahsil the proportion of deaths among the proprietor class seems higher than in the other tahsils. Similarly, in Sirsa it seems smaller. No special explanation is forthcoming for these fluctuations. The conditions of the Bhiwani and Sirsa tahsils were more similar to one another than those of other tahsils, but probably something may be traced to the fact that in Sirsa the proprietor class are more given, in times of scarcity, to leaving their holdings in search of employment in more favoured parts than they are elsewhere in the district.

9. Before leaving this part of the subject I wish to refer again to the heavy mortality among children. Lala Sansar Chand, in his report on his enquiries in the Hansi Tahsil, gives it as his opinion that, apart from measles and small-pox, some of the high mortality was traceable to the exposure of the children to the fierce heat on the tank works, and to the parents being unable to give them proper attention. He says "all these circumstances, I am informed, which were inseparable from the working of Central Famine Tanks, hastened to bring on fever in the tender constitutions of children, and to the consequent reduction of the juvenile population of the district to such an alarming extent."

Lala Sansar Chand has gone into this question of infant mortality, and shows that in the Hansi Tahsil, out of a total of 196 deaths, 153 were of children below the age of 12, while he shows the total number of deaths among those who had been relieved on tanks, of all ages, as 31. His arguments, therefore, against large famine camps do not appear to have much foundation. On the other hand, on the same subject, Mirza Zaffar Ali, in his report, speaking of Mitathal village, in the Bhiwani Tahsil, says:—"For instance, in Mitathal, where no epidemic disease prevailed, no case of death was found to be in any way connected with famine. Of the 37 persons who died here of fever 24 were children. The parents of 15 of the latter used to work on Tigrana tank, of seven were in good circumstances, and of two received gratuitous relief. Now, in villages, the number of families which may be said to be in good circumstances while a severe famine is prevalent does not exceed half that of the families who are in distress; rather, it is generally less. It therefore cannot be said that the deaths of the children whose parents repaired to the relief work were in any way due to their not being properly looked after or being exposed to the sun at the tank." The conclusion I come to, therefore, which has been more or less my opinion all along, is that the measures taken at the relief works to provide shade from the sun for the children, and to look after them by providing medical attendance and special diet where necessary, were ample, and that little or no increase in the death-rate among children can be traced to over-exposure and want of attention on the works; and, in fact, I am strongly convinced that in a severe famine in this country it is the duty of the famine administrator to take special care of the children, as the parents are apt to neglect them owing to their superior claims of hunger.

10. I now turn to a comparison of the death-rates of irrigated and unirrigated villages. In order that a comparison may be easily made between the two, I have had the death-rate for each village run out as so many per thousand of the inhabitants for the period under enquiry from all causes and from all other causes excluding cholera. The only thing which introduces a factor of uncertainty as to the value of the result is that for the population of the villages we are dependent on figures which are ten years old, and in the case of unirrigated villages reliable information as to the number of people who had left their villages in search of employment elsewhere were not always forthcoming. Where they could be discovered approximately, they have been allowed for in calculating the death-rate

per thousand. The result is rather peculiar in the Hissar and Hansi Tahsils, the rates for the irrigated villages are higher than for the unirrigated villages, and in the remaining three tahsils—Bhiwani, Sirsa, and Fatahabad—the opposite is the case. It is difficult to say what the explanation of this can be. The irrigated village of Hansi certainly used to be very unhealthy owing to water-logging, but since the extension of the Western Jumna Canal by the opening of the Sirsa and other branches this

It must be, I think, that a good many distressed people gathered in Hansi and Hissar. They were the regular halting places of Bikaneria, &c., who used to encamp on the old canal bank and elsewhere.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

has ceased to be the case. It may be that although the water-logging has ceased there is some residue of the unhealthiness still remaining.

per thousand. The result is rather peculiar in the Hissar and Hansi Tahsils, the rates for the irrigated villages are higher than for the unirrigated villages, and in the remaining three tahsils—Bhiwani, Sirsa, and Fatahabad—the opposite is the case. It is difficult to say what the explanation of this can be. The irrigated village of Hansi certainly used to be very unhealthy owing to water-logging, but since the extension of the Western Jumna Canal by the opening of the Sirsa and other branches this

It must be remembered that no detailed enquiries were made on the spot in the case of the irrigated villages to test the correctness of the returns, but yet it is remarkable that cholera seems to have displayed a marked preference for unirrigated villages. This would probably be due to the better water-supply in the former.

11. Again, it is also noticeable in the canal villages that small-pox and measles were prevalent. This seems to have been specially the case in Hansi and Sirsa. This would again point to the fact that it was mainly among infants that the mortality was excessive. It therefore seems that, excluding cholera, small-pox, and measles, the season, though decidedly unhealthy, was not so very abnormally unhealthy after all.

12. In conclusion, I may remark that it is probable that the population of irrigated villages has been underestimated owing to the tendency of people to move to irrigated tracts, and that the converse would probably be true of the unirrigated villages. This would tend to decrease the rate per thousand of the canal villages, and to increase that of the unirrigated villages.

ABSTRACT.

Statement showing the Result of Enquiry made regarding High Death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the Weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900.

Tahsils.	Number of Villages.	Population, minus Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off, and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.	Biswadars.	Tenants.	Kamfns.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
										In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.										
Hissar	6	8,789	162	43	14	78	27	119	41	20	34	24	78	41	57	13	8	—	19	14	
			<i>167</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>23</i>														
Hansi	6	7,527	196	7	92	83	14	189	58	99	49	3	151	61	86	35	7	310	26	25	
			<i>108</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>59</i>														
Bhiwani	6	11,071	358	187	—	90	81	171	51	44	—	76	120	97	34	40	—	—	32	15	
			<i>368</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>92</i>														
Fatahabad	6	8,310	270	48	102	101	19	222	79	21	113	9	143	93	63	61	5	122	32	27	
			<i>259</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>19</i>														
Sirsa	6	12,199	191	49	42	76	24	142	73	7	54	8	69	13	55	53	21	46	16	12	
			<i>184</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>36</i>														
Total	—	47,896	1,177	334	250	428	165	843	282	191	250	120	561	305	295	202	41	478	25	18	
			<i>1,146</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>668</i>	<i>229</i>														

Figures in roman represent the result of enquiry made.

Figures in italic represent the entries of tables compiled in the Sadr Office from the police death returns received in the Civil Surgeon's office.

ABSTRACT.

Record of Deaths in Six of the Largest Irrigated Villages of every Tahsil in the Hissar District in which the Largest Death-rate has occurred from 1st April to 12th May, 1900.

Tahsils.	Number of Villages.	Population.	Detail of Deaths.				Total.	Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
			Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	All other Causes.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
Hissar	6	6,941	30	18	85	6	139	20	16	
Hánsi	6	9,523	78	85	149	29	341	36	28	
Bhiwáni	6	6,827	—	1	75	11	87	13	13	
Fatahabad	6	14,414	—	2	91	14	107	7	7	
Sirsa	6	7,175	4	22	44	14	84	12	12	
Grand Total ...	—	44,880	112	128	444	74	758	17	14	

Record of Deaths in Six of the Largest Irrigated Villages of every Tahsil in the Hissar District in which the Largest Death-rate has occurred from 1st April to 12th May, 1900.

Tahsils	Names of Villages.	Population.	Detail of Deaths				Total.	Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
			Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	All other Causes.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
HISSAR.	Gangawa	1,078	29	9	8	1	47	44	17	
	Landheri Sukh Lambran	1,196	—	5	17	1	23	19	19	
	Adampur	1,128	—	—	19	1	20	18	18	
	Matarsham	972	—	3	12	1	16	16	16	
	Satrand Khás	1,441	1	1	18	—	20	14	13	
	Ládwa	1,151	—	—	11	2	13	11	11	
	Total	6,941	30	18	85	6	139	20	16	
HANSI.	Ratera	1,465	19	39	21	10	89	61	48	
	Sultánpur	1,541	—	6	38	4	48	31	31	
	Naiwa	1,088	41	16	7	2	66	61	23	
	Kawari	1,234	4	17	34	4	59	48	45	
	Umra	2,327	7	6	24	4	41	18	15	
	Luhári Játu	1,868	7	1	25	5	38	20	17	
	Total	9,523	78	85	149	29	341	36	28	

Record of Deaths in Six of the Largest Irrigated Villages of every Tahsil in the Hisar District in which the Largest Death-rate has occurred from 1st April to 12th May, 1900—continued.

Tahsil.	Names of Villages.	Population.	Detail of Deaths.					Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
			Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	All other Causes.	Total.	Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BHIWANI.	Kaluwas	1,308	—	—	18	—	18	14	14	
	Chang	3,187	—	1	27	7	35	11	11	
	Guirani	727	—	—	21	4	25	34	34	
	Náthnwas	638	—	—	5	—	5	8	8	
	Riwári	498	—	—	2	—	2	4	4	
	Sai	529	—	—	2	—	2	4	4	
	Total	6,827	—	1	75	11	87	13	13	
FATAHABAD.	Budhláda	3,643	—	—	10	5	15	4	4	
	Ahmadpur	1,607	—	—	3	4	7	4	4	
	Banawáli	696	—	2	13	—	15	22	22	
	Bhíránína	4,340	—	—	16	4	20	5	5	
	Bighar	2,799	—	—	24	1	25	8	8	
	Kuleri	1,329	—	—	25	—	25	18	18	
	Total	14,414	—	2	91	14	107	7	7	
SIRSA	Rori	3,490	4	13	15	9	41	12	11	
	Masitan	1,288	—	2	2	3	7	5	5	
	Jandián	765	—	7	6	1	14	19	19	
	Kotli	190	—	—	10	—	10	52	52	
	Sikandarpur	771	—	—	7	1	8	10	10	
	Mangiyána	371	—	—	4	—	4	6	6	
	Total	7,175	4	22	44	14	84	12	13	
	Grand Total ...	44,880	112	128	444	74	758	17	14	

Statement showing the result of enquiry made regarding high death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900.

Tahsils.	Names of Villages.	Population, minus the Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.	
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.	Biswadars.	Tenants.	Kamins.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
										In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Hissar Tahsil	Juglan	1,053	15 17	2 —	— —	7 13	6 4	13	2	10	—	1	11	10	2	1	—	No reliable information available.	14	12
	Mirzapur	1,445	31 37	— 2	6 8	24 22	1 5	31	11	2	6	12	20	24	—	6	1		21	21
	Rawalwas Kalan	626	48 48	36 12	5 7	3 22	4 7	12	8	1	1	2	4	—	11	—	1		77	19
	Balsamand	2,306	22 22	5 1	1 —	7 16	9 5	17	8	3	—	6	9	7	2	4	4		9	7
	Kalrianwan	1,640	22 19	— —	1 —	16 18	5 1	22	7	3	11	1	15	—	19	1	2		13	13
	Dhansu	1,719	24 24	— —	1 —	21 23	2 1	24	5	1	16	2	19	—	23	1	—		14	14
	Total	8,789	162 167	45 16	14 15	78 114	27 23	119	41	20	34	24	78	41	57	13	8		—	19	14

Statement showing the result of enquiry made regarding high death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900—continued.

1	2	3	4	Detail of Deaths.					9	10	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				19	Average per Thousand on Population.								
				5	6	7	8	Total, excluding Cholera.			In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.	Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.	Biswadars.	Tenants.	Kamins.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.							
Talukis.	Names of Villages.	Population, minus the Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.	Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.									
																					Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.		Biswadars.		Tenants.		Kamins.		Others.
										Talu	1,968	36	—	32	4	36	9	22	3	2	27	24	5	5	2	70	19	19
										Paposa	497	12	—	13	—	12	—	8	4	—	12	3	—	—	—	40	26	26
										Ranbat	551	17	1	11	1	16	4	10	2	—	12	1	15	—	—	10	31	30
Gurkna	1,760	12	—	12	—	12	7	1	3	1	5	7	3	—	—	40	7	7										
Mejhadpur	617	22	3	4	5	19	2	11	6	—	17	17	2	—	—	10	36	31										
Jamulpur	2,444	97	3	12	4	94	16	47	31	—	78	9	52	28	5	140	42	41										
Total	7,527	196	7	83	14	189	38	99	49	3	151	61	86	55	7	310	26	25										

Bhiwani ...	Tigrana ...	2,707	88 94	48 —	— —	21 31	24 13	45	18	19	—	13	32	2	11	13	—	No instances of families having deserted their villages were brought to the notice of the Extra Assistant Commissioner.	32	17
	Bahal ...	1,468	82 83	45 23	— —	15 27	22 33	37	10	8	—	19	27	22	11	4	—		56	25
	Ráwasa ...	1,382	38 31	14 —	— —	3 16	16 15	19	3	7	—	9	16	15	1	3	—		24	14
	Tosham ...	2,404	69 67	58 30	— —	8 18	8 18	16	7	4	—	5	9	8	4	4	—		29	7
	Dhani Mahu ...	1,138	44 42	32 29	— —	7 8	5 5	12	3	1	—	8	9	8	3	1	—		39	11
	Mitáthal ...	1,977	42 51	— —	— —	36 43	6 8	42	15	5	—	22	27	22	4	16	—		21	21
	Total ...	11,071	358 368	187 82	— —	90 194	81 92	171	51	44	—	76	120	97	34	40	—		—	32	15
Fatahabad ...	Mehunwála ...	1,068	27 26	3 3	1 —	22 22	1 1	24	6	—	18	—	18	19	1	3	1	18	26	23
	Pili Mandori ...	1,419	29 39	1 1	7 —	12 34	9 4	28	5	2	21	—	23	18	5	4	1	21	20	20
	Bhattu ...	1,671	80 75	18 13	27 15	37 45	3 2	67	25	2	40	—	42	34	9	21	3	40	49	41
	Badopál ...	1,932	55 52	21 21	20 —	14 31	— —	34	14	15	5	—	20	—	21	13	—	14	28	17
	Muhammadpur Bohi ...	988	44 38	7 7	28 2	4 18	5 11	37	20	1	15	1	17	5	27	5	—	15	45	38
	Kirhan ...	1,804	35 29	8 1	19 —	12 27	1 1	32	9	1	14	8	23	17	—	15	—	14	27	25
	Total ...	6,310	270 269	48 46	102 17	101 177	19 19	222	79	31	118	9	143	93	63	61	5	122	32	27

Statement showing the result of enquiry made regarding high death-rate in certain Villages of the Hisar District during the weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900—continued.

Talukas.	Names of Villages.	Population, minus the Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.	
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.	Biswadars.	Tenants.	Kamins.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
										In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sirsa	Jamál	1,699	28 27	1 1	— —	23 25	4 1	27	22	1	4	—	5	7	15	4	1	4	17	16
	Mádho Singhána	996	39 39	13 13	9 7	12 14	5 11	26	10	3	13	—	16	1	11	10	4	13	40	26
	Mangala	1,825	42 42	27 27	6 —	6 8	3 7	15	5	1	9	—	10	1	2	8	4	7	23	8
	Rania	5,110	58 46	2 2	23 —	20 27	11 17	54	22	2	22	8	32	4	14	24	12	22	11	11
	Ding	1,615	13 16	3 3	1 —	9 13	— —	10	7	—	3	—	3	—	5	5	—	—	8	6
	Jodhka	1,000	13 14	3 3	3 3	6 8	1 —	10	7	—	3	—	3	—	8	2	—	—	13	10
	Total	12,199	191 184	40 49	42 4	76 95	24 38	142	73	7	54	8	69	13	55	53	21	46	16	12
Grand Total	47,896	1,177 1,146	334 105	250 54	428 068	165 229	843	282	191	350	120	561	305	295	202	41	478	25	18	

Enclosure 2 in No. 108.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Bamber, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 2581, dated Lahore, 22nd September, 1900.

I have the honour to report that I proceeded on the 21st August, 1900, to Delhi, Hissar and Rohtak to investigate what varieties of fever were causing the great mortality. I had already written to the Civil Surgeons of Delhi and Hissar, Major Cunningham and Dr. Weston, asking them to find out whether relapsing or famine fever was the cause of part of the mortality by examining specimens of blood under the microscope, and to notice whether the spirillum that is the cause of famine fever was to be seen. The answer I received was that the spirillum was not to be seen, the symptoms not being distinct enough to point out exactly the form of fever.

2. I considered it would be advisable to try whether enteric and Malta fevers were present by trying the blood by the sedimentation or serum test. This test consists of taking a few drops of blood from a person who is suffering or has suffered from a continued fever, diluting it in definite proportions, and then mixing it with a solution containing the microbes of enteric or Malta fever. The highest dilution usually used is 1 in 40, but a reaction sometimes occurs in dilutions as high as 1 in 1,200. The blood serum will only cause agglutination and sedimentation of the microbes, which are causing the disease and has no effect on any other variety. For this purpose I provided myself with small sealed glass tubes to collect the blood.

I also took microscopic slides to look for the spirillum of famine fever in case the blood did not react to either enteric or Malta fever.

3. I went first to Delhi. Here I found two cases of continued fever under treatment in the Civil Hospital. I obtained specimens of blood from these two cases. Major Cunningham kindly inquired from native practitioners whether I might see cases in the city, but none were forthcoming. I think one reason for none being forthcoming may have been an objection to undergoing the prick required to draw the blood.

4. From Delhi I went to Hissar and was able to obtain specimens from three cases.

A number of cases from the town came, but after I had pricked two cases the rest disappeared. I returned to Delhi *en route* to Rohtak. While passing through, at Major Cunningham's request, I was able to take a specimen from an Eurasian, who was very glad to have the diagnosis of his disease settled. At Rohtak I was only able to obtain specimens from two persons, no others coming forward.

I took the specimens from these eight cases to the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli for examination. Of the three cases from Delhi, one proved to be Malta fever, one to have suffered from Malta and enteric fever, and one from neither.

The microscopic slide with the blood of the last case was stained and examined under the microscope, but no spirilla were visible. Of the three cases from Hissar, one reacted strongly to the test for enteric fever and slightly to that for Malta fever. This shows that the patient is suffering from enteric fever and suffered some time previously from Malta fever. The second case reacted to Malta fever, and the third to enteric fever. Of the two cases from Rohtak, one reacted to the test for Malta fever and the other to the test for enteric fever. So that altogether three cases were suffering from Malta fever, and one from Malta and enteric fever, the one previously to the other, two cases

were suffering from enteric fever, and one suffering from enteric fever had some time previously suffered from Malta fever. Major Semple, R.A.M.C., Director of the Pasteur Institute, vouches for the above results. My thanks are due to Major Semple for the time and trouble he took in the matter.

5. I gathered from the Civil Surgeons that the continued fevers that have prevailed during the famine were much of the same character as those I saw. I think we may fairly consider that the mortality from fever in the famine area has been to some extent caused by Malta and enteric fever. Though ordinarily the mortality from Malta fever is small, about 2 to 3 per cent., yet in people debilitated by want the mortality is certain to be high. It may not be out of place to mention here that for a considerable time Medical Officers in India have noticed that there is a form of continued fever which was neither enteric nor remittent fever. This now proves to be Malta fever.

Captain Lamb, I.M.S., has lately found this to be the case in Bombay.

Dr. Wright and Major Semple had previously found at Netley Hospital that some of the men invalided from India for enteric fever showed by the serum reaction that they had suffered from Malta and not enteric fever.

6. I would suggest that all Civil Surgeons be provided with the means for collecting and testing the blood, so that they could clear up the diagnosis in doubtful cases.

B E R A R.

EXTRACTS FROM DISTRICT MONTHLY REPORTS.

No. 109.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 28TH APRIL, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

In view of the famine conditions having now become more acute, and it being desirable to be prepared for people with their dependants who are now on the works returning to their homes, the village relief is being expanded.

Arrangements are being made to open 49 State kitchens in the district. The principle of working these kitchens is to feed those who are in want and cannot work, especially children, at or near their own villages.

A sum of Rs. 35,190 has been subscribed up to end of the month by private persons in the district. Of this amount Rs. 18,000 have been realized, and for the present Rs. 15,000 from the sum collected have been set apart for purchase of seed to be distributed amongst poor cultivators. Besides this, Rs. 3,000 have been set apart for distributing clothes to the poor people on relief works, in poor-houses and in villages. The distribution will be made by the gazetted Inspecting Officers in the district.

The water-supply at the several relief works was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the works was fair.

There were a few cases of cholera in the relief camps at Shirasgaon, 9th mile, and Garadgaon. Immediate steps were taken to ascertain the cause of the outbreak and to stamp out the disease.

There were a few cases of small-pox in the relief camps at Garadgaon, Mohidipur, Khadki Takli, Ghusar, Akatwara and Chincholi.

No deaths from starvation have been reported.

The food-grains in the district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

The prices of jowari, 2nd sort, and of rice, 3rd-sort, were, on the 28th April, 1900, as under :—

District.	Jowar.		Rice.	
	Srs.	Ch.	Srs.	Ch.
Akola	9	8	9	0
Akot	9	8	8	0
Balapur	10	0	9	0
Khamgaon	10	0	9	0
Pathur	9	8	9	0
Jalgaon	9	8	9	0

AMBRAOTI DISTRICT.

General character of relief works.—Metal collecting, water-supply and road-making.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the period under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The whole of the district is seriously affected on account of total failure of kharif and rabi crops.

BASIM DISTRICT.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—Nil.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The kharif crops mostly failed and rabi crops which had been sown in parts of Basim and Mangrul Taluqa have all withered up, except irrigated wheat in a few places which have now been reaped. The outturn has been five annas in the rupee.

Changes in rates of wages.—Labourers that could be had for three annas when jowar was selling at its normal price are now working for two annas per diem.

General characteristic of works.—Raising the bund of a tank, making reservoirs in tanks, breaking stone-metal and making roads.

Food stocks.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported.

Works on the programme are sufficient for the next three months.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Private relief is given in large towns in Mulkapur and Mehkar Taluqs and by selling jowari cheaper and by giving doles.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the district, and poor-houses are opened at Chikhli, Mehkar, and Mulkapur.

Character of relief works.—Stone-breaking generally.

Physical condition of people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Ten.

Food stocks.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—4,295 maunds of grain were imported by rail to Mulkapur.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—General condition—Bad. Fodder—Insufficient. Prospects—Bad. Water—Scarce.

Changes in rate of wages and other matters.—Minimum wage raised from 9½ chattaaks to 12 chattaaks.

ELlichPUR DISTRICT.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Physical conditions of the people.—The general condition of the people is still wonderfully good, and the number on the relief works is not considered likely to increase much. Many of the nursing children* are very emaciated, and there is considerable mortality among them, notwithstanding that the mothers are given light tasks, or none if their children are sickly, and

* Sic.

all emaciated infants are fed five times a day with condensed milk. The children fed at the kitchens on works and the workers themselves are in fair condition. There is some cholera in the district and the mortality has increased, but it is lower than it was at this time of year in 1897, when the plain taluqs were but slightly affected by the scarcity.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Land is being prepared for the kharif sowings. There has been great mortality among plough cattle, but it is not anticipated that very much land will remain uncultivated.

Changes in the rates of wages.—None, but that the minimum wage has been raised from one anna (9½ chattaks) to one anna 3 pies (12 chattaks).

Sufficiency of programme.—The programme provides for over 2,300 workers for the next three months, which is believed to be an ample provision, as many workers are likely to leave the works as soon as the rains commence.

The Conservator of Forests has favoured me with the following notes regarding the Melghat:—

Private relief.—Practically confined to that afforded by the Korku Mission, which has given liberal aid in connection with supervision in giving aid to large numbers of weavers and basket-makers, and in giving special food, &c., to the sick and sorry. The Mission has also taken over all our lepers and has employed large numbers of labourers on Mission buildings, &c., &c. I cannot express too warmly our obligations to the Mission for the aid given with so much common sense and true liberality. The Sisters of the Cross at Chikalda have managed a branch poor-house for Government, and given aid from their Mission funds to some 50 poor families who they are settling in a Mission village.

Poor-house and village relief.—The number of poor-houses is still three, while village relief is afforded at about 19 centres placed equally about the Taluk with reference to population.

General character of relief works.—The cultivation of fields by hand is the main relief work, while four new roads are under construction.

Practically, anyone wanting work can obtain it, save in abandoned waterless tracts, within eight miles of his house. The individual works have to be small as to numbers owing to a short supply of water. Timber, bamboo, and grass work still afford aid.

Physical condition of the people.—As yet still fair, but there is a marked fall off in condition since mat and Government grass work stopped, as the people dislike cultivation and defer going to it as long as they can.

Deaths from starvation.—One reported, but the deaths of many suffering from different diseases have been accelerated by want. Duni poor-house has had about five deaths per week. Gatan and Chikalda are more healthy and have not suffered heavily.

Food stocks.—Sufficient for current month.

WUN DISTRICT.

General character of relief works.—Breaking of stone metal.

Physical condition of the people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Two, as reported by the Police. A wanderer, name not known, supposed to be Banjara by caste, aged about 70 years, was found dead on the 14th April, 1900, on the road leading from Bori to Badgaon in the boundary of Pandurna. Deceased presumably had no food for some days. The body was sent for post-mortem to the Medical Officer, Darwa, who certified that death was probably due to starvation.

Deceased's name and caste not known, probably a Gond or Audh, aged about 50 years, was found dead in the field of one Hari Sonar of Karola in the Heivri station range. The Station Home Officer held the inquest and the opinion was that death was due to starvation.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Information as to the sufficiency of works and the requirements for the next three months.—Ample.

There have been several village poor-houses opened from private funds, and there are something like 1,000 persons receiving relief over and above the figures quoted.

- No. 110.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 26TH MAY, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

Private relief in the shape of cheap grain shops was afforded, and private charity in the form of doles was given in each of the five Taluqs in the District.

During the month 48 State kitchens or "*khichri-khanas*" were established in the district.

The food served out at these *khichri-khanas* is on the following scale:—

—	Coarsely Ground Juar.
	Chataks.
Adults	7
Children between 10 and 14	4½
Children between 7 and 10	3½
Children below 7	2½

To every seer of coarsely ground juar is added 2 chataks of dhal of the cheapest variety (excepting lukh), one chatak of salt, ½ chatak of oil and 2 tolas chillies and the whole boiled to such a consistency that one chatak of the dry ration equals about 5 chataks of cooked food.

A sum of Rs. 42,000 has been allotted to this District from the Charitable Relief Fund. Of this amount Rs. 18,000 have been set apart for purchase of plough bullocks and the remainder for purchase of seed. The same is being distributed amongst the poor cultivators.

2,046 weavers owning 682 looms are being relieved in this District under Section 140 of the Revised Famine Code for the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and up to the end of month under report a sum of Rs. 3,470 has been advanced to them. Rs. 15,298-3-3 have been spent on purchase of cloths turned out by the weavers relieved, consisting of dhotis, turbans, carpets and saris, and these are being carefully stored to be sold at the end of the famine period.

The water supply at the several relief works was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the works was on the whole fair.

There were some cases of cholera in the relief camps at Sirasgaon, 9th mile, Garudgaon, Ghusar, Wagholi, Khadki, Takli and Aktwada. There is no cholera now at these camps.

There were a few cases of small-pox at some of the relief camps in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month, but in March last a suspected case of death from starvation was reported by the Municipal Committee, Shegaon.

The food grains in this district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Poor-houses have so far been started at Amraoti town, Amraoti camp, Thugaon, Kholapur, Zawali, Murtizapur, Dhanaj, Karinja and Morsi. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day of the month was 1,827, against 1,237 relieved on the last day of the preceding month.

Kitchens have been opened on all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants on workers.

Khichri-khanas or State kitchens apart from those attached to relief works have so far been opened in two villages, where 317 persons were relieved gratuitously. Six more Khichri-khanas have since been opened, and some more are being opened.

General character of relief works.—Road making, water supply and metal collecting.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The whole of the district is seriously affected.

BASIM DISTRICT.

Poor-houses.—There were 11 poor-houses open under the management of the District Board during the month.

The village relief is also given under the management of the District Board.

There were also 26 State kitchens open under the management of the District Board.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—One. He was a wanderer. His residence is not known.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The kharif crops mostly failed, and rabi crops which had been sown in parts of Basim and Mangrul Taluqs have all withered up except irrigated wheat in a few places which had yielded an outturn of five annas in the rupee.

General character of work.—Raising the bund of a tank, making reservoirs in tanks, breaking stone metal and making roads.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported.

Works on the programme are sufficient for the next three months.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Private relief is given in large towns of Malkapur and Mehkar Taluqs by giving doles to poor people.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the district and poor-houses are opened at Chikhli, Mehkar and Malkapur, and State kitchens are also open.

Character of relief works.—Stone breaking and railway ballast and earth-work, &c.

Physical condition of people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

ELlichpur DISTRICT.

Physical condition of the people.—No important change. The condition of the people who remain in the villages is generally good, but some of those who had been supporting themselves by grass cutting in the hills have come back in very reduced condition now that that form of employment has been exhausted, and the only (apparent) case of death from starvation reported was that of one of these returned grass cutters. The Circle Inspector found that he was not getting food at home, and as a kitchen had been opened four miles off under recent orders, sent him to it instead of having him fed in the village, and he died on the road.

The people and children on the relief works are generally in good condition, though here and there an emaciated child of a new comer will be seen. The state of the children fed on milk shows some improvement; but many of them are still miserable objects, and there is great mortality among them, a good deal of it being due to heat.

Scale of wages.—There was no change during the month, but the price of grain has since gone up and the rate of wages must follow.

General character of relief works.—Small works like cultivation in villages were in course of organization with the object of breaking up the large gangs, save on a few roads where the people are being hutted for the rains.

Physical condition of the people.—There has been a fall-off during the month, and signs of scurvy have been noticed as wild vegetables and fruits are scarce and garden produce not procurable.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Import of grain.—The collection of stores for the rains has commenced and is making fair progress. A grant for the relief works of 1900-1901 was received on 20th and facilitated the work of import.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—No change.

WUN DISTRICT.

Private relief.—Five poor-houses have been opened out in the Darwah Taluq.

Village relief has been started from 1st June, 1900, in the Yeotmal and Darwah Taluqs.

General character of relief works.—Breaking of stone metal.

Physical condition of the people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Two.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

No. 111.

REMARKS FOR FIVE WEEKS ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month 75 State kitchens or "*khichri-khanas*" were opened in the district.

During the month of report a sum of Rs. 32,200 was allotted for purchase of plough bullocks and seed—for the former Rs. 14,200 and Rs. 18,000 for the latter object. The amount of local subscriptions realized during the month was Rs. 9,037.

1,726 weavers owning 700 looms were relieved during the month under section 140 of the Famine Code, and Rs. 9,147-8-9 were spent in purchasing cloths turned out by the weavers relieved. The initial expenditure works out to Rs. 5-4-9 per head per mensem.

The water-supply at the several relief camps was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the works was, on the whole, fair.

There were some cases of cholera and small-pox in the relief camps in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month.

The food grains in the district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Private relief.

Poor-houses have so far been started at Amraoti town, Amraoti camp, Thugaon, Kholapur, Yawali, Murtizapur, Karinja, Dhanaj, and Morsi. The number of persons relieved on the last day of the period under report was 2,499 against 1,827 reported in the return of the preceding month.

During the period under report *khichri khanas* were opened in 22 villages in the Amraoti taluq, 8 villages in the Murtizapur taluq, 37 villages in the Chandur taluq, and in 25 villages in the Morsi taluq. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on 30th June, 1900, was 15,628, and they are more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ths children, and in good condition on arrival.

Kitchens have been opened on all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants or workers.

General character of relief works.—Road making, water-supply and metal collecting.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food-stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—General condition is good and, with the recent rain, the prospects also are decidedly good.

BASIM DISTRICT.

Poor-houses.—There were 8 poor-houses open under the management of the district board during the month.

There were also 58 State kitchens open under the management of the district board, and one under the management of the Basim Municipality.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—Nil.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The sowing of jowari, urad, mung, tur, and cotton is in progress in parts of the district.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Private relief is given in large towns in Malkapur taluq.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the district and three poor-houses and State kitchens are opened in the district ; village works have also been opened.

Character of relief works.—Stone-breaking and railway ballast and earth-works, &c., and repairing road, &c.

Physical condition of people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—1,856 maunds of grain imported by rail at Malkapur.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—General condition bad ; fodder scarce ; water scarce ; prospects bad.

ELLICHPUR DISTRICT.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Physical condition of the people.—There seems to me to have been a marked change in the appearance of the people of late, and the number in badly reduced condition has largely increased. Many have quite come to the end of their resources and all have lost heart lately owing to the holding off of the rains. There has been little or no employment in the fields of late, especially for women, and the labouring classes have lost all self-respect and are clamouring to be fed. Under the orders in force only those eligible for relief under chapter V. of the code, and the emaciated from starvation may be fed, but those refused food at kitchens 7 or 8 miles off have been coming to the headquarters kitchens in the hope of getting relief there, and crowds have been coming to me to ask for orders for food. The numbers on the regular relief camps have increased from 14,083 at the end of May to 17,621, but it is not desirable that they should be crowded with more people than watertight huts have been provided for, and village relief works are being opened as quickly as possible, and it is hoped that all on the programme will be started within the next week or so. And fortunately there has now been a change in the weather and there is every appearance of the monsoon having commenced. If so, people will take heart again ; there will soon be plenty of field labour, and the cattle will get fodder, but we have been passing through a critical time lately. Some very bad cases of emaciation have been seen among children and others coming to the works and kitchens lately, but generally speaking the children on relief are in good enough condition.

The relief workers were being paid at the eight-seer rate at nearly all works. It is said that the rates for field labour for men (there is no work for women at present) were being kept up by the rates at relief works, but in view of the limited demand for labour and the increase in the numbers on the work of late, I do not think that that can be true.

WUN DISTRICT.

Private relief.—There are now four private poor-houses in the Darwaha taluq. The one at Darwaha was turned into a Government poor-house.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief, poor-houses and kitchens have been started in all the taluqs.

General character of relief works.—There are four relief works of stone-breaking.

Physical condition of the people.—Good.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stocks.—Sufficient.

No. 112.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 28TH JULY, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month 24 large works were carried on in the district, consisting of earthwork and stone-breaking, and three small works consisting of carrying metal from the quarries to the roadsides.

Two relief works, namely, Kharab and Gharudgaon, were closed during the month, and three railway camps were opened, one at Barsi Takli, the second at Tandalwari, and the third at Hiwerkheir.

On works where there are no kitchens, the dependants are either fed in the *khichri khanas* near their homes, or are given grain dole. Since the close of the month, several other relief works have been converted into works without camps.

During the month there were seven poor-houses open.

During the month 101 State kitchens, or *khichri khanas*, were open in the district.

Since the close of the month several more kitchens have been opened.

During the month of report a sum of Rs. 80,000 from the Charitable Relief Fund was distributed for the purchase of plough bullocks and seed; for the former object Rs. 63,000, and Rs. 17,000 for the latter. The amount of local subscriptions realised during the month of July, 1900, was Rs. 754. This makes up a total of Rs. 33,281 on account of local subscriptions. 1,652 weavers owning 710 looms were relieved during the month under section 140 of the Famine Code, and Rs. 9,018-15-0 were spend in purchasing cloths turned out by the weavers relieved. The initial expenditure works out to Rs. 5-7-4 per head per mensem.

The water-supply at the several relief camps was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on works was good.

There were a few cases of cholera and small-pox in some of the relief camps in this district.

Two suspicious cases of death from starvation have been detected in the district. The matter is under police enquiry.

The food grains in the district were sufficient, and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Private relief.—Relief in shape of selling jowari, cheap to those who cannot afford to buy it at market rate was provided by opening cheap grain shops at Amraoti, Murtizapur, Karanja, Dhamangaon, Chandur, and some other villages in the district. In the Chandur Taluq private relief was afforded by establishing so-called poor-houses in nine villages, and by distributing village 'dole' in 112 villages, the daily average of persons thus relieved being 5,673. Similar relief was also granted liberally in the remaining three taluqs. The information regarding the daily average number of persons thus relieved is not available.

Allotments from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund were made to many cultivators for purchase of plough cattle and seed grain. The statistics for such relief are still awaited.

Village and poor house relief.—Relief by village dole was afforded in eight villages in the Amraoti Taluq, 113 in the Murtizapur Taluq, and in three villages in the Morsi Taluq during the month under report. The number of persons relieved on the last day of the month under report was 5,380 against 6,914 reported in the previous return.

Poor-houses have so far been started at Amraoti Town, Amraoti Camp, Thugaon, Kholapur, Yawali, Murtizapur, Karanja, Dhanaj and Morsi. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day of the month under report was 2,053 against 2,499 reported in the return of the previous month.

The number of *khichri khana*s open on the last day of the month under report was 28 in the Amraoti Taluq, 8 in the Murtizapur Taluq, 35 in the Chandur Taluq, and 32 in the Morsi Taluq. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day was 18,490, against 15,628 reported in the previous return. Of 18,490 persons relieved, 4,426 were adults and 14,064 children. Kitchens have been opened on all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants on workers. The number of adults and children, including children in arms, thus gratuitously relieved on the last day of the month under report was 758 and 4,931 respectively.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—General condition is good. With the recent rain the ryots are very hopeful of a first-class crop; the prospects are also decidedly good.

BASIM DISTRICT.

Poor-houses.—There were 6 poor-houses opened under the management of the District Board during the month.

The village relief is under the management of the District Board. There were also 93 State kitchens open under the management of the District Board and 1 under the management of the Basim Municipality.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—Nil.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The kharif crops are in good condition.

Food grains.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported in small quantities.

Works on the programme are sufficient.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the District, and 3 poor-houses and State kitchens and village works have been opened in the District.

Character of relief works.—Stone metal collection and railway ballast and earth and tank work, &c.

Physical condition.—Fair.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Importation of grain.—Three thousand maunds of grain imported by rail at Malkapur.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—General condition fair in Malkapur Taluq only.

Fodder, sufficient.

Water, sufficient.

ELlichPUR DISTRICT.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—The village grain funds have been exhausted in the Ellichpur Taluq, but 85 persons were being relieved from this source in the Daryapur Taluq.

Village relief.—In the Ellichpur Taluq 48 village kitchens had been opened by the close of the month and 52 in the Daryapur Taluq—100 in all.

Gratuitous relief.—2,980 people were being relieved with the grain dole at the close of the month against 3,094 at the end of June. The decrease is due to the opening of kitchens, the policy being to feed as many as possible with cooked rations.

Poor-houses.—The number of these institutions remains unchanged. The number of inmates has fallen from 668 to 613.

Changes in rates of wages.—The decrease in the price of food grain has lowered the rate of wages from 1 anna and 9 pies to 1 anna and 6 pies in the case of class I., and from 1 anna 6 pies to 1 anna 3 pies in the case of class II., workers on the large works. It was found that village works were injuriously affecting the supply of agricultural labour and ryots were complaining that they were unable to obtain women to weed their fields. The wage for women has therefore been reduced to the equivalent of 10 chataks. This reduction, together with the fall in the price of grain, will no doubt have the effect of sending many of the people now on village works into the fields, and a considerable decrease in the numbers may be expected. No B. list works had been opened by the end of the month. The number of villages for which B. lists are necessary is not large, and it is doubtful whether more than a very few will have to be employed.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Physical condition of the people.—The arrangements for relief are now so complete, and it is being given so liberally in the numerous kitchens in all parts of the plain taluqs, that no one ought to want for food, and the number of wanderers is much reduced. Generally speaking, the condition of the people on relief is good and the emaciated ones are only a small proportion of the whole.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There has been a vast improvement in the state of affairs. Ample rain has fallen for the sowings. Practically all the usual kharif lands have been sown and some that are usually kept for *rabi*, and the young crops have come up well and are growing splendidly. The price of grain is falling and ample work in the fields is

obtainable in many parts of the two taluqs and will soon be obtainable everywhere. Altogether the prospects are very satisfactory and it is hoped that the end of relief operations is now within view. I have to thank Mr. Bagshawe, Conservator of Forests, for the following note on the Melghat.

Private relief—The Korku Mission has sent us a large quantity of American maize for free use in poor-houses and village relief centres, and for sale at low rates at cheap shops. The Mission has also given, through Government Agency, some plough cattle to the Melghat cultivators.

Physical condition of the people.—The people not on relief continue to fall off in condition, but those in poor-houses, at village centres, and on works are in fair condition. Cholera has nearly disappeared, but dysentery and fever are very prevalent.

WUN DISTRICT.

Private relief.—There are now only two private kitchens in the Darwa Taluq which are under the management of private individuals.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief, poor-houses and *khichri khanas* have been started in all the taluqs. No poor-houses have been opened in the Wun Taluq only.

No. 113.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 25TH AUGUST, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month 27 works were carried on in the district, namely, 10 large works, 10 small works and seven village works.

Four relief works, namely, Antraj, Wadali, Mahidipur and Tandulwady, were closed during the month, and 18 village works were opened in the district, of which 11 were closed after a fortnight as there was plenty of field labour available, and no work was wanted in some parts of the district.

During the month there were seven poor-houses open.

During the month 142 State kitchens were open in the district, including those within municipal areas.

During the month of August, 1900, a sum of Rs. 23,100 was distributed from the Charitable Relief Fund, Akola, for the following two objects : -

Object	Rs.
I.—Purchase of clothing	7,100
II.—Purchase of bullocks and seed, &c....	16,000
Total	23,100

and the total expenditure up to end of August, 1900, amounts to Rs. 1,77,083. A further sum of Rs. 15,000 was received during the month from the Central Committee, making up a total of Rs. 1,57,000, and the total amount of local subscriptions realized up to end of August, 1900, was Rs. 34,483.

1,649 weavers owning 708 looms were relieved during the month, and Rs. 9,852 were spent in purchasing cloths turned out by the weavers relieved. The initial expenditure works out to Rs. 5-15-7 per head per mensem.

The water-supply at the several relief camps was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the several works was fair.

There were no cases of cholera or small-pox in the relief camps in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month.

The food grains in the district were sufficient, and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Private relief.—Relief in shape of selling jowari cheap to those who cannot afford to buy it at market rate was provided by opening cheap grain shops at Amraoti, Murtizapur, Karamja and some other villages in the district. In the Chandor Taluq private relief was afforded by establishing so-called poor-houses in three villages, and by distributing dole in 12 villages, the daily average of persons thus relieved being 4,600. Similar relief was also granted liberally in the remaining three taluqs. The information regarding the daily average number of persons thus relieved is not forthcoming.

Allotments from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund were also utilized in affording relief to cultivators and to other persons in need. The statistics for such relief are awaited.

Village and poor-house relief.—Relief by village dole was afforded in 10 villages in the Murtizapur Taluq, two in the Morsi Taluq, and one in the Amraoti Taluq. The number of persons thus relieved on the last day of the month under report was 482 against 5,380 reported in the previous return.

The number of poor-houses open during the month was the same as was reported in the previous return.

The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day of the month under report was 696 against 2,053 reported in the previous return.

The number of *khichri khanas* open during the month was 23 in the Amraoti Taluq, 11 in the Murtizapur Taluq, 22 in the Chandor Taluq, and 32 in the Morsi Taluq. The number of persons relieved in these *khichri khanas* was 2,793 adults and 8,819 children, against 4,426 adults and 14,064 children reported in the return of the previous month.

Kitchens have been attached to all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants on workers. The number of dependants thus relieved on the last day of the month was 407 against 5,689 shown in the return of the previous month.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The general condition is good; the prospects are also decidedly good.

ELlichPUR DISTRICT.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—At the end of August only 21 persons were being relieved from private grain funds (in the Daryapur Taluq).

Village relief.—The number of village kitchens at the end of the month was :—

Village.						No.
Ellichpur	...	...	...	...	...	53
Daryapur	...	...	...	...	...	49
Total						102

but it is now being found advisable to close a few. All able to earn their own living are being struck off the lists, and the number on relief on the 25th August was 7,462 against 16,456 in the last week of July.

The number on the gratuitous dole was 1,231 against 2,980 in the previous month.

Poor-houses.—The number is unchanged, but the one at Anjangaon is practically untenanted ; there are only three orphans in it.

The total number of inmates at the close of August was 200 against 613 at the end of July.

Character of relief works.—All the relief works under Public Works Department management had been closed by the end of August, except the tank at Kasampur-Samda and stone metal carrying works at the Purna and at Wadgaon. The total number of workers was 440 against 14,030 at the end of July. The Kasampur work has now been ordered to be closed.

Village works also have nearly all been closed.

Physical condition of the people.—With prospects of an early and most excellent harvest the load of anxiety has lifted, and the people are happy in the feeling that the end of their troubles is close at hand. Ample field labour is available as the abundant rain has favoured the growth of weeds while bringing on the crops at a wonderful rate. From a relief point of view the *weed* crop was an important one, and it is believed that it will in parts of the plain taluqs afford labour in the fields till the earlier cotton crops are ready for picking. The condition of the people is, on the whole, wonderfully good, considering what they have passed through, but the mortality from cholera and bowel complaints is evidence that the long months of privation have told sadly on their stamina. Some emaciated people are to be seen at the kitchens, but they are mostly confined to the old, the sickly, and to young children, and undoubtedly an improvement is visible.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—Practically the whole of the ordinary *kharif* lands have been sown, and much of the land usually reserved for *rabi*. A good deal of assistance has been given to poor cultivators in Government loans and grants from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and it is believed that hardly any land has been left uncultivated for want of means. There is a struggle to get the fields weeded, and many of the poorer ryots are finding great difficulty in this respect. The Takavi allotments have been exhausted, but assistance is still being given from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The crops are in most excellent condition in many places ; they could not look better in fact. The cotton is coming into flower and the crop is assured, and the jowari crop may almost be said to be safe now. One more fall of rain at the end of the month will make it safe.

It ought to be possible to close all relief operations very soon now.

WUN DISTRICT.

General character of relief works.—During the month the Paloti stone-breaking relief work was closed owing to favourable monsoons, and the people leaving the work in consequence.

Physical condition of the people.—Good.

Deaths (if any) from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Importation of grain.—Jowari is continuing to be imported from Dhamangaon side, and rice from Bengal and Burma.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The condition and prospects of the crops are prosperous.

No. 114.

REMARKS FOR FIVE WEEKS ENDING 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month seven large relief works with camps were converted into small works without hutting accommodation and kitchen. The resident workers and their dependants who belonged to distant villages were drafted on to works nearest their homes.

As weeding operations in fields in many parts of the district were completed, and as there was little or no agricultural work for labourers in those tracts, especially for women and children, 20 village works were opened, admission to them being confined only to those in need, and who obtained tickets from the Patels of their villages.

Seven poor-houses were open during the month.

During the month 145 village kitchens or "*khichri-khanas*" were open including those within municipal areas.

The relief to weavers was stopped during the month and steps have been taken to dispose of the cloths purchased.

The water-supply at the several relief works was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the several works was fair.

There were no cases of cholera or small-pox on the works in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month.

The food grains in the district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The general condition is good ; the prospects are also decidedly good.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Private relief.—Nil. But much assistance has been and still is being given from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to cultivators and others. The greater portion of the allotment has been given out under object IV. for purchase of seed grain and plough cattle. The grant for purchase of seed grain for the kharif crop was all expended by the commencement of September, money for purchase of rabi seed grain is now being distributed. The value of this fund can hardly be overestimated as now it seems probable that very little, if any, land will be left uncultivated for want of the necessary funds to meet expenses. Over 15,000 blankets have been distributed throughout the district to poor and needy persons ; in addition clothing has been supplied to a large number of labourers on relief works and to inmates of poor-houses. The actual number is being compiled.

Physical condition.—Fair and steadily improving.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient to meet present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Jowari and rice were imported by rail at Malkapur, the former in large quantities.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The condition of the people in general is improving.

The kharif crops are in excellent condition throughout the district and prospects of an abundant harvest are decidedly good.

ELLICHPUR DISTRICT.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—This has come to a stop in the Ellichpur Taluq, and only 36 persons were relieved on the last Saturday of the month from the private grain funds in the Daryapur Taluq.

Village relief.—(a) *Kitchens.*—The number of kitchens was reduced from 53 in the Ellichpur Taluq and 49 in the Daryapur Taluq, in August, to 48 in the former and 35 in the latter taluq during the month under report.

The numbers relieved were :—

Month.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
August... ..	2,206	5,236	7,442
September	1,681	2,798	4,479

(b) *Doles.*—Doles were given in 12 villages in the Ellichpur Taluq and 29 in the Daryapur Taluq, 41 in all, against 85 in August.

Poor-houses.—The number remained unchanged. The number of inmates was 188 against 200 in the preceding month. The total number on gratuitous relief was 5,133 against 8,873 in August.

Physical condition of the people.—The condition of the people is fairly satisfactory, but it is unfortunate that in this part of Berar there are no early crops to afford employment in the fields now that weeding operations have come to an end. A time of difficulty for the labouring population is again setting in therefore and will continue till the cotton picking commences in the beginning of November. No further reduction in the numbers on relief is to be expected ; on the other hand an increase may be looked for.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The month now commencing will not, for reasons above stated, be one of advance towards normal conditions of independence for the poorer classes, but nothing could be more satisfactory than the promise of the crops. The late rains have made both jowari and cotton safe, except against heavy and late rains or (in the case of the latter) a prolonged term of cloudy weather that may breed insect pests, and there is every reason to expect that the end of another month will see the district restored to its usual state of prosperity. As a sign of the view that is taken by the trading community of the agricultural prospects, I note that a local syndicate has lately applied for permission to erect a new ginning factory, and the building operations and other preparations are being pushed on as quickly as possible to be in time for the coming cotton crop.

No. 115.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 27TH OCTOBER, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

There were 34 small and village works open on the last Saturday of the month, and the number of persons relieved was 6,277 against 18,990 in the previous month. These works will be closed on the 7th November, 1900.

Five poor-houses were open during the month, and the number of inmates was 110 against 593 in the month previous. These poor-houses will also be closed by the middle of November. The bulk of the inmates of the poor-houses have been sent back to their villages, and those left are orphans or people unable to travel.

The number relieved by grain doles in the municipalities was 193, and the number so relieved in villages was 1,277.

Private charity in the form of doles was afforded to 132 against 639 in the previous month.

One hundred and forty-one village kitchens were open, including those within municipal areas.

All village relief, including "*khichri-khanas*," will be closed by the 21st November, 1900, when cotton picking will be almost in full swing, and there will be plenty of labour for all able-bodied persons who would be able to support themselves and their dependants. In the meanwhile the lists are being systematically cut down and relief stopped where necessary. The cotton crop in the district is about a month to six weeks behind time this year, which has necessitated the continuance of village relief and village works so long.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

All large relief works were closed before the end of the month under report. The number of village relief works in progress on the last day of the month under report was 17 against 24 in the preceding month. The number of workers on these works on the last day of the month was 1,260 against 4,220 shown in the previous return.

All village relief works were closed from 1st November, 1900, as there was no need for them.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Physical condition.—Fair and improving. The State kitchens are being closed wherever found feasible.

Death from starvation.—Nil.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The condition of the people is improving. Late sowings of jowari in the Chikhle and Mehkar taluqs required rain in the middle of October. No rain having fallen, the estimated outturn of jowari is now only 8 annas in the rupee in these two taluqs.

ELlichPUR DISTRICT.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—Only 20 persons were in receipt of relief from the private grain fund in the Daryapur taluq on the last Saturday of the month.

Village relief.—(a) *Kitchens.*—The number of kitchens has been reduced to 43 in the Ellichpur and 20 in the Daryapur taluq by the end of the month, and the number relieved on the last Saturday was 4,291, against 4,479 at the end of September. All kitchens were closed on the 3rd instant, and such of the recipients of food as still require relief are being given a dole of dry grain.

(b) *Doles.*—The number receiving relief was 783 against 466 in September.

Poor-houses.—The number of these institutions remained unchanged. There were 273 inmates against 188 in September. The total number on gratuitous relief was 5,347 against 5,133 at the end of the preceding month.

Relief works.—These will all be closed on the 31st October. The number on the last Saturday of the month was 614.

Physical condition of the people.—The condition of the people was decidedly improved. The fact that the numbers on relief have increased, instead of decreasing, during the past month, is due to prices having gone up owing to unfavourable reports of crops in other provinces, and to there being now little fieldwork available as the moisture in the soil has prevented the cotton from ripening as quickly as was expected in some parts. Cotton picking is now going on about Ellichpur and throughout the tract of country lying under the Melghat hills, and there will everywhere be a great demand for labour in two or three weeks. The jowari is backward in some parts, but the green heads ought to be fit to eat all over the district by the end of the month. It is confidently believed, therefore, that there will be no necessity for relief in any form after the close of the present month.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—Blight has appeared in the jowari in some parts, and the present estimate of the crop is not as high as at first. The rabi has mostly come up, but it wants a little rain, and as there does not seem to be much chance of rain now, the prospects of the crop are not very good. There is every hope, however, of a bumper cotton crop. On the whole, there is no cause of anxiety except in respect to the rabi, which, however, bears a smaller proportion to the total cultivation this year than is usually the case.

MELGHAT.

1. *General character of relief works.*—The plough cattle and seed for the rabi have been issued, and a few heavy bullocks for carters, some young stock, and some cows and bulls are now under issue.

2. *Physical condition of people.*—Thanks to the ripening of the early crops (sawan, kutki, &c.), and also to the wild grass seeds, the condition of the people is good. Grain from Government main godowns has been selling off at about Ellichpur rates, and some weeding advances in grain have been given out, but the demand was limited, which tends to prove that the people are getting on fairly on their own resources.

3. *Agricultural prospects.*—The damage to the kharif, referred to in last report, is still difficult to estimate, but, curious to say, crops on high lands have, it is said, in some parts suffered most. On the whole, there is a fair crop, but an accurate estimate of proportion to a full crop cannot

be given. Late kutki (dhawri and kali) is being harvested on the high lands. The prospects of the rabi are poor owing to the absence of timely showers, but seed sown in low moist grounds has germinated well. The issue of Charitable Relief Fund rabi* seed provided for about 1,300 acres being sown up.

4. *Closure of works and relief in general.*—Works have been closed down throughout the taluq as sketched out in the September report. Village relief centres will be closed by 31st October, a few impotents and lone children being sent to the poor-houses, whence they will be gradually sent to their homes or to orphanages. The people at village relief centres were given 14–40 days' rations on leaving. The poor-house people will be similarly dealt with, a few being given money doles from Charitable Relief Fund. It is anticipated the poor-houses will be clear by about the 15th November.

Ordinary forest works are now in progress in all the Reserves, affording ample work for any who cannot get field work in the Melghat or in Berar.

WUN DISTRICT.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief has been stopped. The poor-houses have also been stopped from 31st October, 1900, except two, one at headquarters and the other at Danoha.

Physical condition of the people.—Good.

Deaths (if any) from starvation.—Nil.

Food stocks.—Sufficient.

The crops are in good condition.

Famine relief works are not now required.

No. 116.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

Nil.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Private relief.—No private relief was given during the month under report as there was no need for it.

Village and poor-house relief.—All poor-houses, khichrikhanas, and gratuitous relief by village dole were closed from 17th November, 1900.

General character of relief works.—All relief works were closed from 1st November, 1900.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

BASIM DISTRICT.

No relief works are required at present for this district.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There is a great demand for labour in fields for cotton picking, and also for cutting of jowari in parts of the district.

Changes in rates of wages and other matters.—Wages are now paid in grain, cotton, &c., and are considered preferable to the money wage.

No works are necessary for the present.

ELlichpur DISTRICT.

All famine relief operations were brought to a close during the month. In the plain taluks kitchens were closed on the 3rd November, and those still requiring support were placed on the dole list till the 17th, when they were all dismissed to their homes with 10 days' valedictory dole in cash. On the same date the few paupers remaining in the poor-houses were sent home with 14 days' dole, except the feeble and sickly, who were transferred to the hospitals as in-patients.

There is now ample field labour available. The cotton crop is a bumper one in most parts of the plains, and women are earning 2 and 3 annas a day. The price of grain has gone down to 16 seers per rupee, and there is no longer any fear that any one will be unable to earn a living. The price of cotton is higher than usual, and the jowari crop is a good one; and the only drawback to the prosperity of the ryots lies in the fact that there is not enough moisture in the soil for the wheat, which will fail to a great extent if rain does not fall soon. The area under rabi is, however, smaller than usual, and the wheat crop is less important than it would be in ordinary years.

WUN DISTRICT.

Famine relief works are not now required.

No. 117.

REMARKS FOR FIVE WEEKS ENDING 29TH DECEMBER, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

The relief operations of all kinds in this district were closed on the 21st November, 1900.

The physical condition of the people was good, and no deaths from starvation were reported.

Food stock of grain was sufficient, and the condition and prospects of the affected areas were good. There was plenty of field labour, as cotton picking and cutting of *jowari* was in full swing. The average daily earnings of a woman amount to 4 annas and those of a man amount to 8 annas.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The general condition is good; the prospects are also decidedly good; the prices of food grains are falling.

BULDANA DISTRICT.

Private relief.—None, except some assistance from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund given under objects II. and IV. for orphans and weavers of Deulgaon Raja respectively.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole and poor-house relief were discontinued at the close of November, 1900.

Physical condition.—Generally improving.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Ample field labour was available. The cotton crop was a bumper one in the whole of the Malkapur Taluq and in parts of Chikhli and Mehker. The cotton commands a higher price than usual. *Jowari* was sold at 16 seers per rupee in the last week of December, 1900.

Changes in rates of wages and other matters.—Labourers are paid in kind owing to the harvest season, which is more advantageous to them than the usual cash wages.

No works are needed for the present.

MORTALITY IN DISTRICTS OF BULDANA AND BASIM.

No. 118.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 1088-F., dated Simla, the 26th May, 1900.

In acknowledging the receipt of the report on famine relief in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the month of April, 1900, which was forwarded under cover of the Commissioner's letter No. 597, dated the 14th May, I am directed to request that the Government of India may be furnished at an early date with information as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded during the past two months in the districts of Buldana and Basim.

2. I am to add that the submission of a map with the monthly report may be discontinued as long as there is no change in the area at present affected by famine.

No. 119.

Letter from W. E. Jardine, Esq., Secretary for Berar to the Honourable the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 283, dated Hyderabad Residency, the 5th July, 1900.

I am directed to refer to letter No. 1088, dated the 26th May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture requesting information as to the high rate of mortality recorded during the months of March and April in the districts of Buldana and Basim.

2. In reply, I am to forward a copy of the Commissioner's camp letter, No. 1107, dated the 26th June, 1900, and of its enclosures, which contain the information required by the Government of India. The Resident thinks, with Mr. Crawford, that the difference between the death-rate in these two districts and that in Akola may properly be attributed, as the Sanitary Commissioner so strongly insists, to the influx in large number of famine-stricken immigrants from Hyderabad territory.

Enclosure in No. 119.

Letter from the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, to the Secretary for Berar to the Honourable the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 1107, dated the 26th June, 1900.

I have the honour to refer to your endorsement No. 2131, dated the 4th instant, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1088-F., dated the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the high rates of mortality recorded during the months of March and April last in the Districts of Buldana and Basim.

2. There has been considerable correspondence about the death-rates in these districts, and I thought it desirable to obtain from each of the two Deputy Commissioners, and the Sanitary Commissioner, a fresh report, complete in itself, for submission to the Government of India. I now forward the replies I have

* No. 448, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

† No. 4957, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

received from the Sanitary* Commissioner and the Deputy † Commissioner of Basim. The Deputy Commissioner of Buldana is ill, and his reply may be delayed.

3. The death-rates in question (*per mille per mensem*) were as follows :—

District.	March.	April.
Buldana	9·0	7·1
Basim	6·2	9·6

It will be seen that the Sanitary Commissioner attributes the high mortality in both districts chiefly to "the enormous influx of emaciated and destitute people from His Highness's territory." In fact the Sanitary Commissioner enlarges on the opinion he expressed as to the cause of the high death-rate in February which was quoted in my letter No. 695-R, dated the 4th ultimo. The Deputy Commissioner of Basim refers, but less emphatically, to the same cause, and also mentions cholera and climate influences, especially in connection with young children.

4. I do not think there can be any doubt as to the fact that large numbers of destitute and famine-stricken people from Hyderabad territory have gone into the districts of Buldana and Basim. The famine area in the Hyderabad State, adjacent to Berar, is larger than that of Berar, and to judge by the numbers now on relief in Hyderabad, quite as severely affected. I do not wish to depreciate or criticise the relief measures which are now being carried on in Hyderabad territory under Mr. A. J. Dunlop, but it is well known that the commencement of such operations by His Highness the Nizam's Government was tardy and inadequate, as was reported to the Government of India by Sir T. C. Plowden in paragraph 10 of your office letter No. 73, dated the 14th February last. Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at if large numbers of destitute and starving people have found their way into the Buldana and Basim districts. And it must be remembered that for most people who have reached the stage of prolonged or chronic privation, recovery is hopeless, however ample the relief and careful the treatment they may then receive.

5. In May the Buldana death-rate fell to 5·5, but the Basim rate went up to a little over 12. The numbers on relief in Basim also increased greatly. It appears that the flow of immigration from Hyderabad has been diverted from Buldana to Basim. I may refer in this connection to the letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Basim which I forwarded with my endorsement No. 836-R., dated the 12th instant. I shall submit a further report with reference to the figures for May and June.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, to the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, No. 448, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

With reference to your camp endorsement No. 948 of June 11th, 1900, forwarding copy of extract paragraph 1 from letter No. 1088-F., dated May 26th, 1900, from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Resident, Hyderabad, and asking me for a report on the very high rate of mortality for the months of March and April in the districts of Buldana and Basim, I have the honour to report, for your information, that the very high mortality for March and April in the two districts named above, and which are contiguous to the territories of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, I am of opinion, from personal observation, that it is in a great measure, or I might say entirely, due to the enormous influx of emaciated and destitute people from his Highness's territory into these two districts.

2. I have seen large numbers, I may say some thousands, of emaciated and destitute people who had come across the border in Basim and Buldana, and the nearer that one went to the border of His Highness's territory, a larger number of emaciated people, who appear to have undergone great privation, were to be seen; and the further from the border fewer this number.

3. In the same manner the condition of the inmates of poor-houses and dependants in relief camps were far worse and in some of them wretched in the extreme, showing that they had undergone very great privation before coming on relief in those poor-houses and relief camps along the border, than those at a distance.

4. I am of opinion that if it was not for this vast influx of destitute people, from 30 to 40 per cent., into Buldana and Basim, and who have helped to increase the death-rate in these two districts, something like, I think, 30 and 40 per cent., the mortality in these two districts would not have been any higher than in Akola.

5. The famine in Akola was every bit as bad as in Buldana and Basim, if not worse. Relief works, poor-houses, &c., were just the same in the three districts and nothing to choose between them; yet in Akola one did not see the vast number of emaciated people that one saw in Buldana and Basim districts, worse nearer the border of His Highness's territory; nor was the condition of the dependants on relief works and inmates of poor-houses in Akola district anything like so emaciated and destitute as the dependants on relief works and poor-houses in Basim and Buldana, especially those situated near the border of His Highness's territory.

6. As I have said before, this very high rate of mortality in Buldana and Basim, in my opinion, was due to the influx of the destitute and emaciated from His Highness's territory into these two districts. If it was not for this influx, the mortality among the permanent population of these two districts would not have been any higher than that of Akola district, where there was little foreign influx.

Annexure II.

Letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Basim District, to the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, No. 4957, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your endorsement, Camp No. 947, dated the 11th June, 1900, forwarding an extract from paragraph 1 of the letter No. 1088-F., dated the 25th May, from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Resident at Hyderabad, calling for information as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded during the past two months, *i.e.*, March and April, in this district.

2. The death-rate during March, 1900, (per mille per mensem), was 6.2, and the cause of this high death-rate as reported in this office letter No. 2172, dated 9th April, is to some extent immigration from the Moglai, and the mortality among infants and children from one to five, and persons over sixty years of age. The large number of deaths among children is due, I believe, in a large measure to exposure, and the majority of these deaths were among children under two years of age. To reduce infant mortality on works, sickly infants were given milk, nursing mothers whose milk was failing were fed in kitchens. Medical officers in charge of works were directed to pay special attention to the aged and infirm, and to prescribe extra and special diet to all in need of it. Six per cent. of the population were being gratuitously relieved in March.

3. The rise in the death-rate for April, 1900, is due, as reported in this office letter No. 3826, dated the 24th May, to some extent to cholera. The total number of reported deaths from this disease during the month being 468. Cholera was in three relief camps during the week ending 21st April, and in eight camps during the week ending 28th April. Heavy rain at the end of the month may have increased the number of deaths, and Moglai immigration of emaciated persons also accounts for a good part of the rise. The heat was considerable, and raised the mortality, especially among children, there being 1,014 deaths from fever alone; dysentery and diarrhoea were prevalent, 1,122 deaths being returned from bowel complaints. Eight per cent. of the population were on gratuitous relief during April.

AJMER—MERWARA.

MONTHLY REPORTS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Famine Statements not printed.

No. 120.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2254-F., dated Abu, the 23rd May, 1900.

In continuation of Mr. Martindale's letter No. 1873-F., dated the 19th April, 1900, forwarding the March Famine Statements A and B for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of April, 1900, together with Commissioner's covering letter No. 1265, dated the 16th May, 1900.

Months.				Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August	1899	...	...	26,063	3,516	29,579
September	"	...	...	46,056	6,309	52,365
October	"	...	...	71,340	8,898	80,238
November	"	...	...	79,820	20,083	99,903
December	"	...	...	88,892	27,172	116,064
January	1900	...	...	74,119	22,580	96,699
February	"	...	...	69,851	33,890	103,741
March	"	...	...	77,747	31,259	109,006
April	"	...	...	87,521	34,899	122,420

2. The marginal table compares the numbers on relief for the last nine months. The figures for April are the highest on record and show an increase of 12 per cent. as compared with those of last month. The ratio of increase also has more than doubled during the month under report.

3. The increase has been entirely confined to the Ajmer district, as will be seen from the following table:—

Detail.	Class.	Ajmer.			Merwara.		
		March.	April.	Difference Per cent.	March.	April.	Difference Per cent.
Works	Class A	1,014	1,588	+ 56	1,852	1,981	+ 7
	„ B	3,944	7,297	+ 85	17,011	15,265	- 10
	„ C	8,784	16,658	+ 89	26,535	23,815	- 10
	„ D	2,315	5,682	+145	9,158	6,095	- 33
	„ E	3,659	5,589	+ 52	3,275	3,551	+ 8
	Total		19,716	36,814	+ 86	58,031	50,707	- 14
Gratuitous Relief.	Dependants (infants) ...	1,446	2,517	+ 74	6,931	5,950	- 14
	Poor-houses	983	1,368	+ 39	660	706	+ 7
	Kitchens	4,214	6,658	+ 58	10,058	10,160	+ 1
	Village doles, &c. ...	1,642	1,933	+ 17	5,325	5,607	+ 5
	Total		8,285	12,476	+ 50	22,974	22,423	- 2
Grand Total ...		28,001	49,290	+ 76	81,005	73,130	- 9

In column 2, I have followed the arrangement of Statement A, but the E class (adult dependants) more appropriately comes under the head of gratuitous relief. The chief increases in Ajmer have been amongst the diggers, carriers, working children and infants in arms, and the largest decreases in Merwara have been in the corresponding classes. But the transfer of Merwara labour cannot account for the whole of the increase in Ajmer; there must be other causes regarding which the Commissioner states an inquiry is being held. Pending the receipt of further particulars, it may be assumed that the striking increase in Ajmer is due to the growing distress, the conclusion of harvest operations, the recent increase in the wage scale, the transfer of Merwara labour, and the return of some of the emigrants who left the district in the autumn.

