



C O N T E N T S.

Rasai Committee in Sind, 1919.

1. Vol.I - Diary and Report. pp.24 plus V.

2. Vol.II, Pt.I Papers Supplied to Committee,
Pt.II Evidence for the Sukkur and Upper Sind
Frontier Districts, 1919. pp.276.

3. Vol.III,Pt.III & Evidences recorded for the Larkana
IV and the Hyderabad. 1919.
pp.1-206 & 1-223.

-----000-----

**Committee appointed by Government
to enquire into Rasal, Lapo and Chher in Sind.**

Volume I.

Diary and Report of the Committee.



Price Four Annas.

THE COMMISSIONER'S PRINTING PRESS, KARACHI.

1919.

X723.233.N2E

E9.1-E9.3

16261

CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

| | PAGES |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Diary of Proceedings ... | 1—viii |
| 2. Report of the Committee ... | 1—24 |

Diary of Proceedings.

DIARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman assumed charge of his duties before office hours on Wednesday, the 3rd April 1918, and called a meeting the same day at 4 p.m. at the Collector's kacheri, Karachi. The Committee met and considered clerical requirements, procedure and programme of tour.

The Committee met again at 11-30 a.m. on Thursday, the 4th April 1918, at the Collector's kacheri. It was decided to invite the Collectors to select official witnesses and zamindars, and a further list of witnesses was promised by Mr. Bhurgri. It was decided to frame questions to be sent beforehand to the witnesses and the programme of tour was settled. The meeting was attended throughout by Mr. Bhurgri.

The Committee met again at 11-30 a.m. on Saturday, the 6th April 1918, at the Collector's kacheri. Clerical requirements and procedure were further discussed and the questions framed during the preceding day by the various members were discussed and ordered to be consolidated and translated and printed, and to be then distributed to the witnesses. Mr. E. Rodrigues was appointed to be Secretary to the Committee and arrangements were ordered for the next meeting to be held for recording evidence on Monday, the 15th April 1918, at Sukkur.

The Committee was provided with the following official papers—

| | | |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Confidential reports on rasai and lapo underlying Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 3115 of the 7th May 1902 | ... Part I | Page 1—20 |
| Circular and proclamation on rasai, No. 554, dated the 23rd September 1914, by the Commissioner in Sind | ... " " | 21—22 |
| Confidential reports on rasai and lapo submitted in 1917 by district officers to the Commissioner and by the Commissioner to Government | ... " " | 22—31 |
| Government Order No. 3000 of 26th March 1918 | ... " " | 32 |
| Proclamation of indemnity issued by the Commissioner in Sind on 10th April 1918 on appointment of the Committee by Government | ... " " | 32 |

(Sd.) E. RODRIGUES,
Secretary.

The Committee met in the District Court at Sukkur on Monday, the 15th April 1918, at 10 a.m., and examined—

| | | |
|---|-------------|--------|
| 1. Mr. Rothfeld, Collector of Sukkur | ... Part II | Page 1 |
| 2. " Kirkpatrick, District Superintendent of Police, Sukkur | ... " " | 14 |
| 3. " Naraindas, Police Inspector | ... " " | 22 |

The Committee met again on Tuesday, the 16th April 1918, at 9 a.m. and examined—

| | | |
|--|-------------|---------|
| 4. Mr. Smyth, Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier | ... Part II | Page 28 |
| 5. " Isani, Deputy Collector, Rohri | ... " " | 35 |
| 6. " Robinson, Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur | ... " " | 46 |
| 7. The Hon'ble Mr. Khan Bahadur Pir Baksh | ... " " | 53 |

* After the sitting, the list of witnesses was considered in the presence of Mr. Bhurgri and it was decided to curtail the list as far as possible. This was approved and several witnesses were withdrawn by Mr. Bhurgri.

The Committee met on Wednesday, the 17th April 1918, and examined—

| | | |
|---|-------------|---------|
| 8. Mr. Gopaldas Harumal, Sub-Divisional Officer, P. W. D. | ... Part II | Page 58 |
| 9. " Atmaram, Mukhtiarkar of Sukkur | ... " " | 64 |
| 10. Rao Bahadur Asardas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector | ... " " | 70 |
| 11. Khan Sahib Saif-ud-din, Jagirdar and Zamindar | ... " " | 180 |

The Committee met on Thursday, the 18th April 1918, and examined—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|
| 12. Mr. Murlidhar Jeramdas, Pleader | ... | ... | ... | Part II | Page 184 |
| 13. " Mangharam, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 75 |
| 14. Wadero Kaisar Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 191 |
| 15. Rao Sahib Gokalsing, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 201 |
| 16. Mr. O'Brien, District Superintendent of Police, Upper Sind Frontier. | ... | ... | ... | " | " 82 |
| 17. " Bhojsing, Pleader, Sukkur | ... | ... | ... | " | " 85 |

After the sitting, the list of witnesses was again reconsidered and further curtailed with the approval of Mr. Bhurgri.

The Committee met on Friday, the 19th April 1918, and examined—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| 18. Mr. Menghraj H. Kalwani, Deputy Collector, Kandhkot | ... | ... | ... | Part II | Page 90 |
| 19. Jam Bhambo Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 195 |
| 20. Mr. Chainrai K., Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 97 |
| 21. Wadero Muhammad Khan Ghoto, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 205 |

The Committee met on Saturday, the 20th April 1918, and examined—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|
| 22. Mr. Naraindas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector | ... | ... | ... | Part II | Page 104 |
| 23. " Madhandas, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 113 |
| 24. " Choithram, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 119 |
| 25. " Karim Baksh, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 218 |

During the sittings at Sukkur the oral evidence of the following witnesses was dispensed with, their written statements only being taken:—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|
| 1. Pir Rasul Baksh, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | Part II | Page 224 |
| 2. Mr. Keswani, Supervisor, P. W. D., Upper Sind Frontier | ... | ... | ... | " | " 125 |
| 3. " Ganpatrai, Overseer | " | " | " | " | " 129 |
| 4. " Kadir Baksh, Police Inspector, Upper Sind Frontier | ... | ... | ... | " | " 133 |
| 5. " Murjmal, Police Sub-Inspector, Upper Sind Frontier | ... | ... | ... | " | " 137 |
| 6. " Naraindas Vishindas, Pleader, Sukkur | ... | ... | ... | " | " 140 |
| 7. " Virumal Begraj, Editor | ... | ... | ... | " | " 146 |
| 8. " Kishindas Jhamrai, Pleader | ... | ... | ... | " | " 150 |
| 9. " Chandumal, Supervisor and Sub-Divisional Officer, P. W. D. | ... | ... | ... | " | " 156 |
| 10. " Sobhraj, dismissed Tapadar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 228 |
| 11. " Mulchand Pessumal, Pleader | ... | ... | ... | " | " 160 |
| 12. Kazi Khairullah, dismissed Tapadar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 234 |
| 13. Mr. Mulchand Mahtani, Sub-Engineer, Public Works Department... | ... | ... | ... | " | " 165 |
| 14. " Ali Nawaz Muhammad Rahim Beg Mirza, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 170 |
| 15. " Muhammad Bachal Baghai Bhuto, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 239 |
| 16. " Ramumal, Zamindar, Ubauro | ... | ... | ... | " | " 244 |
| 17. " Imdad Hussain Khan, Supervising Tapadar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 249 |
| 18. Wadero Dil Muhammad Khan Khoso, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 176 |
| 19. Mr. Rupchand Teumal, Mukhtiarkar, Ghotki | ... | ... | ... | Part IV | Page 44 |
| 20. " Faiz Muhammad, Zamindar, Rohri | ... | ... | ... | Part II | Page 259 |
| 21. Munshi Muhammad Baksh, retired Supervising Tapadar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 265 |

(Sd.) E. RODRIGUES,
Secretary.

The Committee met at Larkana in the Durbar Hall on the 22nd April 1918 at 8 a.m. Before commencing its sittings, the Committee considered the list of witnesses in consultation with Mr. Bhurgri and it was decided to dispense with the oral evidence of a number of witnesses, their written statements only being recorded. The Committee then proceeded with the examination of—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----------|------|----|
| 1. Mr. Bolus, Collector of Larkana | ... | ... | Part III | Page | 1 |
| 2. " Curry, District Superintendent of Police, Larkana | ... | ... | " | " | 15 |
| 3. " Philpot-Brookes, Executive Engineer, Western Nara | ... | ... | " | " | 23 |
| 4. Khan Sahib Dhani Baksh Jatoi, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 36 |

The Committee met again on the 23rd April 1918, and examined—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----------|------|-----|
| 4. Mr. Gordon, Executive Engineer, Begari Canals | ... | ... | Part II | Page | 271 |
| 5. " Kishinchand, Deputy Educational Inspector | ... | ... | Part III | " | 36 |
| 6. " Gurmukhsing, Sub-Divisional Officer, Public Works Department | ... | ... | " | " | 39 |
| 7. Serai Shah Muhammad Lahori, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 46 |
| 8. Mr. Hiranand Janjimal, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | " | " | 53 |

The Committee met on the 24th April 1918 and examined—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|---|----|
| 9. Mr. Hiranand Janjimal, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | " | " | 53 |
| 10. " Jessasing, retired Deputy Collector | ... | ... | " | " | 63 |
| 11. Serai Ghulam Muhammad, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 68 |
| 12. Mr. Wadhmal Tarachand, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | " | " | 74 |

The Committee met on the 25th April 1918. The Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain was unavoidably absent, having been called to Delhi to attend the All India War Conference. The following witnesses were examined :—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----------|------|----|
| 13. Mr. Wadhmal Tarachand, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | Part III | Page | 74 |
| 14. " Hargundas, Tapadar | ... | ... | " | " | 84 |
| 15. " Gul Muhammad, Tapadar | ... | ... | " | " | 90 |
| 16. " Dharamdas, Chief Officer, Larkana Municipality | ... | ... | " | " | 82 |
| 17. " Javharmal, Tapadar | ... | ... | " | " | 83 |

Mr. Wadhmal Tarachand produced several bundis and papers in connection with the rasai fund of the Dadu taluka ; these were ordered to be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

During the sittings at Larkana, the oral evidence of the following witnesses was dispensed with, their written statements only being recorded :—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----------|------|-----|
| 1. Mr. Gustasp, Divisional Forest Officer | ... | ... | Part III | Page | 98 |
| 2. " Jashanmal Murijmal, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | " | " | 104 |
| 3. Kazi Ahmadi, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 109 |
| 4. Seth Tawarmal, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 113 |
| 5. Mr. Sadbusing, retired Deputy Collector | ... | ... | " | " | 117 |
| 6. " Tahilram Mulchand, Editor | ... | ... | " | " | 120 |
| 7. " Lalchand Navalrai, Pleader | ... | ... | " | " | 125 |
| 8. " Jan Muhammad Junejo, Bar-at-Law and Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 132 |
| 9. " Shamsuddin Bulbul, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | " | 137 |

iv

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|
| 10. | Rao Sahib Mulchand, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | Part III | Page 146 |
| 11. | Mr. Abdulla Khan Tunjio, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 150 |
| 12. | " Kadir Baksh Narejo, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 155 |
| 13. | " Hotchand Thakursing, Pleader | ... | ... | ... | " | " 160 |
| 14. | Khan Sahib Dost Muhammad Khan Jatoi, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 165 |
| 15. | Khan Sahib Alla Baksh Bughio, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 171 |
| 16. | Mr. Hardasmal Uderdinomal, Deputy Collector, Mehar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 175 |

(Sd) E. RODRIGUES,
Secretary.

