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SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY
GOVERNMENT.

No. CCXXXII.—NEW SERIES.

PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

REVISION' SURVEY SETTLEMENT OF 38 VILLAGES

OF THE

PEINT TÁLUKA

OF THE

NÁSÍK COLLECTORATE.

Bombay:

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1889.

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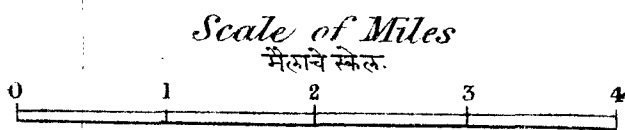
TO THE

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE REVISION SURVEY SETTLEMENT OF 38 VILLAGES OF THE PEINT TALUKA OF THE NÁSÍK COLLECTORATE.

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MAP
of
PART OF THE PEINT TALUKA
पेठ of the तालुका
NASIK COLLECTORATE
नाशीक जिल्हा.



Alienated Villages हनामगांव A.

Class Villages Maximum Rate

I	Rs.
II	Rs.
III	Rs.
IV	Rs.
V	Rs.



Prepared in the Office of Superintendent Revenue Survey
and Assessment Poona and Nasik and S.M.C. 13th March 1888

Reduced by Photocinography.
Govt. Photocin. Office, Poona, 1888

FROM

W. M. FLETCHER, ESQUIRE,
Superintendent, Poona and Násik and
Southern-Marátha Country Revenue Surveys;

TO

THE COLLECTOR OF NA'SIK.

*Survey Superintendent's Office,
Poona, 11th April 1888.*

SIR,

In compliance with the programme which received the approval of Government in Government Resolution No. 5864 of the 1st September last, I have the honour to submit proposals for the survey settlement of 33 villages of the Peint Táluka, which form the first batch in which measurement and classification have been completed.

Existing settlement.

* Government Resolution
No. 4843 of 29th November
1865.

† Government Resolution
No. 1114 of 2nd March 1874.

‡ Government Resolution
No. 4353 of 18th August
1880

2. The existing settlement was first sanctioned* in 1865 for a period of 10 years, and prolonged† for a further period of 5 years. On the expiry of this further term in 1880 Government resolved‡ that it was desirable that a detailed survey and settlement should be carried out as soon as practicable, but that pending that measure the existing rice rates should be enhanced by 25 per cent. and those on Mál lands by 12½ per cent. This was done accordingly and the rates thus enhanced are those still levied.

3. The original survey comprised a field measurement of the rice lands only; the rest of the lands were marked off in the block, certain portions being demarcated as forest, and

Survey operations. the boundaries of the villages roughly laid down by theodolite. This arrangement, which was looked on at the time as a very rude and incomplete one, and under which no right of occupancy was granted except in the demarcated rice lands, has proved a suitable introduction to the full survey settlement which it is now proposed to apply to the whole of the village area.

4. Field operations were commenced in March 1885, and have been carried on each year since, during the months of March, April and May which alone admit of work in the field.

Survey operations. Progress was slow at first and tentative in its nature, for, while it was desired to make all the use that might be possible of the old work, it was necessary also to set the new survey going on a system which should not be too elaborate and expensive for the backward state of the country, but which, at the same time, should provide fully and suitably for the conditions of cultivation and tenure characteristic of the Peint Táluka.

5. Under the system introduced in the original survey the rice lands were, as has been stated above, placed on the regular survey tenure, being measured into Survey numbers and Pot numbers in the usual way. As, however, these numbers were very deficiently demarcated, and their position on the map of the village had been, at the best, but very roughly ascertained and laid down, and as moreover each number contained small areas of Warkas unassigned to any Pot number or Khátedár, it proved to be now the more economical plan not to waste time in trying to identify the old measurements, but to measure the rice lands afresh; simplifying the operation, however, by including Warkas where possible, so as to straighten the boundaries, and demarcating all corners and bends. Thus with regard to rice lands the new record has merely consolidated and demarcated in a satisfactory manner the occupancies made by the first survey, and the operation has been strictly analogous, though simpler in detail, to the ordinary operations of revision survey.

6. In all other respects, however, our operations have been those of an original survey settlement. The Málakta system, Treatment of Mál lands. under which the whole land of a village was given out for cultivation for a lump sum yearly, had been in force for many years before the settlement in 1865, and it appears from an examination of many of the old leases and from much inquiry on the spot that though this system was sometimes spoken of as 'Outbandi,' the term 'Out' or 'plough' was employed merely to indicate the unit of assessment, and had ceased to bear any special relation to the quantity of land cultivable by one plough, some time before the first survey was introduced in 1865.

7. The system then found existing was shortly as follows:—A statement called the "Outbandi Patrak" was made out each year in the month of May, and contained the names of the cultivators and the amount of assessment (stated in 'ploughs') for which they undertook to be responsible. This arrangement covered the cultivation of rice land as well as Mál, and the number of 'ploughs' agreed for was an uncertain quantity depending on the pleasure of the village and Taluka officials, and was practically subject to no check.

8. The settlement introduced by Colonel Waddington provided for the separate assessment and demarcation of the rice lands, but continued the so-called 'Outbandi' system for the Mál lands, under improved conditions. What was considered a fair assessment for the whole Mál land of each village (forest excluded) was arrived at by a rough valuation, and this lump assessment

* Described in the leases as the 'usual number' and apparently the average of the three previous years.

† Copy of specimen attached.

was divided into an arbitrary number* of units for which the term 'plough' was retained. Thus assessed the whole Mál land was given on a ten years' lease,† the terms of which provided for a reduction in the payment in years when the number of ploughs subscribed for might fall below half the standard number, while in years in which there might be an increase of cultivation no enhancement of assessment was made and the profit remained with the Pátíl and the cultivators. All 'Bábs,' moreover, were remitted and the 'Vancharái' or grazing right was included in the lease.

9. This scheme was a distinct advance on that which it superseded, and though rough and open to abuse has served its purpose well. At the expiry of the ten years a fresh lease for five years was given on practically the same terms (specimen attached), and since the five years have elapsed annual leases have been issued on the enhanced rent fixed by Government in its Resolution of 1880, and containing merely an additional clause (inserted, doubtless, by the Collector in view of the approaching revision survey) by which the people agree to vacate the Mál lands when called on to do so.

10. Throughout the whole 22 years, therefore, which have elapsed since Colonel Waddington's settlement, the elementary character of the tenure under which the Mál land has been cultivated has remained unchanged: year by year an Outbandi Patrak has been prepared showing the names of the cultivators who became responsible for the year's revenue, but affording no indication of the area cultivated or locality of the cultivation; the leases have been drawn up with a special view to the requirements of an unsettled population, and for the past seven years have contained a special undertaking by the people to vacate the Mál lands whenever called upon to do so. It is clearly recognised, therefore, that no occupancy right has as yet been granted in the Mál lands, but it seemed only just, as well as politic and convenient when making a detailed record, to recognise such occupation as was found in existence, so far as this might be compatible with the objects of a simple and economical survey.

11. Those men, therefore, whose names appear in the Outbandi Patrak of the year have been treated as the Khátedárs of such land as they and any unrecorded sub-tenants of theirs were found to be actually cultivating; and where the actual cultivator's name is not in the Outbandi Patrak but he cultivates under one whose name is so entered, the latter has been entered as the Khátedár and the former as the Wahiwátdár.

12. When a cultivator has resided long in the same village it is often found that he cultivates the same land in rotation, though this is not a right

recognised in the leases, nor indeed claimed by the people; still where we have found that land now fallow has been for some years cultivated in rotation by the same man, his name has been noted with the object of giving him the prior right to have his name entered to the number when the survey settlement is introduced.

13. While thus freely recognising, however, such incipient rights as appeared to exist, it was obviously imperatively necessary, with a view to economy, that the boundaries of the new 'Mál' numbers should be kept as straight as possible, and with this object it was impossible to pay much attention to the present limits of cultivation which vary from year to year. Each man's cultivation, where not too extensive, has been comprised in one number, but sufficient of the adjoining waste land has usually been included to make its boundaries straight.

14. Forest lands, as demarcated by the recent forest settlement, have been measured in the usual way into large numbers of the full area found in one continuous block.

15. In Point the importance of the tree areas from which Ráb may be lopped is very great, for not only the rice crops but the Mál cultivation is carried on by transplantation from seed-beds on which Ráb must be burnt. At the present time in many villages these tree areas are large and the tree growth on them in good condition, and it must be a great object so to treat them at the coming settlement that they may be, if possible, preserved from destruction. These tree areas, therefore, wherever found, and of whatever extent if exceeding half an Acre, have been separately measured and recorded under the name 'Ráb.'

16. The classification of the rice lands by the first survey was carried out on a rough system long since found inadequate, which took no notice of the relative water advantages of the different fields, but based its valuation on the quality of the soil alone. The old classification has, therefore, been discarded and the work done afresh under the present rules. In the Mál lands also the classification work had now to be done for the first time, and the land has been classed under a simple set of rules adapted from the Ratnágiri Survey. Under these the ordinary Warkas land comes under four classes valued at 4, 3, 2, and 1 anna respectively, while superior land of more than the ordinary depth, or which from its position is capable of being converted into rice, receives an addition by which it may reach a classification value of 6 annas.

17. It may be well to explain that under the scheme of work finally adopted for this Taluka with the approval of Government, the classification and measurement are carried out simultaneously by a combined establishment, the rice land being valued by a small staff of classers, while the Warkas or Mál is valued at time of measurement by the measurers themselves, who have been instructed in the simple method above described.

18. Under the operations which have now been detailed the following areas have been obtained, and they are contrasted in the subjoined table with the areas of the first survey :—

	Old.	New.	Difference.
Dry-crop	33,291	23,194	-10,097
Rice	1,735	1,903	+ 173
Garden	...	13	+ 13
Unassessed	Forest	4,942	+ 919
	Ráb areas	...	+ 6,310
	Unarable, roads, Nálás, &c., &c....	1,071	+ 2,011
Total	41,039	40,368	- 671

The difference in total area is not large as the outlines of the villages had been fixed by the first survey by theodolite, but the distribution of the area under

its general heads is now ascertained for the first time. There is some increase apparent under the head of Rice and this is due, it may be concluded, to new areas converted into rice since the first survey. The trifling area now shown as garden is irrigated from a stream not formerly made use of.

19. The Peint Táluka forms the border district of the Násik Collectorate on the west, and lies beyond the crest of the Ghát on the upper slopes of the descent towards the Konkan. The 38 villages under report form a group which has on its eastern boundary the Dindori and Násik Tálukas and measures about 12 miles from north to south, while it extends westwards about 7 miles. In shape it would be nearly oblong, but for a deep indentation on its western border formed by the lands of Kasba Peint and of the Inám village of Berwal. The 38 villages now coming under revised settlement are among the most advanced in the Táluka; they are most open in conformation, are best situated with regard to markets and communications, and enjoy a somewhat more moderate rainfall than the remainder of the district. These remarks apply equally, however, to the two towns of Peint and Harsol and a few intervening villages which adjoin and are in all respects very similar to those now under report.

20. The face of the country is very undulating and uneven, there being no extent of level land either in the bottoms of the valleys or on the tops of the hills; the steeper slopes are frequently covered with trees among which teak is common, and trees often fringe the banks of the Nálás. The soil of the Mál lands is of a light colour throughout, is easily tilled, and decidedly of a high average quality for Warkas land. The rice fields are but roughly levelled and lack that skill in cultivation which is found in more populous tracts. The supply of moisture is poor on the average and a second crop is hardly ever seen; but this is often the fault of the cultivator rather than of the land.

21. The average rainfall at Peint during the last ten years is returned as 94 inches, and it may be presumed to be slightly less in the comparatively open part of the country now under report than it is in the more densely wooded tracts further to the west and north. The climate is most favourable for rice and for the crops usually raised in Ghát countries, but is reputed feverish and unhealthy except in the months of March, April and May.