4. In Ajmer the satisfactory feature is that the gratuitous relief figures have not increased in the same ratio as those on works. If adult dependants are included in the gratuitous totals, the percentage of workers on units relieved was 57·5 in March, and rose to 63·5 in April. In Merwara, on the other hand, the percentage of workers on the total has fallen during April from 67·6 to 64·4.

5. From the remarks appended to Statements A (at H), the grain wage would appear to be the same all over both districts. But the rates of wage given in pice indicate that the 25 per cent. reduction is in force only in Merwara, and that the wage has been all over Ajmer and not only in part of the district as noted in Mr. Martindale's No. 1785-F., dated the 13th April, 1900, to your address. The cash rates of wage given in the body of the statement vary, but they are affected by the differences in the prices ruling in different tracts. It is unfortunate that, while the operations are being conducted according to the provisions of the North-Western Provinces Famine Code, the monthly statements prescribed by that Code have not been taken into use. The accompanying statements do not enable the expenditure of one month to be compared with that of any other. North-Western Provinces Form B-4 would supply the necessary statistics for this purpose.

6. The Assistant Commissioner of Ajmer describes the condition of the people as average, and the Merwara report gives it as fair. The Commissioner states that the death-rate in both districts is "terribly high," but the April figures are not yet available. Cholera has doubtless claimed many victims, and I have had occasion during the month to impress upon all the local officials the urgent necessity of disinfecting all sources of water-supply.

7. No detailed account has yet been furnished of the results of the recent harvest, and the reports this month do not allude to it. Prices, however, showed a tendency to rise, while at the same time the import trade has largely declined. It is not quite clear, therefore, what the Assistant Commissioner Merwara exactly means by saying that "the import and export of grain is (*sic*) carried on an extensive scale." In Ajmer the net imports have fallen by nearly 72 per cent., from 177,589 maunds in March to 49,928 maunds in April.

8. The reports are silent about the condition of the cattle, the approximate yield of rabi straw, the results of the experimental import of dried fodder from the North-Western Provinces and the sufficiency or otherwise of the water-supply. In a separate letter the Commissioner has reported that he does not agree with the medical authorities that the police have neglected their duty *quâ* famine.

No. 121.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2511-F., dated Abu, the 16th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2254-F., dated the 23rd May, 1900, enclosing the April famine statements A and B for the districts of Ajmer and

Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of May, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 1491-F., dated the 12th June, 1900.

2. The usual comparison of the numbers on relief since August 1899 is

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous Relief.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,690
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „	91,247	45,350	136,597

given in the margin. The numbers on works and gratuitous relief have increased by 12 per cent. during May. The increase in Ajmer has been slight. In Merwara it amounts to 20 per cent. The Ajmer figures do not agree with those reported for the closing week of the month under report, but may be assumed to be correct pending an answer to the Commissioner's enquiries.

The result of his enquiries as to the large increase in the numbers on the Ajmer works in April has not yet been communicated, nor has any explanation been given of the marked rise in May on the Merwara works, but the opening of Civil Agency works near the people's homes may be a contributing cause to the latter.

3. The following table shows the different proportions between the workers and the gratuitously relieved in the two districts :—

District.	On Works.			Gratuitously Relieved.						Grand Total : columns 2 and 9.
	Workers.	Dependants.		In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages, &c.	Total.	Total Non-workers : columns 3 and 8.		
		Actual.	Per cent. on Total on Works					Actual.	Per cent. on col. 11.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ...	32,137	7,577	19	1,778	6,810	961	9,549	17,126	34.7	49,263
Merwara ...	59,110	8,465	12	525	12,663	6,571	19,759	28,224	32.3	87,334
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	29,308	—	—	136,597

These figures bring out to a certain extent the varying character of the relief given in the two districts. The proportion of dependants (who are both adults and infants) paid in cash is high in Ajmer, while the number of persons fed in kitchens and relieved at their own homes is comparatively small. In both districts the ratio of non workers is distinctly high. There has been little change in the character of the relief-works in progress anywhere. In Ajmer some petty works have been opened under civil agency in the municipal and cantonment areas, but owing to want of establishment the Commissioner does not propose to extend these. In Merwara, on the other hand, works of this description have been started in rural areas, and if they prove successful will be gradually increased. The scale of wages on works has been separately discussed in my letter No. 2459-F., dated 12th June, 1900, to your address.

4. The numbers on gratuitous relief, excluding adult dependants, have increased by only 5 per cent. At present over one-quarter of the total population are on relief of one kind or another, and nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population are on purely gratuitous relief. In Ajmer the new poor-house at Deoli is mainly responsible for the large increase under this head. The figures under village doles and other charitable reliefs have fallen by more than one-half in the same district. This is somewhat difficult to account for, as with the approach of the rains a rise in this form of relief might have been looked for. In Merwara, although the number of women workers was largely increased, the figures for infants have fallen. As is but natural at this stage, persons fed in kitchens and relieved at their own homes have risen in number.

5. During the month the price of grain rose all over Ajmer-Merwara. The Commissioner reports that daily payments have come into force everywhere in Ajmer, but in Merwara they have not yet been generally introduced. This change of system must be beneficial, and the delay in its introduction, coupled with the difficulties experienced in controlling the grain sellers on the works, may in some measure have necessitated the high scale of wages approved of by Commissioner, as compared with the low scale obtaining in adjoining Native States where daily payments and a summary method of dealing with the bunnias have been found possible.

6. The chief feature of this month's famine history has been the cholera epidemic, regarding which the Commissioner promises a special report. The disease swept across from Jodhpur towards Mewar, increasing in virulence as it progressed, and the whole famine organisation was subjected to a severe strain. The Merwara works escaped lightly, but the works in the south-east of Ajmer felt the full force of the epidemic, and the officers mentioned by Mr. Tucker deserve great credit for the capable manner in which they dealt with the situation.

7. The condition of the people remains much the same, and, as in last month's report, may be said to vary from fair in Merwara to average in Ajmer. Cholera has grievously added to the death-rate, and from the Commissioner's remarks there would appear to have been some recrudescence of small-pox. The Assistant Commissioner of Merwara gives no details of the grain trade, but in Ajmer the net imports have more than doubled, although still only about one-third of the March total. The wells are running low in Beawar City and on some of the Ajmer works the water-supply is giving cause for anxiety. The Commissioner has kindly made satisfactory arrangements for the relief of returning emigrants, and gives, on the whole, a cheerful account of the persons who passed through to Merwar during the month. The Commissioner also reports that steps have been taken to insure the prompt issue of takavi loans and charitable grants. I suggested the adoption of special measures to ensure early payments and to prevent all risk of dishonest exactions by subordinate revenue officials, but Mr. Tucker considers that the ordinary district procedure will be sufficiently effectual.

No. 122.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2,867-F., dated Abu, the 18th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2,511-F., dated the 16th June, 1900, enclosing the May Famine Statements A and B for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of June, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 1,678-F., dated the 11th July, 1900.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief during the last eleven months. The number of workers, exclusive of the E class of adult dependants, has risen by over 5 per cent.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899 ...	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „ ...	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „ ...	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „ ...	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „ ...	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900 ...	74,119	22,580	96,699
February „ ...	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „ ...	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „ ...	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „ ...	91,247	45,350	136,597
June „ ...	96,006	50,380	146,386

The great majority of the workers on petty projects under civil agency are confined to Merwara. Even there, however, they form only 2 per cent. of the total. The general character of the relief works, road construction, metal collection and tanks was not changed during the month. Work was also continued on the Nasirabad - Kekri proposed railway line. The weekly and fortnightly reports show a decrease

in workers towards the end of June. The fluctuations during the month have been not inconsiderable, and the local officers have reported that the decline in numbers during the first week was partly due to the distribution of the charitable grants for the purchase of seed and cattle. The latest reports from Merwara show a satisfactory fall in the number of aliens on the works, although the Commissioner is apprehensive that the closing of work on the Mewar Section of the Baran-Marwar line may result in another rush of Mewaris on to the works in his district. Effectual measures have, however, I hope, been taken by the Darbar to prevent this.

3. The following table shows the different proportions between the workers and those gratuitously relieved separately for Ajmer and Merwara :—

District	On Works.				Gratuitously Relieved.					Grand Total.
	Workers.	Dependants.		In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages, &c.	Total, Columns 5-7.	Total Non-workers : Columns 3 and 8.		
		Actual.	Per Cent. on Total on Works					Actual.	Per Cent. on Col. 11.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ...	37,089	8,489	18.6	3,469	10,150	863	14,482	22,971	38.0	60,060
Merwara ...	58,917	9,177	13.4	613	11,438	6,181	18,232	27,409	31.7	86,326
Total ...	96,006	17,666	15.5	4,082	21,588	7,044	32,714	50,380	35.0	146,386

The proportion of dependants to the total number on works has fallen in Ajmer, but has risen in Merwara. As noticed by the Commissioner, the poor-house population in Ajmer has almost doubled. This is attributed partly to the increase in the number of returning emigrants (who are regularly relieved on the march) and partly to the large number of beggars who have gravitated to Ajmer. The numbers relieved in kitchens have increased considerably in Ajmer, but have fallen in Merwara. There has been little change in the number of people in receipt of doles at their own houses. In Ajmer the

percentage of non-workers to the total on relief has risen during the month from 34·7 to 38·0, while in Merwara it has remained steady. Over the whole district 34·0 per cent. of the people on relief do no work in return for their support. At the close of the month nearly 27 per cent. of the total population were in receipt of relief of one kind or another, and 9·2 per cent. received purely gratuitous relief as compared with 5·4 in the preceding month.

4. Distress became more acute during June, but no doubt cholera, which still lingers in Merwara, is partly responsible for the higher death-rate. The surviving cattle further deteriorated, as the small stores of bhusa secured at the rabi harvest became exhausted. The water-supply has held out better than was anticipated with the help of a few local showers. Grain prices showed a tendency to rise owing to the delay in the arrival of the monsoon. The import trade continued brisk, while the exports of hides have fallen off. The statements submitted and the Commissioner's review thereon contain no allusion to the distribution of takavi loans and charitable gifts for the purchase of seed and bullocks, although there is reason to think that these operations formed a distinct feature of the famine history of the month.

No. 123.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 3110-F., dated Abu, the 15th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2867-F., dated the 18th July, 1900, enclosing the June famine statements A. and B. for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of July, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter, No. 1836-F., dated the 9th August, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last twelve months are

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	1,16,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,690
February „	69,851	33,890	1,03,741
March „	77,747	31,259	1,09,006
April „	87,521	34,899	1,22,420
May „	91,247	45,350	1,36,597
June „	96,006	50,380	1,46,386
July „	61,187	41,712	1,02,899

brought together in the marginal table. The grand total of the numbers on relief given in paragraph 2 of the covering letter is only 102,610 as the Commissioner has evidently forgotten to include among the Ajmer workers, the 289 persons employed on petty works under Civil Agency. The numbers relieved by the Istim-rardars (3,806 works and 837 gratuitous) have not been included in the above totals. The

Ajmer statistics do not agree with those of the weekly relief statement for the period ending the 28th July, but are the same as those given in the fortnightly progress return as will be seen from the following table:—

Details.	Weekly Relief Statement.	Fortnightly Progress Return.	Monthly Relief Statement.
Workers	11,949	12,807	12,807
Dependants	2,541	2,566	2,566
Gratuitous lists	14,506	14,644	14,644
Total	28,996	30,017	30,017

In a recent communication the Commissioner reported that the figures in the fortnightly progress return are accurate. There is no discrepancy between the different periodical returns received from Merwara. In the latter District the Civil Agency works were closed altogether during the month, while in Ajmer they were greatly contracted.

3. Over the whole of Ajmer-Merwara the numbers on works have fallen by more than one-third, the total for July being lower than any recorded since September, 1899. But the decrease in Merwara (13 per cent.) is very slight compared with that in Ajmer (66 per cent.). As pointed out by Mr. Tucker, the famine has been less acute in Ajmer, and the people have not become so accustomed to the system of State relief.

The number of works in Ajmer was reduced by one. Metal consolidation on the roads has taken the place of metal collection. In Merwara there does not appear to have been any change in the character of the works. The Sunday wage has been abolished and the ordinary wages will probably be soon further reduced, at least in Merwara. I have suggested to the Commissioner, the advisability of encouraging the people to return to their fields by the introduction of one or other of several measures, such as a stiffening of the tasks, the intermediate system of payment, making a present of their tools to those who are willing to leave, and so on. The Commissioner has impressed upon all officers connected with famine relief the necessity for carefully watching the condition of the people in the villages until the crops ripen, so all risk will be avoided.

4. The numbers on gratuitous relief have fallen by 16 per cent. The poor-houses are the only branch which records an increase. This is most marked in Ajmer, and in the last fortnightly report is explained by the Commissioner as due to the large proportion of wanderers from Native States. Out of 3,400, the total in the four institutions during the last week in July, 1,967, or 57 per cent., are returned as aliens. These are now being gradually drafted back to their own States. One curious feature of the statistics this month is, that while the drop in the works' figures in Merwara is so slight in comparison with Ajmer, the gratuitous figures have fallen by only 11 per cent. in the former compared with nearly 25 per cent. in the latter. The following table shows the different proportions between the workers and those gratuitously relieved, separately, for Ajmer and Merwara:—

District.	On Works.			Gratuitously Relieved.						Grand Total.
	Workers.	Dependants.		In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages.	Total, Columns 5-7.	Total Non-workers: Columns 3 and 8.		
		Actual.	Per Cent. on Total on Works.					Actual.	Per Cent. on Col. 11.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ..	12,807	2,566	20.0	4,894	9,089	661	14,644	17,210	57.3	30,017
Merwara ...	48,380	8,606	17.7	899	11,340	3,657	15,896	24,502	33.6	72,882
Total ...	61,187	11,172	18.2	5,793	20,429	4,318	30,540	41,712	40.5	102,899

The proportion of dependants to the total number on works has risen slightly in both districts. In Ajmer the percentage of non-workers to the total on relief has risen during the month from 38 to 57, and in Merwara only from 31 to 33. This means that over the whole district two-fifths of the people do no work in return for their support.

5. The monsoon broke on the 8th July, and gave good rain over both districts, the heaviest falls being recorded in the south of Ajmer, and the lightest in the villages round about head-quarters. There was a break from the 14th to the 24th inclusive, during which the hot westerly winds returned and gave cause for apprehension. Since the 25th, however, there has been good general rain, and should the monsoon continue all cause for anxiety will have passed. The tanks are nearly full and the water level in the wells has risen. A sum of Rs. 2,34,162 was distributed in takavi loans as soon as the monsoon burst. The distribution from the charitable fund for the purchase of seed and cattle had been begun in Merwara shortly before. The arrangements for distribution appear to have been carefully made under the personal supervision of the Assistant Commissioner and Famine Officers. The only doubt in regard to this branch of relief operations is where the people are to find cattle to purchase or hire.

I am glad to see that the Commissioner in paragraph 9 of his letter states that the cattle which were taken away by their owners during the famine are coming back "in fair numbers," but in no part of the province have I yet heard of dealers or graziers bringing in animals for sale. Judging from the difficulties officers have had in buying cattle for Native States in May and June there would not appear to be many left in this part of India which their present owners are prepared to put into the market. The condition of the people is described as fair, but the death-rate is abnormally high. Prices show a slight tendency to fall, but they will not approach normal conditions until the kharif harvest is assured, and the rabi sowings have been completed. The export trade in hides continues to decline.

No. 124.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 3,306-F., dated Abu, the 15th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 3,110-F., dated the 15th August, 1900, enclosing the July famine statements, A. and B., for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of August, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 1,991-F., dated 12th September, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last thirteen months are brought together in the marginal table. The aggregate of workers has been obtained by adding the totals of column 11 in the famine statement of each

Months.	Works	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,699
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „	91,247	45,350	136,597
June „	96,006	50,380	146,386
July „	61,187	41,712	102,899
August „	37,036	31,367	68,403

district, excluding, however, the total of column 10 (adult dependants) in the Ajmer statement, as well as the total on Istimrari works. There has been a decrease of 24,151, or 39 per cent., in the number of persons on works, which is now the lowest on record for the past year. In paragraph 2 of the Commissioner's covering letter the decrease is shown to be 26,661. This discrepancy is partly due to errors in calculation in the Commissioner's letter, and partly to the confusing

system followed in compiling the statement which splits up dependants between "works" and "gratuitous" according as they are relieved by cash or in kitchens. The errors in calculation are two. First, as pointed out in last month's report, the Commissioner omitted to include among the Ajmer workers the 289 persons employed in July on petty works, whereas he has included the August total, 293, in the table in paragraph 2 of the appended report. At the same time, however, he has repeated in that report the incomplete total for July. Again, the total number of Merwara workers in July is given at 49,381, whereas the true total was 49,981, *vide* the correspondence forwarded with this office, No. 3,110-F., dated the 15th August, 1900. By the end of August all the works in Ajmer had been closed. In Merwara, however, where the decrease on works was under 29 per cent., there remained upwards of 35,000 workers, the majority of whom were women and children. The remarks at (c), on the back of the Merwara statement, point to no changes having occurred in the character of the works during the last four months, but the note is misleading. Metal collection has given place to metal consolidation on roads, and the doubling of the railway embankment also affords employment to a large number of people.

3. The figures for dependants are, as mentioned above, confusing. While Ajmer returns 82 adult dependants under class E, this column is blank in the Merwara statement, while last month the similar column showed 1,601. No explanation has been given of the change, although the fortnightly statements show a total of 4,181 persons in this class. The total of column 14, kitchens, in the Ajmer return does not agree with that submitted with the progress return for the fortnight ending on the same date, and the Executive Engineer has been asked for an explanation. In the meantime, however, if the figures in the marginal table above are accepted as correct, there has been a decrease in the gratuitous lists of nearly one quarter.

4. The table given in paragraph 2 of Commissioner's covering letter should, therefore, be amended as follows:—

District.	Month.	Workers.	Depen- dants.	Poor- houses.	Kitchens.	Village Doles, &c.	Total.
Ajmer ...	July ...	14,687	686	4,894	9,089	661	30,017
	August ...	1,547	72	2,528	6,630	1,003	11,780
	Difference + or -	-13,140	-614	-2,366	-2,459	+342	-18,237
Merwara ...	July ...	49,981	7,005	899	11,340	3,657	72,882
	August ...	35,571	5,251	827	11,585	3,389	56,623
	Difference + or -	-14,410	-1,754	-72	+245	-268	-16,259
Total ...	Difference + or -	-27,550	-2,368	-2,438	-2,214	+ 74	-34,496

The total number of relief units has thus fallen by 34,496, or 33½ per cent., and not by 34,147, as stated in the Commissioner's letter. The grand total is the lowest on record since September, 1899. The main facts brought out by these figures are the rapid contraction of works and the small fluctuations in the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief. The following table shows the

different proportions between the workers and non-workers separately for Ajmer and Merwara :—

District.	On Works.			Gratuitously Relieved.							Grand Total.
	Workers.	Dependants.		In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages.	Total, Columns 5-7.	Total Non-workers: Columns 3 to 8.			
		Actual.	Per Cent. on Total on Works					Actual.	Per Cent. on Col. 11.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Ajmer ...	1,465	154	9.6	2,528	6,630	1,003	10,161	10,315	87.5	11,780	
Merwara ...	35,571	5,251	12.8	827	11,585	3,389	15,801	21,052	37.1	56,623	
Total ...	37,036	5,405	12.7	3,355	18,215	4,392	25,962	31,367	45.8	68,403	

The proportion of dependants to workers has fallen everywhere. In Ajmer the percentage of non-workers is very high, owing to the closing of the works; and in Merwara it has risen from 33 to 37 per cent.

5. The Merwara people show a great disinclination to leave the works, and, as anticipated in last month's report, the wages have been lowered and discipline has been made more strict. The Commissioner reports that he has sanctioned the reintroduction of the ticket system. Although this has been done with a view to the exclusion of foreigners, I regret that it should have been thought necessary to adopt an expedient which puts into the hands of the patwaris an unjustifiable amount of power. One of the special famine officers has left the district, and the extra staff has been otherwise reduced. Even if the Assistant Commissioner and his assistants spend their whole time on tour checking the issue of tickets, there is certain to be no inconsiderable amount of fraud. The measures already suggested to the Commissioner are, I think, sufficient in themselves, if thoroughly carried out, to bring operations to a close. To make the patwari the original arbiter of distress, is to put him in a position which, to say the least of it, he has neither the judgment nor the moral strength to support. The Commissioner is being addressed on the subject.

6. Both districts received ample showers during the month. The arrears in kharif sowings were partly made up, and ploughings for the rabi have been carried on as vigorously as the limited resources of the people in the way of draught power allowed. Altogether the general agricultural outlook, hopeful as it was at the end of July, has undergone still further improvement. The Commissioner continues to report the gradual return of some of the cattle which left the district last year, but he is unable to give any estimate of their numbers. From inquiries made in Ajmer during my stay there, there is reason to think that the total will not go far towards helping out the situation. The condition of the people has improved, and the death-rate has fallen. Prices continue to fall slowly, but it will be some time before the market recovers its normal tone. The Commissioner reports that "large imports of grain have continued during the month" in Ajmer, but the following returns furnished to this office of rail-borne food-grains show that imports have considerably decreased :—

Month.	Exports.	Imports.	Net Imports.
July ...	20,075	163,395	143,320
August ...	7,098	28,989	21,891

This remarkable decline of 84 per cent. indicates that the local dealers have formed a favourable estimate of the outturn of the approaching harvest.

7. I have the honour to express my regret for the delay in the submission of the enclosed correspondence, but it was received only on the evening of the 13th September from Ajmer.

No. 125.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 3526-F., dated Abu, the 24th October, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3306-F., dated the 15th September, 1900, submitting the August monthly famine statements A. and B. for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of September, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 2099-F., dated 18th October, 1900.

2. The usual table of relief figures is given in the margin. There has been a decrease of 47,745, or nearly 70 per cent., in the numbers on relief

Months.	Works.	Gratis.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September "	46,056	6,309	52,365
October "	71,340	8,898	80,238
November "	79,820	20,083	99,903
December "	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,699
February "	69,851	33,890	103,741
March "	77,747	31,259	109,006
April "	87,521	34,899	122,420
May "	91,247	45,350	136,597
June "	96,006	50,380	146,386
July "	61,187	41,712	102,859
August "	37,036	31,367	68,403
September "	7,672	12,986	20,658

of all kinds in both districts, which is now the lowest recorded for the last fourteen months. In the Ajmer District all relief works were closed by the 29th September, with the exception of two Civil Agency works which the Commissioner reports remained open through a misunderstanding of the orders issued by him for their discontinuance. The number of persons on these works was, however, only 514. In Merwara the numbers on relief have fallen by 39,633, and all works

were closed on the 13th October. This little district has suffered from nearly two years' drought which has been very demoralizing to the inhabitants. The forthcoming kharif harvest is, however, promising, and the prospects of the rabi are also good.

3. The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair in both districts, but malarial fever, which, I regret to say, prevails to a serious extent just now throughout Rajputana, is causing considerable mortality.

4. Prices continue to fall, and grain imports are mostly re-exported into the neighbouring Native States. The present correspondence will close the series of reports that have been submitted to Government of India since November, 1898.

SCALE OF FAMINE WAGES.

No. 126.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2459-F., dated Abu, the 12th June, 1900.

In continuation of correspondence ending with Mr. Martindale's letter

1. From Famine Commissioner to Commissioner, Ajmer, No. 1831-F., dated 17th April, 1900.

2. From Commissioner to Chief Commissioner, No. 986-F., dated 18th April, 1900, and enclosures.

3. From Famine Commissioner to Commissioner, Ajmer, telegram No. 1886-F., dated 23rd April, 1900.

4. From Commissioner, Ajmer, to First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor General, No. 1144-F., dated 4th May, 1900, and enclosures.

5. From Superintending Engineer to Commissioner, Ajmer, No. 2564, dated 29th May, 1900.

6. From Commissioner, Ajmer, to Superintending Engineer, No. 1433-F., dated 1st June, 1900, and enclosures.

7. From Commissioner to Famine Commissioner, No. 1348-F., dated 26th May, 1900, and enclosures.

8. From Famine Commissioner to Commissioner, No. 2458-F., dated 12th June, 1900.

April, was therefore written under a misapprehension of the facts. As far as I can judge there has been no reduction of the code scale of wages in the Ajmer district during April and May, and although the reduction in Merwara has varied, it has rarely amounted to 25 per cent. Until, however, the report called for from the Commissioner is received it is impossible to state accurately what the wage scale is in either district.

No. 1785-F., dated the 13th April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the correspondence marginally noted regarding the scale of famine wages in Ajmer-Merwara. The reply of the Commissioner to the latest communication from this office will be submitted on receipt.

2. As far as can be gathered from the general terms in which the information is supplied by the Commissioner, the instructions conveyed by Mr. Martindale in his No. 1831-F. of 17th April were never carried out, although the Commissioner now admits that the labourers whose low physique led him to abolish the 25 per cent. reduction were recently arrived foreigners. The concluding sentence of paragraph 11 of Mr. Martindale's No. 1385-F., dated 13th

Enclosure 1 No. 126.

Letter from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1831-F., dated the 17th April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 870-F., dated the 4th April, 1900, in which you report that owing to deterioration of the physique of certain classes of labourers on the relief works in the Kekri circle of Ajmer since the reduction of the famine scale of wages by 25 per cent. was introduced, you had cancelled the 25 per cent. reduction not only in the Kekri circle, but throughout the whole of the Ajmer district, and had authorised the grant of the minimum wage on Sundays in both Ajmer and Merwara. You had also increased the number of civil kitchens in the Ajmer district.

2. It does not appear clear from the correspondence forwarded with your letter that the people who were previously in good condition had lost physique

* See page 487 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

since the reduced wage was introduced. On the contrary it seems probable that the foreigners and the women and children belonging to the men on the Thakurs' estates formed the majority of the sufferers. They had presumably come comparatively recently on to the khalsa works. The geographical position of the Kekri circle, which is readily accessible, not only to the villagers of the Ajmer Thakurates, but also to the destitute subjects of four adjacent Native States, is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, an important factor in considering the causes of the deterioration among some of the people on the Kekri works.

3. The Chief Commissioner, however, approves of the remedial orders you had issued in anticipation of your personal visit to the Kekri circle and your investigation of the facts reported. A further communication from you upon the subject, giving the results of your enquiry, is awaited.

4. It is understood that daily payments and the Sunday wage have been generally introduced throughout both districts. These orders have Mr. Martindale's cordial concurrence, but he is of opinion that where daily payments and a Sunday wage are given the 25 per cent. reduction on the North-Western Provinces scale should for the present be retained except perhaps in the Kekri circle unless the labourers there have already recovered physique.

5. It would be interesting to learn whether the regular Ajmer labourers, who have been some time on the works at Kekri and elsewhere, have deteriorated, or whether this falling off is generally confined to recent immigrants from Native States and istimrari villages.

6. In conclusion I am to say that the Chief Commissioner shares your views regarding the desirability of postponing the introduction of a minimum wage, and also your apprehension that the condition of the people on the works in the south-east of the Ajmer district has been inadequately watched and tardily reported. The arrangements for controlling the operations of the grain dealers on the works appear to have been defective.

Enclosure 2 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 986-F., dated the 18th April, 1900.

In continuation of correspondence ending with my letter No. 870-F., dated the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I returned from a tour of inspection over the Kekri circle works on the 16th instant.

2. The measures described in my letter cited above and in its enclosures have been successful in great measure, and the condition of the labourers is not unsatisfactory as a whole. The famine hospitals are largely attended and contain many weakly children who are on special diet.

3. The price of grain reported on these works being now 11 seers, I have restored the wage to that allowed on the 11 seer rate, giving however to the C class the wage allowed for diggers-women. The working women still largely outnumber the diggers and are not employed solely on carrying work and deserve special treatment which it would not be prudent to withdraw. Full tasks are now being generally performed and the reduction of the number of the gangs to 60, and the placing of many of the very numerous E class in special gangs will further improve the administration of the works and tend to prevent deterioration in condition.

Enclosure 3 in No. 126.

Telegram from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1886-F., dated 23rd April, 1900.

Your No. 986-F. of 18th April, paragraph 3. Chief Commissioner presumes adoption of 11 seer rate and raising of C class wage are confined to Kekri circle. Please note on this in your reply to my 1831-F. of 17th April and also give wage basis and scale of wages now actually drawn in the various relief circles.

Enclosure 4 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1144-F., dated 4th May, 1900.

I have the honour to reply to your letter No. 1311-F., dated the 17th March, 1900, the delay in the disposal of which I regret.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter under disposal I enclose copies of letters Nos. 2398, dated the 23rd ultimo, from the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division, and 1538, dated the 2nd April, from the Executive Engineer, Merwara Division, with the Assistant Commissioner's endorsement No. 257-F., dated April 6th. The officers who are in direct charge of and in touch with our works are all of opinion that our tasks are ample and cannot be increased. I agree entirely with them. The correspondence regarding the recent loss of condition among the workers in the Kekri circle will be found to further confirm the conclusion. I do not think that the fact that larger tasks are prescribed in the North-Western Provinces affects the question; local problems must be solved locally. The North-Western Provinces labourer may be, and probably is, a man of better physique than the people here, and he may be a more intelligent workman—the scale of wages points to this last conclusion. Our people are far from intelligent and very inert.

3. With regard to your paragraph 4, I would observe that there was no raising of the children's wage by two chittacks in October, 1899. The children before October were children between 8 and 12 years, and their wage was eight chittacks. In October children between 10 and 14 on the works received 10 chittacks. But that is not an increase of wage for the same children; the age was raised.

4. With reference to your paragraph 5, I have the honour to say that the figures therein referred to were taken from the figures on the last day of the month in question. A tabular statement is supplied accordingly.

Annexure I.

Number of Persons in Receipt of Relief in Ajmer-Merwara between October, 1899, and January, 1900.

Month.	Number on Last Day of the Month.								Grand Total of columns 4, 8 and 9.	Population of District.	
	On Works.			Gratuitous Relief.				Miscellaneous.		Actual.	Percentage of columns 10 and 11.
	Workers.	Dependants.	Total.	In Village.	In Kitchens.	In Poor-houses.	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Ajmer.</i>											
October, 1899	24,115	361	24,476	350	—	153	503	1,018	25,997	422,359	6·1
November, 1899	21,541	1,358	22,899	347	3,554	309	4,210	624	27,733	—	6·5
December, 1899	31,266	2,011	33,277	417	6,775	937	8,129	889	42,295	—	10·01
January, 1900	14,976	1,063	16,039	487	7,342	1,243	9,072	852	25,963	—	6·1
<i>Merwara.</i>											
October, 1899	47,225	4,386	51,611	1,810	3,341	—	5,151	—	56,762	119,999	47·3
November, 1899	56,279	4,897	61,176	2,839	6,154	—	8,993	—	70,169	—	58·4
December, 1899	53,626	4,835	58,461	4,410	8,631	—	13,041	—	71,502	—	59·5
January, 1900	54,343	5,901	60,244	4,353	8,303	—	12,656	—	72,900	—	60·7

Annexure II.

Letter from the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 2398, dated 23rd April, 1900.

In reply to your endorsement No. 711-F. of 19th March, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that I consulted the Assistant Commissioner with reference to the tasks in force on relief works in this division, and he says :—

“The tasks are light for diggers in good condition, but I do not think it would be prudent to increase them so long as physique remains as at present.”

2. Personally I am still of opinion that the tasks exacted are sufficient, and the statements given below for the weeks ending 17th March, 1900, and 14th April, 1900, are, I consider, proof of this.

Week ending 17th March, 1900.

	Gangs Fined for Short Work.		Percentage.
<i>Ajmer Subdivision</i>			
Total number of gangs employed ...	775	84	10
Of this Untra supplied	378	63	16
<i>Nasirabad Subdivision.</i>			
Total gangs	884	392	44
Of this Kekri-Sawar Road supplied ...	280	99	35
Nasirabad-Kekri Railway	328	219	66

Week ending 14th April, 1900.

	Gangs Fined for Short Work.		Percentage.
<i>Ajmer Subdivision.</i>			
Total gangs	1,091	203	19
Of this Untra Subdivision supplied ...	354	65	19
<i>Nasirabad Subdivision.</i>			
Total gangs	1,665	484	29
Kekri-Sawar Road	589	134	23
Nasirabad-Kekri Railway	572	159	28

Annexure III.

Letter from the Executive Engineer, Merwara Special Division, to the Assistant Commissioner, Merwara, No. 1538, dated 2nd April, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of No. 712 of the 19th ultimo, from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, forwarding copy of paragraph 2 from the 1st Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General's letter, dated 16th March, 1900, to his address, and asking me to report, in consultation with you, whether it is not possible to revise the scale of task fixed for the famine labour of this district.

2. I have consulted my subdivisional officers at Beawar, Todgarh, and Makrera, and they are all unanimous in saying that no increase in the task can be effected, in which opinion I entirely agree.

No. 257-F., dated 6th April, 1900, endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, Merwara.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, for information, saying that the Assistant Commissioner, Merwara, agrees with the opinion of the Executive Engineer, Merwara Special Division.

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Month.	Number on Last Day of the Month.									Population of District.	
	On Works.			Gratuitous Relief.				Miscellaneous.	Grand Total of columns 4, 8 and 9.	Actual.	Percentage of columns 10 and 11.
	Workers.	Dependants.	Total.	In Village.	In Kitchens.	In Poor-houses.	Total.				
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Enclosure 5 in No. 126.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, in the Public Works Department, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 2564-S., dated 29th May, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 1285-F. of the 17th May, 1900, and in reference to its accompaniment, letter No. 2343, dated the 11th idem, from the Executive Engineer, Merwara Special Division, on the subject of the calculation of famine wages, I am desired to reply as follows:—

2. It is noted that a reduction of 25 per cent. in the wages is in force. The Executive Engineer's method of calculating this reduction may be correct, but works out wrongly in its results. The attached tabular statement, No. I., compares the Executive Engineer's figures, as entered in his letter, with the correct ones as worked out here.

3. From the statement it would be seen that Executive Engineer's figures are too high almost in all cases, due to his not having taken the next higher figures for values involving $\frac{1}{2}$ seer and over.

4. I am to point out that as the results of his mistake a larger sum is being paid in wages than the people are entitled to, and that the Government thereby suffers for a considerable loss. For instance, taking the figures in the D-III. return of week ending 28th April, the results work out as in attached tabular statement (No. II.), showing a possible excess in one work of Rs. 3,455, equivalent to Rs. 14,820 per mensem.

5. I am, therefore, to request that in future the method prescribed by the Famine Commission, paragraph 459, page 276, of their report may be strictly adhered to in calculating a 25 per cent. wage reduction, and that the Executive Engineer may be instructed to observe the correct wage rate as soon as possible. Both Executive Engineers are being addressed separately by the Superintending Engineer on this subject.

Annexure 1.

No. I.

Actual Prices of Grain.	Reduced Prices.		Wages of Different Classes in Pice.						Remarks.
	Less 25 per cent.	Resulting Price for Fixing Wages.	B—19 chittaks.		C—14 chittaks.		D—10 chittaks.		
			By North-Western Provinces Code.	By Executive Engineer.	By North-Western Provinces Code.	By Executive Engineer.	By North-Western Provinces Code.	By Executive Engineer.	
11 seers ...	+ 2.75	13.75 (14 taken.)	5	6	4	4	3	3	With half seer or more the next highest number should be taken.
10 seers ...	+ 2.5	12.5 (13 taken.)	6	6	4	5	3	3	
8½ seers ...	+ 2.1	10.6 (11 taken.)	7	8	5	6	4	4	

No. II.

Class.	Makrera = 11 seers. Reduced Wage = 14.				Beawar Subdivision = 10 seers. Reduced Wage = 13.				Todgarh Subdivision = 8½ seers. Reduced Wage = 11.				Total Amount.		Remarks.			
	Total Number of Units for the Week.	Correct Wages.		Executive Engineer's Wages on 13 seers.		Total of Units for the Week.	Correct Wages.		Executive Engineer's Wages on 12 seers.		Total of Units for the Week.	Correct Wages.		Executive Engineer's Wages on 10 seers.		Correct Wages.	Executive Engineer's Wages.	
		Wage in Pice.	Amount.	Wage in Pice.	Amount.		Wage in Pice.	Amount.	Wage in Pice.	Amount.		Wage in Pice.	Amount.	Wage in Pice.				Amount.
B includes A ...	22,005	5	Rs. 1,719	6	Rs. 2,063	44,883	6	Rs. 4,208	6	Rs. 4,208	57,770	7	Rs. 6,319	8	Rs. 7,221	12,246	13,492	
C ...	28,829	4	1,802	4	1,802	67,207	4	4,200	5	5,250	74,210	5	5,798	6	6,957	11,800	14,009	
D ...	10,526	3	493	3	493	17,573	3	824	3	824	17,420	4	1,089	4	1,089	2,406	2,406	
	—	—	4,014	—	4,358	—	—	9,232	—	10,282	—	—	13,206	—	15,267	26,452	29,907	
																		Excess paid during week = 3,455 × 4 = 14,820 per month.

Enclosure 6 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, in the Public Works Department, No. 1433-F., dated 1st June, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2564-S., dated the 29th May, 1900.

2. I am afraid that I have not made myself clear on the matter of wages. We did introduce a reduction of 25 per cent. or thereabouts last February. But it is not absolutely correct to say that a reduction of 25 per cent. is in force. Prices on given works vary from time to time, and there is no precise and constant proportion of reduction. I have divided the Merwara district into three wage-groups, and the Ajmer district into two. In these we pay at present wages on the 13, 12, and 10 seer scale, respectively, in Merwara, and on the 12 and 10 seer scale in Ajmer. The wages given are those given on page 136 of the North-Western Provinces Code (revised edition of September, 1899); the grain equivalents fixed under that code include all our classes.

3. The effect of the wages is under constant watch and attention. The condition of the workers has to be watched as well as the course of prices. In one wage-group (the Kekri circle) there has been considerable correspondence on this subject with the Famine Commissioner, and on these works I am now giving the full wage (the 10 seer wage) which means practically that there is no reduction at all. As I understand your letter I should apply the 13 seer wage to these works, and this is a course which would be adverse to the opinion of every officer who has recently visited those works, including myself. In my opinion the adoption of that course would be most unfortunate. Again, were the scale given in Enclosure 1 to your letter to be adopted in Todgarh, where for month after month the condition of the labourers has been reported to be indifferent, I think that a result of a similar kind has to be anticipated. I may explain that I have constantly been called on to check a tendency to increase wages recommended by the district and departmental officers, and on one occasion incurred a considerable responsibility in resisting pressure (rightly as it proved) of a peculiarly strong kind.

4. There is no immutable law of 25 per cent. reduction. A large margin of discretion is allowed in either direction under the rule (section 105-A. North-Western Provinces Code). I have declared the prices on which wages are to be calculated, and these prices have been reported to the Chief Commissioner. The Executive Engineers have not fixed the scales of wages; these have been fixed, or rather applied, by me. The Executive Engineers have little responsibility in the matter if they have followed my instructions, and I have no reason for thinking that they have done otherwise. There has been, I think, no loss to Government under the wages as fixed by me. On the other hand, I think that, especially in Merwara where inspection is inadequate, there would be a great danger of considerable loss if the Executive Engineers fixed their own wages on the different works, even within the limits that your letter prescribes. The works have been grouped with reference to prices and wages as accurately and suitably as is practicable, and the reductions now taken are as much as the people can bear.

5. I have the honour to request that these papers may be placed before the Chief Commissioner in the Famine Department, and that I may receive further instructions. The purport of the communication made to the Executive Engineers by the Superintending Engineer, referred to in your letter under reply, has not been conveyed to me. As the regulation of wages is a matter specially within the Commissioner's province, subject of course to the Chief Commissioner's instructions, I assume that the Executive Engineers have been instructed not to modify the wages now given without a reference to me, and I have so instructed them.

It will, I think, be inconvenient if instructions as to wages issue through more than one channel. I am afraid that if the Executive Engineers apply the scales quoted in the enclosure to your letter, there will be not only a good deal of confusion, but that (as I have stated elsewhere) the results are likely to be most unfortunate. If people are driven off the works by low wages at the end of the famine, I think it not likely that wandering will largely set in, necessarily followed by starvation cases, and that the peace of the country will be seriously disturbed. The question is one of vital importance to which I invite the earliest attention. It seems to me that the provisions of article 459 of the Famine Commission Report have been followed in this matter. They are embodied in the sections of the code already referred to. My recommendation is that for the reasons which have been adduced in this letter, the rates of wages therein quoted may continue to be given, and that the instructions contained in your letter under reply may be withdrawn.

7. Colonel Wyllie will, I am sure, understand that this recommendation is prompted solely by the wish to place before him the considerations on which the wages at present existing are fixed. If it be his wish that the wages be lowered, every effort will be made to carry his wish to a successful issue. I have not had time to make a reference on your letter to the various district officers, but I believe I am right in saying that every one of them would be opposed to a further cutting down.

Enclosure 7 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 1358-F., dated the 26th May, 1900.

I have the honour to refer to your letter, No. 1831-F., dated the 17th ultimo, on the subject of the condition of the works in the Kekri circle, and in this connection to enclose copy of letter No. 18125-F., dated the 18th instant, addressed to me by the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division. I believe that the opinions expressed by Mr. Manners Smith, and endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, are substantially correct.

2. I have the honour to report further that in the second week of May a serious outbreak of cholera in an epidemic form broke out on these works. Mr. Manners Smith, with Mr. Peacock, Special Famine Officer, reached the works when the epidemic was raging; they were followed shortly by Captain Black, the Famine Medical Officer, and the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Edwards. The works were disorganised: some of the officials had been attacked by the disease, and there had been many deaths among the labourers and in the villages in that part of the country. A number of the labourers had left the works in the panic. In the temporary disorganisation and scare the prompt burial of the dead had been, I have been informed, not always carried out. The measures taken by the officers named have restored confidence, and the epidemic has subsided, though until quite recently cholera has been interfering with the Nek Chal work at Deoli.

3. The price of grain at Kekri having risen to, approximately, 10 seers, and the price on the works in the circle being 9 seers or thereabouts, I have thought it right, having regard to this fact and the circumstances above reported, to increase the Kekri circle wage to that given on the 10 seer scale. The rest of the works in Ajmer are, for the present, on the 12 seer scale, but it may be necessary to place some of them on the 11 seer scale. A distribution of clothes and of medical comforts from the Charitable Relief Fund is in progress.

Annexure 1.

Letter from the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 3125, dated the 18th May, 1900.

In reply to your endorsement No. 1082-F. of 27th April, 1900, I have the honour to inform you—

- (a) I consider that the majority of the sufferers on the Kekri-Sawar Road were nearly all persons who had arrived comparatively recently, in miserable condition, from the neighbouring native states and istimrari villages. They were not in consequence able to carry out the ordinary tasks, and consequently failed to earn the ordinary wage which at the time was at the 25 per cent. reduced scale. The difference in the appearance of the labourers on this work a month later when they had only been given a very light task and higher wage was remarkable. The tasks were then raised again to those in force elsewhere in the Ajmer district.
 - (b.) Although daily payments are in force, I do not recommend a reduction in wage below the current rate of cheapest grain on the work.
 - (c.) I consider that the regular labourers on Ajmer works are, as a rule, in excellent condition and nearly all carry out the tasks fixed in full.
2. The Assistant Commissioner whom I have consulted writes that he agrees with the opinion expressed by me.

Enclosure 8 in No. 126.

Letter from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 2458-F., dated the 12th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 1358-F. and 1433-F., dated the 26th May and 1st June respectively. The latter has been transferred to me from the Superintending Engineer's office as it is more convenient to deal with the subject of wages in one set of correspondence.

2. Your telegram No. 304-F., dated 9th February, announced that orders had been issued for the code scale of famine wages in both districts to be reduced by 25 per cent. This reduction appears to have been in force everywhere up to the 12th of March, when it was abolished in the Kekri circle only. The next step taken, it is understood, was to abolish the reduction in the remaining circles of the Ajmer district as reported in paragraph 5 of your letter No. 870-F., dated the 4th April. Since then, no change in the scale of wages, except such as may have been necessitated by fluctuations in the price of grain, appears to have been effected either in Ajmer or Merwara.

3. In this office No. 1831-F., dated 17th April, 1900, Mr. Martindale pointed out that it was probable that the labourers whose low physique on the Kekri circle relief-works had led you to raise the wage were newly arrived aliens, and he directed that as the Sunday wage and daily payments had been introduced, the 25 per cent. reduction in wage should be everywhere retained except in the Kekri circle. It was also remarked that the arrangements for controlling the grain dealers appeared to have been defective.

4. In the first of your two letters under reply you endorse the opinion of the Executive Engineer and Assistant Commissioner that the majority of the people whose condition led you to abolish the 25 per cent. reduction in the Kekri circle had recently arrived from foreign territory. In paragraph 3 you explain that the wages in the Kekri circle are now on the 10 seer scale and over the rest of the Ajmer circle on the 12 seer scale. The officiating Chief Commissioner cannot clearly understand from this whether the 25 per cent. reduction is still in force in Ajmer with the exception of the Kekri circle, and I am to request that you will kindly enlighten him.

5. The group system of works appears to have been introduced in the beginning of March and the instructions regarding it are contained in the enclosure to your No. 460-F., dated 1st March, 1900. Colonel Wyllie understands that since that date the scale of wages described in that correspondence has prevailed, and that the wages have not been calculated by the officers in charge under the supervision of the executive engineers from time to time according to the market price of grain duly notified to them as is contemplated by the North-Western Provinces Code. At the same time paragraph 5 of your instructions quoted above would appear to give the Executive Engineer, Merwara, power to make any "requisite alteration in consultation with the Assistant Commissioner." I am to explain that it was under the impression that the Executive Engineer had such power that Superintendent Engineer's No. 2564 was written.

6. In paragraph 2 of your letter of 1st June, you state that the grouping of works is arranged with reference to prices. I am now directed to ask that you will be so good as to furnish details as to the works in each group, the prices prevailing in the nearest markets or on the works and the weight of grain each separate wage will buy. This information, which has already been called for by Mr. Martindale in this office telegram No. 1886-F., dated 23rd April, but has not yet been furnished, is necessary to enable the Chief Commissioner to follow intelligently the course of the famine policy in Ajmer-Merwara and to justify to the Government of India by facts the expenditure of so large a sum of money as is being spent on famine relief. Until the receipt of your letter of the first of June, Colonel Wyllie understood that the scale of wages in all parts of your jurisdiction except the Kekri circle was 25 per cent. below that warranted by market rates, and Mr. Martindale reported in this sense to the Government of India as long ago as 17th April.

7. It was on the understanding that the 25 per cent. reduction rule was in force over the greater part of Ajmer-Merwara that Superintendent Engineer's letter of the 29th May was written. The sole object of that letter, I am to explain, was to point out, what the Chief Commissioner believed to be, certain errors in the method of calculating the reduction. The question of the sufficiency or otherwise of the wages given was not alluded to. Colonel Wyllie is quite prepared on due evidence being shown to agree with you and your officers that the wages are as low as the people can bear. He fully concurs with you that the 25 per cent. rule is not immutable and that a large margin of discretion is allowed to you in either direction. All that he wishes to ensure is that whatever variation above or below the normal code scale may be determined on, it should be calculated in the prescribed way and reported for information. Otherwise it becomes impossible either for the local administration or for the Government of India to have an accurate idea of the measure of relief given to the people. If the fortnightly statements contained an exact note of the disbursements on account of the wages of each separate class, it might be possible by a reference to the returns of fluctuations in prices to determine approximately, the relation of the wages to the market grain rates. But as pointed out in this office No. 2321-F., dated 29th May, 1900, that source of information is not yet available.

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR 1901-2.

No. 127.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4060 S., dated Mount Abu, 25th October, 1901.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a telegram, dated 24th October, 1901, from the Commissioner,

Ajmer-Merwara, applying for an allotment of funds under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

2. The unfavourable agricultural outlook in Ajmer-Merwara has already been reported to Government of India, whilst the Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara now estimates that the irrigated kharif crop in both districts will yield something under 8 anna in the rupee, and that the unirrigated crops will yield almost nothing; but until detailed information is received as to the proportion to the normal of the irrigated and unirrigated areas to which the above estimate has been applied, and the precise localities in which the failure of the kharif harvest has amounted to a total loss, it is impossible to say how soon and to what extent relief measures will be required.

3. Although no signs of distress have so far been reported to exist, it cannot be doubted that the large defect in the average rainfall of the years will have the serious effect of limiting irrigation to a very large extent, and thus this fact, combined with the almost total failure of the kharif cereal crops over the unirrigated area in the two districts, will eventually result in distress of a more or less pronounced type in those villages which are not protected by a strong well system of irrigation. Detailed reports on the above points have already been asked for from the Commissioner, and it is expected will be received very shortly now that the autumn "Girdawari" or assessment of standing crops is approaching completion. The precise forms of relief that will be required to meet any symptoms of distress as they develop can then be determined in accordance with the most recent orders of Government on this subject.

4. Meanwhile, to aid the agricultural population until the above more important measures are sanctioned, the question of granting takavi advances has been under the consideration of the local authorities, with the result, as will be seen from the Commissioner's telegram, that it is considered that the sum of Rs. 1,30,000 may usefully be applied under the two Acts in force for advances to cultivators in those areas in which they can be profitably utilised for the extension of well irrigation. Whilst urgent sanction for Rs. 50,000 to meet immediate requirements is now solicited.

5. The Honourable the Officiating Chief Commissioner supports this application pending the receipt of the further report and detailed estimates which have been promised by the Commissioner. I am, therefore, to request that the Government of India will be pleased to communicate by telegram their sanction to a preliminary allotment of Rs. 50,000 inclusive of the normal grant of Rs. 15,000 for distribution in both districts under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

Enclosure in No. 127.

Telegram from the Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, dated 24th October, 1901.

Please refer end of my weekly report No. 5059, Famine, dated 10th October. I estimate that as matters stand at present without more rain we may usefully give out one lakh thirty thousand under the two Acts. Solicit urgent sanction to preliminary grant of fifty thousand. Detailed estimates will follow.

No. 128.

Telegram from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, No. 3910, dated Simla, the 1st November, 1901.

Your letter No. 4060 of 25th ultimo to Foreign Department. Government of India agree to grant for takavi advances in Ajmer-Merwara during current

year being increased to Rs. 50,000 on understanding that proper precautions will be taken that takavi is usefully applied.

No. 129.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4322 S., dated Mount Abu, the 5th November, 1901.

Unfavourable Agricultural Outlook in Ajmer-Merwara.

In continuation of this office letter No. 4060 S., dated 25th October, 1901, on the subject of the unfavourable agricultural outlook in Ajmer-Merwara, and with reference to this office No. 3620 S., dated 3rd October,* I am directed to address you as follows.

2. *Ad interim* report.—The Commissioner's detailed report of kharif out-turn, probable rabi sowings, and particulars of areas where the kharif crop has totally failed, is expected to reach this office on November 18th, and the information contained will be at once communicated to you on receipt. In the meantime I am to submit the following *ad interim* report giving such information as is already to hand.

3. *Rainfall*.—The Government of India are aware from the weather and crop telegrams that the rainfall in Ajmer-Merwara has been largely in defect as compared with the normal. The following table gives month by month, from 1st June to end of October, 1901, the actual rainfall in Ajmer with the average for each month :—

—						In 1901.	Average.
						Inches.	Inches.
June	...	...	...	...	...	1·11	2·22
July	...	...	...	...	...	5·32	7·29
August	...	...	...	...	...	4·69	7·97
September	...	...	...	...	...	0·25	2·53
October	...	...	...	...	..	0·60	0·29

4. *Extent of Crop Failure*.—The usefulness of such rain as fell was qualified by the unseasonableness of the falls and by the sudden cessation of the monsoon at the end of August. As the result of this capricious rainfall and of the ravages of locusts, rats, and a species of field cricket, locally known as "pharka," the kharif food-grain crops on the unirrigated lands in both districts have to a large extent failed, though tilli, cotton and hemp have done better than the other food-grains, and the result is a 4-anna out-turn on the whole, while the irrigated area which, for want of rain, is less than usual has given all round an 8-anna crop, which amounts to about a 7-anna crop on the normal irrigated area.

5. *Effect of Recent Rainfall*.—The fall of rain which occurred at the end of October, 1901, averaged 60 cents for the two districts, and in some places

* Forecast for Rajputana—see Vol. II., page 392.

where it amounted to about one inch and a half the water-supply in the wells was slightly improved. These late showers have also facilitated rabi ploughings in the beds of tanks, but the Commissioner reports that their effects on cotton, where in flower, and on the grass crops, have been more injurious than beneficial. As this late rainfall has not been sufficient to benefit the wells generally, the rabi cultivation will be necessarily limited in area. In Merwara, where the water-level in the wells is lower than in Ajmer, and in Ajmer, where the circumstances are favourable, wells are being deepened, and doubtless some good results will follow, but the Commissioner has no great hopes of any material expansion of the rabi cultivation by this means, as the circumstances are not altogether opportune for deepening wells at this season, when "sowing watering" has to go on at the same time.

6. *Estimates of Out-turn.*—The out-turn of the recent kharif is estimated at 70,000 maunds in the Khalsa portion of the Ajmer district with a population of 77,631, so that it may be assumed that there is in this quantity a supply for two to three months. Although figures for the Jagir and Istimrari estates which occupy over three-fifths of the Ajmer district have not been supplied (nor would such figures be easily available), there appears to be no reason to believe that the position of those estates is worse than that of the Khalsa area.

7. In the Merwara district the out-turn is reported to be about 95,500 maunds, which would last for $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ months for the 87,422 people in the district.

8. *Food Stock.*—No account can be taken of the previous year's surplus. The absence of such accumulations is sufficiently accounted for by the previous history of the districts which have passed through a series of indifferent seasons culminating in the scarcity of 1898-1899 and the famine of 1899-1900. The poorer class of cultivators are said to have suffered in their credit with the village bohra, and it is obvious that the resisting power of the people cannot have been much strengthened by one year's favourable harvest.

9. *Prices.*—The local trade may be relied on, as in former times of adversity, for maintaining and distributing the required supply of food-stocks. There seems also no reason to apprehend that the prices will rise to the level which they attained in 1899-1900, as the general level of prices depends more on the state of the harvests in the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces than on local conditions. Prices in Ajmer quoted for week ending the 26th October, 1901, are compared with those ruling in the middle of February and May, 1901, in the following table:—

		15th February, 1901.	15th May, 1901.	26th October, 1901.
Maize	... ..	22·8	17·8	16·2
Barley	... ..	15·8	18·0	15·8
Gram	... ..	10·10	17·2	15·8
Jowar	... ..	22·6	18·8	15·0

Prices have fluctuated slightly of late, but in the absence of the statistics showing the movements of food-grains no useful conclusions can be drawn on the subject further than that the present rates of grains are sufficiently high, in the existing conditions, to mark the beginning of pressure on the agricultural classes which form the bulk of the population of these districts.

10. *Cattle, Fodder Supply, &c.*—The Commissioner who has been touring in the district of Ajmer reports that kharif cuttings are nearly complete, and that rabi ploughings and in some places sowings have commenced. The condition of

the agricultural live-stock is good, and the fodder-supply promises to be sufficient. The Commissioner reports that in his recent tours, which have now extended over a considerable portion of the Ajmer district, he has not seen any signs of distress. But at the same time he has taken measures calculated to meet any future developments and is doing what is necessary to put the administrative machinery for relief in a state of preparedness.

11. *Takavi*.—Every effort is being made to meet the demands of the cultivators for takavi advances, wherever such can be usefully employed, and suspensions of the land revenue demand will be granted on the usual policy. The prospects of a water famine are reported to be slight.

12. *Relief Requirements*.—In the opinion of the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, the necessity for opening test relief works will make itself felt about January, 1902. In estimating the probable relief expenditure that will be required, an important factor is the sufficiency or otherwise of the relief organisation in the Istimrari areas and the surrounding Native States. The responsibility of the Istimrardars for relief within their own estates is laid down in paragraph 31 of the Ajmer Famine Code, 1897, but the rule was practically set aside in the famine of 1899-1900, when in view of the inability of some of the Istimrardars to maintain relief operations on any scale it was found necessary to admit their tenants freely on Government works and to open kitchens at the expense of Government for their gratuitous relief.

13. *Istimrari Estates*.—In view of the above drawbacks it has now been decided that, except in the few instances of the larger and better managed estates, the preliminary investigation and organisation of relief measures to be adopted should be carried out by the District Officials under the direction of the Commissioner on the same lines, subject to minor modifications, as have been adopted under the recent orders of Government for the Khalsa and Jagir areas, whilst the expenditure involved will, in the first instance, be charged to Government funds, subject to such recovery from the estate-holders as may subsequently be equitably determined.

14. *Immigration from Native States*.—There is no reason at present to apprehend any immigration on a large scale from neighbouring Native States, such as that which occurred during the famine of 1899-1900. This is attributable partly to the less acute form of the impending scarcity, and also to the precautions taken by the Durbars to relieve any distress which may occur within their territory.

15. *Probable Expenditure*.—In these circumstances, and though the Honourable Colonel Thornton is not yet, with the information available, in a position to give even an approximate estimate of the numbers likely to seek relief in some shape or other, I am to ask that an allotment of R20,000 may be placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner under the head "33.—Famine Relief," the distribution of which into "expenditure in charge of Public Works Department" and "expenditure in the Civil Department" will be reported later.

16. *Proposed Works*.—I am also to request that sanction may be accorded as a precautionary measure to the commencement of work, should the necessity arise, on the works noted in the margin. For the earthwork of the proposed Nasirabad-Sawar-Jogalaj-Jehazpur Railway—a work which remained unfinished at the close of the last relief operations—the sanction of the Government of India in the Public Works Department has already been applied for under this Department letter No. 4238 S., dated 2nd November, 1901.

Unfinished Works of
1899-1900.
Makrera tank.
Asan tank.
Kukerkhera tank.

No. 130.

Telegram from Revenue Secretary, Government of India, to Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 3990, dated the 25th November, 1901.

Your letter No. 4322 S., dated 5th, regarding unfavourable outlook in Ajmer-Merwara. In India Estimates there is a provision of R20,000 under head Famine Relief for Ajmer. Is the twenty thousand now asked for in addition to that amount?

No. 131.

Telegram from Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to Revenue Secretary, Government of India, No. 467, dated the 28th November, 1901.

Your telegram 3990. The R20,000 now asked for is not in addition to the amount referred to.

No. 132.

Letter from R. E. V. Arbuthnot, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 4113, dated Calcutta, the 12th December, 1901.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram dated the 28th ultimo, I am directed to say that the Government of India are pleased to authorise you to spend on famine relief the amount of R20,000 provided for that purpose in the current year's Budget. They also sanction the commencement, if necessary, of the works noted in paragraph 16 of Mr. White's letter No. 4322 S., dated 5th November, 1901, on the understanding that they will at the outset be managed as "test" works on the lines recommended by the Famine Commission.

No. 133.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General, Rajputana and Central India, and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, in the Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 576 S.—C., dated Camp, Jassakhera, the 14th December, 1901.

In my letter No. 4322 S., dated 5th November, 1901, the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, stated that a detailed report of kharif out-turn, probable rabi sowings, and particulars of areas affected by the failure of the kharif crop, would be submitted to Government of India on receipt of the necessary information from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. As these details have now been furnished, though somewhat later than were expected, I am to report as follows.

2. The kharif out-turn as ascertained from local returns is compared below with the out-turn of the corresponding harvests of the five years :—

Name of Sub-Collectorate.	Out-turn of Kharif in Maunds.					
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.
Ajmer	277,600	307,700	261,800	66,500	435,000	130,600
Beawar	142,800	202,000	92,600	7,200	191,500	44,700
Todgurh	133,600	140,800	93,700	8,800	89,300	65,000
Total	554,000	650,600	448,100	82,500	715,800	240,300

Taking the kharif harvest of 1897-98 as a good average harvest (although some damage was done by locusts), the percentage of defect from normal of the recent kharif out-turn is shown in the following table :—

—	Normal.	Actual.	Percentage of Defect.	Actual Out-turn in Annas.
Ajmer	307,700	130,600	58	7 annas.
Beawar	202,000	44,700	78	3½ „
Todgurh	140,800	65,000	54	7½ „
Total	650,500	240,300	63	5 annas.

The Ajmer District has fared better than was anticipated in my letter of the 5th November, while the estimates for the Merwara District remain practically correct.

3. Judging from the mere figures of the kharif out-turn, the food supply locally produced at the last kharif, if equally distributed, would support the population as follows :—

—	Rural Population.	Number of Month's Supply.
Ajmer	77,631	4½, i.e., from October 15th to the end of February.
Merwara	87,422	3½, i.e., from October 15th to the end of January.

The above calculation excludes the Istimrari and Jaghir estates for which figures of kharif out-turn are not available.

4. With regard to the probable out-turn of the ensuing rabi harvest, the area now being sown for the rabi is reported to be—

In Ajmer	12 annas.
„ Beawar	3·4 „
„ Todgurh	4 „

It is reported that in the Ajmer District the average depth of water in the irrigation wells is between one-third and half the normal depth at this time of year ; in the Merwara District it is a little over one-third. But the explanation of the disproportion in the rabi sowings between Ajmer and Merwara lies in the physical characteristics of the two districts. In the more hilly country of Merwara the soil is shallow and unretentive of moisture, and irrigation from tanks is on a considerably larger scale than that from wells. These tanks this year have not only run dry, but did so before ploughings for rabi had been commenced, when the required moisture for cultivation in the beds of tanks, except in the case of few large tanks, had evaporated, and thus a large area was lost for rabi sowings. This is not the case in the Ajmer district where the soil is more absorbent, and crops also depend more on irrigation from wells than from tanks. Cultivation in the beds of tanks in Ajmer is reported this year to be above normal. Much again was done during the last famine to improve the Ajmer tanks, and this and the above stated facts no doubt make the position of Ajmer stronger than that of the sister district. In both districts the situation is being carefully watched, though as yet no real signs of distress are apparent.

5. The crops have failed most and the rabi prospects are worst in the central and north-eastern tracts of the Merwara district, of which about one-third is affected, and test works will shortly be opened in those localities.

6. The month of November passed away without rain. In other respects the state of affairs is very much the same as reported in my letter of the 5th November.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MONTHLY FAMINE REPORTS.

No. 134.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JUNE, 1900.

The June rainfall in the affected districts was on the whole only slightly

District.	Average Expected.	1900.
Kistna	3.84	2.17
Nellore	1.64	1.23
Kurnool	3.05	2.84
Bellary	2.62	2.68
Anantapur	2.44	1.57
Cuddapah	2.35	1.99

below the normal amount expected. This rain has laid to a continued improvement, and sowings have become general almost throughout in respect chiefly of the lighter soils which are usually the first sown. Pasturage has continued to improve and it was found possible at the end of June to withdraw the concessions of free grazing in forests in Kurnool which has been

granted. In consequence of the improved pasture, the cattle which were in poor condition in a few places are picking up again.

Prices remained almost unchanged, though towards the end of the month they began to rise, chiefly under the influence of a revival of the demand for export towards Bombay, but the average rates for the staple grains during the month were not much dearer than those which prevailed in June, 1897, though generally dearer than those of June, 1892. Supplies were everywhere ample and the large exports which have been made during the last twelve months indicate the degree to which the practice of storing grain still continues.

Everywhere the people are reported to be in good condition and the public health has been good. There has been no serious demand for employment on the test-works that were open, and it was found possible to close the works in Nellore during the month, and in Bellary at the end of the month. The works have been continued on the intermediate system, but orders were issued during the month to test the task system on the plan sanctioned in G.O. No. 514, dated 25th May, 1900, on portions of selected works. Further enquiries confirm the conclusion arrived at that the small wages earned in some cases have been chiefly due to the disinclination of the people to work, expecting that a "minimum" or "famine" wage would be paid for little or no work done.

No change has been made in the system of relief offered to weavers; the reduction in the numbers appearing on the list is due to the enforcement of tests.

Loan operations have been greatly restricted owing to the want of funds, and it has been found necessary to stop them entirely outside the affected areas owing to the fact that already nearly the whole of the small grant made this year will be required to meet accepted cases.

No. 135.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JULY, 1900.

With the close of June, it was found possible to remove the portions of Nellore and Bellary, which had previously been considered affected, from the area to be dealt with in these reports, whilst the general improvement in the outlook during July leaves but a small portion of the remaining area affected at the date of this report.

Almost throughout the area shown in the table, the rainfall during July was in excess of the average expected, the season having taken a most favourable turn about the 18th idem. Sowing has been actively proceeding, and large areas of young crops are thriving in all parts. Pasturage has sprung up everywhere, and the inferior and non-working cattle which had had a hard time during the dry months, were picking up rapidly.

Prices, during the early part of the month, showed an upward tendency owing to there being some holding off of the rains and to the large demand for Western India, but during the latter part again fell away in the affected area, leaving the average for the month about equal to that of June in Kistna, Kurnool and Bellary, and rather higher in the other districts.

The condition of the people everywhere has continued good; with the improved agricultural prospects the local demand for labour has, for the most part, revived, and the numbers resorting to the test works have gradually decreased. The test works are being closed by degrees; the relief given to weavers at their own trade was continued on the plan previously adopted.

Towards the end of the month, a further grant was made to enable the Board to carry on loan operations, but with the improvement of the season the demand for loans, especially for the purchase of fodder, has greatly decreased in the affected areas.

No. 136.

FAMINE REPORT FOR AUGUST, 1900.

During the early part of the month under report the test works in the Anantapur and Kurnool districts were closed, and the area previously treated as affected in them has been excluded from this report.

In Kistna, the test work in one taluk was closed during the month, and in Cuddapah only one work was open at the end of August.

The situation, however, of a large portion of the Presidency gave rise to grave anxiety during the month owing to the continued failure of the rains. During the last few days of the month this anxiety was removed by the showery weather that then set in, and since the beginning of September there has been good or abundant rain almost everywhere. Though owing to the continued drought, the young crops suffered somewhat, the recent rainfall has revived them and has also brought some supply to the tanks and wells. Pasturage is found everywhere and the condition of the cattle has materially improved.

Prices showed a downward tendency generally until the latter part of the month when they began to rise again in many places. The condition of the people continued good, and the local demand for labour has revived.

Arrangements are in progress for winding up the relief offered to weavers in Cuddapah.

No. 137.

Letter from the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 5328-Mis., dated Madras, the 10th October, 1900.

With reference to your Circular No. 5-F., dated 2nd March, 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code, I am directed to report that, owing to the improved agricultural outlook, the test works in Kistna and Cuddapah districts that were open at the end of August were closed early in September. Further advances to weavers, who were being relieved at their own trade, were stopped from the middle of the month, and steps are being taken to wind up the operations; and the number (2,420) on relief at the end of September represent only those persons from whom advances of materials still had to be recovered. For the present no part of the Presidency can be considered affected. Prices, although extremely high, are gradually falling, and the outlook is generally satisfactory.