The Committee met at Hyderabad on the 29th April 1918 in the Durbar Hall of the Collector's kacheri at 8 a.m. and examined the following witnesses:—

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| 1. | Mr. Hey, Collector of Hyderabad | ... | ... | ... | Part IV | Page 1 |
| 2. | " Lowsley, Executive Engineer | ... | ... | ... | " | " 13 |
| 3. | " Kundanmal Lahori, Deputy Collector | ... | ... | ... | " | " 19 |

The Committee met on the 30th April 1918 at 8 a.m. and examined—

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|---|------|
| 4. | Mr. Hayter, District Superintendent of Police | ... | ... | ... | " | " 27 |
| 5. | " Montgomery, Manager, Incumbered Estates | ... | ... | ... | " | " 36 |
| 6. | The Rev. D. S. Harper, C. M. S. | ... | ... | ... | " | " 43 |
| 7. | Mr. Rupchand Teumal, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 44 |
| 8. | " Nanikram, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 50 |
| 9. | " Chandumal, Police Inspector | ... | ... | ... | " | " 56 |

The Committee met on the 1st May 1918 at 8 a.m. and examined—

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| 10. | Mr. Moyses, Collector of Thar and Parkar | ... | ... | ... | Part V | Page 1 |
| 11. | " Ommanney, District Superintendent of Police, Thar and Parkar. | ... | ... | ... | " | " 10 |
| 12. | " Jagatsing Aimal, Superintendent, Land Records | ... | ... | ... | Part IV | Page 62 |
| 13. | " Muhammad Kamil Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 69 |
| 14. | " Sundarsing Mangalsing, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | Part V | Page 17 |

The Committee met on the 2nd May 1918 at 8 a.m. The Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain resumed his seat on the Committee and the following witnesses were examined:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| 15. | Mr. Timms, Executive Engineer | ... | ... | ... | Part V | Page 19 |
| 16. | " Chainrai Bulchand, Assistant Manager, Incumbered Estates | ... | ... | ... | Part IV | Page 74 |
| 17. | " Vastiram, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 80 |
| 18. | " Pohumal Khushiram, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 85 |
| 19. | Sayed Abdul Hakim Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 92 |
| 20. | Mr. Nabi Baksh Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 97 |

The Committee met on the 3rd May 1918 at 8 a.m. and examined—

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| 21. | Mr. Mackie, Collector of Nawabshah | ... | ... | ... | Part VI | Page 1 |
| 22. | " Dalpatrai Kauromal, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | Part V | Page 30 |

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|---------|
| 23. | Mr. Tejumal, Police Inspector | ... | ... | ... Part V | Page 37 |
| 24. | " Muhammad Ali, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 42 |
| 25. | " Muhammad Khan Pathan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 47 |
| 26. | Raizada Tirithram, Zamindar... | ... | ... | ... " | " 52 |
| 27. | Mr. Daulatram Tharumal, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... " | " 56 |

The Committee met on the 4th May 1918 at 8 a.m., and examined—

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-------------|----------|
| 28. | Mr. Kirkpatrick, District Superintendent of Police | ... | ... | ... Part IV | Page 102 |
| 29. | Sayed Allahando Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... Part VI | Page 12 |
| 30. | Mr. Khusaldas, Overseer, Public Works Department | ... | ... | ... " | " 21 |
| 31. | " Gokaldas, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... " | " 27 |

During the sittings at Hyderabad, the oral evidence of the following persons was dispensed with, with the approval of Mr. Bhurgri, their written statements only being recorded:—

| | | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|-----|-------------|----------|
| 1. | Mr. Hassomal Vilayatrai, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... Part IV | Page 103 |
| 2. | Khan Sahib Sayed Hassan Ali Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 107 |
| 3. | Mr. Gopaldas Jethanand, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 111 |
| 4. | Pir Bachal Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 116 |
| 5. | Mir Ghulam Muhammad, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 120 |
| 6. | Mir Muhammad Baksh Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 125 |
| 7. | " Hussain Baksh Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 129 |
| 8. | Seth Hassan Ali Sheikh, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 133 |
| 9. | Mr. Kisumal Tirihdas, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 137 |
| 10. | " Mir Khan, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... " | " 141 |
| 11. | " Dost Muhammad, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... " | " 145 |
| 12. | Haji Fazul Allah, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... " | " 150 |
| 13. | Mukhi Jethanand Pritamdas, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 155 |
| 14. | Haji Kaimaldin, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 214 |
| 15. | Mr. Mushtaksing, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 159 |
| 16. | " Thakurdas, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 165 |
| 17. | " Kundanmal, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... Part VI | Page 34 |
| 18. | " Nihalsing, Tapadar | ... | ... | ... " | " 38 |
| 19. | " Dasomal, Supervising Tapadar | ... | ... | ... " | " 44 |
| 20. | " Murad Ali Shah Imam Ali Shah | ... | ... | ... " | " 50 |
| 21. | " Kirpaldas, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 55 |
| 22. | " Muhammad Hussain, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 63 |
| 23. | Haji Mahomed Hassan | ... | ... | ... " | " 64 |
| 24. | Mr. Abdullah Umar Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 68 |
| 25. | Mir Jan Muhammad Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 74 |
| 26. | Mr. Ilahi Baksh, Attorney of Sardar Mehrab Khan | ... | ... | ... " | " 80 |
| 27. | " Gurudinomal, Editor | ... | ... | ... " | " 84 |
| 28. | " Partabrai, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 90 |
| 28-A. | Mir Ghulam Hyder Khan | ... | ... | ... Part V | Page 94 |
| 29. | Sayed Lal Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... " | " 98 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|----------|-----|---------|----------|
| 30. | Mr. Jalal Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | Part V | Page 103 |
| 31. | Sayed Nawaz Ali Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 104 |
| 32. | Mr. Baksh Ali, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 108 |
| 33. | " Misri Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 110 |
| 34. | Haji Sumar Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 112 |
| 35. | Sayed Haji Muhammad Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 115 |
| 36. | Mr. Lachmandas, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 120 |
| 37. | " Khuda Baksh Khao, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 122 |
| 38. | " Abbas Khan Bhurgri, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 126 |
| 39. | Sayed Zinulabdin, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 129 |
| 40. | Mr. Jan Muhammad Bhurgri, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 132 |
| 41. | " Vaghji Dhaman, Sajjan Jeramdas and others | ... | ... | ... | " | " 135 |
| 42. | " Abdul Haq Abdullah Shah Sheikh, Deputy Educational Inspector. | Part IV | Page 169 | | | |
| 43. | Khushaldas Sahijram, Deputy Collector | ... | ... | ... | " | " 173 |
| 44. | " Hiranand Khemsing, Pleader and Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 178 |
| 45. | " Santdas Mangharam, Pleader | ... | ... | ... | " | " 183 |
| 46. | " Chimandas, Police Inspector | ... | ... | ... | " | " 187 |
| 47. | " Ramchand Bijasing Kirpalani, Sub-Engineer | ... | ... | ... | " | " 191 |
| 48. | " Metharam D. Jagtiani, Divisional Forest Officer, Hyderabad | ... | ... | ... | " | " 196 |
| 49. | Rao Bahadur Harumal Ramchand Jhanginani, Engineer | ... | ... | ... | " | " 201 |
| 50. | Mr. Mathradas Ramchand, Pleader and Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 206 |
| 51. | " Kanwalsing Pohumal, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 210 |
| 52. | " Sobhraj Shamdas, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | Part V | Page 135 |
| 53. | " Rijhumal Tourmal Thadani, Assistant Engineer | ... | ... | ... | " | " 144 |
| 54. | " R. C. Motwani, District Medical Officer, Thar and Parkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 150 |
| 55. | " Kishinchand Lekhraj Vaswani, Sub-Divisional Officer, P. W. D. | ... | ... | ... | " | " 153 |
| 56. | " Wahid Baksh Gul Mubammad, Deputy Collector | ... | ... | ... | " | " 158 |
| 57. | " Waryamsing, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 164 |
| 58. | " Ghanshamdas Khatanmal, Deputy Collector | ... | ... | ... | Part VI | Page 68 |
| 59. | " Asardas Lilaram, Pleader and Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 71 |
| 60. | " Tharumal Lilaram, Zamindar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 75 |
| 61. | " Hiranand Tahilram Lala, Deputy Collector | ... | ... | ... | " | " 80 |
| 62. | " Hariram Kirparam Hingorani, Overseer | ... | ... | ... | " | " 93 |
| 63. | " Lalchand Ghanshamdas, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " 97 |
| 64. | " Ghulabrai Jayharsing, Chitnis | ... | ... | ... | " | " 103 |
| 65. | " Zamanshah Mahbubshah, Deputy Superintendent of Police | ... | ... | ... | " | " 109 |
| 66. | " Tahilram Dharamdas Vaswani, Police Inspector... | ... | ... | ... | " | " 113 |

(Sd.) E. RODRIGUES,
Secretary.

The Committee met at Karachi on the 6th May 1918 at 11 a.m. in the Collector's Durbar Hall and examined—

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|-----|-----|----------|--------|
| 1. | Mr. Martin, Collector of Karachi | ... | ... | ... | Part VII | Page 1 |
| 2. | " Shillidy, Assistant Commissioner | ... | ... | ... | " | " 11 |
| 3. | " McCulloch, District Superintendent of Police | ... | ... | ... | " | " 20 |

The Committee met again on the 7th May 1918 at 8-30 p.m. and examined—

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|----|
| 4. | Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector | ... | ... | ... | Part VII | Page | 26 |
| 5. | " Thanwardas Dayaram, Registrar, Court of the Judl. Commissioner | " | " | " | " | " | 31 |
| 6. | " Bhawandas, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " | 35 |
| *7. | " Jhamiatrai, Mukhtiarkar | ... | ... | ... | " | " | 45 |

The Committee met on the 8th May 1918 and examined—

| | | | | |
|-----|---|----------|------|----|
| 8. | Mr. Nabi Baksh Mahomed Hussain, Native Assistant Commissioner | Part VII | Page | 51 |
| 9. | " Dayaram Hassaram, Contractor | ... | ... | 56 |
| 10. | " Gurdasing, Pleader | ... | ... | 57 |
| 11. | " Baskerville, Assistant Collector | ... | ... | 65 |
| 12. | " Muhammad Jaffer, Zamindar | ... | ... | 71 |
| 13. | The Hon'ble Mr. Bhurgri | ... | ... | 79 |

The Committee met on the 9th May 1918 and examined—

| | | | | |
|-----|---|----------|------|----|
| 14. | Mr. Thanwardas Dayaram, Registrar, Judicial Commissioner's Court. | Page VII | Page | 31 |
| 15. | The Hon'ble Mr. Bhurgri | ... | ... | 79 |
| 16. | Sayed Haji Mahomed Hashim Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | 92 |

The oral evidence of the following witnesses was dispensed with, with the approval of Mr. Bhurgri, and their written statements only were recorded.—

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----------|------|-----|
| 1. | Mr. W. H. Luck, Deputy Inspector-General of Police for Sind | ... | Part VII | Page | 97 |
| 2. | " R. T. Harrison, Superintending Engineer | ... | ... | " | 101 |
| 3. | " H. A. MacArthur, Executive Engineer | ... | ... | " | 106 |
| 4. | " H. L. Newnan, Deputy Conservator of Forests | ... | ... | " | 111 |
| 5. | Prof. S. C. Shahani, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | 115 |
| 6. | Mr. Javharmal Tahiltam Shahani, Sub-Engineer | ... | ... | " | 119 |
| 7. | Khan Sahib Susekh Ibrahimji Jivanjee, Zamindar and Merchant | ... | ... | " | 123 |
| 8. | Maulvi Abdul Rahim | ... | ... | " | 126 |
| 9. | Mr. Neenmal Aidas Hingorani, Overseer | ... | ... | " | 130 |
| 10. | " Jagatrai, Police Inspector | ... | ... | " | 135 |
| 11. | " Mowaram Jethanand, Range Forest Officer | ... | ... | " | 142 |
| 12. | " Gobindram Jashanmal Ramchandani, Forest Ranger | ... | ... | " | 146 |
| 13. | " Chihomal, Tapadar | ... | ... | " | 150 |
| 14. | Pir Jahan Shah, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | 154 |
| 15. | Mr. Kishinchand, Tapadar | ... | ... | " | 155 |
| 16. | " Tejumal Khanchand, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | 159 |
| 17. | " Metharam Ajitsing, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | 163 |
| 18. | " Udham, Tapadar | ... | ... | " | 168 |
| 19. | " Abdul Satar, Inspector of Police | ... | ... | " | 172 |
| 20. | " Khan Sahib Rahimdad Khan, Zamindar | ... | ... | " | 176 |
| 21. | The Hon'ble Mr. W. U. Nicholas | ... | ... | " | 180 |

The Committee then proceeded to discuss the statements and evidence recorded and decided that it was necessary to have translations made of all vernacular papers and to have the whole record printed before preparing the final report. The Committee ascertained that this would take at least a month and dispersed after deciding to reassemble for another week about the end of June or middle of July 1918 to pass the final report.

(Sd.) E. RODRIGUES,
Secretary.

The Committee were however unable to meet in July 1918 as there was delay in preparing the translation and in printing the record. The work proved to be much heavier than expected and was hampered by lack of materials due to the War. The record was not received from the printing presses till the end of April 1919.

The Committee required time to read it in its seven separate parts, and the 30th June 1919 was fixed for meeting to pass the final report. The Committee however, met on the 3rd July 1919 in the Chairman's Chambers in the High Court, Bombay, and on the 5th July 1919 passed the final report for submission to Government.