22. Nágli or Náchni is the cereal most largely grown, and Warai ranks next in importance among the cereals, though the oil-seed (Khorásni) covers a larger area and is a more valuable crop. These three are the important products of the Mál lands and make up the usual rotation. Nágli and Warai are sown in seed-beds and transplanted, and their place in the rotation is sometimes taken by Sawa, a cereal which is inferior to the other two and does not require transplantation. The pulses grown are Túr, Udid and Kulthi; the first is of very poor quality unless raised, as it often is, in the second year on the beds where Nágli and Warai seedlings have been raised; but such areas are of course small. Udid is more largely grown than either of the other two pulses. Rice is the most valuable crop grown in the district, but the coarser kinds only are raised. In the rare instances where a second crop is sown after rice, gram and Watána are met with.

The most important fact to notice in connection with the agriculture of the tract is that Ráb is necessary for the cultivation of the three most valuable crops, which probably in any one year cover together quite three-fourths of the cultivated area. For rice, Nágli and Warai the Forest Commission have decided that Ráb cultivation is good farming, and the importance of Ráb, therefore, in this tract may be assumed to be very great.

23. It has not been possible to obtain any tabular information as to the areas covered by different crops. The usual forms have been filled in for each village by the Kulkarnis, but examination shows the figures to be so wide of the truth that it would be merely misleading to try to make any use of them. Considering the large number of villages each Kulkarni is responsible for, and

that in the Mál land they have had no survey numbers hitherto whereby to guide themselves, they could hardly be expected perhaps to form any reliable estimate of crop areas.

24. The villages under report lie on each side of the made road from Peint to Násik, and extend southwards almost as far as the road from Harsol to Násik. These are the only two made roads at present in the district; they are kept in fair order, and the Gháts by which the descent is made from the plateau of the Deccan present no difficulties to loaded carts. Away from these roads there are few tracks for carts. There is no through traffic for carts because the road has not been made beyond Peint, and the track which leads on to Bulsár, and which is much used by strings of pack bullocks, is rough and difficult.

25. Peint and Harsol are the two chief markets, but neither are included in the tract under report. Peint, however, is but two or three miles distant to the west. A market is there held twice a week and there the grains of the country are brought for sale, while oil, ghee, jagri, salt, coconuts, with cotton clothes, &c., &c., from the plains as well as from the Konkan, may be purchased.

26. The following table gives figures from the survey census of 1865 contrasted with those now furnished by the Collector's Department as the result of a special census taken in July 1887:—

	1865.	1887.	Increase.	Decrease.	Per cent.
Population	4,458	9,913	5,455	...	122.
Houses	898	2,232	1,334	...	149.
Agricultural cattle	673	1,545	872	...	130.
Cows, buffaloes and their young	3,159	2,905	...	254	—8.
Sheep and goats	365	736	371	...	102.
Carts	1	22	21	...	2,100.
Horses and ponies	33	62	29	...	88.
Wells and Budkis	32	50	18	...	56.

27. Population, it appears, has more than doubled itself, the increase indeed being 122 per cent. and the density* per square mile being now 157 whereas it was but 71. Houses have increased in higher proportion (149 per cent.) and it is worth mention that whereas formerly all were thatched there are now 78 tiled, and that Chávdís, of which there were only 2 in 1865, are now returned as 20 in number.

28. Working cattle are now returned at 1,545, which is more by 130 per cent. than formerly and is equivalent to 1 pair to 21 acres of cultivated land,—a proportion which must be considered amply sufficient.

29. There is a slight decrease in the numbers of non-working cattle, but as Peint is not a suitable country for breeding this calls for no comment.

30. The increase under sheep and goats (102 per cent.) is entirely among the latter description of animal. Sheep cannot live in Peint all the year round, and are rarely seen in the Táluka.

31. It will be seen that carts, though not yet numerous, are at all events coming into use; there being 22 now where there was but one before. The difficult nature of internal communication from village to village will always prevent their being largely used.

32. The new wells which have been constructed are entirely for drinking purposes and have mostly been built with Government aid. Peint is not a country where well irrigation will ever be employed. Forty-two out of the total number of 50 wells are in good repair.

33. It appears that there are four Government schools in the 38 villages under report, at which the average attendance is 195 boys.

34. The Sub-Registrar's records show no transfers or mortgages of land in these villages during the last three years, and we have no information, therefore, of the usual kind bearing on the value of land. As only rice land hitherto has been defined and recorded, and there has been no right of occupancy granted in the Mál lands, the country has not yet reached the stage when land becomes the subject of money transactions, and no instances even were met with of its being sublet for rent in kind.

35. Násik is the market which rules the prices in Peint, and I have noted, therefore, in Appendix G. the rates current in that market since the Peint settlement has been in force and for ten years previous. The settlement was introduced just when prices were at their highest owing to the influence of the American War, but it will be seen that the price of cleaned rice, which is the ruling staple in all Ghát districts, has been on the whole well maintained until now.* In Khorasni (gingelly seed), which can be most successfully grown over all the Mál land, Peint possesses a crop which must always be in demand for exportation, but unfortunately no reliable record of its price is forthcoming.

	*Cleaned Rice.
	Sers.
1855-56—1864-65 ...	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
1865-66—1874-75 ..	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
1875-76—1886-87 ...	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

36. The revenue history of the villages under report since the settlement in 1865 and for ten years previous is given in Appendix H. in the usual form, which will be apt to mislead, however, unless the peculiar features of the settlement are kept clearly in mind. The figures in the column for occupied Acres include, it must be remembered, not only the rice area (which alone can be said to be occupied in the ordinary sense of the word), but the whole of the area of the Mál lands to which the Mál Makta leases referred; and the column for assessment in the same way includes the lump assessment fixed on this area. No expansion of occupied area or revenue can, therefore, from the nature of the case, appear from year to year: the only fluctuations shown are those which occurred under the conditions of the lease when the number of so-termed 'ploughs' in a village fell in any one year to less than half the standard number, or when having so fallen they subsequently increased in number. These fluctuations have been shown, the Mámlatdár explains, proportionately in the Acres as well as in the assessment, and the figures so excluded in any year from the occupied columns (columns 2 and 3) have been included in the columns for unoccupied area (columns 8 and 9). With this explanation the figures become intelligible and it will be understood that the very small apparent increase in occupied area during the period since 1865 does not necessarily indicate stagnation. It will be noted, on the contrary, that the enhancement of assessment in 1881-82 ordered by Government, pending the introduction of a regular survey settlement, has had no adverse effect but rather the contrary, and that, in spite of the fact that prices have not generally risen since the commencement of the lease, a higher revenue is now collected with increasing regularity.

37. Looking at the whole of the information set forth above, there seems no room to doubt that the tract under report has thriven since the introduction of the settlement 22 years ago, and the moderation of the provisional enhancement made on the original revenue has been demonstrated by the six years during which it has been levied. The benefits of the regular survey tenure now about to be conferred might be held to justify some small further enhancement, but it will be preferable perhaps to trust for increase of revenue to the expansion of cultiva-

tion which may be expected to ensue, and content ourselves with rates under which the lands now in cultivation will pay approximately what they do at present.

38. The 38 villages under report are sufficiently uniform in natural advantages and general characteristics to form one group for assessment purposes, and as the neighbouring Tálukás of Dindori, Násik and Igatpuri have all comparatively recently been brought under revised settlements, we shall find in their rates due to what will be suitable for the somewhat different circumstances of these villages. In both Dindori and Násik Tálukás, in the Dángi villages which adjoin those now under report, the old Mál classification of Mr. Tytler's system was retained at revision settlement and the rate imposed on the best description of Mál land was 7 Annas per Acre. In the remote north-west villages of Igatpuri Táluka, which though not actually adjoining Peint are not dissimilar in general character, the classification was done on the usual Joint Report rules and Mál and of the best description was assessed under the Rs. 1-6-0 maximum rate there sanctioned, at between 6 and 7 Annas.

39. Now the Peint villages with which we have to deal are somewhat more remote from markets than the Dángi villages of Násik Táluka which they adjoin on the west, but they are not more difficult of access than the bulk of the Dindori Dángs, and in climate, I am inclined to believe, they have no disadvantage. I propose, therefore, to apply to the classification of the Mál lands in Peint (*vide* paragraph 37 above) a maximum rate of Rs. 1-4-0 and thus assess ordinary Mál land of the 1st class at 5 Annas per Acre and the rest in proportion.

40. For the rice land a maximum rate of Rs. 6 seems suitable, and will give about the same average revenue as is now realised. A maximum rate of Rs. 6 was sanctioned for the adjoining Dángi villages of Násik, and in Dindori a maximum of Rs. 4-8-0 but in both these cases the maximum rate is different in nature to that now proposed, being an adaptation from Mr. Tytler's system of assessment, and referring to the best rice land found in the district, not to the best possible combination of soil and water advantage as the maximum now proposed is intended to do. In the north-west villages of Igatpuri Táluka which have been referred to above, the rice maximum sanctioned was Rs. 8, and this rate may fairly be compared with that now proposed, being similar in nature.

41. The following statement shows the estimated result of the proposed rates contrasted with the present assessment:—

No. of Villages.	BY EXISTING SETTLEMENTS.		BY SURVEY SETTLEMENT.						Percentage Decrease	
	Description of land.		Government occupied land.		Government assessed waste land.		Total, Occupied and Unoccupied land.			
	Aores.	Rs.	Aores.	Rs.	Aores.	Rs.	Aores.	Rs.		
88	Rice land under survey tenure.	1,623	3,159	Old rice .. 1,554	2,982	Rice .. 40	74	25,115	9,326	
	Mál land given out in the block under Mál Makta system	33,291	4,301	New rice .. 312	258						Mál .. 6,186	2,300
	Total	34,919	7,360	15,839	6,952	9,226	2,374	25,115	9,326	-5 5

The Mál area shown by the present survey under the occupied head is that now in actual cultivation, *i.e.*, the land on which revenue has been paid in the present year. On this area the proposed rates show a small decrease, but there is good reason to believe that on the introduction of the settlement more than sufficient of the waste area will be taken up to show an actual increase in revenue, while the remainder will be available for future expansion. When all the waste has been taken up a revenue of Rs. 9,326 will be obtained, which is equivalent to an advance of 27 per cent. on the present realisations.

42. The effect of the proposed rates on individual villages is of course very variable, for, added to the fact that the proposed assessment is worked out on individual fields whereas the old assessment was placed on the whole block, there is the fact to be remembered that the old valuation was of the very roughest possible description, and may have been influenced by circumstances quite apart

from the mere quality by the soil, such as the prevailing caste of the cultivators and the total amount of Mál land in a village. Between the results of systems so different it is useless to look for any correspondence in details.

43. The new rice area has been assessed as dry-crop, receiving a small addition proportioned to its water advantages, but in no case getting an assessment above the dry-crop maximum rate.
New rice.
44. The garden land, only 13 Acres in area, is all watered from streams, and will take an average assessment of Rs. 1-6-2 per Acre. There is no land irrigated from wells in these villages.
Garden.
45. The Ráb area (6,310 Acres) is excluded from the column for assessed waste because it is not proposed to place on it any separate assessment, but it stands on a different footing to other unassessed waste because of its intimate connection with the cultivated lands. It is proposed then to treat it as common land, and that the people shall be informed when the new settlement is announced that their custom of lopping remains undisturbed, that these lands are for the common use, according to custom, of the whole cultivable lands of the village, and for common grazing, but that any cultivation within their limits or any cutting of the wood, &c, for export is strictly prohibited and will be severely punished.
Ráb areas.

46. The question of how best such areas can be dealt with in the field and on the record is, I am aware, one which has been much discussed; one great source of the difficulty being that, wherever hitherto encountered, it has been mixed up with the question of cultivation in warkas lands. In fully settled districts where the pressure of population has long been appreciable, and where the denudation of the Ráb areas shows beyond doubt that all rights in Warkas land have been appropriated and are jealously guarded, it is nevertheless notoriously difficult to ascertain, definitely, the limits of individual rights, and when ascertained, the still more difficult question of how and to what extent they should be demarcated and recorded still remains to be disposed of. In fully settled districts such rights are minutely sub-divided, and to define them in detail would require expensive and elaborate operations altogether disproportionate to the value to the State of the record obtained. It has been found necessary, therefore, in such districts for a limit to be fixed up to which the State should at public cost divide and demarcate Warkas lands, and below which it will be done only on certain conditions and at the cost of those interested. The fixing of this limit and these conditions must, no doubt, demand much consideration in the case of Warkas land generally, but there seems room to doubt whether in the case of tree areas not used for cultivation it could ever be the interest of the state to make any sub-division at its own cost.