No. 138.

FAMINE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 1901.

The affected area is for the present confined to the northern section of the Cuddapah district comprising the taluks of Cuddapah, Jammalamadugu, Pulivendla, and Proddatur, and a portion of Badvel which forms one of the taluks comprising the eastern section. The characteristic of the present distress is that the areas affected are small and scattered.

2. The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that the distress, though partial, follows another period of scarcity almost amounting to famine, which came to a close only in September last. The south-west monsoon gave good rains in June and July but the fall in August was seriously deficient; and it was the copious rainfall of September that terminated the first period of scarcity above referred to. The failure of the October and November rainfall is the cause of the present distress. The early dry crops failed entirely in a few places, and generally gave but a poor outturn, while the standing dry crops which were sown late also suffered. There were slight showers in parts of the affected taluks in January and good rain in the month under report, but this rainfall seems to have done little good beyond improving the supply in the irrigation sources in Jammalamadugu, Proddatur and Pulivendla taluks.

3. Prices were a little easier as compared with those for January, and almost stationary as compared with the corresponding period of 1900 which was also a year of distress. The prices of ragi and cholam, the staple food grains, were above the scarcity rate.

4. Towards the end of January the Collector of Cuddapah reported that owing to the failure of crops, the condition of the labouring classes in the Muddanur valley of Jammalamadugu taluk was such as to render State relief necessary and recommended the opening of a test-work. This was sanctioned with instructions to carry it out under the "intermediate piece-work system." The Chintakunta tank work was accordingly opened on the first of the month, and it affords relief to the villagers of the Jammalamadugu and Proddatur taluks. The attendance was moderate in the beginning of the month, and towards the end of the second week the numbers decreased owing to the low wages which the workers earned. The attendance has, however, increased of late and is likely to continue rising as the harvest in garden lands on which many of the working classes are now employed gradually comes to an end.

5. The necessity for relieving the weavers' community in Jammalamadugu taluk was also brought to notice by the Collector in December, as owing to the extreme dearness of food grains, the demand for cloths had entirely ceased, and many looms had in consequence to remain idle. Under instructions from Government the Commissioner visited the taluk and found it necessary to issue orders to resume the weavers' relief operations which were closed only in September last.

6. Besides the above measures, the grant of State loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act is also encouraged, and this is calculated to afford considerable employment to able-bodied labourers.

No. 139.

FAMINE REPORT FOR MARCH, 1901.

The affected area remained the same as in the previous month. There was a slight fall in the price of dry grains as compared with the previous month. The prices are still above the scarcity rates.

2. The condition of the people in the affected area is good. No increase in crime has been reported, nor is there any aimless wandering of the people. Private charity continues as usual, and the number fed daily at a private kitchen in Jammalamadugu is reported to be 124. The Indian Charitable Relief Fund also affords relief by the grant of money doles to certain old, infirm, destitute people and gosha females.

3. The number of coolies on the Chintakunta tank work, which is the only test work now in progress, increased from 796 at the end of the previous month to 1,606 during the month under report, the increase being due partly to field work having been exhausted.

4. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was continued during the month, and the number relieved shows a slight increase.

5. The condition of cattle is reported to be generally good, though fodder is scarce and pasture not plentiful. It is proposed to open the Nallamalla reserve in Pulivendla taluk to free-grazing.

6. State loans are being taken by the ryots, and a sum of about Rs. 1,000 was disbursed during the month under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

No. 140.

FAMINE REPORT FOR APRIL, 1901.

As compared with the previous month, there was a small decrease in the area affected in the Cuddapah district. In the month under report certain areas in the North Arcot district have been added to the list of affected areas, and they are for the present confined to portions of the three taluks of Chandragiri, Wallajapet and Chittoor.

2. The September rainfall in the latter district was good, though the total fall from April to September was a trifle below the average expected, but the north-east monsoon was a failure. In the month of December, when in normal years the tanks would all be full, more than one half of them contained no supply, and as there were no freshes in the Pálár, the Ponnai and Cheyar rivers, the anikat-fed tanks under them in Wallajapet, Arcot, and Wandiwash taluks which contain more than one half the wet area in the district fared even worse than the rain-fed tanks elsewhere. There was a great deficiency in paddy cultivation up to the end of February as compared with the average, though the total cultivation on wet lands, including second crop, showed an increase over the previous year, which was all due to extensive cultivation of dry crop on wet

Rainfall.				April.	Week Ending 4th May.
CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.					
Pulivendla	...	...	...	—	1·21
Proddatur	...	...	...	0·19	0·17
Jammalamadugu	...	...	...	—	0·12
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT.					
Wallajapet	...	...	...	0·02	0·10
Chittoor	...	...	...	0·37	0·01
Chandragiri	...	...	...	0·60	0·16

lands. There was good rainfall in February of the current year, which was, however, too late to be of much use, but it improved pasture and saved a considerable area of standing wet crops. During the month under report and since its close up to the 4th of May, the rainfall in the affected portions of the two districts was as noted on the margin; but the Collector of North Arcot reports that the recent rainfall was too slight to be of any use; that drinking water has become scarce in parts and that arrangements are being made to improve its supply from Taluk Board funds.

3. The prices of ragi and cholam in Cuddapah and of ragi in North Arcot became a little easier during the month though still above the scarcity rates, except in the case of rice, which was a little below the warning rate.

4. The test work opened in the Cuddapah district continued to attract large numbers throughout the month. In North Arcot a tank work was started about the middle of the month, under the intermediate piece-work system, and it was attended by 347 workers. The Collector reports that very few of the labourers who have attended this work appeared to be in need of permanent employment.

5. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was continued during the month in Cuddapah, the number relieved having been almost stationary.

6. It is reported that the poorer people in the affected portion of the North Arcot district have not been earning sufficient wages for some months past, and have been consequently resorting to famine food such as aloes growing in the railway fences; that private charity is very much restricted; that beggars have been congregating in the large towns; and that the scanty ragi gruel worth three pies a day offered at the kitchens opened by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee has sufficed to draw a considerable number of children and old and infirm people to some distance from their homes. Emigration and crime are also stated to be on the increase.

No. 141.

FAMINE REPORT FOR MAY, 1901.

There was no change in the affected area in Cuddapah district during the month, while there was a contraction in the area in the other district. Some useful rainfall was recorded in the month in both the districts as detailed in the margin, which increased the supply in river channels and some tanks, improved pasturage, and benefited the few standing crops, besides affording some agricultural employment to labourers. Ploughing for early dry crops is also reported to be general in the former district. In North Arcot, however, the rainfall was not sufficient to induce ploughing and sowing generally.

				Total Rainfall in May.
CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.				
Pulivendla	...	...	...	2·13
Proddatur	...	...	...	0·58
Jammalamadugu	...	...	...	3·23
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT.				
Wallajah	...	...	...	1·74
Chittoor	...	...	...	1·61
Chandragiri	...	...	...	0·70

2. The prices of ragi and cholam in Cuddapah and of ragi in North Arcot became a little easier during the month, though still above the scarcity rates. In the price of rice, there was a slight fall in Cuddapah and a slight rise in North Arcot.

3. The number of workers on the test work opened in Cuddapah increased during the month under report, while in North Arcot the variations in the numbers on the tank work started there having shown that the work has failed as a test work, the Collector has reported that it would be closed about the fourth current. Besides the test work, the construction and repair of wells under the Loans Act afforded labour to 80 workers in the North Arcot district.

4. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was also continued during the month in Cuddapah, the number relieved showing a slight increase.

5. The condition of cattle is reported to be good in both the districts, and the rainfall in the month has improved pasture.

No. 142.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JUNE, 1901.

The affected area in Cuddapah district remained the same as in the previous month, while the area in North Arcot district has been removed from the affected list, the test-work opened in the district having been closed on the 10th of the month. During the month there was good rainfall in two of the three affected taluks of the former district, amounting to a little over the average for the month; but it only very slightly improved the water-supply in tanks and wells. The only agricultural operation in progress was ploughing; there must be a further good fall of rain before sowing will be commenced.

2. The prices of ragi and cholam rose slightly during the month, while rice became a little cheaper.

3. The number of workers on the Chintakunta test-work in the Cuddapah district decreased considerably during the month, owing mostly to the low wages earned by some of the gangs. The work was closed as a test-work on the 30th June.

4. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was also continued during the month, ~~but the number relieved~~ showed a slight decrease.

5. The condition of cattle is reported to be good. Fodder is generally available in the affected tracts of Jammalamadugu and Proddatur taluks, while in Pulivendla the stock is reported to have run out. Pasture is still scarce.

No. 143.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JULY, 1901.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

RESOLUTION—No. 176, dated 10th August, 1901.

The following letter will be despatched to the Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department :—

With reference to circular No. 5-F., dated 2nd March, 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code, I am directed to report that no test.

work was opened in Cuddapah district after the closure of the Chintakunta test work on the 30th June last, and to state that, as no relief measures other than weavers' relief were in operation during the month, the statement and map prescribed have not been submitted.

2. During the month the rainfall in two of the three taluks of the Jammalamadugu division in that district was about half the average expected for the month, while in the third taluk it was only a fourth. The supply in tanks and wells remained very low. The agricultural operations in progress were, baling water to standing crops, ploughing and manuring lands for the sowing of early crops. The standing crops, which are limited to small areas under wells and channels, are reported to be generally in fair condition.

3. The prices of food-grains rose slightly during the month.

4. The advances granted to the weavers were continued during the month, and the number on relief at the end of the month was 2,927. Since the close of the month the grant of fresh advances has been stopped.

5. The death-rate in the district for the month of June, which is the latest month for which information is available, was 17·6 per mille against 14·7, the average of the past five years for the corresponding period. The increase in the death-rate is stated to be due to increased mortality from fevers.

No. 144.

FAMINE REPORT FOR AUGUST, 1901.

During the month the rainfall in the three taluks of the Jammalamadugu division of the Cuddapah district was very scanty, especially in the Pulivendla taluk. In the Surabhu valley, a portion of the last-named taluk, however, there was a fall of one inch of rain in the middle of the month, which is reported to have much benefited the cumbu crop in that tract. In the Chingleput district the rainfall was much above the average in several stations, and was below the average in only one station. In the North Arcot district, except in six stations, the rainfall was in general very scanty, especially in the western portion of the district. Since the close of the month, however, there has been general rainfall which has materially improved the condition of the district.

2. Agricultural operations, such as ploughing, sowing, transplanting and weeding were going on generally in Chingleput and the eastern parts of North Arcot. In the western parts of that district, comprising roughly speaking $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of its whole area, as well as in nearly the whole of the affected area of the Cuddapah district, agricultural operations were almost at a standstill for want of rain. To meet the demand for labour, certain minor irrigation, Local Fund and Public Works Department works which appertain to the ordinary budgeted programme, were opened on the intermediate piece-work system.

3. The prices of food-grains were stationary in Cuddapah and generally became a little easier in the other two districts.

4. Pasture and fodder, though dear, are generally available in Chingleput and North Arcot districts but scanty in the Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah. Condition of cattle is generally good except in parts of Cuddapah and North Arcot districts.

5. No test works under the Famine Code were started in any of the districts, the ordinary works set down for execution during the year being utilised as explained in paragraph 2. The advances made to weavers in the Cuddapah district were stopped with the close of July. Necessity for the grant of gratuitous relief in kitchens was, however, felt during the month. Such relief had been given by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for some months, and the larger kitchens maintained by the Fund were taken over on behalf of Government, and others opened as necessity became apparent. In the

Chingleput district two kitchens and in North Arcot fourteen were under Government management at the end of the month. None were opened by Government or taken over by it in the Cuddapah district.

Districts.	Imports.	Exports.
	MDS.	MDS.
Cuddapah... ..	43,958	2,812
Chingleput	28,867	8,539
North Arcot	102,857	18,124

6. The marginal statement shows the quantity of food-grains exported from, and imported into, the above mentioned districts during the month. In each district the imports were largely in excess of the exports.

7. Information is not yet available as to death-rates for August in these districts. The death-rates for July, which is the latest month for which they are available, were as shown below. The increase in Cuddapah is ascribed to fever, in Chingleput to "all other causes," and in North Arcot to cholera:—

Districts.	Death-rate per Mille.	Average.
Cuddapah	18.5	15.4
Chingleput	22.5	20.5
North Arcot	18.6	15.3

No. 145.

FAMINE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 1901.

There was an increase in the distressed area due to the addition of some of the sub-division taluks of Cuddapah district and to the inclusion of two taluks of Anantapur district. The rainfall in these tracts during the first fortnight of the month was below the average, but during the second fortnight the fall was general and above the average. In the Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah district the rainfall during the month was very irregularly distributed and was also much below the average, being only a fourth in one taluk, three-fourths in another, and one-sixth in the third. Chingleput and North Arcot had good and general rain. Since the close of the month there has been good rainfall in both the divisions of the Cuddapah district and in Chingleput and North Arcot districts which, it is hoped, will materially improve the condition of the affected areas in them.

2. It is reported that the good rain of the second fortnight of the month in the districts named above has given a great impetus to ploughing, sowing, transplanting and weeding generally; some harvests are also going on in parts.

3. Except for a slight fall in the prices of rice and ragi in Chingleput district and in that of ragi in North Arcot there was a general rise in the prices of food-grains.

4. Pasture and fodder are generally procurable, though the latter is dear in the affected areas of Cuddapah district and insufficient or scarce in parts of Anantapur district. The condition of cattle is generally good excepting in parts of Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah district and of Anantapur district.

5. Two test works under the Famine Code were opened in Madanapalle taluk of the Cuddapah sub-division about the close of the month. The attendance on one of them declined soon after it was opened owing to the

workers having left for field labour. The other work had been in progress for only three days and the number did not show any sign of rapid advance. One more work was to have been started at the end of the month in the Rayachoti taluk of the same sub-division. In other places the ordinary works set down for execution during the year were alone utilized to give employment to the distressed, as explained in the report for the past month. Owing to the impetus given to agricultural operations by the recent rains, the numbers on the works in Chingleput and North Arcot districts declined, and in consequence two works opened in the former district were stopped, while in the latter district orders have been issued for the closure of four out of five works opened there.

6. Eight kitchens were under Government management in the two divisions of Cuddapah district during the month, four in each division. Two out of the four in the sub-division have been ordered to be closed. In Anantapur district two kitchens were opened towards the close of the month. Out of the four Government kitchens in Chingleput district, two were closed in the month owing to the improvement in the season. In the North Arcot district out of fourteen Government kitchens, four were closed during the month and orders to close six more have been issued.

7. The marginal statement shows the quantity of food-grains exported

Districts.	Imports.	Exports.
	MDS.	MDS.
Cuddapah... ..	112,099	625
North Arcot	90,160	21,220
Chingleput	21,282	12,022

from and imported into Cuddapah, Chingleput and North Arcot districts by rail during the month. There is no information in regard to Anantapur. The imports are largely in excess of exports, but, as compared with the previous month there was increase in

exports and decrease in imports in North Arcot and Chingleput, while the reverse was the case in Cuddapah.

8. Information has not yet been furnished as to death-rates for September in these districts. The death-rates for August which is the latest month for which they have been received, were as shown below :—

Districts.	Death-rate per Mille.	Average.
Cuddapah	18.2	18.4
Anantapur	17.7	19.1
Chingleput	34.5	21.5
North Arcot	24.6	16.6

The increase in Chingleput and North Arcot is ascribed to cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea.

No. 146.

FAMINE REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 1901.

There was a decrease in the distressed area in Cuddapah district. The areas in the other districts have been removed from the affected list. The rainfall during the first half of the month was good in all the four districts, but during the second half was scanty. Good rain has since fallen in all the districts.

2. The usual agricultural operations, ploughing, sowing, transplanting and weeding were in progress, with some harvest here and there. The condition of the standing crops was fair except in parts of Cuddapah and Chingleput districts. The recent rainfall has improved the condition of crops in the excepted tracts.

3. Prices, as compared with the previous month, were generally lower in all the four affected districts.

4. Pasture was generally procurable, but fodder was dear in most parts of the affected areas. The condition of cattle was good.

5. Six test works were in progress during the month—three in the sub-division and three in the Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah district. Three more works (all tank works), of which two were temporarily closed on account of supplies received by them, were also ordered to be opened in the latter division.

6. There were six kitchens maintained by Government during the month in the Cuddapah district—two in the sub-division and four in the Jammalamadugu division. Two out of the four in the latter division have been ordered to be closed. The two kitchens opened in Anantapur district towards the close of the previous month, and the two remaining kitchens in Chingleput district were also closed during the month. In North Arcot district out of ten kitchens that were open at the beginning of the month, nine were closed during the month, and once since its close.

7. The marginal statement shows the quantity of food-grains exported from and imported into Cuddapah, Chingleput and North Arcot districts by rail during the month. There is no information in regard to Anantapur. As in previous months the imports were in excess of exports, but in Chingleput the excess was not large. As compared with the previous month, the imports have largely fallen in Cuddapah, being only 44,000 maunds as against 1,12,000 maunds.

8. Information has not yet been received as to death-rates for October in these districts. The death-rates for September, which is the latest month for which they have been received, were as shown below :—

Districts.	Death-rate per Mille.	Average.
Cuddapah	18·3	21·2
Anantapur	24·3	23·5
Chingleput	40·7	21·9
North Arcot	23·6	15·6

The increase in the last three districts is stated to be due to cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery.

No. 147.**FAMINE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 1901.**

The total rainfall of the month generally exceeded the average due for the period in all the affected taluks of the Sub-division and of Jammalamadugu division, though more rain is still required for the standing crops. Supplies in tanks and wells are reported to be still inadequate in parts. The usual agricultural operations and harvesting are going on generally.

2. As compared with the previous month prices have become a little easier and the markets are stated to be well supplied.

3. Pasture was generally procurable, but fodder was scanty and dear in parts of the affected areas. The condition of cattle is generally good.

4. The six test works referred to in the previous month's report continued during the month under report in addition to two minor irrigation works, which were reopened during the month in the Jammalamadugu division. Two of the works in the Sub-division will be completed shortly, and no further works will be opened in their place, as field labour is becoming available. Besides the test works, relief was afforded at four kitchens, one of which was closed during the first half of the month.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	I. MDS.	I. MDS.
October	44,505	1,311
November	82,700	5,287

5. The marginal figures show the imports and exports of food-grains by rail during the month. As compared with the previous month there was a large increase both in imports and exports.

6. Information as to death-rates for November has not yet been received; the death-rate for October, which is the latest month for which the rate has been reported, was 24·7 per mille as against an average of 25·3.

No. 148.**FAMINE REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1901.**

There was a large contraction in the area affected owing to the removal of the sub-division taluks, in which the rainfall in the early part of the month greatly improved prospects. The rainfall during the month in the Jammalamadugu division, which alone now remains in the affected list, was small, though above the average.

—	December, 1901.	Average.
Jammalamadugu ...	0·63	0·27
Proddatur	0·42	0·39
Pulivendla	1·01	0·38

ryots were engaged during the month in weeding, transplanting, and to a small extent in harvesting operations.

2. Prices have become slightly easier.

3. Pasture is procurable but scanty; while fodder is dear. The condition of cattle is generally good.

4. Three major and three minor irrigation works were open during the month. One of the minor irrigation works was ordered to be closed as a test work and given on contract. Besides the test works, relief at two Government

kitchens, one of which was ordered to be closed at the end of the month, was also afforded.

5. The marginal figures show the imports and exports of food-grains by rail during the month.

	Imports.	Exports.
	I. MDS.	I. MDS.
November	82,700	5,287
December	52,675	4,160

average of 24·6, the increase being attributed to fevers.

6. Information as to death-rates for December has not yet been received; the death-rate for November, which is the latest month for which the rate has been reported, was 33·5 per mille as against an

CLASSIFICATION AND TASKING OF RELIEF WORKERS.

No. 149.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.—REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—G.O., No. 217, Revenue, dated the 10th March, 1900,* communicating to the Board of Revenue, with instructions, circular from the Government of India, directing that the classification of test and relief works adopted by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, may, with certain modifications, be tried in the Madras Presidency.

Resolution of Board of Revenue, No. 129, dated 26th of March, 1900.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. Collectors will observe that, until further notice, the digger-carrier system of classifying relief-workers, recommended by the Indian Famine Commission of 1898, is to be adopted on all tasked works in this Presidency. They will also observe that all juveniles from 8—14 years of age, who are capable of working, are to be classed and treated as children instead of those from 8—12 years old.

3. Collectors should remember that under G.O., No. 590, Revenue, dated 11th October, 1898, clause (b) of section 106 of the Famine Code has been revised as follows:—

“ Ordinarily the gang shall not be fined so as to reduce the wage below the minimum fixed by section 120; if, however, in the hope of forcing the authorities to relax discipline, there is continued and deliberate refusal to do the allotted task, the fining of the gang or any member thereof may be carried more severely down to the proportionate payment of work actually done; or the contumacious characters may be dismissed from the work or be sent to the poor-house.”

On test-works fining should be carried out in proportion to the task performed.

4. Before the new scale of wages can be put into force the orders of Government will, however, be sought on certain points which appear to the Board to require decision. In the meanwhile test and relief works will continue to be carried out on the “intermediate” piece-work system.

5. In its Circular No. 2, Famine, dated 27th December, 1899, communicated in G.O., No. 13, Revenue, dated 9th January, 1900, the Govern-

* See page 470 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

ment of India commended to the notice of all authorities the penal wage scale sanctioned for the North-West Provinces and Oudh which is specified in the papers communicated with G.O., No. 93, Revenue, dated 5th February, 1900. In the letter communicated with the G.O., read above, the Government of India express the desire that full consideration should be given to the question whether the penal wage adopted for the Central Provinces is in practice sufficient to deal with cases of contumacy. The amount of this wage is not expressed, but is stated to be somewhat higher than the penal wage of the North-Western Provinces. The latter is the value of—

	Tolas of Grain.
For men	40
„ women	35
„ children (between 10 and 14 years of age)...	30

or from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the minimum wages, the latter being the amount sufficient to maintain life when little or no work is done as on rest days. This penal wage scale, when compared with the ordinary famine wage scale, shows permissible fining as follows :—

	Fines.
Diggers { Males	$\frac{11}{16}$
{ Females	$\frac{9}{16}$
Carriers { Males	$\frac{7}{16}$
{ Females	$\frac{1}{2}$
Children	$\frac{2}{3}$

The scale prescribed in the G. O. read above, however, will not ordinarily allow the fining of relief-workers by more than—

	Fines.
Diggers { Men	$\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$
{ Women	$\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$
Carriers { Men	$\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$
{ Women	$\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$
Children	No fine.

It will be observed that not only is the ordinary fining power much less than in the North-Western Provinces but that there are grave inequalities between the fines which may be imposed on the two classes and the two sexes. These latter are due to the adoption of different standards as representing the grain wage necessary to sustain life in the case of men and women, respectively, when doing little or no work. This, the Board submits, though perhaps sustainable in theory is unnecessary in practice, as the difference in the quantity

of food required by the sexes when doing no work is so trifling. The maximum power of fining as the rule now stands will *ordinarily* be about one-fourth of the full wage, but only one-eighth in the case of male carriers.

It appears to the Board that a wider discretionary power of fining must, if proper discipline is to be enforced on relief works, be entrusted to the officers in charge of works. It is true that the rule in certain cases permits more severe fining, but these cases are contemplated as exceptional, so that the severe fining would be permissible only on special cause shown; whereas, in the North-Western Provinces the use of the penal wage is normally permissible, and it is its suspension which would be the exception requiring special sanction. Now that the minimum wage rule is perfectly well known to those resorting to test and relief works, it is difficult to get work done, since "workers" prefer a minimum wage in idleness to a full wage with work. The Board would therefore recommend that a penal wage should be laid down, and that, ordinarily, fines for short work may be inflicted so far as they do not reduce the wage below that level. It also appears essential to permit some fining in the case of children, especially as their numbers under the new age rule will be considerably increased, and when present in large numbers, and sure of their full wage in any case, the children of a gang may be so incorrigibly idle as to reduce the outturn of the gang as a whole so that no members of it can earn a working wage.

6. The Indian Famine Commission (1898) apparently contemplate the grant of minimum wages on tasked works to all except in cases of contumacy, but the Government of India, in its circular No. 2, dated 27th December, 1899, state that "when it becomes necessary to resort to the system of fixed task and minimum wage, fines for short work should be strictly enforced." Looking at the table of wages in *pice* now to be introduced, the Board apprehends that the power of fining given by section 106 of the Code will be altogether insufficient to enforce the prescribed tasks, whilst under the *pice* wages system the inequality of the operation of the rules will be considerable.

It appears to be a necessary corollary of the *pice* wage system that the fines to be imposed upon the unit tasked—*i.e.*, the gang as a whole—should be in *pice* multiples for each member of the gang. Leaving aside for the present the difficulties attendant on any system of fining, alluded to in paragraph 463 of the report of the Commission, the Board begs to point out certain further anomalies which must arise in regard to fining under the wage scale now laid down by Government, in addition to the unequal treatment of men and women workers already mentioned. Thus, with grain selling at 14 seers per rupee, the fines which can possibly be inflicted will be—

—	Fines.
On male diggers	} $\frac{1}{4}$ of the wage only.
On male carriers	
On female carriers	$\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{2}{8}$ of the wage.

With grain at 12 seers, the fines may be—

—	Fines.
On male diggers	$\frac{1}{4}$ of the wage.
On male carriers	none.
On female carriers	$\frac{1}{4}$ of the wage.

With grain at 10 seers, the fines may be—

					Fines.
On male diggers	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{5}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the wage.
On male carriers	...	...	...	...	none.
On female carriers	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{5}$ of the wage.

Under paragraph 28 of Appendix VI. to the Madras Famine Code, the fine should be proportionate to the work turned out, and thus a gang, if working when grain was sold at 12 seers per rupee, and turning out from 80—90 per cent. of the full task, should be fined one-fifth of the wage all round. Under the pice rule, the diggers can be fined one-sixth only; the male carriers nothing; the female carriers the proper fine of one-fifth; and the children nothing, though probably and especially at stone-breaking, largely responsible for the short work. If the workers only did 60 per cent. of the task, none could be fined more severely, and if they did 90 per cent. none could be fined less severely. The result cannot fail to be demoralising and to operate inequitably on the workers.

7. In these circumstances, the Board requests that it may be favoured with explicit instructions. In making this reference it ventures to draw the attention of the Government to the following extract from paragraph 457 of the Famine Commission's Report, 1898: "The full pice wage renders it unnecessary to alter the wage scale with every petty variation of the price of grain and enables every worker to know exactly what his daily wage should be throughout long periods." The advantage to the workers is a great one, but if the requirement of the Commission "that if a full pice wage is adopted, the rule should be that when the true and exact wage exceeds a pice multiple by $1\frac{1}{2}$ pices exactly or more, the next higher pice multiple should be given," be complied with, then within the range of prices from 6 to 16 seers per rupee, there should be a change in the scale of wages for one or other of the classes adopted in the G.O. read above at 25 different points, many of them differing from one another only by fractions of a seer. In the table framed by Government changes in the rates occur at 18 different points between 16 and 6 seers per rupee; the differences being in all cases given in favour of Government against the workers. The Board apprehends that some more rough and ready system should be adopted, and it recommends that whilst the wages should bear generally some relation to the quantities of grain, of which they are supposed to be the money equivalents, the idea of securing exact equivalence in all cases should be given up. With this view, the Board suggests the adoption of the subjoined table of wages in lieu of that submitted for the approval of Government in its Proceedings, No. 37, dated 31st January, 1900. The question was considered and discussed by the Famine Forms and Finance Committee recently, and a copy of some notes recorded in that discussion is appended:

Prices of Grain in Seers per Rupee.	Wages of Workers.			Penal Wage.		Minimum Wage.
	Diggers.	Carriers.	Children.	Adults.	Children.	Adults.
16	Pice. 5	Pice. 4	Pice. 2	Pice. 2	Pice. 1	Pice. 3
14	6	5	3	2	1	4
12	7	6	4	3	2	5
10	8	7	4	3	2	5
9	9	8	5	4	3	6
8	10	9	5	4	3	6

In this table the standard is the digger's wage; carriers to receive three pies less, which they would do, except for a few exceptions* at all prices between 7.5 and 16 seers per rupee, under a more exactly calculated table; and children to get approximately half a digger's wage.

Between 14.2 and 13.8 seers, diggers and carriers, both 5 pice.
 Between 11.7 and 11.6 seers, diggers 7 and carriers 5 pice.
 Between 10.1 and 9.8 seers, diggers 8 and carriers 6 pice.
 Between 8.9 and 8.5 seers, diggers 9 and carriers 7 pice.
 Between 8.0 and 7.5 seers, diggers 10 and carriers 8 pice.

Fining should ordinarily be permitted in proportion to the work done by the gangs down to the penal wage, the scale of fining being fixed with reference to the work turned out, but so long as the pice wage scale is adhered to, the system of fining must be purely arbitrary and cannot be freed from anomalies. It must vary with the prices of grain, and a table might be drawn up, in the manner of that subjoined, for the guidance of paymasters in calculating the deductions to be made. The drawback to any such table is that unless, prices are at or are dearer than 12 seers per rupee, small deficiencies in outturn cannot be equitably dealt with. The fines on carriers will have to be the same whether they perform 80 or 90 per cent. of their full task.

Price of Grain in Seers per Rupee.	The Fine in Pice for Deficiency of Task by						Full Wage.	Minimum Wage.
	10 per Cent.	20 per Cent.	30 per Cent.	40 per Cent.	50 per Cent.	More than 50 per Cent.		
	<i>Will be in the case of Diggers—Pice.</i>							
16	—	1	—	2	—	3	5	3
14	1	—	2	—	3	4	6	4
12	1	—	2	3	—	4	7	5
10	1	2	—	3	4	5	8	5
9	1	2	3	4	—	5	9	6
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	10	6
	<i>Will be in the case of Carriers—Pice.</i>							
16	—	1	—	2	—	—	4	3
14	—	1	—	2	—	3	5	4
12	1	—	2	—	3	—	6	5
10	1	—	2	3	—	4	7	5
9	1	2	—	3	4	—	8	6
8	1	2	3	4	—	5	9	6
	<i>Will be in the case of Children—Pice.</i>							
16	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
14	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	—
12	—	—	1	—	2	—	4	—
10	—	—	1	—	2	—	4	—
9	—	—	1	—	2	—	5	—
8	—	—	1	—	2	—	5	—

The operation of this scale may be judged from the following table which shows the quantity of grain which may be bought for each pice mentioned in the scale, at the prices quoted :—

Price of Grain in Seers per Rupee.	The Quantity of Grain in Tolahs which may be Purchased for Pice.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16	20	40	60	80	100	—	—	—	—	—
14	17½	35	52½	70	87½	105	—	—	—	—
12	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	—	—	—
10	12½	25	37½	50	62½	75	87½	100	—	—
9	11½	22½	33½	45	56½	67½	78½	90	100½	—
8	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

A fine of one pice, with grain at 16 seers per rupee, will reduce the wage by 20 tolahs, at 12 seers by 15 and at 8 seers by 10 tolahs only.

When wages are paid for two or three days together at one time, the amount to be paid to each worker can more closely approximate to the proportion of the task turned out. Should the Government approve of the suggestions made above, a full and complete table of fines for each class of workers for periods of one to four days may be prepared and furnished to all officers concerned for their use and guidance.

8. If these proposals should commend themselves to Government, the Board would propose that the officer in charge of the work should report the number of gangs fined below the minimum wage in his weekly report.

It should also be laid down that the Collector may at any time, in the case of any particular work or group of works, suspend the operation of the penal wage and limit the power of fining to the minimum wage. Each case where this discretion is exercised should be separately reported.

The penal wage rule would, of course, not apply to weakly gangs where it is found necessary to form such. To them the minimum wage should, in any case, be paid.

9. With reference to the question of the relief of dependants alluded to in paragraph 3 of the Government Order read above, the Board requests that it may be informed whether the system of money doles therein described is to take the place of the distribution of cooked food at kitchens, and on this a reference to the concluding sentence of paragraph 455 of the Famine Commission's report is solicited.

10. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, the Collectors of Kurnool, Nellore and Cuddapah are requested to report what works may be taken up in order to test the two systems as desired by Government. The works selected should either be sections of a road work, *e.g.*, Markapur to Tokapalli in Kurnool or the Amanabrolu feeder road in Nellore, or two adjacent tank works; they should serve the same locality and be, if possible, under the same officer throughout.

ORDER—No. 513, Revenue, dated 25th May, 1900.

The Government proceeds to pass orders on the points raised by the Board of Revenue in its Proceedings read above, but would observe that in its opinion none of the points raised are of such importance as to have rendered it necessary to keep in abeyance orders which the Government desired should be carried out at an early date.

2. *Paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings—Extent to which fining is permissible.*—The Madras rules as to fining are contained in section 106 of the Madras Famine Code as amended by G.O., No. 257, dated 21st April, 1897, and paragraph 20 of G.O., No. 590, dated 11th October, 1898, and in paragraph 28 of Appendix VI. thereto. Under these rules fines inflicted for short work are ordinarily subject to the limitation that the wage earned is not to be reduced below the minimum wage; where, however, the short work is due to continued and deliberate contumacy, the fining may be carried further down to the proportionate payment for work done; and where the outturn is trifling or *nil*, the wage will be *nil*. The rules in force in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh in regard to fining are contained in paragraphs 45 to 47 of Appendix D-XIV. at pages 131, 132 of the North-Western Provinces Famine Code (September, 1899). From these it appears that in famine districts fines inflicted for short work should not be so heavy as to reduce the wage below the minimum wage except in cases of contumacy when the fining may be carried further, but not so as to reduce the wage below the penal wage. Thus the ordinary fining power appears to be in principle the same in Madras as in the North-Western Provinces, while in the exceptional case of contumacy, the North-Western Provinces rules are more lenient than those of Madras which recognise formally no minimum in such cases.

3. The Board's statement that the ordinary fining power in Madras is more restricted than in the North-Western Provinces, where the use of the penal wage seems to be normally permissible, appears therefore to be incorrect. The Government nevertheless considers it advisable to specify the lowest penal rates which may be paid on works carried out on the task-work system and resolves to adopt for this purpose the penal wage of 45 tolas sanctioned by the Government of India for Bombay. It will, of course, be understood that any fining beyond the "minimum wage" is to be exceptional and permissible only in the special circumstances defined in section 106 of the Code as modified by the subsequent orders recited in paragraph 2 *supra*. The Government is also of opinion that the Collector should, as suggested by the Board of Revenue, have discretion to suspend the operation of the penal wage in the case of any work or group of works and to limit the power of fining to the minimum wage; each case where this discretion is exercised being separately reported to the Board of Revenue.

4. *The fining of working children.*—The Government accepts the Board's suggestion that working children should be rendered liable to fine, and has resolved to prescribe a minimum wage and a penal wage for them. These shall be 40 tolas and 30 tolas respectively.

5. *Inequalities in the operation of the existing rules as to fining.*—The inequalities dwelt upon in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Board's Proceedings are in great part due to the existence of different rates of minimum wage for males and females. The minimum for males will be reduced to 60 tolas in accordance with the decision arrived at in G.O., No. 511, dated 25th May, 1900, and when this reduction is made the inequalities will mostly disappear. Any that still remain cannot be avoided as they are due to the rule that task workers cannot ordinarily be fined below the minimum wage.

6. *Paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings—Table of wages.*—The Board's statement that in the table appended to G.O., No. 217, dated 10th March, 1900, the differences in wages are in all cases given in favour of Government and against the workers, is incorrect. The arguments advanced in this connection do not satisfy Government that it is necessary to adopt a shorter table prepared on what the Board calls "a more rough and ready system." There does not seem to be any valid objection to a table similar to the one appended to G.O., No. 217, dated 10th March, 1900, except that the course of prices has to be more carefully watched and recorded, and this is an advantage rather than the reverse.

7. *Table of Fines.*—The table of fines for short work printed in the Board's proceedings is full of blanks, and it is not easy to see what figures it is intended to insert in the places left blank. The table follows paragraph 28 of Appendix VI. to Madras Famine Code and prescribes separate fines for each

shortage of 10 per cent. The Government considers that the rule given in paragraph 45 of Appendix D-XIV. to the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Famine Code is much simpler and has manifest advantages over the Madras rule. According to the North-Western Provinces rule, no fine is inflicted if the shortage is 12 per cent. (say one-eighth) and under; if the shortage is between one-eighth and three-eighths, a fine of one-fourth of the wage is inflicted omitting to deduct fractions of a pice; if it is between three-eighths and five-eighths, a fine of half the wage is inflicted omitting to deduct fractions of a pice; and no payments are made for less than half the task, but the work goes to make up the next day's task. The above deductions are subject to the limitation that the wage is not ordinarily reduced below the minimum wage or in cases of deliberate contumacy below the penal wage.

The Government directs that the above rules as to fining should be adopted on all works carried out on the task-work system. The Board of Revenue is requested to submit for approval a table showing the fines for each class of workers when wages are paid daily, for two days at one time, for three days at one time, and so on.

8. *Paragraph 8 of the Board's Proceedings—Sub-paragraph 1.*—Section 106 of the Code now requires that the number of persons fined, together with the amounts, shall be entered in the weekly reports by the officer in charge.

9. *Paragraph 9 of the Board's Proceedings.*—The Board appears to misread the second sentence of paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 217, dated 10th March, 1900. This sentence does not, like the first sentence and the last sub-paragraph of paragraph 2, refer to the money value of grain wages. Its object is merely to prescribe the amount of dependant's doles, and it is not meant to interfere with existing orders as to the form in which the doles are to be given, whether as an additional money-wage to the worker or in the form of grain doles or cooked food.

No. 150.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.—REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 514, Revenue, dated 25th May, 1900.

In view of the decisions arrived at in the last three Government orders, the following revised instructions are issued in supersession of those contained in G.O., No. 217, Revenue, dated 10th March, 1900, for the classification and tasking of relief workers, and the payment of wages and allowances to them and their dependants.

2. *Classification.*—Relief-workers on task work will be divided into the following classes:—

Special class.—To include all persons in responsible positions or with special qualifications who are paid a uniform wage exceeding by a constant difference that allowed to workers in class I.

Class I.—To include all strong and healthy adult males.

Class II.—To include the older and the more feeble men, immature youths who have completed their fourteenth year, and all women.

Class III.—To include working children who have completed their eighth year but not their fourteenth.

3. The definition of the special class given above is taken from paragraph 445 of the report of the Indian Famine Commission of 1898 and from the remarks made in paragraph 440 of the Commission's report it appears that this class is intended to include mates or heads of gangs or others holding a slightly responsible position, or labourers with special qualifications, such as quarrymen, water-carriers or others whom it is necessary to entertain for the proper control of the labour or prosecution of the work. It also appears from paragraph 440 that it is an essential condition that the wage of labourers returned in the special class should exceed that of class I. by a constant

difference and that no persons who are paid a monthly wage or a daily wage differing from the wages of the prescribed classes should be returned as relief-workers. The Government also observes that in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh this constant difference has been fixed by the Local Government at two pice and in the Central Provinces at one pice.

So far as Government is aware no "special" class, as thus defined, has ever been recognised in this Presidency, and the Government is not sure what class of persons the Commission intends to include in the designation "mates of gangs." The Madras gang maistries must know how to read and write sufficiently to keep muster rolls, and one or two pice extra would probably not suffice to secure the services of competent men. Nor does Government see why a water-carrier should necessarily belong to the special class nor why he should receive the same wage as a quarryman. In these circumstances the Government hesitates to issue specific instructions as to what relief-workers should be placed in the special class, or to fix the difference by which the wage of this class is to exceed that of class I. The Board of Revenue is requested to give its opinion in consultation with Collectors, if necessary, as to what classes of workmen the special class should be held to include and what the constant difference in their wage should be.

4. *Tasks.*—The tasks to be required of the labourers in classes I. II. and III. will be the tasks shown in the tables sanctioned in G.O., No. 215, Revenue, dated 10th March, 1900. No work will be exacted from children below 8 years of age, but children of 8 to 14 will be required to work unless physically unfit.

5. *Wages and allowances.*—The ordinary daily wages, the minimum wages and the penal wages to be paid to workers will be the money value of the amounts of grain shown in Table No. 1 appended, calculated at current prices to the nearest pice in accordance with Table No. II. appended. The rest-day allowances of workers, where the payment of such allowances is authorized by the Board of Revenue will be the same as the minimum wage. Nursing mothers will be paid class II. wage and the allowance of a non-working child under eight years. The allowances to be made to non-working adult and children dependants, when the gratuitous relief of such dependants is sanctioned, are also shown in Table I. appended.

TABLE NO. I.

Class of Workers.	Ordinary Wage in Tolas.	Minimum and Rest-day Wage in Tolas.	Penal Wage in Tolas.	Dependants' Allowance in Tolas.
Special	To exceed that of Class I. by a constant difference.	60	45	—
Class I.	95	60	45	—
Class II.	75	60	45	—
Class III.	50	40	30	—
Dependants and others—				
Class IV. (Adults) ...	—	—	—	60
Class V. (Children) ...	—	—	—	One-fourth to three-fourths of the allowance for adults according to age and requirements.

TABLE NO. II.

Ready Reckoner for Pice Wages.

	Class I.	Class II.	Class IV. and Mini- mum for Classes I. and II.	Class III.	Penal Wage for the Special Class and Classes I. and II.	Minimum for Class III.	Penal Wage. for Class III.
Wage in Grain.	95 Tolas.	75 Tolas.	60 Tolas.	50 Tolas.	45 Tolas.	40 Tolas.	30 Tolas.
Wage basis in Seers Per Rupee.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
6-0	3, 3	2 6	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0
6-1	3 0	2 6	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0
6-2	3 0	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6-3	3 0	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6-4	3, 0	2 3	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6-5	3 0	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6-6	3 0	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0
6-7	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0
6-8	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0
6-9	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	0 9
7-0	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	0 9
7-2	2 9	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9
7-4	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
7-6	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
7-8	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
8-0	2, 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
8-25	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9
8-50	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9
8-75	2 3	1 9	1 3	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9
9-0	2 0	1 9	1 3	1 0	1 0	1 0	0 9
9-25	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9
9-50	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9
9-75	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 6
10-0	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 6
10-5	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6
11-0	1 9	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6
11-5	1 9	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6
12-0	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6
12-5	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6

Ready Reckoner for Pice Wages—continued.

	Class I.	Class II.	Class IV. and Mini- mum for Classes I. and II.	Class III.	Penal Wage for the Special Class and Classes I. and II.	Minimum for Class III.	Penal Wage for Class III.
Wage in Grain.	95 Tolas.	75 Tolas.	60 Tolas.	50 Tolas.	45 Tolas.	40 Tolas.	30 Tolas.
Wage basis in Seers Per Rupee.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
13·0	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6
13·5	1 6	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6
14·0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6
14·5	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6
15·0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6
15·5	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6
16·0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6

No. 151.

REPORT BY THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER, MADRAS (F. A. NICHOLSON, ESQ., C.I.E.), ON THE DISTRESS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY DURING 1900, AND THE MEASURES TAKEN FOR ITS RELIEF.

The portion of the Presidency in which distress has existed during the present year comprises the greater part of the Deccan districts lying above and to the west of the ghâts, together with a portion of the Nellore and Kistna districts lying east of the ghâts adjoining the Deccan districts to the north east. The normal rainfall of no part of this area exceeds 40 inches per annum, whilst over the great part it is less than 30 inches, and on the west of the area affected the average expected is less than 25 inches. Of this normal rainfall, half, or more than half, usually falls during the south-west monsoon, between June and September, and the bulk of the remainder between October and December; but in the Deccan districts but little rain usually falls after the early days of November. In the affected portions of Nellore and Kistna, however, there is rather more and rather heavier rain usually at this season.

In the year 1899, the rainfall during April and May, before the setting in of the south-west monsoon, was remarkably copious, but except in so far as it improved the water-supplies, and enabled the ryots in places to sow rather larger areas than usual under wells and the like, this rain was of no great agricultural value in the area under reference. In June, the rains were to a great extent a failure, and in July the fall was extremely light, the total fall during these two months being less than that recorded during these months of the year in any other of the last 30 years. The drought continued up to about 10th August, and the result was an extreme delay in the sowings on all the lighter descriptions of land in the Deccan districts and in the upland portions of Kistna. On the date mentioned, good rain fell over the greater part of the Deccan districts, and though the season was late, very extensive sowings were immediately made. This rain was very unevenly distributed, and was followed by more later in the month, which was still more irregular. The August rainfall was, however, on the whole sufficient to carry on the standing crop and to

encourage extensive sowings; and at the beginning of September very heavy rain began to fall in the Deccan districts, which being continued through the month stimulated agricultural operations into great activity. During October the rainfall in the area referred to was light, and the rain ceased very early, little or none falling anywhere during November. The rains, although so light and badly distributed, were made use of very fully by the cultivators. The area sown was not greatly below the normal area except in parts of Kistna and Nellore, but much of the crops sown failed to yield a satisfactory outturn, and a good deal was lost. On the heavier soils of the Deccan, which are usually sown with the September rains, fair crops of cotton and sorghum (*cholam*) were obtained over very considerable areas. Statistics of the rainfall and of the areas sown in the affected area are shown in the appendix so far as they are available. It should, however, be noted that a portion of the Nellore district, in which the situation was very critical, is zamindari, for which no detailed information regarding cultivation is available.

To the north-east of the area dealt with lies the southern portion of the tract protected by the Kistna delta irrigation system, but except for its indirect benefits to the people of the tract adjoining, did not influence the situation.

The following notes show to what extent the crops failed, or were deficient:—

Kistna (two taluks).—Area sown deficient by about one-fifth owing to the impossibility of sowing the usual late crop—variga. The principal crops are cholam and cumbu, much of which yielded very poorly.

Nellore, North (four taluks).—Area sown was deficient by one-fifth, chiefly under variga, which is usually sown late in the season and was not sown at all. The yield of the chief dry grains, cholam and cumbu, ranged from poor to fair, whilst about one-sixth of the area sown with these two crops failed entirely. Indigo, the chief industrial crop, yielded a poor outturn, about one-third of the extent sown having yielded nothing.

Kurnool, East (two taluks).—Area sown deficient by one-eleventh. Yield of the principal dry grains, yellow cholam, arika, korra and horsegram, poor, while that of cumbu was fair. About two-thirds of the area sown with arika and one-third of that under korra failed in Markapur. Of the industrial crops, castor and indigo returned a poor outturn. About a third of the area under castor and about half the extent sown with cotton failed in Markapur. The outturn of cotton in the remaining area was poor.

Central (four taluks).—Area sown a little above normal. Yield of cholam (late) and arika was moderate, while korra was poor. Yield of horsegram was fair. Cotton was indifferent and indigo was poor. Castors in Nandyal yielded fairly, though about a third of the area under it failed.

West (two taluks).—Area sown nearly normal. The yield of cholam, cumbu, arika and korra was poor. Of the industrial crops, indigo and cotton yielded poorly or nothing, while castors fared moderately. About one-half the area under indigo failed in Ramallakot, where it is chiefly sown.

Beltary, East (four taluks).—Area sown a little above normal. Yield of cholam (late) was fair in Adoni and Alur, and poor in the other two taluks. Yield of korra was also poor. A little over one-fourth of the area under cholam and one-third under korra failed in Bellary, while about half the area under the latter yielded nothing in Rayadrug. Cotton yielded a fair outturn in Alur and Adoni, and was poor in the other two taluks.

Anantapur, North (two taluks).—Area sown about normal. Yield of cholam was poor. Korra yielded badly. One-third of the area in Gooty taluk and over one-fourth in Tadpatri failed. Cumbu fared poorly in Gooty. Cotton yielded a poor outturn. The yield of castors in Gooty was poor.

Cuddapah, North-east (three taluks).—Area sown up to average. Paddy was normal in Pullampet and poor in the other two taluks. Outturn of cumbu and ragi was fair, while cholam and horsegram was poor. The yield of korra was fair in Badvel, though half the area under it failed. Indigo yielded a fair outturn, and cotton and castors was poor. About three-fourths of the area under paddy and two-thirds under horsegram failed in Badvel, while two-thirds of the area under cholam yielded nothing in Sidhout; about half the area under castors also failed.

North-west (four taluks).—Area sown deficient by one-ninth. Yield of korra, cholam, cumbu, and horsegram was poor. About half the area under korra failed, the failure being most marked in Jammalamadugu and Pulivendla. One-fourth of the extent under cholam and three-fifths under horsegram also yielded nothing. Pulivendla suffered most. Of the industrial crops, the yield of cotton was fair, though Pulivendla fared worst and indigo was poor.

South (four taluks).—Area sown up to average. The yield of cholam and ragi was moderate, while that of cumbu and horsegram was poor. Of the industrial crops, cotton and castors returned a poor outturn; sugarcane was fair. Gingelly was sown on a very small area. About two-thirds of the extent under cumbu, and half that under horsegram failed entirely in Rayachoti. Cotton and castors failed largely in the above taluk, the rest yielded a very poor outturn.

The area affected is almost the same as that which suffered during the third period of distress in 1891-92, and includes a large portion of that in which famine was recognised as existing during 1897. In these circumstances it does not appear necessary to enter on a discussion of the ordinary economic condition of the tract. The only change that has occurred since 1897 which materially affected the area is the opening of the East Coast Railway from Nellore to Bezwada. This railway traverses the eastern edge of the affected area from Ongole to Bapatla. The only great protective irrigation work within the area is the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, which, however, as it traverses the centre of the Nandyal valley in Kurnool, where the soils are not as a rule suited for the irrigation of paddy, is not usually made full use of. During the season of 1899-1900 water was taken much more extensively than usual, especially for dry and garden crops, as is shown in the abstract below:—

Particulars.	Kurnool, during				Cuddapah, during			
	Fasli 1306.	Fasli 1307.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1306.	Fasli 1307.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Dry crops	48,038	11,540	9,337	40,758	7,253	5,644	4,161	4,668
Garden crops	4,115	3,988	3,976	6,080	6,942	7,125	9,536	7,153
Wet crops	9,355	7,585	8,825	7,254	3,369	3,400	2,339	4,959
Second crop	4,110	3,396	2,956	3,379	4,039	4,486	7,180	2,966
Total area irrigated	65,618	26,509	25,594	57,471	21,608	20,655	23,216	19,746

Fasli 1306 (1896-7) was the last year of drought. Besides the canal abovementioned two other irrigation works should be mentioned, namely, the Cumbum tank (reservoir) in Kurnool, and the Sagiler project in Cuddapah. The former is a work under which about 5,600 acres of first and 4,900 acres of second crop are usually raised in ordinary years, and which is known to have dried up previously in the year 1892 only. During the season now past it again dried up completely, and the total area of crop raised was only 4,357, while out of a total revenue demand under the work of Rs. 43,346, Rs. 19,998 was remitted. The Sagiler project is a new work designed to tap a river draining an area adjacent to that which feeds the Cumbum tank. During the season under reference Rs. 7,685 were remitted out of a total revenue demand under the work of Rs. 19,586.

Prices.—Almost throughout the Presidency, during the earlier months of 1899, prices had been fairly cheap, although in the southern half of the Presidency rates had not fallen as low as they used to be previous to 1897. In the Deccan and Kistna, the principal staple food-grain (cholam) was decidedly cheap, and in June, 1899, was purchaseable at about 30 seers per rupee generally, and had been rather cheaper in the preceding months. With the failure of the rains in June rates began to rise, and in July a very considerable increase appeared, and the rise continued gradually up to September, which was followed by a sudden jump upwards about October, when a strong demand had set in for the export of this grain and of cumbu, towards the famine-stricken areas in Western and Central India. The rise continued up to November, when scarcity rates (double the normal prices) were recorded in all the Deccan districts except Cuddapah, in which district that level was reached in December. In Kistna and Nellore, the price of cholam did not rise quite so rapidly or so soon, and in Nellore, it was not till January that extreme rates were reached. From

December to February, prices in the affected area were on the whole fairly steady, but there was another rise in March, after which rates remained steady at an extremely high level until August, 1900, when a slight fall occurred, but in that month and in September prices for this grain were still considerably above the scarcity rates in all the affected districts, whilst almost throughout the Presidency the prices of the staple food-grains were from April to September as dear as or dearer than in the corresponding months of 1897. In the case of rice, however, it is only in the southern half of the Presidency and on the West Coast that rates have been dearer than in 1897. The characteristic of the past season has been the extremely high general level of prices and the levelling up that has occurred under the influence not only of very considerable local failure of crop; but of an enormous and unusual export of food-grains to other provinces. The main facts may be gleaned from the following statement showing the results, for the Presidency as a whole, of the grain trade during the six months ending in March, 1900, as compared with similar particulars for seven half-years preceding:—

Particulars.		September, 1896.	March, 1897.	September, 1897.	March, 1898.	September, 1898.	March, 1899.	September, 1899.	March, 1900.
		<i>Hundreds of Tons.</i>							
Paddy ...	Imports ...	28,4	25,9	28,0	59,4	61,9	60,3	43,1	58,7
	Exports ...	30,6	25,5	30,0	23,2	25,7	26,3	31,1	25,1
Net Imports ...		— 2,2	0,4	— 2,0	36,2	36,2	34,0	12,0	33,6
Rice ...	Imports ...	34,9	24,7	14,7	95,6	59,1	75,9	53,4	90,8
	Exports ...	103,1	128,5	117,5	93,6	62,8	+ 67,7	83,4	139,9
Net Exports ...		68,2	103,8	102,8	+ 2,0	3,7	+ 8,2	30,0	49,1
Deduct Equivalent of } Paddy as Rice ... }		— 1,5	0,3	— 1,3	24,1	24,1	- 22,6	8,0	22,4
Net Exports as Rice ...		69,7	103,5	104,1	+ 26,1	+ 20,4	+ 30,8	22,0	26,7
Other grains ...	Imports ...	50,6	37,0	39,6	56,1	75,9	58,9	45,0	31,9
	Exports ...	18,1	55,8	73,1	19,6	12,3	11,6	38,7	162,7
Net Imports ...		32,5	— 17,9	— 33,5	+ 36,5	+ 63,6	+ 47,3	+ 6,3	— 130,8
Total ...	Imports ...	...	...	...	62,6	64,0	78,1	...	...
	Exports ...	37,2	121,4	137,6	...	...	...	15,7	167,5

The extraordinarily large balance of grain exported is the more remarkable, because in normal years the Presidency has for a long while past shown a balance of imports. Similar results attended the grain trade of the Presidency during the bad year 1896-97, but the balance was never so large. The increased balance of exports appears under grains other than paddy or rice, and consisted mainly of cholam and cumbu drawn away for supply to the part of Western India where distress was very severe. The net exports of rice, both for the half-year ending in March and for the whole official year 1899-1900, were in no way remarkable, but in the case of other grains, not only were the exports phenomenal, but the usual large imports of grain, chiefly ragi, from Mysore, dwindled to a comparatively small figure.

The areas chiefly drawn on for the increased exports were the Kistna and Godavari deltas, the Deccan, and the Central Districts. From the two first-mentioned areas the grain was despatched direct by rail; from the latter by rail to Calicut and thence by sea. Owing to the largely increased exports of cholam and cumbu from Malabar, the balance of the sea-borne trade of the West

Coast was much decreased, In reality the usual sea-borne imports of paddy and rice into Malabar were maintained.

The balance of exports set in during the second quarter of the official year 1899-1900, and was maintained for nine months, as will be seen in the following abstract of the results of the trade in respect of food stuff :—

Particulars.	During the Quarter ending				
	30th June, 1899.	30th September, 1899.	31st December, 1899.	31st March, 1900.	30th June, 1900.
		<i>Hundreds of Tons.</i>			
Paddy { Imports	333	97	90	500	756
{ Exports	152	158	89	162	137
Net Imports	+ 181	— 61	+ 1	+ 338	+ 619
Rice { Imports	452	82	227	682	627
{ Exports	457	377	681	718	548
Net Exports	5	295	454	36	+ 79
Deduct Equivalent of Paddy as Rice	+ 121	— 41	+ 1	+ 225	+ 413
Net Exports as Rice	+ 116	336	453	+ 189	+ 492
Other grains ... { Imports	247	203	125	187	241
{ Exports	86	302	970	658	455
Net Imports	161	— 99	— 845	— 471	— 214
Total { Imports	277	...	...	...	278
{ Exports ... ..	...	435	1,298	282	...

The return to a more normal state of things, so far as the Presidency as a whole is concerned, was largely due to considerable imports by sea into the East Coast districts, and by quite exceptionally large imports into the West Coast districts. The exports by rail from the deltas and the Deccan districts continued during the last three months referred to on a very large scale, but the grain shipped from the deltas fell off largely. Statements are given in the appendix showing the net results of the grain trade, without allowance being made for the food equivalent of paddy as rice, which show in detail how different parts of the Presidency were affected.

Recovery.—It was not until nearly the end of May, 1900, that any material improvement in the outlook occurred. On the eighty-first birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Empress, good and propitious showers fell in many places in the Deccan districts. The ryots at once made the most of this favourable opening of the agricultural year and sowings proceeded apace. The south-west monsoon rainfall was not, however, altogether favourable, for though on the whole the fall was about the normal in quantity, its distribution was more than usually irregular and the falls spasmodic. Sowings have been, however, made over a much wider area than usual in almost all parts of the districts which were affected during the previous season, and the reports that have so far come in regarding the harvests of the early crops that are now proceeding are altogether favourable.

Reasons for apprehending that relief might be necessary.—As pointed out by the framers of the first Madras Famine Code, the proximate cause of famine is the failure of a succession of harvests resulting from insufficient or untimely rainfall. Such failures cause a slackness in the demand for labour, and lead to a great enhancement of the price of grain. Thus, the landless classes and field labourers lose their employment, and with the loss of means of purchasing food are coupled higher prices.

The distress which affected a large portion of the Presidency during 1896 and 1897 was only brought to an end comparatively late in the year 1897, whilst in a portion of the Nellore district distress continued and works were open until the middle of 1898. In the latter year, also, in parts of the Cuddapah district the holding off of the usual south-west monsoon rains gave cause for anxiety, but on the whole the agricultural year of 1898-99 was a favourable one, and in some places a bumper harvest was secured.

In 1899, the season was, however, as already described, extremely unfavourable, and the local shortage of the crops, coupled with an extremely active demand for grain for export, forced up prices to as high a level as that reached in 1896-97. Employment for the field labourers was much limited, and it therefore became a question whether the poorer classes would be able to face without assistance the usual long "dead season" in rural tracts after the scanty harvests had been secured.

When this appeared to be the case, and prices were already double the normal rates, it was determined to test the question by opening works on which a subsistence wage was offered in return for the performance of a reasonable task. For reasons chiefly connected with the simplicity of the system and ease of management, it was decided to adopt a system of limited piece-work at rates calculated to enable the workers by diligence to earn rather more than the bare subsistence wage recommended by the Famine Commission of 1898. For this purpose works were opened in the several districts and taluks specified on the dates mentioned—

District.	Taluk.	Date of Opening First Test-work.
Cuddapah	Proddattur	20th February, 1900
	Jammalamadugu	2nd March "
	Pulivendla	1st February "
	Kadiri	5th " "
Anantapur	Tadpatri	5th March "
Bellary	Adoni	21st February "
Kurnool	Pattikonda	11th April, 1900.
	Ramallakota	9th " "
	Nandyal	9th March "
	Koilkuntla	3rd April "
	Cumbum	20th March "
Kistna	Markapur	20th " "
	Vinukonda	11th " "
	Narasaraopet	7th " "
Nellore	Ongole	25th February, 1900.
	Kanigiri	12th " "

The works were designed to test the reality of the distress which was reported to exist in the districts mentioned, as shown by the following statement of the areas and population reported from month to month by the Collectors as being affected.

Months.	Cuddapah.		Anantapur.		Bellary.		Kurnool.	
	Area.	* Popu- lation.	Area.	* Popu- tion.	Area.	* Popu- lation.	Area.	* Popu- lation.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
February, 1900 ...	Square Miles. 1,487	177	—	—	—	—	Square Miles. 1,130	200
March „ ...	1,487	177	641	113	144	20	1,250	218
April „ ...	1,827	230	641	113	144	20	1,250	218
May „ ...	1,821	229	641	113	144	20	1,250	218
June „ ...	1,821	229	641	113	71	12	1,250	218
July „ ...	1,462	195	89	14	—	—	1,175	210
August „ ...	1,462	195	—	—	—	—	—	—

Months.	Nellore.		Kistna.		Total.	
	Area.	* Popula- tion.	Area.	* Popula- tion.	Area.	* Popula- tion.
	10	11	12	13	14	15
February, 1900 ...	Square Miles. 2,460	359	—	—	Square Miles. 5,077	736
March „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,513	1,079
April „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,853	1,132
May „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,847	1,131
June „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,774	1,123
July „ ...	—	—	964	217	3,690	636
August „ ...	—	—	964	217	2,426	412

* In thousands.

Of the areas referred to above, that shown against Nellore was merely threatened, but it may be said that an area of about 6,500 square miles with a population of about a million was affected, and that there was great danger that a much larger area would become involved. These areas take no cognizance of portions of districts outside the surveyed villages in the case of Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool. In the other cases definite portions of the districts were treated as affected.

Nature of the works selected.—In a majority of cases the works selected were irrigation works, the execution of which was desirable, and which would in several cases have been undertaken irrespective of the question of distress. In eight cases road works were undertaken, but these also were necessary

works. The following is a summary of the expenditure incurred on each class of work :—

District.	Irrigation.		Roads.		Total Expenditure.
	Number.	Expenditure.	Number.	Expenditure.	
Cuddapah	10	Rs. 36,046	2	Rs. 9,737	Rs. 45,783
Anantapur	1	19,432	—	—	19,432
Bellary	2	4,102	1	6	4,108
Kurnool	13	16,517	4	9,057	25,574
Nellore	2	59	1	1,596	1,655
Kistna	6	14,829	—	—	14,829
Total ...	34	90,985	8	20,396	1,11,381
Add general charges for supervision and tools and plant ...					54,674
Grand Total ...					1,66,055

From the subjoined table showing the average number of persons employed on the test-works in each month of the period, it will be seen that the totals never amounted to any considerable figure, although for four months they exceeded 10,000. The largest number on test works was reported during the week ending 7th July, 1900, and amounted to 14,416.

Months.	Workers in						Total Workers.
	Cuddapah.	Ananta-pur.	Bellary.	Kurnool.	Nellore.	Kistna.	
February	1,931	—	—	—	13	—	1,944
March	1,955	503	380	832	8	1,024	3,702
April	4,356	723	467	3,466	161	979	10,152
May	4,810	1,422	311	3,141	312	1,383	11,379
June	3,648	1,922	552	3,697	129	1,441	11,389
July	4,129	2,398	—	2,494	—	1,377	10,398
August	1,774	1,302	—	702	—	1,219	4,997

These workers are classified according to age and sex as follows :—

District.	Total Number of Workers.			Equivalent in Child Units.	Wage Earned Per Child Unit.
	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Cuddapah	278,610	332,730	69,930	1,126,245	Pies. 7-8
Anantapur	102,960	126,000	19,140	414,060	9-0
Bellary	23,340	24,840	3,120	87,060	9-1
Kurnool	131,700	249,480	48,780	686,400	7-2
Nellore	10,320	7,650	750	32,865	9-0
Kistna	114,450	97,290	11,550	386,385	7-4
Total ...	661,380	837,990	153,270	2,233,015	7-8

The proportion of adults and of men who resorted to the works was much higher than has been usually the case, and this is attributed chiefly to the form—piece-work—in which relief was offered, and the absence of the temptingly high wages for children prescribed in the Code.

For the purpose of the last two columns of this table the equivalents assumed are 1 man = 1½ women = 2 children, which are approximately the proportions borne by the grain wages of classes I., II. and III., respectively, of relief workers. At the price of grain by which wages were regulated the normal wage of a relief worker at the task-work system would have been about 9 pies per child unit, and at the limited piece-work rates adopted on most of the works the maximum earnable about 13 pies per child unit. The reason why the full wage was not earned in three districts was that the people, with a lively recollection of the relief measures of 1897 in mind, were loath to exert themselves, and in not a few instance expected and demanded a “minimum wage” in return for little or no work.

The next table shows how far the works carried out were executed economically—

Districts.	Irrigation Works.		Communications.		Total.		
	Expendi- ture.	Value of Work done.	Expendi- ture.	Value of Work done.	Expendi- ture.	Value of Work done.	
						Amount.	Per cent. of Expen- diture.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Cuddapah	36,046	42,369	9,737	9,896	45,783	52,265	114
Anantapur	19,432	22,296	—	—	19,432	22,296	115
Bellary	4,102	4,118	6	—	4,108	4,118	100
Kurnool	16,517	14,954	9,057	10,543	25,574	25,497	100
Nellore	59	75	1,596	1,955	1,655	2,030	123
Kistna	14,829	18,835	—	—	14,829	18,835	127
Total	90,985	1,02,647	20,396	22,394	1,11,381	1,25,041	112
Add general charges for supervision, tools and plant, &c.					54,674	—	—
Grand Total, Expenditure ...					1,66,055	—	—

Works were carried out on the intermediate system, and there was but slight opportunity for comparing it with the task-work system, as desired by Government. There appears to be a general consensus of opinion that the piece-work system, being simple and elastic, is well adapted for a scarcity or partial famine—special care, however, being taken to provide for inefficients—but that for a serious or intense famine with many weakly persons, the task-work system is preferable. But regarding piece-work, opinion strongly differs as to whether the maximum should or should not be done away with. The

Public Works Department, with its practical experience in dealing with works and labourers, would do away with the maximum and leave the officers in charge to prevent the earning of excessive wages by reducing rates; Mr. Morin, Executive Engineer in Cuddapah, states the case with clearness and ability. On the other hand, the Revenue officers, except the Collector of Cuddapah, desire the retention of the maximum, since they doubt the effect or feasibility of altering rates whenever occasion requires; they consider that works would be too rapidly used up, and they point out that the maximum is an essential in a system of relief which is intended to provide only a bare subsistence allowance for workers and their dependants, and that the maximum suffices for this purpose. Full discussion of the point is desirable.

From the experience gained on this occasion it would seem that when test-works are so sparsely attended, notwithstanding local expectations, as in Cuddapah, it would be well to close them at an earlier date and revert to ordinary works and methods if such works are actually and sufficiently available within the test area.