(Sd.) E. RODRIGUES,
Secretary.

NOTE.—The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1 to 6, 8 to 11, 14, 16, 17, 19 to 21, 24 and 25 on the motion of the Collector and the remaining witnesses on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri out of 25 witnesses examined orally at Sukkur and Nos. 1 to 5, 9, 13, and 15 to 21 on the motion of the Collector and the remainder on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri out of the 21 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Sukkur.

The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1 to 7 on the motion of the Collector, Nos. 8 to 15 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri and Nos. 16 and 17 on their own motion out of the 17 witnesses examined orally at Larkana and Nos. 1 to 3, 5 and 10 on the motion of the Collector and the remainder on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri out of the 16 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Larkana.

The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1 to 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 20, 21, 23, and 29 to 31 on the motion of the Collectors, Nos. 9, 12, 14, 16 to 19, 22, and 24 to 27 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri and Nos. 5, 6 and 28 on their own motion out of the 31 witnesses examined orally at Hyderabad and Nos. 2, 4 to 6, 10 to 12, 17 to 20, 23, 26, 31, 32, 35, 46, 49, 52, 53, 55, 56, 59, 60, 62, 63 and 65 on the motion of the Collectors, Nos. 1, 3, 7 to 9, 13 to 16, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 to 30, 33, 34, 36 to 40, 43 to 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 54, 57, 58, 61, 64 and 66 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, No. 42 on their own motion, while No. 41 volunteered his statement out of the 66 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Hyderabad.

The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1, 3, 6, 7 and 11 on the motion of the Collector, Nos. 10, 12, 13 and 16 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri and Nos. 2, 4, 5 and 8 on their own motion, while No. 9 appeared voluntarily out of the 14 witnesses examined orally at Karachi and Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 to 20 on the motion of the Collector, No. 5 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, Nos. 1 and 2 on their own motion, while Nos. 8 and 21 volunteered their statements out of the 21 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Karachi.

The Committee invited in all 47 witnesses on the motion of the Collectors, 31 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, 8 on their own motion, while 1 witness appeared voluntarily out of the 87 witnesses examined orally and 63 witnesses on the motion of the Collectors, 56 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, 2 on their own motion, while 3 volunteered statements out of the 124 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at the various places where sittings were held in the province.

Report of Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Preliminary.

The Administration is confronted with a difficult problem. The systems of 'rasai', 'lapo' and 'chher' lie deep-rooted in the Province of Sind. They grew up long before the establishment of the British Government. (It was the custom for the rulers in the past or for their representative officials to levy free supplies, when on tour, from the landholders or Zamindars. This levy was called 'rasai' from the Persian word 'rasaidan' which meant 'to supply.' It was met by a levy in kind called 'deh kharch' or village expenses made from the cultivators by the Zamindars.) It was the only practical means of securing supplies in a sparsely populated country without regular roads and with few large villages. The supplies were provided from the stores of grain and fodder and from the flocks and herds and from the jungles of the Zamindars. It was regarded as a duty incumbent on them and payment was not expected. It was not resented as the land was held by a small number of large landholders amongst whom the traditions of hospitality were strong. They were for the most part Baluchi and other Mahomedan Zamindars. It was also the custom for the revenue officials to supplement their meagre salaries by levying a share of the produce of the land for themselves at the time of its division between the rulers and the Zamindars. This levy was called 'lapo' from the Sindhi word 'lap' which meant 'a handful.' (It was undisputed and not unprofitable. The loss probably fell on the rulers as much as on the Zamindars.) (It was also the custom for the revenue or other officials to exact 'chher' or free labour whenever required for private or public purposes.) There was no casual labour and the cultivators upon whom the burden fell were bound to obey the orders of the Zamindars. These old customs have been spoken to by a number of witnesses including Messrs. Bhawandas Fatehchand and Chainrai Kishindas, Mukhtiar-kars, Mr. Narayandas Wadhmal, Police Inspector, Mr. Kundansing K. Lahori, Deputy Collector and the Honourable Messrs. Allahando Shah and Bhurgri, Zamindars. They have also been mentioned in the detailed report made in 1902 by Mr. Giles when Commissioner in Sind and in the Bombay Administration Report of 1911-12. They have survived and expanded in many directions, according to a large number of witnesses, under the improved but more intricate machinery of the British Government.

Part VII pp. 41 & 42,
Part II pp. 21, 22 & 23
Part IV p. 83. Part
p. 14. Part VII p. 71

Part I p. 15.

Bombay Administration
Report 1911-12 pp. 5
& 61.

2. It has always been recognised that touring was essential for the realization of the requirements of the people and the supervision of the subordinate officials but it was laid down at an early date that public officers on tour should pay for their supplies. The detailed objects and orders have been recited in the edition of 1872 of Nairne's Revenue Handbook, which was written for the Deccan. But it was not possible in practice to suppress 'rasai.' There were no village officers whose duty it was to procure supplies for travellers as in the Deccan. All trace of village organisation had long before disappeared from Sind. There were no practical means of procuring supplies except from the powerful landholders and public officers had from time immemorial been provided with free supplies by these Mahomedan Zamindars. The difficulties of travellers in obtaining supplies without official agency even at the present time have been illustrated by the 'rasai' made for Messrs. Bhojising and Murlidhar when on tour as pleaders in the Sukkur and Larkana districts and by the experience of the Honourable Mr. Nicholas as a private sportsman in the Karachi district. The difficulties have also been mentioned by Mr. Hey, Assistant Collector Hyderabad and by Mr. Moysey, Collector of the Thar and Parkar district. There was no improvement with the subsequent introduction of 'tapedars' who were officers entrusted with the revenue work of several 'dehs' or villages formed into 'tapas' or divisions of Talukas. The duty of collecting supplies fell on them as the counterpart, though more powerful, of the village accountants of the Deccan but the supplies which they could not get from the village 'banias' they procured as before from the neighbouring Zamindars. The tapedars had to pay for the grain, ghee and spices obtained from the village banias who were Hindus but no payment was demanded for the milk and mutton obtained from the flocks and herds and there was no market, owing to lack of regular roads, for the fodder and fuel obtained from the fields and jungles of the Mahomedan

Nairne's Revenue Handbook Ed. 1872 pp. 31 & 32.

Bombay Administration
Report 1911-12 p. 54.

Part II pp. 89 & 183.

Part VII p. 180.

Part IV p. 9. Part
p. 8.

- Zamindars. The status of the tapedars, however, changed as their numbers increased as pointed out by Mr. Sadik Ali, Deputy Collector and in the place of the old style of tapedars "sagacious and tactful" there arose a class of young men "with a smattering of education, just sufficient to make them anxious to amass wealth and insufficient to render them proof against temptation" as described by Sir Charles Mules, then Collector of Shikarpur. It was contrary to the traditions of these hereditary landholders to sell the produce of their flocks and herds and it was not uncommon for them to maintain open kitchens for all travellers. Some of these have, according to Mr. Chainrai Mukhtiarkar, survived to the present day in the Upper Sind Frontier. The special superstitious prejudice against selling milk has been noted by Mr. Nabi Baksh, Deputy Collector in the Thar and Parkar district and the general prejudice still existing against selling the produce of their flocks and herds by Mr. Mengraj, Deputy Collector and Mr. Martin, Deputy Commissioner in the Upper Sind Frontier; and it has been stated by several witnesses including Mr. Hayter, District Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad, that fodder and fuel though of value have even to-day no market, owing to lack of regular roads, in some parts of Sind. The influence of the tapedars also increased materially in the nineties with the introduction of the irrigation land settlement, suited to an arid land with an average rainfall of only eight inches a year and dependent for life on the floods of the Indus. There was as a result a marked increase in the demands of the establishments of touring officers for 'rasai,' which were thenceforward met from 'rasai' funds recovered from the zamindars and managed by the 'Mukhtiarkars' or principal revenue officers of the talukas, as explained in the letter of Sardar Mahomed Yakub then Deputy Commissioner in the Thar and Parkar district, underlying the report of 1902 of Mr. Giles the Commissioner in Sind. The example of the tapedars in respect of the Revenue Department was copied by the 'daroghas' employed in the distribution of water under the irrigation land settlement, by the range forest officers in charge of reserved forest and by the 'thanedars' or police officers in charge of police-stations, for the benefit respectively of the Public Works, the Forest and the Police Departments. These increased demands of subordinate establishments mainly Hindu were not submitted to with the former patience particularly as there had been a marked increase in the number of small and of Hindu landholders, who had not inherited the traditions of hospitality of the old Baluchi and Mahomedan Zamindars. This marked increase has been indicated by the statistics furnished by the Collectors and has been mentioned in the Bombay Administration Report of 1911-12. The efforts made by certain superior officers to overcome the evil were unavailing. They have been referred to in the letter of Sir Charles Mules underlying the report of 1902 of Mr. Giles, the Commissioner in Sind. The enquiry then made into the matter resulted in the peremptory orders for the suppression of 'rasai' issued by Government Resolution No. 3115, dated 7th May 1902, Revenue Department. But these orders again proved ineffective. The difficulties in dealing with the matter have been well illustrated by the experience of Mr. Shillidy in 1911-12 when Assistant Collector in the Sukkur district: "I was in Shikarpur from July 1911 to September 1912. I had an interesting experience there. I was informed that my camp cost nothing in the matter of rasai but that the Collector's camp cost very much. I communicated this to Mr. Chatfield who made enquiries but was told that his camp cost nothing while my camp cost very much. The result was that the Collector's establishment had to admit the abuses of rasai and furnished him with detailed figures, rates and charges of his establishment and also of the Assistant Collector's. We then called a meeting of the Mukhtiarkars and commenced a campaign against rasai. Thereafter several Zamindars came to me and informed me that there had been a considerable improvement. Some time after I had been transferred from Shikarpur I met the Mukhtiarkar, who also had been transferred from Shikarpur. He told me that my campaign had effected a remarkable change but on being pressed to state the exact truth he told me that the tapedars ceased to levy lapo for about a fortnight after the campaign." (It was sought in 1914, in view of these difficulties, to remove the responsibility for procuring supplies from the tapedars and subordinate officials of other departments and to impose it as a business proposition upon selected Zamindars. But the orders of 1914 have likewise not proved successful.) They have been said to have effected some reduction in 'rasai' in some districts but they have not resulted in the general removal of the responsibility from the tapedars and subordinate officials of other departments, as they have
- I p. 7
- I p. 15.
- II pp. 98 & 103.
- VII p. 51
- II p. 95 Part VII
- IV p. 28.
- ney Administration
Oct 1911-12 p. 1 & 60.
- I pp. 3 & 4.
- II pp. 10 & 53.
III p. 14 Part IV
223 Part V p. 9.
VI p. 11 Part
I p. 10
ney Administration
Oct 1911-12 p. 61.
- I p. 13.
- I p. 20.
- VII p. 18.
- I pp. 21 & 22.

been decidedly unpopular with the Zamindars. The latter were unwilling to accept the responsibility because they felt it derogatory to their dignity to undertake it as a business proposition. This is well illustrated by the reply "that he was not prepared to take up the work of a bania but that he had been always ready and willing and would continue to provide supplies and everything else for the comforts of officers" given by Khan Saheb Shah Nawaz Khan and by other Zamindars to Mr. Montgomery when Assistant Collector, Sukkur. They also felt the burden would no longer be divided amongst all the neighbouring Zamindars but would thereby be thrown wholly on the selected Zamindars. They were consequently only induced with difficulty to undertake the business at all and though they did nominally do the business for the officials of the Revenue Department, they did not do it at all for the officials of the Public Works, Forest and Police Departments. Such reduction in 'rasai' as was effected was therefore due not so much to the orders of 1914 as to the individual efforts of superior officers. This has been borne out by the witnesses examined before us, both officials and zamindars, and by the letters underlying the report of 1917 from the Commissioner in Sind to Government. Part IV p. 41.
Part I pp. 23 to 25