47. It will probably be admitted that if we were dealing with a country there no rights had as yet grown up it would be theoretically right to assign a certain area for Ráb to each cultivable Acre in the village, whether occupied or unoccupied, in due proportion, and thus ensure that all land got its fair share of Ráb area. But even in such a case the expense would be out of all proportion in to the value of the land, and an elaborate scheme of sub-division could not be justified. In Peint, however, which is neither a fully settled district nor there where no rights have grown up, I venture to believe there are special reasons which make it the wisest course for the present to record these tree areas simply as unassessed common land.

48. The numbers which have been separately measured as Ráb included besides those in which rights of Ráb already exist, some areas which have been lately excluded from forest and others which being obviously suitable and available have now been reserved for the purpose. It is, no doubt, the case that many owners of rice land have acquired by custom a right to cut Ráb over areas more or less definitely known to themselves, but it is also the case that in a large proportion of the area set aside as Ráb no regularly defined right of lopping exists at all. If any attempt were now made by inquiry to record Ráb rights it can hardly be doubted that false claims would be brought forward on all hands, many of which it would be impossible to reject, at all events entirely, and

in the result a very unfair distribution of the Ráb area would be recorded and become at once stereotyped, to the lasting detriment of the cultivation of the district.

49. If, however, the Ráb areas are now merely treated as an assessed common, the occupants, present and future, of the new survey numbers will acquire, or will have a fair chance of acquiring, in natural course, rights of lopping, more or less proportioned to the areas they may hold; while, if at any future time it should be found necessary or expedient to define those rights in detail, we may anticipate that the distribution of Ráb area then found to have been arrived at by a natural process will be a fairer one than any which could now be made.

50. I prefer to put no assessment on the Ráb areas, because, though, no doubt, they are most valuable and indeed necessary to the cultivators, it seems likely that a separate assessment would be a source of difficulties hereafter. A charge for Ráb would perhaps theoretically be best and most simply arranged by a rateable addition to the assessment of each number in the village, occupied and unoccupied alike. But though such a charge would make plain the intention of Government that all should rateably share the common advantage, it might be held to lay an obligation on Government to point out the portion of Ráb land to which each field was entitled. This would be, in my humble opinion, an impracticable undertaking even in a country where no rights had yet sprung up, still more so where rights had come into existence.

51. In asking the approval of Government, however, to the proposed arrangement, I must not omit to point out that it has not been possible to secure an equal or sufficient area for Ráb in all villages alike. The total area thus separated (6,310 acres) is equivalent, over the whole 38 villages, to a proportion

		Acres.	
*Thus, total cultivable...	...	25,000	of about 1 acre to each 2 acres
Deduct—One-third fallow	8,300		cultivable in any one year.*
One-fourth of remainder			This will appear only a very
cultivated with non-Ráb			moderate allowance, when it is
crops	4,200		remembered that the Mál land
		12,500	crops in this district are very
		12,500	important, and depend on Ráb
Remainder requiring Ráb	...	12,500	for their cultivation. I am
			inclined to believe a much

larger area is really needed, though we have no certain information by which to decide the point. It would be a mistake, I think, to allow the area which has been secured to be materially curtailed by any attempt to equalise the proportion of Ráb in different villages or reduce it in those where the proportion may seem to be larger than is necessary for that particular village. A cultivator of land in one village where Ráb is scarce will, no doubt, make up the deficiency by taking up land in a neighbouring village where it is plentiful, and the distribution of Ráb may be left to regulate itself in the future, as it has in the past, so long as care is taken to preserve from destruction a tree area which on the whole is fairly sufficient.

52. In some of the eastern villages no areas have been measured as Ráb, because no tree-covered areas were found to exist. In these villages, if there are any cultivators who are stinted for Ráb or who have no custom of obtaining it from adjoining village lands, such must be left to provide for their wants by taking up unoccupied Mál land and devoting it to tree growth. Provision, I may add, has been made to entertain at the time of settlement any representations the villagers may make of their wants, and, where good reason can be shown, some part of the area which has been measured as Ráb may be made available for cultivation. I believe this, however, will seldom be advisable, except where it may seem necessary to make good to a village any area of cultivable land which has recently been taken from it for forest.

53. Over and above the prohibition of cultivation and of export of the wood in Ráb areas, I am not aware that any further precaution can be taken to preserve them from destruction. It might have some effect, perhaps, to forbid the cutting of the top or leading shoot in any tree, but, so far as I have seen, the lopping for Ráb in Peint appears to be carried out with some regard for the future.

54. Before leaving the subject, I wish to place on record my opinion that the tree-covered areas in these villages are in nowhere in excess of what are needed and should be preserved. The area of assessed waste available for cultivation is not very large and may speedily be taken up; but when this has come to pass and it may seem that increasing pressure of population demands more land for cultivation, it will still, I believe, be far preferable to rely on improved agriculture for increased yield rather than to sacrifice any part of the common Ráb area to a clamour for more land.

55. The results of the new survey are contrasted below as far as possible with the existing record under all heads:—

	Old Record.		New Record.	
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Government occupied land (including under old record Mál land leased in the block)... ..	34,919	7,360	15,889	6,952
Government unoccupied assessed waste	107	136	9,226	2,374
Inám ... ..	...	...	...	...
Government unassessed, unarable, forest, Ráb, lands, roads, &c., &c.	6,013	...	15,253	...
Total	41,039	7,496	40,368	9,326

56. In conclusion, I have the honour to recommend that the proposed rates, if approved, may be guaranteed for the usual period of 30 years.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. M. FLETCHER,

Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern
Marátha Country Revenue Surveys.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Rainfall registered at the Mámldárs' Kacheris.

Years.	RAINFALL AT					
	Peint.		Dindori.		Násik.	
	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1877	42	43	20	65	19	24
1878	117	93	41	29	51	96
1879	113	03	41	74	34	98
1880	83	22	21	43	20	87
1881	91	02	25	33	22	13
1882	111	58	42	04	41	51
1883	121	40	54	17	62	62
1884	85	24	32	89	31	07
1885	85	59	26	17	31	80
1886	92	12	33	7	37	28
Total ...	943	56	338	78	353	46
Average ...	94	36	33	88	35	35

W. M. FLETCHER,
Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern
Maráth Country Revenue Surveys.

APPENDIX B.

STATISTICAL TABLE NO. IV.

Detail of Population.

Táluka.	Caste.	MALES.		Total Males.	FEMALES.		Total Females.	Total of Cols. 5 and 8.	CAN READ OR ARE LEARNING TO DO SO.				
		Under 15 years of age	Above 15 years of age		Under 12 years of age	Above 12 years of age.			Males.		Females.		
									Number.	Per cent.	Number	Per cent.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Thirty eight vil- lages of the Peint Táluka.	Christians.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Jews	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Jains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	667	..	..
	Lingáyats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Musalimáns	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hindus	Brahmans
		Others	1,119	1,223	2,342	621	1,492	2,113	4,455	..	500
		2,638	2,609	5,207	1,872	2,827	4,699	9,906	270	53	3	01	
	Total	1,119	1,223	2,342	621	1,492	2,113	4,455	1	53	3	01	
		2,638	2,609	5,213	1,872	2,828	4,700	9,913	275	53	3	01	

The upper line of figures is that of the previous settlement

W. M. FLETCHER,
Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern
Maráth Country Revenue Surveys.

APPENDIX C.

STATISTICAL TABLE NO. VI.

Return of Houses, Chávdís, Wells, &c, and of Live and Dead Stock.

Táluka.	Surveyed Villages	HOUSES.					WELLS.				CART AND PLOUGHS.		LIVE STOCK.														
		Chávdís.	Tiled	Flat-roofed.	Thatched.	Total.	For Irrigation.	Drinking.	Out of repair.	Total.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Horses and Ponies			Female Buffaloes.			Cows			Oxen Cart and Plough and Buffaloes	Sheep, old and young.	Goats, old and young	Donkeys, old and young	Mules.	Camels.
													Old.	Young.	Total.	Old	Young.	Total.	Old.	Young	Total.						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Peint Táluka	38 Government vil- lages ..	2	..	..	806	898	..	..	..	32	1	..	12	21	33	171	106	367	1,372	1,420	2,792	673	365	..	4	..	..
		20	78	..	2,134	2,232	..	42	8	50	22	707	41	21	62	99	50	149	1,523	1,233	2,756	1,545	2	731	..	..	..

The upper line of figures is that of the previous settlement.

APPENDIX D.

Statement of Shops, Looms, Temples, &c., and average Births, Deaths, Vaccination in 38 Villages of the Peint Táluka, Násik Collectorate.

No of Village.	District.	Shops.	Oil Presses.	LOOMS.		Hand-gins.	Births.	Deaths.	Vaccination.	Liquor-shops.	Talukhánas.	Dharam-shúlas.	TEMPLES.	
				Cotton.	Woolen.								Hindu	Musal-mán.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	Peint Táluka ...	12	1	..	..	..	1882-83 ... 20 1883-84 .. 293 1884-85 ... 244 1885-86 ... 350 1886-87 .. 415 Total .. 1,322 Average 264	1882-83 ... 16 1883-84 ... 273 1884-85 .. 180 1885-86 . 173 1886-87 116 Total .. 758 Average... 152	1882-83 1883-84 1884-85 1885-86 .. 742 1886-87 Total ... 742 Average. 742	1	..	1	17	..

W. M. FLETCHER,

APPENDIX E.

Statement of Schools, together with their average attendance, in the year 1886-87.

Number of Villages	District.	GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.				PRIVATE SCHOOLS		Remarks.
		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		
		Number of schools.	Average attendance.	Number of schools.	Average attendance.	Number of schools.	Average attendance.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
38	Peint Táluka	4	195	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX F.

Statement of Wells, Tanks, and Budkis in Villages of the Peint Táluka of the Násik Collectorate in the year 1887.

Number of Villages	District.	WELLS WITHIN VILLAGE SITE.				WELLS IN SURVEY NUMBERS				DETAIL OF COLUMNS 8 TO 10.		TANKS.				BUDKIS.					
		Used for Irrigation.		Used for Drinking.		Used for Irrigation.		Used for Drinking.		Wells dug before last Settlement.	Wells dug since last Settlement.	According to old measurement.		According to new measurement.		Pakka.		Kachh.			
		In good order.	Out of repair.	In good order.	Out of repair.	In good order.	Out of repair.	In good order.	Out of repair.			Total.	Used for Irrigation.	Used for Drinking.	Used for Irrigation.	Used for Drinking.	Total.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
38	Peint Táluka	..	..	1	..	..	41	8	50	32	18	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..

W. M. FLETCHER,

Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern
Marátha Country Revenue Surveys.

Statement showing the prices prevalent from 1855-56 to 1886-87 in the
Násik Táluka of the Násik Collectorate.