Relief to weavers.—Besides the measures mentioned above, it was found necessary to afford relief to a community of weavers of cotton head-cloths who live in part of the north-western portion of Cuddapah in or near the town of Jammalamadugu. The wares of these weavers usually find a sale in parts of the Bombay Presidency and the Central Provinces, and during the past year, owing to the state of the season in those parts, the demand for these wares almost entirely ceased. The community suffered severely during the season of 1896-7, and were then relieved at their own craft, as it was found impossible to employ them satisfactorily except in that way. Food-grains had in January, 1900 risen to nearly double their usual prices locally, and it was determined to offer relief on a system of limited piece-work based upon task-tables worked out on the experience obtained in 1897. For this purpose a scale of rates for labour was laid down, and advances of yarn were made on behalf of Government to those weavers who, on local enquiry, were found to be in need. When the work for which yarn was advanced was completed, the weavers were paid wages at the prescribed scale and fresh advances of yarn were made to them. Operations were begun during the first week of February, 1900, and continued up to September 14th when the last advances were made. The exact number of persons relieved by this means cannot be stated, but computing the numbers in proportion to the number of men and women laid down in the task-tables for the work undertaken the average numbers on relief were as follows:—

Month.	Number.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.
February	999	795	1,794
March	1,905	1,513	3,418
April	2,040	1,622	3,662
May	2,012	1,602	3,614
June	1,723	1,371	3,094
July	1,701	1,350	3,051
August	1,728	1,370	3,098
September	1,605	1,277	2,882
Average	1,714	1,362	3,076

The expenditure incurred on this form of relief and the recoveries made up to the end of November 1900 were as follow :—

Expenditure.	Rs.	Recoveries.	Rs.
Yarn purchased	73,942	By sale of cloths	86,589
Wages paid	29,773	Resale of yarn, etc.	3,238
Establishment charges	1,270	Sundries	20
Sundries	2,272		
		Total	89,847
		Value of stock on hand	11,471
		Balance to debit	5,939
Total	107,257	Total	107,257

The wages paid average 7·8 pies per head per diem as compared with one anna the minimum wage allowed for a Class II. worker under the latest orders, with grain at the level it ruled at during the season now passed. The lowness of the wage earned was due to the fact that in a very considerable number of cases the weavers took considerably longer than the periods laid down to complete the weaving for which yarn was advanced to them.

The recoveries already made, including value of stock on hand, amount to 97 per cent. of the expenditure on wages and materials, and to 94 per cent. of the gross expenditure. In such operations, where sales have to be made in the open market, and the goods are not passed on at a book valuation to other departments, the contingencies on which realizations depend are numerous. In this case, it may be safely said that the relief given was most economically administered, the net cost to Government being about four annas per head per month. Had the weavers displayed more energy and greater promptitude at their work, the results would have been still more economical. Some part of the expenditure over and above the cost of wages and materials was caused by the necessity for transferring the woven goods from Jammalamadugu to Cuddapah for storage.

Other measures of relief.—These embraced remissions and suspensions of revenue and the distribution of loans for land improvements and other purposes. The scale on which the latter operations were conducted is shown in the following table :—

District.	Land Improvement Loans Disbursed During		Agriculturist Loans Disbursed During	
	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kistna	575	2,713	400	1,200
Nellore	17,963	18,578	12,334	3,713
Kurnool	7,000	1,57,970	1,120	10,860
Bellary	8,708	15,660	50	2,605
Anantapur	12,434	8,315	415	1,920
Cuddapah	9,922	16,118	1,170	3,275
Total	56,602	2,19,354	15,489	23,573

The figures show that loans for land improvements were more freely taken than in the previous year, and especially was this the case in Kurnool. The smaller demand for loans in Anantapur is not explained. The operations would probably have been larger had the funds available been greater.

The main purpose for which loans were granted was for the sinking or repair of wells, except in Bellary, where the bulk of the amount advanced was for the reclamation of land. In Nellore the demand for loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was restricted to two taluks. The main purpose for which loans were granted in this district was for the purchase of fodder in the Ongole taluk. The following abstract shows the purposes for which loans were advanced in fasli 1309 :—

Districts.	Land Improvement Loans Act.				Agriculturist Loans Act.			
	Construction or repair of wells.	Land reclamation.	Other purposes.	Total.	Purchase of fodder.	Purchase of cattle.	Other purposes.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kistna ...	2,263	250	200	2,713	400	800	—	1,200
Kurnool ...	58,700	44,215	55,025	1,57,940	6,896	3,864	50	10,810
Bellary ...	1,480	14,130	50	15,660	—	1,094	1,511	2,605
Anantapur ...	7,135	200	980	8,315	—	1,920	—	1,920
Cuddapah ...	14,030	2,080	8	16,118	61	3,214	—	3,275
Nellore ...	18,403	175	—	18,578	2,833	830	50	3,713

Remissions.—These were granted under the usual rules in the case of wet lands, and in respect of dry lands in special cases. The amount that was granted owing to the state of the season in the tracts affected may be gauged from the following statement :—

District	Remissions Granted.					
	Dry.		Wet.		Total.	
	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kistna ...	—	—	3,205	19,429	3,205	19,429
Nellore ...	—	—	1,417	65,893	1,417	65,893
Kurnool ...	—	31,759	29,528	90,312	29,528	1,22,071
Bellary ...	1,331	14,513	11,313	11,878	12,644	26,391
Anantapur ...	21,811	57,335	66,159	64,105	87,970	1,21,440
Cuddapah ...	12,395	63,156	93,532	2,75,655	1,05,927	3,38,811
Total ...	35,537	1,66,763	2,05,154	5,27,272	2,40,691	6,94,035

Remissions on dry waste or for loss of produce on dry land were granted in fasli 1308 in portions of the Cuddapah, Anantapur and Bellary districts where dry crops suffered from untimely rainfall. Large remissions for wet waste in the Deccan districts in that year were necessary owing to the scanty

rainfall and to short supplies in the irrigation sources. The result is that the remissions granted in fasli 1309 do not appear so exceptional as they otherwise would ; but altogether a sum of Rs. 4,40,048 was remitted for waste or loss of crop.

Having in view the extensive loss of crop and continued bad seasons in the four north-western taluks of Cuddapah, a sum of Rs. 56,345, representing old arrears, and another of Rs. 6,386, being penal rates levied for unauthorized tank-bed cultivation in fasli 1307, were written off in order to relieve the pressure of the ryots.

In addition to the above, postponement or suspension of collections was granted in the following cases :—

District.	Suspended or Postponed Amount.	Period.
Kistna	Rs. 2,91,890	} Until fasli 1310.
Nellore (Ongole)	1,58,679	
Kurnool	2,34,543	
Bellary	20,293	
Anantapur	39,372	
Cuddapah	72,044	
Total	8,16,821	

The collection of these sums will be made with the land revenue for the current year.

Result on the people.—Owing to the limited extent and intensity of actual distress the effect on the people in general has been but slight, and even in the affected areas actual distress in its technical sense was, in general, limited to a proportion of the labouring classes, though, to all except those who had grain to sell, the high prices and grave shortage of crops caused a sharp pinch, considerable stint and serious loss of prospective profits ; to many, however, the high prices, following as in many parts on an excellent year in 1898-99, meant prosperity. Owing, moreover, to the fact that, except in moderate areas the early crops were moderately good and the later chiefly failed at the earing stage, and to the general existence of surplus fodder from the previous abundant year the cattle suffered but little more than in ordinary hot weathers ; only in some areas, such as parts of North Nellore and the neighbouring uplands of Kistna, was there any notable trouble.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Relief Works opened in Jhansi District only.

No. 152.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 28TH APRIL, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

RUPEES 549 has been collected during the month from private subscription in the Jhansi city for the relief of *parda nashin* women and infirm persons. Two hundred and ninety-seven persons relieved on Saturday, the 28th. Four relief circles are open and four *naib* tahsildars are deputed to help village relief. Two poorhouses are open. There were 68 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse and 40 in Mahroni on Saturday. Four relief works are open, and a fifth will be started soon at Lalitpur. There were 2,407 persons on works on Saturday. Physical condition of people good. No death reported from starvation. Markets well stocked. Import exceeds export. Harvesting of crops completed. Extra crops in good condition, but *mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*) has largely failed. Task 100—85 cubic feet on 13-*ser* basis. There were 62 persons of Gwalior, 357 of Orcha, 8 of Ajmer, 1 of Datia, and 5 of Khanya Dhana on all works during the month. Twenty-five persons of Native States were relieved in the poorhouses of Jhansi Mahroni.

No. 153.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 26TH MAY, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

RUPEES 602 has been collected during the month from private subscription in the Jhansi city, and 268 persons relieved gratuitously on Saturday, the 26th. Four relief circles are open, and two special *naib* tahsildars are looking after their proper arrangement; the third *naib* tahsildar, who is working at Sumera tank, will be deputed to help in village relief in parganas Maraura and Balabehat of Lalitpur sub-division as soon as he is relieved by a *naib* tahsildar expected from Gorakhpur Division. Two poorhouses are open. There were 104 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse and 43 in Mahroni on Saturday. Sanction to the closing of works and poorhouses has been asked for from 15th June next, or subsequent date on which the monsoon may become well established. Five relief works are open. There were 1,641 persons on all works on Saturday. Physical condition of people good. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets well stocked. Import continues. Extra crops doing well and being cut. Fields being prepared for *kharif*. Task 100—85 cubic feet on 13-*ser* basis. There were 31 persons from Native States in two poorhouses. Fourteen persons of Gwalior, 162 of Orcha, 4 of Kherria (Saugor district), and 9 of Khaniya Dhana on all works during the month.

No. 154.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

RUPEES five hundred and forty-five, annas eight, and pies six has been collected during the month from private subscription in Jhansi City for the relief of distressed *pardah nashin* women and infirm persons. Three hundred and twenty-eight persons relieved from it on Saturday. Of Rs. 25,000 received from the Central Executive Committee, Rs. 1,000 has been placed at the disposal of the pargana officer, Jhansi, for the help of the distressed in Jhansi City. Four village relief circles are open, and three *naiib* tahsildars are deputed to look after them. Seven hundred and seventy-five persons relieved gratuitously on Saturday. Numbers are increasing, and the relief circles will be extended if the rain still holds off till the 15th July next. Two poorhous are open. There were 138 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse and 91 in Mahroni on Saturday. Five relief works under Public Works Department agency are open. There were 1,685 persons on all works on Saturday. Physical condition of people good. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets well stocked. Import continues. Harvesting of extra crops completed. Fields are being prepared for *kharif* in places. Task, 100—85 cubic feet on 13-*ser* basis. Proposals for change to an 11-*ser* basis have been made and task reduced to 85 cubic feet everywhere. Thirty-one inmates of the poorhouses and 111 persons on all works during the month were residents of Native States.

No. 155.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 28TH JULY, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

TOTAL collection from private subscription during the month was Rs. 516-4-3. Three hundred and forty-five persons relieved charitably on Saturday, the 28th, in the Jhansi City. Four relief circles are open, and three special *naiib* tahsildars are looking after them. One thousand one hundred and three persons were relieved gratuitously on Saturday. Relief circles at Jhansi and Moth will be closed from 7th August, 1900, the paupers receiving 15 days dole on that date. Two poorhouses are open. There were 216 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse, and 35 in Mahroni on Saturday. Chirgaon-Baghera work was closed on 21st; Babina-Badanpur road and Sumera tank on 27th; Richa-Rasoi tank and Maraura tank on 28th. All the five works are now closed. Physical condition of people good. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets full. Import still continues. Sowing and weeding of *kharif* in progress. Crops germinated well.

No. 156.

Notes of a Conference held by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, and Chief Commissioner of Oudh, at Cawnpore, on the 28th July, 1900, regarding famine relief measures in the Jhansi District.

PRESENT :

- Mr. E. B. ALEXANDER, Commissioner, Allahabad Division.
 „ J. H. SIMPSON, Collector of Jhansi.
 „ C. A. SILBERRAD, Joint Magistrate, in charge of the Lalitpur Sub-Division.
 „ A. H. ASHTON, District Engineer, Jhansi.
 Honourable Mr. R. G. HARDY, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

RELIEF works in the Jhansi District commenced on 2nd October, 1899, when the repairs of the Talbehat-Pura road were undertaken. On the 11th December two fresh works were started—the Babina-Badanpur and the Chirgaon-Baghera roads. On 1st February, 1900, the Maraura tank was opened, and on the 11th May, 1900, work was commenced on the Sumera tank. At no time were there more than five relief works in progress, but, when the work on the Talbehat-Pura road was closed early in April, 1900, it was replaced by the work on the Rasoi tank. Similarly, when the Chirgaon-Baghera road was completed in March, fresh work was undertaken at the Barwai tank. All these works are now closed, the Barwai tank on 21st July, the remaining works by orders issued on the 27th July.

The adequate rain which had fallen throughout the district rendered it unnecessary to keep the works open. Before the works were closed, it was noticed that the workpeople were mostly women and children of villages adjoining the works. The men who were employed in digging had gone off to field work.

From the opening to the closing of the works Rs. 60,000 in round numbers had been expended. The works carried out measured 7,095,482 cubic feet, the incidence of cost being Rs. 8 per 1,000 cubic feet. The total number of units employed was 480,067; of these 129,750 were men, 231,047 women, and 119,270 children. The incidence per unit per diem amounted to 2 annas. This incidence appears high, but it must be remembered that the works were carried out on the scarcity system, which excludes the minimum wage, and makes no provision for dependants. Tasks were laid down preventing the labourers from earning more than the ration prescribed by the Code for class and sex. The amount earned per diem per labourer was 11 pies, the remaining 13 pies representing the cost of the establishment, equipment, tools and plant. The proportionate cost of establishment was high, but, though the establishment was reduced to a minimum strength after the numbers on relief showed no tendency to increase, it was still sufficient to have controlled six times as many labourers as attended on the works. Though five works were open, yet the maximum number never exceeded 3,300 labourers on any one day. The cost of the works, Rs. 8 per 1,000 cubic feet, is high, but not so high as it appears, and not more than double the ordinary rate. The works were carried on in localities where the extreme hardness of the ground and in some cases the long lead made Rs. 4 per 1,000 cubic feet an ordinary rate.

There were no deaths from starvation, nor was there any kitchen establishment in connection with the works. In a few cases only were signs of emaciation visible among the labourers.

To supplement the relief afforded on works by the Public Works Department, village relief was started towards the end of January, 1900, and four circles were formed, worked under the direct supervision of the pargana officers. Three of these circles were under the charge of *naib* tahsildars; the fourth was under the charge of the tahsildar of Moth.

Initial lists of persons requiring relief were prepared by *patwaris*, these lists being subsequently thoroughly checked. Payment to distressed persons was made daily by the *lambardars*, the latter receiving advances every ten days.

Immediately prior to the closure of the works, there were 869 persons in receipt of village relief. Since the closure of these works, village relief has naturally expanded, the numbers rising to 1,200. The numbers of persons on village relief were swollen to a certain extent by the return from the Saugor District of persons who had left their homes in Lalitpur, attracted by the easier work and higher scale of wages in force in the Saugor District. While wages were on a 13-*ser* per rupee basis, and tasks were 100 cubic feet in Jhansi, the corresponding rates in Saugor are understood to have been 11 *ser*s and 80 cubic feet. Some 1,700 persons were brought back from Saugor to Lalitpur; the majority of them were employed on works in the Jhansi District, and about 100 brought on to village relief.

In His Honour's opinion it will be necessary to maintain village relief until the 15th September, when the lists should be closed, 15 days' rations being given to persons whose names are then on the lists.

To supplement the assistance afforded by relief works and village relief, poorhouses were established in Jhansi in November, 1899, and in Mahroni in January, 1900. Prior to the closure of the works the poorhouses had 350 inmates, the number at the Jhansi poorhouse being swelled by immigrants from Gwalior, who, though once sent back to their homes, found their way back to the Jhansi poorhouse. In His Honour's opinion it will be necessary to keep these poorhouses open until after the closure of village relief.

In addition to the direct relief afforded by Government, some large works—tanks, *bandhs*, and wells—were undertaken by landlords, who borrowed Rs. 6,000 from Government for the purpose, and spent about 50 per cent. in addition. Seventy-five per cent. of the advances made by Government will be recovered from the landlords. These works gave employment to a considerable number of poor persons near their villages, and helped to meet a good deal of local distress.

In the town of Lalitpur considerable railway works were undertaken, which gave work to labourers at the time it was much needed.

The only large towns in the Jhansi District are Jhansi itself and Mau Ranipur. In these local subscriptions were raised to meet the requirements of *varda nashin* women. A grant of Rs. 1,000 was made from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and was supplemented by local subscriptions. The Fund made in all a donation of Rs. 25,000 to the district; Rs. 22,000 is being expended in purchasing cattle and seed, Rs. 2,000 in purchasing clothes.

In reviewing the operations as a whole, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the relief was carefully and adequately administered, and that it was sufficient. The circumstances were such that, if a firm control had not been exercised, abuses might easily have crept in. The Collector, Mr. Hope Simpson, and the Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalitpur, Mr. Silberrad, deserve the thanks of Government for their successful administration. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Aikman, who was in May compelled by ill-health to go on leave, and the District Engineer, Mr. Ashton, have also worked carefully and well; and their services call for very favourable recognition. Had the rains held off, it would have been necessary to formerly declare the district distressed. Fortunately opportune rain fell, and His Honour agrees with the local officers that further relief works are now unnecessary.

In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to acknowledge the Commissioner, Mr. Alexander's services in connection with these relief measures. Ever conscientious and painstaking, Mr. Alexander, was, however, at times disposed to subordinate economical considerations to what he regarded as the dictates of humanity. But in the administration of famine relief the true interests of the people lie in the preservation of their habits of industry and self-reliance; and this all important requirement is far more likely to be found

in a policy of economy in the distribution of relief than in a policy of profusion. It is, of course, understood that the saving of human life is a postulate in all cases.

A further memorandum will be recorded after the closure of all relief in September next.

No. 157.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 25TH AUGUST, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

The collection from private subscription during the month was Rs. 550-4-0. Three hundred and forty-four persons received charitable relief on Saturday, the 25th August 1900, in the Jhansi city. Two relief circles at Lalitpur and Mahroni are open, and two special *naib* tahsildars are in charge of them. One thousand and sixty-four persons were relieved gratuitously on Saturday. Two poorhouses are open: there were 130 inmates in Jhansi and 98 in Mahroni on Saturday. Physical condition of people good, but cholera was reported from Jhansi, Mau, Lalitpur, Bansi, and Talbehat parganas during the month. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets full. Import and export continue. Sowing is nearly finished, and weeding in progress. Crops germinated well. Barley and maize are being eaten in South Lalitpur, and the small millet ought to be ripe within ten days, and will certainly be so if a break, which is now wanted, occurs.

No. 158.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

The collection from private subscription during the month was Rs. 196-4-0. Three hundred and forty-three persons were relieved charitably on Saturday, the 29th September 1900, in the Jhansi city. The village relief of North Lalitpur was closed on the 31st August, 1900, and of South Lalitpur on the 15th September, 1900. Two poorhouses are open: there were 91 inmates in Jhansi and 25 in Mahroni on Saturday. Physical condition of people fair. Sporadic cholera was reported from Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Talbahat parganas, and fever generally. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets full. Import and export continue. Prospects excellent. Cutting of early millets and maize in progress.

No. 159.

Letter from R. G. Hardy, Esq., C. S. I., Chief Secretary to the Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 568, dated Naini Tal, the 5th October, 1901.

I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that as the monsoon shewed signs of closing prematurely, the Lieutenant-Governor early in September called for reports from Commissioners of Divisions by 25th September on the agricultural situation. The reports were to be based

on the assumption that no more rain would fall before November and were to show the prospects of the Kharif harvest and of the Rabi sowings. Commissioners were also asked whether in any considerable tract of any district such failure as would necessitate relief measures was anticipated.

2. Good rain fell during the last week of September, the effect of which was not fully known when the Commissioners sent in their reports. Further information was therefore called for regarding the Meerut and Agra Divisions, the Northern portions of the Rohilkhand Division, and the South of the Mirzapur district, where the original reports indicated that some pressure was probable. The further reports received are, on the whole, of a re-assuring character. In the Meerut Division a ten anna kharif crop is anticipated by the local officers: but in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion it may be better. Taqavi may be needed for the rabi sowings, and in the low lying riverain tracts which have been injured by floods, and in the hilly country, suspensions and possibly remissions of revenue may be necessary. Further, in the Meerut Division as a whole the cultivators are a substantial body of men. In the Western parts of the Rohilkhand Division, the rain-fall has been inadequate and suspensions of revenue will be necessary. In Mirzapur, the prospects in which were not good, rain has fallen, and prospects have improved. It is only in the Muttra district of the Agra Division that the pressure is likely to be of a nature to require assistance. This district, it will be remembered, suffered from short rainfall in 1900 also: but showed great powers of resistance to distress in that year. The construction of the Mat Branch Canal extension will give the necessary employment to persons seeking labour, and I am to say, that the project for this work, the cost of which is estimated at nine lakhs, will shortly be submitted to the Government of India and steps have already been taken to start the earth-work whenever necessary.

3. I am to add, that the Commissioners of Meerut, Agra and Rohilkhand are being called upon to submit reports, as required by article 24 of the Famine Code (Provisional Issue) in regard to the areas in their respective divisions, regarding which anxiety has been felt. A further communication will, if necessary, be submitted for the information of the Government of India. But the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner is not himself apprehensive that difficulties of much magnitude will have to be encountered even in the areas of least rainfall.

B E N G A L.

FORECASTS AND REPORTS.

No. 160.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 214, Agriculture (Famine), dated Calcutta, the 13th January, 1900.

IN compliance with the orders contained in your letter No. 2—49-41F., of 19th December, 1899, and in continuation of this Government's letter, No. 951T.—R., of 9th November, 1899, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the following report on the agricultural situation, crop prospects, and famine relief requirements of Bengal.

2. The Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture has recently issued his final estimates of the *bhadoi* and winter rice crops, copies of which are appended to this letter. They disclose no cause for anxiety save in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division (exclusive of Manbhum) and in Puri, and Angul. The winter rice crop has been, in Bengal, excellent, and in Bihar fair; and though the *bhadoi* (rains) crop was poor in the latter province, yet any apprehensions have been rendered groundless by the good prospects of the *rabi*.

3. The only portion of these provinces in which the spring crops are of vital importance is Bihar; and according to present reports there was abundant moisture at the time of sowing in October. Since then no rain has fallen; but though the effect of good rains within the first half of January would be very great, yet there is reason to believe that even if they fail the outturn will be almost normal. According to present reports the ordinary crops are doing well, and the poppy has germinated successfully.

4. The possible famine relief requirements are therefore confined to the districts already excluded from the preceding remarks. These may now be considered separately.

In Puri the Director of Land Records has estimated the outturn of winter rice in the Sadar and Khurda subdivisions at 56 and 75 per cent. respectively; and if such a crop had been reaped in every thana or village, there would be no cause for apprehension. In isolated tracts, however, the produce has been very poor, and these are being carefully watched. One small test work, near the Chilka lake, is now open, and relief within very narrow local limits may be needed, but the Commissioner considers that no assistance from provincial funds will be needed in the current year beyond that already provided in the budget.

The district of Angul has recently been visited by the Commissioner, who, after careful enquiries, has concluded that the winter rice crop in the Sadar subdivision will be 8 annas (or 50 per cent. in the new notation). He also expects that the *rabi* crops will probably be fair (12 annas). No famine relief will therefore be required this year, though some help in the shape of *takavi* loans may be needed. It cannot yet be said whether relief will be necessary after March, as much will depend on the *rabi* and the *mahua* crop. In the

Khondmals, which are attached administratively to Angul, though separated therefrom by the Native State of Bod, the Commissioner estimates 4 annas (or 25 per cent.) as the utmost extent of the outturn. He also expects that the *rabi* crops will fail. The population affected numbers, however, only 70,000; and even if relief measures become necessary, the probable expenditure will be considerably under a lakh of rupees. But the question of relief will be very considerably affected by the outturn of the next *mahua* crop, since the people even of the better class regularly look to the jungles for three months' supply of food. Owing to the inaccessibility of the tract, and the absence of any large grain dealers, it may be necessary hereafter to grant loans for the importation of rice.

In Chota Nagpur there is ground for hoping that in case a good *mahua* crop is gathered, famine relief will not be necessary at all; and at any rate it will probably not be required until next year. Unfortunately the absence of winter rains has harmed the *rabi* crop, which, though insignificant in the other districts, is of considerable importance in the isolated district of Palamau.

5. It will be seen that all the affected tracts, with the exception of Puri, belong to the fringe of hilly country occupied by aboriginal or semi-aboriginal tribes, and affording supplies of jungle produce of considerable, though uncertain, value. The peculiarities of the inhabitants do not facilitate the application of rigid methods for testing the degree of scarcity, and necessitate very careful watching. The Lieutenant-Governor is, however, able to promise that if it should unfortunately be necessary to give famine relief, that necessity will first be demonstrated by the fullest admissible tests.

6. The expenditure already incurred has been confined to the cost of test works and a little relief to starving people in Puri. It has not been considerable, and has been met from local funds.

In addition, as already reported to you, a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been advanced from provincial funds to grain dealers in Palamau to enable them to import grain. The abundant winter harvest of Bengal has hitherto kept prices far below the range which obtained in the cold weather of 1896-97, and affords ground for hope that the resources of the local traders will not be now, as then, unduly strained.

No remissions of Government land revenue are contemplated, though postponement of kists may perhaps be rendered necessary in the extensive Government estates of Angul, Khurda (in Puri), Kolhan (in Singhbhum), and Palamau.

More than the usual liberality in the grant of loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act, both in the current and in the next year, will be exercised. The estimated expenditure in the seven affected districts during the current year is about a lakh of rupees, and in 1900-1901 it will amount to about two lakhs.

In addition, the customary expenditure from district funds and the improvement funds at the disposal of Government and Wards' estates will be undertaken.

7. So far as at present advised, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the above described measures will be adequate to meet all requirements. But he desires to take advantage of the dispensation suggested in paragraph 3 of the letter of the Government of India, because in each of the affected districts save Puri the value of the *mahua* crop and of jungle products, the prospects of which will be known in March, is very great, whilst in Puri heavy rains in October made it possible to sow large areas with *rabi* and catch crops, the approximate effect of which it will be possible to estimate two months hence. Accordingly, should any important modification of the situation arise before March, it will be reported at once to the Government of India, and a further general report will be submitted in that month.

No. 161.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 663T.-R., dated Darjeeling, the 31st May, 1900.

I am directed to submit, with reference to the Government of India's letter No. 1031F., dated the 21st May, 1900, the following report on the prospects of scarcity in this Province. In the last report, submitted in my letter No. 214, dated the 15th January, 1900, it was stated that the possibility of distress requiring relief measures was confined to the Chota Nagpur Division (exclusive of Manbhum) and the districts of Puri and Angul (including the Kandhmals in the Orissa Division. There has since been no change for the worse in other parts of the Province, though anxiety was felt for some time with regard to a portion of the Gobindpur sub-division of Manbhum, which was visited by famine in 1896-97. But the price of common rice at Gobindpur has been steady at 12 seers per rupee since the middle of January. The *mahua* has also been an average crop, and the mango about 85 per cent., and with seasonable showers of rain in almost every week since the latter end of April, all anxiety with regard to this tract has ceased. The following paragraphs deal with the districts mentioned in my letter of the 13th January.

2. *Puri*.—In the district of Puri scarcity was apprehended only in certain isolated tracts in the neighbourhood of the Chilka Lake, covering an area of 120·7 square miles, with a population of 36,578 persons. The number of test works opened rose to six in the first half of April, two of which were, however, soon closed, one for want of labourers, and the other because it was too close to

Date.	Inches.
*3rd May	2·15
4th "	·75

another work ; whilst the numbers on the other test works were never large. The Commissioner inspected the doubtful areas at the end of April, and reported that the condition of the people was good, and that there was no present apprehension of distress. There were also heavy showers of rain* on the 3rd and 4th May, and as the rainy season was very near, orders were issued on the 16th May to close all test works, and the distribution of the trifling gratuitous relief which was being given. A final report on the measures taken, with a statement of expenditure, has been called for. The average price of common rice in the interior of the district, according to a report of the Collector dated the 19th May, is 14 seers per rupee.

3. *Angul and the Kandhmals*.—According to the note of the Agricultural Department on the outturn of the *rabi* crops of 1899-1900, published in the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 11th April last, the yield of the *rabi* food crops in Angul and the Kandhmals taken together is 44 per cent., and of the *rabi* non-food crops 50 per cent. The outturn of *mahua* in Angul is estimated at about 36 per cent., and that of mango at about 42 per cent. Two test works were opened, but were not frequented. No deficiency of stocks has been reported, and the price of common rice in the interior is steady at 12 seers per rupee.

In the Kandhmals, as observed in this Government's letter of the 13th January referred to, much depended on the *mahua*, which has happily yielded a 70 per cent. crop. Another crop of great importance to the inhabitants is turmeric, the outturn of which is estimated at from 50 to 62·5 per cent., and it is reported that it has been sold for higher prices than in ordinary years. Although, therefore, the retail price of common rice is high, being 9 seers per rupee, the general conditions are good, and rice is being freely imported from Ganjam.

The Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa, visited Angul in the beginning of May, and reported favourably on the situation ; there has also

been a succession of seasonable showers of rain ; accordingly orders were issued on the 22nd May discontinuing the submission of the half-monthly reports, and calling for a final report of the measures taken and the expenditure incurred. Relief in Angul and the Kandhmals will, in the ordinary course of events, now be confined to starving wanderers, of whom some may come from the Central Provinces.

4. *Singhbhum*.—Of the doubtful districts in the Chota Nagpur Division, the prospects of Singhbhum are so far good. The outturn of the *rabi* crops, although they are insignificant in this district, is not bad, being 65 per cent. in the case of food crops, and 60 per cent. in that of non-food crops ; while the outturn of *mahua* is said to be normal. It is also reported by the local officers that the fruit of the *sâl* tree, which is a wholesome and nourishing article of food, is procurable in large quantities. Prices are steady, common rice selling from 10 to 16½ seers per rupee ; and it is reported that there are large stocks of rice in the Dhalbhum pargana. Finally, there was general rain in both weeks of the first half of May, preceded by good showers in every week of April, and ploughing and sowing have commenced.

5. *Hazaribagh*.—The relative importance and the outturn of the principal crops and the prices of common rice, in the district of Hazaribagh, as well as in Ranchi and Palamau, are shown in Statements I., II., and III. hereto appended. The condition of the district as a whole has remained satisfactory, and the average district price of common rice during the fortnight ending the 12th May was 11½ seers per rupee, as compared with 6 seers 14 chitaks at the same period of 1897. But some anxiety has been felt for thanas Simaria and Barkagon, where the outturn of the late winter rice crop was 50 and 25 per cent. respectively. The outturn of the *mahua* crop, which was damaged in this district as well as in Ranchi and Palamau by bad weather from January to March, is estimated for the whole district at from 8 to 10 annas (50 to 62·5 per cent.) ; but as regards the two thanas named above, which are thinly populated and possess many *mahua* trees, the local officers think that probably the people will have enough for their requirements. A test work was opened in the Barkagaon thana on the 2nd April, but no labourer attended. Two kitchens were started by the Deputy Commissioner, one in this thana and one in thana Simaria, for indigent residents, principally old women and children, who, in his opinion, were beginning to suffer from the scarcity. As the abortive test work showed that distress, if there was any, was not acute, the two kitchens have since been closed. Rain has fallen, and the latest weekly weather and crop telegram shows that fields are being ploughed for the early paddy crop in this district.

6. *Palamau*.—As already telegraphed to the Government of India, famine has been declared in Mahuadanr, the south-eastern thana of this district, adjoining the district of Ranchi. The tract is hilly, and covers an area of 502 square miles, with a population of 26,153, or 52 per square mile, the aboriginal element amounting to about half the total population. Trade in this tract is limited, and communications are far from being good. The late winter rice crop in the south of this thana was almost a complete failure, the Deputy Commissioner being doubtful whether it reached 10 per cent. ; and the outturn of *mahua* is reported to be 6 annas, or 37·5 per cent. The mango crop is, however, good. Very little *rabi* was sown, and the outturn has been bad.

In the first fortnight of December last common rice was, contrary to the usual custom, as dear, if not dearer, at Mahuadanr than elsewhere in the district, selling at 11 seers 4 chitaks a rupee. It fell considerably in the following fortnight, but again rose rapidly in the first half of January. In the second half of March, the price quoted for Mahuadanr was 10 seers 2 chitaks, as compared with 10 seers 11 chitaks in the previous fortnight. The price was stationary till the end of April, apparently on account of imports from the adjoining Tributary State of Jashpur ; when these stopped, the price rose to 6 seers 3 chitaks in the first half of May. Since the close of the fortnight it has fallen to 7 seers 14 chitaks. The price of *mahua* in this thana rose from 33¾ seers to 27 seers in

the first half of April, the latter being about four times as high as the usual price at that time in ordinary years. In the second half of April it rose further to 23 seers 10 chitaks. A test work was opened at Mahuadanr on the 27th of March, but was not at first well attended. The numbers appear to have begun to rise in the second half of April, and the table in the margin shows the numbers in each week up to the second week of May. The Commissioner, Mr. Forbes, who visited Mahuadanr on the 16th March formed the opinion that the stocks of grain were deficient, and considered the labourers on a work opened by the Roman Catholic Missionaries to be nearly all deteriorating from want of food. In accordance with the recommendation of the late Indian Famine Commission contained in paragraph 486 of their Report, a Deputy Collector was deputed in the second half of April to make local enquiries into

Week ending—	Aggregate number of male units.
7th April ...	43
14th „ ...	119
21st „ ...	472*
28th „ ...	1,219*
5th May ...	981
12th „ ...	1,091

* These include numbers on test works in thana Balumath. The local officers have not given separate figures for these two weeks.

the state of stocks and the condition of the people. He searched many houses, and found the stocks nearly exhausted, and the people living largely on jungle products. Moreover, the local missionaries unanimously considered that famine was at hand. In view of the positive evidence of the acuteness of the distress, the aboriginal descent of a large portion of the inhabitants, and the difficulties of communication, the Lieutenant-Governor came to the conclusion that further delay in declaring famine would be unjustifiably rash. Accordingly that step has been taken, and the Commissioner has been authorised to organise the distribution of gratuitous relief, and to open relief works at such rates for piece work as he may think fit, up to the maximum permitted by the Bengal Famine Code of 1897. A copy of the instructions for calculating piece-work rates is submitted for the information of Government. In addition, the sanction of the Government of India has been obtained to the grant of loans to the local dealers to import rice into the thana. It will be remembered that a loan of Rs. 50,000 was advanced some months ago to the dealers at the district headquarters to import grain into the district, and there is good reason for believing that a large stock has been accumulated since then, which should be available now for import into Mahuadanr.

With regard to two other thanas in this district, viz., Balumath and Latihar, adjoining thana Mahuadanr, and to a certain extent similarly circumstanced, anxiety is being felt at present, but before arriving at any definite conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor is awaiting a further report from the local officers.

The closing of work on the Barun-Daltonganj Railway at such a time is unfortunate. It is understood that the East Indian Railway Company are about to take this step under instructions from the Government of India, because all the resources of that Government are required for the relief of famine. Though the line does not pass through the affected thanas, the steady employment offered to labourers on it would sensibly relieve the pressure throughout the district.

7. *Ranchi*.—The following table shows the thanas which have given cause for anxiety in the district of Ranchi, with the outturn of winter rice in each :—

Name of Thana.	Area Square Miles.	Population.	Outturn of Winter Rice.
			Per Cent.
Mandar ...	372	73,759	43·7
Khunti ...	559	96,508	43·7
Karra ...	481	96,671	37·5
Bassia ...	282	47,470	50
Lohardaga ...	510	107,756	25
Sisai ...	317	57,200	25

Name of Thana.	Area. Square Miles.	Population.	Outturn of Winter Rice.
			Per cent.
Toto	256	47,648	18·7
Bishunpur	285	19,365	18·7
Chainpur	436	38,176	25
Palkote	574	67,177	43·7
Ranchi	672	177,604	37·5
Total	4,744	829,334	—

Winter rice being by far the most important crop in this district, the failure of that crop early attracted attention to the affected thanas. But the harvests in the two previous years having been good, prices, though high, were not such as to excite apprehension until the latter half of January. In a letter No. 546, dated the 28th January, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, instructions were issued by this Government, drawing attention to the orders of the Government of India about the necessity of enforcing a rigid test as far as possible, and prescribing a table of rates for piece-work based, as regards the task to be done in order to earn a full day's wage, upon the tables of tasks prepared by Mr. Glass during the late famine; and as regards the amount of wage, on the cost of the maximum amount of food required by a "B" class worker under the Bengal Famine Code of 1897. The remuneration on test works was based on the performance of a full (normal) task, which is (according to Mr. Glass's tables) $\frac{2}{3}$ of a famine task. The attendance for some time was not such as to point to the existence of any acute distress. The local officers urged that this was due to the disinclination of aborigines to labour at other than customary wages, and their preference to subsist on lazily obtained, though inadequate, jungle products, rather than proper food earned at the cost of steady work. Towards the end of March, the Commissioner, after visiting certain thanas, reported that the supply of food-grains for sale in the bazaars was deficient, and that people had actually begun to subsist entirely on jungle products. In the succeeding month the numbers on the test works gradually increased; and as the reports of the local officers became more and more unsatisfactory, the Lieutenant-Governor directed in April that special local enquiries should be made by gazetted officers into the physical condition of the people, the existing stocks of food, and the extent to which jungle products were being used without a proper admixture of cereals. The results of these enquiries are shown in the table below:—

Thana.	Stocks.	Outturn of Mahua and Mango.	Condition of the People.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
Mandar	Exhausted; not enough for seed.	Mahua 8 annas. Mango almost total failure.	Good	The entries in columns 2, 3 and 4 for Mandar thana refer specially to the Burmu outpost. In the other parts of this thana the general conditions are better and there is no need for apprehension at present.
Lohardaga	Sufficient, except in individual villages, and except in the south.	Mahua 4 to 10 annas. Mango as in Mandar.	Do.	
Siani.. ..	Almost entirely exhausted, and people living on jungle products.	Mahua 8 annas. Mango complete failure.	Reduced.	
Toto	Ditto ditto ..	Ditto ditto ..	Do.	
Bishunpur	Serious deficiency ..	Mahua*, people estimate at 4 annas.	No emaciation noticed.	
Chainpur	Run out	Mahua fair, but the Police estimate 6 annas. Mango promises fair.	Healthy and in good condition, according to Deputy Collector Babu S. C. Sen, but according to Mr. Corbett, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, poor.	
Khunti	Exhausted	Mahua 6 to 8 annas. Mango almost a complete failure.	Showing signs of want of food.	
Karra				
Bassia				
Ranchi		No distress reported.		

* Deputy Collector Babu Krishna Kall Mukharji thinks it may be 8 annas. He noticed a few mangoes on the trees.

From further information furnished in the Commissioner's report for the first half of May, it appeared that the famine must now be declared in thanas Sisai, Chainpur and Khunti ; and orders have been issued accordingly. This fact has already been telegraphed to the Government of India, and the information required under section 29 (8) of the Bengal Famine Code will be furnished in a subsequent report. With regard to the other thanas, the Commissioner has been directed to open additional test works, and the results of this proceeding are being awaited. In the meantime arrangements are being completed to ensure the opening of relief works on a sufficient scale, and the organization of an adequate system of gratuitous relief. Taccavi loans are being liberally granted by touring gazetted officers to enable the rice fields to be sown, and arrangements for the supply of rice are being made by the advance of loans to local grain dealers to enable them to import from the stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

There has been a succession of seasonable showers, and cultivation is now going on, but owing to the very large emigration that took place last cold weather, it is said that the men left in the district are scarcely more than enough to carry on the requisite field work. If the rains are favourable, the next crop will be reaped about the middle of August.

No. 162.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq. Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 943--T. R., dated Darjeeling, the 18th June, 1900.

With reference to my telegram No. 647 T.—R., of 30th May, and No. 810T.—R. of 8th June, 1900, I am directed to submit the following general report prescribed by section 29 (8) of the Bengal Famine Code. Famine has been declared by this Government to exist in portions of the two districts of Ranchi and Palamau in the Chota Nagpur Division. These districts are coterminous and the affected tracts adjoin. The physical features are the same in each. The country is rugged, hilly, sparsely populated, and ill-supplied with communications. The inhabitants include a very large proportion of aboriginal or semi-hinduized castes, accustomed to obtain some portion of their food from the jungles, which are found in almost all the tracts now affected. In Ranchi the prosperity of the cultivators depends almost entirely on the outturn of the winter rice crop ; but in the portions of Palamau now affected, the autumn crops are the most important in the year. Mahua trees are very abundant and ordinarily furnish a supply of food estimated to suffice for two months. The outturn of the various crops in the years 1899 and 1900 for each of the affected thanas has been given in a table appended.

The existing distress will, in the event of a normal monsoon, probably continue till the middle of September, when the autumn crops will be reaped. Of these, an unusual quantity is said to have been sown this year in Ranchi, and so far the prospects of a good outturn are satisfactory.

The districts are, as regards external communications, the most isolated in Bengal, the nearest railway being the Bengal-Nagpur line. The ordinary outlet of the Ranchi trade is Purulia, a station on that line 75 miles from Ranchi. Such trade as there is in the affected areas of Palamau is mainly with the Tributary States, which lie between Palamau and Bilaspur in the Central Provinces. The organization of the local grain trade is very imperfect ; and it has already been found necessary to supplement local resources in Palamau by sanctioning the advance of Rs. 50,000 in loans to the dealers of Daltonganj to encourage imports from outside the district, and Rs. 15,000 to the petty dealers in the affected tracts to enable them to bring grain into the local bazaars. In Ranchi also the imperfections of communication cause great variations in the

price of rice, and though the dealers at the headquarters stations are men of substance, yet they have shown little enterprise in meeting the *mufassal* demands, and consequently a similar loan of Rs. 15,000 has been sanctioned for the small local traders in the famine area. It is hoped that these loans will not only provide a supply of food for the general population, but will also furnish a stock of seed-grain, to purchase which liberal *takavi* advances are being distributed.

The first monthly report, required by section 29 (4) of the Bengal Famine Code, is being independently submitted.

No. 163.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 944 T.—R., dated Darjeeling, the 18th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 663T.—R., dated the 31st May, 1900, relating to the prospects of scarcity in this Province, and in consequence of the declaration of the existence of famine by this Government, I am directed to submit the following first monthly report required under section 29 (4) of the Bengal Famine Code. This report contains famine statements A and B for the period (subsequent to the declaration of famine) ending the 26th May, together with maps of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau showing the tracts in which famine has been declared or is apprehended.

2. *Ranchi*.—During the two weeks ending the 26th May good rain fell in the district of Ranchi, the district average being 1.24 inches. The sowing of high lands was in progress, giving hopes of an early autumn harvest, and the average district price of common rice fell from 9 seers 1 chitak in the previous fortnight to 9 seers 5 chitaks per rupee. The aggregate number of male units at piece-work rates on the test works also fell from 12,103 in the week ending 12th May to 11,642 in the week ending the 26th May. This improvement is, however, considered to be merely temporary and due solely to the rain, which induced several large holders of grain to open their granaries and drew the people away from the works to their cultivation. A quick rise in prices is apprehended, partly owing to the demand for seed-grain.

As already telegraphed to you, the Lieutenant-Governor has found it necessary to declare famine in three more thanas in this district, viz., Karra, Toto, and Bishunpur, with an aggregate area of 1,022 square miles and a population of 163,684 persons. The reports of the local officers for the second half of May showed that there was sharp distress, and that the people were living too exclusively on *sag* and jungle products.

3. *Palamau*.—The famine area in this district is still confined to thana

		Price of Common Rice in Week Ending 26th May.	
		S.	Ch.
*Mahuadanr	...	8	7
Balumath	...	10	11
Latihar	...	9	0

Mahuadanr. In thanas Balumath and Latihar the prices* of food-grains have not risen so high as in Mahuadanr, and no signs of emaciation have yet been observed by the local officers. The fall in the price of common rice in Mahuadanr from 7 seers 14 chitaks, as previously reported, to 8 seers 7 chitaks is due apparently to the recommencement of exports from the Tributary States of Sirguja and Jashpur. Although orders declaring famine in thana Mahuadanr were issued on the 19th May, the local officers were not able to bring

the provisions of the Code into operation during the period under report, and

Week Ending.	Piece Work.	Daily Wages.	Total.
1	2	3	4
19th May ...	458	159	617
26th „ ...	705	192	897

the three works previously opened were continued as test works. The aggregate numbers of male units employed in the second half of May are noted in the margin. Four test works were in progress in thana Balumath which gave employment to an aggregate number of 1,911 male units, during the week ending the 26th May. In thana Latihar there were no regular test works, but 27 works, carried on from the Government Estate progress, and 25* of them employed an aggregate number of 3,719 male units during the same week. These works were paid for at test rates, but in order to complete them

Improvement Fund, were in

* Figures for two works have not been received.

before the rains a minimum rate of Re. 1-4-0 per 1,000 cubic feet was paid in those cases in which the rates according to the table were less than that sum.

The Barun-Daltonganj Railway employed an average daily number of 4,973 persons during the week ending the 26th May, 1900. As stated in my telegram No. 825T.—R., dated the 9th instant, 85 per cent. of these are local labourers. The closing of this work at such a time would therefore be unfortunate.

4. There has been no further development in the situation in the remaining districts of the Province which at one time caused some anxiety.

No. 164.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department. No. 2468, dated the 18th July, 1900.

In continuation of this Government's letter No. 914-T. R., dated the 18th June, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the five weeks ending the 30th June, with Statements A and B.

The maps submitted with the last report need alteration in no respect.

2. *Ranchi.*—There was a cyclonic storm with good rain in this district in the week ending the 16th June. This was of great benefit to the *bhadoi* or autumn crops, and steadied prices so that the average district price of common rice, which was 9 seers 5 chattaks per rupee in the second-half of June, has risen only to 9 seers 3 chattaks. The numbers employed on test and relief work have, however, continued to increase, the aggregate numbers of male units on piece work in the five weeks being as noted in the margin. As reported in my letter No. 1140-T. R., dated the 29th June, 1900, the Lieutenant-Governor has found it necessary to declare famine in three more thanas of this district, viz., Lohardaga, Bassia and Palkote. The affected thanas are now nine in number, with an aggregate area of 3,700 square miles and a population of 577,971 persons, though the area in which relief

is needed does not in every case extend to the whole of the thana, and the operations are in reality confined to an area of about 2,300 square miles.

3. *Palamau.*—The prospects in this district are similar to those of Ranchi. The *bhadoi* crops are fairly good, but more rain was wanted for them as well as for the winter rice crop at the end of the period covered by the last

local report. Good rain has, however, fallen since then. Mahuadanr still continues to be the only thana in which famine has been declared; but the

Week Ending.	No.
2nd June	1,357
9th „	1,677
16th „	1,109
23rd „	1,374
30th „	1,186

condition of thanas Latihar and Balumath is reported by the local officers to be bad, and it may perhaps be found necessary to introduce regular relief operations in them. The district average price of common rice has risen from 10 seers $1\frac{1}{2}$ chattaks in the second-half of May to 9 seers 1 chattak in the second-half of June. In thana Mahuadanr the price of common rice has again risen to 7 seers 14 chattaks per rupee; but the attendance on the relief works has not increased correspondingly. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece work in the five weeks under report are noted in the margin. Test works are in progress in thanas Balumath and Latihar, and in other thanas there are several works now being carried on from the Government Estates Improvement Fund.

4. There has been no change for the worse in other districts. In Hazaribagh prices continue to harden slowly, and some beggars and children are being relieved at kitchens maintained from the local subscriptions to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Speaking generally, the relief at present required is being afforded adequately, and the prospects for the future have been brightened by the favourable nature of the monsoon.

No. 165.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 3,100 dated Calcutta, the 20th August, 1900.

In continuation of this Government's letter No. 2468-Agri., dated the 18th July, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the four weeks ending the 28th July, 1900, together with Famine Statements A and B, and maps of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau showing the affected areas.

2. *Ranchi*.—Although the prospects of the crops were satisfactory, prices continued to rise, the average district price of common rice at the end of the period under report being 8 seers 14 chattaks as against 9 seers 3 chattaks at the end of June. The attendance on test and relief works also continued to rise up to the end of the first week of July. In the two following weeks there was some falling off, for the people had to cultivate their fields; as this work is for the time being finished they are coming back, and the attendance has again risen since the last week of July. The aggregate numbers of male-

Week ending	No.
7th July	49,112
14th „	48,576
21st „	39,447
28th „	43,122

units on piece-work in the four weeks under report are noted in the margin. The Lieutenant-Governor has since the close of the month paid a visit to this district, reaching Ranchi on the evening of the 5th August and stopping there till the morning of the 9th instant. He spent two days inspecting kitchens and relief works in the interior, and held a conference at the head-quarters town on the 8th, at which various matters relating to the famine were discussed with the officers

named in the margin. Having regard to the facts that the *Gondli* crop, the only *bhadoi* (autumn) crop now being harvested, is not of much importance, and that an unusually large number of able-bodied men have this year temporarily emigrated in search of employment leaving their families behind, the Lieutenant-Governor decided that the works and

Mr. Forbes, C.S.I., Commissioner.
 „ Bourdillon, C.S.I., Chief Secretary.
 „ Slacke, Revenue Secretary.
 „ Streatfield, Deputy Commissioner.

kitchens should be kept open for the present until the main *bhadoi* harvest is reaped or about the middle of September. The condition of the crops in the ground is excellent.

3. *Palamau*.—In this district the autumn crops are more important than in Ranchi, and their prospects are good. No new area has been declared famine-stricken, but during a recent tour in this district the Commissioner came across many old men, women and children outside the famine area (thana Mahuadanr) whom he judged to be in need of relief. He, therefore, directed kitchens to be opened for the relief of such persons in thanas Balumath, Latihar, Patan, Garhwa, Daltonganj and Ranka, although looking to the promising *bhadoi* crops, and the field labour afforded by the transplantation of lowland paddy now in progress, he did not consider it necessary to raise the rates on the test-works in progress in these thanas to those sanctioned for famine relief-works. The action of the Commissioner has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor. The district average price of common rice fell from 9 seers, 1 chattak in the second-half of June to 9 seers, 6½ chattaks in the second-half of July. In thana Mahuadanr the price was stationary at 7 seers, 14 chattaks. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece-work in thana Mahuadanr were as noted in the margin, the corresponding numbers on the test-works in the

other thanas being as follows :—

Week ending	No.
7th July	1,863
14th „	1,465
21st „	995
28th „	1,184

Week ending	No.
7th July	8,906
14th „	4,960
21st „	3,724
28th „	5,373

4. As regards the rest of the Province, there is some distress in the district of Angul, especially in the wilder parts of the Kandhmals subdivision, and gratuitous relief is being given to a few people unfit for work, labour being provided for others on ordinary works. Abundant rains have, however, now improved prospects. For the Province as a whole the rains have so far been eminently suited to the autumn crops; but from many districts complaints are received that they have proved somewhat inadequate for the cultivation of the winter rice crop. So far, however, no actual cause for anxiety has arisen.

No. 166.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 1677-T. R., dated Darjeeling, the 13th September, 1900.

In continuation of this Government's letter No. 3100-Agri., dated the 20th August, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the four weeks ending the 25th August, 1900, together with famine statements A and B, and maps of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau showing the affected areas.

2. *Ranchi*.—Prices began to fall from the first half of the period under report. At the end of that period the district average price of common rice

was 9 seers 6 chattaks per rupee, as compared with 8 seers 14 chattaks at the end of July. An excellent crop of *gondli*, an inferior kind of grain, has been reaped, and is selling at from 16 to 25 seers per rupee. The numbers on the relief and test works, however, continued to rise, with the exception of a temporary

Week ending	No.
4th August ...	50,835
11th „ ...	45,187
18th „ ...	53,216
25th „ ...	70,756

fall in the week ending 11th August. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece work during the four weeks were as noted in the margin. A rise in the latter half of the month was expected with a falling off in the demand for field labour; and the Deputy Commissioner thinks that the numbers were swollen by labourers returning to their homes from work in Eastern Bengal. Having regard to the good rainfall, the consequent excellent prospects of the crops, and

the considerable difference in prices amounting to nearly 3 seers, between the present year and 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor passed orders, before the end of August, that all test works in the less affected thanas of Ranchi, Mandar and Kochdega, and those relief works in other thanas on which the average daily attendance did not exceed 50, should be closed on the 31st of the month, and that the remaining relief works, together with all Government gratuitous relief, should be stopped by the 15th September, when the autumn harvest would afford an ample supply of food for present needs. In order to check any tendency amongst the people to resort to the Government works unnecessarily, the rates for piece work on the relief works kept open after the 31st August have been reduced to test rates from the 1st September. To meet exceptional cases, the Commissioner has been authorised to continue gratuitous relief from the Charitable Relief Fund, beyond the 15th September, at such places and in such forms as he may think necessary.

Palamau.—As in Ranchi, the prospects of the crops are excellent, the *bhadoi* turning out a bumper crop, but the average district prices showed a slight tendency to rise in the second half of the month. The average price of common rice at the end of the period was 9 seers 5 chattaks, as compared with 9 seers 6½ chattaks in the second half of July. This is attributed by the local officers to the general depletion of stocks and the great difficulties in the way of transport during the rains, in the interior of the district. In thana Mahuadanr

Week ending	No.
4th August ...	1,352
11th „ ...	538
18th „ ...	380
25th „ ...	60

where famine was declared, the price of common rice, which was 7 seers 14 chattaks at the end of July, fell to 10 seers 2 chattaks in the first half, and again to 11 seers 13 chattaks in the second half of the period under report. The numbers on relief works in the thana rose slightly in the week ending the 4th August, but have since fallen rapidly, the aggregate numbers of male units on piece work during the four weeks being as noted in the margin. The corresponding numbers on

the test works in other thanas were as follows:—

Week ending					No.
4th August	...	...	...	...	4,903
11th „	...	...	...	...	3,618
18th „	...	...	...	...	4,024
25th „	...	...	...	...	2,507

All relief and test works in this district were closed on the 31st August. Persons who still need employment will find it on certain works which are being continued as ordinary works at the expense of the District Board or from

the Government Estates Improvement Fund. Orders were issued at the end of August to close all gratuitous relief from the Government famine allotment not later than the 8th September, it being left open to the local officers to continue relief in kitchens or otherwise from the Charitable Funds beyond that date.

4. As regards the remainder of the Province, there has been general and copious rain in Angul and the Khondinals, and the prospects of the crops are goods; but a little gratuitous relief is still being given. The rainfall in some other portions of the Province has been unfavourable in amount or distribution to the winter crop, but there is yet no reason to expect distress.

No. 167.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 2183 T.—R., dated Darjeeling, the 23rd October, 1900.

WITH reference to the Government of India's letter, No. 1969 F.,* dated the 2nd October, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the month of September, 1900, together with famine statements A and B for the district of Ranchi. No such statements have been furnished for the district of Palamau, where relief and test works were closed on the 31st of August last.

2. *Ranchi.*—The rainfall during the three weeks ending the 15th September left a slight deficiency as compared with the average, but it was more than made up by constant rain from the 16th to the 24th idem, in which period over 10 inches fell throughout the district. It is reported that, with the exception of some slight damage to the *urid* crop, which is not of much importance, and to the ripening upland rice, the autumn crops have been full average ones, and that the recent rain has likewise ensured a full average outturn of the lowland rice. Prices have in consequence fallen considerably, the district average price of common rice being 11 seers 4½ Chitaks as compared with 9 seers 6 Chitaks per rupee at the end of August. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece-work during the three weeks were as noted in the margin. As stated in paragraph 2 of my letter No. 1677 T.—R., dated the 13th September, 1900, the piece-work rates were reduced to test rates from the 1st September. The Deputy Commissioner thinks that the reason why the numbers still kept up is that the people having become accustomed to the reduced rates were doubtless glad to earn a fair money wage in the time which they could spare from their fields. All works were stopped from the 15th September. From the same date all gratuitous relief at Government expense also ceased. A sum of Rs. 1,500 out of the allotment made from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was placed in the hands of the District Charitable Relief Committee for distribution to the most indigent amongst the recipients then remaining on the lists.

Week ending	No.
1st September ...	62,754
8th „ ...	38,265
15th „ ...	51,262

3. *Palamau.*—This district too has had good rain during the period under report, and also subsequently, and a good winter rice crop is practically ensured, while the autumn crops are giving a full or nearly a full normal outturn. Prices everywhere have improved considerably, the district average price of common rice being 10 seers 6½ chitaks as against 9 seers 5 chitaks per rupee in the second half of August. That of Indian corn has fallen from

* Stating that monthly famine reports may be discontinued after that for September.

10 seers $15\frac{1}{2}$ chitaks to 26 seers 3 chitaks, and of marua (*eleusine corocana*) from 11 seers $15\frac{1}{2}$ chitaks to 19 seers $3\frac{3}{4}$ chitaks per rupee. All relief and test works at Government expense were closed on the 31st August. Some of the former were continued by the District Board up to the 11th September, when all of them were closed owing to the non-attendance of labourers. Of the test works, those in thana Latehar are being maintained from the Government Estate Improvement Fund, and those at Garhwa, Patan and Chandwa by the District Board. Government gratuitous relief, which was confined to kitchens in this district, ceased after the 7th September. Some of the kitchens were maintained by the Charitable Relief Fund Committee up to the 15th September.

4. There has been general and copious rain in Angul and the Khondmals, and prospects have improved. The tenants took advantage of the rains, and pushed on their agricultural operations vigorously. All gratuitous relief has been stopped in Angul, but as famine conditions have not yet disappeared from the Khondmals, and as it is apprehended that they may continue till the coming rice harvest, which will be reaped in December next, it is proposed to keep open some relief works and to grant gratuitous relief till then. These proposals are now under the consideration of Government. Apart from loans and local funds, it is not expected that the total expenditure in the Khondmals from Provincial revenues will exceed Rs. 10,000.

5. As regards the rest of the Province, the rainfall has been general, and the prospects of the winter rice are good, except in the flooded tracts of the Burdwan, Orissa, and Presidency Divisions, where loans will be required, for which an application to the Government of India will shortly be made. Special reports concerning the floods in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions have already been separately submitted to the Government of India, and the Lieutenant-Governor has been assured that, so far, there is no cause of any serious apprehension for scarcity in those divisions.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING SCARCITY IN PARTS OF ASSAM.

No. 168.

Letter from F. J. Monahan, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1217 Misc.—5705 G., dated Shillong, the 24th July, 1901.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the papers noted in the annexed list, regarding the scarcity of food-grains now prevailing in parts of the Kamrup District, which is the result of a bad crop of *sali* (late transplanted rice) in the past year, followed by a partial failure of the *ahu* (early rice) crop this year, owing to unfavourable distribution of rainfall.

2. The tracts affected comprise the Nalbari and Rangia tahsils, and parts of the Hajo, Patidarrang, Chaygaon, and Palasbari tahsils in the sadr sub-division of the district. In the south-western portion of the Nalbari tahsil, the scarcity has been somewhat acutely felt, being aggravated by defective communications, an old water-channel having been silted up by the earthquake of 1897. As usual, there is a tendency in some quarters to exaggerate the distress, and it is clear from the Deputy Commissioner's reports that there is no ground for any apprehension of famine. Owing to the failure of crops, a considerable number of the raiyats, who usually consume the rice which they grow themselves, are reduced to the necessity of buying rice at a high price, and the poorest class of people, especially those who have no land, and are unable to work, or have hitherto been dependent on the charity of neighbours or relatives, have fallen into a state of destitution and require relief. The number of these is, however, small. The people, as a whole, are well off, and there is no real distress among them. For the able-bodied there is no lack of employment, and some have already obtained work in larger numbers than usual on tea gardens in Upper Assam. Those who remain in the villages are generally unwilling to do any work, except in the immediate vicinity of their homes, and they are required to look after the cultivation of their own fields.

3. In the circumstances, the Chief Commissioner considers that it would be useless to open relief works. He has sanctioned for the present the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 500 in gratuitous relief, and the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts is starting a public charitable subscription at Gauhati for the relief of cases of distress. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been placed at the Commissioner's disposal for loans to Government tenants under the Agriculturalists' Loans Act. Steps have been taken to improve communications and to encourage the importation of rice to places where scarcity prevails. The crop of *ahu* in the neighbouring sub-division of Barpeta has been a good one, and though the rainfall in the sadr sub-division was somewhat deficient early in the season, ample rain has fallen within the last fortnight, and there is no reason at present for apprehending a failure of this year's *sali* crop. The Chief Commissioner has no doubt that by the cold weather the present scarcity will have passed away.

4. In the Nalbari tahsil, a considerable area of settled land has deteriorated owing to deposits of sand caused by the earthquake of 1897 and subsequent floods. The Chief Commissioner, in his Resolution No. 2869 R., dated the 3rd June, 1898, directed a reduction of the assessment of such lands held on

periodic lease which had not been relinquished, but it appears that effect was not given to these orders. The Chief Commissioner has now called for an explanation of this neglect, and has instructed the Commissioner to see that they are carried out at once, in a liberal spirit, and with retrospective effect.

Enclosure 1 in No. 168.

Memorandum by the Officiating Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 1565 L.R., dated Gauhati, the 26th June, 1901.

Copy of letter No. 1061, dated the 18th June, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, with copy of the enclosures, forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, for information. The Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup has been ordered to visit Nalbari at once and report.

Letter from H. C. Barnes, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 1061, dated Gauhati, the 18th June, 1901.

I enclose a vernacular report* received from the police and a report of the tahsildar of Nalbari regarding the scarcity in that part of the district, with the request that it may be forwarded to the Director, Department of Land

Records and Agriculture, Assam, who has been making enquiries on the subject.

The report shows that very few people will turn out to work, if work is offered them, especially women. I propose to visit Nalbari and see whether this report is or is not exaggerated. I am inclined to think that, if the people will not work, they cannot expect gratuitous relief.

Annexure I.

Translation of a Report, dated the 6th June, 1901, by Digambar Chandra Laskar, Head Constable, in charge of the Nalbari Police Station in Kamrup.

Owing to the failure of the *sali* and the *aus* crops last year within the jurisdiction of this station, there has been great scarcity in almost every place here. Many people of this locality have gone a distance of 15 to 20 miles in order to purchase paddy or rice, but have had to return disappointed. Even those who have paddy and rice have stopped selling them, apprehending a failure of crop in future.

Being unable to purchase paddy or rice, some people are living on boiled *khesari dal*, pumpkins, &c., while others have a meal but once in one or two days, and thus life almost on the verge of death, it is with great difficulty that they are keeping themselves alive.

It has been found by enquiry that a Muhammadan, Bihu Shekh, of village Bongaon, in mauza Pakoa, within the jurisdiction of this station, quarrelled with his wife, Kone, and refused to maintain her. Kone failing to procure paddy or rice either by begging or for money in the neighbouring villages, and with her young daughter being unable to endure the pangs of hunger, committed suicide on the night of the 25th May by hanging. A beggar, named *Kuhi Pot*, of village Dehar Kalakuchi in Bansjani mauza, having fallen ill, was unable to go out a-begging. His wife also failed to get anything by begging in the neighbouring villages. *Kuhi Pot*, being unable to endure the sight of his starving family, as well as the cravings of his own hunger, committed suicide yesterday morning by hanging.

The rice-sellers of this locality, both natives and Marwaris, have formed a clique, and are now selling at Rs. 4-8, Rs. 4-12, and Rs. 5 a maund, the very rice which they purchased at Rs. 2-4, Rs. 2-8, and Rs. 2-10, respectively. Even these rates they enhance on many occasions, saying that there is no rice. The poor people being unable to purchase sufficient rice at a high price, are living with great difficulty on gourds, pumpkins, *khesari dal*, &c., mixed and boiled with a small quantity of rice. Some people are compelled to be satisfied with one meal every two or three days. I submit this report for information.

Annexure II.

Report, dated the 15th June, 1901, by Babu Banga Chandra Chaudhuri, Tahsildar of Nalbari.

Reports about scarcity of rice have already been made by me. On receipt of this order, I have been again to mauzas Pakoa and Dharmapur, and have found that the scarcity is being felt more and more day by day. It is worse than what I saw last time, about 2½ months ago. Very few people have paddy in stock, but none to large extent. Those who have some have reserved the same for their own consumption. Owing to want of rain, the *ahu* crop has proved almost a failure, and the people have, therefore, been overtaken by a panic of famine. In fact, it seems to me that hard days are coming. At present no paddy can be had for purchase within the jurisdiction of this tahsil, not even within a short distance in the neighbouring tahsils. People are sometimes seen to get paddy from a distance of 15 to 20 miles, after a journey of 2 or 3 days in different villages of Boroma and Tambulpore tahsils, and that even at 6 or 7 *dons* a rupee. Sometimes people are seen to come back disappointed. At Nalbari and Morowa *hâts* coarse rice is being sold at Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 5 a maund.

People in the interior are really in distress. Many are living on half meal and many on one meal after a day or two, and many on boiled pumpkin, plantain, and vegetables, &c., the consequence being that many are seen to have been reduced to skeleton. I visited about ten villages, and found about 100 people (including women and children) reduced to skeleton owing to starvation, and many of them shed tears at my appearance, as if I had been there for their relief, but in vain. The next day about 2,000 people gathered in my camp, asking for help, and amongst them about 50 were seen to have been reduced to skeleton owing to starvation, and on enquiry, found them to be in utterly helpless condition, having no means to secure rice in any way. Some of them, the women, shed tears when called on before me. In the evening, when all dispersed, about 20 women and children did not go until some rice was distributed to them at about 8 o'clock in the night.

The number of people who are really poverty-stricken and are in need of help would be, I think, about 25,000, and the rest are still in a position to tide over the difficulty some way or other. But the prospect of *ahu* crop being worse, I am afraid the number of the former would day by day increase. Though the condition of the people is such, still, I think, very few would come to relief work to a distant place, leaving their wives and children behind, but if any work is started in the locality, about 500 might come. The women won't come at all, even if they die of starvation. The number who are in great need of help now, consisting mostly of women and children, will be about 400 (I mean those who have been reduced to skeleton), and gratuitous relief is needed for them.

The cases of suicide under report were, however, *not* owing to starvation as reported by the police, but owing to other reasons, which will be reported on separately, if necessary. The police has been mistaken and misled by the people on this point. The scarcity has become so impressive in the minds of the people that any kind of death now-a-days is attributed by them to starvation. While enquiring into these cases, rumour came that another case of suicide has occurred at Belsor in mauza Dharmapur owing to

starvation. I hurried on to the place, and on enquiry, found that the deceased was a woman of about 20 years of age, was of healthy constitution—husband gone to Upper Assam to serve since two years past, but used to send money for her expenses—had nobody else in the house to look at her movements, used to go wherever she liked freely, had gold ear-rings, and other few ornaments, had been, on the day of committing suicide to her maternal uncle's house, where she took her food and was seen delightful, also brought some rice to her home. Entering into her house, found that her bed consisted of a planked bed-stead, a clean bed-sheet with some cloths under, two new pillows and a curtain, also a *batta* for betel-nut close by. In short, no sign of poverty was found in the house. It also appeared that she cooked in the house in the night. The ornaments are, however, missing. Under the circumstances there is no doubt that she committed suicide owing to other reasons not revealed yet, but surely not for starvation, but still the people would say when asked, that she died of starvation.

Enclosure 2 in No. 168.

Telegram from the Secretary to Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, No. 4767G., dated Shillong, the 27th June, 1901.

Chief Commissioner desires to learn as soon as possible result of your enquiry into alleged distress in Nalbari tahsil. Please submit report direct to this office, sending copy to Commissioner.

Enclosure 3 in No. 168.