3. (It was recognised after a short experience that the meagre salaries of the tapedars which had been fixed at Rs. 15 to 20 a month were wholly insufficient in a climate where the temperature varies from freezing point in the winter to 120° F. in the summer to make them proof against the temptation of levying the 'lapo' which had not unwillingly been paid to revenue officials for their good offices from time immemorial by rich Zamindars. It had become a cash payment known as 'anagi' or an anna per acre or per rupee of the land revenue in place of the previous payment in kind after the introduction of the rough system of money payments of land revenue by Sir Bartle Frere and an impression prevailed that it was not so much an irregular gratification as a permissible payment of the nature of a 'tip' according to Mr. Sadik Ali and Mr. Kundansing K. Lahori, Deputy Collectors and also according to Mr. Giles who was then an Assistant Collector. It was at all events regarded as impracticable to prevent it by Mr. Erskine then Commissioner in Sind and the rates of salary were not raised to Rs. 20 to 25 a month until Sir Evan James became head of the Province. It soon, however, became apparent that the revision of salaries had effected no improvement. The exactions had on the contrary increased with the change in the status of the tapedars and with the increased opportunities afforded to them of harassment by the irrigation land settlement, under which the assessment had to be recalculated each year according to the actual cultivation and the mode of irrigation; and a system had arisen of sharing the proceeds with the revenue offices of the talukas and with the touring establishments of the superior officers of the Revenue Department. Similar exactions at one or two rupees per water-wheel or water-course had begun to be levied by the daroghas employed under the irrigation land settlement and these exactions were imitated by the range forest officers and thanedars and by the establishments of the Forest and Police Departments. These exactions have been referred to by a great number of witnesses official and unofficial including Mr. Bhawandas Fatehchand, Mukhtiarkar, Mr. Isani, Zamindar and Deputy Collector, Rao Bahadur Asardas and Mr. Naraindas Motiram, retired Deputy Collectors, Mr. Hey, Assistant Collector and Mr. Kanwalsing Pohumal and the Honourable Mr. Allahando Shah, Zamindars. They have also been mentioned in the letters underlying the report of 1902 of Mr. Giles then Commissioner in Sind. But there had also been, as already observed, a change in the status and views of the Zamindars, and public opinion was at last aroused and was reflected in the local press. Special enquiries were thereupon made and further measures taken to remedy the evils disclosed. They were directed towards restricting the opportunities of harassment, as originally intended by Mr. Erskine, under the irrigation land settlement by increasing the number of supervising tapedars, by the institution of regular kacheri days for the transaction of revenue business at the taluka head-quarters direct between the Zamindars and the Mukhtiarkars, by the preparation of regular bills of assessment and the alteration of the dates of instalments so as to enable the Zamindars to pay their land revenue direct into the taluka or huzur treasuries and by rendering more effectual the supervision of the Mukhtiarkars by relieving them of their magisterial business and transferring it to Resident Magistrates. These measures, which have been detailed in the report of 1902 of Mr. Giles when Commissioner in Sind, related solely to the Revenue Department. No separate proposals Bombay Admin Report 1911-12 p 3
Bombay Admin Report 1911-12 p 3
Part I pp. 7 & 8
Part I pp. 15 & 1
Bombay Admin Report 1911-12 p 3
Part VII p 42
Part II pp. 57 & 108.
Part II pp. 66, & 108.
Part IV pp. 9 & 1
Part IV pp. 211 & Part VI p. 14.
Part I pp. 1 to 14
Part I pp. 15 & 15
Part I pp. 14 to 15

were made in respect of the Public Works, Forest or Police Departments. They resulted, however, in no substantial reduction in 'lapo,' if reliance be placed on the payments mentioned before us by a great number of Zamindars; though some reduction has been reported in some districts and no 'lapo' has been paid in recent years by some enlightened Zamindars, such as the Honourable Messrs. Allahando Shah and Bhurgri. This has also been the conclusion reached by the Commissioner in Sind in his report of 1917 to Government.

15. Part VII
86.

Regulation XII
Sections 17 & 18.

Revenue Hand-
book 1872 p. 59.

XII. Part VII
art. II p. 187
p. 208.
p. 35. Part II
Part V p. 78.
p. 127. Part
8.

p. 10 & 32.
p. 16. Part IV
Part V p. 9.
p. 11. Part VII
p. 88.

p. 4. Part III
p. 35.

pp 99, 107 &

pp 34 & 154.
p 35.
p 73.

4. It was laid down in the earliest regulations that labour should not be requisitioned without payment and special orders were issued for the guidance of public officers on tour. They have been recited in the Edition of 1872 of Nairne's Revenue Handbook written for the Deccan. But the conditions were widely different in Sind. (There was no casual labour and there were no village 'mahars.' The cultivators were practically the only labourers and they were bound by a well-understood practice to render 'chher' or their labour free whenever required as a result of their dependence on the Zamindars. They consequently not only cultivated the land but also performed, in return merely for their food, such private or public service as might be required of them by their Zamindars. The private service included the entertainment of travellers official or unofficial and the public service the clearing of canals and water-courses, repairs to roads and stopping breaches and making bunds to protect their houses and lands from the floods of the Indus. The result, therefore, was that the camping grounds and approaches were prepared and the tents pitched and other services performed without payment for touring officers by these labourers on the requisition of their Zamindars.) This has been indicated by a great number of witnesses including Messrs. Chainrai and Bhawandas, Mukhtiarkars, Messrs. Muriidhar and Mathradas, Pleaders, Wadero Dil Mahomed, Khan Saheb Dhani Baksh, Mir Jan Mahomed Khan Talpur, Nur Mahomed Baksh Khan Talpur and Khan Saheb Rahim Dad Khan. (These 'chheras' or free labourers were also employed as beaters for shooting and they were usually prohibited on these occasions from receiving payment from the officers, whom they were directed to regard as the guests of their Zamindars. Many of these were country gentlemen by instinct paying over Rs. 5,000 a year in land revenue, to whom shooting was a favourite pastime.) It was impossible to pay these beaters, as explained by several officers and by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri, without deep offence, at all events to the larger Zamindars.) The repairs to roads meant smoothing over the surface, filling in ruts and preventing the dust by cutting down the long grass by the roadsides and spreading it on the tracks or repairing the earth embankments damaged by floods during the inundation season.) There were only camel or cart tracks. There were no regular metalled roads outside the towns except the road between Jungshahi and Tatta. The clearing of the canals and water-courses and the stopping breaches and repairing bunds was also mainly earthwork but of a more emergent and laborious nature and directly affecting the labourers and their Zamindars. The camp work has since continued but the labourers have in a few cases been paid by the touring officers as stated by Messrs. Rothfeld and Bolus, Collectors and the Registrar to the Judicial Commissioner. The canal establishments have, however, usually been employed instead by officers of the Public Works Departments, cattle graziers or 'maldars' to whom concessions on these conditions have been granted by officers of the Forest Department and police trackers by officers of the Police Department according to Mr. Harrison, Superintending Engineer, Mr. Newman, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Mr. Luck, Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The beaters have also in general been paid except where the shooting was by invitation of the larger Zamindars, as stated by all officers who shoot and by a number of zamindars including Khan Saheb Dhani Baksh Abdullah Khan Tunio, Sayed Haji Hashim Shah, and Serai Ghulam Mahomed, all influential Zamindars. But the road repairs have been transferred to the Taluka Local Boards except those along canal banks maintained by the Public Works Department. These road repairs so transferred have often proved insufficient and it has frequently occurred that they have had to be supplemented just before the visits of the inspecting officers on tour by free labour requisitioned by the Mukhtiarkars from the neighbouring Zamindars. (These requisitions have tended to increase with the increase of carriages and tongas and the introduction of motor cars.) But they have been made by the Mukhtiarkars who have hitherto been responsible for the state of the roads as Vice-Presidents of the Taluka Local Boards and not on requisition of the

touring officers according to Mr. Moysey, Collector and Mr. Shillidy, the Assistant Commissioner. Motor cars have been used in the last few years by several touring officers and by at least two pleaders and zamindars. Permission has also been granted recently for the establishment of a public motor service between Kambar and Larkana. The use of motors and the benefits to be derived from them for the public service have been mentioned by Mr. Hayter, District Superintendent of Police. But their general introduction has been restricted by the absence of regular roads in the Province. The clearing of canals and water-courses, where private; has usually been done by the proprietary Zamindars, but the remainder have been maintained and breaches and bunds repaired by the Public Works Department. (No complaints have been made, until quite recently, about the exaction of free labour by the Revenue or other Departments, while the duty of supplying labour on payment in emergencies has been expressly laid upon the Zamindars by section 58 of the Bombay Irrigation Act. Similar duties for the benefit of the public have been recognised in respect of the Forest and Police Departments under section 78 of the Forest Act and under sections 42 to 45 of the Criminal Procedure Code by the Legislature.)

Part V p. 7.
Part VII p. 17.

Part III p. 59.

Part IV pp. 32 & 34.

Bombay Act VII of 187

India Act VII of 1875.
Indig Act V of 1886.

Rasai.

5. (The system of 'rasai' existing at present includes supplies to the subordinate establishments of the taluka. These are the peons, tapedars, supervising tapedars, touring clerks and mukhtiarkars in the Revenue Department; the abdars and canals assistants corresponding to tapedars and supervising tapedars for the special perennial irrigation of the Jamrao Canal, in addition to the peons, daroghas, touring clerks, sub-divisional officers and other subordinates for the ordinary inundation irrigation on other canals in the Public Works Department; the guards, sub-rangers and range forest officers in the Forest Department; and the constables, thanedars, sub-inspectors and inspectors in the Police Department. All these subordinate officials, including private persons in police investigations, are habitually provided with free supplies when on tour according to the testimony of a great number of Zamindars, though payment has sometimes been made by Mukhtiarkars, Sub-Divisional Officers of the Public Works Department, Inspectors of Police, and the higher officials of other Departments.) It is significant that Sub-Inspector Chandumal gained a special reputation for honesty because he regularly paid for every meal according to Mr. Kirkpatrick, District Superintendent of Police. It has also been stated that free supplies have been provided for these subordinate establishments out of the 'rasai' funds even when at head-quarters and support has been lent to the statement by some of the entries in the accounts of the 'rasai' fund of the Dadu taluka. The account of the bania or 'modi' Jethomal contains numerous entries of supplies to 'kotars' or official servants of the tapedars and some also for the servants of the 'Diwan Sahib' presumably the Taluka Head Munshi or Mukhtiarkar. (The account of the liquor seller Tharumal contains entries of liquor supplied to the Head Munshi and to the Mukhtiarkar and the other accounts also contain entries of supplies to the 'Diwan Sahib' and to the Mukhtiarkar. The account of buggies, camels and carts also contain entries of transport for officials of the taluka. The burden of these funds has also, as already mentioned, ultimately to be borne by the Zamindars.)

Part IV p. 102.

Part III pp. 185 to 189

Part III pp. 180, 184, 1' & 200 to 202.

6. But this enquiry is directed mainly into the 'rasai' provided for the touring establishments of the district officers and for the district officers themselves, namely, the Assistant and Deputy Collectors and Collectors in the Revenue Department, the Assistant and Executive Engineers in the Public Works Departments, the Divisional Forest Officers in the Forest Department and the District Superintendents of Police in the Police Department. (The establishments taken on tour have been reduced in recent years but still average from 20 to 40 persons, including camelmen, private servants, peons, clerks and munshis.) It has been stated by these officers generally that further reduction would not be practicable with due regard to the work of their Departments. A substantial supply of stores and records and also of furniture and tents has to be taken with them. Camping grounds are generally selected near the larger villages where grain, ghee and spices can be obtained from bania shops but this is not always possible, especially in the case of officers of the Forest and Police Departments. Eggs, fowls, milk, mutton, fodder

and fuel can generally only be procured even near the larger villages through the local Zamindars. Cots and a few jars for their establishments and grass shelters for their kitchens and stables are all the furniture required locally and these are borrowed and returned. Camels engaged for the season have been the usual means of transport. Carts obtained locally have sometimes been employed but could not always be procured. They could not, moreover, be used effectively on broken, dusty or sandy roads without extensive supplemental repairs. They and motor cars require hard 'kalar' roads such as those found in the 'lar' or south of Sind. The Assistant and Deputy Collectors make on an average 5 or 6 camps in each taluka. The Collector rather fewer. The average march is 10 or 12 miles. Camping grounds have been reserved at some places but there is only a limited provision of bungalows except along the canals where they are required for the Assistant and Executive Engineers. It has been conceded that the Assistant and Deputy Collectors, though no other officers, could reduce the period of their tours by about a month without detriment to their work, that is, to 180 instead of 210 days. The Collectors' tours have already been reduced to 125 instead of 150 days. The touring season lasts from the end of October to the beginning of June but the conditions are different from the Deccan. No useful revenue work can be done during the last month owing to the intense heat of the summer in Sind.