Years.	MEASURED BERS OF 80 TOLÁS PER RUPER.				Remarks
	Bájri.	Wheat.	Gram.	Cleaned Rice.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1855-56	29	32	35	19	
1856-57	23½	27	32	17½	
1857-58	34½	30½	27	19½	
1858-59	30	32	28½	17	
1859-60	38	32	28½	16	
1860-61	31½	32	24½	14	
1861-62	22½	23	17	15	
1862-63	18½	19½	20	15½	
1863-64	13	15	15½	12½	
1864-65	11½	12½	12	9	
Total ...	252	255½	240	155	
Average ...	25½	25½	24	15½	
1865-66	13	13½	13½	6	
1866-67	20	14	12	8	
1867-68	14	15	13	8	
1868-69	20½	19½	18	12	
1869-70	13½	13½	12½	8½	
1870-71	18	15	18	12	
1871-72	18	15	19	11	
1872-73	15½	14	18	12	
1873-74	22½	16	17	12	
1874-75	26	17	19	12	
Total ...	181	152½	160	101½	
Average ...	18	15½	16	10½	
1875-76	21	17	22½	12½	
1876-77	13½	13	16	10	
1877-78	9½	8½	10	7½	
1878-79	11	8	10	8	
1879-80	10½	10	12½	8½	
1880-81	18¾	11½	21½	10½	
1881-82	23	16	22½	11½	
1882-83	19¼	14½	16½	13½	
1883-84	17	17½	18½	11½	
1884-85	20	22	22	14	
1885-86	17¼	15	17¾	11	
1886-87	18¾	13¾	17¾	11	
Total ...	199½	166½	207	130	
Average ...	16½	13¾	17½	10¾	

W. M. FLETCHER,

Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern
Marátha Country Revenue Surveys.

APPENDIX H.

evenue statement for 38 Government Villages, situated in the Peint Taluka of the Nasik Collectorate, into which the Survey Settlement was introduced in the year 1865-66.

Years.	OCCUPIED LAND PAYING ASSESSMENT TO GOVERNMENT						UNOCCUPIED ASSESSED ARABLE GOVERNMENT LAND			LAND THE REVENUE OF WHICH IS ALIENATED ENTIRELY OR PARTIALLY (IN A.M.)			TOTAL LAND, GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED, UNOCCUPIED AND IN A.M.			Balance outstanding at close of year.	Remarks.
	Occupied Acres in cluding Total Mha lands on contract.	Full Standard Assessment.	Remissions.			Balance collected	Acres	Full Assessment	Realization from auction-sale or grazing	Acres.	Full Standard assessment.	Quit-rent, &c	Total of Columns 8 and 11	Full Assessment—Total of Columns 8, 9 and 12	Collections—Total of Columns 7, 10 and 13		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.					Rs.	Rs.		
55-56	...	2,822	383	146	529	2,293	...	145	..	...	...	...	..	2,967	2,293	...	
56-57	...	2,783	373	54	427	2,356	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	2,825	2,356	..	
57-58	..	2,506	380	...	380	2,216	..	71	...	...	...	..	...	2,667	2,216	..	
58-59	..	2,454	394	..	394	2,060	...	166	..	...	...	...	..	2,620	2,060	..	
59-60	..	3,329	622	..	622	2,707	..	160	...	...	...	..	...	3,489	2,707	..	
60-61	..	3,515	640	...	640	2,875	..	142	..	...	...	...	...	3,657	2,875	..	
61-62	..	3,810	644	...	644	3,166	..	66	...	...	...	..	...	3,876	3,166	..	
62-63	..	3,870	644	32	676	3,194	...	117	..	...	...	...	..	3,987	3,194	...	
63-64	..	4,663	644	..	644	4,019	...	31	..	...	...	..	..	4,694	4,019	..	
64-65	..	4,552	649	..	649	3,903	...	350	...	...	...	..	...	4,902	3,903	..	
65-66	34,500	5,837	...	...	..	5,837	523	558	...	...	...	...	35,023	6,395	5,837	..	
66-67	34,361	5,602	...	24	24	5,578	669	795	...	...	...	..	35,030	6,397	5,578	...	
67-68	34,082	5,636	..	...	..	5,636	938	761	...	...	...	..	35,020	6,397	5,636	...	
68-69	34,457	5,619	...	40	40	5,579	564	780	...	...	...	...	35,021	6,399	5,579	...	
69-70	34,444	5,623	..	..	..	5,623	578	773	..	...	...	...	35,022	6,396	5,623	..	
70-71	34,548	5,785	..	40	40	5,745	474	612	..	..	...	..	35,022	6,397	5,745	..	
71-72	34,318	5,781	...	...	..	5,781	707	612	..	...	...	...	35,025	6,393	5,781	...	
72-73	33,710	5,743	...	..	..	5,743	1,319	651	...	...	...	..	35,029	6,394	5,743	..	
73-74	28,279	4,987	...	12	12	4,975	6,748	1,407	..	...	...	...	35,027	6,394	4,975	..	
74-75	33,248	5,569	..	2	2	5,567	1,773	826	..	..	...	..	35,021	6,395	5,567	...	
75-76	32,941	5,597	..	...	..	5,597	2,081	803	...	...	...	...	35,022	6,400	5,597	..	
76-77	33,602	5,828	..	...	..	5,828	1,423	569	...	...	...	...	35,025	6,397	5,828	..	
77-78	34,654	5,961	...	...	..	5,961	367	437	...	..	...	...	35,021	6,398	5,961	..	
78-79	34,660	5,951	..	..	..	5,951	361	446	78	..	..	..	35,021	6,397	6,029	...	
79-80	34,764	6,148	..	..	..	6,148	260	252	9	..	...	...	35,024	6,400	6,157	..	
80-81	34,898	6,286	..	...	..	6,286	124	110	3	..	...	...	35,022	6,396	6,239	..	
81-82	34,949	7,437	..	..	..	7,437	71	72	4	..	...	...	35,020	7,509	7,441	..	
82-83	34,585	7,320	..	..	..	7,320	439	176	12	..	..	..	35,024	7,496	7,332	..	
83-84	34,590	7,329	..	...	..	7,329	435	168	6	..	...	..	35,025	7,497	7,335	...	
84-85	34,926	7,380	...	...	..	7,380	97	120	7	..	..	..	35,023	7,500	7,337	..	
85-86	34,888	7,314	...	...	..	7,314	134	176	60	...	...	...	35,022	7,490	7,374	..	
86-87	34,917	7,358	...	..	..	7,358	106	139	12	..	..	..	35,023	7,497	7,370	..	

The years above the black line are those antecedent to the year of Survey Settlement.

W. M. FLETCHER,
Superintendent, Poona and Nasik and Southern
Maratha Country Revenue Surveys.

APPENDIX I.

General Statement referred to in paragraph 37 of the Poona and Násik Revenue Survey Superintendent's Report No 698 of the 11th April 1888, for 38 villages situated in the Peint Táluka of the Násik Collectorate.

Present Taluka	Number	Name of Village	BY FORMER SETTLEMENT.														BY REVISION SURVEY.														UNOCCUPIED WASTES	Average assessment of all Government land per Acre	Increased percentage on Government Occupied Land	REMARKS.
			Maximum dry crop rate	Total area for cultivation including Ináin	Total area not available for cultivation	GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED LAND, AND MÁL LAND LEASED IN THE BLOCK											Maximum dry-crop rate	Total area for cultivation including Ináin	Total area not available for cultivation	GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED LAND														
						Dry-crop.		Garden		Rice		Total.		Water cess	Total Assessment	Dry-crop				Garden.		Rice		Total		Water cess	Total Assessment							
						Acres	Assessment.	Acres	Assessment	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.			Acres				Assessment	Acres	Assessment	Acres	Assessment.	Acres			Assessment.						
8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35				
			Acres	Acres	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs a p	Acres	Acres	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs				
1	Jala	825	13	704	84		81	87	825	151		151	4 0	621	284	341	82			38	57	379	139		139	242	54	0	5 0	-7 9				
2	Pulsi Khurd	438	285	423	54		15	19	438	73		15	4 0	183	478	137	24			17	24	144	55		139	39	10	0	5 8	-24 7				
4	Pátil	708	4	674	72		31	66	705	158		31	4 0	585	108	233	61			40	79	323	139		462	58	0	5 5	0 7					
8	Gundhol	112	35	110	0		1	1	111	10		1	4 0	101	20	60	11			2	2	69	13		69	11	0	2 11	30 0					
6	Pawarpada	172		168	18		4	8	172	26		4	4 0	26	14	107	27			6	10	113	37		37	68	12	0	4 10	42 3				
6	Dolhárma	768	81	737	99		23	58	765	157		23	4 0	366	390	230	60			31	58	461	118		118	105	28	0	6 5	34 3				
7	Wágháchwái	206	56	199	54		7	9	206	63		7	4 0	160	148	123	34			6	10	129	4		44	31	7	0	5 1	-30 2				
8	Shambharmáthá	53		53	6				53	6			4 0	38	8	20	5					20	5		5	18	5	0	4 9	-16 7				
9	Cholmukh	725	859	693	163		31	61	724	214		31	4 0	431	656	237	59			41	55	278	114		114	153	36	0	5 7	-46 7				
10	Lingona	1,011	14	961	135		46	72	1,010	207		46	4 0	572	458	291	60			57	93	348	173		173	224	60	0	6 6	-16 4				
11	Koparli Budruk	2,015	155	1,905	138		106	218	2,010	356		106	4 0	1,775	341	932	231			147	207	1,059	448		438	716	167	0	5 5	23 0				
12	Tudha	2,447	67	2,343	198		104	237	2,447	435		104	4 0	1,950	492	1,022	271			161	297	1,183	570		570	767	195	0	6 3	31 0				
13	Hátlondhi	2,395	75	2,308	189		86	178	2,394	367		86	4 0	1,463	986	784	211			103	185	887	396		396	576	147	0	5 11	7 9				
14	Singdmí	856	1,306	617	137		39	27	856	184		39	4 0	477	1,570	221	64			45	50	206	114		114	211	67	0	5 9	-30 5				
15	Eklara	1,109	906	1,088	115		39	54	1,106	189		39	4 0	472	1,383	271	77			38	43	309	120		120	16	43	0	5 6	-29 0				
16	Uchhala	3,731	431	3,575	622		144	273	3,709	795		144	4 0	2,158	2,041	1,284	356			157	252	1,441	608		608	717	19	0	5 11	-23 5				
17	Jámbhulmál	607	819	588	58		14	13	603	70		14	4 0	277	636	195	50			11	9	208	59		59	71	19	0	4 6	-15 7				
18	Márguda	899	10	899	108		29	65	868	173		29	4 0	897	61	521	185	2	2	28	65	551	302		302	244	62	0	5 4	17 3				
19	Harangson	1,163	34	1,086	96		63	152	1,140	248		63	4 0	997	213	435	109			69	132	604	231		231	409	160	0	5 11	-6 9				
20	Asarbari	926	27	874	73		46	103	920	178		46	4 0	921	74	611	159			50	100	661	259		259	280	160	0	5 11	47 2				
21	Jámbvahir	848	182	330	46		10	24	840	70		10	4 0	844	188	219	59			14	21	233	82		82	111	3	0	5 9	17 1				
22	Karanjál	1,282	55	1,186	209		94	205	1,280	414		94	4 0	1,066	290	649	180	11	11	92	188	752	379		379	334	97	0	5 7	11 4				
23	Sáwalghát	350	88	315	37		21	42	356	79		21	4 0	862	79	178	46			24	42	199	88		88	163	39	0	5 7	11 4				
24	Kumbbarbari	478	8	463	54		20	42	473	96		20	4 0	371	93	215	56			21	39	246	95		95	11	39	0	5 9	-1 0				
25	Umbarpadá	613	14	576	72		33	60	609	122		33	4 0	568	52	312	84			39	79	351	163		163	217	65	0	6 5	33 6				
26	Kotambi	927	304	849	126		68	137	917	263		68	4 0	736	525	398	107			70	144	468	251		251	268	74	0	7 0	-4 6				
27	Sinda	1,830	182	1,707	252		118	238	1,825	490		118	4 0	1,430	457	810	210			126	216	936	426		426	494	122	0	6 2	-19 1				
29	A d Khurd	732	24	694	90		34	62	728	162		34	4 0	479	28	181	54			40	66	221	120		120	28	78	0	6 7	-21 1				
29	A d Budruk	1,190	92	1,137	162		49	103	1,186	265		49	4 0	589	679	420	114			63	104	473	218		218	116	30	0	6 9	-17 7				
30	Sáwarpadá	316	5	275	34		38	64	316	98		38	4 0	304	35	170	40			37	70	207	128		128	97	27	0	8 2	30 6				
31	Tilháat	331	87	323	54		22	39	331	83		22	4 0	324	112	197	50			21	39	218	88		88	106	27	0	5 8	-5 4				
32	Niranda Pargana Peint	1,128	19	1,060	180		65	130	1,133	310		65	4 0	898	906	407	112			72	134	479	246		246	419	112	0	6 2	-20 6				
33	Bhoygaon	1,367	180	1,306	162		61	117	1,367	279		61	4 0	891	599	548	149			72	121	620	270		270	271	12	0	6 5	-3 2				
34	Devgaon	811	7	754	144		67	101	811	245		67	4 0	725	108	436	120			64	106	595	256		256	290	67	0	6 3	-3 4				
35	Gonda	1,376	42	1,311	144		6	106	1,376	260		6	4 0	883	540	446	119			72	119	518	229		229	364	80	0	5 7	-3 4				
36	Jau-bla	376	485	366	63		10	19	376	82		10	4 0	339	653	189	40			12	17	181	57		57	18	36	0	4 4	-80 5				
37	Bádti	393	88	385	43		7	9	392	62		7	4 0	240	232	160	35			8	14	168	48		48	72	16	0	4 3	-7 7				
38	Hatí Sinda	18		17	1		1		18	2		1	4 0	15												15	20	2	2					
Total			85,026	6,013	33,291	4,201			1,628	3,159	34,919	7,360		7,860	25,116	16,253	14,008	3,694	13	13	1,868	3,240	15,839	6,947	5	6,902	9,226	2,374	0	5 11	-5 5			

Kabuláyat or lease for Mál land taken in 1865-66.