Letter from H. C. Barnes, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, dated Camp Nalbari, the 28th June, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt to-day of your telegram No. 4767G., dated the 27th June. I am not in a position as yet to submit a complete report on the scarcity in Nalbari. I have submitted my diary at short intervals to the Commissioner, but the difficulty of getting about is a bar to minute investigations.

2. I have travelled from Nalbari 8 miles down the Hajo road to Madhupur, marked Manipur on the 1-inch revenue map. I have also been to Bongaon, 4 miles, on the abandoned road to Barpeta *viâ* Amoni. I propose to visit Amoni and Jagia. I have visited Pakoa, a collection of hamlets, Barnadi and Bhandali villages. The area affected by acute scarcity of rice includes Madhupur, half of Pakoa village, Barnadi, and, as I am told by the tahsildar, that portion of these mauzas to the south-west of a line drawn through Madhupur, Pakoa, and Barnadi and continued in a curve in a north-westerly direction, *i.e.*, most of Pakoa and Dharmapur and Bahjani mauzas. This is the area where there is acute distress. I may as well define at once what I mean: those who can purchase rice have never been obliged to do so before: those who have nothing and used to exist on the charity of neighbours now find that they can get nothing by begging, and are consequently very hard up: the condition of the ordinary raiyat shows that they are underfed and are passing through a time of short rations. The general appearance of the people should strike any one who has seen much of the Assamese raiyat. Consequently, there are cases where one finds families (I am glad to say I have not found many, but I have found several) where women and children are distinctly famished. It is said that as one gets further away from Nalbari, things are worse: I shall verify this, if possible.

3. Excluding this tract, where scarcity is badly felt, the rest of Nalbari (*i.e.*, Khata and part of Batasgila mauzas) and Rangia and parts of Patidarrang, as well as parts of Palasbari and Chaygaon, are suffering from failure of crops. Reports from the south bank have not reached me, but on the north bank in these parts, a bad *sali* crop has been followed by an almost total failure of the *ahu* crop, the result being that scarcity is prevalent, but on a very different form to that seen in Pakoa and Dharmapur. In these places, the raiyats are fairly well off and will be able to meet the unfavourable season very well, unless the *sali* rice fails also.

In Bahjani, Pakoa and Dharmapur, there seems to have been a continuous struggle, since the earthquake, against unfavourable circumstances. It was a particularly rich tract before: it is the reverse now. Colonel Maxwell, Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, visited and reported on it in 1898. His recommendations were not accepted.

The ordinary village population in the distressed area are, so far as I can ascertain, almost all on short commons of rice, *i.e.*, a meal of rice, at one or more days' interval: the poorer are worse off. They are beginning to sell jewellery, pots, and cattle. The people who are worse off are—

- (1) those who ordinarily subsisted by begging;
- (2) those who are bankrupt owing to causes other than scarcity of crops;
- (3) large families with few male members.

I will submit a further report if I find that anything is to be added to the above, but I may as well note here that the raiyats are extremely patient in their misfortunes.

I offered work at the kheddahs at Beljuri for 100 men. Very few have come forward, as they say those who could be spared went to tea gardens and the rest cannot leave their houses and families. I believe this to be true.

4. At the same time there is no famine. Nalbari in the scarcity 25 years ago was supplied by importation of rice up the Barnadi, now completely silted up. Many of the raiyats have money to buy rice, but the commonest sort sells at Rs. 5 to Rs. 5-4 a maund, because the only source of supply is *via* Rangia from Gauhati, and the Kayahs are not big enough here to import large quantities. Moreover, they have tried to grind the raiyats, by keeping supplies low. At to-day's *hat* they reduced the price from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4-12 through fear, because I am here, although I did not go to the *hat*. Ludicrous as this may seem, it is the truth.

5. I consider much of the distress due to short supply of good rice (most of what is sold is old and bad) for those who wish to buy. Accordingly I have arranged to open within a few days the road between Bijlighat and Nalbari to cart traffic, and it will be kept open free of ferry-tolls for the rest of the rains. I have ordered this fact to be announced in Gauhati, and have asked the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara, to announce it and to encourage traders to come up with rice.

I would have ordered 500 maunds from Gauhati and sold it at cost price (Rs. 4) at Bijlighat in the next few days, only I am not sure of the desirability of interfering with the ordinary fluctuations of trade. I shall do it at my own risk if rice does not come within ten days or a fortnight. Bijlighat is 9 miles from Nalbari and less from some parts of the affected area: and it has direct boat communication with Gauhati and Goalpara.

6. I at one time thought that in certain cases gratuitous relief would be called for. I am now inclined to think that if supplies are poured in and prices forced down (I am afraid they will not go below Rs. 4 per maund), the relief of absolute paupers may be left to private charity, as they are very scattered, two or three in a village. At the same time, if the condition of absolute paupers becomes worse and they become more numerous, something will have to be done. I think it will be best to wait and see what happens. If the Administration approves of the importation of rice by officials, I should be glad of a telegram

to that effect. The local Kayahs are men of no capital, and will not rise to the occasion. They import rice in driblets and keep the price high and the quality low.

7. I have found three or four cases of what I considered immediately prospective starvation, and them I relieved, and will look at again. But I consider such cases very rare, but what will happen before the next crop is a matter of speculation. The state of things will have to be carefully watched. Fortunately, Babu Banga Chandra Chaudhuri, the tahsildar of Nalbari, is a man on whom I can rely. He can be depended upon to report how things go and will not exaggerate the state of affairs.

8. I have the honour to state that I have no clerk here, and as I wish to start for Amoni early to-morrow, am unable to keep a copy of this report for transmission to the Commissioner. I would, therefore, request that you would be good enough to send a copy to the Commissioner from your office, if you consider it desirable. In conclusion, I would ask you to excuse any deficiencies in this letter, which I have been obliged to write in a hurry.

Enclosure 4 in No. 168.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, No. 1173 Misc.—4974 G., dated Shillong, the 2nd July, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Camp Nalbari, the 28th June, 1901, submitting a report on the scarcity in parts of the Nalbari tahsil.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Chief Commissioner awaits a further report from you on the completion of your enquiries. So far as your present report shows, it does not appear that there is any need for extensive measures of relief, and there is no lack of employment for the people. It is probable, however, that many individual cases of destitution may be found in the areas affected, and you should continue to exercise vigilance with a view to taking prompt action in any cases in which gratuitous relief may be required. You should, however, be careful to avoid doing anything which might deter or discourage private charity.

3. The Chief Commissioner approves of the action taken by you in opening the road to Bijlighat for cart traffic. The cost of this measure should be borne by the Gauhati Local Board. The importation of rice to the tracts where scarcity prevails should be encouraged by every means, and there can be little doubt that the merchants from Gauhati will come forward if they are appealed to and the facts of the case are brought to their notice. The Chief Commissioner does not, however, consider it advisable that you should yourself purchase rice; and you should refrain from any attempt to regulate arbitrarily the price at which it is sold. I am to request that in your next report the result of the measures taken by you may be stated, and the position of Bijlighat more particularly specified, the name of the river or channel on which it is situated being mentioned.

4. I am to add that Mr. Cotton would be glad to receive further information regarding the alleged failure of the *ahu* crop, and of the extent to which land is being planted out for the *sali* harvest.

Enclosure 5 in No. 168.

Letter from H. C. Barnes, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam. No. 1244, dated Gauhati, the 5th July, 1901.

In reply to your letter, No. 1173 Misc.—4974 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, and in continuation of my former report on the scarcity at Nalbari, I have the

honour to say that at Amoni the scarcity is not more severely felt than in other parts of the tahsil, which I have described as not being acutely affected. In Jagra, on the other hand, it is acutely felt, and I found instances of complete destitution similar to those discovered at Madhupur. I am causing enquiries to be made in Uttar Barkhetri mauza, Hajo tahsil, where I fear a similar state of things prevails.

2. The area in which distress is severe includes the southern part of Pakoa (villages Jagra, Goalpara, Bongaon, Pakoa, Bornadi, and others) the scantily-populated flooded areas in Dharmapur and Pakoa, south and west of the villages named above, the southern portion of Bahjani mauza, and the northern part of Borkhetri in Hajo. I estimate the total number of cases of absolute destitution as about 200 ; but, of course, there are many more cases of hardship.

The difficulty in this case is to find out and relieve cases of destitution. It will probably mean the transportation of rice to villages, as many of the people could not march to the tahsil office to receive rice. Want of proper roads will also be another difficulty. I understand that there is a possibility of subscriptions coming in from the people resident in Gauhati town, and if this proves to be the case, any measures adopted will be taken after consultation with a committee of subscribers. At present I propose to make a complete list of all hard cases and to leave it to the tahsildar to relieve them, keeping him supplied with a stock of rice for that purpose.

I have explained to him that relief is only to be given in cases similar to those seen by me while in his company.

I also propose to take in hand the repairs of the road between Nalbari and Amoni, in order to provide the people with a means of obtaining money for the purchase of rice. I am not sure that the Local Board will be able to afford this expenditure, in which case an application will be made to Government for a grant for the purpose.

3. Bijlighat is a ferry on the Gauhati-Nalbari road, and is nine miles from Nalbari on the Gauhati side, at the Chowkhowa Nadi. Boat traffic is possible between Gauhati and that place, and in floods boats can get up to Nalbari by the new channel of the Noanadi, formed since the earthquake. Boat transport is cheaper than cart transport *via* Rangia. The Kayahs of Gauhati are said to have already despatched consignments of rice for Nalbari ; more doubtless will follow ; none is expected from Goalpara. Some, I hear, is coming from Barpeta, where the *ahu* crop has been good. I, therefore, expect a fall in the price, but none except a temporary reduction of 4 annas a maund had occurred up to the time I left Nalbari.

4. The cause of the partial, and in some villages almost total, failure of the *ahu* crop is the drought at the beginning of the year, which killed the crop or stunted it so that it was overgrown with weeds ; in the sandy mauzas, Pakoa, east and north of Dharmapur, and south of Bahjani, the causes are the nature of the soil and want of rain.

I saw large areas classed as first-class *rupit* land, on which *ahu* has been planted (the sand having made *sali* cultivation impossible, or where possible, precarious), and there was no probability of any crop resulting owing to the pooriness of the soil. I refer particularly to Bongaon, Panigaon, Bihampur, Bornadi, Pakoa, and Jagra villages ; but the effect of want of rain on the *ahu* crop is general throughout Nalbari, Rangia, and parts of Patidarrang.

As to *sali*, I saw some very fine fields of seedlings, but the want of rain is still felt, and if rain holds off for three weeks, the prospects of the crop will be much affected. At present ploughing and planting have been much retarded, and the preparation of land for further sowings has been interfered with. Should there be general deficiency of rainfall, there will be little prospect of even fair crops in the drier portions of the tahsil. But at present there is no reason to suppose that the *sali* crops will be below the average, except in the sandy tracts. At present planting has hardly begun, and it is difficult to estimate the extent to which *sali dhan* will be planted this year, as so much depends on the weather.

5. I shall be glad of any expression of opinion by the Administration concerning the method by which relief should be given, and I hope to be informed how much money will be made available.

6. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and the Director of Land Records, Assam.

Enclosure 6 in No. 168.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Officiating Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 1199-Misc.—5204 G., dated Shillong, the 8th July, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1623 L.R., dated the 3rd July, 1901, forwarding copies of letters, dated the 25th and 26th June, 1901, from the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, reporting the result of his enquiries with regard to the alleged distress owing to scarcity of food-grains in the Patidarrang, Rangia, and Nalbari tahsils, together with his tour diaries for the period from the 20th to the 26th June, 1901, and also of the Deputy Commissioner's tour diaries for the period from the 29th June to the 3rd July inclusive, forwarded with your memorandums, Nos. 1644 L.R. and 1645 L.R., dated the 4th July, 1901.

2. In reply, I am to refer you to this office memorandum, No. 1173 Misc.—4975 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, forwarding a copy of this office letter, No. 1173 Misc.—4974 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, and of the Deputy Commissioner's report of the 28th June, to which it was a reply, and to say that the Chief Commissioner sanctions the expenditure by the Deputy Commissioner of a sum not exceeding Rs. 500 on the gratuitous relief of persons who are in genuine distress and unable to work. It is unnecessary to emphasise the need of vigilance in this direction, but the Chief Commissioner observes that, in paragraph 6 of his report of the 28th June referred to above, Mr. Barnes expressed the opinion that gratuitous relief was not required at present.

3. As regards the proposal to start relief works, I am to say that the Chief Commissioner is doubtful how far it would be advisable to take action in this direction now. It appears that a large number of raiyats have already gone to work on tea gardens, where, of course, there is a practically unlimited demand for labour, and that those who remain decline to do any work except near their homes. Probably these raiyats wish to remain at home so as to carry on their cultivation, and it is noticed that Mr. Barnes remarks in his letter of the 25th June that if road work were offered to them, they would probably plough their land in the morning and then work on the road in the afternoon. Relief works, therefore, if started now, would only benefit a few people in the immediate vicinity, and in the present season of the year, would probably be a waste of money. By the cold weather, it may be hoped that the present scarcity will have passed, and, if it has not, it may be presumed that there will be ample employment available, and that the raiyats will be more willing than they are now to leave their homes in search of work. I am, however, to invite attention to the approval accorded in paragraph 3 of this office letter above referred to, to the immediate opening for cart traffic of the road from Nalbari to Bijlighat.

4. The Deputy Commissioner remarks in his diary of the 24th June that agricultural loans will be no relief—firstly, because the people most in want of money can give no security, and secondly, because any money given will be spent, not on their land, but in the purchase of rice. In this connection, I am to observe that though loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act cannot be given where there is no security, the Chief Commissioner does not think there is any reason why such loans should not be granted to raiyats who can furnish security to enable them to buy rice for the purpose of tiding over a period of scarcity. One of the objects for which loans may be given under section 4 (1) of the Agriculturists' Loans Acts is the relief of distress, and Mr. Cotton thinks that it is certainly preferable that assistance should be granted to cultivators in

this way, wherever possible, rather than in the eleemosynary and pauperising form of relief works or gratuitous relief. It must be remembered that the position of Government in making loans to its own tenants is on a somewhat different footing from the position of Government when it makes ordinary loans under the Act. More than ordinary liberality may, therefore, be shown, and the Chief Commissioner would approve of relaxing somewhat the rules limiting the amount of loans in cases where a loan is applied for by a body of Government cultivators on their joint and several security. An allotment of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned for loans to agriculturists in your division during the current year.

5. With reference to the statement in paragraph 4 of the Deputy Commissioner's letter No. 1244, dated the 5th July, 1901, a copy of which has been forwarded to you, that he saw near Nalbari large areas classed as first-class *rupit* land, on which *ahu* had been planted, the sand having made *sali* cultivation impossible, or where possible, precarious, and to the remarks in his diaries of the 27th and 29th June, that in places it will be necessary, not only to reclassify villages, but to reclassify land in villages, and that it is to the interest of Government to keep the raiyats on the damaged land, I am to say that Mr. Cotton is at a loss to understand why effect was not given long ere this to the orders contained in paragraph 7 of the Chief Commissioner's Resolution, No. 2869 R., dated the 3rd June, 1898, directing that in the districts of Kamrup and Nowgong, as well as in the Mangaldai subdivision of the Darrang district, the assessment of *rupit* land held under periodic lease at full rates, which were damaged by sand deposits resulting from the earthquake and floods of 1897, so as to be rendered unfit for the cultivation of transplanted rice, and which had not since been relinquished, should be reduced to *faringati* rates for the remainder of the term of the current settlement. An explanation of the apparent disregard of these orders has already been called for in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 4 U.O.—1050 R., dated the 30th April, 1901, and I am to request that it may be submitted without delay, and that you will instruct the Deputy Commissioner to lose no time in giving the widest publicity to the concession sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, and to see that the reduction of classification of *rupit* lands which have become covered with sand is carried out in a liberal spirit, wherever required, in accordance with the orders referred to. It would not surprise the Chief Commissioner to learn that some of the distress now reported from North Kamrup is attributable to the neglect of the local officers to comply with his clear instructions passed more than three years ago for the relief and assistance of the Government tenantry residing within the distressed area.

No. 169.

Letter from R. E. V. Arbuthnot, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 3172—126-2, dated Simla, the 15th August, 1901.

* I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Monahan's letter No. 217-Misc.—5705 G., dated 24th July, 1901, relating to the scarcity of food-grains in parts of the Kamrup District.

2. The Government of India agree with you that it would be useless to open relief works, and they approve of the action taken in granting loans with special liberality and some gratuitous relief. I am, however, to observe that so long as care is taken to restrict gratuitous relief to the dependants of indigent families, a larger sum than Rs. 500 might perhaps be expended without undue liberality.

No. 170.

Letter from F. J. Monahan, Esq., the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1446 Misc.—6340 G., dated Shillong, the 22nd August, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 1217 Misc.—5705 G., dated the

1. Letter, dated the 21st May, 1901, from Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, Zamindar, President of a public meeting held at Balaganj in the Sylhet District.

2. Memorandum No. 913 Misc.—4221 G., dated the 6th June, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

3. Letter No. 990 Misc.—4292 G., dated the 8th June, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

4. Telegram, dated the 2nd July, 1901, from the Secretary to the Sunamganj *Hitasadhini Sabha*.

5. Memorandum No. 1191 Misc.—5038 G., dated the 3rd July, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

6. Letter, No. 673 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

7. Letter No. 1198 Misc.—5076 G., dated the 5th July, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

8. Letter No. 812 G., dated the 1st August, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

9. Letter No. 857 G., dated the 9th August, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and enclosure.

10. Letter No. 1446 Misc.—6271 G., dated the 16th August, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

and Sunamganj sub-Divisions, where scarcity is said to prevail, have allotted Rs. 200, Rs. 500, Rs. 2,000, and Rs. 5,000, respectively, for the gratuitous relief of distress, and a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for loans, under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, to the poorer classes of cultivators who are not able to obtain loans from the money-lenders. The Chief Commissioner has no doubt that the Local Boards are in a position to afford charitable relief on the moderate scale that may be found necessary.

3. In the Chief Commissioner's opinion no large rice-producing tract like Sylhet can be brought to the verge of famine by the comparative failure of one season's crop, and it is sufficiently evident from the reports received that whatever distress may prevail is due to high prices, and not to any absolute deficiency of food-supply. There may be a few forlorn widows and helpless people who are suffering, and for these charitable relief at a time of pressure like the present may well be necessary; but it is quite certain that for those who are able and willing to work there is an ample demand for labour at reasonable rates, and for the purely beggar class, who would rather beg than work, it is sheer demoralisation to offer them gratuitous charity when they ought to seek honest employment. There has lately been ample rainfall in the Sunamganj sub-Division, the amount being in excess of the average, and there is every reason to expect that the coming harvest will be a bounteous one and that prices will soon fall. In the meantime, it must be remembered that in an exporting district like Sylhet high prices are not an unmixed evil, and are a source of prosperity to the producers.

4. The reports received from the Deputy Commissioner are of a re-assuring nature, and his personal observations clearly refute the exaggerated accounts which had been submitted by his subordinates and have also found their way into the public press.

Enclosure 1 in No. 170.

Letter from Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, Zamindar, President of the Public Meeting held at Balaganj, Sylhet, on the 20th May, 1901, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Assam, dated Balaganj, the 21st May, 1901.

In forwarding herewith a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the landholders and raiyats of Betrikool, Boaljur, and Lakhipur under the jurisdic-

tion of the Balaganj police station in the district of Sylhet, held on the 20th instant, attended by nearly 2,000 people, I have the honour respectfully to request that your honour will be so good as to order such measures to be adopted at an early date as to your honour may seem meet for the alleviation of the imminent danger of famine that is staring your honour's loyal subjects in the face.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING.

A meeting of the raiyats of Betrikool, Boaljur, and Lakhipur was held in the Balaganj Middle English School at 2.30 p.m. through the exertion of the Chaudhuri family of Boaljur, and under the patronage of Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*. Nearly 2,000 people were assembled there to witness the meeting, and the following respectable *zamindars* and *mirasdars* graced the meeting by their presence :

Babu Sasi Nath Chaudhuri	}	<i>Zamindars.</i>
" Parsva Nath Chaudhuri		
" Prasanna Kumar Chaudhuri		
" Gita Govinda Chaudhuri		
" Narendra Nath Chaudhuri		
" Jatindra Nath Chaudhuri		
" Satindra Nath Chaudhuri		
" Radha Mohan Chaudhuri	}	<i>Mirasdars.</i>
" Kuloja Kanta Sen Purkaistha		
" Gopal Chandra Purkaistha		
" Krisna Kumar Purkaistha		
" Pyari Mohan Purkaistha		
" Kisor Mohan Purkaistha		
" Tarachand Sen Purkaistha		
" Surja Kumar Sen Chaudhuri		
" Kashi Nath Majumdar		
" Braja Nath Datta.		
" Kali Kumar Purkaistha, <i>zamindar</i> .		
" Gauri Nath Sarma.		
" Pyari Mohan Purkaistha, <i>Mirasdar</i> , Betrikool.		
" Dinanath Sarma.		

Babu Prasanna Kumar Chaudhuri, as a representative of the assembly, requested Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*, to accept the chair as President of the meeting, and he gladly did so.

First Proposal.

The circumstances of the raiyats of Betrikool, Boaljur, and Lakhipur are greatly regrettable. There is no other alternative of their being relieved from such emergencies but the kindness of our kind Government and the right-minded patriots. Poor raiyats are taking their meals once a day or two. They are already undone. Many of them have sold the seeds and the oxen to plough. Gold and silver ornaments are sold before. Scarcely any metallic pots with them to be sold. Further, they have also sold the betel-nut, etc., which they kept for their own use. Now they are in helpless condition. Shopkeepers do not sell them anything on credit.

Moreover, on account of no railway line up to date opened through Balaganj, we have to buy rice at the rate of Rs. 5 per maund in place of Rs. 3. Hardly any labour is to be had in the parganas. In a word, they are beset with danger. Therefore, the Government and the right-minded patriots should be asked help.

Proposed by—Kali Kumar Purkaistha, *zamindar*.

Seconded by—Sasi Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*.

Accepted by all.

Second Proposal.

Request should be made to the Government to distribute paddy among the famine-stricken, or to lend them paddy until they have got rice enough to cover their wants.

Proposed by—Muhammad Haphaz, *zaigirdar*.

Seconded by—Narendra Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*.

Accepted by all.

Third Proposal.

Sympathetic persons should be asked help through newspaper.

Proposed by—Ram Gopal Sarma.

Supported by—Parsva Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*.

Accepted by all.

Fourth Proposal.

Request should be made to the Government to lend money to persons possessing landed property, holding their land as a security.

Proposed by—Braja Nath Datta, *mirasdar*.

Supported by—Kasi Nath Deb Majumdar, *mirasdar*.

Accepted by all.

Fifth Proposal.

Request should be made to the Government to postpone the date fixed for the payment of the revenues up to the last day of the month of February next.

Proposed by—Jatindra Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*.

Seconded by—Kali Kumar Purkaistha, *zamindar*.

Accepted by all.

A copy of the proceedings of the meeting should be forwarded to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, and the President should request His Honour to inform him anything concerning these proposals before the 1st June, 1901; and also copies should be sent to the editors of "Bangabasi" and "Weekly Chronicle" for publication.

Proposed by—Braja Nath Datta.

Supported by—Kali Kumar Purkaistha.

Accepted by all.

The meeting was dissolved after a vote of thanks to the President.

Enclosure 2 in 170.

*Memorandum by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam,
No. 913 Misc.—4221 G., dated Shillong, the 6th June, 1901.*

Copy of letter, dated 21st May, 1901, from Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, President of the public meeting held at Balaganj on the 20th May, 1901, and enclosure, forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, for favour of report and early return.

Enclosure 3 in No. 170.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, No. 990-Misc.—4292-G., dated Shillong, the 8th June, 1901.

I am directed to invite your attention to the article headed "Distress in North Sylhet," that has appeared in the "Weekly Chronicle," in its issue of the 4th June, 1901, and to request that you will be good enough to submit an early report on the subject.

Extract from the "Weekly Chronicle" of Sylhet, dated the 4th June, 1901.

DISTRESS IN NORTH SYLHET.

In our last issue we referred to the meeting held at Balaganj to devise means for the relief of distress in the parganas Betrikool, Boaljur and Lakhipur. Information has since reached us which shows that things have assumed alarming proportions. The parts most affected would appear to be the long stretch of the country lying between the two rivers Surma and the Kusiara. The fact is probably not very apparent to the authorities, but those who know anything of the present state of things in the mofussil will admit that chronic poverty, coupled with the successive failure of two crops, has reduced the people to extremities. The Sylhet Loan Office is daily besieged by a crowd for loans on securities which would cover the amount of the loan three times over. A single *mahajan* at Balaganj is reported to have lent out at no moderate rate of interest considerable sums upon securities aggregating over Rs. 25,000. On *hât* days scores of people are found going about with a silver ornament or a brass utensil to feed the starving mouths at home. Even people who have been *mahajans* themselves do now feel the pinch, and are secretly taking loans to quench the pangs of hunger. These are facts, and no exaggeration. Numbers of people are actually destitute. Many have flocked to the town, others are silently undergoing sufferings beyond endurance. A very pathetic incident has lately occurred which shows how matters actually stand. A man of the village of Shah Shakendar, near Lalabazar, has actually killed his daughter, about two or three years old, unable to meet her demands for food. The poor man is a day-labourer with his wife and two children to support. The family had been starving for a few days previous, when on Thursday last about two o'clock he returned from his day's work and was resting himself on the handle of a *dao*, thinking of his wretched condition. The unfortunate daughter raised a cry for food. The poor man entirely lost himself, and in a fit of utter despair gave the child a cut with the *dao* across her neck, and forthwith applied it to his own neck. In this last, however, he was not successful, owing to the intervention of his wife. The village chaukidar gave information to the thana, and the man was brought before the magistrate, Babu J. B. Nag, before whom he made a clean breast of the whole thing. On whom does the blood of the poor girl lie?

We understand applications are reaching the Deputy Commissioner for help under the Loans Act, and that Mr. Lees has directed Babu Rajani Kanta Dastidar, Extra Assistant Commissioner, to make the necessary enquiries. We are afraid, pending the inquiry, many souls will be relieved of the necessity for earthly help. The process is extremely dilatory, and renders the Act utterly useless for the present emergency. Cannot the Deputy Commissioner send one of the Extra Assistant Commissioners to the affected parts to ascertain if the present scarcity has come up to the "official type"? There is a sort of blindness about the Government. It does not invariably see until almost too late. This was lately demonstrated in the Central Provinces.

Enclosure 4 in No. 170.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Sunamganj Hitasadhini Sabha, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, dated Sunamganj, the 2nd July, 1901.

Serious distress and scarcity reported from several quarters of Sunamganj sub-division, the *Sabha* pray the Honourable Chief Commissioner to help.

Enclosure 5 in No. 170.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 1191 Misc.—5038G., dated Shillong, the 3rd July, 1901.

Telegram, dated the 2nd July, 1901, from the Secretary to the Sunamganj *Hitasadhini Sabha*, forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, for favour of early report and return.

Enclosure 6 in No. 170.

Letter from D. H. Lees, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 673-G., dated Sylhet, the 2nd July, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum No. 913-Misc.—4221-G., dated the 6th June, 1901, and letter No. 990-Misc.—4292-G., dated the 8th idem, and, in reply, beg to submit the following report.

Distress has been reported to exist in all the subdivisions of the district, except South Sylhet. Enquiries have been made by the Subdivisional Officers in Habiganj, Karimganj, and Sunamganj, and by Babus Jagat Bandhu Nag and Kishori Mohan Sen, the Inspectors of Police, and others in the sadr subdivision. The areas where distress prevails are—

North Sylhet.—Sadr and Balaganj thanas, including Golabganj and Biswanath outposts.

Habiganj.—Baniachong and Nabiganj thanas.

Karimganj.—The north portion of the subdivision specially parganas Iechamati, Balaut, and the neighbouring parganas north of the Kusiara.

Sunamganj.—Sunamganj and Chattak thanas and Jagannathpur outpost.

The circumstances of the Sunamganj subdivision, dependant as it is largely on the *boro* crop, are different from those of the other three subdivisions, with which I will first deal. The distress in these subdivisions, is due to the poor harvest of late rice in 1900. The stocks of local rice are now exhausted throughout a great part of the district, and the people are compelled to buy imported Burma rice. Almost the whole surplus stock of rice of the bumper crop of 1899 was exported during 1900, despite the low prices then prevailing. There is undoubtedly real distress among the infirm and helpless, who are ordinarily dependent on charity, and among poor widows, who generally get a living by husking paddy. The reports received show that some people of this class were in actual want of food and required assistance, as they could not expect help from the *mirasdars*, who are themselves badly off. At my instance, the Local Boards of these three subdivisions have made provision for the relief of distress among this class of people. I do not think that any further measures are necessary, as the *aus* crop, of which the prospects are very good, should alleviate the distress by the end of July. The reaping of the early *aus* has already begun. People of the day-labourer class may not be able to get their customary three meals a day. This is, however, a very different thing from starvation. It was represented to me that men of this class were willing to work but could not obtain work, and it was suggested that work should be provided for them. The Public Works Department overseer, however, informed me that the few Sylhetias who applied to him for work were unwilling to work on the conditions proposed. The Chairman of the Municipality also informed me that it was difficult to get local labour for work such as drain cleaning. The managers of tea gardens cannot even now get local labour. These facts are inconsistent with the existence of severe distress among this class of people. In Karimganj sub-division, the Chairman, Local Board, provided work on the roads. The *aus* harvest will soon give ample employment. Complaints of distress have mainly come from the *mirasdars*, who are foremost in clamouring for Government assistance. It is matter of surprise that people, holding land under a permanent settlement subject only to the payment of a low or nominal land revenue in a district where the conditions are eminently favourable to their prosperity, should complain of distress after one deficient harvest, preceded, as it was, by a bumper harvest in 1899. Hundreds of applications for loans have been received from *mirasdars*, and if it is once understood that loans are to be given, hundreds more will pour in. It is one of the objects of the Agriculturists Loans Act to provide for the grant of loans for the relief of distress; but, to quote from the Board of Revenue Manual, this Act is not intended to supersede

altogether the ordinary machinery of loans from *mahajans*, under which agricultural operations are carried on in this country. Its object is to enable the Government to step in and assist the more needy cultivators with loans on these occasions of unusual pressure, when the local *mahajans* are unwilling to run extraordinary risks. The *mirasdars* can give security and can get loans from the local *mahajans*. It is obviously impolitic to encourage the prevalent idea that Government will freely give loans. I do not think that under present circumstances, when the *aus* crop is about to be harvested, it is necessary to grant loans. I do not, therefore, propose at this juncture to grant loans. The Balaganj *mirasdars* have requested the Chief Commissioner to postpone the date fixed for the payment of revenue until February next. I have received a petition praying for the adjournment of the next revenue sales until January next. Considering the extremely light incidence of the land revenue in the permanently-settled portions of this district, I do not think that there is any ground for granting these requests.

The Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj has given an alarming account of the distress prevailing in his subdivision. He reports that the failure of the *aman* and *boro* crops has reduced the bulk of the population of Jagannathpur, Sunamganj, and Chatak to the verge of starvation, and that many are actually starving. He further reports that as in the greater part of the area above mentioned *aus* is not grown, the condition of the people will become worse and worse until the *aman* crop is reaped. Owing to the absence of early rain this year, the *boro* crop is said to have yielded an outturn varying from 3 to 8 annas. I am, however, at a loss to understand how such widespread distress as the Subdivisional Officer reports can exist so soon after the *boro* harvest. The Sunamganj Local Board has provided a sum of Rs. 8,000 for the relief of distress, Rs. 2,000 for gratuitous relief, and Rs. 6,000 for loans to be given to *raiyats* unable to furnish security. The Subdivisional Officer has requested me to move the Chief Commissioner to sanction a grant of Rs. 8,000 to be given in loans to petty *talukdars*, who can give security. I cannot, however, make any recommendation on the point until I have made enquiries into the state of affairs in this subdivision. I am going to Jagannathpur this week, and will submit a further report as soon as possible.

Enclosure 7 in No. 170.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, No. 1198 Misc.—5076-G., dated Shillong, the 5th July, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 673G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, reporting on the scarcity in your district, I am directed to say that the Chief Commissioner is glad to receive this report, which appears much to the point and takes a sensible view of the case.

2. The Chief Commissioner is also glad to learn that the Local Boards of North Sylhet, Habiganj, and Karimganj have already made provision at your instance for the relief of the infirm and helpless. I am to request that you will be good enough to report what amount has been allotted for this purpose by each of the Local Boards referred to. It appears from your report that in these three subdivisions no further measures of relief are required, and Mr. Cotton agrees with you in thinking that loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act should not be granted to persons who are in a position to obtain loans from *mahajans* on reasonable terms. The Chief Commissioner also agrees with you that no grounds have been shown for postponing the revenue *kists* or the dates fixed for sales for arrears of revenue. Mr. Cotton awaits the further report promised by you on the state of affairs in the Sunamganj subdivision, and he trusts that it will be submitted at an early date.

3. I am to request that you will be so good as to return the petition of the Balaganj *mirasdars*, which was forwarded to you with this office memorandum No. 913 Misc.—4221-G., dated the 6th June, 1901.

Enclosure 8 in No. 170.

Letter from D. H. Lees, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner at Assam, No. 812 G., dated Sylhet, the 1st August, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 1198 Misc.—5076 G., dated the 5th July, 1901, I have the honour to say that the Local Boards of North Sylhet, Karimganj, and Habiganj have allotted Rs. 500, Rs. 200, and Rs. 2,000, respectively, for the relief of distress.

2. The petition of the Balaganj *mirasdars*, Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri and others, is herewith returned.

Enclosure 9 in No. 170.

Letter from D. H. Lees, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 857 G., dated Sylhet, the 9th August, 1901.

In continuation of my letter No. 673 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, I have the honour to submit the following report on the distress in Sunamganj and other sub-divisions of this district.

2. From information which I have received up to date, it does not appear that the distress in Sunamganj sub-division extends beyond the limits reported in my previous letter, *viz.*, Sunamganj and Chhatak thanas and Jagannathpur outpost. Babu Akshay Kumar Chatterji, Extra Assistant Commissioner, was lately on tour in Dharampasa thana, and from his diary it appears that there is no distress there. The manager of the estate of Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya informed me that in villages belonging to this estate in Dirai thana, the *boro* crop was about 8 or 10 annas. Both at Jagannathpur and Nabiganj, I saw several boat-loads of *boro* paddy brought for sale. The Subdivisional Officer is now on tour at Dirai, and will report on the condition of the people there if there is any distress.

3. In the abovementioned affected area the raiyats are mainly dependent on the long-stemmed *aman* rice. The *boro* paddy is a useful supplementary crop in many villages. The distress is due to the very short crop of *aman* rice, followed by the failure of the *boro* crop in this tract. In the villages situated in the eastern portion of Chhatak thana, and in the north-east of Jagannathpur outpost, there is *aus*, which is reported to have yielded a bumper outturn in the latter locality. Even among the villages mainly dependent on the *aman* crop, there are villages where there is no distress. The state of affairs in the villages visited by me near Jagannathpur in July will appear from the annexed extracts from my tour diary. The Subdivisional Officer, however, has just reported that the condition of the people in that quarter and elsewhere has become much worse since then, and substantial cultivators who have a large number of dependents are said to be in great distress. From what I have myself seen, and from the information subsequently received, I have come to the following conclusion :

There is great distress among those ordinarily dependent on charity—the helpless and widows. People of this class are in actual want of food and require relief. Many petty cultivators who are dependent on the earnings of their labour find it difficult to obtain work in the villages. Many men of this class are accustomed to leave their homes to work as boatmen and do other work. The lime business at Chhatak provides work for a large number of men. In the neighbourhood of Jagannathpur there is a mat-making industry. There are, however, many who generally cut grass for cattle, and do other work in the villages for the more substantial cultivators and *mirasdars*, who are not now employed to the same extent as in other years. The cultivators generally are

badly off, and have to buy paddy, as stocks of paddy are mostly exhausted. Some of the poorer *mirasdars* or *talukdars*, who are dependent for a living on the produce of a small area of land, are also badly off.

4. The Chief Commissioner has sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 2,000 for the relief of distress. I have just received a report from the Subdivisional Officer, stating that a sum of Rs. 1,350 has already been drawn. The Subdivisional Officer cannot state the exact number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief, but roughly estimates the number to be not less than 1,200. He fears that the number of persons to whom it will be necessary to give gratuitous relief will gradually increase, and thinks that at least Rs. 2,500 will have to be spent monthly to save these people from starvation. The amount to be allotted for the relief of distress must, therefore, be increased. As the distress is not likely to cease until the end of November, when the harvesting of the *aman* rice will begin, a further sum of about Rs. 10,000 will, on this estimate, be required. The Subdivisional Officer has asked for a Government grant for gratuitous relief. He says that the Local Board is prepared to give Rs. 6,000 more. I think the Local Board should grant all money required for gratuitous relief. As the Sunamganj Local Board is not wealthy, a special provincial grant might be sanctioned in consideration of the exceptional character of the expenditure.

5. I think that small loans ordinarily not exceeding Rs. 10 should be given under the Agriculturists' Loans Act to the poorer cultivators and talukdars in distress. Loans cannot be granted to petty cultivators accustomed to depend on the earnings of labour, who cannot give any security. The Subdivisional Officer proposed that the Local Board should give loans to people of this class, but the Chief Commissioner has already expressed an opinion adverse to this proposal. It is impossible to provide relief work in the villages at this season of the year, when the country is inundated, but work, such as road-metalling, could be provided at Sunamganj and Chhatak. I have deputed Maulvi Tajammul Ali, Sub-Deputy Collector, to enquire into the condition of the people in Sunamganj.

In my last letter I reported that no further measures of relief would be required in North Sylhet, Karimganj and Habiganj. This statement requires some modification as regards the Baniachong and Nabiganj thanas of Habiganj sub-division. Except in the north-eastern portion of Nabiganj, *aus* is not ordinarily grown in the villages of these thanas. This year, owing to the small stocks of paddy in hand, many cultivators in the neighbourhood of Baniachong grew *aus* on land not suitable to its cultivation. Owing, however, to the very slow rise of water in the *haors*, the crop was safely harvested. Along the banks of the Barak river, above Nabiganj, there is a large amount of jute cultivation. In the *haors*, however, the villages are almost entirely dependent on the *aman* rice. There are villages in the extensive Makhalkandi and Makka *haors* north of Baniachong, where *boro* is the chief crop, and in some villages not too far off from these *haors*, *boro* cultivation is resorted to in order to supplement the main *aman* crop. Gratuitous relief has been given to the helpless and widows, but it is only at Baniachong that such relief has been so far required to any extent. The circumstances of Baniachong, with a large population of over 28,000, are exceptional. There is a large class of men dependent on daily labour, who now find it difficult to obtain work. The Subdivisional Officer started road-metalling work at Habiganj, and at the end of July 85 men were working there on daily wages of 5 annas, which are evidently not too high, since about 20 men deserted the work as soon as there was *aus* to be cut. Many cultivators have no stocks of paddy, and are now buying paddy. Loans should be given to the poorer cultivators and *bhadraloks* in distress. I have asked the Sub-divisional Officer to order Babu Kisori Mohan Sen, Extra Assistant Commissioner, to enquire into the condition of the people in Baniachong. If necessary, I will depute the new Sub-Deputy Collector, lately gazetted to Sadr, to make enquiries.

I would request you to obtain the sanction of the Chief Commissioner to the grant of Rs. 8,000 for agricultural loans. Of this amount, I propose to

allot Rs. 5,000 for Sunamganj, Rs. 2,000 for Habiganj, and to keep Rs. 1,000 for sadr, to be allotted as may be found necessary hereafter.

Annexure.

Extracts from the Tour Diary of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

July 6th.—Jagannathpur.—Went through Bhowanipur, Sherpur, and Jatrapasa villages to enquire into the condition of the people. The head constable informed me that these villages were among those where the distress was worst. Bhowanipur is a fairly large village, with a population of Chandals, Muhammadans, Dases and Brahmins. Only a few of the Chandals cultivate a little land: they depend on fishing, work as boatmen, etc., and are not now in distress. The Muhammadans are almost all petty cultivators, holding 5 or 6 *kiars* of land. Out of about 30 houses, only 5 have cattle. The men make mats, cut grass, and do other work. One man, with $2\frac{1}{2}$ *hals* of land, says he has no paddy in stock. There are two widows, who seem able to get on without relief. There are six houses of Dases, who are substantial cultivators, each family holding 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ *hals* of land. They have a little paddy in stock. There are five houses of Brahmins who are now not well off, but have relatives in service. One man, who knew English, and had formerly been a clerk in the Collectorate, complained that he could not get money from the money-lenders, and therefore wanted a Government loan. In Jatrapasa, there are 35 houses of Gopes, who are well off, nearly all being talukdars. There is excellent grazing in the *haors* in the cold weather, and these people get an income from the sale of milk and ghi. The village money-lender is a Gope. He says he has lent Rs. 500 this year. The complaint is that he will not assist those in difficulties. In Sherpur I visited the houses of Muhammadans of the same class as in Bhowanipur. A talukdar, with a yearly income of Rs. 500 or Rs. 600, says that he has debts amounting to Rs. 1,200, of which Rs. 800 had been incurred in litigation over some land worth a little more than Rs. 300. In the afternoon, about 300 or 400 raiyats came in from the villages for many miles round. They were brought by their *mirasdars* as representatives of these *mirasdars*, some of whom are pleaders at Sunamganj. They were of two classes—the petty cultivators accustomed to labour, and the substantial cultivators with a *hal* or more land—most of them said that they were buying paddy and wanted loans from Government.

July 7th.—In the morning went with the Subdivisional Officer, who had arrived the previous evening, to Dostpur and part of Kubazpur. The population of Dostpur consists of Jugis and Muhammadans, all of the petty cultivator class, holding 4 or 5 *kiars* of land. The Muhammadans are accustomed to leave their homes for work. I found some who had just returned from working as boatmen, and others were absent from home. The Jugis depend on miscellaneous work, such as cutting grass for cattle. They are not well off; one widow and one *fakir* only require assistance. In Sundarpur, a part of Kubazpur village, a Brahmin, whose nephew was away, complained that he could not get food. There were also some widows in need of assistance. In the afternoon visited the *hat*. There were several boats with paddy from Dirai, which was sold at the rate of Rs. 2-11 per maund, according to calculations, as paddy is not sold by the seer or maund. There was only one boat with Burma rice. The *nal* mats made in the villages were being sold at 2 annas each.

Nabiganj, July 9th.—In the morning visited Kanaipur and Pirizpur villages, near Nabiganj. Kanaipur is inhabited mainly by Mahimals, of whom there are over 50 houses. Most of the Mahimals have only a little land, generally 3 or 4 *kiars*. Two men only had over a *hal* of land. All are buying paddy. The Mahimals depend mainly on fishing. They are better off now than they were a little time ago, before the water had risen in the *haors*. There are three widows who get a living by begging. One blind man has received relief at the thana. Others are not in need of relief now. In Pirizpur there are between 20 and 30 houses of Chandals, nearly all of whom have a little cultivation, generally only 2 or 3 *kiars*. They depend on work as boatmen, servants,

&c. There are two widows who have no relatives to support them. They get a living by buying paddy and preparing *chira*; none require any relief. I afterwards had an interview with two members of the Local Board, who had come to see me about the present condition of the people which they described as being worse than they had ever known. This was *hât* day. There were six boats with paddy from Dirai for sale. The price is said to be Rs. 2-5 per maund, and is lower than hitherto. The number of people buying paddy is large. Most of the people are able to buy such luxuries as *pan*, *supari*, jack-fruit, &c. There were no fewer than 21 boat-loads of jack-fruit for sale. Hitherto there has been a large sale of sweet potatoes, which are imported from Mymensingh and sold at a very cheap rate. The season is, however, passing, and there were only two boat-loads at this *hât*.

July 10th.—In the morning went to Dattagram, as the Local Board members had informed me that this was one of the villages where the distress was worst. I first visited the Chandals' quarters. All the men of seven houses were absent working. All have a little land, but depend on their labour. There are 45 or 50 houses of Muhammadans, of whom three or four are substantial talukdars with 3 or 4 *hals* of land. These have some paddy in stock. The others are all buying paddy. Nearly all have 2 *kiars* or more *boro* cultivation. I next visited the quarter of the Dases, of whom there are 40 or 50 houses. Nearly all have a little *boro* cultivation. The crop is said to have been such an utter failure that they did not take the trouble to cut it. One old man, however, more truthful than the others, said that he got a few maunds *boro* paddy from the small area cultivated by him. The yield was undoubtedly very poor. The old man, who has 2½ *hals* of land, says that he has still a little paddy in stock. The others say that they are buying paddy. I saw no signs of distress. No one applied to me for loan.

Baniachong, July 17th.—At Baniachong. There is considerable distress among the poorer classes here. I saw Babu Debendra Nath Nandy, who has been entrusted with the distribution of gratuitous relief here. It is clear that the amount of gratuitous relief must increase. There is a large class dependent on work, which is now scarce. The Local Board had some jungle-cutting done, and there were over 100 men ready to work. This work has been stopped, but road-metalling is to be started immediately at Habiganj. Azman Réza, the principal *mirasdar* here, came to see me. He said that there are widows of respectable family, and also men who cannot take alms, and are very badly off. Loans can be given to people of this class.

Enclosure 10 in No. 170.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, No. 1446 Misc.—6271 G., dated Shillong, the 16th August, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 857 G., dated the 9th August, 1901, reporting on the scarcity in Sunamganj and other subdivisions of the Sylhet District. From this report it is evident that the state of affairs in the Sunamganj Subdivision has been greatly exaggerated. In your letter No. 673 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, you stated that the Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj had reported to the effect that the bulk of the population of the Sunamganj and Chhatak thanas and the jurisdiction of the Jagannathpur outpost had been reduced to the verge of starvation, or were actually starving. From your diaries of the 6th to 10th July it appears that you visited some of the villages near Jagannathpur, in which the worst distress was reported to prevail, and made careful enquiries, but found no cases of actual distress, except those of a few destitute widows and beggars.

2. I am to say that the Chief Commissioner considers it improbable that so large an amount as Rs. 12,000 will be required for gratuitous relief in the

Sunamganj Subdivision. There is a danger that a too liberal appropriation of funds for this purpose may result in waste, and in money being distributed to people who are not really in distress. I am to convey the Chief Commissioner's sanction to the further allotment by the Sunamganj Local Board of a sum of Rs. 3,000 for gratuitous relief in addition to the amount of Rs. 2,000 already allotted by them. Mr. Cotton considers it essential that the agents to whom the distribution of gratuitous relief is entrusted should be required to keep registers of the persons relieved by them, and that these registers should be frequently scrutinised by the Subdivisional Officer and by yourself, as opportunity affords, in order to ensure that the money is properly applied. Gratuitous relief should be restricted to people who are really destitute and helpless, and should not be given to the able-bodied who are in a position to find work. I am to add that the Chief Commissioner does not contemplate making any additional grant from Provincial funds to the Sunamganj Local Board, and the outlay on gratuitous relief must be met by curtailment of the Board's expenditure under other heads.

3. It is observed that a large proportion of those who are at present feeling the effects of scarcity in Sunamganj and Habiganj belong to classes who possess little or no cultivation of their own, and who are accustomed to leave their homes in search of work. I am to say that an effort should be made to induce these people to seek employment in the Sylhet District, and it might be well if you were to bring to the notice of tea planters the supply of local labour, which is said to be at present available.

4. Your proposal to grant loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act to the poorer classes of cultivators, who are not able to obtain loans from money-lenders, meets with the Chief Commissioner's approval. In this connection, I am to refer you to this office letter No. 71 Budget—564 A., dated the 4th April, 1901, by which a sum of Rs. 1,000 was placed at your disposal for loans to agriculturists during the current year. The Chief Commissioner now sanctions a further allotment of Rs. 4,000 for this purpose for your district, and trusts that you will distribute it judiciously.

III.
STATEMENTS
**REGARDING FAMINE MADE IN THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

No. 171.

STATEMENT ON THE FAMINE OF 1899-1900

MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HELD AT
SIMLA ON 19TH OCTOBER, 1900.

Exactly a year ago to-day I made a speech in this Council upon the then impending Famine. Throughout the twelve months that have intervened, this Famine, which within the range of its incidence has been the severest that India has ever known, has been the main preoccupation of Government. It has engrossed our whole attention, has placed a terrible strain both upon our resources and our officials, has disorganised our finances, and has addressed a perpetual and irresistible appeal to our individual humanity. Now that it is drawing to a close, it may not be inappropriate that I should attempt to sum up the results of the past year's experience; so that the public may realise within a short compass what the Great Famine of 1899-1900 has meant, how we have endeavoured to meet it, what a mark it has left, or will leave, upon the history of the country, and what is the teaching that may be derived from a study of its features.

We cannot, I think, be accused of having failed to anticipate or to provide for this great drought. Our anxiety as to the prospects dated from as far back as July, 1899. In the early autumn the Local Governments and ourselves were busily occupied in making preparations for the possible failure of the monsoon. When I spoke in October, relief-operations had already commenced, and half a million persons were on relief. The numbers rapidly rose month by month, till in July last they touched the unprecedented total of considerably more than six millions of persons. Even now over two millions are still in receipt of relief; though we hope that, in the course of next month, the necessity may disappear, and that the whole of this number may be drafted away to their homes.

The main statistical features of the Famine are already sufficiently well known and may be briefly dismissed. It has affected an area of over 400,000 square miles, and a population of about 60 millions, of whom 25 millions belong to British India and the remainder to Native States. Within this area the Famine conditions have, during the greater part of the year, been intense. Outside it they have extended with a gradually dwindling radius over wide districts which have suffered much from loss of crops and cattle, if not from actual scarcity. In a greater or less degree nearly one-fourth of the entire population of the Indian Continent have come within the range of relief-operations. It is difficult to express in figures with any close degree of accuracy the loss occasioned by so widespread and severe a visitation. But it may be roughly put in this way. The annual agricultural production of India and Burma averages in value between 300 and 400 crores of rupees. On a very cautious estimate the production in 1899-1900 must have been at least one-quarter, if not one-third, below the average. At normal prices the loss was at least 75 crores, or 50 millions sterling. In this estimate India is treated as a whole. But in reality the loss fell on a portion only of the Continent, and ranged from almost total failure of crop in Guzarat, Berar, Chhattisgarh and Hissar, and in many of the Rajputana States to 20 and 30 per cent. in districts of the North-Western Provinces and Madras,

which were not reckoned as falling within the Famine tract. If to this be added the value of some millions of cattle, some conception may be formed of the destruction of property which a great drought occasions. There have been many great droughts in India, but there has been no other of which such figures could be predicated as these.

It must further be remembered that, unlike previous Famines, that of 1900 was separated by the short space of only two years from a drought not greatly inferior to it in extent and scarcity. Some tracts which suffered in 1896-97 have been fortunate enough to escape in 1899-1900. But the most calamitous feature of the recent famine has been that there were others which not only suffered again, but suffered in a worse degree. This was the case in the Central Provinces and in portions of Rajputana, Central India, the South-East Punjab, and the Bombay Dekkhan. Apart from this area of twofold distress, the centre of gravity tended on the present occasion to shift towards the west. The cluster of Native States lying between the Nerbudda, the Jumna and the Sutlej were swept into the area of scarcity. Finally, the fertile provinces of Guzarat and Kathiawar, whose rainfall is generally so abundant and so steady that they have been styled the Garden of India, were attacked; and there, in proportion as the immunity hitherto enjoyed has been the longest, so was the suffering the most widespread and enduring.

This was the situation with which we were confronted a year ago, and which has gradually developed since. It was not merely a crop failure, but a fodder famine on an enormous scale, followed in many parts by a positive devastation of cattle—both plough cattle, buffaloes, and milch kine. In other words, it affected, and may almost be said to have annihilated, the working capital of the agricultural classes. It struck some of them when they were still down from the effects of the recent shock. It struck others who had never before known what calamity was, and who were crushed and shattered by the suddenness and directness of the blow. It attacked Native States to whose Durbars had never previously been brought home the obligation of famine relief on an extended scale and whose dearth of administrative staff was enhanced by the poverty of their financial resources. It laid its hand upon primitive hill men, unused to discipline or restraint, impulsive, improvident, lazy, living in an almost barbarous state in wild and inaccessible jungles. It sharpened the lurking nomadic instinct of wandering tribes, and sent them aimlessly drifting about the country, a terror to the Famine-officer, and an incubus to the camps. For a year it never left hold of its victims; and one half of the year had not elapsed before famine had brought its familiar attendant furies in its train; and cholera, dysentery and fever had fallen upon an already exhausted and enfeebled population. This is the picture of suffering that India has presented during the past year. Let us now examine the steps that have been taken to ameliorate it.

In such diverse circumstances the methods of relief, the difficulties encountered, and the degree of success attained, have varied greatly. The preceding famine had bequeathed experiences and lessons of the utmost value, which were carefully gathered up by the Commission of 1898, and which have profoundly affected the policy of the present famine. The stress laid by the Commission on the necessity for starting relief before the people have run down; their advocacy of more extensive gratuitous relief, especially in the form of kitchen relief; their recommendations concerning the special treatment of aboriginal and forest tribes; their approval of small or village relief-works in special circumstances in preference to large works,—these and other injunctions will be found to have influenced our measures and shaped our course throughout the famine. The Commission's recommendations were generally in the direction of greater flexibility in relief methods and greater liberality of relief. The dangers of ill-regulated profusion are obvious; and, apart from all considerations of cost it would be a national misfortune if relief were ever made so facile or so pleasant as to destroy the self-respect and self-reliance of the people. But the Commission were not unmindful of this danger; and their findings amounted to this, that they recognised that in the last famine we had not succeeded in preventing great mortality and suffering, and that they thought better results

might be attainable by a larger expenditure of money and a somewhat greater regard to the circumstances of special localities and classes. They said in effect that, if it was good policy to combat a famine, it was good policy to combat it effectively. It is possible that in certain directions their recommendations erred on the side of over-liberality. Their wage-scale is an instance. It was tried in all provinces at the commencement of the present famine, but was speedily reduced by the independent consent of all Local Governments. Again, their advocacy of gratuitous relief may be said by some to have led in the present famine to a scale of alms-giving unprecedented in magnitude, and likely to embarrass future famine administration. This question I will discuss in a moment. I merely mention the matter now to show that, in the present famine, we have broken new ground, and, acting upon the lessons of its predecessor, we have accepted a higher standard of moral and financial obligation than has ever before been recognised or acted upon in this or any country.

If, indeed, a special characteristic should be attributed to our campaign of Famine relief in the past year, it has been its unprecedented liberality. There is no parallel in the history of India, or in that of any country in the world, to the total of over 6 million persons who, in British India and the Native States, have for weeks on end been dependent upon the charity of Government. Let me compare these figures with those of the preceding Famine. In 1897, the high-water mark of relief was reached in the second fortnight of May, when there were nearly 4 million persons on relief in British India. Taking the affected population of 40 millions, the ratio of relief was 10 per cent. In one district of Madras, and in two districts of the North-Western Provinces, the ratio for some months was about 30 per cent., but these were exceptional cases. In the most distressed districts of the Central Provinces 15 or 16 per cent. was regarded in 1896-97 as a very high standard of relief. Now take the figures of the present year. For some weeks in June and July upwards of 4½ million persons were on relief in British India. Reckoned on a population of, say, 25 millions, the ratio of relief was 18 per cent. as compared with 10 per cent. in 1897. In many districts the proportion exceeded 20 per cent. In several it exceeded 30 per cent. In two districts it exceeded 40 per cent. In the small district of Merwara, where Famine has been present for two years, 75 per cent. of the population has been on relief. Nothing that I might say can intensify the simple eloquence of these figures.

The next test that I apply is that of the number of officers whom we have lent, both to British districts and to Native States, to reinforce the overworked and, in many cases, undermanned local establishments. From the Army 84 Staff Corps officers, 17 Native officers, 10 British non-commissioned officers and privates, and 228 Native non-commissioned officers and privates, have been deputed, for periods of various length, to Famine duty in British India and Native States. They have done excellent work. Including the above, the total number of public officials deputed from civil and military employ to Famine duty has amounted to 637. Among these were 35 Assistant Surgeons and 141 Hospital Assistants, 44 Civil Engineers, 10 Royal Engineers and 24 Public Works subordinates. Large as these numbers were, we would gladly have sent more, had the men been forthcoming. Since the Famine began, I cannot recall ever having refused an application, if it was possible to grant it. We literally scoured the remaining provinces of India for the loan of men, and with great generosity, wherever practicable, their Governments responded to the appeal. After my return from Guzarat, we collected and sent down a large number of additional Hospital Assistants, of whom I had noted a regrettable paucity, to Bombay. Similarly in the Native States, as the Chiefs and Durbars have repeatedly acknowledged, it has only been owing to the administrative knowledge, the unflagging energy, and the devotion of the British officers whom we have lent to them, that they have escaped a disastrous breakdown.

My third test is that of financial outlay. The direct expenditure on Famine relief in British India and in Berar, from the commencement of relief operations up to the end of August, has been 854 lakhs of rupees. We estimate a further expenditure of about 150 lakhs up to the 31st March next, making in all in round numbers about 10 crores of rupees. In loans and advances to

land-holders and cultivators, we have expended Rs. 238 lakhs. We have made advances for plough-cattle and for agricultural operations this autumn free of interest, and on very easy terms as to eventual repayment; and our expectation is that not more than one-half will be recovered. In the matter of land-revenue, our latest estimate is that, of a demand of Rs. 392 lakhs in the Central Provinces and Bombay, Rs. 164 lakhs will be uncollected during the year. In the distressed districts of the Punjab, suspensions aggregating Rs. 41 lakhs are anticipated. With these figures I compare those for the Famine of 1896-97, calling attention, however, to the fact that, in 1896-97, the area and population in British India affected by Famine were considerably larger than in the present year. The total direct expenditure on Famine relief was 727 lakhs of rupees; 130 lakhs were advanced as *takkavi*; and land revenue to the amount of about 2 crores was suspended. In this comparison, our further outlay in connection with relief in Native States has been omitted, for the reason that, in 1896-97, the calls upon us in that respect were insignificant. In the present Famine, our loans to Native States in Rajputana have amounted to 69 lakhs of rupees; to Native States in the Bombay Presidency we have lent 78 lakhs of rupees, besides guaranteeing the repayment of loans to the amount of 105 lakhs of rupees borrowed by other States in the market. We have also come to the assistance of Nizam of Hyderabad, whose extensive dominions have suffered from severe drought. In all, our actual loans to Native rulers in connection with the present Famine amount in the aggregate to over 3½ crores. This is exclusive of the guaranteed loans. Without this assistance it may be safely said that the States would have been wholly unequal to the task of relieving their subjects, and even in some cases of carrying on the ordinary administration of their territories.

I now pass to an examination of the methods of Famine-relief which we have adopted. In one respect they have differed materially from those of the preceding Famine. Profiting by its lessons, we have learned to apply a much more flexible system. Thus in 1897 the effective relief of the aboriginal races in the Central Provinces was regarded as an insoluble problem. They suffered and perished in their jungles. This year congenial work and extensive gratuitous relief were provided for them in the forests, and the Gonds and Baigas have survived with no exceptional mortality. Again, whereas in 1897 there was a terrible mortality in the Central Provinces when the rains set in, owing to the abrupt closing of relief works without a simultaneous expansion of home or village relief; in the present year we have scattered broadcast over the country an extensive system of kitchen relief upon which, while no one disputes its general necessity or its success, the only criticism that has been passed is that it has erred on the side of liberality, and has been abused by able-bodied persons who preferred to be fed for nothing in the kitchens to earning their own livelihood in the fields. In 1897, the complaint was one of parsimony and lack of preparation. If we have now in some cases gone too far in the opposite direction, some allowance must be made for the natural recoil from earlier mistakes.

Guzarat supplies another instance of the degree in which we have accentuated and added to the flexibility of the Famine Code. When the great outbreak of cholera had disorganised the large relief works, and had driven the terrified workers away to their homes, and when extraordinarily high death rates revealed the existence of very widespread destitution and suffering, the Government of India did not hesitate to advise the Bombay Government to meet the situation by enlarging the customary bounds of gratuitous relief, and by opening petty village works to take the place of the deserted Public Works relief camps. The effect of this policy was that, whereas in the middle of May the number of persons on gratuitous relief in the five districts of Guzarat was little more than 50,000, at the end of June it had risen to 150,000; at the end of July to 308,000; and by the middle of August to 385,000, the last figure representing more than 12 per cent. of the entire population of those districts. Before the present famine, such a percentage would have been regarded as a flagrant abuse of famine relief. We were, however, satisfied that a strict adherence to the labour-test principle would, in June and July last, have failed to meet the very special set of circumstances created by the cholera outbreak in Guzarat, and I

have no doubt that the satisfactory decline in the death rate was largely due to the policy adopted.

In drawing attention, however, to the greater liberality of relief that has been practised, the question may be asked whether it was after all only due to the superior intensity of this year's famine, or whether it has denoted greater efficiency and perfection of method, or has perhaps only been the result of promiscuous and thoughtless charity. Some part of it must no doubt be attributed to the greater severity of the recent distress which I have already demonstrated. Upon the second head, we may safely claim to have profited by experience in the improvement of our relief arrangements, and in their more accurate adaptation to the special circumstances of different districts, the special requirements of different classes, and the different seasons of the year. No critic would dispute this proposition. As regards the third point, it is not without a smile that, while I now read in some quarters that the conditions of relief, notably in respect of kitchen relief in the Central Provinces, have been relaxed to a dangerous and demoralising degree, I remember that, nine months ago, the Government of India were being assailed for the alleged stringency and harshness of the warnings that they had given in the Circular of December, 1899. Looking back upon our entire experience, I have now no hesitation in saying that our warning note was well timed and was wisely issued. Our enquiry was followed by a very salutary re-organisation of relief works in the Central Provinces and elsewhere, by large additions in all Provinces to the superior famine staff, and by considerable improvements in the supervision and conduct of relief measures. One of its results was the exposure of inadequacy of the superior staff, and of the dangers which were certain to ensue if this were not rectified. It was in consequence of this discovery that we offered the substantial help in respect of Staff Corps Officers, Medical Officers, Officers drafted from the Postal, Salt, and Police Departments, and Engineers, of which I have already spoken.

I should like to add that, in my opinion, there was no inconsistency between the position taken up by the Government of India in the first months of the famine, and their subsequent attitude in permitting a vast expansion of gratuitous relief during the rains in the Central Provinces, and in counselling the Government of Bombay to relax the conditions of relief in Guzarat, when cholera had disorganised the large works. Conditions are radically different at the beginning and at the height of a famine; and a degree of firmness at the outset is essential, which would, at a later stage, be altogether out of place. If this be borne in mind, our policy will, on examination, prove to have been consistent throughout. On the one hand, we have set our face against indiscriminate and pauperising charity, and have endeavoured to insist on relief being administered with the care and method which we owe to the taxpayer and to the exchequer. On the other hand, we have been prepared to accept any expenditure of which it could be shown that it was required to save life or to mitigate genuine distress. The only intelligent and the only possible policy is based on these two principles. There is no contradiction between them. No famine has ever been, or ever will be, successfully administered that does not exhibit, according to the point from which it is scrutinised, the opposite characteristics of strictness and leniency, or that is not open to the charge—if charges are to be brought—of being at different moments profuse and grudging.

Nevertheless we may still be asked whether we are quite satisfied that the abnormal mortality in Guzarat, the widespread misery described by competent observers, and the temporary breakdown of the relief machinery in that part were not due to any fault in our initial instructions. That the mortality was very great cannot be denied. In Broach the monthly death-rate rose from 2·96 per mille in October, 1899, to 24·83 in May, 1900. In the Panch Mahals the death-rate for the same month of May was 46·60 per mille; in Kaira 21·07; in Ahmedabad 24. These rates include deaths from cholera, a most virulent wave of which swept over Guzarat in April; although it is impossible to distinguish accurately between the mortality for which cholera was directly responsible, and that which was due to other diseases, to debility, to privations,

and to the temporary disorganisation of the camps. I have seen the report of a special enquiry which has just been conducted into the Guzarat mortality by the Sanitary Commissioner to the Bombay Government. He specifies no fewer than eight causes for the excessive death-rate in that district. They were, insufficient and unwholesome food; resort to Rangoon rice and other unaccustomed grains; bad cooking and bad water; the physical softness of a people who had never previously experienced famine; the unwillingness of certain classes, such as the Bhils and herdsmen, to apply for relief; and the vagabond instincts of large sections of the population. Some of these causes were preventible or reducible; the majority were not. If a perfect relief system is anywhere attainable, it is obvious that it is more likely to be realised in a district where the people are already acquainted with the principles of relief, and where they feel no natural reluctance to avail themselves of it. Neither of those conditions was present in Guzarat. The rapidity and completeness of the calamity took the people by surprise; the weakness and incapacity for resistance of the people took the Local Government by surprise. Had there been greater previous experience in either respect, the results might have been modified. The failure was certainly not due to any antecedent orders on the part of Government, or to any parsimony in the scheme of relief. On the contrary, the actual cost of relief per head in Bombay exceeded the cost-rate in other parts of India. While, therefore, I feel that the excessive mortality in Guzerat is a phenomenon of which it is difficult to give a full explanation, and which may still call for further enquiry, I think that a good deal of weight should be attached, in a comparison, for instance, between Guzarat and the Central Provinces, to the different temperaments of the afflicted populations, and to their relative familiarity or unfamiliarity with relief methods.

If we examine the death-rate elsewhere, we shall find that, in the Central Provinces, it remained satisfactorily low until the concluding months of the famine. Excluding epidemic disease, the provincial rate for April was only 3·25 per mille, and for May 3·42 per mille. These were the worst months in Guzarat. In June the rate (excluding cholera and small-pox, which carried off 23,000 persons) rose to 4 per mille, and in some parts was higher. In July it rose to 5·35 per mille, while some districts showed a local rate of from 7 to 10 per mille. In August the death rate in one district rose to no less than 15·21 per mille. It is a curious fact, however, that this high mortality was not accompanied by any exterior evidence of starvation or even of emaciation. The people, in fact, did not die of want of food, but from the sudden change in climatic conditions which occurs during and after the rains.

In the Punjab the mortality statistics exhibit much the same features as in the Central Provinces, though in a slightly less degree. In Hissar, where the death-rate has been highest, it has never exceeded 8 per mille, excluding cholera. The result of my examination has been to show that relief has been fully and sufficiently given in the Punjab, and that there has been no mortality from starvation, or even from direct privation, save in the case of wanderers from Native States, who arrived in too debilitated a condition to be saved.

In Berar the death-rate has been generally moderate, except in two districts adjoining the Nizam's dominions, where there was much pauper emigration across the border. In the last weeks of the hot weather the mortality rose everywhere, especially in those two districts; but no one has been found to suggest that it was due to any deficiency of relief.

I do not speak of the mortality in the Native States, which has in many cases been shocking, because the Government of India cannot be held responsible for a system which it does not control, and because my sole desire has been, while stating the best, and admitting the worst, that can be said about our own methods, to ascertain how far the latter have justified themselves, or are capable of amendment. Broadly speaking, it may be said that no endeavours which it is in the power of the most philanthropic or generous of Governments to put forward will avail to prevent an increase of mortality during a severe famine. No relief system in the world will counteract the effects of reduced food supply, cessation of wages, high prices and break up of homes, among millions

of people, or will prevent famine from being attended by its twin sister, pestilence.