7. The needs of the touring officers themselves do not exceed Rs. 2 to 3 a day, while the requirements of their establishments official and unofficial vary from Rs. 10 to 25. They are met generally by the tapadars though nominally by selected Zamindars in the Revenue Department, by the daroghas in the Public Works Department, by the range forest officers in the Forest Department and by thanedars and sub-inspectors in the Police Department. But (it has been repeated by one witness after another that the establishments pay nothing and that the officers are the only people who habitually pay and that even the bills presented to them do not always represent the full amounts or rates of the supplies taken in their names, as the bills are usually prepared in consultation with the butlers who are anxious to minimize their own extravagant demands made in the names of their masters.) The officers are frequently charged nothing for milk, fuel or fodder owing to the custom of the landholders not to make such things the subject of sale or owing to their still having in some places no practicable markets. It is also said that the money actually paid is frequently retained by or returned to their butlers, but this can hardly be done in those cases in which the butlers proceed on the march overnight and the bills are settled personally on the morning of departure by the officers. It is probable that the money is then retained by the tapadars or other local officials responsible for paying the village banias and the Zamindars. This has been suspected by Mr. Jagatsing Aimal, when Mukhtiarkar, and might happen for example during the tours of the Judicial Commissioner. (The establishments both official and unofficial seldom pay anything but on the contrary receive, according to a great number of witnesses, money presents to prevent their representing the arrangements as defective or otherwise raising prejudice against the local officials and Zamindars.) A typical instance has been narrated by Mr. Jagatsing Aimal, Superintendent of Land Records, which resulted in the dismissal of the butler of Mr. Baker when Collector of Larkana. There is good reason, however, to believe that the bills presented in recent years represent more truly the actual amounts and rates of supplies and that the money presents which at one time included large sums reaching even Rs. 100 have been much reduced, though only recently another butler had to be dismissed for malpractices by Mr. Bolus, Collector of Larkana. It has on the other hand been found necessary to pay special allowances to servants on tour by Mr. Mackie, Collector of Nawabshah and a special arrangement was, to the knowledge of the Chairman, made with his butler by Mr. Lawrence Commissioner in Sind.

8. The establishments both official and unofficial are frequently paid daily allowances instead of grain, ghee and spices to enable them to avoid detection by procuring receipts for these kinds of supplies in their own names from the bania shops as stated by Mr. Hiranand Tahilram Lala, Deputy Collector. The account of the tapadar Jhavarmal contains numerous entries of daily allowances and 'tips' to servants and peons, including one of Rs. 100 to a butler, paid from the 'rasai' fund of the Dadu taluka. There are also numerous entries, both

IV p. 67.

VII p. 33.

IV p. 67.

III p. 9.

VI p. 4.

VI pp. 82 & 83.

III pp. 197 & 198

in his account and that of the modi Jethmal, of food and other supplies and in the account of the liquor seller Tharumal, of liquor for the munshis of touring officers. These amount to considerable sums and go a long way to explain the laments that "it is the 'rasai' of the munshis which has ruined the the Zamindars" made by Sayed Nawaz Ali Shah, a large Zamindar of Digri in the Thar and Parkar district and that "the greatest trouble is from the subordinate officials" made by Sayed Haji Hashim Shah, an influential Zamindar of Sujawal in the Karachi district. These accounts contain also the entries of supplies of eggs, fowls, mutton, milk and fuel and other articles for the touring officers themselves but such supplies are paid for, as already mentioned, upon bills of which samples have been recorded of Mr. Nabi Baksh, Deputy Collector, Nara Valley and of the Collector and of the Sessions Judge of Larkana. Those payments have not, however, been brought to account possibly having been taken back, as already mentioned, by the butlers or retained by the receiving tapedar. The only entries of payments are receipts of the salaries of the tapedar and money payments from the Zamindars. It has been suggested that the bills do not represent the full amounts or rates of the supplies to the knowledge of the touring officers but there is in our opinion no substance in this insinuation. It is not easy for them to ascertain accurately what has been supplied in their names or the actual rates, when those responsible are interested in withholding the true information. Their own requirements too are small and the amounts involved petty. It is on the other hand easy to be misled by inaccurate information, as appears from the letter of Mr. Nabi Baksh in reply to remarks made in Council by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri. The latter gentleman went so far as to assert before us that opposition to 'rasai' had even resulted in prosecutions and he quoted the case of the Crown vs. Gul Hassan. He was, however, shown to be mistaken in this view by the judgment of Mr. Pratt, the Judicial Commissioner. It has also been hinted that free supplies of wine are sometimes accepted by touring officers but there is in our opinion again no truth whatever in this insinuation. There is in the accounts an entry of Rs. 39 for 'foreign liquor' but there is no indication that this liquor was not like other liquor supplied for the subordinate establishments rather than for the touring officers. The insinuation has been made by Messrs. Bhojising and Lalchand Navalrai, Pleaders and repeated on no more reliable authority than idle rumour by Mr. Kishindas Jhamrai, a reduced 1st class Magistrate and the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri. It is extremely improbable as pointed out by Mr. Bolus, Collector of Larkana and has no better basis apparently than the periodical replenishments on payment from regular wine merchants at the district head-quarters mentioned by Mr. Jagatsing Aimal, Superintendent of Land Records. It is indeed inconceivable that wines should be otherwise procured for their guests by superior officers of the position of Collectors and the Commissioner in Sind.

9. The net result of these particular 'rasai' accounts would appear to be a debt of about Rs. 2,000 against the 'rasai' fund as stated by the tapedar Javharmal out of expenses amounting to Rs. 1,300 in 1916-17 and Rs. 2,500 in 1917-18. The debt had not been liquidated—and this was no doubt the reason that these incriminating papers had not already been destroyed but came into our hands—apparently because the crops had in the latter year been ruined by extensive floods from the Manchur Lake and it was not possible to raise the money from the Zamindars. The tapedar Javharmal stated that this 'rasai' related to all the camps in the Dadu taluka but it has been stated by a number of other witnesses that elsewhere the practice is different and that the expenses are borne by the local tapedar and recovered from the local Zamindars for camps away from the taluka head-quarters and that the 'rasai' funds, still secretly maintained and made up from the pay of all the tapedar and generally levied from the Zamindars, have to provide only for the expenses of camps at the taluka head-quarters. But the result is the same whatever the practice and the burden falls on the Zamindars. It has been stated by most of the tapedar examined that they recoup the money out of their 'lapo' but they make a separate levy in addition to 'lapo' according to most of the Zamindars. (The cultivators, however, have to pay in the end according to Mr. Gurdasing Jotsing and the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri, as the customary 'deh kharch' is still levied from them for the purpose by the majority of the Zamindars. The burden is considerable. The daily requirements

of Rs. 12 to 30 will readily swell under irresponsible extravagance to Rs. 100 or more, to which has to be added the expenses of pleaders, parties, witnesses and other persons in magisterial and miscellaneous enquiries before the touring officers. It is quite conceivable, therefore, that the annual expenses on 'rasai' might reach totals varying from Rs. 100 to 500 or even Rs. 1,000 for individual landholders as estimated by the various Zamindars from the different districts of Sind.)

10. There are some entries in these 'rasai' accounts—the only accounts of a 'rasai' fund produced before us—which indicate that the complimentary decoration with garlands and the presentation of 'dhalis' or baskets of fruit and vegetables are paid for out of the 'rasai' funds when offered by the subordinate officials. Such 'dhalis' have been received by some touring officers but they should in our opinion be strictly prohibited in all Departments. This need not prevent the purchase of fruit or vegetables from local fund gardens or the receipt of customary offerings of sugar from Hindu panchayets or of friendly 'dhalis' from the larger Zamindars. (It has been stated by Mr. Naraindas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector, that the presenters sometimes place brandy and whisky or golden ornaments or sovereigns or other valuable offerings in their 'dhalis.' But this is a misleading exaggeration. Articles of food in tins have sometimes had to be returned to Hindu zamindars by Mr. Shillidy, and a bottle of chutney was recently returned from a 'dhali' by Mr. Bolus, Collector of Larkana. A bottle of brandy had also to be returned from one 'dhali' and Rs. 10 paid for a bottle of champagne to the War Fund to avoid hurting the feelings of another gentleman by Mr. Mackie, Collector of Nawabshah. A silver tea set was returned to a petty zamindar by Mr. Dow, Assistant Collector and another was prepared but not presented by the nephew of a mischievous Zamindar for Mr. Timms, Executive Engineer. But neither liquor nor apparently any other objectionable presents have ever been heard of by Mr. Shillidy, Assistant Commissioner, Mr. McCulloch, District Superintendent of Police or Mr. Martin, Collector of Karachi. The presentation of 'dhalis' is regarded as a privilege by the larger Zamindars, such as Mr. Madhandas Mangatram, Wadero Dil Murad, Khan, Sardar Mahrab Khan and the Honourable Mr. Allahando Shah but it would in our opinion be better to forbid them even from Zamindars of the rank of Collectors' or Commissioner's Durbaris, though it would perhaps be unnecessary to prohibit the receipt of 'dumba' sheep from Baluchi Sardars permitted by the practice of the Commissioner in Sind.)

art III pp. 107, 108 & 95.
 art II p. 107.
 art VII p. 14.
 art III p. 9.
 art VI p. 9.
 art V p. 46.
 art IV p. 91.
 art V pp. 25 to 26.
 art VII p. 56.
 art VII p. 15.
 art VII p. 25.
 art VII p. 6.
 art II pp. 115 & 177.
 art V p. 64.
 art VI p. 14.
 art VII p. 13.

11. The evidence relates mainly to the tours of the district officers of the Revenue Department. But it remains true with some modifications for the tours of the district officers of the Public Works, Forest and Police Departments. The tapedars of the Revenue Department are replaced by the abgars or daroghas of the Public Works, the range forest officers of the Forest, and the thanedars and sub-inspectors of the Police Departments. But the establishments though possibly less exacting and less numerous pay nothing. Payment is only made by the officers. (The ultimate burden falls on the cultivators, cattle-owners or 'maldars' and the Zamindars under the various Departments.) The tours of the revenue officers extend everywhere during the touring season from October to June. The tours of the engineers are usually restricted to irrigation works, the forest officers to forests and the police officers to police-stations. But the engineers are required to tour also in the inundation season from June to September and police officers have to go wherever serious offences summon them and at whatever time of the year. There are therefore difficulties in the way of imposing uniformity of plans for supplies upon all the various Departments. The same remarks hold good for the tours of the provincial officers who are not restricted to particular districts but tour over the whole Province. They include the Educational Inspector, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Superintending Engineers, the Judicial Commissioner and the Commissioner in Sind. Their establishments are sometimes larger numbering so many as 80 persons for the last named officer and their expenses are proportionately higher. But they visit generally only the more important towns and make greater use of local transport and travel also by railways and by official steamers on the Indus. It has been stated by Sir Charles Mules that exactions were specially heavy in the past during the tours of the Commissioner in Sind and single camps have been said to have cost Rs. 500 to 1,000 by Mr. Chainrai Bulchand, Assistant Manager of Encumbered Estates

art I p. 13
 art IV pp. 67, 76 & 79.

and by Mr. Jagatsing Aimal, Superintendent of Land Records. But the expenditure on local transport has been much exaggerated by Mr. Kundansing K. Lahori, Zamindar and Deputy Collector according to Mr. Shillidy the Assistant Commissioner and Mr. Nabi Baksh, Deputy Collector and Native Assistant Commissioner, has detailed the special efforts made to prevent depredations by Messrs. Barrow, Lucas and Lawrence when Commissioners in Sind.

12. We have been at pains so far to set forth the facts. This has been comparatively easy. They have for long been known and exhibit a system that cannot be too strongly condemned. They have been established by a great number of witnesses official and unofficial from all grades and from all districts of the Province. We now come to the much more difficult problem of proposing the remedy. (It has been shown that subordinate establishments have inherited demoralizing traditions from the past, from which all efforts hitherto have failed to wear them and that the only persons who really pay for their supplies are the superior touring officers.) This has been repeated over and over again by officials and by Zamindars. It has nevertheless been suggested that this failure to detach subordinate establishments from their past traditions has been due to general lack of earnestness on the part of the superior touring officers. But it seems to us that those who have made this suggestion have themselves failed to realize either the strength of the past traditions or the strenuous efforts made from time to time to overcome them. There has been no general lack of earnestness in the sense of lack of desire to stop rasai though a feeling of hopelessness, not in our opinion justified, has not been uncommon of finding effective means to overcome the past traditions. Nor is it true that there is any lack of sympathy on the part of engineering officers. They are on the contrary particularly interested in the landholders under the irrigation settlement as explained by Mr. Shillidy, Assistant Commissioner. It was no doubt lack of experience of the Province which drew the remark against them from Mr. Rothfeld, acting Collector. We recommend therefore a continuation and determined development of the efforts made in the past and more effective participation in future of all superior touring officers in stamping out the old and establishing new traditions. (We recognise that these efforts must be reinforced by special measures for the spread of education and the growth of a higher standard of morality not only among the subordinate establishments but also among the general public including the Zamindars of the Province.) This has been the view of a number of witnesses including Mr. Kanwalsing Pohumal and the Honourable Mr. Bhurgr, Zamindars, Mr. Hiranand Tahilram Lala, Deputy Collector, Mr. Shillidy, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector and was insisted on by Mr. Giles when Commissioner in Sind.