We, the undersigned Patel and Rayats of Kulwandi, Peint State, Zilla Ahmednagar, do hereby agree as follows:—

In the above village the mál land measures 3,361 acres. The assessment has been fixed at Rs. 480 on 30 ploughs, at Rs. 16 per plough. We agree to take the Mál at this sum for ten years from 1865-66.

Conditions of lease.

2. The assessment has been fixed on consideration of the extent of the Mál and the usual number of ploughs. So we agree to make a list of the ploughs annually and to submit the list in the ploughing season, *i.e.*, before the 1st June, to the Mámlatdár.

3. If in any year the number of ploughs is reduced by death or desertion of cultivators to one half the standard number fixed, Government should cause enquiry to be made with a view to reduction of the assessment fixed. If the diminution is less than half the number of ploughs no enquiry need be made. We will divide the assessment rateably among ourselves.

4. If in any year the plough list shows an increase on the standard number, and if at the charge per plough fixed there is a profit, the Patel shall take half and the other half we will equally divide among ourselves.

5. We agree not to cultivate by plough or Hatále (hand-plough) Government teak lands, which have been separately measured off. Nor will we cut the trees in such land.

6. We will not cut teak, blackwood, Tiwas and Bamboos, which are reserved to Government in the Mál which has been set apart for our cultivation. But we should be allowed to take sufficient bamboos for our houses. Nevertheless we will go on cutting in the Jungle wood for agricultural and domestic use, for firewood and for Ráb.

7. Now the assessment on the "Awan" or Kharíf number has been fixed and that on the mál has also been fixed as stated in the first paragraph. But we agree, at the call of Government, from next year 1865-66, to pay 1 anna per rupee on the aggregate assessment fixed, as Local Fund cess for schools, tanks, &c.

Signed 16th May 1865 by Patel and 3 other Rayats.

Countersigned by

Colonel WADDINGTON,

Superintendent, Revenue Survey.

(True Copy.)

W. M. FLETCHER,

Superintendent, Poona and Násik and S. M. C.

Revenue Surveys.

Lease taken in 1875-76.

We, the undersigned Patel and Rayats of Kulwandi, Pargana Peint State, Zilla Násik, do hereby agree as follows:—

In the above village the Mál land measures 3,361 Acres and 22 Gunthás. The assessment has been fixed at Rs. 480 on 30 ploughs, at Rs. 16 per plough. The lease given in 1865-66 for ten years expiring with 1874-75 has now expired. Government has ruled in Government Resolution No. 1114, dated 2nd March 1874, that the lease on the same terms should be extended for five years more. We agree to the extension as directed by the Collector.

Condition of lease.

2. As in 1865-66 lease.

3. If in any year the number of ploughs is by death or desertion diminished, then, in accordance with the correspondence with the Táluka ending with Collector's No. 23, dated 23rd September 1874, we will give the full plough assessment if the number of ploughs is more than half, and if the number is less than half we will pay half the full assessment.

4. If in any year the number of ploughs is increased above the standard fixed, then the excess assessment at the fixed plough rate will be divided among us rateably and we will pay the fixed (Kamal) assessment to Government.

5. We agree not to cultivate by plough or Hatále the Government teak lands, which have been separately measured off, except in those in which special sanction of Government is given. Nor will we cut the trees.

6. As in 1865-66, with the addition at the conclusion, "But whatever we cut we will cut after permission obtained."

7. As in 1865-66 Local Funds.

Signed on 20th October 1875 by Patel and 50 other Rayats.

Countersigned by Mámlatdár.

(True Copy)

W. M. FLETCHER,
Superintendent, Poona and Násik and S. M. C.
Revenue Surveys.

Lease for 1885-86.

(Preamble as before.)

The assessment on the Mál land measuring 3,361 Acres 22 Gunthás has been fixed on 30 ploughs at Rs. 16 per plough, *i. e.*, Rs. 480 + increase Rs. 60 Total Rs. 540.

(Recites former leases.)

Again according to the order issued by the Collector of Násik, No. 104, dated 13th October 1884, we agree as follows :—

Conditions of lease.

1. The above-named Mál land we agree to vacate whenever Government calls on us to do so.
2. As No. 2 in 1865-66, date altered to 1st August.
3. „ No. 3 in 1875-76.
4. „ No. 4 „ „
5. „ No. 5 „ „
6. „ No. 6 in 1865-66 with the addition of 1875-76 slightly amended requiring permission to cut for ploughs and houses.
7. As in 1865-66 and 1875-76.

Signed on 11th July 1885 by Patel and 30 other Rayats.

Countersigned by Mámlatdár.

(True Copy)

W. M. FLETCHER,
Superintendent, Poona and Násik and S. M. C.
Revenue Surveys.

No. 2419 of 1883.

FROM

W. B. MULOCK, ESQUIRE,
Collector of Násik;

TO

THE COMMISSIONER OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

*Násik Collector's Camp,
Igatpuri, 4th May 1888.*

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the report of the Superintendent, Poona, Násik and Southern Marátha Country Surveys, on the survey settlement of 38 villages of the Peint Táluka of this district.

2. I regret that being unacquainted with the Peint Táluka my remarks can only be of a very general nature. Mr. Frost, however, who saw the report before he left for Kaira, concurred in all its suggestions, and so far as I can judge they have my approval.

3. The villages to be settled are the most advanced in the táluka and lying on both sides of the Násik and Peint Road and to the eastward they are likewise the most get-at-able and the most favourably situated with respect to markets.

4. The whole 38 villages have been taken as forming one group for assessment purposes and the rates imposed recently at the revision settlement in the hilly parts of the neighbouring tálukás of Dindori, Násik and Igatpuri have been taken as a guide for the Superintendent's present proposals. In these tálukás the mál land of the best description has been assessed under the Rs. 1-6-0 maximum rate at between 6 and 7 annas. To the classification of mál lands in Peint a rather lower maximum rate of Rs. 1-4-0 has been applied and an assessment of 5 annas per acre has thus been placed on the mál lands of the first class.

5. For the rice lands a maximum rate of Rs. 6 is proposed, which, while higher than the Rs. 4-8-0 maximum rate sanctioned recently for the adjoining hilly villages of Dindori, is lower than the Rs. 8 rate sanctioned for the same description of village in the north-west villages of Igatpuri Táluka and equals the rate sanctioned for similar villages in the Násik Táluka.

6. The new rates on the present occupied area will result in a small decrease which, the Superintendent of Survey has reason to believe, will be turned into an increase by the waste that will be taken up on the introduction of the settlement.

7. Mr. Fletcher's proposal to treat the ráb area as free communal land has my concurrence. By this arrangement a repetition of the difficulties experienced in the ráb or warkas lands of the Thána District will be obviated.

8. In Thána, where ráb lands were measured, assessed and entered in the names of the respective cultivators, the rayats in many cases sold their rice lands and retained the lowly assessed ráb or warkas which were allotted for the purpose of supplying the ráb material necessary for the cultivation of the rice lands so parted with. They subsequently cut down and sold the trees in their warkas, cultivating the land with inferior crops. The consequence was the holders of the rice lands had necessarily to resort to Government forests for their ráb supply.

9. No individual rights being recognized under Mr. Fletcher's system, no ráb lands can be parted with as in Thána.

10. Mr. Fletcher suggests that when the new settlement is announced the people should be informed that their custom of *cutting* remains undisturbed. I conclude he means *lopping*. No cutting down of trees should on any account be tolerated, else the ráb land will soon be denuded.

11. Further strict injunctions should be issued that cultivation within the ráb area will not be permitted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. B. MULOCK,

Collector of Násik.

No. 945 OF 1888.

FROM

T. H. STEWART, ESQUIRE;
Survey and Settlement Commissioner;

TO

W. B. MULOCK, ESQUIRE;
Collector of Násik.

*Survey Commissioner's Office,
Mahábaleshvar, 15th May 1888.*

SIR,

In returning the papers regarding the survey settlement of 38 villages in the Peint Táluka received with your letter No. 2419, dated 4th May, I have the honour to ask your assistance in clearing up some doubts regarding the character of the ráb blocks which Mr. Fletcher proposes should be given out to villagers for communal usufruct, and to invite the favour of your opinion as to the best means to adopt for the protection of the blocks against possible denudation. It is evident from the last portion of your letter that you contemplate some greater measure of protection than would appear to enter into Mr. Fletcher's scheme.

2. From paragraph 48 of the Superintendent's report I gather that the areas to be set aside for ráb purposes at the revision settlement include the tree-clad lands which have been excluded from forests by the demarcating officer and which being over and above the requirements of the villagers for warkas cultivation are now available for the supply of ráb material. Being entered as unassessed waste in the survey papers these lands did not come under the survey classification and no idea can be obtained from the survey records as to the character of the tree-growth upon them. As much of the area may have been left out of forest limits more on account of its position being unfavourable for strict conservation than on account of valueless tree-growth, I think it would be very dangerous to make over so large an area as 6,300 acres in the best and most accessible part of Peint to the tender mercies of the village communities without some enquiry as to whether it contains any trees valuable for timber. Without some such information I cannot feel any confidence in commenting on Mr. Fletcher's scheme, although I agree with you that there are some features of it which are well worthy of favourable consideration.

3. I regret that at the present time I am unable to obtain the information I require through the agency of the Survey Department. The officer who superintended the classing of the villages is absent on furlough and there are no survey subordinates engaged in the Peint Táluka during the present season. I would therefore ask your help in obtaining it through the Mámlatdár, who might, I would suggest, be deputed to inspect the chief blocks personally

before the approaching rainy season. From the map it appears that the most distant village is within 10 miles from the Kacheri, and for the purposes of Pot Paháni the village officers must have been supplied with the "Paháni Suds" and "Kacha maps" from which the position of the ráb blocks will be readily ascertained. As regards the form in which the information should be supplied I would leave it to you to decide the question on a consideration of the short time left before the rains and the other duties which the Mámlatdár may be called on to perform. I shall be greatly obliged if you can arrange that the information should reach me early in June, as I know that Government are expecting the early submission of this report.

4. May I also request the favour of your opinion as to how, considering the local agencies available, the denudation of these ráb tracts can be most efficiently provided against. Mr. Fletcher seems to contemplate the forbidding of cultivation and the export of wood in these areas, but he does not point out by what agency the prohibitions are to be enforced. In a tract where Kulkarnis are exceedingly few, where the Patels are cultivators as much interested in the use or abuse of the ráb areas as any other villagers, where the revenue officers can afford but little time to watch the operations of ráb-logging in scattered villages, it appears to me that to trust to the village community only to obey the injunctions issued to them in the interests of ráb preservation is to court disappointment and ultimate failure. Whether the required protection should be afforded by the Forest Department or whether it should proceed from the Mámlatdár with some special agency placed under him is a question for grave consideration. Much will depend on the results of the inspection I have asked you kindly to arrange for me, and when you are supplied with the necessary details showing whether the ráb areas contain a more or less proportion of valuable tree-growth I shall be much obliged by an expression of your views on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. H. STEWART,

Survey and Settlement Commissioner.