When, however, I read the records of earlier famines, and compare their results with this, I do feel some cause for satisfaction. We are sometimes told of the wonderful things that happened in India before the days of British rule, and are invited, in most unhistorical fashion, to regard it as a Saturnian age. I have looked up the statistics of the last great famine that occurred in Bengal, while that province was still under native administration. This was in the year 1770. I speak of local administration, because, although the Diwani of Bengal had been assumed by the Company a few years before, the latter had not yet taken over the civil administration, which remained in the hands of the former native officers of the Delhi Government. Throughout the summer of that year it is on record that the husbandmen sold their cattle; they sold their implements of agriculture; they sold their sons and daughters, till at length no buyer of children could be found; they ate the leaves of trees and the grass of the field; and, when the height of the summer was reached, the living were feeding on the dead. The streets of the cities were blocked up with promiscuous heaps of the dead and dying; even the dogs and jackals could not accomplish their revolting work. Disease attacked the starving and shelterless survivors, and swept them off by hundreds of thousands. Before the end of May, 1770, one-third of the population was officially calculated to have disappeared; in June the deaths were returned as 6 is to 16 of the whole inhabitants: and it was estimated that one-half of the cultivators must perish. Two years later Warren Hastings, who had assumed the Government of Bengal on behalf of the British Power, stated the entire loss as at least one-third of the inhabitants, and subsequent calculations revealed that the failure of this single crop, in the single province of Bengal, had carried off within nine months no fewer than ten out of less than thirty millions of human beings.

After this appalling record of what famine meant in India a century ago, it was almost with a sense of relief that I read the other day in a manifesto issued by an English M.P. to his constituents, whom I may observe, in passing, that he no longer represents, that "Lord George Hamilton and Lord Curzon have looked helplessly on, while two millions of human beings have perished of starvation and disease in India." Had this statement been true, however damaging to the Secretary of State or to myself, it would yet have pointed an extraordinary contrast between the methods and results of 1900 and those of the eighteenth century. But that it is not true is known to every intelligent person in England and in this country. Every man, woman, and child who has perished in India in the present famine has been a burden upon my heart and upon that of Government. Their sufferings have never been absent from our thoughts. It cannot truthfully be said, even by the most envenomed of opponents, that we have looked helplessly on. On the contrary, I fearlessly claim, and I challenge contradiction, that there has never been a famine when the general mortality has been less, when the distress has been more amply or swiftly relieved, or when Government and its officers have given themselves with a more whole-hearted devotion to the saving of life and the service of the people.

What the actual mortality may have been it is impossible to tell with complete accuracy. At a later date the forthcoming census will throw useful light upon the problem. At the same time, from a comparison of the normal death-rate of the famine-stricken districts in British India, with which alone, of course, I am competent to deal, with the death-rate throughout the twelve months' duration of the drought, we can ascertain that there has been an excess mortality of 750,000, or $\frac{3}{4}$ million persons. But out of this total we also know that cholera and small-pox have accounted for a recorded mortality of 230,000, figures which are admitted to be below the mark. Making this deduction, therefore, we arrive at an excess mortality of half a million in British India, more or less attributable to the famine conditions of the year. To say that the greater part of these have died of starvation, or even of destitution, would be an unjustifiable exaggeration;

since we know that many other contributory causes have been at work, while the figures include the deaths of immigrants from Native States, for which our administration cannot be held responsible. When further it is remembered that this total is not more than 2 per cent. of the entire population in the tracts to which it applies, it will be obvious that no very remarkable depopulation has occurred, and it will be recognized that it is with ample justification that I give the assurance that in the entire history of Indian famines, while none has been more intense, in none have the deaths been so few.

So far my remarks have been confined almost exclusively to what has been done in the recent famine in British India. I must add a few words about the Native States, many of which have been affected in a scarcely inferior degree to our own territories. As I indicated a year ago, while we have sedulously refrained from assuming the direct responsibility for famine relief in those areas, and have shrunk from any unsolicited interference with Native administration, we have yet, in the discharge of our duty as the Paramount Power, and in the interest of the States themselves, tendered them constant advice, have lent them competent officers, have made them liberal loans, and have supplied co-ordination and system to their methods of relief. On the whole, we may congratulate ourselves upon the success that has attended these efforts. In a few States the duty of succouring their subjects has been so neglected by the Durbars as to need strong interference; and in others the good intentions of rulers have been frustrated by the dishonesty and peculation of subordinate officials, who could not resist turning even the starvation of their fellow creatures to their own profit. But in the majority of cases the Chiefs have shown a most laudable disposition to accept our methods of relief, in so far as their resources and the agency at their command permitted. In some of the Rajputana States, especially in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikanir and Kishengarh, the arrangements have been admirably planned and carried out by the rulers themselves, and have aroused the admiration of persons familiar with the famine system of British provinces. Surveying the Native States as a whole, we may say that there has been an awakening to the call of philanthropic duty, which has been most gratifying.

Nevertheless, the difference of the standards in vogue may be judged from a comparison of the figures on relief in the two areas. In Bikanir and Jodhpur for instance, the numbers relieved in any month never exceeded 6 per cent. of the nominal population, while in the British districts of Ajmer-Merwara, 25 per cent. of the population were for months on relief. Even in the States under the Bombay Government, in which for various reasons the initiative and supervision of the Political Officers were more in evidence than in Central India and Rajputana, the scale of relief was very different from that in Guzarat. In Kathiawar, the numbers on relief never exceeded 13 per cent. of the population. In Palanpur they reached, but did not exceed, 15 per cent. in one month alone. In the same month (July, 1900), one-third of the aggregate population of the four distressed districts of Guzarat was on relief. The two great States of Baroda and Hyderabad flank the Bombay territory on the north and east. In Hyderabad and Baroda the numbers on relief never rose to 5 per cent. of the nominal population; and yet both States were visited by drought and famine not less severely than the adjoining districts of the Bombay Presidency. Meanwhile, the difference in the standards of relief was further testified by the eagerness with which thousands of fugitives streamed across the border from Native States into British territory, where they passed themselves off as British subjects, in the hope of enjoying the superior wages and comforts of our relief-works, our poor-houses, and our hospitals.

I do not dwell on this point in order to disparage the efforts, in many cases most praiseworthy, made by Native States to relieve their people; but simply because the difference between the standard of relief at which we have by degrees arrived, and the standard of relief recognised as liberal in the best managed Native State, is one of the elementary facts of famine experience. We may gladly admit that more has been done for their people by the Chiefs and rulers of Rajputana on this occasion than in any other historic famine.

There are many bright examples of benevolence and humanity. The Maharaja of Jaipur has extended his princely munificence not only to his own people, but to India at large. There is the instance of the late Maharaja of Kishengarh, who, though suffering from a mortal illness, took the keenest interest in the relief arrangements of his State, and never once alluded to his own ill-health. There is also the case of the wife of Maharaja Pertab Singh of Jodhpur, who, not content with opening an orphanage, resided there herself in order to superintend it. These instances—and their number might easily be increased—show the spirit with which the famine has been faced in Rajputana by some, at least, of its rulers. As for the people, they have borne their trials, as the Indian people always do, with exemplary fortitude and resignation.

I now pass to the subject of the charitable help which has been rendered to us in our long struggle, from so many quarters, in so many parts of the world. An impression appears to prevail that on the present occasion this assistance has been scant and disappointing. I do not share these views. Looking to the circumstances under which our appeal has been made, and even accepting the test of comparison with the Famine of 1896-97, I still hold that the amount contributed has been munificent, while its utility can scarcely be overrated. In 1896-97 the total collections amounted to 170 lakhs, of which 10 lakhs remained over at the beginning of the recent famine; in the present year, the Central Relief Committee has received a sum of close upon 140 lakhs, or not far short of one million sterling.

Analysing the subscriptions I find that India has contributed about the same amount to the Fund as in 1896-97, that is to say, about 32 lakhs. If the contributions from the European community are deducted, India may be considered to have contributed, at the outside, less than one-fifth of the total collections of 140 lakhs. More might have been expected from the Native community as a whole, notwithstanding individual examples of remarkable generosity. The little Colony of the Straits Settlements, for instance, which has no connection with India beyond that of sentiment, has given more than the whole of the Punjab. A careful observation of the figures and proceedings in each province compels me to say that, in my opinion, Native India has not yet reached as high a standard of practical philanthropy or charity as might reasonably be expected. Though private wealth in India is not widely distributed, its total volume is considerable. If Englishmen in all parts of the world can be found, as they have been found, twice in three years, willing to contribute enormous sums for the relief of India, on the sole ground that its people are the suffering fellow-subjects of the same Queen, it surely behoves the more affluent of the Native community not to lag behind in the succour of those who are of their own race and creed.

The collections from abroad have amounted to 108 lakhs, as against 137 lakhs in 1896-97. The United Kingdom's contribution of 88½ lakhs compares indifferently with its contribution of 123 lakhs in 1896-97, but in the circumstances of the year it is a noble gift. The City of Glasgow has been especially generous, with a donation of 8¼ lakhs, and Liverpool with 4½, in addition to nearly 16 lakhs from the rest of Lancashire. Australasia has given nearly eight lakhs in place of the two lakhs sent in 1896-97. The Straits Settlements, Ceylon, and Hong Kong, have also been extremely generous. Even Chinese native officials have collected handsome sums on behalf of the fund. The liberal donation of Germany at the instigation of the Emperor has already been publicly acknowledged. Finally, the United States of America, both through direct contributions to the fund, and by means of privately distributed gifts of money and grain, have once more shown their vivid sympathy with England's mission and with India's need.

I pass to the mode in which the Famine Fund has been distributed. The formation of the fund was accompanied by two announcements; the one, that in the distribution of the money the four objects of relief recognised in 1896-97 would be adhered to; the other, that the claims of the Native States would be fully considered. These principles have been faithfully adhered to by the Central Committee. Until the detailed expenditure accounts of the Local Committees are received, we cannot accurately state the distribution under the

several headings. But we know approximately that of 137 lakhs allotted by the Central Committee, 111 lakhs have been for cattle and seed and subsistence to cultivators. The allotments to Native States aggregate nearly 50 lakhs of rupees. The allotments to Rajputana alone amount to 22 lakhs. Measured by the population of the distressed areas, Rajputana has thus been not less generously treated than the Central Provinces. In the case of wealthy States like Gwalior, Hyderabad and Baroda, the Central Committee have restricted their grants to such amounts as the Political Officers have thought it expedient to ask for. Speaking generally, the grants made in Native territory have far exceeded the expectations of the rulers or their subjects. The gratitude of the latter has been expressed in homely and touching phrase. "If the English had not sent us this money, the thread of our lives would have been broken." "These are not rupees which have come over the sea, they are the water of life." "We have heard of the generosity of Hatim Bai, but we have tasted that of the Great Queen." How timely was the arrival of this charity, and how much it meant is seen in scores of affecting incidents. "Now I have got through to the other side," said a poor cultivator, with tears in his eyes, to the English officer who had given him a few rupees to buy fodder for his famished bullocks. There is ample evidence that this gratitude is of an enduring nature. Some of the happiest memories of famine-officers are those of unexpected visits from men who had been helped back to their old life by grants of seed and bullocks, and who returned after many days to again acknowledge the value of the gift. Nor should the self-respect which in not a few cases stood between a needy person and the proffered gift, or the scrupulous regard which led to its return because it might be misapplied, be overlooked. From Rajputana comes an old world tale of a Rajput Chief, dwelling in his bare house among his destitute tenants, who distributed among the latter the grant allotted to his village, but refused any gift for himself—"I am a Rahtor. I could not take charity"—and who with difficulty was induced to take a small loan. From Rajputana also comes the story of the man who was given a little money to convey his family and himself to a relief-work because he said that he had no means of feeding them on the way, but who came back and returned the gift because, as he said, he had not spoken the truth, since he had five goats which he could kill, one each day, eating part of the flesh, and selling the remainder. It is these incidents which lead one to hope that this great national charity has not been misplaced, but has been received in the spirit in which it has been offered.

In a famine campaign which has lasted for so long, and has provided so many opportunities for chivalry and self-sacrifice, it would not be difficult, but it might be invidious, to select any names for special mention. Numerous cases of devotion, amounting to the loftiest heroism, have been brought under my notice. I have heard of Englishmen dying at their posts without a murmur. I have seen cases where the entire organisation of a vast area and the lives of thousands of beings, rested upon the shoulders of a single individual, labouring on in silence and solitude, while his bodily strength was fast ebbing away. I have known of Natives, who, inspired by this example, have thrown themselves with equal ardour into the struggle, and have uncomplainingly laid down their lives for their countrymen. Particularly must I mention the noble efforts of the missionary agencies of various Christian denominations. If ever there was an occasion in which their local knowledge and influence were likely to be of value, and in which it was open to them to vindicate the highest standards of their beneficent calling, it was here; and strenuously and faithfully have they performed the task.

From this record of the past I will now turn for a few moments to the future. After the sombre picture that I have been compelled to draw, it is with no small relief that we may contemplate the existing situation and outlook. The monsoon was late in coming, but it has lingered long; and, except in the Eastern parts of the Bombay Dekkan, where I hear of crops withering from the premature cessation of the rains, of a poor *khariif*, and of anxious prospects, the outlook is everywhere promising. The early autumn crops are already being harvested, and prices are steadily falling back to their accustomed level. A good cotton crop is on the ground, and, as the cotton crop of India is worth thirteen millions sterling in an average year, its importance to the agriculturist

will be readily understood. Preparations for the winter crops are being actively made, and there is every expectation that the sowings in many parts will be unusually large, and will be made in the most favourable circumstances. A good winter harvest means cash to the farmer, as a good autumn harvest means cheap and abundant food to the poorest classes. If we have the good fortune to see our anticipations realised, next year should witness the export trade in agricultural produce again revive, and the import trade expand with the improvement in the purchasing power of the people.

That the famine-smitten tracts will at once, or speedily, lose the marks of the ordeal through which they have passed is not to be expected. The rapidity of the recovery will depend upon many circumstances—upon the vitality and stout-heartedness of the tillers of the soil, upon the degree of their indebtedness, upon the goodness or badness of the next few seasons, upon the extent to which their cattle have perished, and, not least, upon the liberality, in respect of revenue remission, of the Government. As regards the loss of stock, our latest reports are more encouraging than at one time we could have foreseen, and justify us in the belief that, if the seasons be propitious, recuperation will be more rapid than might at first sight be deemed likely. In older times, after a famine such as we have experienced, the districts would have been depopulated, and the land would have lain waste for a generation for lack of hands to till it. There may be isolated tracts in the jungles and mountain fastnesses of Central India and Rajputana, where the approaching census will reveal a melancholy decrease of population. But, treating India as a whole, neither in native states nor in British territory is the widespread and lasting desolation which followed the footsteps of a famine a hundred ago any longer within the bounds of possibility. The standard of humanity has risen with the means of combating the peril; and, in proportion as the struggle has been arduous, so are its after-effects mitigated.

I have alluded to the attitude of Government. In so far as generosity in respect of advances of loans, of suspensions, and, most of all, of remissions, is concerned, the figures that I have previously given will have shown that on our part there has been no hanging back. Our first object has hitherto been to pull the sufferers through. Our first object now is to start them again with reasonable chances in the world. Behind these two objects lies the further and binding duty of profiting by the lessons that the famine has taught. It will not do for us to sit still until the next famine comes, and then bewail the mysteries of Providence. A famine is a natural visitation in its origin; but it is, or should be, a very business-like proceeding when once it has started. There are many subjects into which we shall require to make careful enquiry, and an investigation into which we have already suggested to the Secretary of State. We shall want to compare the various relief-systems and their results as practised in the different provinces; to see in what respect our codes are faulty, where they are too rigid, and where they are too lax; to still further investigate the vexed question of large works as against small works, and of relief-concentration as against relief-dispersion. We shall have to examine the rival merits of relief-establishments, and of unconditional gratuitous relief when the rains break. We must consider how far sudden and excessive mortality is to be explained or prevented. We must ascertain the best means of bringing home relief, in the form of revenue remissions and suspensions, with the greatest promptitude and directness to the people. We must investigate and report upon the various public works that have been undertaken in the course of the recent famine, and must provide for the execution of a continuous programme of preventive works in the future.

In this connection I would remind my hearers that the last Famine Commission in their report devoted much attention to the matter. Unfortunately, the recent famine came upon us before their recommendations had had time to bear fruit; and in the rush and hurry of the overwhelming calamity of the past year, works had often to be improvised, so to speak, in a moment, to meet the demands of a particular area, whether the work was or was not likely to be of permanent value. Against this danger we shall require to guard by insisting upon the methodical preparation of district programmes, and upon the formation

of provincial branches, to be charged with this special duty. Railway earthwork has been pretty well exhausted for the present. More roads exist than can be properly kept up. But there are few parts of the country where works for the storage of water are not practicable. They may not, probably will not, be directly remunerative. But if such a work will conduce to greater security of the crops, and if it can be maintained at a moderate cost, it is just the sort of work which should be taken up or kept in hand for an emergency. No direct programme of relief should be considered complete until every possible irrigation or water storage scheme in the district has been examined, until a definite opinion has been come to as to its practicability and utility, and until detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for every accepted scheme. Such works will not fall within the category of the vast productive irrigation-projects such as have been executed in many parts of India. These are only possible amid certain physical surroundings, in the alluvial plains of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, in the deltaic tracts of Madras and Sind, and within the dry zone of Burma. All the possible schemes of this character are well known, and are gradually being undertaken. Tank storage again is not everywhere practicable. It is often found impossible to construct new tanks without injuring those already in existence; there is risk of water-logging the soil; and the water-supply is apt to fail altogether and to run dry at the very moment when it is most wanted, namely, in time of famine. Nor are the average results of works of this description that have already been carried out very favourable. It is possible to reclaim land for cultivation at a cost that is too heavy. On the other hand it would seem that the underground storage of water might be more widely and systematically undertaken, and that a more generous policy might be adopted towards the construction of wells. All these are matters which we should investigate and set on foot before the next famine comes. The annual rainfall of India we can neither regulate or forecast. The social habits of the people we cannot alter in a decade, or in a generation. But, if we can neither prevent nor cure, at least we can do a good deal by way of precaution.

There is one recommendation that was made by the last Famine Commission which should, I think, be of value to us in our policy of preparation, inasmuch as it has since received the sanction of the Secretary of State. This was the proposal that the cost of investigating and preparing new projects falling into the class of protective works should form a charge against the annual Famine Grant. Hitherto such preliminary outlay has been chargeable to the ordinary Public Works head of the Provincial Budget, and this has no doubt deterred the Provincial Governments in the past from expending money in investigating projects for canals and irrigation reservoirs, which might prove, on examination, to be impracticable, and which, even if practicable, would have to stand over indefinitely until required for purposes of famine-relief. There are other respects in which I think that the Famine Grant might be turned to better account in carrying out its original object than is at present the case; but I have not time to deal with them now.

I must apologise to Council for having detained them so long. But a famine such as we have lately experienced is not an every day or an every year occurrence. It cannot be met with a sigh, or dismissed with a shudder. It is a terrible incident, an abiding landmark, in the history of the Indian people. As such, its management and its study impose a heavy responsibility upon those of us who are charged with the government of this great dependency. It is with the object of demonstrating to the Indian public that in the administration of the recent famine we have not been unworthy of our trust, and that this year of strain and suffering will not have passed by without our profiting by its lessons, that I have made this speech.

No. 172.

EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENT made by the Honourable Sir E. FG. Law, K.C.M.G., in the Governor-General's Legislative Council held at Calcutta on 20th March, 1901.

During the past financial year this great Indian Empire has been suffering from an appalling calamity, quite unprecedented, I think, in the recent history of any country on the globe's surface. Not only have we been the victims of a famine of extraordinary severity, the inevitable outcome of the early cessation of the rains in the year 1899, but to the consternation of all men, responsible for, or interested in, the welfare of the millions of agricultural population, the coming of the periodical rains, required to refresh the thirsty soil and restore the fecundity of mother-earth, was so delayed last season, that the trials of the long suffering populations were prolonged in the most distressing and unexpected manner. But this was not all. In addition to the calamity of famine, the plague pestilence is still with us, and the terrible list of its victims is daily to be counted in the official returns from the plague-stricken districts. And this too weighs heavily on the resources of the country.

The Government of India has followed with the keenest anxiety the course and results of these awful afflictions, so entirely beyond its control, and it has recognised with profound admiration the splendid spirit with which millions of sufferers have faced the calamities from which they were powerless to escape.

The suffering condition of our fellow-subjects has been brought home to us, in the most incisive manner, through the continued and heart-rending appeals for assistance which have reached the Government of India. It is however my duty, and a happy duty, to state that, under the instructions of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, all such appeals have been considered by the Departments concerned, in a most liberal spirit, and no single appeal examined in that spirit by the competent authorities, has remained unsatisfied. The national purse and national credit have been freely placed at the disposal of all whose genuine distress might, it was hoped, be relieved by the prompt expenditure of money.

Such has been the spirit guiding our action, and it now falls to my duty to state the cost of our gigantic undertaking.

To count it with any approximation to accuracy is impossible, for it is not the direct expenditure of money which alone is involved: there has been an expenditure of life, health and energy of the numerous Government servants, both European and Native, who have nobly done their duty in facing the storm: in addition to the direct cost, of gratuitous famine relief and relief works, of remissions of taxation, of agricultural loans, of loans to assist afflicted Native States, of provision of medical assistance, and of special payments to famine officers; there has also been the indirect cost of loss of revenue, both as regards land revenue and miscellaneous taxes, and the incalculable, but probably still greater future cost of checked economic development.

We can fairly count the direct cost; the indirect cost must necessarily escape accurate calculation.

The following are the principal items of direct loss and expenditure :—

	Ra.
Famine relief... ..	6,33,76,000
Remissions and Suspensions of Land Revenue and Provincial Rates ...	1,47,16,000
Compensation for dearness of provisions and other charges	66,03,000
Total	8,46,95,000

In addition to the above, we have provided :—

	Ra.
Loans to Native States	4,11,00,000
Special Agricultural Advances	1,42,00,000
Total	5,53,00,000

This is an appalling total, but the calamity was also appalling. And the tale is not yet told. Expenditure will continue in the coming year. Already we have been called upon to provide approximately a crore for direct famine expenditure in the coming year, chiefly in Bombay, and we have been obliged to allot 164½ lakhs as grants-in-aid to Provincial Revenues, to restore financial equilibrium, thrown out of balance by famine and plague requirements.

It has been a serious and responsible task to meet all these heavy demands, but, thanks to the recuperative power of the country, directly due to the frugal habits and industry of the people, the task has been accomplished, and the Government of India can say with no inconsiderable satisfaction, that, with the aid of the ruled, the Rulers have done their duty, and the results have been such as to leave a memorable record in the history of mankind.

IV.

LABOUR SUPPLY AS AFFECTED BY FAMINE RELIEF.

No. 173.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. Donald Smeaton, Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 49, dated Calcutta, the 1st March, 1900.

I am requested by the Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter received from Messrs. Bird & Co., on the subject of Government and charitable relief, and its effect on the supply of labour.

Enclosure in No. 173.

Letter from Messrs. Bird & Co., to the Honourable Mr. D. Smeaton, C.S.I., No. 1542 B., dated Calcutta, the 28th February, 1900.

We have subscribed Rs. 3,000 to the Famine Fund, 1900, but we consider it very questionable whether this method of administering relief is wise. We are told that at Delhi it is impossible to obtain labour at ordinary rates, as the people prefer to be relieved gratuitously. During the whole of 1899 our jute mills here were short of labour, and such labour as we had was impudent and independent. The wages earned in mills here amount to Rs. 0-12-0 to Re. 1 daily. Our collieries also are chronically short of labour, and the above wages also obtain there. As large employers of unskilled labour on railways, it is our experience that wages are steadily rising and labour is becoming more and more scarce and difficult to procure.

2. Under these circumstances it appears to us that facilities and encouragement should be afforded to labour to *migrate* and seek for work in centres where labour is in demand, rather than to subscribe funds which are devoted to feed people gratuitously. We have heard it stated that the people who have come to know that relief can be obtained when they have no crops are becoming unwilling to go to the trouble of cultivating, but we cannot vouch for this statement.

No. 174.

Circular letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to (1) The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine); (2) The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab; (3) The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces; (4) The Resident, Hyderabad; (5) The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 474 F., dated Calcutta, the 10th March, 1900.

I am directed to forward $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (1) \text{ and } (2) \text{ for the consideration of} \\ (1) \text{ the Governor in Council,} \\ (2) \text{ His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor} \\ (3), (4), (5) \text{ for your consideration,} \end{array} \right.$

a copy of a communication concerning the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour supply of the country, which has been forwarded to the Government of India by the Honourary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, with his letter, No. 49, dated the 1st March, 1900.

2. I am to ask that, after careful inquiry from the railway authorities and from other local employers of labour, the Government of India may be informed whether there is any reason to believe that the relief works are interfering with the supply of labour, and whether anything has been or can be done to prevent this contingency, and to assist private employers of labour to obtain it on reasonable terms. At the same time I am to request that it may be ascertained whether the employers of unskilled labour have raised their wages in consequence of the enhanced prices now current.

 No. 175.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1272-F., dated Pachmarhi, the 3rd May, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your Circular, No. 2—90—3, dated 10th March last, regarding the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour supply of the country. The Government of India expressed the desire that careful inquiry should be made from railway authorities and other local employers of labour as to whether the relief works have interfered with the supply of labour; and also whether employers of unskilled labour have raised their wages in consequence of the enhanced prices now current.

2. It seemed to the Officiating Chief Commissioner that this was a matter of considerable importance, as it involved, as pointed out by Messrs. Bird & Co., the wisdom of the authorised system of administering relief. He therefore directed that full inquiry should be made in every division in the Province. And, in reference to your reminder, No. 782 F., dated 21st ultimo, I am to say that the cause of delay in furnishing a reply to your reference was that local replies had not been received. The last reached the Officiating Chief Commissioner only yesterday. The matter is one to which Mr. Fraser's attention was early directed; but he considered it necessary to have definite information from every part of the Province before replying to your letter. For, if any part had been omitted, the impeachment against the system of famine administration would not have been fully met. I am now to proceed to lay before the Government of India, for each division in the Province, the information which has been received.

3. In the Jubbulpore Division inquiries were made from the managers of the extensive lime works at Merwara and the district engineers of the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways. All these employers of labour have stated that they have had no difficulty in obtaining labour in any quantity,

and that they have not had to raise the rate of wages. The district engineer of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, however, adds that "the lower paid work-people, who are in receipt of wages from the Company direct and do work departmentally, have a grain compensation allowance which varies as the prices of food-grains fluctuate within certain limits." This is, of course, equivalent to a rise in wages. At the same time, he says, that "the rates paid to petty contractors are the same as have been in force for many years past, and have not been raised." No report was received from the Indian Midland Railway. But the relief works in its neighbourhood in the Jubbulpore Division were very few and admission was limited and controlled by tickets. So there can have been no competition with the employers of private labour.

4. In the Nerbudda Division the district engineer of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway replies in precisely the same terms as have been above quoted regarding work in the Jubbulpore Division. The reply to the reference made to the authorities of the Indian Midland Railway has not been received. But it need not be awaited, as the bulk of the work on the small portion (12 miles) of that railway which falls within the Hoshangabad District is being carried out by famine labour. The experience of all other private employers of labour appears to have been precisely similar, with one exception. The manager of the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company in October last, reported that his unskilled labourers were leaving the mines for the famine relief works, although the Company was paying considerably higher wages than those prevailing at the relief works. The Government of India will easily understand that labour in the mines is not popular with native labourers. At the same time the relief works were not opened to supply labourers to those for whom private employment was available. As soon, therefore, as the complaint was received, orders were issued that such persons were to be sent back from the works. This was done, and no complaints of the kind have since been received.

5. In the Nagpur Division inquiries were made from the district engineers of the Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal-Nagpur Railway, from the manager of the Empress Mills and from Rao Bahadur Rajaram Dixit, the most important contractor in the Division, as well as from small employers of labour. The district engineer of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (Manmar) replied that he "had no difficulty in obtaining the usual labour anywhere along the Nagpur line. The Government relief works do not draw our men away; and the present rate of wages is not higher than normal." He added that all permanent labourers drawing less than Rs. 13 per mensem receive grain compensation; but "other men we employ on temporary jobs, such as earthwork, &c., we pay at the normal rate without grain compensation." The manager of the Empress Mills replied that "the relief works started in Nagpur have not at all interfered with the supply of labour, which we are, in these famine times, able to obtain somewhat cheaper than we used to do before. We used to pay three annas a day to an unskilled male labourer, while we pay him now two annas to two annas six pice a day." Rao Bahadur Rajaram Dixit and the other contractors consulted give similar evidence that they have experienced no difficulty in obtaining labour at normal rates.

6. The evidence of the District Engineer, Bengal-Nagpur Railway (Kamptee), is, however, to the opposite effect. He alone has any complaint to make. He writes: "It is undoubtedly a fact that unskilled labour has not only gone up in price, but it is most difficult to get. In ordinary years we can get as many coolies for pumping and gang work as we require without the slightest difficulty at a rate of Rs. 6 per month. In 1898 our gangmen were getting Rs. 5-8 to Rs. 6 per month, and pumpers Rs. 6. This year all gangmen get from Rs. 6-8 to Rs. 7, and pumpers Rs. 7 to Rs. 8. Further, such labour as can be obtained is most independent; and should fault be found, the labourer at once leaves the work. Coolies for temporary work are most difficult to get; and I have been paying contractors as much as five annas a day for daily labour against a rate of three and a half annas last year. I am led to believe, from my enquiries, that the present high rate of coolies and the difficulty in obtaining them is due to the famine relief works." This is an unfortunate experience, into which it has been impossible for the

Officiating Chief Commissioner to make more detailed inquiries. Mr. Fraser is aware that labour in Nagpur and Kamptee is very "independent"; that pumping work is hard and unpopular, and that there has been (owing to scarcity of water) more demand for pumping than usual. But he is unable to explain how the experience of the district engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur differs so completely from that of his neighbour in the same division on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It may be due to the conditions of labour under the former being less attractive, perhaps because he does not give grain compensation allowance even to permanent labourers. It will be found that Chhattisgarh experience affords some explanations of this complaint.

7. In the Chhattisgarh Division inquiries were made from the engineer in charge of the Raipur-Dhamtari Railway, the District Engineer, Bengal-Nagpur Railway (Bilaspur), the Assistant Engineer on the same railway at Raipur, and Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co., of the cotton mills at Raj Nandgaon. All these employers of labour state that they have no complaint to make; that the famine relief works have not interfered with the supply of unskilled labour; and that it has not been found necessary to raise the wages of unskilled labour in consequence of the enhanced prices now current. Both the District Engineer and the Assistant Engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, however, in the course of their replies, make an allusion to pumping work, which is of interest in connection with the complaint of the district engineer on the same line at Kamptee. They say that they have no trouble in getting any labour they want "at the usual rates, with the exception of pumpers, whose work is particularly hard just now on account of the heavy traffic. So their wages have been raised." Perhaps, if the District Engineer at Kamptee had made equally intelligent inquiry about the labourers in his employment, he would have discovered the local and temporary causes for the unpopularity of certain work to be quite apart from the alleged competition of famine relief works.

8. The Officiating Chief Commissioner considers that the practically unanimous opinion of the private employers of labour throughout the Province that the famine relief works have not interfered with the supply of unskilled labour is very satisfactory. It is evidence of no small value that famine labour has not been made too attractive. In this matter, as the Government of India are aware, Mr. Fraser has made every effort to give effect to the views which he loyally shares with them. I am only to add that the authorities of all the Railways running through the Province have rendered cordial assistance to the Central Provinces Administration in giving work to famine labourers wherever possible. And they have also realised generally that the Administration has been always ready to help them in every way possible.

No. 176:

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2034-F., dated Abu, the 3rd May, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Circular No. 2—90—3, dated the 10th March, 1900, forwarding a copy of a communication concerning the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour supply of the country, and to inform you that I have consulted the Commissioner of Ajmer and the Superintending Engineer as regards the result of their experience.

2. At the beginning of the famine when relief operations were not so well organized as they are now and the issue of gratuitous relief especially was administered on an unnecessarily liberal scale, complaints were made by the railway authorities that some of their menial workers had been tempted to throw up their regular employment. Such complaints are now no longer heard. The Commissioner reports that the supply of labour is in no way interfered with by the Government relief works.

The Famine Commissioner during his tours made enquiries on this point from the owners and managers of cotton mills. Most of these were closed for the greater part of the cold weather, but in one instance the manager complained of the constant applications for employment he was unable to grant.

3. In Rajputana in its present stage of development there is a quite inconsiderable demand for industrial labour, so that the problem raised in Messrs. Bird & Co.'s communication is of little practical account. There is no industry in the province of such dimensions and importance as to be affected by famine relief operations in this way.

No. 177.

Letter from E. H. Blakesley, Esq., Secretary for Berar to the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 193, dated Hyderabad Residency, the 8th May, 1900.

I am directed to refer to your circular letter No. 2—90—3, dated the 10th March, 1900, and to Mr. Tucker's subsequent letter, No. 784 F., dated the 21st April, 1900, regarding the effect of the State system of famine relief upon the labour supply of the country.

2. In reply I am to say that, so far as Berar is concerned, relief works are not interfering with the supply of labour, and that private employers of unskilled labour have not raised their wages.

No. 178.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 916-P., dated Poona, the 14th June, 1900.

I am now directed to reply to your circular letter, No. 2-90-3, dated 10th March last, on the subject of the effect of the State system of the famine relief on the labour supply of the country. The Agents of all railways open or under construction within the limits of the Bombay Presidency have been consulted, and such enquiries as are possible have been made with regard to the labour required by private employers.

2. In February last the Engineer-in-Charge of the Amalner-Jalgaon section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway reported that he could not obtain sufficient labour for some works he had in hand. But the Chief Engineer states that steady employment could not be given, and it was only natural that people on relief works should be disinclined to leave them for temporary employment. Moreover, the Collector was able, on being so directed, to arrange for the supply of all the labour required on the railway. It is now reported that the system of daily payments, which has been made general in the Panch Mahals, is drawing labourers away from the Anand-Godhra and Godhra-Rutlam branches of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway. These are the only instances in which there has been any allegation made to Government, or to officers of Government, that the system of State relief has interfered with the supply of labour. It is reported that people are employed by private individuals in Ahmedabad in drawing carts on smaller wages than can be earned on relief works, and that both in Gujarat and the Deccan private employment is preferred but at present the demand is very small.

3. On none of the railways have wages been increased on account of high prices, but on the main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway grain compensation is given to all classes of labourers; on the Southern Mahratta Railway it has been given only to the permanent staff. Throughout Gujarat the money wages given by private employers are said to be below the normal rates, and it is reported that in the Deccan districts lower wages are given by private employers than can be earned on relief works.

No. 179.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 971, dated Simla, the 6th July, 1900.

In reply to your letter No. 2—90—3, dated the 10th March, 1900, regarding the effect of the State

1. From Commissioner, Delhi, No 256, dated 5th May, 1900.

2. From Commissioner, Jullundur, No. 2058, dated 14th May, 1900 (and enclosures).

3. From Commissioner, Ráwalpindi, No. 2321, dated 16th June, 1900 (and enclosures).

4. From Secretary to Government, Punjab, Irrigation Department, No. 0327 L., dated the 12th June, 1900.

5. From Manager, North Western Railway. No. 998 F., dated 19th June, 1900.

6. From Chief Engineer, Punjab, Public Works Department, No. 410 S., dated 21st June, 1900.

7. Extracts from Report on the working of the Dandot Colliery for the half-year ending 31st December, 1899.

system of famine relief, on the labour-supply of the country, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the letters noted in the margin, and to say that a reply from the Commissioner of Lahore, who has been consulted on the subject, will be submitted as soon as received.

2. It is clear from these papers that the relief measures undertaken in the Punjab have not so far interfered with the

supply of ordinary labour, but have rather tended to increase the supply and to bring down wages, the latter tendency, however, being modified by the presence of relief works. Thus, in the annual report of the Dandot Colliery, labour is reported to have come in more freely than usual, but "the knowledge that they could get work on the famine relief works seemed to make the miners fairly independent of the Colliery," and this is also referred to in the letter of the Manager, North-Western Railway, which is among the enclosures of this letter. On the other hand, in the case of a test work in the vicinity of Khewra, when a change in the conditions of the work had made the piece-work rates too high, and they were reduced, a number of labourers immediately left for the salt mines.

Enclosure 1 in No. 179.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 256, dated the 5th May, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 481 of the 28th March, 1900, communicating the Government of India inquiry as to whether there is any reason to believe that our relief works are interfering with the supply of labour, and also whether the employers of unskilled labour have raised their wages in consequence of the enhanced prices now current.

2. The Deputy Commissioners of Delhi, Hissar, and Karnal have, at my request, made the necessary inquiries from the Railway and from contractors, and also from the Irrigation Department, and all the reports show that the relief works have not in any way affected the ordinary labour-supply, and that in no case has it been found necessary to raise the wages of unskilled labourers in consequence of the scarcity in order to keep them off of relief works.

Enclosure 2 in No. 179.

Letter from Alexander Anderson, Esq., C.I.E., Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 2058, dated the 14th May, 1900.

In reply to your endorsement No. 481, dated 28th March last, in which I was requested to have the inquiry suggested by the Government of India, as to the effect of the State system of famine relief upon the labour-supply of the country, made by selected Deputy Commissioners, from local employers of labour, I have the honour to forward a copy of the replies received from the Deputy Commissioners of Ludhiana and Ferozepore, the Engineer-in-Chief, Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal Railway, and the Superintendent, Maler Kotla State, who were consulted by me.

2. In this Division there have been no relief works properly so called, and it is therefore not possible to submit an opinion based on experience. There has been no increase in the rates of wages for ordinary unskilled labour arising from the enhanced prices. Many people have been thrown on the general labour market by the famine, and their competition for labour would naturally keep prices down.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Engineer-in-Chief, Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal Railway, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 2335, dated the 7th April, 1900.

With reference to your endorsement No. 92/1476, dated 4th instant, I have the honour to inform you that there has been no dearth of labour on this Railway, and that as far as I can judge the wages of unskilled labour are no higher than in normal years. The earth-work (which is now practically completed) having been done by contract, I cannot state what the actual wages paid to the labourers have been, but judging from the rate at which we have been able to get it done (*i.e.*, Rs. 2-4-0% for bank up to 5 feet high in ordinary soft soil), I should be inclined to think that the wages have, if anything, ruled rather lower than usual in this district.

Annexure II.

Letter from T. Millar, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 234, dated the 23rd April, 1900.

I have the honour to report, in reply to your Circular endorsement No. 92/1476 of the 4th instant, that from enquiries made I find that the system of famine relief has had no effect on the labour-supply in this district.

I herewith enclose a copy of Lala Kashi Ram, Honorary Secretary, Famine Relief Committee, Ferozepore City's letter on the subject.

Annexure III.

Letter from Lala Kashi Ram, Secretary, Famine Relief Fund Committee, Ferozepore, to the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, dated the 19th April, 1900.

In compliance with your endorsement No. 844, dated the 10th instant, forwarding copy of the Government of India Circular No. 2-90-3, dated the 10th March, 1900, with copy of enclosure, I have the honour to report that I do not think that the high prices

have raised the wages of labour. During the last winter in my experience the wages have been lower than in the normal seasons. Earthwork, which used to be given at Re. 0-2-0 or Rs. 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet were done at Re. 0-1-6, and daily wages fell to Re. 0-2-0 and Re. 0-2-6 instead of Re. 0-3-0 a day. On the approach of the crop season the wages have risen only very slightly, while in normal years in these days labour used to be scarce except for cutting the crops. At the ginning factories with which I am connected, the immigrants for famine could not be employed. The wages there have remained unaltered.

Annexure IV.

Letter from W. A. LeRossignol, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 225, dated the 26th April, 1900.

With reference to your Circular endorsement No. 92 1476, dated 4th instant, and its enclosure, on the subject of effect of famine relief works on the labour-supply of the country, I have the honour to report that no famine relief works are in progress in this district, and private employers of labour have consequently no difficulty in obtaining it at the usual rates. The rates of wages have not increased in this district owing to high prices of grain.

Annexure V.

Letter from the Superintendent, Maler Kotla State, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 229, dated the 29th April, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular endorsement No. 92/1476, dated the 4th instant, with its enclosures, asking my views on the effect of relief works upon the supply of labour.

2. In answer I beg to inform you that the relief works would not, in any way, interfere with the supply of labour. Even in large towns and cities, where there are large Railway stores and godowns, mills and manufactories, labour is in great demand on different rates, as such factories are always worked by special or professional labourers who know more of the work than any other stranger. Had famine-stricken people been employed in their place to carry out the same work, they would not prove themselves so useful, because they have no strength and acquaintance of that special work going on.

3. So far as I can conclude, these temporary labourers cannot well undertake the permanent works connected with a factory. To make them suitable for that work will require a little time to enable them to acquaint themselves with it. But on the other hand these new labourers can very satisfactorily work on ordinary relief works, such as roads or earthworks, digging of tanks, and the like. Consequently those who work on relief works are not permanent labourers, subsisting themselves on their regular labour only.

4. It is possible and true and can be affirmed by enquiry that rates of wages for labour in Municipal towns have however risen on account of the dearness of provisions, and an increase is sustained, say, of pies in smaller works and of annas in larger ones. I should therefore strongly recommend that in case when a famine is declared in any district, the Government may empower the local authorities of that district with some admitted principle to fix rates for all kinds of labour for that locality and to modify in them weekly or monthly according to fluctuations in prices of provisions. These rates should always be other than those of the Famine Code for relief works. This arrangement would, I think, facilitate the supply of labour and would first obtain suitable strong labourers for local factories of that district on the aforesaid rates. The rest of the labourers to be relieved by ordinary relief works on the rates contained in the Famine Code.

Enclosure 3 in No. 179.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. L. Montgomery, Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 2321—G. II.-25, dated the 16th June, 1901.

COPIES of the correspondence forwarded with your No. 481, dated 28th March, on the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour-supply, were sent by me to the Deputy Commissioners of Sialkot, Rawalpindi and

Gujranwala for opinion. No reply has as yet been received from Rawalpindi, but I proceed to give my opinion without further delay.

2. My experience is that famine relief has no effect on the supply of labour so far as unskilled labour goes. We had test works and famine relief works going on in several districts of the Division, but directly contract labour was opened in the Jhelum Canal the workers flocked to it and abandoned the famine works; the reason being that they could earn more there than on the famine works. As a rule ordinary unskilled labour could be had in these parts at cheaper rates than usual, because the people were in great straits and were ready to accept almost any wages offered them.

3. I agree with the Deputy Commissioner of Gujranwala (Diwan Tek Chand) that in this part of the Punjab cultivation is never neglected for the famine camps. Whenever there has been any chance of sowing, the agriculturists have immediately gone off to cultivate their lands.

4. There is not much occasion for the employment of skilled labour here except in the Railway workshops and under officers of the Public Works Department; and I have heard no complaints of any difficulty in getting labourers for such work. In short I should say that during these hard times there have been more applicants for both skilled and unskilled work than could be provided for, and the tendency has been towards lower rather than higher wages.

Annexure I.

Letter from Diwan Tek Chand, C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division, No. 133 L.F., dated Gujranwala, 7th May, 1900.

In compliance with your Circular endorsement No. 58/1411, dated 10th April, 1900, calling for opinion on a communication from Messrs. Bird and Co., of Calcutta to the Government of India, regarding the effect on the supply of labour, of the present system of famine relief, I have the honour to report that the Executive Committee of the Gujranwala Famine Charitable Relief Fund do not subscribe to the views of Messrs. Bird and Co.

2. No difficulty has yet been experienced in this district for the supply of unskilled labour. On the other hand it is a fact that private capitalists have been engaging labour on less than normal rates during the last six months or so.

3. The famine dole, especially when strict supervision is exercised in exacting task work, is not attractive enough for the able-bodied men of this part of the country, and if they can get better wages in private firms or on the railway it seems strange that they should refuse them unless the latter employment carries them far from their homes.

4. The accusation that people neglect cultivation simply to get gratuitous relief is, in my opinion, quite erroneous. As far as the Punjab is concerned, it is safe to say that the zamindars go to the famine camps as a last resort, and leave them as soon as a shower of rain promises them a bushel of corn.

5. The proposal of *migrating* famine-labourers to the chief centres of labour at Government expense is also not without its difficulties. What is to be done if the labourers refuse to migrate? Are they to die of starvation or is the State to save their lives? Again, what guarantee is there that, in view of the increase in the supply of labourers, their employers would not reduce their wages, which with high prices prevailing in periods of scarcity would also ruin them?

6. If the result of the present policy of famine relief is increase in wages, the result of the proposed policy would be a sure decrease in wages; and of the two alternatives I prefer the former as in hard times it is the labourers who deserve consideration and not the capitalists.

Annexure II.

Letter from Captain C. M. Dallas, Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division, No. 155, dated 11th May, 1900.

With reference to your No. 1411, dated 10th April, 1900, I have the honour to say that there are no very large employers of labour in this district whose opinion I could get, nor have there been any famine relief works in this district. The few people who are fed gratuitously are the blind, the lame, and the halt or aged and infirm who could not work.

I do not, therefore, think that relief works or gratuitous relief have affected the supply of labour in or near this district. In fact I heard that in an adjoining district where relief works were in progress that as soon as work in one of the new canals was started the number of persons on relief works at once decreased considerably.

Enclosure 4 in No. 179.

Letter from Sidney Preston, Esquire, C.E., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 0327 I., dated Simla, 12th June, 1900.

I am directed to reply to your endorsement No. 481, dated 28th March, 1900, forwarding a letter No. 2—90-3, dated 10th March, 1900, from Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture, concerning the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour-supply of the country.

2. I have consulted some of the more experienced of the Irrigation Officers in the Province with the following results :—

- (a) The Superintending Engineer, Jhelum Circle, says that practically no famine relief has been given in any district connected with the Jhelum and Swat River Canals, and hence of course there has been no interference with the labour market ; but that owing to the dearness of food stuffs and the failure of crops the price of labour has fallen considerably. The general result has been that labour has been plentiful and the rates lower than usual.
- (b) The Superintending Engineer, Derajat Circle, states that the effect of famine relief on the local labour market has been inappreciable, and that the prevailing scarcity has tended rather to lower prices than to raise them.
- (c) The Superintending Engineer, Sirhind Canal Circle, says that labour rates have not been raised in the Sirhind Canal tract in consequence of enhanced prices now current, and as no relief works have been opened in Ludhiana and Ferozepore Districts, no reply can be made as to the effect of such works on the labour supply.
- (d) The Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal Circle, states that the labour generally has been paid at lower rates than before the famine relief works were started, except in the Delhi District, where the rates have not been affected, and in the Karnal District, where the relief works have slightly reduced the supply of labour, but nowhere else.

3. In the Chenab Canal Circle labour has been plentiful and quite ready to accept reasonable rates. The colonists found that they were able to get the harvest done at the same rates as prevail in the villages from whence they came, whereas in the past few years they have had to make special concessions to obtain labour to cut the crops quickly. This lowering of the cost of labour in the colony is not entirely due to famine, but in some measure to the steady influx of population to the colony ; the famine has, however, accelerated the reduction of the cost of labour, because large numbers of people have been driven to the colony.

4. It will, therefore, be seen that the famine relief works have not, as far as the Irrigation Branch is concerned, interfered with the supply of labour ; nor have the wages to unskilled labour been raised in consequence of enhanced prices.

The people in the canal irrigated tracts have not suffered in the same way as those outside such tracts, and the scarcity has been such as to cause a keener competition for such work as the canal works could provide, with the result that labour has been plentiful and ready to accept reasonable rates of wages.

Enclosure 5 in No. 179.

Letter from the Manager, North-Western Railway, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 998-F., dated Lahore, the 19th June, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement, No. 481, dated the 28th March, 1900, and subsequent reminder No. 786, dated the 29th May, 1900, calling for a report on the effect of the State system of famine relief works on the supply of country labour.

2. In reply, I have the honour to state that from enquiries made I find (1) that there is no reason to believe that the famine relief works are interfering with the supply of labour to railway works, and (2) that we have not had to raise the rates of wages for securing labour.

3. As an only exception to the above, the Mining Manager, Dandot Colliery, has complained that he has experienced some difficulty in retaining labour owing to works on the Jalapur Canal having been opened. This difficulty having been referred to the local Civil Authorities, an assurance was received from them that professional labour would be strictly excluded from their relief works.

Enclosure 6 in No. 179.

Letter from Colonel S. L. Jacob, C.I.E., R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Punjab, Buildings and Roads Branch, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, No. 410-S., dated Simla, the 21st June, 1900.

With reference to your No. 481, dated the 28th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward for information copy of a letter No. 1808, dated the 13th June, 1900, from the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle, and its enclosure, intimating that the State system of famine relief has had no effect on the labour supply of the country, and to state that the reports from other Circle Officers are practically to the same effect.

2. In my opinion the effect of famine in this respect has been just the reverse of what was expected. Ordinary work could be carried out at rates impossible in non-famine years. I came across instances of ballast collection and earthwork being done in the Province at far lower rates than they have ever been done of late years.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle, to the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, No. 1808-F., dated the 13th June, 1900.

With reference to Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 474 F.—90—3, dated 10th March, 1900, received with your endorsement No. 3879, dated 26th April, 1900, regarding effect of the State system of famine relief upon the labour-supply of the country, I have the honour to state as follows :—

2. The Executive Engineers in charge of relief works in the five districts attached to this circle have been consulted; they are all of opinion that the State system of famine relief has had no effect on the labour-supply of the country within their cognisance. Famine relief works have not drawn away labourers from ordinary works. Professional workers would not stay on relief work if they can find any employment on ordinary works. On relief works local or village unskilled labour is mostly employed; such labour is not willing to emigrate to seek employment elsewhere.

3. Regarding the allusion to scarcity of the supply of labour in Delhi made by Messrs. Bird & Co. in their letter No. 1542 B., dated the 28th February, 1900, a copy of Executive

Engineer, Delhi Division's letter, No. 589, dated the 25th May, 1900, is attached for information.

4. My knowledge and experience of this subject quite agrees with what Executive Officers have stated.

Annexure II.

Letter from H. Phillips, Esquire, A.M.I., C.E., Executive Engineer, Delhi, to the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle. No. 589 dated the 25th May, 1900.

With reference to your letter quoted above (*sic*), I have the honour to state that I am not aware that the opening of famine relief works in this neighbourhood has raised the price of labour to any extent; on the other hand, I have been informed that at the present moment unskilled labour is much cheaper than during ordinary years.

Messrs. Bird and Co. state in their letter No. 1542 B., dated the 28th February, 1900, that during the whole of 1899 they were short of labour; this cannot possibly be due to famine relief works, since the latter were not opened till towards the end of the year. Regarding their statement that the people at Delhi will not take up labour at ordinary rates, but prefer to be relieved gratuitously, it would be interesting to know on what grounds they state this. The average daily numbers of local labourers on the one relief work in the Delhi District have been under 50, a number that can hardly have depleted the labour market. There has, moreover, been very little gratuitous relief given, and that only in exceptional cases.

I fail to see how any labour would prefer to earn a daily wage of 1½ annas by working hard on a relief work to earning 12 annas to Re. 1 at a mill.

Enclosure 7 in No. 179.

Extracts from the Report on the working of the Dandot Colliery (North-Western Railway) for the half-year ending the 31st December, 1899.

The increase (in the number of labourers) in both cases is chiefly due to labour being more plentiful owing to scarcity and high prices of food stuffs.

Labour came in more freely than usual during the half-year, but was still not equal to the demand, nor was the supply so good as was to be expected from the state of the season. The knowledge that they could get work on the famine relief works seemed to make the miners fairly independent of the Colliery. The scarcity of fodder acted prejudicially on the Pidh mines, as sufficient pack animals could not be obtained.

The average number of workers employed during the half-year was 1,690 men and 60 children,—total, 1,750.

V.

ADVANCES TO AGRICULTURISTS IN DISTRESSED TRACTS.

No. 180.

Letter from the Government of India to the Right Honourable Lord George F. Hamilton, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 31 (Revenue and Agriculture), dated Simla, the 14th June, 1900.

We have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship with the measures which we have taken to enable the Local Governments to make loans on easy terms to agriculturists in distressed tracts for the purpose of purchasing seed and cattle and for their own subsistence during the next ensuing agricultural season.

2. In the Budget arrangements for the present year we previously allotted Rs. 50,38,000 to the distressed provinces under the head "Class 1 Loans." We recognised that the provision might prove insufficient, but the extent of the insufficiency could not be determined until the requirements of the agriculturists had been more fully ascertained and until we knew what sum would be at the disposal of the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund for grants to the poorest cultivators.

	Lakhs of Rupees.
Punjab	13.82
Central Provinces	10.00
Bombay	26.56
Total	50.38

3. We have lately been in correspondence with the Local Governments on the subject and have ascertained from them that their requirements for the approaching agricultural season would be met by the addition of 72½ lakhs of rupees to the allotments for agricultural advances already made. We have accordingly increased the grants to an aggregate total of Rs. 1,22,88,000. We have also authorised the Local Governments to hereafter grant liberal remissions of the sums advanced in cases of necessity, to forego interest in all cases, and to postpone the recovery for at least one year of any portion of the principal. We append a copy of our instructions on these points.

	Lakhs of Rupees.
Punjab	30.82
Ajmer	2.50
Central Provinces	27.00
Bombay	62.56
Total	122.88

The requirements of Berar have been provided for by a separate arrangement and will be chargeable to the revenues of the Assigned Districts.

4. The Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund have made to the above-mentioned Provinces grants aggregating Rs. 50,45,000. This is in

	Lakhs of Rupees.
Punjab	8.0
Ajmer	1.95
Central Provinces	17.0
Bombay	23.50
Total	50.45

addition to the provincial charitable relief funds already at the disposal of these Governments which amount to about Rs. 6,45,000. The greater portion of this money will be distributed by the affiliated District Committees as gifts to the poorest classes of cultivators. The ordinary procedure will be that the recipients of gifts will be selected in each village on behalf of the District Charitable Committee by the revenue officers whose duty it is to ascertain the loan requirements of the villagers. The Revenue Officer will in the course of his inquiries mark off the poorest cultivators and recommend them for free gifts. The more substantial cultivators will receive loans from the State, and these in turn will hereafter be differentiated in respect of the recovery of the principal with reference to their circumstances.

5. We append a statement showing the grants made up to date to British Provinces and Native States by the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund. It will be observed that nearly one-third of the total amount distributed up to date has gone to Native States.

We have, &c.

(Signed) CURZON OF KEDLESTON.
E. H. H. COLLEN.
A. C. TREVOR.
C. M. RIVAZ.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.

Enclosure 1 in No. 180.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, and the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, Nos. 1042-1045-F., Simla, the 21st May, 1900.

I am directed to say that, as a special measure, undertaken with the object of facilitating the recovery of agriculturists in famine tracts from the losses sustained from drought, the Government of India are pleased to direct—

- (1) that all advances made in famine tracts under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for seed, cattle and subsistence of cultivators, in connection with agricultural operations undertaken during the approaching rains, may be made free of interest ;
- (2) that the first instalment in repayment of the principal of such advances may be postponed for 12 months from date of the advance. The dates for the remaining instalments will be determined by the Local Government with reference to the existing rules applicable to advances under the Act ;
- (3) that the Local Government may hereafter grant remissions in respect of the principal of such advances, according to the circumstances of the debtors, up to one-half the aggregate sum advanced in the province.

Enclosure 2 in No. 180.

Grants made to British Provinces and Native States by the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund.

BRITISH PROVINCES.

Province.	Rs.
Bombay	23,50,000
Punjab	8,00,000
Central Provinces	17,00,000
Ajmer	1,95,000
Baluchistan	10,000
Total	50,55,000
Berar	4,75,000

NATIVE STATES.

State.	Rs.
Rajputana	10,50,000
Central India	5,75,000
Baroda	1,00,000
Bombay States	6,25,000
Hyderabad	1,00,000
Punjab States	1,00,000
Central Provinces States	1,00,000
Total	26,50,000
Grand Total	81,80,000

VI. STATISTICS.

Statements showing numbers of persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in the districts affected by scarcity in India.—(District details.)

NOTE.—The date at the head of the tables is the date of the *Gazette of India* in which the provincial totals were published. The figures, however, actually show the numbers on relief in the preceding week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Kistna	9,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,618	1,618	—	—	—	1,618
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	—	—	—	3,299	3,299	—	—	—	3,299
3	Ballary	5,975	900,128	—	—	—	440	440	—	—	—	440
4	Anantapur	5,275	708,549	—	—	—	1,852	1,852	—	—	—	1,852
5	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	5,224	5,224	—	3,610	3,610	8,834
6	Nellore	8,765	1,483,738	—	—	—	356	356	—	—	—	356
Total Madras ..		44,948	7,017,876	—	—	—	12,787	12,787	—	3,610	3,610	16,397
<i>Bombay and Sindh.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	66,716	20,222	86,938	—	86,938	9,164	8,176	17,340	104,278
2	Kaira	1,609	871,569	53,890	7,487	61,327	—	61,327	3,637	16,239	19,876	80,203
3	Panch Mahals ..	1,613	313,417	23,685	4,316	27,951	—	27,951	3,215	4,575	7,790	35,741
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	59,780	10,191	69,971	—	69,971	2,138	6,296	8,434	78,405
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	4,669	1,123*	5,792	—	5,792	290*	2,565	2,855	8,647
6	Thana	3,578	819,530	8,686	498	9,174	83	9,257	—	406	406	9,663
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	103,349	34,678	138,027	—	138,027	4,089	13,756	17,825	155,852
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,765	174,083	41,747	215,829	—	215,829	2,705	23,611	26,316	242,145
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	65,409	15,202	80,611	—	80,611	1,052	12,301	13,353	93,964
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	166,513	43,762	210,275	—	210,275	6,685	9,015	15,680	225,955
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	62,730	23,924	86,654	—	86,654	966	1,807	2,773	89,427
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	51,508	8,207	59,715	—	59,715	—	2,061	2,061	61,796
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	15,999	3,069	19,067	—	19,067	65	4,177	4,242	23,299
14	Belgaum	4,667	1,013,261	1,383	67	1,470	882	2,352	—	341	341	2,693
15	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	—	—	—	159	159	—	—	—	159
16	Ratnagiri	3,922	1,105,928	—	—	—	550	550	—	—	—	550
17	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	3,335	279	3,614	—	3,614	1,308	122	1,430	5,044†
Total Bombay and Sindh.		83,843	14,420,486	861,684	214,721	1,076,406	1,674	1,078,079	35,274	104,468	139,742	1,217,821‡
<i>Bengal.</i>												
1	Banohi	672	177,604	—	—	—	3,119	3,119	—	—	—	3,119
2	Palamau	590	103,464	—	—	—	346	346	—	136	136	482
Total Bengal ..		1,262	281,068	—	—	—	3,465	3,465	—	136	136	3,601
<i>N.-W. P. and Oudh.</i>												
1	Muttra	1,441	353,600	—	—	—	—	—	219	—	219	219
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	29	29
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	1,914	—	1,914	—	1,914	128	357	485	2,399
Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.		4,926	1,807,587	1,914	—	1,914	—	1,914	376	357	733	2,647

* Figures for week ending 12th May, 1900.
† Figures for week ending 5th May.
‡ Daily average for week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test work.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Punjab.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	54,041	26,153	80,194	—	80,194	1,923	17,474	19,397	99,591
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	22,452	3,123	25,575	—	25,575	89	4,837	4,926	30,501
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	11,438	1,862	13,300	—	13,300	273	607	1,180	14,510
4	Delhi	1,200	638,839	1,362	345	1,707	—	1,707	236	—	236	1,943
5	Karnal	2,408	683,718	7,118	1,372	8,990	—	8,990	—	1,800	1,800	10,790
6	Ambala	2,754	1,033,427	—	—	—	701	701	—	—	—	701
7	Mooltan	6,079	631,434	158	80	238	—	238	—	—	—	238
8	Lahore	3,609	1,075,379	457	—	457	—	457	123	—	123	580
9	Shahpur	4,840	493,583	4,525	138	4,663	874	5,532	59	—	59	5,591
10	Jhelum	3,995	609,056	—	—	—	320	320	—	—	—	320
Total Punjab ..		33,971	8,200,701	101,551	33,598	135,149	1,895	137,044	2,703	25,018	27,721	164,765
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	16,667	2,820	19,487	—	19,487	7,896	7,422	15,318	34,805
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	6,201	—	6,201	—	6,201	7,416	729	8,145	14,346
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	37,171	1,145	38,316	—	38,316	10,707	6,439	17,146	45,462
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	1,503	—	1,503	—	1,503	13,188	343	13,529	15,031
5	Seoni	3,198	379,767	16,966	1,663	18,629	—	18,629	13,447	1,075	14,522	33,151
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	387,926	895	—	895	—	895	1,284	829	2,113	3,908
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	57,267	4,248	61,515	—	61,515	3,818	5,699	14,517	76,032
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	21,639	7,418	29,057	—	29,057	23,166	8,708	36,876	65,933
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	62,979	8,027	71,006	—	71,006	23,254	7,574	30,828	101,834
10	Ohhindwara	4,630	407,494	39,169	5,958	45,127	—	45,127	13,636	2,581	16,217	61,344
11	Wardha	2,428	409,854	48,687	8,116	56,803	—	56,803	10,586	3,938	14,524	71,327
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	26,356	2,990	29,346	—	29,346	5,783	21,661	27,444	56,790
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	111,299	13,449	124,748	—	124,748	29,269	15,277	44,546	169,294
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	66,773	6,989	73,762	—	73,762	25,091	10,254	35,285	109,047
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	59,383	5,608	64,991	—	64,991	25,468	11,377	36,845	98,836
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	453,093	39,308	492,401	—	492,401	136,217	14,786	151,003	643,404
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	166,748	17,548	184,296	—	184,296	73,784	12,651	86,435	270,731
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	14,821	826	15,647	—	15,647	14,995	1,319	16,314	31,961
Total Central Provinces		86,501	10,784,294	1,194,616	126,113	1,320,729	—	1,320,729	448,945	132,662	581,607	1,902,336
<i>Berar.</i>												
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	76,496	12,332	88,828	—	88,828	5,243	3,439	8,682	97,510
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	70,676	24,061	94,737	—	94,737	7,348	19,886	27,234	121,971
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	82,106	29,035	111,141	—	111,141	5,787	5,676	11,463	122,604
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	32,478	9,500	41,978	—	41,978	1,394	5,454	6,848	48,826
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	8,782	2,371	11,153	—	11,153	214	—	214	11,367
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	19,232	6,482	25,714	—	25,714	1,786	4,257*	6,043	31,757
Total Berar ..		17,717	2,897,040	289,770	83,781	373,551	—	373,551	21,772	38,712	60,484	434,035
<i>Ajmer Merwara.</i>												
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	28,307	6,360	34,667	—	34,667	8,876	296	9,172	44,659
2	Merwara	641	119,989	61,186	6,947	68,133	—	68,133	11,544	6,411	17,955	86,088
Total Ajmer-Merwara		2,711	542,358	89,493	13,307	102,800	—	102,800	21,220	6,707	27,927	130,747
Total British Provinces		276,579	45,981,470	2,539,028	471,540	3,010,508	19,831	3,030,389	530,290	311,670	841,960	3,872,349

† Daily average for week.

‡ Figures for week ending 15th May, 1900.