13. We do not believe that any special rules will have any substantial effect on the subordinate establishments of the talukas. They can only be checked by close supervision and condign punishment when discovered in fault by the superior officers of the district. An incident in Garhi Yasin taluka referred to by Mr. Murlidhar, Pleader, was thus dealt with personally by Mr. Kirkpatrick, District Superintendent of Police. There was another case mentioned by Mr. Murlidhar pending against a Sub-Inspector of Police of Rohri as stated by Mr. Rothfeld, Collector of Sukkur. We recognise that the subordinate establishments taken on tour by district officers have been reduced in recent years but recommend that further reductions should be made wherever practicable. We think they ought to be provided with cots, as well as jars for water, at all events for the cold weather as shown by Mr. Hayter, District Superintendent of Police. If these cannot be conveniently carried as part of the camp equipment, they ought to be provided as part of the local dead-stock for the use of the establishments of touring officers. Clerks should, like other members of the establishment, always take tents. They are sometimes so provided according to Messrs. Hey and Baskerville, Assistant Collectors, Mr. Mackie, Collector and Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector. Stable and kitchen tents should also be taken, if special shelter is deemed necessary. This would avoid requisitions for cots, jars, materials for erecting temporary booths or sheds and the use of private houses. We believe that camps are usually pitched near the larger villages but this should be laid down as the rule and care should be taken not to try criminal cases with their concourse of parties, police, pleaders and

witnesses near the smaller villages. We recommend in particular committal enquiries being held by Resident Magistrates and cases under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code being tried at the offender's taluka head-quarters and in general a further relief of revenue officers by an extension of the system of trials before Resident Magistrates. Camping grounds should be maintained at these larger villages but steps should be taken as soon as practicable to provide bungalows. Arrangements should be made at such places with selected village banias for the supply of grain, ghee and spices at reasonable rates to touring establishments and their position should be recognised like that of the police modis at police posts and police-stations mentioned by Messrs. Curry, Hayter and Ommanney, District Superintendents of Police. 'Seri' or free grants of land should wherever possible be made to small landholders to the extent of Rs. 50 or 100 assessment on condition that they maintain the camping grounds and supply eggs, fowls, milk, mutton, vegetables, fodder and fuel to touring officers. This has been suggested by Mr. Hayter, District Superintendent of Police, and recommended for trial by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri, Zamindar and by Messrs. Rothfeld, Bolus, Moysey and Mackie, Collectors. There might be difficulties as suggested in relation to the patels of the desert parts of Thar and Parkar by Mr. Vaghji Dhamani, Zamindar and as expected in the Upper Sind Frontier by Mr. Smyth, Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Martin, Collector. We doubt the practicability of the employment of independent or even subsidized contractors for the scattered and limited requirements of touring officers but they have been recommended by a number of witnesses and might be tried in likely localities. We do not recommend the continuance of the business by selected landholders from among the larger Zamindars. The impracticability of the former plan has been pointed out by Mr. Bhawandas Fatehchand, Mukhtiarkar and Mr. Hiranand Tahilram Lala, Deputy Collector and the objections to the latter have been explained by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri and have been strongly expressed by a number of the other larger Zamindars. We do not consider it practicable to relieve the tapadars, daroghas, range forest officers and thanedars of their duty to give intimation of the requirements of touring officers in their respective Departments. But they should have nothing further to do with the provision of supplies. The responsibility should be laid upon the selected banias and seridars or independent or subsidized contractors according to the arrangements made to suit the environment. It will not be always possible to follow the same uniform plan. Special arrangements will have to be made for special places and special occasions. Assistant Collectors will be required to visit remote spots, Engineers to repair breaches in bunds and Superintendents of Police to investigate serious offences far from large villages. It will be necessary on such special occasion to have recourse as heretofore to the local landholders but the transaction should then if possible be effected through their kamdars to mitigate the embarrassment from having to receive payment usually felt by the larger Zamindars. Plans well adapted for the ordinary plains will again require modification for the Kohistan or hilly tracts of the Karachi district, for the deserts of Thar and Parkar and for the borders of the Upper Sind Frontier. We believe the tours generally are not unduly prolonged but we recommend for consideration the proposal made by a number of officers for the reduction by one, or where their duties permit, even two months, of the tours of Assistant and Deputy Collectors. We recognise at the same time the essential need for regular tours as laid down in the past and as emphasized by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri and by the demands for relief from the harassments of subordinate officials and for more direct business relations with superior touring officers made by Sardar Kaiser Khan and Mir Jan Mahomed Khan Talpur and several others of the larger Zamindars of the Province. We believe the salaries of servants and peons will require substantial supplementing on tour before they will be persuaded to serve willingly without hope of free supplies. This has been recognized as regards servants by some officers. It should be recognized by all. It will have to be recognized also as regards peons and as regards clerical establishments and will probably require liberal revision of their travelling allowances. It will have to be remembered in making the revision that the standard of living is higher than in the Deccan as pointed out by Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector in Sind. It will be necessary to insist on a stricter discipline being maintained not only over the servants and peons but also over the clerical establishments by the touring officers as recommended by Mr. Abdul Satar, Inspector of Police. It

Part III p. 22
Part IV pp. 32 & 34.
Part V p. 16.

Part IV p. 35.
Part VII pp. 88 & 91.
Part II p. 12
Part III p. 12.
Part V pp. 6 & 8.
Part VI p. 9

Part V p. 135
Part II p. 52
Part VII p. 6.

Part VII p. 41.
Part VI p. 88.
Part VII p. 88.

Nairn's Revenue Hand-
book, Edition 1872 p.
53
Part VII p. 84.

Part II p. 192.
Part V p. 77.

Part VII p. 29.

Part VII p. 174.

will be well, therefore, to make the revised travelling allowances to depend upon the behaviour of the establishments on tour as judged by the touring officers. It will be only right at the same time to radically revise the travelling allowances of the touring officers having regard to the special expenses of service, supply and transport falling on them in Sind. We recommend that 'dhalis' or presentations of fruit and vegetables be absolutely prohibited from all subordinate officials in all Departments and even from Zamindars of the rank of Collectors' and Commissioners' Durbaris and that 'dumba' sheep should only be received from Baluchi Sardars as permitted by the practice of the Commissioner in Sind. We recommend that all the orders issued on these various matters be made widely known both among officials and the general public and that co-operation be invited personally by touring officers from all the larger Zamindars.

14. We are confident that considerable improvement will result from these measures if determined and persistent efforts are made to render them effective by all superior touring officers and we recommend a special report after three years' experience by the Commissioner in Sind. But we recognize that these efforts must be reinforced by special measures for the spread of education and the development of a higher standard of public morality not only among the subordinate officials but also among the general public including the Zamindars of the Province of Sind.

Lapo.

15. The system of 'rasai' existing at present is said to have been the root of 'lapo' and it has been suggested by some witnesses, and in particular by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri, that cutting out 'rasai' would kill 'lapo.' But this is in our opinion a misapprehension. It is contradicted by a number of witnesses including Mr. Vastiram Dimal, Resident Magistrate and Mukhtiarkar, Mr. Naraindas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector and Mir Jan Mahomed Khan Talpur, Zamindar. It is no doubt true that the expenses of 'rasai' are sometimes in the first instance met out of 'lapo' as already explained and that 'rasai' has in a sense become a tithe on 'lapo' as described by Mr. Tupper when acting Collector. It is also true no doubt that 'rasai' has been made a pretext for levying extra 'lapo' as stated by a number of witnesses. But the two though thus connected are distinct, the one being levied as a right of maintenance and the other being paid as the price of freedom from harassment. Both have their roots as already indicated in past traditions. 'Rasai' is made as well as 'lapo' paid by a great number of Zamindars including Ahmedi Haji Alioghar, Mir Jan Mahomed Khan and Mir Ghulam Mahomed Talpur. The distinction has also been set forth by Mr. Naraindas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector and by Mr. Giles when Commissioner in Sind.

16. The system of 'lapo' at present existing is primarily the periodical levy made by the tapadars, at the time of payment of land revenue, from the Zamindars. The tapadars who have been examined have freely admitted the levy but have endeavoured to excuse it by pleading the meagreness of their salaries and the exactions of the supervising tapadars and other members of the establishments of the talukas and of the establishments of the touring district officials. The meagreness of their salaries having regard to the responsibilities of their position has already been mentioned and exact figures of the exactions paid by them to others have been given by Choithram, Sobhraj, Gul Mahomed, Nihalsing and Abdullah, tapadars, corroborated by Daulatram and Haji Fazullallah, supervising tapadars and by Messrs. Wadhmal Tarachand, Rupchand Teumal, Gokaldas Utamsing, Dalpatrai Kauromal and Sobhraj Shamdas, Mukhtiarkars. (These scandalous exactions have been paid to avoid the harassment to which they would otherwise have been subjected at the time of the inspection of their records by the subordinate establishments of the talukas and of the touring district officials and have been encouraged by the subordinate establishments of the talukas to avoid the harassment to which they would in their turn otherwise have been subjected by the subordinate establishments of the touring district officials. But neither the meagreness of the salaries nor these scandalous exactions have rendered the posts of tapadars unpopular. Choithram and Hargundas, tapadars, have testified that transfers to the more productive 'tapas' have been freely sold in a most shameless manner. There can be no doubt that these sales were stimulated by hopes of

gain and not merely as pretended to prevent loss, for the eagerness to become tapedars has been evidenced by Mr. Kishinchand Gulabchand, Deputy Educational Inspector. He has also referred to the well-built houses of retired tapedars in the Hiraabad quarter of the town of Hyderabad and the significant remark "I think tapedars retire very well off considering their pay. I am a poor man compared with many tapedars" was made by Mr. Jesasing Himathsing, retired Deputy Collector. An endeavour to estimate their profits from this, apart from other improper methods, was also made by Mr. Tupper when Collector of Larkana in his report to Mr. Giles then Commissioner in Sind.

17. It is established by a number of witnesses that 'lapo' is levied either on the acreage at so much an acre or 'jireb' or survey number or on the assessment at so much per cent. from the smaller zamindars and that it is levied in lump sums from the larger Zamindars. It is described by some as a 'tip' and by others as a payment to prevent harassment. It is said to have increased with the rise in prices but the average would still appear to vary from 3 to 6 per cent. on the land revenue as reported in 1902 by Mr. Giles, though figures working out to 10 and even to much higher per centages have been given by some Zamindars. Thus Rs. 1,000 to 1,500 are said to be paid on Rs. 15,000 land revenue by Serai Ghulam Mahomed, Rs. 500 or 600 on Rs. 5,000 or 6,000 land revenue by Haji Mahomed Hasan and Rs. 1,200 or 1,300 on Rs. 12,000 land revenue by Mir Ghulam Mahomed Talpur. It is in any case a substantial tax on the Zamindars. It is not, however, paid altogether unwillingly as it ensures condonation of breaches of the rules and prevents harassments to which they would otherwise be subjected under the irrigation land settlement. These harassments have been described by several landholders and in detail by Mr. Hiranand Tahilram Lala, Deputy Collector. The repeated prayer of the witnesses including Sardar Kaiser Khan, Mir Jan Mahomed Khan Talpur and Mr. Kanwalsing Pohumal and other Zamindars has been for the reduction of the powers of the subordinate establishments under the irrigation land settlement and for direct disposal of business with the superior officers of the Revenue Department. It is said by a number of other witnesses including Messrs. Gopalidas Harumal, Gurmukhsing and Nenumal, Overseers, Mr. Gopalidas Keswani, Supervisor, Mr. Ramchand Bijasing, Sub-Engineer and Mr. Timms, Executive Engineer, that the abgars make similar levies for condoning breaches of rules and for abstaining from harassment under the irrigation system of the Jamrao and that the daroghas make levies per water-wheel or water-course for the same purposes under the other irrigation systems supervised by the Public Works Department.