No. 3464 of 1888.

FROM

THE COLLECTOR OF NASIK,

To

THE SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER,

Poona.

Násik Collector's Office, 21st June 1888.

SIR,

With reference to your No. 945 of 15th May last, I have the honour to submit herewith in original the report of my District Deputy Collector (No. 504 of 14th instant) on the subject of the tree-growth in the areas set aside for ráb purposes by the Superintendent of Survey in the 38 villages of the Peint Táluka.

2. The District Deputy Collector, the Mámlatdár and the Head Kárkún have inspected the major portion of the ráb areas and they have found the tree ráb supply to vary exceedingly in different villages. Some of the areas contain no ráb-producing trees whatever, one area is reported to contain but one such tree, while others contain a very insignificant number.

3. On the other hand, all the areas are reported to contain "a very large number of valuable timber trees," more especially teak.

4. Under these circumstances, in my opinion these proposed ráb areas should be declared village forests under Chapter III of the Forest Act and the tree-growth should be placed under the Forest Department. A few simple rules should be sanctioned allowing the villagers to lop the ráb-producing trees exclusive of

all those recently reserved by Government Resolution No. 3772 of 11th June 1888 and to take grass and leaves freely for ash manure for cultivation purposes. The District Deputy Collector has apparently overlooked these valuable additions to the ráb supply as he makes no mention of them, and although the Agricultural Department has reported them to be inferior to tree boughs when burnt, still there can be no doubt of these materials being largely used by cultivators for ash manure purposes. I was quite astonished only this hot season at the large number of ryots I daily met in my morning walks at Igatpuri carrying from the forests to their fields on their heads huge loads of leaves tied up in kámlis, and on my inquiring whether such when burnt were effective as manure they invariably replied that they answered all their purposes.

5. I am of opinion that all differences between the villagers and the forest officials regarding privileges in these village forests should be left to the Revenue Department, *i. e.*, to the Collector, for decision and settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. B. MULOOCK,

Collector of Násik.

No. 504 of 1888.

FROM

THE DISTRICT DEPUTY COLLECTOR,

Násik;

TO

W. B. MULOOCK, ESQUIRE,

Collector of Násik.

Násik, 14th June 1888.

SIR,

1 Report from the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Marátha Country Revenue Survey, to the address of the Collector, No 698 of 11th April 1888.

1 Letter from the Collector of Násik to the Commissioner of Survey and Settlement, No. 2419, dated 4th May 1888.

1 Letter from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner to the Collector of Násik, No. 945, dated 15th May 1888, bearing the latter's endorsement No. 2719, dated 19th May 1888.

1 Demi-official letter from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner to the address of the Collector, dated 13th May 1888.

1 Demi-official letter from the Collector to the address of the District Deputy Collector, dated 15th May 1888.

In returning the correspondence marginally noted regarding the proposal for the survey settlement of 38 villages of the Peint Táluka which has been referred to me for report as to the character of the tree-growth in the ráb blocks which the Superintendent has proposed should be preserved for communal ráb areas, I have the honour to state as follows.

2. According to your instructions the major portion of the so-called ráb areas belonging to the aforesaid villages has been duly inspected partly by myself and partly by the Mámlatdár of Peint and his Head Kárkún, with the result recorded in a tabular statement hereto appended.* It will be seen that the entire ráb areas of the first-named four villages have been inspected by me in person and the different kinds of timber trees found to exist in each survey number reserved for ráb have been separately shown, while all the jungle trees intended for ráb purpose have been entered together in a separate column. Remarks column of the statement will show that the Mámlatdár and the Head Kárkún to whom the inspection of the areas in the remaining villages had been entrusted were able to inspect the large and important blocks only, within the very short time allowed them for the purpose. The figures given cannot of course be taken to be exact, as they have been entered after roughly counting the trees. They are

* Not printed.

nevertheless approximately correct. The small and unimportant areas were not inspected by the Mámlatdár and the Head Kárkún, who were confined in their inspection to chief blocks only. The gaps were, however, filled up by taking the requisite information as regards the trees contained in those blocks from the Paháni Suds, in which the entries had been made by the Paháni Kárkúns who prepared the Suds under instructions previously issued by the Superintendent, Revenue Survey. An opportunity was taken to test these entries with the result obtained on my personal inspection of the areas of the four villages mentioned above, and I found that there was a vast difference between the two, which is due to the kárkúns having entered the tree-growths in a haphazard manner without taking the trouble actually to examine and count the trees. These areas have been imported in the statement with a view to show the whole area in one place. I hope the information now furnished will enable you and the Survey Commissioner to form an abstract idea as to the character and importance of the areas in question.

3. It will be seen that provision has been made for ráb areas for 34 out of 33 villages. The reason why no provision has been made for the remaining four villages will be found in the beginning of paragraph 52 of the Survey Superintendent's report.

4. * I would also humbly take the liberty to point out that some of the ráb areas which are mostly separated from the area of existing mál numbers contain no ráb-producing trees at all, and there are others which contain but only an insignificant number of such trees. But they all contain a goodly number of teak-wood trees. These areas appear to have been assigned for ráb purposes simply because they are tree-clad, irrespective of the consideration that they did not serve the purpose for which they were set aside by expressly detaching them from the cultivated area. One such area has come under my inspection (village No. 4 in the statement). It contains only one tree capable of yielding ráb, while all the other trees are teak-wood. I found that there were treeless patches of land in the area, which can be cultivated, and I think it would have been better if the plot had been left with the occupant of Survey No. 16, or at any rate if it had been handed over to the Forest Department.

5. As all the areas reserved for ráb contain a very large number of valuable timber trees, there is no question but that some protection is necessary as regards them. I am decidedly of opinion that the Forest Department is the only proper agency to watch over the timber in the blocks assigned for ráb as well as to enforce the prohibition against the denudation and export of the ráb-producing trees. No special agency, in my humble opinion, is needed such as will involve extra expenditure to the State without any corresponding advantage being gained. In this connection I would state my conviction that no thefts of timber or other wood need be apprehended on the part of the villagers, who, I find from my short experience, are the most order-loving and law-abiding people I ever saw. They would never go astray when once warned against it. Besides they have no facilities for removing the timber to the market-place owing to the physical difficulties. They are the most contented people. Their wants are few and far between, and they are not enterprising. Their housing is formed of huts walled with kárvi sticks and mud daub. The roof consists of bamboos with some beams of junglewood and is thatched with palas leaves and grass and supported by a few posts, also of junglewood. If they are allowed to take these materials gratis for the renewal or repairs of their huts, they will scarcely have recourse to committing thefts in the Government forest or in the newly formed ráb areas. I also make bold to say that no very strict supervision is necessary to preserve the ráb trees from destruction or denudation, as practically there is no demand for common wood in the táluka, as the ordinary wants of the people are for the most part satisfied by the wood found in their own mál numbers. As for fuel they can get it in plenty in Government forest, for which no prohibition exists. As for care necessary in lopping the trees for ráb, they do not appear to be indifferent about their own interest so as to be induced to lop them carelessly and without any regard for their future growth. In this opinion I am borne out by the remark contained in the latter portion of paragraph 53 of the Survey Superintendent's report alluded to above.

6. I beg to enclose a memorandum in Maráthi characters* which I have obtained from the Mámlatdár of Peint Táluka showing the kinds of jungle trees usually found in the jungles of Peint Táluka and probably exist in the ráb areas now under enquiry. These are the trees usually utilized for lopping for ráb purposes.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient Servant,
 SHRIDHAR GUNDO,
 District Deputy Collector, Násik.

No. 1367 OF 1888.

FROM
 T. H. STEWART, ESQUIRE,
 Survey and Settlement Commissioner;

TO
 THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
 Revenue Department.

Poona, 9th July 1888.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a report from the Superintendent, Poona and Násik and Southern Maráthá Country Surveys, submitting proposals for the revision of the partial survey settlement introduced into 38 villages of the Peint Táluka of the Násik Collectorate under Government Resolution No. 4843, dated 29th November 1865.

2. The partiality of the original survey settlement is explained in paragraph 8 of the report. It extended only to the rice lands, which were meaasured off into survey numbers with the attendant complement of subordinate survey numbers, the rabi and mál lands being subjected to no interior measurement but being left in large blocks to be held by the villagers under a "makta" or lease. With regard to the survey then made Government ruled in paragraph 2 of the sanctioning Resolution that "the present arrangement, by which the greater portion of the country has been merely marked off in the lump, must be considered a very rude and incomplete one."

3. Rude and incomplete as it certainly was, the arrangement lasted out the guaranteed term of 10 years and was prolonged for 5 years more. In 1880, however, when the subject came up for re-consideration, Government decided, in their Resolution No. 4353, dated 18th August 1880, that as the original survey was "very rough and the rates exceedingly low," it should be superseded at the earliest date by "a detailed survey," pending which the assessments in the case of rice lands should be increased 25 per cent. and in the case of dry-crop lands 12½ per cent.

4. The result of the detailed survey is now before us. The rice lands have been treated in the same way as at the first survey, the separation of recognized occupancies being brought up to date and their classification having been carried out on the latest and most approved system. As regards the mal lands, however, it is to be noted that in consequence of objections raised by the Collector of Násik as to the cost of a detailed survey of a tract in which but little enhancement of revenue was to be expected, Government in their Resolution No. 5364, dated 1st September 1887, approved of a scheme of survey on a less elaborate scale which had been drawn up by the Superintendent with the approval of the Acting Survey Commissioner. Rules to provide for the simplifying of the survey procedure were accordingly framed and issued to the establishment engaged on the work.

5. These rules, which were drawn up in my absence, contain many sensible provisions. Taking advantage of the fact that the old settlement had not re-

* Not printed.

cognized the right of occupancy in mál lands they provide for the straightening of boundary lines and the avoidance of unnecessary angles and bends. But in that they do away with subordinate survey numbers and allow the objectionable practice of clubbing portions of separate recognized occupancies in the same survey number, I cannot fully approve of them, because by innovating on the legal procedure of the survey they render future administration on the lines of the Revenue Code difficult and take away from the occupant many of the advantages and privileges which separate recognition of his occupancy confers on him.

6. As regards the latter consideration I would invite the attention of Government to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 1737, dated 5th April 1880, under which the settlement of the Dindori Dáng villages immediately bordering on these Peint villages was sanctioned, and to paragraph 4 of the letter of the Survey Commissioner, Colonel W. C. Anderson, forwarding the same scheme of settlement. In the Government Resolution the advantages of the system which has been for the first time for many years deliberately dropped in this settlement are clearly stated with special reference to tracts similar in all respects to Peint. "The revision operations," says the Resolution, "commenced in 1875-76 comprised the more minute sub-division and the separate demarcation of subordinate numbers in the case of dry-crop and rice land *in order to suit the system of cultivation in vogue amongst the agriculturists of Dángi tracts.*" But a far more formidable objection now exists. Since 5th February 1887 the Land Revenue Code has been made applicable to Peint, and in the year after the Government Resolution on the Dindori Dángi villages recommending the separate demarcation of subordinate numbers was issued, the operation was made obligatory by the publication of the rules under Section 214 of the Land Revenue Code, Section 55 (Clause 1) of which bears on this subject with the force of law. As, therefore, the rules permit portions of the lands of two or more plough-holders (separately recognized occupants) being clubbed to make up one survey number, any one of the clubbed occupants could successfully resist the Mámlatdár if his resignation of that part which was in his occupancy was refused on the ground that the whole survey number must be resigned. He would have only to say that the law demanded the separate measurement, classification, assessment and demarcation of his occupancy and his position would be unassailable. This is only one illustration of the difficulty into which any trifling with or relaxation of the survey law (Rule 55) is sure to lead us, and as this is an experimental settlement to guide future operations in Peint and to form a precedent for the Petha of Mokháda as well, I have felt bound to bring the defects to notice. I have reason to think that the cases are few in which the lands of two distinct plough-holders have been placed in one survey number, and I propose to have the necessary separation made by a measurer deputed for the purpose. With regard to future surveys of Peint villages I will consult the experienced Superintendent of this Survey as to how the rules can be made fully consistent with the law without adding materially to the expense of the operations.