* This figure includes 1,168 weavers employed in weaving.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on rest works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Rajputana States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	76,683	6,904	83,677	—	83,677	16,242	10,896	27,138	110,815
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	12,845	—	12,845	—	12,845	4,074	—	4,074	16,919
3	Bundi	2,220	295,875	11,934	—	11,934	—	11,934	4,690	—	4,690	16,624
4	Bharatpur	1,082	640,303	11,909	—	11,909	—	11,909	1,103	—	1,103	13,012
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	33,818	6,660	40,508	—	40,508	1,148	—	1,148	41,654
6	Shahpura	405	69,873	1,820	—	1,820	—	1,820	635	—	635	2,455
7	Jaisalmer	16,082	115,701	1,501	221	1,722	—	1,722	31	—	31	1,753
8	Alwar	3,144	767,786	4,702	160	4,862	—	4,862	—	2,043	2,043	6,905
9	Meywar	11,203	1,702,126	74,898†	—	74,898	—	74,898	—	22,636†	22,636	97,334
10	Kherwara	900	50,000	3,054	—	3,054	—	3,054	4,346	—	4,346	7,400
11	Kotra	650	21,000	Not received.								
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,636	2,387	679	3,066	—	3,066	1,099	1,218	2,367	5,333
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	7,863	631	8,494	—	8,494	2,088	1,808	3,896	12,390
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	56,095	12,378	68,473	—	68,473	3,823	28,451	32,274	100,747
15	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	2,462	—	2,462	468	2,960	1,747	600	2,347	5,307
16	Kota	3,784	526,267	16,805	—	16,805	9,662	26,467	4,026	4,099	8,125	34,592
17	Karauli	1,242	156,587	1,325	—	1,325	—	1,325	—	250	250	1,575
18	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	1,868†	—	1,868	—	1,868	955	—	955	2,823
19	Banewara	1,946	211,641	4,103†	—	4,103	—	4,103	—	565†	565	(a) 4,668
20	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	275†	—	275	—	275	—	270†	270	(b) 546
21	Partabgarh	886	87,975	3,685†	—	3,685	—	3,685	498	—	498	4,183
Total Rajputana States		128,081	12,175,425	339,832	27,753	567,585	10,160†	587,745	46,443	72,836	119,279	487,024
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	32,406	1,108	23,803	4,403	28,206	9,819	—	9,819	36,025
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	32,279	—	32,279	—	32,279	6,002	6,847	12,849	45,128
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	1,714	—	1,714	—	1,714	777	890	1,667	3,381
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	1,620	63	1,683	—	1,683	—	241	241	1,924
5	Bagli	*	14,875	3,108	411	3,519	—	3,519	285	1	286	3,805
6	Pathari (Indore)	†	†	564	287	851	95	686	8	21	27	913
7	Karaulia	†	†	285	50	335	—	335	33	—	33	368
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	5,008	1,141	6,149	190	6,339	396	46	442	6,781
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	4,888	221	5,109	—	5,109	413	1,120	1,533	6,642
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	7,146	861	8,007	400	8,407	853	—	853	9,260
11	Khilohipur	273	36,302	371	30	401	20	421	167	22	189	610
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	789	—	789	—	789	—	24	24	813
13	Maksudangarh	81	14,422	30	—	30	—	30	—	27	27	57
14	Pathari (Bhopal)	29	4,816	146	—	146	—	146	2	—	2	148
15	Muhammadgarh	39	4,720	30	—	30	200	230	25	—	25	255
16	Basoda	40	6,710	40	—	40	376	416	44	—	44	460
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	5,081	303	—	303	—	303	—	—	—	303
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	203	—	203	—	203	10	1	11	214
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	315	—	315	—	315	—	—	—	315
20	Orohha	2,079	333,020	505	62	567	—	567	239	205	434	1,001
21	Datia	912	166,440	1,173	—	1,173	—	1,173	31	209	340	1,413
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	185	—	185	—	185	—	—	—	185
24	Ajuigarh	771	93,048	‡	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148	‡	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

† Particulars for these figures are not available.
 ‡ On civil works.
 (a) (b) These figures are for the week ending 31st April, 1900; statistics for a later date are not available.
 * Included in Gwalior.
 † Not known.
 ‡ Returns not received.
 ‡ Return not received; previous week's figures repeated.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District	Area	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Central India States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
26	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	7,557	—	7,557	—	7,557	74	—	74	7,631
27	Nagode	501	84,097	4,131	112	4,243	—	4,243	208	93	301	4,544
28	Malhar	406	77,546	3,238	5	3,243	—	3,243	101	99	200	3,443
29	Sohawal	213	43,853	293	12	305	—	305	63	—	63	308
30	Jaora	581	117,950	11,729	3,145	14,874	—	14,874	2,978	67	3,045	17,919
31	Rutlam	720	89,160	3,196	336	3,532	—	3,532	2,333	18	2,351	5,883
32	Sailana	125	31,512	3,865	—	3,865	—	3,865	128	57	185	4,050
33	Sitamau	350	33,307	1,526	—	1,526	—	1,526	—	150	150	1,676
34	Piploda	60	12,814	659	—	659	—	659	25	27	52	711
35	Dhar	1,739	167,504	23,126	2,691	25,817	—	25,817	1,216	415	1,631	27,448
36	Barwani	1,362	80,264	9,833	608	4,441	—	4,441	1,351	400	1,751	6,192
37	Altraipur	898	70,091	2,080	341	2,401	—	2,401	376	—	376	2,777
38	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	5,672	233	5,905	—	5,905	833	484	1,317	7,222
39	Jobat	132	14,336	911	—	911	—	911	300	50	350	1,261
40	Nimkhera	50	4,600	189	—	189	—	189	—	—	—	189
41	Bagode (Dewas)	75	8,000	232	279	511	—	511	18	83	101	612
42	Manpur (British)	71	5,000	416	—	416	—	416	11	—	11	427
	Total Central India States.	76,135	9,602,454	155,773	12,088	167,860	5,624	173,483	29,107	11,597	40,704	214,187
1	Hyderabad	82,898	11,537,040	350,029	—	350,029	—	350,029	—	51,404	51,404	401,433
1	Baroda	8,228	2,415,396	58,711	—	58,711	—	58,711	—	36,659	36,659	95,370
	<i>Bombay Native States.</i>											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	250,000	40,334	290,334	—	290,334	33,143	5,288	38,429	328,763
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	66,852	24,323	91,175	—	91,175	6,319	350	6,669	97,844
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	28,452	—	28,452	—	28,452	3,182	—	3,182	31,634
4	Cambay	350	89,722	1,359	—	1,359	—	1,359	1,371	240	1,611	2,970
6	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	21,503	2,079	23,582	—	23,582	6,198	485	6,683	30,275
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	23,122	2,130	24,252	—	24,252	4,302	485	4,787	29,039
7	Aundh	447	65,146	1,338	564	1,902	—	1,902	53	6	59	1,961
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,381	1,371	3,752	—	3,752	—	72	72	3,824
8	Jath	979	71,443	7,854	4,711	12,565	—	12,565	109	72	181	12,746
10	Dapblapur	339	8,343	300	37	337	—	337	—	—	—	337
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	1,504	377	1,881	—	1,881	—	—	—	1,881
13	Miraj (Junior)	225	36,487	3,408	1,947	5,355	—	5,355	—	—	—	5,355
13	Sangli	1,083	238,945	10,465	3,888	14,353	—	14,353	146	257	403	14,756
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	5,271	844	6,115	—	6,115	—	600	600	6,715
15	Akalkot	498	75,774	4,896	2,618	7,514	—	7,514	117	1,872	1,989	9,503
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	984	—	984	—	984	—	—	—	984
17	Phaltan	397	66,383	1,011	322	1,333	—	1,333	12	9	21	1,354
18	Bhor	1,401	155,669	1,741	25	1,766	—	1,766	18	60	78	1,844
19	Dharampore	794	120,498	4,097	—	4,097	—	4,097	184	—	184	4,281
20	Ramdurg	169	36,181	992	150	1,142	—	1,142	—	17	17	1,159
21	Bansda	215	41,373	4,653	—	4,653	—	4,653	303	—	303	4,956
22	Kurundvad Senior	174	43,809	111	—	111	—	111	—	8	8	119
	Total Bombay Native States.	54,274	7,485,643	441,192	85,720	526,912	—	526,912	55,457	9,339	65,296	592,198

† Includes dependants.

‡ Numbers on last day of week; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.

** Figures for week ending 12th May.

* Included in Gwalior.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependents.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Punjab Native States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Jindh	1,288	284,580	1,235	—	1,235	—	1,235	—	1,702	1,702	2,987
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	314	—	314	—	314	—	343	343	657
3	Dujana	89	26,450	444	—	444	—	444	—	41	41	485
4	Lohara	228	20,138	411	—	411	—	411	—	26	26	437
5	Nabha	958	282,756	778	—	778	—	778	—	1,703	1,703	2,481
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	13,423	—	13,423	—	13,423	—	3,535	3,535	16,958
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	8,612	—	8,612	—	8,612	—	—	—	8,612
Total Punjab Native States.		25,808	2,868,470	25,217	—	25,217	—	25,217	—	7,350	7,350	32,567*
<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>												
1	Nandgaon	871	183,868	9,118	—	9,118	—	9,118	—	6,851	6,851	15,969
2	Raigarh	1,488	168,525	5,941	—	5,941	—	5,941	—	906	906	6,847
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	5,143	—	5,143	—	5,143	—	547	547	5,690
4	Khairagarh	981	181,184	6,952	—	6,952	—	6,952	—	1,502	1,502	8,454
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	2,880	—	2,880	—	2,880	—	2,405	2,405	5,285
6	Sonpur	906	185,245	2,270	—	2,270	—	2,270	—	3,012	3,012	5,282
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	549	—	549	—	549	—	1,156	1,156	1,705
8	Sakti	138	25,374	1,026	—	1,026	—	1,026	—	251	251	1,277
9	Bastar	13,062	310,884	3,578	—	3,578	—	3,578	—	6,150	6,150	9,728
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	4,407	—	4,407	—	4,407	—	372	372	4,779
11	Ohhukhadan	154	38,288	618	—	618	—	618	—	689	689	1,305
12	Bamra	1,983	104,367	4,840	—	4,840	—	4,840	—	—	—	4,840
Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.		24,702	1,795,332	47,320	—	47,320	—	47,320	—	23,841	23,841	71,161
Kashmir (Jammu) ..		7,917	1,088,878	—	—	—	253	253	—	—	—	253
Total Native States ..		407,941	48,966,438	1,408,074	125,559	1,533,633	16,087	1,549,670	131,007	213,516	344,523	1,894,193
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		683,420	94,947,906	3,947,102	597,099	4,544,201	35,858	4,580,059	661,297	525,186	1,186,483	5,766,542

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,395	1,395	—	—	—	1,395
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	—	—	—	4,127	4,127	—	—	—	4,127
3	Bellary	5,975	900,126	—	—	—	647	647	—	—	—	647
4	Anantapur	5,275	708,549	—	—	—	1,873	1,873	—	—	—	1,873
5	Cuddapah	8,728	1,272,072	—	—	—	3,150	3,150	—	3,050	3,050	6,200
Total Madras ..		35,889	5,554,140	—	—	—	11,193	11,193	—	3,050	3,050	14,243
<i>Bombay and Sindh.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	621,712	74,758	21,509	96,267	—	96,267	5,691	43,180	48,871	145,138
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	94,814	10,948	105,462	—	105,462	1,237	24,338	25,620	131,082
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	813,417	45,976	4,360†	50,336	—	50,336	2,756	20,220	22,956	73,292
4	Broach	1,463	841,490	54,269	8,181	62,450	—	62,450	2,333	15,281	17,594	80,044
5	Surat	1,683	648,989	6,356	1,857	8,013	—	8,013	650	17,114	17,764	25,777

* The figures are the daily averages for the week.
 † Figures for the week ending 16th June, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay and Sindh— cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	1,511	537	2,048	66	2,114	—	1,136	1,136	3,252
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	119,602	37,394	156,996	—	156,996	5,258	15,725	20,983	177,979
8	Ahmednagar	6,945	883,755	198,409	45,479	244,848	—	244,848	2,239	26,114	28,358	273,301
9	Poona	5,360	1,067,800	57,036	16,662	73,701	—	73,701	1,575	15,456	17,331	91,032
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	141,385	36,579	177,964	—	177,964	12,789	11,587	24,376	202,340
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	62,337	20,603	82,990	—	82,990	1,445	3,216	4,663	67,663
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	37,177	6,980	44,157	—	44,157	—	4,221	4,221	48,378
13	Bijapur	5,668	790,339	14,230	2,890	17,150	—	17,150	143	4,703	4,846	21,996
14	Belgaum	4,667	1,013,261	2,533	555	3,138	—	3,138	—	401	401	3,539
15	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	—	—	—	209	209	—	—	—	209
16	Thar and Parkar	12,729	268,203	1,688	144	1,832	—	1,832	943	247	1,195	3,027*
Total Bombay and Sindh.		79,921	13,314,560	912,274	215,178	1,127,452	275	1,127,727	37,344	202,968	240,312	1,368,039†
<i>Bengal.</i>												
1	Ranohi	672	177,604	5,859	—	5,859	2,520	8,379	—	4,198	4,198	12,577
2	Palamanu	590	103,464	208	—	208	361	569	—	157	157	726
Total Bengal		1,262	281,068	6,067	—	6,067	2,881	8,948	—	4,355	4,355	13,303
<i>N.-W.-P. and Oudh.</i>												
1	Muttra	1,441	382,060	—	—	—	—	—	157	—	157	157
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	1,301	—	1,301	—	1,301	209	570	779	2,080
Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.		4,926	1,837,047	1,301	—	1,301	—	1,301	394	570	964	2,265
<i>Punjab.</i>												
1	Hissar	5,217	774,006	53,089	22,848	75,937	—	75,937	2,368	20,766	23,134	99,071
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	27,766	2,735	30,501	—	30,501	108	5,279	5,387	35,888
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,029	11,862	2,419	14,281	—	14,281	288	1,960	2,248	16,529
4	Delhi	1,200	638,688	‡	‡	‡	—	‡	158	—	158	158
5	Karnal	2,400	683,718	9,283	1,915	11,198	—	11,198	—	1,903	1,903	13,101
6	Umballa	2,754	1,033,427	367	—	367	—	367	—	—	—	367
7	Lahore	3,609	1,075,379	73	—	73	—	73	‡	9‡	9	82
8	Jhelum	3,995	600,056	—	—	—	514	514	—	—	—	514
Total Punjab		23,052	6,075,679	102,440	29,917	132,357	514	132,871	2,922	29,917	32,839	165,710
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	19,003	1,349	20,352	—	20,352	33,795	10,508	44,303	64,655
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	4,692	—	4,692	—	4,692	18,886	1,593	20,479	25,171
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	25,508	1,678	27,086	—	27,086	20,761	8,150	28,911	55,997
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	3,637	—	3,637	—	3,637	23,102	829	23,931	32,568
5	Seoni	3,168	370,767	10,635	1,440	12,075	—	12,075	20,721	1,328	22,049	34,724
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	561	—	561	—	561	2,240	1,053	3,293	3,854
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	45,052	3,787	48,839	—	48,839	27,456	5,080	32,516	81,355
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	11,874	4,169	16,063	—	16,063	48,546	9,148	57,692	73,755

* Figures for the week ending 16th June, 1900.

† Daily averages of the week.

‡ Works closed.

§ Last week's figures have been given.

¶ Works closed on 30th June, 1900.

‡ Poor house closed.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central Provinces— cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	52,866	7,164	60,030	—	60,030	35,631	8,710	44,331	104,361
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	28,300	4,693	32,993	—	32,993	30,228	2,201	32,429	65,422
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	44,012	10,895	54,907	—	54,907	26,032	—	26,032	80,939
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,362	22,406	2,834	25,240	—	25,240	14,248	23,087	37,333	62,573
13	Chanda	10,749	697,810	79,057	7,586	86,643	—	86,643	59,019	18,099	77,118	163,761
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,360	50,674	5,732	56,406	—	56,406	41,227	15,025	56,252	112,658
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	37,850	3,767	41,717	—	41,717	40,382	12,908	53,788	95,505
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	301,007	29,172	330,179	—	330,179	212,500	22,379	235,379	565,558
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	100,297	14,911	115,208	—	115,208	89,388	13,408	102,796	218,004
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	14,150	1,154	15,304	—	15,304	29,508	1,631	31,139	46,443
Total Central Provinces		86,542	10,784,294	651,681	100,251	951,932	—	951,932	779,168	156,213	935,371	1,897,303
<i>Berar.</i>												
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	83,307	12,263	95,570	—	95,570	12,604	5,908	18,510	114,080
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	85,208	24,320	109,528	—	109,528	23,615	19,257	42,872	152,400
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	79,842	19,459	99,301	—	99,301	31,318	6,825	38,643	137,944
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,945	30,070	7,341	37,411	—	37,411	14,745	6,896	21,641	59,052
5	Wun	3,911	471,813	12,511	3,251	15,762	—	15,762	1,518	2,599	4,115	19,877
6	Etlichpur	2,623	315,788	21,718	5,482	27,200	—	27,200	9,821	6,821*	16,442	43,642
Total Berar.. ..		17,717	2,897,040	312,656	72,116	384,772	—	384,772	94,119	48,104	142,223	536,995
<i>Ajmer-Merwara.</i>												
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	35,794	7,163	42,957	—	42,957	12,335	329	12,664	55,621
2	Merwara	641	119,999	67,978	7,191	65,169	—	65,169	11,592	8,146	17,738	82,907
Total Ajmer-Merwara		2,711	542,358	93,772	14,354	108,126	—	108,126	23,927	6,475	30,402	138,528
Total British Provinces		252,014	41,266,786	2,330,191	491,816	2,712,007	14,862	2,726,869	937,994*	451,652	1,389,516	4,116,385
<i>Rajputana States.</i>												
1	Marwar	34,983	2,528,178	87,091	5,841	72,992	—	72,992	13,707	10,775	24,482	97,414
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	8,023	—	8,023	—	8,023	4,907	—	4,907	12,929
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	13,149	—	13,149	—	13,149	9,253	—	9,253	22,402
4	Bharatpur	1,983	640,303	10,434	—	10,434	—	10,434	790	—	790	11,224
5	Bikaner	22,340*	631,943	34,555	7,755	42,310	—	42,310	4,826	—	4,826	47,136
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	1,555	—	1,555	—	1,555	1,618	—	1,618	3,173
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	1,092	184	1,276	—	1,276	32	—	32	1,308
8	Alwar	3,144	787,788	6,095	325	6,420	—	6,420	—	2,601	2,601	9,021
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	(a) 73,202	—	73,202	—	73,202	—	(a) 26,062	26,062	99,264
10	Kherwara	900	50,000	2,568	—	2,568	—	2,568	5,525	—	5,525	8,093
11	Kotra	650	21,000	1,509	—	1,509	—	1,509	269	635	945	2,454
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,336	5,884	1,309	7,193	—	7,193	1,499	1,895	3,194	10,387
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	3,216	845	4,061	—	4,061	2,308	2,377	5,185	14,246
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,833,966	58,191	10,976	67,167	—	67,167	3,453	39,079	42,532	(c) 109,699
15	Jhallawar	2,722	343,533	3,330	—	3,330	—	3,330	2,656	300	2,956	6,286
16	Kotah	3,784	599,287	18,130	—	18,130	—	18,130	6,133	3,414	9,547	27,677
17	Karauli	1,342	156,587	1,684	—	1,684	—	1,684	325	—	325	2,009
18	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	3,888	128	4,014	—	4,014	838	139	977	(b) 4,991
19	Banewara	1,946	211,641	(a) 5,300	—	5,300	—	5,300	700	—	700	6,000
20	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	(a) 295	—	295	—	295	270	—	270	565
21	Partabgarh	886	87,975	(a) 4,017	—	4,017	—	4,017	508	—	508	4,523
Total Rajputana States		126,081	19,175,425	236,205	27,363	363,568	—	363,568	69,806	87,627	147,233	500,501

* This figure includes 1,233 persons employed on weaving.
(a) Details of these figures are not available.
(b) These are for week ending 19th June, 1900.
(c) Incomplete as figures for one Nizammat have not been received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and Districts.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central India States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,768	19,598	1,255	20,853	1,640	22,493	3,667	—	3,667	31,160
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	26,618	—	26,618	—	26,618	9,466	2,992	12,458	39,078
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	921	—	921	—	921	355	441	796	1,717
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	1,061	21	1,082	—	1,082	—	239	239	1,321
5	Bagli	†	14,675	2,958	411	3,369	—	3,369	—	—	—	3,369
6	Pathari (Indore) .. .	‡	‡	328	287	615	37	653	240	21	261	913
7	Karandia	‡	‡	70	13	83	—	83	43	—	43	126
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	9,988	1,894	11,872	280	12,152	1,270	51	1,321	13,453
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	2,360	86	2,446	—	2,446	315	845	1,160	3,606
10	Narsingharh	669	116,280	6,198	640	6,838	—	6,838	869	—	869	7,707
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	170	15	185	20	205	137	20	157	362
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	1,177	—	1,177	—	1,177	22	46	68	1,245
13	Maksudangarh .. .	81	14,422	29	—	29	—	29	—	9	9	38
14	Pathari (Bhopal) .. .	29	4,816	38	—	38	—	38	42	—	42	80
15	Mahomedgarh	29	4,720	30	—	30	200	230	25	—	25	255
16	Basoda	40	6,710	42	—	42	359	401	42	12	54	455
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	5,081	282	—	282	—	282	—	—	—	282
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	191	—	191	—	191	14	5	19	210
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	480	—	480	—	480	—	—	—	480
20	Orchha	2,079	333,020	456	50	506	—	506	230	175	405	911
21	Datia	912	188,440	515	—	515	—	515	25	159	184	699
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	272	602	874	—	874	97	40	137	1,011
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	66	—	66	—	66	—	—	—	66
24	Ajaigarh	771	93,048									
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148									
26	Samthar	178	40,541	5,645	—	5,645	—	5,645	—	224	224	5,869
27	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	7,126	83	7,209	—	7,209	119	—	119	7,328
28	Nagode	501	84,097	3,734	86	3,820	—	3,820	149	94	243	4,063
29	Malhar	406	77,546	1,319	12	1,331	—	1,331	85	177	262	1,593
30	Sohawal	213	43,853	204	10	214	—	214	29	—	29	243
31	Jaora	581	117,850	6,995	2,057	9,052	—	9,052	1,436	53	1,489	10,541
32	Rutlam	720	89,160	3,004	479	3,483	—	3,483	887	—	887	4,370
33	Safiana	126	31,512	2,337	—	2,337	—	2,337	161	52	213	2,550
34	Sitaman	350	33,307	1,116	—	1,116	—	1,116	180	150	330	1,446
35	Piploda	60	12,814	693	—	693	—	693	31	34	65	758
36	Dhar	1,739	167,504	15,983	1,885	17,868	—	17,868	1,711	200	1,911	19,779
37	Barwani	1,362	80,264	3,597	142	3,739	—	3,739	1,942	498	2,440	6,179
38	Alirajpur	836	70,091	2,367	651	3,018	—	3,018	358	—	358	3,376*
39	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	5,748	231	5,979	—	5,979	180	—	180	6,159
40	Jobat	132	14,336	913	—	913	—	913	350	50	400	1,313*
41	Nimkhera	50	4,600	128	—	128	—	128	77	—	77	205
42	Bagoda (Dewas) .. .	75	8,000	282	348	630	—	630	29	125	154	784
43	Manpur (British) .. .	71	5,000	127	—	127	—	127	—	—	—	127*
Total Central India States.		76,313	9,641,995	135,171	11,048	146,219	2,516	148,735	29,615	6,712	36,327	185,062
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	414,163	—	414,163	—	414,163	—	86,040	86,040	500,203
1	Baroda	6,236	2,415,396	57,633	—	57,633	—	57,633	—	33,336	33,336	90,969

* Return not received; previous week's figures have been repeated.
† Included in Gwalior.
‡ Not known.
§ Returns not received.
| Includes dependants.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Kathliwar	20,559	2,752,404	173,334	26,334	199,668	—	199,668	27,357	3,715	31,572	230,240
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,536	52,610	17,279	69,889	—	69,889	6,599	278	6,875	76,764
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	20,991	—	20,991	—	20,991	2,410	—	2,410	23,401†
4	Cambay	550	89,722	376	—	376	—	376	1,915	119	2,034	2,410
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	24,432	2,046	26,478	—	26,478	3,469	442	3,911	30,389
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	20,419	2,083	22,502	—	22,502	4,269	50	4,319	26,821**
7	Aundh	447	65,146	1,828	660	2,478	—	2,478	108	26	132	2,610
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,677	1,392	4,069	—	4,069	—	106	106	4,175
9	Jath	979	71,443	8,152	6,131	13,283	—	13,283	186	82	268	13,551
10	Daphlapur		8,343	220	29	249	—	249	—	—	—	249
11	Miraj (Senior)	389	88,343	1,777	830	2,607	—	2,607	—	—	—	2,607
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	2,305	1,301	3,696	—	3,696	—	—	—	3,696
13	Sangli	1,083	288,945	9,591	3,448	13,039	—	13,039	375	33	408	13,447
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	2,830	724	3,554	—	3,554	—	341	341	3,895
15	Akalkot	488	75,774	5,636	3,066	8,702	—	8,702	161	1,807	2,028	10,730
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,033	—	1,033	—	1,033	—	—	—	1,033
17	Phaltan	397	56,333	280	76	355	—	355	—	9	9	374
18	Bhor	1,491	155,669	842	—	842	—	842	21	59	80	423**
19	Dharampore	794	120,498	3,353	—	3,353	—	3,353	203	—	203	3,556
20	Ramdurg	169	36,181	1,294	184	1,478	—	1,478	—	116	116	1,594
21	Bansda	215	41,373	3,166	—	3,166	—	3,166	810	—	810	3,976†
22	Kurundvad (Senior)	174	43,809	565	20	585	—	585	—	970	970	1,555
Total Bombay Native States.		54,274	7,475,643	337,220	63,683	400,903	—	400,903	48,381	8,211	56,592	457,495
<i>Punjab Native States.</i>												
1	Jindh	1,368	284,560	537	—	537	—	537	—	2,930	2,930	3,467
2	Pataudi	59	19,002	813	—	813	—	813	—	388	388	1,201
3	Dujana	89	26,450	389	—	389	—	389	—	155	155	544
4	Loharu	226	20,139	66	—	66	—	66	—	17	17	83
5	Nabha	939	282,756	810	—	810	—	810	—	1,664	1,664	2,474
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	14,595	—	14,595	—	14,595	—	8,051	8,051	22,646
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	3,929	—	3,929	—	3,929	—	—	—	3,929
Total Punjab Native States.		25,868	2,806,470	21,139	—	21,139	—	21,139	..	13,205	13,205	34,344
<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>												
1	Nandgaon	871	133,866	2,730	—	2,730	—	2,730	—	9,449	9,449	12,179
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	2,906	—	2,906	—	2,906	—	1,808	1,808	4,714
3	Kanker	1,420	82,379	3,106	—	3,106	—	3,106	—	639	639	3,745
4	Khadragarh	931	181,184	4,253	—	4,253	—	4,253	—	2,232	2,232	6,485
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	1,170	—	1,170	—	1,170	—	2,654	2,654	3,824
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	1,049	—	1,049	—	1,049	—	2,883	2,883	3,933
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	433	—	433	—	433	—	1,419	1,419	1,852
8	Sakti	138	25,374	604	—	604	—	604	—	359	359	963
9	Bastar	13,062	310,864	3,250	—	3,250	—	3,250	..	9,793	9,793	13,043
10	Patna	2,399	332,107	849	—	849	—	849	—	434	434	1,283
11	Ohhnikhadan	164	36,288	161	—	161	—	161	—	492	492	653
12	Bamra	1,968	104,367	4,652	—	4,652	—	4,652	—	—	—	4,652
Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.		24,792	1,795,333	25,154	—	25,154	—	25,154	—	32,162	32,162	57,316
Kashmir (Jansma)		7,917	1,088,676	—	—	—	1,062	1,062	—	—	—	1,062
Total Native States		408,019	49,995,977	1,316,685	102,094	1,418,779	3,578	1,422,357	137,602	287,293	404,895	1,827,253
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		660,033	90,382,763	3,596,376	533,910	4,130,788	18,440	4,149,226	1,075,466	718,945	1,794,411	5,943,637

† Numbers on last day of week ; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
 ** Figures for week ending 16th June, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900.

No.	Name of Province and District	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,532	—	—	—	1,651	1,651	—	—	—	1,651
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	—	—	—	1,498	1,498	—	—	—	1,498
3	Anantapur	5,275	708,549	—	—	—	2,410	2,410	—	—	—	2,410
4	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	3,869	3,869	—	3,060	3,060	6,929
	Total Madras ..	29,908	4,654,014	—	—	—	9,428	9,428	—	3,060	3,060	12,488
<i>Bombay and Sindh.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	101,041	25,776	126,817	—	126,817	7,351	56,162	63,513	190,330
2	Kaira	1,609	871,539	145,659	12,701	158,360	—	158,360	1,580	75,074	76,654	235,014
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	82,558	7,538	70,096	—	70,096	3,652	39,012	42,664	112,760
4	Broach	1,463	341,480	59,612	7,487	67,099	—	67,099	2,002	57,562	59,564	126,663
5	Surat	1,662	649,889	4,760	697	5,457	—	5,457	848	29,564	30,412	35,869
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	575	97	672	—	672	320	1,922	2,242	2,914
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	97,606	30,891	128,497	—	128,497	5,822	19,479	25,301	153,798
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	883,755	179,603	41,971	221,574	—	221,574	1,902	27,568	29,470	251,044
9	Poona	5,369	1,087,800	43,425	11,980	55,405	—	55,405	1,851	19,929	21,780	77,185
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,480,851	137,895	33,971	171,866	—	171,866	14,508	16,407	30,915	202,779
11	Nasik	5,940	843,532	67,642	19,458	87,100	—	87,100	2,347	7,522	9,869	96,969
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	22,568	1,161	23,729	—	23,729	217	6,991	7,208	30,937
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	10,430	2,999	13,429	—	13,429	99	5,009	5,108	18,537
14	Belgaum	4,667	1,013,261	3,339	746	4,085	—	4,085	—	716	716	4,801
15	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	293,203	1,248	104	1,352	—	1,352	982	434	1,416	2,768*
	Total Bombay & Sindh	75,318	12,263,246	937,991	197,577	1,135,568	—	1,135,568	43,479	363,381	406,860	1,542,428†
<i>Bengal.</i>												
1	Ranchi	7,140	1,128,885	7,764	—	7,764	1,370	9,134	4,935	263	5,228	14,362
2	Palamanu	4,905	596,770	194	—	194	868	1,062	744	—	744	1,806
	Total Bengal ..	12,045	1,725,655	7,958	—	7,958	2,238	10,196	5,709	263	5,972	16,168
<i>N.-W. P. and Oudh.</i>												
1	Muttra	1,441	382,660	—	—	—	—	—	203	—	203	203
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	33	33
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	1,263	—	1,263	—	1,263	295	988	1,283	2,546
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	4,926	1,837,647	1,263	—	1,263	—	1,263	531	988	1,519	2,782
<i>Punjab.</i>												
1	Hissar	5,217	776,008	52,244	23,371	75,615	—	75,615	2,394	26,717	29,111	104,726
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	32,337	3,517	35,854	—	35,854	184	5,893	6,077	41,931
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,939	9,891	2,516	12,207	—	12,207	654	2,433	3,087	15,294
4	Delhi	1,290	638,689	569	88	657	—	657	155	—	155	812
5	Karnal	2,406	683,718	9,103	1,811	10,914	—	10,914	—	1,878	1,878	12,792
6	Jhelum	3,963	609,056	—	—	—	634	634	—	—	—	634
	Total Punjab ..	16,669	3,966,873	103,944	31,308	135,247	634	135,881	3,387	30,921	40,308	176,189

* Figures for week ending 14th July, 1900.

† Daily averages of the week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central Provinces.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	10,561	608	11,167	—	11,167	55,483	17,185	72,668	83,835
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	340	—	340	—	340	36,602	2,610	39,212	39,752
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,145	12,074	1,110	13,184	—	13,184	33,189	13,763	46,952	60,136
4	Mandla	5,047	339,573	5,519	—	5,518	—	5,518	30,312	1,705	32,017	37,635
5	Seoni	3,198	370,787	3,711	661	4,372	—	4,372	25,345	2,369	27,714	32,086
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,036	—	—	—	—	—	6,455	1,896	8,351	8,351
7	Hoshangabad	4,584	539,945	22,412	2,776	25,188	—	25,188	80,531	4,854	85,385	110,573
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	5,856	2,110	7,966	—	7,966	67,894	10,568	78,462	86,428
9	Betul	3,834	323,196	36,377	2,478	37,853	—	37,853	78,691	9,479	88,170	126,023
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	17,741	3,178	20,919	—	20,919	44,256	2,034	46,290	67,189
11	Wardha	2,428	480,854	33,849	4,761	38,610	—	38,610	60,191	5,081	65,272	103,882
12	Nagpur	3,243	757,622	9,834	1,249	11,083	—	11,083	33,227	26,997	60,224	71,307
13	Chanda	10,749	697,616	64,766	7,394	72,160	—	72,160	106,882	20,499	127,381	199,541
14	Bhandara	3,988	742,850	43,924	4,556	48,480	—	48,480	60,498	21,213	81,711	130,201
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	15,979	1,211	17,190	—	17,190	67,855	37,312	105,167	112,357
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	110,678	15,548	126,226	—	126,226	444,837	25,140	469,977	596,203
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,156	64,234	10,820	75,054	—	75,054	125,654	17,564	143,218	218,272
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	14,489	1,533	16,022	—	16,022	53,830	1,898	55,728	71,750
Total Central Provinces		86,542	10,784,294	471,353	59,989	531,342	—	531,342	1,411,732	212,357	1,624,089	2,155,431
<i>Berar.</i>												
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	73,842	9,535	83,377	—	83,377	16,297	5,800	21,897	105,274
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	67,939	18,250	86,189	—	86,189	7,203	4,013	11,216	97,405*
3	Buldana	2,909	481,021	63,640	15,018	78,658	—	78,658	34,326	6,314	40,640	119,298
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	47,596	5,670	53,266	—	53,266	20,328	6,876	27,204	60,470
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	13,403	3,652	17,055	—	17,055	4,420	5,369	9,789	26,844
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	24,452	2,808	27,260	—	27,260	21,220	15,068†	36,288	63,546
Total Berar		17,717	2,897,040	290,872	54,931	345,803	—	345,803	109,794	43,238	147,032	492,835
<i>Ajmer-Merwara.</i>												
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	18,143	5,390	23,533	—	23,533	16,330	506	16,836	40,369
2	Merwara	641	119,999	46,853	6,476	53,129	—	53,129	12,036	5,401	17,437	70,566
Total Ajmer-Merwara		2,711	542,358	64,996	11,866	76,862	—	76,862	28,366	5,907	34,273	110,935
Total British Provinces		245,856	36,671,127	1,678,177	355,986	2,233,943	12,300	2,246,143	1,596,998	666,115	2,263,113	4,509,256
<i>Rajputana States.</i>												
1	Marwar	54,963	2,528,178	50,694	4,917	55,611	—	55,611	15,520	8,211	23,731	79,342
2	Tonk	2,552	380,089	3,570	—	3,570	—	3,570	4,401	—	4,401	7,971
3	Bundi	2,230	295,675	13,212	—	13,212	—	13,212	6,388	—	6,388	19,600
4	Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	5,491	—	5,491	—	5,491	786	—	786	6,277
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	15,118	3,108	18,226	—	18,226	7,053	—	7,053	25,279
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	852	—	852	—	852	889	—	889	1,741
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	712	92	804	—	804	26	85	111	915
8	Alwar	3,144	767,788	6,122	346	6,468	—	6,468	52	2,703	2,755	9,223
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,128	(a) 68,277	—	68,277	—	68,277	—	(a) 23,617	23,617	92,094
10	Kherwara	900	59,000	963	—	963	—	963	4,802	—	4,802	5,765

* Figures incomplete.
 † This figure includes 1,330 persons employed on weaving.
 (a) Details of these figures are not available.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Rajputana States—cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
11	Kotra	850	21,000	1,087	—	1,087	—	1,087	441	780	1,221	2,308
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	7,288	2,013	9,301	—	9,301	1,424	1,321	2,745	12,046
13	Kishangarh	868	125,516	6,744	371	7,115	—	7,115	1,648	9,225	10,873	17,988
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,906	45,825	10,514	56,839	—	56,839	3,493	35,795	39,288	(c) 95,137
15	Jhalawar	2,722	348,583	1,678	—	1,678	—	1,678	2,465	200	2,665	4,343
16	Kotah	3,784	526,267	14,881	—	14,881	—	14,881	6,779	3,868	10,647	25,528
17	Karauli	1,242	158,587	785	—	785	—	785	240	—	240	975
18	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	6,818	—	6,818	—	6,818	1,399	—	1,399	8,017
19	Banswara	1,946	211,641	5,525	—	5,525	—	5,525	884	—	884	6,409
20	Kushalgarh	1,282	81,000	287	—	287	—	287	265	—	265	552
21	Partabgarh	886	87,975	566	—	566	—	566	435	—	435	1,001
Total Rajputana States		128,081	12,175,425	265,745	21,361	277,106	—	277,106	59,390	88,005	145,395	422,501
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	11,627	983	12,610	1,092	13,702	9,598	—	9,598	23,300
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	14,976	—	14,976	—	14,976	8,936	1,524	10,460	25,436
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	641	—	641	—	641	326	690	1,016	1,657
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	77	—	77	—	77	—	239	239	316
5	Bagli	†	14,675	2,958	411	3,369	—	3,369	247	—	247	3,616
6	Pathari (Indore)	‡	‡	530	287	817	—	817	84	21	105	922
7	Karaulia	‡	‡	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	43	43*
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	11,744	1,489	13,233	154	13,387	4,754	50	4,804	18,191
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	745	—	745	—	745	257	993	1,220	1,965
10	Narsingharh	669	116,280	1,629	73	1,702	—	1,702	1,146	—	1,146	2,848
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	123	—	123	—	123	242	—	242	365
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	410	—	410	—	410	152	203	355	765
13	Maksudangarh	81	14,422	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	Pathari (Bhopal)	29	4,816	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	41	41
15	Muhammadgarh	29	4,720	8	—	8	200	208	45	—	45	253
16	Basoda	40	6,710	37	—	37	230	267	42	6	48	315
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	5,081	—	—	—	—	—	25	37	62	62
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	105	—	105	—	105	3	5	8	113
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	570	395	965	—	965	230	300	430	1,395
20	Orechha	2,079	333,020	473	59	532	—	532	248	112	360	892
21	Datia	912	186,440	90	—	90	—	90	30	135	165	255
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	227	292	519	—	519	101	41	142	661(a)
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	24	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	24(b)
24	Ajalgarh	771	93,048	5	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	5
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	Samthar	178	40,541	600	—	600	—	600	—	224	294	824
27	Rewah	12,876	1,509,454	3,302	—	3,302	—	3,302	238	—	238	3,540
28	Nagode	601	84,097	2,679	72	2,751	—	2,751	245	93	338	3,089
29	Malhar	406	77,546	359	7	366	—	366	59	111	170	536
30	Sohawal	213	43,853	147	4	151	—	151	35	—	35	186
31	Jaora	581	117,650	2,610	530	3,140	—	3,140	1,629	79	1,708	4,848
32	Rutlam	720	89,160	628	245	873	—	873	1,180	—	1,180	2,053
33	Sailana	125	31,512	1,008	—	1,008	—	1,008	138	29	167	1,170
34	Sitamau	850	33,307	340	—	340	—	340	355	150	505	845
35	Piploda	60	12,814	350	—	350	—	350	78	—	78	428

* Return not received; previous week's figures have been repeated.

† Included in Gwalior.

‡ Not known.

§ Returns not received.

(a) Figures for week ending 30th June, 1900.

(b) Figures for week ending 7th July, 1900.

(c) These are incomplete as figures for some districts have not been received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 23RD JULY, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Central India States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
36	Dhar	1,789	167,504	15,013	1,627	16,640	—	16,640	1,521	117	1,638	18,278
37	Barwani	1,362	80,284	3,529	154	3,683	—	3,683	2,123	519	2,642	6,325
38	Alirajpur	836	70,091	2,359	32	2,391	—	2,391	578	—	578	2,969
39	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	4,927	—	4,927	—	4,927	143	228	371	5,298
40	Jobat	132	14,336	190	—	190	—	190	400	50	450	640
41	Nimkhera	50	4,800	145	—	145	—	145	137	—	137	282*
42	Bagode (Dewas)	75	8,000	45	98	141	—	141	204	160	354	495
43	Manpur (British)	71	5,000	15	—	15	—	15	12	—	12	27
	Total Central India States.	76,313	9,642,995	85,235	6,756	91,991	1,876	93,667	35,935	5,876	41,611	135,278
1	Hyderabad	82,693	11,537,040	388,293	—	388,293	—	388,293	—	111,416	111,416	499,709
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	72,959	—	72,959	—	72,959	—	30,741	30,741	109,700†
	<i>Bombay Native States.</i>											
1	Kathiawar	29,559	2,752,404	180,167	28,167	208,334	—	208,334	32,857	8,857	41,714	248,048
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	65,836	20,585	86,421	—	86,421	7,799	1,302	9,101	95,522
3	Outch	6,500	558,415	17,558	—	17,558	—	17,558	2,079	—	2,079	(a)19,637
4	Cambay	350	89,722	24	—	24	—	24	168	62	230	254
5	Bowa Kantha	4,980	733,506	19,668	756	20,424	—	20,424	4,043	338	4,381	24,805
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	25,690	2,420	28,010	—	28,010	5,611	267	5,878	(b)33,888
7	Amudh	447	65,146	911	176	1,087	—	1,087	136	35	171	1,254
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,762	—	1,762	—	1,762	—	132	132	1,894
9	Jath	879	71,443	7,495	5,013	12,508	—	12,508	384	87	471	12,979
10	Daphlapur	8343	8,343	214	47	261	—	261	—	—	—	261
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	2,300	938	3,238	—	3,238	—	—	—	3,238
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,497	1,035	619	1,654	—	1,654	—	—	—	1,654
13	Sangli	1,083	236,945	9,622	3,860	13,482	—	13,482	468	50	518	14,000
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	1,366	254	1,650	—	1,650	—	457	457	2,007
15	Akalkot	488	75,774	5,779	2,583	8,362	—	8,362	145	1,896	2,041	10,403
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,380	—	1,380	—	1,380	—	—	—	1,380
17	Phaltan	397	56,383	494	106	600	—	600	—	15	15	615
18	Dharampore	794	120,498	1,521	—	1,521	—	1,521	244	—	244	1,765
19	Ramdurg	169	36,181	879	83	962	—	962	—	116	116	1,078
20	Baneda	215	41,373	1,066	—	1,066	—	1,066	523	—	523	(a)1,609
21	Kurundvad (Senior)	174	43,809	865	33	898	—	898	—	828	828	1,226
	Total Bombay Native States.	52,783	7,319,974	344,982	63,840	408,822	—	408,822	54,457	14,412	68,869	477,521
	<i>Punjab Native States.</i>											
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	304	—	304	—	304	—	2,522	2,522	2,826
2	Patandi	53	19,003	755	—	755	—	755	—	441	441	1,196
3	Dujana	89	26,450	228	—	228	—	228	—	158	158	386
4	Loharu	236	20,139	99	—	99	—	99	—	7	7	106
5	Nabha	936	223,756	566	—	566	—	566	—	1,758	1,758	2,324
6	Patiala	5,951	1,533,521	22,020	—	22,020	—	22,020	—	12,505	12,505	34,525
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	2,710	—	2,710	—	2,710	—	—	—	2,710
	Total Punjab Native States.	25,808	2,866,470	26,683	—	26,683	—	26,683	—	17,391	17,391	44,073

* Return not received; previous week's figures have been repeated.
 † Includes dependants.
 ‡ Figures are for the week ending 14th July, 1900.
 (a) Numbers on last day of week; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
 (b) Figures for week ending 14th July, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1930—concluded.

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,729	—	1,729	—	1,729	—	14,469	14,469	16,198
2	Baigarh	1,486	168,525	1,285	—	1,285	—	1,285	—	2,798	2,798	4,083
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	1,458	—	1,458	—	1,458	—	852	852	2,310
4	Khafragarh	931	181,184	1,320	—	1,320	—	1,320	—	3,532	3,532	4,852
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	1,409	—	1,409	—	1,409	—	2,936	2,936	4,345
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	212	—	212	—	212	—	2,981	2,981	3,193
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	147	—	147	—	147	—	1,535	1,535	1,682
8	Sakti	138	25,374	145	—	145	—	145	—	209	209	354
9	Bastar	13,062	310,884	1,892	—	1,892	—	1,892	—	9,245	9,245	11,137
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	3,562	—	3,562	—	3,562	—	1,510	1,510	5,072
11	Ohhuikhadan	154	36,288	111	—	111	—	111	—	444	444	555
12	Bamra	1,988	104,367	3,754	—	3,754	—	3,754	—	—	—	3,754
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	24,702	1,705,332	17,024	—	17,024	—	17,024	—	40,511	40,511	57,535
	Kashmir (Jammu) ..	7,917	1,088,676	—	—	—	264	264	—	—	—	—
	Total Native States ..	406,538	48,841,308	1,190,920	91,757	1,282,677	1,940	1,284,617	149,482	308,482	455,964	1,740,581
	GRAND TOTAL, BRIT- ISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	652,384	87,512,435	3,069,097	447,423	3,516,520	14,240	3,530,760	1,746,480	972,597	2,719,077	6,249,837

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1930.

	<i>Madras.</i>											
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,825	1,825	—	—	—	1,825
2	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	1,072	1,072	—	3,100	3,100	4,172
	Total Madras ..	17,119	3,127,654	—	—	—	2,897	2,897	—	3,100	3,100	5,997
	<i>Bombay and Sindh.</i>											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	70,190	21,321	91,511	—	91,511	5,367	65,078	70,465	161,976
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	74,856	7,736	82,592	—	82,592	1,367	113,072	116,039	197,631
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	42,739	3,632	46,371	—	46,371	3,613	72,978	76,591	122,962
4	Broach	1,483	341,490	23,966	4,201	28,167	—	28,167	1,615	73,231	74,846	103,033
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	573	33,453	34,026	34,026
6	Thana	3,578	819,530	142	99	241	—	241	311	1,363	1,674	1,915
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	81,827	22,561	104,388	—	104,388	5,257	19,578	24,835	129,223
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	838,755	163,326	36,920	190,246	—	190,246	1,373	25,323	26,696	216,942
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	35,107	9,537	44,644	—	44,644	1,143	25,869	27,012	71,656
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,480,851	105,436	30,657	136,093	—	136,093	11,631	28,249	39,880	175,973
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	59,008	17,504	76,512	—	76,512	2,842	7,363	10,505	87,017
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,969	26,354	5,594	31,948	—	31,948	1,036	13,629	14,715	46,663
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	6,671	1,841	8,512	—	8,512	649	2,425	3,074	11,586
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	998	319	1,317	—	1,317	—	812	812	2,129
15	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	193	18	211	—	211	697	748	1,645	1,856
	Total Bombay and Sindh.	75,318	12,263,240	680,833	161,940	842,773	—	842,773	37,544	484,371	521,815	1,364,586 †
	<i>Bengal.</i>											
1	Ranohi	7,140	1,128,886	11,783	—	11,783	834	12,617	5,466	399	5,867	18,484
2	Palamu	4,905	596,770	92	—	92	431	523	1,297	—	1,297	1,820
	Total Bengal ..	12,045	1,725,656	11,875	—	11,875	1,265	13,140	6,765	399	7,164	20,304

* Figures for week ending 11th August, 1930.
† Daily averages of the week.
‡ Figures incomplete.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>N.-W. P. and Oudh.</i>		<i>Sq. Miles.</i>										
1	Muttra	1,441	582,660	—	—	—	—	—	134	—	134	134
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	48	—	48	48
3	Jhansi	1,840	914,528	—	—	—	—	—	227	788	1,015	1,015
Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.		4,926	1,837,647	—	—	—	—	—	409	788	1,195	1,195
<i>Punjab.</i>												
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	34,770	12,326	37,095	—	37,095	1,355	27,688	29,041	66,106
2	Rohtak	1,787	590,475	28,328	3,201	31,529	—	31,529	230	7,042	7,272	38,801
3	Gurgaon*	1,984	668,929	6,943	2,047	8,990	—	8,990	542	4,426	4,968	13,958
4	Karnal	2,406	683,718	2,029	783	2,812	—	2,812	—	1,986	1,986	4,798
Total Punjab ..		11,404	2,719,128	62,070	18,326	80,396	—	80,396	2,127	41,140	43,267	123,663
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	4,808	373	4,881	—	4,881	58,497	19,078	75,575	80,454
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	50	—	50	—	50	38,892	3,293	42,185	42,235
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	6,444	108	6,550	—	6,550	33,426	9,507	42,933	49,483
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	15,418	—	15,418	—	15,418	26,873	4,445	31,318	46,734
5	Seoni	3,168	370,767	2,694	520	3,214	—	3,214	19,154	2,761	21,915	25,129
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	4,808	2,028	6,829	6,829
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	629,645	10,925	2,262	13,187	—	13,187	64,877	7,005	71,882	85,069
8	Nimar	3,857	253,486	3,430	935	4,365	—	4,365	67,527	13,066	80,593	84,958
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	32,082	1,596	33,678	—	33,678	77,147	25,552	102,699	136,377
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	11,077	2,008	13,085	—	13,085	36,520	2,487	39,007	52,092
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	11,254	1,968	13,252	—	13,252	49,179	7,865	56,844	70,096
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	3,570	533	4,103	—	4,103	62,049	36,175	98,224	102,327
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	32,922	5,712	38,634	—	38,634	150,529	29,232	179,761	218,395
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	18,458	2,682	21,120	—	21,120	75,684	33,310	109,494	130,614
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	11,236	974	12,200	—	12,200	84,195	36,864	121,057	133,257
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	16,695	3,316	20,011	—	20,011	649,636	15,483	665,119	685,130
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,168	37,878	5,274	33,152	—	33,152	143,149	22,290	165,418	198,576
18	Sambalpur	4,948	798,413	5,857	989	6,846	—	6,846	84,941	2,221	87,162	93,808
Total Central Provinces.		86,542	10,784,294	214,366	29,178	243,544	—	243,544	1,725,076	272,937	1,998,013	2,241,567
<i>Berar.</i>												
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	20,973	3,102	24,165	—	24,165	21,708	4,897	26,605	50,770
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	45,614	4,100	49,714	—	49,714	39,106	10,777	59,883	89,597†
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	51,402	6,197	57,599	—	57,599	25,187	6,093	31,279	88,878
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	18,186	1,453	19,639	—	19,639	14,473	1,365	15,838	35,477
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	2,152	1,064	3,216	—	3,216	4,710	3,454	7,164	10,380
6	Ellichpur	2,023	315,798	5,745	635	6,380	—	6,380	12,409	14,747‡	27,156	33,536
Total Berar ..		17,717	2,897,040	144,072	16,641	160,713	—	160,713	107,593	40,332	147,925	306,638
<i>Ajmer-Merwara.</i>												
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	3,440	934	4,374	—	4,374	10,506	917	11,423	15,797
2	Merwara	641	119,999	87,975	6,068	44,043	—	44,043	12,241	3,340	15,581	59,624
Total Ajmer-Merwara		2,711	542,358	41,415	7,002	48,417	—	48,417	22,747	4,257	27,004	75,421
Total British Provinces		237,732	35,897,022	1,154,631	233,087	1,387,718	4,162	1,391,880	1,902,261	847,222	2,749,483	4,141,363

* Boward Phulera Railway relief work in the Gurgaon District closed.
 † Figures incomplete.
 ‡ Includes 800 persons employed on weaving.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Rajputana States.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
1	Marwar	34,963	2,523,178	13,988	650	14,638	—	14,638	12,278	1,066	13,344	27,982
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	1,407	—	1,407	—	1,407	1,546	—	1,546	2,953
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	1,176	—	1,176	—	1,176	1,737	—	1,737	2,913
4	Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	4,310	—	4,310	—	4,310	162	—	162	4,472
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	1,545	26	1,571	—	1,571	3,868	—	3,868	5,439
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	—	—	—	—	—	223	—	223	223
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	554	59	613	—	613	40	179	219	832
8	Alwar	3,144	767,786	5,095	225	5,320	—	5,320	74	3,073	3,147	8,467
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	54,324*	—	54,324	—	54,324	—	12,627*	12,627	66,951
10	Kherwara } Hilly tracts of Mewar {	900	50,000	408	—	408	—	408	632	—	632	1,040
11	Kotra }	650	21,000	428	—	428	—	428	287	719	1,006	1,434
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,838	105	6	111	—	111	1,186	615	2,001	2,112
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	2,662	41	2,703	—	2,703	1,651	8,848	10,494	13,197
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	26,230	4,940	31,170	—	31,170	3,551	18,020	21,571	52,741†
15	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	2,019	—	2,019	—	2,019	1,647	350	1,997	4,016
16	Kotah	3,784	526,267	10,772	—	10,772	—	10,772	6,127	6,671	14,798	25,570
17	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	159	—	159	—	159	1,574	—	1,574	1,733
18	Banawara	1,946	211,841	100	—	100	—	100	725	—	725	825
19	Kushalgarh	1,232	81,000	—	—	—	—	—	126	—	126	126
20	Partabgarh	886	87,975	298	—	298	—	298	256	—	256	554
	Total Rajputana States	126,839	12,019,638	126,530	5,947	131,527	—	131,527	59,689	52,363	92,052	223,579
	<i>Central India States.</i>											
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	7,897	265	8,162	—	8,162	893	—	893	9,055
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	8,746	—	8,746	—	8,746	10,098	1,683	11,781	20,527
3	Dewas S. B.	165	77,923	181	—	181	—	181	283	96	379	560‡
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	239	239	239
5	Bagli		14,675	2,958	411	3,369	—	3,369	—	—	—	3,369
6	Pathari (Indore)	1	1	529	287	816	—	816	85	12	97	913
7	Karaulia	1	1	155	50	205	—	205	43	—	43	248
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	9,213	1,822	11,035	185	11,220	5,451	60	5,501	16,731
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	408	—	408	—	408	508	602	1,108	1,516
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	1,010	88	1,098	—	1,098	1,253	—	1,253	2,351
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	106	—	106	—	106	172	—	172	278
12	Kurwal	145	21,787	258	—	258	—	258	315	309	624	882
13	Maksudangarh	81	14,422	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	Pathari (Bhopal)	29	4,810	—	—	—	—	—	58	—	58	58
15	Muhammadgarh	29	4,720	30	—	30	300	230	25	—	25	255
16	Basoda	40	6,710	30	—	30	65	95	36	—	36	131
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	15,081	—	—	—	—	—	12	18	30	30
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khann's Jagir.	9	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Sironj Fargana of Tonk	907	93,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	Orchha	2,079	833,020	257	37	294	—	294	162	187	349	643‡
21	Datta	912	186,440	74	—	74	—	74	24	166	190	264
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	316	374	690	—	690	88	41	127	(a) 817
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	34	—	34	—	34	—	—	—	(b) 34
24	Ajalgarh	771	93,048	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	Gaurihar	73	10,143	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Details of these figures are not available.
† Figures incomplete.
‡ Return not received; previous week's figures have been included.
§ Included in Gwalior.
¶ Not known.
‡ Returns not received.
(a) Figures for week ending 28th July, 1900.
(b) Figures for week ending 7th July, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central India States— cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
26	Samthar	178	40,541	446	—	446	—	446	—	224	224	670
27	Bewah	12,676	1,569,454	370	—	370	—	370	1,165	—	1,165	1,536
28	Nagode	501	84,097	810	28	838	—	838	242	51	293	1,131
29	Maibhar	406	77,548	50	—	50	—	50	48	95	143	193
30	Jaora	581	117,850	2,043	742	3,385	—	3,385	1,039	74	1,103	4,488
31	Rutlam	720	89,160	338	—	338	—	338	750	1	751	1,089
32	Sailana	125	31,512	43	—	43	—	43	57	13	70	113
33	Sitaman	350	33,307	400	—	400	—	400	345	100	445	845
34	Piploda	60	12,814	—	—	—	—	—	65	—	65	65
35	Dhar	1,739	167,504	6,977	927	7,904	—	7,904	1,434	107	1,541	9,445
36	Barwani	1,362	80,964	2,566	54	2,620	—	2,620	1,695	346	2,041	4,661
37	Alirajpur.. .. .	836	70,091	904	25	929	—	929	641	—	641	1,570
38	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	3,772	—	3,772	—	3,772	289	211	500	4,272
39	Jobat	132	14,338	123	—	123	—	123	300	50	350	473
40	Nimkhara	50	4,600	208	—	208	—	208	127	—	127	335
41	Bagode (Dewas)	75	8,000	194	—	194	—	194	67	75	142	336
42	Manpur (British)	71	5,000	200	—	200	—	200	12	—	12	212*
Total Central India States.		76,100	9,599,142	52,236	5,130	57,366	450	57,816	27,773	4,750	32,523	90,339
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	330,379†	—	330,379	—	330,379	—	98,294	98,294	428,673
1	Baroda	8,228	2,415,396	55,663	—	55,663	—	55,663	—	20,041	20,041	76,604‡
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	76,667	14,500	93,167	—	93,167	25,000	9,000	34,000	127,167
2	Palanpur.. .. .	7,775	945,528	31,115	11,625	42,740	—	42,740	6,431	197	6,628	49,368
3	Cutch	6,500	553,415	14,704	—	14,704	—	14,704	1,777	—	1,777	16,481 (c) †
4	Cambay	850	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	152	160	312	312
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	7,704	129	7,833	—	7,833	3,405	498	3,903	11,736
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	561,568	9,716	1,405	11,121	—	11,121	3,773	34	3,807	14,928
7	Aundh	447	65,146	192	6	198	—	198	65	11	76	274
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,842	1,419	4,261	—	4,261	—	148	148	4,409
9	Jath	979	71,443	5,878	3,035	8,913	—	8,913	428	96	524	9,437
10	Dathlapur		8,343	203	55	258	—	258	—	—	—	258
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	2,356	1,149	3,505	—	3,505	—	—	—	3,505‡
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	164	55	219	—	219	—	—	—	219
13	Sangli	1,083	233,945	5,351	1,615	6,966	—	6,966	504	37	541	7,507
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	334	—	334	—	334	—	541	541	875
15	Akelkot	498	75,774	3,031	819	3,900	—	3,900	132	1,806	1,938	5,838
16	Mudhol	381	61,315	452	4	456	—	456	—	—	—	459
17	Phaltan	397	56,383	494	85	589	—	589	—	5	5	574
18	Dharampore	794	120,498	86	—	86	—	86	200	—	200	286
19	Ramdurg.. .. .	199	36,181	650	59	709	—	709	—	—	—	709
20	Banada	215	41,373	611	—	611	—	611	335	—	335	946
21	Kurundvad (Senior)	174	43,309	44	—	44	—	44	—	268	268	321
Total Bombay Native States.		52,733	7,319,974	164,634	35,960	200,594	—	200,594	42,202	13,301	55,503	255,597

* Return not received ; previous week's figures have been included.
 † Includes dependants.
 ‡ Figures for week ending 11th August, 1900.
 § Numbers on last day of week ; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
 (c) Figures for week ending 4th August, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Punjab Native States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	406	—	406	—	406	—	563	563	969
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	534	—	534	—	534	—	438	438	972
3	Dufand	89	26,450	193	—	193	—	193	—	304	304	497
4	Loharu	226	20,139	51	—	51	—	51	—	21	21	72
5	Patiala	5,951	1,563,521	15,376	—	15,376	—	15,376	—	11,909	11,909	27,285
6	Bahawalpur	17,235	650,042	1,044	—	1,044	—	1,044	—	—	—	1,044
Total Punjab Native States.		24,872	2,563,714	17,604	—	17,604	—	17,604	—	13,235	13,235	30,639
<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>												
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,400	—	1,400	—	1,400	—	6,609	6,609	8,009
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,526	637	—	637	—	637	—	2,938	2,938	3,575
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	1,092	—	1,092	—	1,092	—	724	724	1,816
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	1,093	—	1,093	—	1,093	—	4,891	4,891	5,984
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	844	—	844	—	844	—	2,441	2,441	3,285
6	Sonpur	908	196,245	23	—	23	—	23	—	2,913	2,913	2,936
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,531	1,531	1,531
8	Sakti	188	26,374	431	—	431	—	431	—	133	133	564
9	Bastar	13,002	310,884	1,353	—	1,353	—	1,353	—	8,878	8,878	10,231
10	Patna	2,369	332,197	265	—	265	—	265	—	2,944	2,944	3,209
11	Chhuikadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	392	392	392
12	Bamra	1,968	104,367	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,042	2,042	2,042
13	Kalahandi	3,745	326,285	—	—	—	—	—	—	571	571	571
Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.		28,387	2,121,627	7,138	—	7,138	—	7,138	—	37,007	37,007	44,145
Kashmir (Jammu) ..		7,917	1,088,676	—	—	—	134	134	—	—	—	134
Total Native States		407,822	48,694,407	753,234	37,037	800,271	584	800,855	109,864	239,391	349,055	1,149,910
GRAND TOTAL BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		635,604	84,581,429	1,907,865	280,134	2,187,999	4,746	2,192,735	2,011,925	1,086,613	3,098,538	5,291,273

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,073	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,930	2,930	2,930
Total Madras		8,722	1,272,073	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,930	2,930	2,930
<i>Bombay and Sindh.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	931,712	23,665	5,989	29,654	—	29,654	4,831	76,330	81,161	110,815
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	13,327	1,704	15,031	—	15,031	1,188	88,571	89,759	104,790
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	8,455	888	9,323	—	9,323	1,543	65,685	67,228	76,651
4	Broach	1,483	341,490	10,989	1,992	12,981	—	12,981	954	59,212	60,166	73,147
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	354*	11,364	11,718	11,718
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	211	97	308	—	308	359	3,970	4,329	4,637
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	58,395	11,634	70,029	—	70,029	3,345	16,540	19,885	69,914
8	Ahmednagar	6,045	888,755	113,823	29,825	143,648	—	143,648	894	25,488	26,322	170,045
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	37,004	9,050	46,054	—	46,054	928	25,326	26,751	72,805

* Figures for week ending 15th September, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Bombay and Sindh— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
10	Khandeesh	10,907	1,480,851	48,586	14,407	62,993	—	62,993	8,615	63,762	72,377	135,370
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	59,034	18,715	75,749	—	75,749	2,793	10,428	13,216	88,965
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	11,068	2,421	13,489	—	13,489	779	16,916	17,695	31,184
13	Bijapur	5,688	796,339	4,523	1,095	5,617	—	5,617	853	1,834	2,707	8,324
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	—	—	—	982	982	982
15	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	—	—	—	—	—	248	351	597	597*
	Total Bombay and Sindh.	75,318	12,283,246	389,084	95,607	484,691	—	484,691	27,877	487,276	494,953	979,844†
	<i>N.-W. P. and Oudh.</i>											
1	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	38†	—	38	38
2	Jhansal	1,640	914,528	—	—	—	—	—	121	—	121	121
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	3,485	1,454,987	—	—	—	—	—	189	—	189	189
	<i>Punjab.</i>											
1	Hissar	5,217	776,008	973	334	1,307	—	1,307	177	14,485	14,662	15,969
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	—	—	—	—	—	9	6,048	6,052	6,052
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	878	507	1,385	—	1,385	331	4,358	4,684	6,069
4	Karnal	2,408	683,718	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,378	1,378	1,378
	Total Punjab	11,404	2,719,128	1,851	841	2,692	—	2,692	517	26,269	26,776	29,468
	<i>Central Provinces.</i>											
1	Saugar	4,007	561,743	3,805	181	3,786	—	3,786	27,427	10,032	37,459	41,245
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	—	—	—	—	—	21,818	3,466	25,284	25,284
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	743,146	1,840	80	1,870	—	1,870	19,177	1,010	20,187	21,867
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	2,094	—	2,094	—	2,094	12,696	12,670	25,366	27,460
5	Seoni	3,188	370,797	1,166	230	1,396	—	1,396	4,141	928	5,069	6,465
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	387,026	—	—	—	—	—	1,100	1,241	2,341	2,341
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	1,287	184	1,411	—	1,411	26,071	6,479	32,550	33,961
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	1,597	412	2,009	—	2,009	20,619	10,407	31,026	33,035
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	15,959	227	16,186	—	16,186	41,827	24,797	66,624	82,610
10	Ohhindwara	4,830	407,494	4,169	814	4,983	—	4,983	16,934	4,791	21,725	26,708
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	11,975	1,330	13,305	—	13,305	33,415	11,251	44,666	57,971
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	2,401	332	2,733	—	2,733	39,143	36,050	75,193	77,926
13	Chanda	10,749	687,610	15,182	2,736	17,908	—	17,908	119,438	75,903	195,341	213,249
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	14,778	1,483	16,261	—	16,261	47,478	32,589	80,077	96,338
15	Balaghat	3,189	333,331	15,062	810	15,892	—	15,892	56,591	36,430	93,021	108,913
16	Raipur	11,734	1,584,427	10,183	2,234	12,417	—	12,417	400,824	12,423	413,246	425,663
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	10,062	2,861	12,923	—	12,923	89,396	19,090	108,486	121,409
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	530	—	530	—	530	40,130	2,332	42,462	42,992
	Total Central Provinces	86,542	10,784,394	111,710	13,794	125,504	—	125,504	1,018,235	301,888	1,320,123	1,445,627

* Figures for week ending 15th September, 1900.
 † Daily averages of the week.
 ‡ Poor-house closed.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Berar.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	17,554	685	18,239	—	18,239	22,737	3,588	26,325	44,564
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	16,378	3,858	20,236	—	20,236	26,528	15,749	42,277	62,513
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	20,067	2,010	22,077	—	22,077	22,813	5,292	27,905	50,583
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	5,965	370	6,235	—	6,235	9,614	377	9,991	16,226
5	Wun	3,911	471,813	—	—	—	—	—	3,859	782	4,641	4,641
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	2,178	—	2,178	—	2,178	6,669	4,816*	11,285	13,463
Total Berar		17,717	2,897,040	62,742	6,823	69,565	—	69,565	92,020	30,404	122,424	191,939
<i>Ajmer-Merwara.</i>												
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,369	514	—	514	—	514	3,885	511	4,396	4,910
2	Merwara	641	119,999	11,298	1,298	12,596	—	12,596	8,820	2,064	10,884	23,480
Total Ajmer-Merwara		2,711	542,368	11,812	1,298	13,110	—	13,110	12,705	2,575	15,280	28,390
Total British Provinces		206,899	31,933,125	577,199	118,563	695,762	—	695,762	1,151,303	831,342	1,982,645	2,678,407
<i>Rajputana States.</i>												
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	3,601	—	3,601	3,601
2	Tonk	2,553	330,069	307	—	307	—	307	336	—	336	643
3	Bundi	2,220	295,875	729	—	729	—	729	1,716	—	1,716	2,445
4	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	1,096	—	1,096	—	1,096	2,339	—	2,339	3,435
5	Shahpura	405	89,873	—	—	—	—	—	145	—	145	145
6	Jaisalmer	16,063	115,701	—	—	—	—	—	12	188	200	200
7	Alwar	3,144	797,736	—	—	—	—	—	2,784	—	2,784	2,784
8	Mewar	11,203	1,792,126	3,530	—	3,530	—	3,520	1,750	—	1,750	5,270
9	Kherwara } Hill tracts of Mewar.	900	60,000	214	—	214	—	214	295	65	360	574
10	Kotra }	650	21,000	70	—	70	—	70	116	542	658	728
11	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	—	—	—	—	—	126	203	329	329
12	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	5,578	—	5,578	—	5,576	1,215	797	2,012	7,588
13	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	829	—	829	—	829	694	—	694	1,523
14	Kotah	3,784	526,267	4,472	—	4,472	—	4,472	3,945	33,819	37,764	42,236
15	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	80	80
16	Banswara	1,948	211,641	—	—	—	—	—	525	—	525	525
17	Kushalgarh	1,233	31,000	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	40	40
18	Partabgarh	686	87,975	225	—	225	—	225	43	—	43	268
Total Rajputana States		123,999	11,253,019	17,038	—	17,038	—	17,038	19,752	35,814	55,366	72,404
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	—	—	—	—	—	2,273	—	2,273	2,273
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	4,947	—	4,947	—	4,947	12,833	849	13,682	18,629
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	—	—	—	—	—	303	—	303	303
4	Dewas J. B.	134	85,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	54	54
5	Bagli	†	14,075	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Pathari (Indore)	‡	‡	‡	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	Karaulia	‡	‡	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	12	12

* Includes 20 persons employed on weaving
† Included in Gwalior.
‡ Not known.
‡ Return not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Central India States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
8	Bhopal	6,990	952,486	4,462	801	5,263	59	5,412	7,156	51	7,207	13,619
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	320	—	320	—	320	638	—	638	956
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	—	—	—	—	—	638	—	638	638
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	117	—	117	—	117	151	—	151	268
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	213	—	213	—	213	77	—	77	290
13	Basoda	40	6,710	15	—	15	—	15	45	—	45	60
14	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	227	—	227	—	227	—	—	—	227
15	Orehha	2,079	333,020	172	23	195	—	195	187	175	362	567
16	Datia	912	186,440	74	—	74	—	74	24	166	190	(c) 264
17	Panna	2,492	239,393	316	374	690	—	690	86	41	127	(a) 817
18	Bljavar	965	123,414	24	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	(b) 24
19	Ajalgarh	771	83,048	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	Gaurihar	73	10,148	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Samthar	178	40,541	446	—	446	—	446	—	224	224	(c) 670
22	Rewah	12,678	1,509,454	507	—	507	—	507	2,396	—	2,396	2,903
23	Nagode	501	84,097	—	—	—	—	—	50	41	91	91
24	Malhar	406	77,546	55	—	55	—	55	22	—	22	77
25	Jaora	581	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	355	35	390	390
26	Rutlam	720	89,180	50	—	50	—	50	255	—	255	305
27	Sallana	125	31,512	—	—	—	—	—	108	—	108	108
28	Sitamau	950	93,307	230	—	230	—	230	50	100	150	380
29	Piploda	60	12,814	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	18	18
30	Dhar	1,739	167,504	191	26	216	—	216	1,424	38	1,462	1,678
31	Barwani	1,863	80,264	1,806	—	1,806	—	1,806	466	268	734	2,027
32	Alirajpur	636	70,091	126	40	166	—	166	270	—	270	436
33	Jhabua	1,936	119,787	—	—	—	—	—	66	16	82	82
34	Jobat	132	14,336	38	—	38	—	38	50	150	200	238
35	Nimkhera	50	4,800	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	23	23
36	Bagode (Dewas)	75	8,000	26	38	64	—	64	51	25	76	140
37	Manpur (British)	71	5,000	32	—	32	—	32	12	—	12	44
	Total Central India States.	75,898	9,569,103	13,894	1,391	15,285	59	15,344	30,036	2,220	32,256	47,600
1	Hyderabad	82,998	11,537,040	103,815†	—	103,815	—	103,815	—	64,871	64,871	168,686
1	Barode	8,226	2,415,399	22,125	—	22,125	—	22,125	—	27,639	27,639	49,764†
	<i>Bombay Native States.</i>											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	42,500	4,500	47,000	—	47,000	12,000	3,857	15,857	62,857
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,528	2,157	684	2,841	—	2,841	2,422	305	2,727	5,568
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	778	—	778	—	778	10	—	10	788†
4	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	108	174	282	282
5	Kewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	2,796	88	2,884	—	2,884	1,812	592	2,404	5,236
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	531,568	5,417	685	6,102	—	6,102	2,237	85	2,322	6,694†
7	Aundh	447	65,146	243	7	250	—	250	19	10	29	379
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,218	1,390	3,608	—	3,608	—	132	132	3,680
9	Jath	879	71,443	5,388	2,414	7,802	—	7,802	450	96	546	8,348
10	Daphlapur	—	8,343	197	54	251	—	251	—	—	—	251

* Return not received
 † Includes dependants.
 ‡ Figures for week ending 15th September, 1900.
 § Numbers on last day of week; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
 (a) Figures for week ending 28th July, 1900.
 (b) Figures for week ending 7th July, 1900.
 (c) Figures for week ending 18th August, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Bombay Native States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	182	77	259	—	259	—	—	—	259
12	Sangli	1,083	238,945	3,219	1,215	4,434	—	4,434	302	43	345	4,779
13	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
14	Akalkot	498	75,774	1,736	46	1,782	—	1,782	116	1,447	1,563	3,345
15	Mudhol	361	61,815	616	4	620	—	620	—	—	—	620
16	Phaltan	397	66,383	245	10	255	—	255	—	3	3	258
17	Dharampore	784	120,496	117	—	117	—	117	370	—	370	487
18	Bansda	215	41,373	195	—	195	—	195	129	—	129	324*
	Total Bombay Native States.	52,215	7,214,497	67,974	11,204	79,268	—	79,268	19,075	6,746	26,721	105,989
	<i>Punjab Native States.</i>											
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	206	—	206	—	206	—	308	308	512
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	—	—	—	—	—	—	456	456	456†
3	Dujana	80	26,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	296	296†
4	Loharu	226	20,139	—	—	—	—	—	—	231	231	231†
5	Nabha	958	282,756	104	—	104	—	104	—	128	128	230
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	3,829	—	3,829	—	3,829	—	6,670	6,670	10,499
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	268	—	268	—	268	—	—	—	268
	Total Punjab Native States.	25,806	2,866,470	4,407	—	4,407	—	4,407	—	8,085	8,085	12,492
	<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>											
1	Nandgaon	871	163,866	1,123	—	1,123	—	1,123	—	5,124	5,124	6,247
2	Balgarh	1,486	168,525	—	—	—	—	—	—	778	778	778
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	870	—	870	—	870	—	557	557	1,427
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	853	—	853	—	853	—	3,113	3,113	3,966
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	321	—	321	—	321	—	978	978	1,297
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	14	—	14	—	14	—	2,690	2,690	2,704
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	—	—	—	—	—	—	609	609	609
8	Sakti	136	25,374	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	110	110
9	Bastar	13,002	310,894	626	—	626	—	626	—	6,392	6,392	7,018
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	265	—	265	—	265	—	2,848	2,848	3,113
11	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	458	458	458
12	Kalahandi	3,745	326,295	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	50	50
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	26,399	2,017,260	4,072	—	4,072	—	4,072	—	23,705	23,705	27,777
	Total Native States	395,243	46,872,785	233,325	12,685	246,010	59	246,069	69,763	168,380	238,643	494,712
	GRAND TOTAL, BRIT- ISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	601,142	78,806,910	810,524	131,248	941,772	59	941,831	1,221,066	1,000,222	2,221,288	3,163,119

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900.