18. We have thus far stated the facts which have again long been known and now come to what indeed is the much more difficult problem, the proposal of the remedy. It has been shown that sanction has been given by old tradition to the levy of 'lapo' by the subordinate establishments of the Revenue Department and that their practice has been imitated by the subordinate establishments of the Public Works Department. It has not been suggested that the levy has been shared with the higher officials, though it has been encouraged by Mukhtiarkars as an insurance against the harassing propensities of the inspecting establishments of the touring district officials according to Rao Bahadur Asardas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector; and Mukhtiarkars have not always been above suspicion according to Mr. Naraindas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector and Mr. Hey, Assistant Collector, speaking of the Revenue Department; or Overseers and Supervisors according again to Mr. Naraindas and according to Mr. Tupper, Collector, speaking of the Public Works Department. It has been shown that the efforts made and measures taken to reduce 'lapo' by some Mukhtiarkars and by the superior district officers have not hitherto met with substantial success. The reasons have been thus expressed by Mr. Shildy, the Assistant Commissioner: "Another reason for the continuance of lapo is the almost total lack of public morality on the question of corruption. People generally do not regard it with disapprobation; and only the gazetted officers of the higher rank regard it with disfavour. The subordinate officers are all interested in the continuance of lapo. They give no information towards the detection of it or its cessation. Where information is given, it is given because of some other reason and because it is known that for corruption people are punished. I do not think any number of rules or laws will stop corruption in themselves; but they may lead to a gradual improvement in public opinion on this

question. I should feel inclined to say there is some improvement in this respect but it is very slow. I see no active desire as yet on the part of subordinate officials to suppress corruption or to make a stand against it; though one hears now and then of officers who personally refrain from taking illegal payments. In my opinion we must look to time and education to change the public standard." We again recommend a continuation and a determined development of the efforts made in the past and in particular more effective and persistent participation of all Mukhtiarkars in the measures of the superior district officers for breaking the old and establishing new traditions. But we again recognise that these efforts must be reinforced by special measures for the spread of education and the growth of a higher standard of public morality throughout the Province.

19. We think that the development should be in the direction of restricting the opportunities for harassment afforded to the tapedars and supervising tapedars under the irrigation land settlement. The tapedars should in our opinion be reduced strictly to a clerical ministerial position and deprived of their duties of inspection and their opportunities for offering opinions and making reports, as intended in the eighties by Mr. Erskine and proposed in 1902 by Mr. Giles; and the supervising tapedars should be replaced by a superior grade of official better educated and qualified and styled Deputy Mukhtiarkar, as recommended by Mr. Hiranand Tahilram Lala, Deputy Collector, Mr. Jagatsing Aimal, Superintendent of Land Records, Mr. Hey, Assistant Collector and by Messrs. Bolus, Mackie and Martin, Collectors and by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri, Zamindar. The pay and position both of tapedars and supervising tapedars, or rather the substituted grade of Deputy Mukhtiarkar, should be prescribed having regard not to the widely different requirements of the Deccan but to their special responsibilities under the irrigation settlement and to the special standard of living indicated by Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector in Sind. We think that determined efforts should at the same time be made in the direction of reducing the number of low paid clerks and munshis and of substituting for them a smaller number of better paid and better qualified officials drawn indiscriminately from all the different divisions of the population. These efforts will no doubt be strenuously opposed by the vested interests indicated by Mr. Haji Kamalidin, Zamindar and by Mr. Shillidy, Assistant Commissioner and by the statistics given by the Collectors. These statistics have shown a disproportionate number of the subordinate establishments to be Hindu, having regard to the large population of Mahomedans in the Province. We believe that this reduction and substitution would not only render a departure from old and vicious traditions possible but would make it practicable to introduce improved office methods leading to more effective and prompt disposal of work and leaving more time for the constant personal supervision so much required by the superior district officers, as stated by Messrs. Baskerville and Hey, Assistant Collectors and by Mr. Martin, Collector. This personal and perpetual supervision has indeed been recognised on all hands to be essential for rooting out these old and vicious traditions from the Province. We think that the harassing propensities of subordinate establishments should also be checked by a systematising and reduction of inspections. The subordinate establishments should be directed to dispose of all minor errors there and then without demanding useless explanations. No orders should be passed in writing except on matters of principle and then only personally by the inspecting officer, as in the case of the Educational Department described by Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector and of the Judicial Department as mentioned by the Registrar of the Judicial Commissioner's Court and laid down in the Sind Courts Civil and Criminal Circulars. It seems to us also to be a mistake in principle that all inspections should be focussed on the fulcrums for the levy of lapo, namely, the taluka offices and that no inspection should ever be made with the object of checking the depredations of the offices of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors and of the Collectors. It would in our opinion be better if the taluka offices were inspected in full only by the Assistant and Deputy Collectors and if the proceedings of the offices of the latter were regularly scrutinized by the Collectors. Similarly the enforcement of the proper performance of their duties by the offices of the Collectors should be the main object of the inspection by the Commissioner in Sind. Yet it would appear from the statement of Mr. Moysey that the offices of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors have never been inspected by the Collectors nor, according to our information, have those of the Collectors ever been inspected by the Commissioner in Sind. We believe the introduction of

Part I p. 16 para. 14, & 16.

Part VI p. 89.
Part IV pp. 63 & 9.
Part III p. 13.
Part VI pp. 6, 7 & 9.
Part VII pp. 6, 92 & 93

Part VII p. 29.

Part IV p. 219.
Part VII pp. 14 & 15.
Part II pp. 10 & 33.
Part III p. 14.
Part IV p. 823.
Part V p. 9.
Part VI p. 4.
Part VII pp. 10 & 19.
Bombay Administration Report 1911-12 p. 79.

Part IV p. 6.
Part VII pp. 68 & 70.
Part VII p. 4.

Part VII pp. 29 & 30.

Part VII p. 35.
S. C. Civ. Cases, pp. 5, 1 & 119 to 121.
S. C. Comm. Cases, pp. 1 & 105, 106.

Part V p. 6.

bills of assessment and the modification of the dates of instalment of revenue have led to some direct payments into the taluka and district treasuries but such payments might be further encouraged by the remission of postal fees on money orders used for transmitting land revenue. There would seem reason to fear on the other hand that direct payments have been indirectly discouraged in places at least by subordinate establishments, in view of the statements of Mr. Mahomed Jaffer and Sayed Haji Mahomed Hasham Shah, Zamindars. We believe also that benefit has been derived from the institution of kacheri days for the disposal of work direct between the Mukhtiarkars and Zamindars and from the periodical durbars held by the Collectors of the districts. These kacheri days and periodical durbars offer valuable opportunities for pressing reforms on the Zamindars. (We are confident that substantial improvement will result from these various measures if determined and persistent efforts are made by all Mukhtiarkars in participation with the superior district officers but we recognise that these efforts must be reinforced by special measures for the spread of education and the growth of a higher standard of public morality throughout the Province.)

Part VIII pp. 76 & 78.
Part VII p. 94.

20. It is said that corruption in other forms such as that described in 1902 in the 'Al-Haq' and those mentioned before us by Sayed Lal Shah and Haji Kamaldin, Zamindars, is also rife among the subordinate establishments of the Revenue Department and it is said that contractors have to pay upto 10 per cent., according to a number of witnesses, on the amounts of their contracts for distribution among the subordinate officials of the Public Works Department. (Similar exactions are said to be made in the Forest Department and extensive exactions in respect of offences are reported to be made by the subordinate establishments of the Police Department.) But corruption in these forms is not strictly 'lapo.' It does not come within the reference to us and has therefore not been the subject of detailed investigation. It demands independent enquiry and, if truly reported, vigorous treatment. But it is feared that it is not limited to these particular Departments and does but reflect the deplorable standard of public morality prevalent in other places besides Sind.

Part I p. 9.
Part V p. 100
Part IV p. 216.

Chher.

21. The system of 'chher' at present existing has already been described and the description does not demand repetition. It has been recommended that camping grounds should in connection with 'rasai' be reserved at the larger villages and should be maintained by 'seridars' or small freeholders. The labour required at such grounds should also be provided by these 'seridars' but it should be paid for at full labour rates by the touring officers. The number of labourers required is not large, being from 2 to 4 daily and 15 to 20 on the days of arrival and departure according to the statements of a number of touring officers. There should be no difficulty in the 'seridars' providing these men, if they are regularly paid. Elsewhere they can be requisitioned on similar payment from the local Zamindars. (The numbers now supplied are usually greatly in excess of the requirements. This should be stopped. They run up to 50 to 100 and even more according to the statements of a number of Zamindars.) It will probably be necessary to revise the travelling allowances of the touring officers also in respect of labour as explained by Mr. Hey, Assistant Collector and Mr. Martin, Collector or to divide the expense according to the rule for the tour of the Judicial Commissioner. These remarks apply mainly to touring officers of the Revenue Department. Comparatively few labourers beyond local establishments, as before mentioned, are used by the Public Works, Forest and Police Departments.

Part IV p. 9
Part VII p. 6
Part VIII p. 35.

22. There does not appear to us to be any substantial grievance in respect of requisitions for beaters for shooting. The matter has been wilfully misrepresented by some irresponsible witnesses, such as Mr. Mahomed Khan Pathan, Zamindar, as shown by Mr. Nabi Baksh, Deputy Collector. (The beaters are cultivators, or more often professional sportsmen, and are well paid except when the officers shooting are the guests of the larger landholders. It is then not possible to pay them without insult to these Zamindars.) This has been indicated by a number of witnesses including Serai Ghulam Mahomed, Zamindar, Mr. Shillidy, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Harrison, Superintending Engineer. (No sufficient reason has in our opinion been disclosed for interference in the implied relations of

Part V pp. 47 & 51.
Part VII p. 51.

Part III p. 73.
Part VII pp. 16 & 105.

service existing between the 'haris' or labourers and their Zamindars or in the hospitality thus preferred by the larger Zamindars to superior touring officers of the various Departments.

23. The requisition of labour for the repairs of roads should on the other hand be strictly prohibited. It appears to have been the practice for the Mukhtarkars to requisition such labour to make up the deficiencies of their own efforts as Vice-Presidents of the Taluka Local Boards. If special repairs should be necessary, they ought to be made on full payment to the labourers employed; as in the cases instanced by Mr. Nabi Baksh, Assistant Commissioner or by special funds granted by Government. It has also been stated by a number of witnesses including Mr. Abdul Satar, Inspector of Police, Mr. Hiranand Tahilram, Deputy Collector and the Honorable Mr. Bhurgri, Zamindar, that proper payment has not always been made for labour employed on emergency works by the Public Works Department. This should be remedied wherever proved; but there is, in our opinion, no good ground for interference with the principles requiring such labour to be supplied under the Irrigation Act or with the general duties imposed on the public by the Forest Act and by the Criminal Procedure Code by the Legislature.

Part VII p. 51.

Part VII p. 175.
Part VI p. 91.
Part VIII pp. 88 & 8

Bom. Act VII of 18
India Act VII of 18
India Act V of 1898

24. We have therefore only to recommend that casual labour be employed wherever obtainable and that the principle of full payment be strictly enforced in future in respect of all labour required by touring officers and that steps be taken to prevent excessive supply of labourers by the Zamindars; that requisitions for road repairs be strictly prohibited otherwise than on full payment of the labourers and that steps be taken to ensure that they receive proper payment when employed on emergency works under the Irrigation Act. (It is not our business to discuss the relations of service existing between labourers and Zamindars and no interference would seem necessary with the duties imposed on the public by the Acts of the Legislature.)

Summary.

25. We have shown that the system of 'rasai', 'lapo' and 'chher' lie deep-rooted in past traditions and that 'rasai' and 'lapo' have hitherto defied all efforts for their suppression, while 'chher' has only recently been rendered prominent. We have recommended a continuation and determined development of the measures heretofore taken against 'rasai' in the following directions:—

- (1) Camping grounds should be fixed as far as possible and early steps should be taken to provide bungalows.
- (2) Baniyas and seridars or independent or subsidized contractors should be employed for their maintenance and supplies.
- (3) The subordinate establishments of the talukas should not be responsible except to the extent of informing the baniyas and seridars or contractors of the requirements of the touring officers and in special cases of having recourse to local Zamindars.
- (4) Cots and water jars should be carried or maintained locally and tents should be taken if required for stables and kitchens and for all members of touring establishments.
- (5) The salaries and travelling allowances of servants, peons and clerical establishments on tour should be substantially supplemented and stricter discipline should be maintained over them. There should at the same time be a liberal revision of the travelling allowances of the touring officers.
- (6) There should be a reduction by one or two months of the tours of Assistant and Deputy Collectors.
- (7) Dhalis should be strictly prohibited from all subordinate officials and even from Zamindars, though exception might be necessary in respect of 'dumbas' from Baluchi Sardars as permitted by the Commissioner in Sind.