7. The 38 villages included in this settlement are the best situated in the Peint Táluka, being on the high road from Násik to Peint and having the best local markets within easy reach. The population is a poor one and the cultivation of rice is below the average. But the mál lands, on the other hand, are unusually good and yield superior "warkas" crops. The figures given in paragraph 26 are very striking, showing that the population of these villages which 23 years ago numbered 71 to the square mile now numbers 157, while houses and agricultural stock have increased in a still greater ratio.

8. As regards the rates proposed by Mr. Fletcher, it must be remembered, 1st, that owing to the partiality of the existing survey settlement we can form a just comparison of the incidence of the existing and proposed rates with reference to the rice areas only, and, 2nd, that we have already discounted a large portion of the increase which we might expect as a result of revision survey by the arbitrary addition of 25 per cent. and 12½ per cent. made to the rice and mál rates respectively in 1880 in anticipation of the present detailed survey. Although the increase in wealth and general prosperity indicated by the figures supplied by the Revenue Department is very marked, it cannot be shown that there

has been an advance in the price of rice, the staple product, since 1865 (a year of unusually high prices), which by itself could be taken to justify even the moderate measure of enhancement which has already been brought into force. Hence although the rates fixed in 1865 were admittedly founded on a rough classification and were described by Government in 1880 as "exceedingly low," Mr. Fletcher has acted wisely in not aiming higher than the old rice rates plus the advance of 25 per cent. which Government then considered necessary to bring them up to a fair pitch independently of revision. He has taken Rs. 6 as the maximum rate, to which, when the Deccan rice system of classification is applied, an average rate of about Rs. 1-12-0 per acre results.

9. In rating the mál lands Mr. Fletcher is not tied down by any existing rate. He has to fix assessments for the first time on measured areas, and as there is no reliable information available as to the area annually cultivated under the former Mál-Makta, he has again exercised a wise discretion in making the proposed rates dovetail in with the rate of Rs. 1-6-0 imposed in 1880 and since working successfully in the neighbouring villages of the Dindori Dángs. Taking into consideration the greater isolation of the Peint villages and their more unhealthy character he has reduced the dry-crop maximum on which the mál rates are worked out by two annas, the accepted rate Rs. 1-4-0 producing an average assessment of these lands slightly in excess of 4 annas 2 pies per acre. The general result in these villages is a slight decrease of assessment on the amount realized under the arrangement of 1880, but it is expected that a demand for the waste land will at once ensue and the decrease of Rs. 408 will be soon converted into an increase from parts of the available land which bears an assessment of Rs. 2,374 being taken up.

10. During the forest settlement which very properly in a district like Peint was carried out in advance of the present detailed revenue survey, there was no consideration upon which Government laid greater stress than that sufficient land for the anticipated extension of agriculture should be set apart. "No settlement proposals," they point out (*vide* paragraph 9 of Government Resolution No. 909, dated 4th February 1886), "can be satisfactorily and finally disposed of until Government is fully satisfied on this head." Seeing the rapid strides with which population has increased since 1865 the consideration and determination of this question is of very great importance.

11. The amount of waste land now made available for regular occupation under the survey tenure appears to be 9,226 acres. The population, amounting in 1887 to 9,913 souls, will have at the proposed settlement the following area under occupation:—

				Acres.
Dry-crop...	...	...	...	14,008
Garden ...	...	...	...	13
Rice ...	...	...	...	1,868
			Total ...	15,889

We are not told how much of the dry-crop area, either occupied or waste, has been deducted as Pot Kharáb, but we shall be within the mark if we reckon that not more than one-fourth of the dry-crop or mál area, whether occupied or waste, is capable of being cultivated in one and the same year. The area of annual cultivation, therefore, which the people will have within their reach is on an average equal to about 22 gunthás per head of population per annum, and even with the future outlets of cultivation availed of to the fullest extent it will be only about 31 gunthás. This appears to me to be perilously little, even presuming, as Mr. Fletcher seems to presume, that to meet an increasing pressure of population there is scope for perceptibly increasing the yield of the land by improved agriculture. It is manifest that if population increases in the next thirty years in the same rate as it has increased in the past twenty-three, there is likely to be a serious pinch for land, while it is certain that all the arable land excluded from forests will attain a very great value. The Conservator of Forests, N. C., informs me that a light forest railway is almost sure to tap the vast timber resources of Peint within a measurable distance of time.

12. It must be remembered, however, that this settlement includes only 33 villages of the Peint Táluka which are those best situated and therefore likely to have the thickest population, and it may be taken for granted that in these villages other outlets for subsistence, such as forest and field labour, are afforded in a marked degree. We may find as we proceed that in the remaining villages there are fewer mouths to feed and a larger area of mál land which can be devoted to the plough without materially sacrificing the interests of the forest revenue. It would be premature, therefore, to recommend any extension of the waste set apart for occupation in this group until we can view the táluka as a whole and see whether the limitation of cultivation is local or common to the whole tract.

13. It appears from the report that, besides the land which has been made available for future cultivation, there are in most of these villages scattered patches of land of greater or less area which although extensively tree-clad have been excluded from forest conservation as being required to supplement the agricultural needs of the people. These lands which measure about 6,310 acres have been recorded for the purposes of this settlement under the designation of "Ráb" and it is proposed that they should be kept free of cultivation and made available to the people with the simple object of securing a sufficient supply of ráb material, which in this táluka is shown to be virtually indispensable for the cultivation not only of rice but of the crops principally grown in the mál lands and on which the people mainly subsist.

14. Mr. Fletcher has evidently given much thought to the treatment of these lands, and while I agree with him that if auxiliary lands of this kind are required it is best that they should be included in large blocks where the preservation of the tree-growth can best be arranged for and where undue denudation is more likely to attract notice, I cannot concur with him in other details. He proposes that these lands should be given over to the villagers as communal ráb lands for the use of the whole cultivable area of the village and for common grazing. Where a rayat has established a customary right to lop ráb material or to cut grass on a certain area he would recognize that right, but where no such right has been acquired, as in lands which have hitherto been forest, he would not attempt to define or record individual rights, but on the understanding that "the occupants, present and future, of the new survey numbers will acquire or will have a fair chance of acquiring, in natural course, rights of lopping more or less proportioned to the areas they may hold," he would leave the question to settle itself. He proposes to levy no assessment on the land and to make no charge whatever for the use of the ráb material, and would simply make rules strictly prohibiting cultivation and the cutting of any wood for export.

15. According to Mr. Fletcher's scheme, therefore, the position of these lands would be that while the seven kinds of trees declared by Government Resolution No. 3372 of 11th ultimo to be reserved to Government in all lands left outside the forest for purposes of cultivation now or hereafter would be under the protection of the Forest Department, the rest of the tree-growth would be without protection and its preservation from destruction would be dependent on the consciences of the villagers. Doubtless Mr. Fletcher trusts to the admitted law-abidingness of the people and their general care in lopping, but I think that Government will scarcely be induced to share his confidence. In their Resolution quoted above they say: "It is certain, experienced land revenue and forest settlement officers, Messrs. Woodward and Frost, entirely agree with the Forest Department officers on this point that if this land (*i. e.*, land excluded from forest) is made over to cultivators without any conditions as to the trees, *all* the forest on it will at once be cut down and sold to the great profit of the wood-dealers and the ultimate loss of the villagers and the land will be rendered almost valueless for any purpose."

16. As Mr. Fletcher's proposals contemplate giving the villagers, at any rate, a very strong foot-hold in large tracts of tree-clad land and as the report leaves us without any accurate knowledge of the value of these tracts for timber or ráb purposes respectively, I wrote to the Collector of Násik and asked him, in the temporary absence of any survey agency in Peint, to cause an inspection of the proposed ráb areas to be made by his subordinate revenue officials. Mr. Mulock kindly arranged that a careful examination of these blocks should be made by

the Deputy Collector with the assistance of the Mámíatdár and his kárkuns. A copy of my correspondence with the Collector and the report of the Deputy Collector is appended. The result shows that whereas all the so-called ráb lands contain valuable teak growth, there are some which contain little or no tree-growth suitable for ráb. As grass and leaves, the value of which Mr. Mulock does not over-rate, are under the terms of the forest settlement obtainable by the cultivators from all forest areas, the only object of setting apart these lands that I can see is to provide loppings of trees, and any blocks which cannot answer that purpose had much better be given back to forest for the ordinary purposes of reservation. But even in the case of those blocks in which there are sufficient jungle trees to assist materially the supply of loppings, I do not think it will be wise to trust for their protection to the very frail safeguards contemplated by Mr. Fletcher.

17. There is no doubt that the cultivators of this tract are naturally honest and to be trusted generally, to respect a prohibitive order, contrasting most favourably with the Kolis and predatory tribes which inhabit the Ghát villages of Poona to the south, but they are subject to outside influences which it would be idle to ignore in an arrangement of this kind. I do not refer to the increasing number of wood-dealers and contractors whose interests will become greater in Peint as the forests become more extensively worked, but to a more potent factor still, the Sávkár. It might be reasonably asked what influence can the Sávkár possibly possess in an isolated jungly and feverish tract where the people are backward and poor? But from a considerable experience of districts like Peint bordering on the Gháts I am not in the least surprised to find that the cultivators in this locality are extensively burdened with debt. I have always found that the very simplicity and honesty of these people render them the easy prey of the Sávkárs. They are innocent, as the registration books show, of mortgage bonds and deeds of sale, but they fall gradually into debt to the petty dealers, usually found in the more inland towns, for small necessities such as clothes, oil, seed-grains and the like, and their liabilities are summed up in the ledger of the creditor, no further security being thought necessary. The interest is of course paid from the crop, and at harvest time the petty dealer or his agent comes to the threshing floor and takes away grain according to his debt, leaving often a bare subsistence to the cultivator which he has to eke out in the hot weather as best he can. This is the common condition of the most peaceful and law-abiding hill men from Násik in the north to Kánara in the south. Even the wretched crops of the Kumri cutters on the verge of the Sahyádris are placed under contribution in this way. Government servants wonder why not even the promise of free land for their rude form of cultivation provided they give some return by re-clothing the land with jungle or planting myrobolans, forms any temptation to them. But when the Sávkár virtually pays the rent, supplies the seed and benefits by the rayat's labours, it is small wonder that the latter has no heart to undertake any additional exertion, far less to improve the land he occupies.

18. The following translation from a report of the Mámíatdár of Peint even allowing for exaggeration, shows that the Peint cultivators are in a fair way to become the complete bondsmen of the Sávkár:—"Generally speaking," writes this officer, "all the people are in debt to the Sávkár. These Sávkárs live in Dindori and Násik and some in the táluka itself. They are by caste Shimpi, Teli, Lingáyat Wáni, Márwári and in a few cases Bráhmañ. There are very few in the villages alluded to. Altogether in these villages there are 868 Khátedárs out of whom about 25 only would be found free from debt. All the rest are in debt." This state of things, it will be remembered, has preceded and not succeeded a survey settlement of the mál lands on which this population mainly depends. The result must be that the majority of the cultivators will be at the mercy of the Sávkár when the land becomes valuable enough to tempt him to interfere and gain a firmer hold of his debtor by bringing the occupancy right within his grasp.