<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	4,588	1,258	5,844	—	5,844	1,496	17,655	19,151	24,995
2	Kaira	1,609	871,599	3,984	343	4,327	—	4,327	474	59,254	59,728	64,055
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	813,417	2,404	205	2,609	—	2,609	662	26,429	27,091	29,700
4	Broach	1,483	341,490	5,770	798	6,572	—	6,572	388	52,544	52,927	59,499
5	Surat	1,682	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	206	6,325	7,031	7,031
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	10	1,385	1,395	1,395
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,889	41,938	9,889	51,807	—	51,807	2,587	13,576	16,163	67,970

* Numbers on last day of week; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
† Figures not reported, hence last week's figures have been repeated.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend-ants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay—cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	688,755	39,863	10,987	50,850	—	50,850	439	23,879	24,118	74,968
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	21,231	6,480	26,711	—	26,711	107	22,371	22,478	49,189
10	Khandeesh	10,907	1,480,851	8,550	3,731	12,281	—	12,281	4,005	40,588	44,603	56,884
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	27,133	7,649	34,782	—	34,782	1,266	7,019	8,235	43,067
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,939	5,506	707	6,213	—	6,213	70	7,999	8,069	14,282
13	Bijapur	5,868	796,339	3,186	749	3,935	—	3,935	954	1,574	2,528	6,463
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,061	1,061	1,061
Total Bombay ..		62,589	11,965,048	104,160	41,771	206,931	—	206,931	12,659	281,969	294,628	500,559
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	1,527	91	1,618	—	1,618	12,171	6,202	18,373	19,991
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	—	—	—	—	—	2,430	558	2,988	2,988
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	—	—	—	—	—	4,899	171	5,070	5,070
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Seoni	3,166	370,767	—	—	—	—	—	470	240	710	710
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	104	106	210	210
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	—	—	—	—	—	4,462	3,274	7,736	7,736
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	—	—	—	—	—	4,726	7,378	12,104	12,104
9	Betul	3,624	323,196	—	—	—	—	—	13,505	6,493	19,998	19,998
10	Ohhindwara	4,630	407,494	—	—	—	—	—	71	2,566	2,637	2,637
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	1,623	292	1,915	—	1,915	23,879	8,664	32,543	34,458
12	Nagpur	3,843	767,662	—	—	—	—	—	15,569	10,427	25,996	25,996
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	4,431	724	5,155	—	5,155	49,241	50,100	99,341	104,496
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	928	—	928	—	928	21,648	12,260	33,908	34,836
15	Balaghat	3,139	333,331	—	—	—	—	—	19,980	10,773	30,753	30,753
16	Raipur	11,724	1,594,627	138	—	138	—	138	238,335	11,482	349,817	249,955
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,184,158	2,056	669	2,725	—	2,725	37,817	11,008	48,825	51,550
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	—	—	—	—	—	20,009	1,027	21,036	21,036
Total Central Provinces		86,542	10,784,294	10,703	1,776	12,479	—	12,479	469,316	142,759	612,075	624,564
<i>Berar.</i>												
1	Akola	2,650	574,782	9,001	—	9,001	—	9,001	13,049	3,269	15,308	24,309
2	Basim	2,956	598,181	6,575	1,236	7,801	—	7,801	22,981	18,540	41,521	49,322
3	Buldana	2,809	491,021	10,355	498	10,853	—	10,853	16,335	4,791	21,026	32,479
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	1,184	17	1,201	—	1,201	9,745	285	10,030	11,231
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	—	—	—	—	—	2,685	—	2,685	2,685
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	1,744	—	1,744	—	1,744	7,258	2,748	10,006	11,750
Total Berar ..		17,717	2,897,040	28,659	1,741	30,600	—	30,600	72,533	28,623	101,156	131,756
<i>Ajmer-Merwara.</i>												
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	—	—	—	—	—	626	—	626	626
2	Merwara	641	119,999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Ajmer-Merwara		2,711	542,358	—	—	—	—	—	626	—	626	626
Total British Provinces		169,559	26,188,735	203,722	45,268	249,010	—	249,010	565,134	463,351	1,028,485	1,387,495

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Rajputana States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Marwar	34,968	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	1,368	—	1,368	1,368
2	Bundl	2,220	296,875	437	—	437	—	437	270	—	370	707
3	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	264	—	264	—	264	242	—	242	606
4	Mewar	11,203	1,792,128	2,108	—	2,108	—	2,108	—	185	185	2,293
5	Jhalawar.. .. .	2,732	343,583	264	—	264	—	264	58	—	58	917
6	Kotah	3,784	526,267	3,865	—	3,865	—	3,865	1,396	364	1,760	5,625
Total Rajputana States.		77,232	8,317,772	6,938	—	6,938	—	6,938	3,329	549	3,878	10,816
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	—	—	—	—	—	522	—	522	522
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,800	1,708	—	1,708	—	1,708	7,560	190	7,750	9,458
3	Dewas, S. B.	155	77,922	—	—	—	—	—	43	33	76	76
4	Dewas, J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	79	79
5	Karaulia.. .. .	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	10
6	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	3,699	—	3,699	—	3,699	—	2,018	2,018	5,717†
7	Rajgarh	642	119,489									
8	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280									
9	Khilchipur	278	36,302									
10	Pathari	29	4,816	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	Orchha	2,079	333,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	Bewah	12,678	1,509,464	453	—	453	—	453	619	—	819	1,272
13	Nagode	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	Matihar	408	77,546	82	—	82	—	82	22	—	22	104
15	Jaora	581	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	139	34	173	173
16	Sailana	125	31,512	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	23	23
17	Piploda	60	12,814	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	12	12
18	Dhar	1,739	187,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Barwani	1,362	80,264	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	Alirajpur.. .. .	636	70,091	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	Jobat	132	14,336	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	Nimkhera	50	4,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Bagode (Dewas)	75	8,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	Manpur (British)	71	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Central India States.		68,374	8,622,356	5,942	—	5,942	—	5,942	9,140	2,364	11,504	17,446
1	Hyderabad	82,808	11,537,040	22,415	—	22,415	—	22,415	—	27,330	27,330	49,745
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,398	12,604	—	12,604	—	12,604	—	18,889	18,889	31,493
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	20,187	4,187	24,334	—	24,334	3,714	2,428	6,142	30,476
2	Palanpur.. .. .	7,775	645,528	559	227	779	—	779	1,417	173	1,589	2,368
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	708	—	708	—	708	10	—	10	718†
4	Cambay	850	69,723	—	—	—	—	—	96	15	111	111
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,508	1,607	28	1,630	—	1,630	308	304	610	3,240
6	Mahi Kantha	3,538	591,588	1,505	184	1,689	—	1,689	704	17	721	2,410‡

* Not known.

† The figures represent the numbers on the last day of the week

‡ The figures are for the week ending 13th October, 1900.

§ Report not received; figures are for the week ending 13th October, 1900

|| Report not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay Native States— cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
7	Aundh	447	65,146	45	1	46	—	46	12	—	12	58
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,043	1,156	3,201	—	3,201	—	168	168	3,369
9	Jash	979	71,443	3,578	1,547	5,125	—	5,125	409	95	504	5,629
10	Daphlaypur		8,343	141	55	196	—	196	—	—	—	196
11	Akalkot	498	75,774	677	7	684	—	684	—	886	886	1,550
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	676	4	680	—	680	—	—	—	680
13	Phaltan	397	66,383	81	—	81	—	81	—	2	2	83
14	Dharampore	794	120,468	67	—	67	—	67	219	—	219	286
15	Bansda	215	41,373	54	—	54	—	54	44	—	44	98†
Total Bombay Native States.		47,938	5,974,078	31,901	7,373	39,274	—	39,274	6,931	4,067	10,998	50,272
<i>Punjab Native States.</i>												
1	Jindh*	1,268	284,560	76	—	76	—	76	—	57	57	133
2	Putaudi*	53	19,002	—	—	—	—	—	—	455	455	455
3	Dujana*	89	26,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	296	296
4	Loharu*	226	20,139	—	—	—	—	—	—	240	240	240
5	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,263	2,263	2,263
Total Punjab Native States.		7,587	1,833,672	76	—	76	—	76	—	3,311	3,311	3,387
<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>												
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,001	—	1,001	—	1,001	—	1,433	1,433	2,434
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	—	—	—	—	—	—	160	160	160
3	Kanker	1,429	82,579	621	—	621	—	621	—	408	408	1,024
4	Khairagarh	981	181,184	609	—	609	—	609	—	2,092	2,092	2,701
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	303	—	303	—	303	—	877	877	690
6	Sonpur	908	195,245	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,521	2,521	2,521
7	Kawarda	796	91,813	—	—	—	—	—	—	194	194	194
8	Sakti	138	25,374	—	—	—	—	—	—	95	95	95
9	Bastar	13,002	310,884	513	—	513	—	513	—	1,035	1,035	1,548
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,779	1,779	1,779
11	Chhulkhadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	53	53
Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.		22,654	1,690,965	3,047	—	3,047	—	3,047	—	10,142	10,142	13,189
Total Native States ..		814,709	38,491,379	82,923	7,373	90,296	—	90,296	19,400	66,652	86,052	176,348
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		494,268	64,680,014	286,645	62,661	339,306	—	339,306	574,534	520,003	1,094,537	1,433,843

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900.

<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,713	1,976	517	2,493	—	2,493	798	20,374	21,142	23,635
2	Kaira	1,909	871,589	—	—	—	—	—	188	5,058	5,246	5,246
3	Pauch Mahals	1,613	313,417	602	102	1,004	—	1,004	353	12,751	13,104	14,108
4	Brosach	1,463	341,480	2,228	359	2,587	—	2,587	123	28,619	28,742	31,329
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	105	—	105	105
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	508	508	508
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,680	54,068	10,617	64,685	—	64,685	3,402	13,185	16,587	81,272

* Figures not received; those for the last week have been repeated.
† The figures represent the numbers on the last day of the week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900—continued.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay—cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	889,755	17,710	3,123	20,833	—	20,833	—	15,873	15,873	36,706
9	Poona	5,369	1,057,800	17,832	4,474	22,306	—	22,306	—	7,718	7,718	30,019
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	1,375	226	1,601	—	1,601	1,331	6,702	8,033	9,634
11	Nasik	5,940	849,582	11,358	2,008	13,346	—	13,346	360	1,726	2,026	15,372
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	4,213	378	4,591	—	4,591	177	3,601	3,778	8,369
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,930	1,682	323	1,955	—	1,955	873	1,577	2,450	4,405
Total Bombay ..		57,932	10,951,782	113,274	22,127	135,401	—	135,401	7,620	117,687	125,307	260,708
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	64	—	64	64
2	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	—	—	—	—	—	204	—	204	204
3	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	23	23
4	Hoshangabad	4,594	629,945	—	—	—	—	—	—	921	921	921
5	Nimar	3,357	253,488	—	—	—	—	—	115	610	725	725
6	Betul	3,824	323,196	—	—	—	—	—	959	4,726	5,685	5,685
7	Wardha	2,428	400,854	—	—	—	—	—	6,035	5,401	11,436	11,436
8	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,772	3,772	3,772
9	Obanda	10,749	697,610	—	—	—	—	—	22,524	10,376	32,900	32,900
10	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	—	—	—	—	—	286	1,427	1,713	1,713
11	Balghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	3,497	4,089	7,586	7,586
12	Raipur	11,724	1,564,427	—	—	—	—	—	129	7,686	7,815	7,815
13	Bilaspur	3,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	119	3,072	3,191	3,191
14	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	—	—	—	—	—	93	—	93	93
Total Central Pro- vinces.		70,786	9,341,047	—	—	—	—	—	34,048	42,060	76,128	76,128
<i>Berar.</i>												
1	Anraoti	2,759	655,645	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	43	43
2	Akola	2,659	574,782	—	—	—	—	—	1,317	441	1,758	1,758
3	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	—	—	—	—	—	35	661	716	716
4	Buldana	2,809	481,021	5,798	329	6,127	—	6,127	7,574	4,378	11,852	17,979
5	Basim	2,956	398,181	—	—	—	—	—	2,127	6,332	8,459	8,459
6	Wun	3,911	471,813	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	39	39
Total Berar ..		17,717	2,897,040	5,798	329	6,127	—	6,127	11,135	11,732	22,867	26,994
1	Amer	3,070	422,359	—	—	—	—	—	245	—	245	245
Total British Pro- vinces.		148,505	23,612,228	119,072	22,456	141,528	—	141,528	53,048	171,499	224,547	366,025
<i>Rajputana States.</i>												
1	Marwar	54,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	343	—	343	343
2	Bundi	2,220	295,675	—	—	—	—	—	297	—	297	297
3	Bikaner	22,340	631,948	212	—	212	—	212	169	—	169	381
4	Shahpura	405	89,873	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	30	30
5	Mewar	11,203	1,793,126	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	26	26
6	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	Kotah	3,784	626,267	3,319	—	3,319	—	3,319	720	—	720	4,039
Total Rajputana States.		77,637	6,407,645	3,531	—	3,531	—	3,531	1,587	—	1,587	5,118

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central India States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,769	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	†
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	—	—	—	—	1,401	21	1,512	1,512	
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	—	—	—	—	13	35	98	98	
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	40	40	40	
5	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	438	98	536	—	536	323	—	323	869
6	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	—	—	—	—	—	49	—	49	49
7	Jaora	606	130	—	—	—	—	—	73	35	108	108
8	Amjhara	649	55,000	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	38	38
9	Dhar	1,739	167,504	—	—	—	—	—	182	—	182	182
10	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	8	8
Total Central India States.		48,466	6,053,706	438	98	536	—	536	2,177	181	2,358	2,394
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	2,501	—	2,501	—	2,501	—	3,802	3,802	6,303
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,399	6,389	—	6,389	—	6,389	—	10,063	10,063	16,409
<i>Bombay Native States.*</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	9,711	667	10,368	—	10,368	2,118	2,303	4,421	14,789
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	328	86	414	—	414	622	108	730	1,144
3	Cutch	6,500	553,415	344	—	344	—	344	10	—	10	354
4	Cambar	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	70	70
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	526	13	539	—	539	126	148	274	813
6	Mahi Kantha	8,528	581,568	338	—	338	—	338	225	—	225	563
7	Aundh	447	65,146	40	—	40	—	40	6	—	6	46
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,182	1,809	875	2,284	—	2,284	281	204	485	2,769
9	Jath	979	71,443	2,910	1,410	4,320	—	4,320	357	94	451	4,771
10	Daphlapur	979	8,343	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	39	39
11	Akalkot	498	75,774	296	—	296	—	296	—	451	451	747
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	464	4	468	—	468	—	—	—	468
13	Phaltan	397	66,383	174	—	174	—	174	—	—	—	174
14	Dharampore	794	120,498	74	—	74	—	74	79	—	79	150
15	Banada	215	41,373	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	25	25
Total Bombay Native States.		47,938	5,974,076	18,814	2,845	19,659	—	19,659	3,918	3,347	7,265	26,922
<i>Central Provinces Feudatory States.</i>												
1	Nandgaon	871	189,866	152	—	152	—	152	—	61	61	213
2	Khairagarh	981	181,184	463	—	463	—	463	—	113	113	576
3	Bastar	13,002	810,884	335	—	335	—	335	—	607	607	943
4	Patna	2,399	332,197	—	—	—	—	—	—	156	156	156
5	Chhuikhadan	154	36,298	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	53	53
Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.		17,387	1,044,419	950	—	950	—	950	—	990	990	1,940
Total Native States		228,323	33,432,386	30,573	2,943	35,516	—	35,516	7,680	18,383	26,063	59,579
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		376,827	67,044,514	149,645	25,399	175,044	—	175,044	60,728	189,882	260,610	425,654

* The figures for the Native States of Cutch and Banada represent the numbers on the last day of the week, while others represent the daily averages. The figures for the Kathiawar and Mahi Kantha States and those for the Belgaum District are for the week ending 3rd November, 1900.
† Return not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH DECEMBER, 1900.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Ahmedabad	9,940	921,712	429	69	498	—	498	768	4,294	5,062	5,560
2	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	1,307	135	1,442	—	1,442	164	4,466	4,630	6,072
3	Broach	1,463	341,490	1,416	215	1,631	—	1,631	25	2,345	2,370	4,001
4	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	60	60
5	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	63,213	13,742	76,955	—	76,955	1,857	12,576	14,433	91,388
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	26,010	4,301	30,311	—	30,311	—	8,168	8,168	38,479
7	Poona	5,309	1,067,800	14,999	5,084	20,083	—	20,083	—	535	535	20,618
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	2,090	—	2,090	—	2,090	362	65	447	2,537
9	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,893	—	1,893	—	1,893	42	—	42	1,935
10	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	6,495	252	6,747	—	6,747	—	981	981	7,728
11	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	5,851	458	6,309	—	6,309	900	1,477	2,377	8,686
Total Bombay		54,661	9,430,204	123,703	24,256	147,959	—	147,959	4,128	34,987	39,085	187,054
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	22	22
2	Nimar	3,357	253,486	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	20	20
3	Betul	3,824	323,196	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	11	11
4	Chanda	10,749	697,610	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,764	4,764	4,764
5	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,168	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	22	22
Total Central Provinces		30,273	3,030,193	—	—	—	—	—	75	4,764	4,839	4,839
Total British Provinces		84,939	12,460,397	123,703	24,256	147,959	—	147,959	4,203	39,751	43,954	191,893
<i>Rajputana States.</i>												
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	396	—	396	396
2	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	142	—	142	—	142	153	—	153	295
3	Tonk	2,752	380,069	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	80	80
4	Bundi	2,220	295,675	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	200	200
5	Shahpura	405	63,646	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
Total Rajputana States		62,680	4,099,511	142	—	142	—	142	857	—	857	969
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,400	1,098,900	—	—	—	—	—	804	—	804	804
2	Jaora	608	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	30	9	39	39
Total Central India States		9,008	1,217,550	—	—	—	—	—	834	9	843	843
1	Hyderabad	38,698	11,537,040	1,997	—	1,997	—	1,997	1,235	—	1,235	3,232
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	6,895	—	6,895	—	6,895	5,743	—	5,743	12,638
<i>Bombay Native States.*</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,550	2,752,404	463	95	558	—	558	445	420	865	1,423
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,536	264	87	351	—	351	401	70	471	822
3	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	50	50
4	Rewa Kantha	4,080	733,506	576	24	600	—	600	15	27	42	642
5	Mahi Kantha	3,538	581,568	—	—	—	—	—	78	—	78	78

* The figures for the native states of Baroda represent the numbers on the last day of the week while others represent the daily averages. The figures for the Mahi Kantha States are for the week ending 15th December, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH DECEMBER, 1900—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Bombay Native States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
6	Aundh	447	65,148	105	—	105	—	105	6	—	6	111
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,218	1,320	3,538	—	3,538	312	112	424	3,962
8	Jath	970	71,443	5,082	2,190	7,272	—	7,272	413	119	532	7,804
9	Daphlapur		6,343	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	14
10	Akalkot	498	75,774	239	—	239	—	229	—	197	197	436
11	Mudhol	381	61,815	704	3	707	—	707	—	—	—	707
12	Phaltan	397	66,383	253	60	303	—	303	—	4	4	307
13	Baneda	215	41,373	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	18	18
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,644	5,295,165	9,894	3,769	13,663	—	13,663	1,736	963	2,699	16,362
	Total Native States	149,254	24,504,662	16,928	3,769	22,697	—	22,697	10,406	972	11,377	34,074
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	234,138	37,025,059	142,631	28,025	170,856	—	170,856	14,608	40,703	56,311	225,967

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH JANUARY, 1901.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,334	2,334	2,334
	Total Madras	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,334	2,334	2,334
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	5,949	921,712	498	44	532	—	532	797	078	6,875	7,407
2	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	1,795	112	1,907	—	1,907	169	3,115	3,284	5,191
3	Broach	1,463	341,490	1,770	148	1,918	—	1,918	—	367	367	2,285
4	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	104	104	104
6	Sholapur	4,542	750,669	53,174	12,554	65,528	—	65,528	1,681	11,107	12,788	78,316
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,765	35,650	5,623	41,273	—	41,273	—	9,140	9,140	50,413
7	Poona	5,389	1,067,800	12,592	4,494	17,086	—	17,086	—	1,651	1,651	18,737
8	Khandesh	10,007	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	312	167	479	479
9	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,767	—	1,767	—	1,767	34	—	34	1,781
10	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	7,832	344	8,176	—	8,176	—	914	914	9,090
11	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	5,138	683	5,821	581	6,402	1,138	1,345	2,933	9,385
	Total Bombay	54,661	9,430,204	130,196	23,802	143,998	581	144,579	4,181	34,468	38,619	183,196
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	19	19
	Total Central Provinces	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	19	19
	Total British Provinces	67,390	11,294,019	130,196	23,802	143,998	581	144,579	4,160	37,322	41,472	168,051
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,400	1,098,900	—	—	—	—	—	705	—	705	705
2	Jaora	608	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	44	44
	Total Central India States.	9,008	1,217,550	—	—	—	—	—	749	—	749	749

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH JANUARY, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
		Sq. Miles.										
1	Hyderabad	28,898	11,537,040	1,836	—	1,836	—	1,836	722	—	722	2,568
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	8,678	—	8,678	—	8,678	4,883	—	4,883	13,061
	<i>Bombay Native States.</i>											
1	Kathiawar	20,569	2,752,404	769	110	879	—	879	444	337	781	1,660
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,528	—	—	—	—	—	208	69	277	277
3	Cambay	950	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	52	—	52	52
4	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	782	94	816	—	816	15	168	183	999
5	Aundh	447	65,146	110	—	110	—	110	—	5	5	115
6	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,838	1,076	2,914	—	2,914	311	122	433	3,347
7	Jath	979	71,443	5,713	2,415	8,128	—	8,128	389	179	568	8,696
8	Daphtapur		8,943	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	9
9	Akalkot	498	75,774	164	—	164	—	164	—	35	35	199
10	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,097	4	1,101	—	1,101	—	—	—	1,101
11	Phaltan	397	66,383	256	70	326	—	326	—	3	3	329
	Total Bombay Native States.	36,901	4,672,224	10,729	3,709	14,438	—	14,438	1,419	927	2,346	16,784
	Total Native States ..	82,831	19,842,210	21,249	3,709	24,952	—	24,952	7,273	927	8,200	33,152
	GRAND TOTAL, BRIT- ISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	150,221	31,136,229	141,439	27,511	168,950	581	169,531	11,423	38,249	49,672	219,208

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 1901.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Ouddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	327	327	—	3,011	3,011	3,338
	Total Madras	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	327	327	—	3,011	3,011	3,338
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	1,704	—	1,704	—	1,704	624	6,424	7,048	6,752
2	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	3,180	101	3,281	—	3,281	156	3,031	3,187	6,468
3	Broach	1,483	341,490	562	17	579	—	579	—	149	149	728
4	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4
5	Sholapur	4,542	750,889	42,746	11,815	54,561	—	54,561	1,108	10,359	11,467	65,823
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	41,774	6,284	48,058	—	48,058	—	10,154	10,154	58,212
7	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	11,746	3,742	15,488	—	15,488	—	2,203	2,203	17,691
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	289	278	567	567
9	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,419	—	1,418	—	1,418	42	—	42	1,460
10	Satara	4,987	1,235,989	3,430	334	3,764	—	3,764	—	1,329	1,329	10,093
11	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	5,696	1,065	6,761	—	6,761	1,405	2,447	3,852	10,633
12	Dharwar	4,803	1,061,314	—	—	—	351	351	—	—	—	351
	Total Bombay	59,264	10,481,518	117,256	23,178	140,434	351	140,785	3,819	36,378	39,997	180,752
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	16	16
	Total Central Provinces	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	16	16
	Total British Provinces	71,988	12,346,339	117,256	23,178	140,434	678	141,112	3,835	39,389	43,024	184,136

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central India States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Indore	8,400	1,069,900	—	—	—	—	—	657	—	657	657
2	Jaora	606	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	26	9	35	35
3	Jobat	132	14,336	977*	—	977	—	977	—	—	—	977
Total Central India States.		9,138	1,231,886	977	—	977	—	977	683	9	692	1,669
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	1,275	—	1,275	—	1,275	766	—	766	2,041
1	Baroda	8,228	2,415,396	11,965	—	11,965	—	11,965	4,358	—	4,358	16,323
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	190	100	290	—	290	235	300	535	831
2	Palanpur.. .. .	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	50	65	115	115
3	Bewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	804	—	804	—	804	12	46	58	862
4	Aundh	447	65,146	232	—	232	—	232	19	—	19	251
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,848	1,224	3,072	—	3,072	289	16	305	3,377
6	Jath	979	71,443	6,185	2,509	8,694	—	8,694	393	213	606	9,300
7	Daphlapur		8,343	13	—	13	—	13	—	7	7	20
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,261	441	7	448	—	448	—	—	—	448
9	Akalkot	498	75,774	156	—	156	—	156	—	38	38	194
10	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,422	—	1,422	—	1,422	—	—	—	1,422
11	Phaltan	397	66,383	206	40	246	—	246	—	4	4	250
Total Bombay Native States.		38,896	5,287,753	11,503	3,860	15,363	—	15,363	998	639	1,637	17,070
Total Native States		84,758	20,472,075	25,750	3,860	29,610	—	29,610	6,805	698	7,503	37,133
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		156,751	32,817,408	143,006	27,068	170,064	678	170,742	10,440	40,087	50,527	221,369

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH MARCH, 1901.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Uddapah	8,722	1,272,073	—	—	—	851	851	—	3,005	3,005	3,856
Total Madras		8,722	1,272,073	—	—	—	851	851	—	3,005	3,005	3,856
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,940	921,712	4,119	—	4,119	—	4,119	565	4,251	4,816	8,935
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	8,204	—	8,204	—	8,204	—	248	248	8,452
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	513,417	3,049	102	3,151	—	3,151	116	4,028	4,144	7,295
4	Brodch	1,483	341,490	759	—	759	—	759	—	443	443	1,202
5	Surat	1,062	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	221	221	221
6	Sholapur	4,542	750,989	35,373	9,255	44,628	—	44,628	1,108	10,037	11,145	55,773
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	883,755	40,714	6,482	47,196	—	47,196	—	12,547	12,547	59,743
8	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	7,856	3,914	11,770	—	11,770	—	2,232	2,232	14,002

* Labourers on the Jobat-Ahrajpur Road.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH MARCH, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Bombay—cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	320	563	883	883
10	Nasik	5,940	843,582	3,491	—	3,491	—	3,491	48	200	248	3,739
11	Satara	4,887	1,225,989	6,718	1,391	8,109	—	8,109	—	2,101	2,101	10,210
12	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	8,131	1,244	9,375	—	9,375	1,564	2,809	4,378	13,748
13	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	418	418	—	—	—	418
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	876	—	876	—	876	—	—	—	876
	Total Bombay ..	68,614	12,186,777	119,290	22,388	141,678	418	142,096	3,721	39,680	43,401	185,497
	<i>Central Provinces.</i>											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7	7
2	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	47	631	678	678
	Total Central Provinces	7,146	975,074	—	—	—	—	—	54	631	685	685
	Total British Provinces	79,842	14,443,923	119,290	22,388	141,678	1,269	142,947	3,775	43,316	47,091	190,088
	<i>Central India States.</i>											
1	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	28	9	37	37
3	Jobat	132	14,336	3,103*	—	3,103*	—	3,103*	—	—	—	3,103
	Total Central India States.	9,138	1,231,886	3,103	—	3,103	—	3,103	692	9	701	3,804
1	Hyderabad	28,038	11,587,040	—	Figures not reported.			—	—	—	—	—
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	9,998	—	9,998	—	9,998	4,055	—	4,055	14,053
	<i>Bombay Native States.</i>											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	17	—	17	—	17	218	402	620	637
2	Palanpur	7,776	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	51	61	112	112
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	283	18	301	—	301	—	45	45	346
4	Aundh	447	65,146	19	—	19	—	19	19	—	19	38
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,182	1,658	965	2,623	—	2,623	307	32	339	2,962
6	Jath	979	71,443	6,281	2,788	9,069	—	9,069	404	257	661	9,730
7	Daphlapur	8343	8,343	20	—	20	—	20	—	15	15	35
8	Kolhapur	2,145	706,251	597	—	597	—	597	—	16	16	613
9	Bamdurg	169	86,181	117	19	136	—	136	—	—	—	136
10	Sangli	1,083	238,945	855	205	1,060	—	1,060	—	—	—	1,060
11	Akalkot	498	75,774	228	—	228	—	228	—	98	98	326
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,759	5	1,764	—	1,764	—	—	—	1,764
13	Phaltan	397	66,383	194	35	229	—	229	—	3	3	232
	Total Bombay Native States.	30,948	5,562,879	12,026	4,035	16,063	—	16,063	999	929	1,928	17,991
	Total Native States ..	84,010	20,747,301	25,139	4,035	29,164	—	29,164	5,748	938	6,684	35,848
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	163,852	35,191,124	144,419	26,423	170,842	1,269	172,111	9,521	44,254	53,775	225,836

* Labourers on the Jobat-Airajpur Road.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH APRIL, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratis relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	2,021	2,021	—	3,087	3,087	5,108
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	2,021	2,021	—	3,087	3,087	5,108
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	5,949	921,712	13,807	—	13,807	—	13,807	1,221	4,428	5,949	19,259
2	Kaira	1,809	871,589	34,400	322	34,722	—	34,722	—	1,409	1,409	38,131
3	Panoh Mahals	1,613	313,417	8,939	98	9,037	—	9,037	110	5,898	6,008	15,045
4	Broach	1,463	341,409	692	—	692	—	692	—	852	852	1,544
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	1,000
6	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	40,273	9,128	49,401	—	49,401	1,572	11,253	12,824	62,225
7	Ahmednagar	6,046	888,755	53,318	8,443	61,761	—	61,761	—	16,676	16,676	78,437
8	Poons	5,399	1,067,800	12,819	4,612	17,431	—	17,431	—	2,536	2,536	19,967
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	238	3,324	3,562	3,562
10	Nasik	6,940	843,582	1,919	184	2,103	2,468	4,571	63	726	791	6,392
11	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	8,430	1,237	9,667	—	9,667	—	2,982	2,982	12,649
12	Bijapur	5,668	790,339	12,556	2,259	14,815	—	14,815	1,797	3,072	4,869	19,684
13	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	1,071	1,071	—	1,108	1,108	2,179
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	1,390	—	1,390	—	1,390	—	59	59	1,449
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	12,166,777	188,343	26,283	214,626	3,539	218,165	5,001	55,324	60,325	278,490
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	5
2	Bulaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	55	805	860	860
	Total Central Provinces	7,146	975,074	—	—	—	—	—	60	805	865	865
	Total British Provinces	79,482	14,443,923	188,343	26,283	214,626	5,569	220,186	5,061	59,216	64,277	284,463
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,075	1,069,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	608	130,000	—	—	—	—	—	67	—	67	67
3	Amjhara	649	37,000	521	—	521	—	521	—	—	—	521
4	Alirajpur	331	50,000	1,396	—	1,396	—	1,396	—	—	—	1,396
5	Jhabua	1,500	81,000	1,253	—	1,253	—	1,253	—	5	5	1,258
6	Jobat	132	9,000	945	—	945	—	945	—	—	—	945
	Total Central India States.	11,793	1,406,000	4,115	—	4,115	—	4,115	731	5	736	4,851
1	Hyderabad	28,898	11,537,040	8,597	—	8,597	—	8,597	10,799	—	10,799	19,396
1	Baroda	8,236	2,415,396	13,752	—	13,752	—	13,752	5,428	—	5,428	19,180
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	—	—	—	—	—	207	350	557	557
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	6	61	67	67
3	Rewa Kantha	4,990	733,506	232	—	232	—	232	—	38	38	270
4	Aundh	447	65,146	100	—	100	—	100	30	—	30	130
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,102	1,834	954	2,788	—	2,788	322	47	369	3,157

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH APRIL, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Bombay Native States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
6	Jath	979	71,443	10,904	5,189	16,093	—	16,093	435	246	681	16,774
7	Daphlapur		8,343	85	—	85	—	85	—	97	97	122
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	584	—	584	—	584	—	9	9	598
9	Ramdurg	169	36,181	165	10	175	—	175	—	—	—	175
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	50	35	85	—	85	—	14	14	99
11	Sangli	1,083	238,945	1,558	873	2,431	—	2,431	—	—	—	2,431
12	AKalkot	498	75,774	285	2	287	—	287	—	127	127	364
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,104	4	1,108	—	1,108	—	—	—	1,108
14	Phaltan	397	66,383	207	32	239	—	239	—	4	4	243
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,173	5,598,366	17,053	7,099	24,157	—	24,157	960	933	1,923	26,080
	Total Native States	83,890	20,956,802	43,522	7,099	50,621	—	50,621	17,948	933	18,886	69,507
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	168,372	35,400,725	231,865	33,332	265,247	5,560	270,807	23,009	60,154	83,163	353,970

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH MAY, 1901.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	1,953	1,953	—	3,051	3,051	5,004
2	North Arcot	7,616	2,180,487	—	—	—	161	161	—	—	—	161
	Total Madras ..	16,338	3,452,559	—	—	—	2,114	2,114	—	3,051	3,051	5,165
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	21,314	—	21,314	—	21,314	1,026	6,317	7,343	28,657
2	Kaira	1,609	371,589	44,771	1,412	46,183	—	46,183	—	2,387	2,387	48,560
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	11,928	108	12,036	—	12,036	31	4,522	4,603	16,639
4	Bronch	1,463	341,490	922	—	922	—	922	—	816	816	1,738
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,395	1,395	1,395
6	Sholapur	4,543	750,689	45,453	10,149	55,601	—	55,601	1,854	11,086	12,940	68,541
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,765	69,754	11,709	81,463	—	81,463	—	22,795	22,795	104,258
8	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	18,349	5,660	24,009	—	24,009	—	3,414	3,414	27,423
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	220	—	226	41	267	151	5,395	5,648	5,813
10	Nasik	5,940	843,582	7,146	302	7,448	—	7,448	81	1,636	1,717	9,165
11	Satara	4,987	1,235,939	9,248	973	10,221	—	10,221	—	3,882	3,882	14,103
12	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	15,968	3,125	19,093	—	19,093	2,061	3,343	5,404	24,497
13	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	650	650	—	2,029	2,029	2,679
14	Dharwar	4,803	1,051,314	1,932	—	1,932	—	1,932	—	4	4	1,936
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	12,166,777	247,010	33,438	280,448	691	281,139	5,254	69,001	74,255	355,394
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	6
2	Balaghat	3,139	333,331	—	—	—	—	—	53	559	612	612
3	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	151	—	151	151
	Total Central Provinces	18,870	2,559,501	—	—	—	—	—	310	559	769	769
	Total British Provinces	68,822	18,208,837	247,010	33,438	280,448	2,305	283,253	5,464	72,811	78,075	361,328

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH MAY, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central India States.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	608	84,000	245	60	305	—	305	62	—	62	367
3	Amjhera	649	37,000	870	—	870	—	870	—	—	—	870
4	Allrajpur	831	50,000	2,189	—	2,189	—	2,189	—	—	—	2,189
5	Jhabua	1,500	81,000	1,603	113	1,916	—	1,916	—	7	7	1,923
6	Jobat	132	9,000	185	—	185	—	185	—	—	—	185
7	Kuksl	164	30,000	228	—	228	—	228	—	—	—	228
Total Central India States.		11,967	1,380,000	5,470	173	5,643	—	5,643	726	7	733	6,376
1	Hyderabad	28,688	11,537,040	11,370	—	11,370	—	11,370	2,543	—	2,543	13,913
1	Baroda	8,228	2,415,366	17,946	—	17,946	—	17,946	7,708	—	7,708	25,654
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathlwar	20,559	2,752,404	4,482	34	4,498	—	4,498	567	89	678	5,172
2	Palanpur	7,776	645,526	26	—	26	—	26	14	61	75	101
3	Bewa Kantha	4,980	783,508	1,944	22	1,966	—	1,966	—	110	110	2,076
4	Aundh	447	65,146	99	8	107	—	107	20	—	20	127
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,182	1,739	448	2,187	—	2,187	350	43	393	2,580
6	Jath	978	71,443	11,730	4,081	15,811	—	15,811	310	655	965	16,776
7	Daphlapur	978	8,348	293	—	293	—	293	—	36	36	329
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	406	—	406	—	406	—	4	4	410
9	Ramdnrg	169	36,181	266	17	283	—	283	—	—	—	283
10	Miraj (Junior)	226	35,497	206	74	280	—	280	—	14	14	294
11	Sangli	1,083	233,945	3,604	999	3,603	—	3,603	—	—	—	3,603
12	Akalkot	468	75,774	585	2	587	—	587	—	151	151	738
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,703	4	1,707	—	1,707	—	—	—	1,707
14	Phaltan	397	66,333	233	25	258	—	258	—	12	12	270
Total Bombay Na- tive States.		40,173	5,598,366	29,296	5,714	32,010	—	32,010	1,281	1,175	2,456	34,466
Total Native States ..		69,054	20,975,782	61,082	5,837	66,919	—	66,919	12,263	1,182	13,435	80,404
GRAND TOTAL, BRIT- ISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		167,876	39,184,599	308,092	39,325	347,417	2,805	350,222	17,717	73,793	91,510	441,732

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH JUNE, 1901.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Ouddapah	8,722	1,372,072	—	—	—	1,426	1,426	—	3,115	3,115	4,541
Total Madras		8,722	1,372,072	—	—	—	1,426	1,426	—	3,115	3,115	4,541
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	785,094	24,112	—	24,112	—	24,112	894	8,223	9,717	33,829
2	Kaira	1,800	715,725	40,956	1,378	42,334	—	42,334	—	2,540	2,540	45,374
3	Pareh Mahals	1,613	261,870	10,901	86	10,987	—	10,987	45	3,371	3,416	14,403
4	Broach	1,463	391,426	1,478	—	1,478	—	1,478	—	774	774	2,252
5	Surat	1,663	636,603	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,213	2,213	3,213
6	Sholapur	4,542	720,078	57,699	15,454	73,153	—	73,153	1,835	12,939	14,634	87,977
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	337,774	77,788	13,534	91,322	—	91,322	—	29,363	29,363	120,685
8	Poona	5,369	995,074	23,077	3,774	26,851	—	26,851	—	4,579	4,579	34,430

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH JUNE, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay—cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,442,018	2,106	—	2,106	—	2,106	37	15,545	15,582	17,688
10	Nasik	5,940	819,575	5,888	341	6,029	—	6,029	335	5,318	5,653	11,682
11	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	10,384	2,156	12,540	—	12,540	—	6,382	6,382	18,922
12	Bijapur	5,888	735,041	20,255	4,581	24,816	—	24,816	2,878	3,478	6,156	30,972
13	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	6,972	778	7,750	—	7,750	—	2,681	2,681	10,431
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	694	—	694	—	694	—	69	69	763
Total Bombay ..		63,614	11,505,335	282,110	45,562	327,672	—	327,672	5,874	98,055	103,929	431,601
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,381	—	—	—	—	—	60	283	323	323
2	Raipur	11,724	1,594,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	905	905	905
Total Central Provinces		14,863	1,967,758	—	—	—	—	—	60	1,168	1,228	1,228
Total British Provinces		87,199	14,745,165	282,110	45,562	327,672	1,426	329,098	5,934	102,388	108,272	437,370
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaura	608	84,000	345	59	404	—	404	61	—	61	465
3	Amjhera	649	37,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—*
4	Ahrajpur	831	50,000	378	—	378	—	378	—	—	—	378
5	Jhabua	1,500	81,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—*
6	Jobat	132	9,000	323	—	323	—	323	—	—	—	323
7	Kuksi	164	20,000	142	—	142	—	142	—	—	—	142
Total Central India States.		11,957	1,390,000	1,188	59	1,247	—	1,247	725	—	725	1,972
1	Hyderabad	28,838	11,537,040	14,965	—	14,965	—	14,965	2,894	—	2,894	17,859
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	20,483	—	20,483	—	20,483	9,479	—	9,479	29,962
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	6,944	267	7,211	—	7,211	996	645	1,641	8,852
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	433	—	433	—	433	60	57	117	550
3	Rowa Kantha	4,360	733,506	1,300	—	1,300	—	1,300	—	108	108	1,408
4	Mahi Kantha	3,528	531,568	456	—	456	—	456	—	—	—	456
5	Akalkot	498	75,774	537	4	541	—	541	—	193	193	734
6	Aundh	447	65,146	116	13	129	—	129	24	—	24	153
7	Phaltan	397	66,383	223	21	244	—	244	—	13	13	257
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,949	490	2,439	—	2,439	370	31	401	2,840
9	Jath	879	71,443	10,759	4,143	14,901	—	14,901	723	333	1,056	15,957
10	Daphlapur		8,343	444	—	444	—	444	—	89	89	533
11	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	401	176	577	—	577	—	17	17	594
12	Sangli	1,083	238,945	5,186	2,011	7,197	—	7,197	22	—	22	7,219
13	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	678	4	682	—	682	—	4	4	686
14	Mudhol	361	61,815	2,806	—	2,806	—	2,806	1,250	1,774	3,024	5,830
16	Ramdurg	169	36,181	372	15	387	—	387	—	—	—	387
Total Bombay Native States.		43,701	6,179,934	32,604	7,143	39,747	—	39,747	3,445	3,264	6,709	46,456
Total Native States		62,582	21,512,370	69,340	7,202	76,442	—	76,442	16,543	3,264	19,807	96,249
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		179,781	36,257,535	351,350	52,764	404,114	1,426	405,540	22,477	106,602	128,079	533,619

NOTE.—The figures for the Native State of Mahi Kantha are for the week ending 15th June, 1901.
* Figures not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH JULY, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
	Cuddapah	8,722	1,372,073	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,953	2,953	2,953
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,372,073	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,953	2,953	2,953
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	785,094	17,420	—	17,420	—	17,420	1,068	15,363	16,431	33,851
2	Kaira	1,809	715,725	8,738	140	8,878	—	8,878	—	2,480	2,480	11,338
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	7,723	51	7,774	—	7,774	19	5,410	5,429	13,203
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	213	—	213	—	213	—	683	683	896
5	Surat	1,662	636,603	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,554	1,554	1,554
6	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	62,715	16,670	79,385	—	79,385	2,029	15,028	17,057	96,442
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	77,491	13,869	91,360	—	91,360	—	32,138	32,138	123,498
8	Poona	5,369	995,074	22,105	7,269	29,374	—	29,374	—	4,658	4,658	34,032
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,442,018	1,860	—	1,860	—	1,860	—	45,554	45,554	47,414
10	Nasik	5,940	819,575	6,329	152	6,481	—	6,481	429	6,167	6,588	13,567
11	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	12,918	2,414	15,332	—	15,332	407	12,460	12,867	28,219
12	Bijapur	5,868	735,041	21,630	4,072	25,702	—	25,702	3,405	3,841	7,246	32,948
13	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	12,152	3,574	15,726	—	15,726	—	4,236	4,236	19,962
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,118,426	81	—	81	—	81	—	11	11	82
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	11,506,335	251,875	48,231	300,106	—	300,106	7,357	149,573	156,930	457,036
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Balaghat	3,139	583,331	—	—	—	—	—	82	318	400	400
2	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,158	3,158	3,158
3	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	47	47
	Total Central Provinces	23,204	3,131,916	—	—	—	—	—	82	3,523	3,605	3,605
	Total British Provinces	95,540	15,909,323	251,875	48,231	300,106	—	300,106	7,439	156,049	163,488	463,594
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	78	102	180	180
3	Amjhara	607	37,000	1,817	—	1,817	—	1,817	—	—	—	1,817
4	Alirajpur	631	50,000	181	—	181	—	181	—	—	—	181
5	Jhabua	1,287	81,000	2,037	56	2,093	—	2,093	104	—	104	2,197
6	Jobat	132	9,000	78	—	78	—	78	—	—	—	78
7	Kukal	164	20,000	149	—	149	—	149	—	—	—	149
8	Ratlam	729	83,000	664	—	664	—	664	188	—	188	852
	Total Central India States.	12,431	1,463,000	4,926	56	4,982	—	4,982	1,034	102	1,136	6,118
1	Hyderabad	28,068	11,537,040	6,062	—	6,062	—	6,062	2,841	—	2,841	8,903
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,306	32,394	—	32,394	—	32,394	9,974	—	9,974	33,368
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,753,404	4,271	23	4,294	—	4,294	815	83	898	5,192
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,536	1,517	—	1,517	—	1,517	128	56	184	1,701
3	Rewa Kantha	4,960	733,506	975	—	975	—	975	—	86	86	1,061
4	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	252	—	252	—	252	—	—	—	252
5	Akalkot	498	75,774	487	4	491	—	491	—	181	181	672

NOTE.—The figures for the Native State of Mahi Kantha are for the week ending 30th July, 1901.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH JULY, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	<i>Bombay Native States— cont.</i>	Sq. Miles.										
6	Aundh	447	65,146	63	6	69	—	69	26	—	26	95
7	Phaltan	397	66,363	216	17	233	—	233	—	16	16	249
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,227	560	2,787	—	2,787	357	32	389	3,176
9	Jath	978	71,443	10,052	3,917	13,969	—	13,969	726	369	1,095	15,064
10	Daphlapur		8,343	488	—	488	—	488	—	96	96	584
11	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	656	298	954	—	954	—	19	19	973
12	Sangli	1,083	238,945	5,999	2,565	8,264	—	8,264	47	—	47	8,311
13	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	1,226	4	1,230	—	1,230	—	2	2	1,232
14	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,854	—	1,854	—	1,854	1,050	177	1,227	3,081
15	Ramdurg	169	36,181	414	26	440	—	440	—	—	—	440
	Total Bombay Native States.	43,701	6,179,934	30,397	7,420	37,817	—	37,817	3,149	1,117	4,266	42,083
1	Mysore	27,936	5,538,462	2,639	—	2,639	—	2,639	—	—	—	2,639
	Total Native States	120,992	27,133,852	66,418	7,420	73,834	—	73,834	16,998	1,219	18,217	92,111
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	216,532	43,043,175	318,293	55,707	374,000	—	374,000	24,437	157,268	181,705	555,705

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 31ST AUGUST, 1901.

	<i>Bombay.</i>											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	796,094	2,737	—	2,737	—	2,737	668	17,378	18,044	20,781
2	Kaira	1,909	715,725	—	—	—	—	—	—	605	605	605
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	4,268	36	4,302	—	4,302	—	6,542	6,542	10,844
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	—	—	—	—	—	—	263	263	263
5	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	45,288	11,464	56,750	—	56,750	1,220	16,268	17,488	74,238
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	81,200	14,563	95,763	—	95,763	—	26,311	26,311	122,074
7	Poona	5,399	995,074	16,411	5,945	22,356	—	22,356	—	3,905	3,905	26,261
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,442,018	1,651	—	1,651	—	1,651	—	16,153	16,153	17,804
9	Nasik	5,940	819,575	6,209	188	6,397	—	6,397	565	5,399	5,964	12,361
10	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	12,135	2,394	14,529	—	14,529	437	10,575	11,312	25,841
11	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	26,351	4,725	31,076	—	31,076	3,835	4,114	7,949	39,025
12	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	13,582	6,083	19,664	—	19,664	—	5,349	5,349	25,013
13	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	267	—	267	—	267	—	12	12	279
	Total Bombay	61,952	10,868,733	210,095	45,397	255,492	—	255,492	6,723	113,174	119,897	375,389
	<i>Central Provinces.</i>											
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	59	—	59	59
2	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,918	3,918	3,918
3	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	47	47
	Total Central Provinces	23,204	3,131,916	—	—	—	—	—	59	3,965	4,024	4,024
	Total British Provinces	85,156	14,000,649	210,095	45,397	255,492	—	255,492	6,782	117,139	123,921	379,413
	<i>Central India States.</i>											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	58	184	242	242
3	Amjhera	607	37,000	2,277	—	2,277	—	2,277	—	—	—	2,277
4	Alirajpur	831	50,000	420	—	420	—	420	—	—	—	420

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 31st AUGUST, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Central India States— cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
5	Jhabua	1,287	81,000	1,460	—	1,460	—	1,460	—	—	—	1,460
6	Jobat	132	9,000	89	—	89	—	89	—	—	—	89
7	Kuksal	164	20,000	89	—	89	—	89	—	—	—	89
8	Batlam	729	83,000	—	—	—	—	—	180	—	180	180
Total Central India States.		12,491	1,483,000	4,335	—	4,335	—	4,335	902	184	1,086	5,421
1	Hyderabad	28,898	11,537,040	4,656	—	4,656	—	4,656	1,339	—	1,339	6,495
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	17,710	—	17,710	—	17,710	8,970	—	8,970	26,680
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,558	2,752,404	3,772	29	3,801	—	3,801	1,201	69	1,270	5,071
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	117	55	172	172
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	703	—	703	—	703	—	102	102	805
4	Akalkot	498	75,774	515	9	524	—	524	—	214	214	738
5	Aundh	447	65,146	44	5	49	—	49	27	—	27	76
6	Phaltan	387	66,363	240	15	255	—	255	—	13	13	268
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,969	944	3,913	—	3,913	381	42	423	4,336
8	Jath	979	71,443	6,901	2,771	9,672	—	9,672	666	367	1,033	10,705
9	Dathlapur	225	35,487	754	287	1,041	—	1,041	—	18	18	1,059
10	Miraj (Junior)	1,063	238,945	6,477	2,406	8,883	—	8,883	216	—	216	9,099
11	Sangli	2,145	705,251	500	4	504	—	504	—	2	2	506
12	Mudhol	381	61,815	2,243	—	2,243	—	2,243	1,008	180	1,188	3,431
13	Ramdurg	189	38,181	467	43	510	—	510	—	—	—	510
Total Bombay Native States.		40,173	5,598,366	26,079	6,513	32,592	—	32,592	3,616	1,173	4,789	37,381
1	Mysore	27,396	5,538,482	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Total Native States		117,464	26,552,284	52,780	6,513	59,293	—	59,293	15,327	1,367	16,694	75,977
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		202,620	40,552,933	262,875	51,910	314,785	—	314,785	22,109	118,496	140,605	455,390

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28th SEPTEMBER, 1901.

<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,291,803	—	—	—	—	—	1,319	—	1,319	1,319
2	Chingleput	2,842	1,312,722	—	—	—	—	—	236	—	236	236
3	North Arcot	7,616	2,208,391	—	—	—	—	—	975	—	975	975
4	Anantapur	5,275	788,896	—	—	—	—	—	207	—	207	207
Total Madras		24,455	5,601,812	—	—	—	—	—	2,737	—	2,737	2,737
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	786	—	786	—	786	531	4,965	5,196	5,982
2	Kaira	1,800	715,725	—	—	—	—	—	—	231	231	231
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	4,280	—	4,280	—	4,280	—	2,379	2,379	6,659
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	34	34

* Figures not reported.
NOTE.—The figures for the Native States of Phaltan and Kolhapur are for the week ending 24th August, 1901.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1901—concluded.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend-ants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Bombay—cont.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
5	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	37,160	6,231	43,391	—	43,391	853	15,084	15,937	59,328
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	72,975	12,723	85,698	—	85,698	—	23,838	23,838	109,536
7	Poona	5,309	995,074	12,600	4,582	17,182	—	17,182	—	5,098	5,098	22,280
8	Nasik	5,940	819,575	5,899	175	6,074	—	6,074	640	2,064	2,704	8,778
9	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	7,557	1,308	8,865	—	8,865	304	6,362	6,666	15,529
10	Bijapur	5,068	735,041	28,340	5,321	33,661	—	33,661	4,418	4,763	9,181	42,842
11	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	13,256	2,762	16,018	—	16,018	—	6,341	6,341	22,369
12	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	19	19
Total Bombay ..		51,045	9,426,715	182,653	33,100	215,753	—	215,753	6,746	70,878	77,624	293,377
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	45	45
Total Central Provinces		3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	45	45
Total British Provinces		78,639	15,411,958	182,653	33,100	215,753	—	215,753	9,528	70,878	80,406	296,159
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	62	146	208	208
3	Ratlam	729	83,000	—	—	—	—	—	145	—	145	145
Total Central India States.		9,410	1,266,000	—	—	—	—	—	871	146	1,017	1,017
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	2,639	—	2,639	—	2,639	1,077	—	1,077	3,716
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	19,536	—	19,536	—	19,536	9,023	—	9,023	28,559
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathlawar	20,559	2,752,404	2,841	—	2,841	—	2,841	1,213	69	1,282	4,123
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	111	55	166	166
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,508	460	—	460	—	460	—	107	107	567
4	Akalkot	498	75,774	150	—	150	—	150	—	194	194	344
5	Aundh	447	65,146	56	6	62	—	62	26	—	26	88
6	Phaltan	397	66,383	224	16	240	—	240	—	12	12	252
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,597	1,330	3,927	—	3,927	358	43	401	4,328
8	Jath	979	71,443	4,717	2,015	6,732	—	6,732	576	385	961	7,693
9	Daphlapur		8,343	466	—	466	—	466	—	113	113	579
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	428	195	623	—	623	—	17	17	640
11	Sangli	1,083	238,945	6,313	2,328	8,641	—	8,641	—	—	—	8,641
12	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	127	—	127	—	127	—	—	—	127
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	2,178	—	2,178	—	2,178	1,001	161	1,162	3,340
14	Ramoturg	180	36,181	306	4	310	—	310	—	—	—	310
Total Bombay Native States.		40,173	5,598,386	20,863	5,894	26,757	—	26,757	3,285	1,156	4,441	31,198
Total Native States ..		86,507	20,816,802	43,038	5,894	48,932	—	48,932	14,256	1,302	15,558	64,490
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.		165,146	36,228,760	225,691	38,994	264,685	—	264,685	23,784	72,180	96,964	360,649

NOTE—The figures for the Native State of Kolhapur are for the week ending 21st September, 1901.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH OCTOBER, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workera.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,391,908	—	—	—	1,915	1,915	627	—	627	2,542
2	North Arcot	7,616	2,208,391	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	70	70
3	Anantapur	5,275	788,898	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	32	32
Total Madras		21,613	4,389,190	—	—	—	1,915	1,915	729	—	729	2,644
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	—	—	—	—	—	563	2,521	3,084	3,084
2	Kaira	1,809	715,725	—	—	—	—	—	—	236	236	236
3	Panch Mahals	1,813	281,870	1,740	—	1,740	—	1,740	—	32	32	1,772
4	Sholapur	4,542	720,878	17,500	3,277	20,783	—	20,783	432	10,756	11,188	31,971
5	Ahmednagar	6,045	837,774	16,863	3,349	20,032	—	20,032	—	18,979	18,979	39,011
6	Poona	5,369	995,074	3,868	1,307	5,006	—	5,006	—	3,209	3,209	8,214
7	Nasik	5,940	819,575	1,381	238	1,619	—	1,619	305	—	305	1,924
8	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	668	75	743	—	743	106	649	755	1,498
9	Bijapur	5,868	795,041	17,021	3,449	20,470	—	20,470	4,010	4,625	8,641	29,111
10	Belgaum	4,857	964,209	8,487	1,616	10,113	—	10,113	—	3,914	3,914	14,027
11	Dharwar	4,003	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4
Total Bombay		49,582	9,135,287	67,194	13,311	80,505	—	80,505	5,422	44,925	50,347	130,852
<i>Central Provinces.</i>												
1	Balghat	8,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
Total Central Provinces		8,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
Total British Provinces		74,334	13,807,806	67,194	13,311	80,505	1,915	82,420	6,179	44,925	51,104	133,524
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jnora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	51	17	68	68
3	Ratlam	729	83,000	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	44	44
Total Central India States.		9,410	1,266,000	—	—	—	—	—	759	17	776	776
Baroda		8,226	2,415,396	17,822	—	17,822	—	17,822	9,552	—	9,552	27,374
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kuthiawar	20,550	2,752,404	7,113	—	7,113	—	7,113	1,692	63	1,755	8,868
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,536	1,128	—	1,128	—	1,128	173	60	233	1,361
3	Rowa Kantha	4,180	733,506	147	—	147	—	147	—	109	109	256
4	Akalkot	498	75,774	127	—	127	—	127	—	120	120	247
5	Aundh	447	65,146	47	3	50	—	50	26	—	26	76
6	Phaltan	397	66,383	96	—	96	—	96	—	—	—	96
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,567	354	1,921	—	1,921	328	42	370	2,291
8	Jath	979	71,443	1,167	517	1,684	—	1,684	111	350	461	2,145
9	Daphlapur	235	35,487	46	—	46	—	46	—	7	7	53
10	Mitraj (Junior)	235	35,487	39	16	55	—	55	—	6	6	61
11	Sangli	1,063	233,945	2,588	1,107	3,755	—	3,755	59	185	244	3,999
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	997	—	997	—	997	650	173	823	1,820
Total Bombay Na- tive States.		37,859	4,856,934	15,062	2,057	17,119	—	17,119	3,039	1,115	4,154	21,273
Total Native States		55,495	8,539,330	32,884	2,057	34,941	—	34,941	13,350	1,132	14,482	49,423
GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NA- TIVE STATES.		139,839	22,346,138	100,078	15,368	115,446	1,915	117,361	19,539	46,057	65,586	182,947

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Num- ber on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village dolee and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>		Sq. Miles.										
1	Ouddapah	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	1,524	1,524	502	—	502	2,026
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	1,524	1,524	502	—	502	2,026
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	485	—	485	—	485	1,039	3,439	4,478	4,963
2	Kaira	1,809	715,725	444	—	444	—	444	—	203	203	647
3	Panch Mahals	1,813	281,870	5,160	—	5,160	—	5,160	—	38	38	5,198
4	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	3,734	—	3,734	—	3,734	—	762	762	4,496
5	Ahmednagar	6,645	887,774	4,813	557	5,170	—	5,170	—	7,815	7,815	12,785
6	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	6,818	1,562	8,380	—	8,380	779	2,258	3,037	11,417
7	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	853	214	1,067	—	1,067	—	1,331	1,331	2,398
8	Dharwar	4,803	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	14
9	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	364,168	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	29	29
	Total Bombay ..	46,015	6,558,285	22,107	2,333	24,440	—	24,440	1,847	15,660	17,507	41,947
	Total British Provinces	54,737	7,830,188	22,107	2,333	24,440	1,524	25,964	2,349	15,660	18,009	43,973
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Indore	8,075	1,069,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	40	13	53	53
3	Batlam	729	83,000	20	—	20	—	20	176	—	176	196
	Total Central India States.	9,410	1,236,000	20	—	20	—	20	880	13	893	913
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,366	17,117	—	17,117	—	17,117	10,067	—	10,067	27,184
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,558	2,752,404	7,515	238	7,753	—	7,753	1,328	76	1,404	9,157
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	4,623	—	4,623	—	4,623	461	64	525	5,148
3	Bewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	1,520	—	1,520	—	1,520	—	53	53	1,573
4	Aundh	447	65,146	29	—	29	—	29	24	—	24	53
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	991	68	1,059	—	1,059	289	18	307	1,366
6	Daphlapur	979	8,343	46	—	46	—	46	—	7	7	53
7	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	12	—	12	—	12	—	—	—	12
8	Sangli	1,063	238,945	491	241	732	—	732	67	—	67	799
9	Mudhol	361	61,815	776	—	776	—	776	600	156	756	1,532
	Total Bombay Native States.	86,064	4,643,334	16,003	547	16,550	—	16,550	2,769	374	3,143	19,693
	Total Native States	54,600	8,324,730	83,140	547	33,687	—	33,687	13,716	387	14,103	47,790
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	109,337	16,154,918	55,247	2,880	58,127	1,524	59,651	16,065	16,047	32,112	91,763

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH DECEMBER, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Depend- ants.	Total.			Poor- houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
<i>Madras.</i>												
1	Ouddapah	Sq. Miles 8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	927	927	424	—	424	1,351
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	927	927	424	—	424	1,351
<i>Bombay.</i>												
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	13,241	1,032	14,273	—	14,273	1,304	6,132	7,496	21,769
2	Kaira	1,809	715,725	6,463	—	6,463	—	6,463	—	1,220	1,220	7,683
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,370	27,093	—	27,093	—	27,093	—	70	70	27,163
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	1,224	—	1,224	—	1,224	—	—	—	1,224
5	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	1,541	—	1,541	—	1,541	—	940	940	2,481
6	Ahmednagar	6,045	837,774	2,325	457	3,082	—	3,082	—	7,279	7,279	10,361
7	Bijapur	5,068	735,041	6,761	1,498	8,259	—	8,259	243	1,431	1,674	9,933
8	Dharwar	4,803	1,118,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	5
9	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	364,168	—	—	—	—	—	159	3	162	162
	Total Bombay ..	42,821	5,835,504	58,948	2,987	61,935	—	61,935	1,766	17,080	18,846	80,781
<i>Punjab.</i>												
1	Hissar	5,217	781,575	—	—	—	326	326	62	2,312	2,374	2,700
	Total Punjab ..	5,217	781,575	—	—	—	326	326	62	2,312	2,374	2,700
	Total British Provinces	56,760	7,908,932	58,948	2,987	61,935	1,253	63,188	2,252	19,392	21,644	84,832
<i>Rajputana States.</i>												
1	Marwar	34,963	1,935,909	1,221	—	1,221	—	1,221	155	—	155	1,376
	Total Rajputana States	34,963	1,935,909	1,221	—	1,221	—	1,221	155	—	155	1,376
<i>Central India States.</i>												
1	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	49	—	49	49
2	Ratlam	729	83,000	228	—	228	—	228	43	—	43	270
	Total Central India States.	1,335	167,000	228	—	228	—	228	91	—	91	319
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	20,222	—	20,222	—	20,222	11,155	—	11,155	31,377
<i>Bombay Native States.</i>												
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	8,320	419	8,739	—	8,739	1,374	229	1,603	10,342
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	7,404	—	7,404	—	7,404	621	64	685	8,089
3	Bewa Kantha	4,990	733,506	1,671	—	1,671	—	1,671	—	62	62	1,733
4	Jamkhandi	555	103,162	413	55	467	—	467	269	17	286	753
5	Daphlapur	979	8,343	26	—	26	—	26	—	—	—	26
6	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	18	—	18	—	18	—	—	—	18
7	Sangli	1,083	233,945	436	256	692	—	692	71	—	71	763
8	Mudhol	381	61,815	515	—	515	—	515	—	—	—	515
	Total Bombay Native States.	36,517	4,578,188	18,808	730	19,538	—	19,532	2,335	372	2,707	22,239
	Total Native States	81,041	9,006,493	40,473	730	41,203	—	41,203	13,736	372	14,108	55,311
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	137,801	17,006,475	99,421	3,717	103,138	1,253	104,391	15,988	19,764	35,752	140,143

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