19. This state of things renders it extremely hazardous to make over the user of these ráb lands to the villagers in common, leaving them to shake down into position by themselves as regards lopping rights and providing no material

safeguards for the preservation and proper treatment of the unreserved trees. I do not think I am rash in prophesying that if the terms of the settlement are declared as proposed by Mr. Fletcher and if the Sávkárs understand that the cultivators are expected to establish "wahiwát" of lopping jungle trees in these fine forest blocks, there will be a general rush of creditor and debtor to secure "claims" and the weakest will go to the wall. How can we expect, moreover, that the cultivators will obey the prohibition against cutting wood for export and will respect the reserved trees when a potent influence will be at work tempting them to dishonesty and the means of being dishonest are placed within easy reach? We have no right to place unnecessary bugbears on the consciences of these poor people.

20. I am strongly of opinion that the treatment of these ráb blocks as auxiliary lands for the supply of loppings should form no part of the revenue survey settlement but should be withdrawn from these proposals altogether and be part and parcel of the forest settlement. Mr. Mulock argues that they should be declared to be village forests under Part III of the Forest Act, and had the jungle trees useful for ráb purposes greatly outnumbered the reserved trees I would have been inclined to hold the same opinion. But in order that these blocks should be declared village forests it is legally necessary that they should be first proclaimed to be "reserved forests," and I see no reason why we should go out of our way to adopt an unfamiliar course when they can be at once declared "protected forests" and ample provision can be made by rules for supplementing the needs of the cultivators as regards loppings. I am aware that the placing of these lands under forest protection will be unpopular in some quarters, because there is a very regrettable impression abroad that where the Forest Department is interested the cultivators do not get fair play. I cannot think, however, that Government, who have a strong forest establishment engaged in Peint, will be deterred by this consideration from compelling their forest subordinates to work as energetically and as efficiently in the interests of the rayats as the revenue officers themselves. In regard to these exceptional blocks at any rate the Collector should be the recognized arbitrator in all questions between the Forest Department and the rayats. Before finally declaring these lands to be protected forests it would be an advantage if the list were again gone over and those numbers excluded from which there seems to be no supply of loppings obtainable.

21. Considering the liberal provisions made in the recent forest settlement reports of this táluka I consider that the ráb necessities of the Peint cultivators will now be plentifully met. They will have the right to cut grass for ráb and collect leaves and to take the kárvi (*Strilobanthes*), which is so much valued for ráb, in *all* forest lands. They will have the loppings of unreserved trees, brushwood and grass in the mál lands now for the first time given them under the survey tenure and of those numbers made available for future cultivation, when occupied. And on the top of all this they will be permitted to lop the unreserved kinds of trees in the 6,300 acres proposed to be declared "protected forest" with this special object. For this latter privilege which is not shared by all the villages and which may be superfluous in some villages for some time to come, I think that the cultivators may fairly be called upon to pay a small (almost nominal) price per head-load of material which they may remove. In Kánara where communal "betta lands" have been made over for the use of the gardens free of assessment or other payment experience is fast showing that the policy has been a mistaken one. In a letter lately received from the Assistant Settlement Officer, No. 105, dated 7th June 1888, Mr. Wingate distinctly gives his opinion that "the fact of Government having granted these lands free of rent has had the evil effect of making the people underrate their value and has led to false expectations that fresh assignments will be made from the forest when the present areas are exhausted." Mr. Wingate's experience is "that free betta is a mistake, and although a land tax may be also a mistake there seems no reason why the produce should not be taxed, and this tax would have the desired deterrent effect of stopping the destructive methods of lopping which at present prevail." As the period of lopping for ráb extends only for about four months in the year it would be simple, I think, for the Forest Department to provide one trustworthy subordinate for the time to superintend the lopping operations

in a circle of villages, and the attendant expenses would be met, in some degree at least, by the fee per head-load which the Department would be authorized to collect.

22. In conclusion, I would not recommend that this settlement which is an experimental one should be separately guaranteed for a period of 30 years. It is expected that the remaining villages of the táluka will be settled within the next four years and it will be well to wait until the whole táluka is ripe for settlement before giving any guarantee. By that time we shall have had the whole tract under review, we shall have been able to correct any deficiencies which experience has brought to light and we shall be able once for all with greater confidence to give a guarantee to all the villages for an equal number of years.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. H. STEWART,

Survey and Settlement Commissioner.

Through the Commissioner, C. D.

No. R.—3498 of 1888.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Poona, 6th August 1888.

Submitted to Government.

2. The rates proposed by Mr. Fletcher for the rice and "mál" land are fair, and undersigned recommends them for the approval and sanction of Government.

3. Undersigned agrees with the Survey and Settlement Commissioner in his remarks regarding the clubbing of occupancies in one survey number, and considers that the system of survey operations in Peint should not militate against the provisions of Section 55 of the Rules under the Land Revenue Code, which has been extended to that part of the Násik District by Government Notification dated 5th February 1887 (Judicial Department), published at page 234, *Government Gazette*, Part I.

4. The Officiating Commissioner, C. D., also agrees with Mr. Stewart in his observations on the importance of conserving the tree-clad area proposed to be assigned for "ráb" and would leave the whole question to be considered and settled by the Forest Settlement Officer.

5. Considering the fact that the entire táluka will come under revision survey operations within the next four years, Mr. Moore approves of the proposal to fix the period of guarantee once for all after the completion of these operations.

J. G. MOORE,

Officiating Commissioner, C. D.

Revenue Survey and Assessment: Introduction of survey settlement into 38 villages of the Peint Táluka of the Násik District.

No. 4004.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 1st June 1889.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—3498, dated 6th August 1888—

Letter from the Superintendent, Deccan Revenue Survey, No. 698, dated 11th April 1888.

Letter from the Collector of Násik, No. 2419, dated 4th May 1888.

Letter from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, No. 1367, dated 9th July 1888, with accompaniments.

Submitting the papers noted in the margin, containing proposals for the introduction of survey settlement into 38 villages of the Peint Táluka of the Násik District.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—5498, dated 13th November 1888—Forwarding one from the Collector of Násik, No. 6193, dated 25th October 1888, together with a letter from the Conservator of Forests, N. C., No. 3921, dated 20th idem.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—1684, dated 2nd April 1889.

Memorandum from the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, No. 1032, dated 25th May 1889.

RESOLUTION.—Proposals are now submitted for a survey settlement of 38 villages of the Peint Táluka of Násik.

2. The first settlement of this táluka in 1865 was of a partial nature. A field survey was made of rice lands alone which were classified and separately assessed in the usual way. Of the "Mál" or "Warkas" land no demarcation or classification was made; but a lump assessment, based on a very rough valuation, was placed on the whole Mál in each village. This assessment was paid annually, in proportions left to the discretion of the pátíl, by the whole body of cultivators, however many "ploughs" of land were reported to be under cultivation, unless the number of such ploughs fell below a standard number arbitrarily fixed for the village at the survey, in which case a remission was made of a portion of the Mál assessment.

3. This settlement was originally sanctioned for ten years, and subsequently for an additional term of five years. Since 1880 leases of the Mál have been renewed annually. In that year, in Resolution No. 4353, dated 18th August, Government resolved in anticipation of a detailed survey, to raise the rice-rates by twenty-five and the Mál assessment by 12½ per cent. In other respects the settlement has remained undisturbed until now.

4. A forest demarcation preceded the survey now under report. Its effect, however, though important in other parts of Peint, appears from the table given in paragraph 18 of Mr. Fletcher's report to have been slight in the villages under consideration, in which forests which at the original survey formed 12 per cent. of the total area now form 14½ per cent. thereof. There has been an unimportant increase of rice cultivation since the original settlement. Dry-crop cultivation is shown in the table as having decreased considerably, but the decrease is almost entirely nominal and due to the fact that, the Warkas lands not having been examined in detail at the original survey, a considerable portion thereof, which is now classed as either "ráb" or "unarable," was then treated as ordinary dry-crop. It is clear that with the exception of a very small transfer of so termed dry-crop, chiefly it is believed consisting of hill sides, to forest, the villages under consideration are almost exactly in the same condition as regards cultivable area in which they were at the original survey, and though the Survey and Settlement Commissioner draws attention to the smallness of the area available for extension of cultivation, this is a necessary result of the increase of population, and therefore of cultivation, which was to be expected in these, the most favourably situated villages in the táluka.

5. At the recent survey, which for Mál lands was really an "original" survey such lands have been divided into survey numbers, and the individuals whose names have appeared in the yearly cultivation returns have been treated as survey occupants of the portions of land found to be actually cultivated by them, while their claims to similar treatment as regards lands which, though not in their actual possession, have been cultivated by them regularly in rotation, have been noted. The cases are few in which lands of two distinct plough holders have been placed in one survey number. There is no objection to the Honourable Mr. Stewart's proposed treatment of such cases mentioned in paragraph 6 of his letter of 9th July 1888.

6. The classification of the Mál lands has been done under rules adapted from the Konkan survey. Classes valued respectively at 4, 3, 2 annas and 1 anna for ordinary, and 6 annas for superior, Warkas land have been formed. The classification of rice land was done afresh under the present rules.

7. For the reasons stated by Messrs. Stewart and Fletcher, and in view especially of the increase already sanctioned in Resolution No. 4353, dated 18th August 1880, it does not appear necessary to raise the present revenue derived from the occupied lands in this tract of country, though some increase in the future may be expected to result from extension of cultivation. The proposed

maxima rates are based on those fixed in neighbouring talukás in which a revision settlement has been recently introduced. For rice land a maximum rate of Rs. 6 is recommended, and, for Mál or Warkas land, a dry-crop maximum rate of Re. 1-4-0 which, when applied to ordinary first class Warkas, with its low classification value of 4 annas in a 16-anna scale, will give an assessment of 5 annas. The average rate proposed for garden land, of which the area is only 13 acres, is Re. 1-6-2.

8. The result of the application of these rates is given in the following table, which shows a slight decrease of revenue from Government occupied land, but the decrease will be converted into a moderate increase when all the waste land has been taken up for cultivation:—

No. of Val-lages.	BY EXISTING SETTLEMENT.		BY SURVEY SETTLEMENT.				
	Description of land.		Government occupied land.		Government assessed waste land.		
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	
38	Rice land under survey tenure..	1,628	3,159	{ Old rice ... 1,556 New rice... 312	2,982 258	{ Rice ... 40	74
	Mál land given out in the block under Mál Makta system ...	33,291	4,201	{ Garden ... 13 Mál ... 14,008	18 3,694	{ Mál ... 9,186	2,300
	Total ...	34,919	7,360	15,889	6,952	9,226	2,374

9. Certain patches of tree clad land, aggregating 6,310 acres in area, have been marked off separately as "ráb lands" and the subject of their future treatment is discussed at length in the reports now before Government. The Governor in Council is of opinion that they should be made Protected Forests, and that the rules for their management under Section 31 of the Forest Act should be framed expressly with the object of regulating the cutting of ráb therein. The lopping of trees for ráb, however, is, unless very strictly limited to the removal of harmless loppings, merely a slow method of destroying trees. To prevent the extinction of the "capital" the cutting must be confined to the "yearly increment." The principles on which ráb should be supplied seem to His Excellency the Governor in Council to be these. It should only be supplied where it is required for agricultural needs. The Forest Department should be made responsible for the supply after receiving from the revenue authorities an indent of the approximate amount.

Departmental felling would certainly be the best guarantee against destruction and where the rayat is able to pay for departmental cuttings this system might be adopted. Where he is not, he may be allowed to cut under control, in which case no other payment should be exacted than payment for such additional establishment as the Forest Department may have to engage. In case of a coupe the fee should be moderate. The scale of fees and the limitations to be imposed on time and area of ráb cutting can all be left to the local officers, who should draw up rules in each case and submit them for the approval of Government through the Commissioner. This payment as being a payment for value received should be kept quite distinct from the assessment to prevent any misconception that enhancement of assessment is contemplated.

J. DEC. ATKINS,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Collector of Násik,
The Conservator of Forests, N. C.,
The Survey and Settlement Commissioner,
The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat,
The Accountant General,
The Government of India,
The Secretary of State for India, } By letter.

With an intimation that the papers are being printed in the form of a Selection from the Records of Government, and that when it is ready the usual number of copies of it will be forwarded to them.

NOTE.—Copies of the Selection will be forwarded direct to the Superintendent, Deccan Revenue Survey

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