26. We have also recommended a continuation and determined development of the measures heretofore taken against 'lapo' in the following directions :—

(1) The tapedars should be reduced strictly to a ministerial position and the supervising tapedars should be replaced by a superior grade of official of the rank of Deputy Mukhtiarkar. Their salaries should be revised to meet their special responsibilities and the special standard of living in Sind.

(2) There should be a reduction in the number of low paid clerks and munshis in all establishments and a substitution for them of a smaller number of better paid and better qualified officials drawn indiscriminately from all divisions of the population.

(3) There should be an improvement in office methods providing for greater and more unremitting personal supervision and more direct disposal of work by the touring officers and there should in particular be a reduction and systematizing of inspections, the taluka offices being left for inspection by the Assistant and Deputy Collectors, their offices by the Collectors and those of the latter by the Commissioner in Sind.

27. We have lastly recommended in the case of 'chher' that casual labour should be employed wherever obtainable and that the rules for full payment for all labour required by touring officers should be strictly enforced as well as for road repairs by the local authorities or for emergencies by Government.

28. We have expressed our confidence that considerable improvement will result from these measures if determined and persistent efforts are made to render them effective by the higher subordinate officials participating with the superior district officers in their efforts to stamp out the old and to establish new traditions. We have recommended that the orders passed on this report should be made widely known not only to all officials but also to the general public and to the Zamindars and that a special report should be made after three years' further experience by the Commissioner in Sind. But we have recognised that these efforts must be reinforced by special measures for the spread of education and the growth of a higher standard of public morality throughout the Province of Sind.

SEPARATE MINUTE BY THE HON'BLE MR. HARCHANDRAI.

I have to add the following observations to the joint Report signed by me. These may be taken in qualification or amplification, as the case may be, of the conclusions reached in the joint Report

2. The historical survey in the opening part of the Report should not be understood as a justification for the evils under consideration. These evils, it is true, are a legacy from past administrations. But when those administrations are admitted to be one continuous agony of misrule, corruption and oppression and the systems of Rasai, Lapo and Cher are recognized as illustrations of such misrule they should be made the objects of aversion and suppression rather than of excuse or palliation.

3. The want of convenience and facilities which is pleaded as having been the cause of these practices which were rooted in corruption and oppression should never have been allowed to foster their perpetuation as has been the case. But very early and drastic measures should have been adopted for their eradication. The Government of Bombay realised this when they said in their Resolution Part I, p. 20. No. 3115, dated 7th May 1902 :—

“ These papers disclose the existence of a deep-rooted evil which in the opinion of the Governor in Council is deplorable and calculated to bring discredit on the administration. That Mukhtiar-kars should manage funds collected by the tapadars for the entertainment of Government officials and their establishments and that the establishments of district officers, from the Commissioner downwards, should live, while on tour, at the expense of the people, is nothing short of scandalous.”

4. This Resolution was issued as the result of an enquiry instituted by Government from the Commissioner in Sind who again called for reports from district officers and submitted his own report to Government. This enquiry was started on the attention of Government being drawn in September 1901 to an article on “Lapo” which had appeared in “Al H: q” newspaper. So it may be said that this Resolution was the ultimate outcome of private effort in bringing these nefarious customs to light. The Resolution covers 6 paragraphs and after condemning the practice suggests remedies and lays down instructions for future conduct. Unquestionably this Resolution and the instructions therein failed to produce the desired effect. If anything the evils went on growing apace. Part I, p. 1.

5. The next event in the history of the campaign against these evils is the Commissioner in Sind's Circular No. 554, dated 23rd September 1914, taking the business of camp supplies from the hands of tapadars and making it over to selected zamindars. The genesis of this was Mr Bhurgri's evidence before the Public Services Commission (Mr Bhurgri's written statement). The joint Report Part VII, p. 72. shows that this system proved a failure as indeed from its nature it was foredoomed to do.

6. The third event is the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri in the Bombay Legislative Council in December 1917 for the appointment of a mixed official and non-official commission which was passed and this commission was appointed under Government Resolution No. 3000, dated 26th March 1918. Proceedings of the Bombay Legislative Council for 1918 p. 1215. Part I, p. 24.

7. It will be seen that all these three moves of Government had their origin in private effort. This as well as the overwhelming evidence from all the districts of Sind leaves no room for any doubt that these are genuine grievances of the people (which mostly consist of agriculturists) who have been all along groaning under them. The long drawn out wail of the zamindars who have given evidence is very lugubrious. Some have portrayed the situation in the darkest hues as a perusal of the lengthy notes attached to the answers of some witnesses will show. It is a wonder that so much frankness has been displayed by the zamindar witnesses; as it was apprehended that through fear of incurring displeasure or foregoing the profit which accrued to them in the shape of favours received or sins condoned, many a zamindar would refrain from disclosing the naked truth. That the contrary has been the actual case, only demonstrates the acute sense of suffering under

which the zamindar is labouring by the existence of these evils. This evidence also negatives the theory that in making Rasai zamindars are animated by a spirit of hospitality. What is given under compulsion and a sense of fear of those who have the power to do harm cannot be rightly ascribed to hospitality. It may be that some wealthy and high-class Baluch zamindars of Upper Sind Frontier are acting in this spirit, but that hospitality is the cause of Rasai with the generality even of Upper Sind Frontier zamindars is discredited by the evidence of Mr. Isani, who says: "My division is next to the Frontier district. The zamindars are of the same kind all over the province. Amil zamindars are not zamindars at all. I have not served in the Guni sub-division nor in the Karachi district. Upper Sind Frontier zamindars are shrewder and more careful than the Sind zamindars. They are also more hospitable but with a purpose. I know because I am a zamindar and their neighbour. I know them personally." This has a ring of truth about it although it has been sought to discount this by the following passage in Mr. Menghraj Kalwani's evidence: "The Deputy Collector Mr. Isani is not a Baluch. He is a Drakhan and has got no lan'ls in the Upper Sind Frontier." So hospitality in this case like gratitude is a "lively sense of favours to come."

Part II, p. 43.

Part II, p. 51.

8. There is another agreeable surprise that subordinate official witnesses have also joined with zamindars in pronouncing their maledictions. The Mukhtiarkars who gave this kind of evidence appeared to be of a high type of character and the tapadars who were the principal accused were actuated by the belief that it would not pay to hide the universally recognized truth any longer.

9. The first and foremost thing I intend to point out is that the injunction contained in the last sentence of Government Resolution No. 3115, dated 7th May 1902, "a *determined* and *continued* effort by *all* officers of *all* departments to put down the abuse," has been entirely lost sight of. I cannot accord the same measure of exoneration to high officers as the joint report does, as will appear from what follows. The following facts to my mind appear to have been clearly established by the evidence. That there are some officers who have zealously and successfully carried on a crusade against the abuses. That it cannot be said of all the higher officers that they have shown a determination or perseverance in putting down the abuses. That as soon as an officer who has been zealous in uprooting the evil has left his charge, the state of affairs has drifted back into the old groove. That if instead of solitary and sporadic efforts there had been a determined and general war waged against the abuses, by precept as well as by example, by the expression of disapproval and displeasure, by constant supervision, by thinking out and working methods for checking, the system would not have grown to the extent it has, so much so, as to cause a feeling of despair to remove it.

Part I, p. 28.

These facts appear from the following witnesses:—

Part II p. 48.
Part II p. 142.
Part III p. 150.
Part VI p. 16.Mr. Isani, last para.
Mr. Shamsuddin.Mr. Naraindas M., Ans. 36.
Hon'ble Mr. Sayed Allahando Shah,
Ans. 43.
Hon'ble Mr. Bhurgri para. 3.Part VI p. 87.
Part VII p. 83.
Part VII p. 41, 44.Mr. Hiranand Lala, para. 3.
Mr. Bhawandas. After Ans. 82. Heading Rasai. Also in reply to Mr. Ghulam Hussein.

The evidence of the following witnesses shows that officers get reduced or nominal bills for supplies:—

Part II p. 36.
Part II p. 67.
Part II p. 76.
Part II p. 105.Mr. Isani, Deputy Collector, Ans. 40.
Mr. Mangharam, Mukhtiarkar, oral.Mr. Asardas, retired Deputy Collector.
Mr. Naraindas Motaram, retired Deputy Collector, Ans. 23 (the whole of his answer should be referred to).
Mr. Hiranand, Mukhtiarkar.Part II p. 114.
Part III p. 33.

Mr. Madhowdas, Ans. 23 and oral to Chairman.

Part III p. 66.
Part III p. 75.

Mr. Jesasing, retired Deputy Collector, bottom line.

Part III p. 85.
Part III p. 91.
Part IV p. 98.
Part IV p. 107.Tapadar Hargundas, Ans. 31.
Sayed Abdul Hakim Shah, Ans. 23.Mr. Wadhmal Tarachand, Ans. 32 and 33.
Tapadar Gul Mahomed, Ans. 31.
Khan Sahib Sayed Hasan Ali Shah, Ans. 23.

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Pir Bachal Shah, Ans. 23. | Mr. Thakurdas Dharamdas, Ans. 23. | Part IV p. 116. |
| Mr. Hiranand Khemsing, Letter. | Mr. Mathradas R., Letter. | Part IV p. 106. |
| Mr. Mahomed Khan Pathan, para. 78 Rasai. | Raizada Tirithram, Ans. 23. | Part IV p. 101. |
| Mr. Doulatram Tharumal, oral to me. | Hon'ble Mr. Sayed Allahando Shah, Ans. 23, 33 and 36 | Part IV p. 302. |
| Dasumal, Supervising Tapadar, Ans. 31. | Mr. Kirpaldas, zamindar, Ans. 23 and 33. | Part V p. 42. |
| Mr. Asardas Lilaram, Ans. 23. | Mr. Tharumal Bilaram, Ans. 23. | Part V p. 52. |
| Mr. Gurdasing, Ans. 23 and 33. | Mr. Mahomed Jaffer, Ans. 23 | Part V p. 62. |
| Professor S. C. Shahani, Ans. 23. | Moulvi Abdul Rahim, of Sind Madras-sah, Ans. 23. | Part VI p. 21. |
| | | Part VI p. 46. |
| | | Part VI p. 56. |
| | | Part VI p. 72. |
| | | Part VI p. 76. |
| | | Part VII p. 38. |
| | | Part VIII p. 72. |
| | | Part VII p. 112. |
| | | Part VII p. 126. |

It is impossible to reject all this evidence. Although there is evidence in the opposite direction also that high officers are billed and pay in full. Along with these items of evidence must be considered the instance quoted by the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussein, a member of this Commission, in his speech in the Bombay Legislative Council in the debate on this subject "of an officer in Sind who asked the tapadar why no arrangements had been made for his rasai, and who, on being told by the tapadar that there was a circular of the Commissioner prohibiting rasai, told the tapadar that that circular was only binding on the Commissioner and not on him and that till he issued such a circular himself arrangements for his rasai should continue to be made." There can be no doubt that this sentiment was not confined to the individual officer referred to by the honourable speaker, but is typical of a class.

Proceedings of
Bombay Legislative
Council for 191.

11. It was very creditable to the public spirit of Mr. Wadhmal Tarachand Mukhtiarkar of Dadu (in answer to the Chairman), to have produced the accounts, of Rasai in Dadu for the year 1917-18. It was by a stroke of good luck consisting in the existence of a Mukhtiarkar like Mr. Wadhmal and the failure of crops delaying the liquidation of Rasai debts that these accounts were preserved and this important piece of documentary evidence came to light. Now, whilst fortuitous circumstances have led to the production of this evidence the conclusion is irresistible that there must be existing similar accounts, if not in all, at least in a great many talukas of Sind. Only they have not been produced. These accounts speak for themselves. Whilst there can be no doubt that some of the items shown there as undisbursed must have been received in satisfaction of bills preferred to the higher officers, they had not yet reached the providers. This bears out the evidence that moneys paid by higher officers on bills presented are either kept by butlers or tapadars. These accounts were deposited in detail by tapadar Javharmal who had kept them.

Part III p. 26.

Part III p. 28.

Part III p. 23.

12. One melancholy feature of the practice of Rasai which has come out in the evidence and deserves notice is the assaults, insults and general ill-treatment which zamindars and tapadars, and sometimes even mukhtiarkars, receive at the hands of butlers and peons. Amongst others the following witnesses depose to this:—

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Asardas. | Madhowdas, oral. | Part II pp. 69. |
| Mr. Naraindas M., breaking of teeth. | Mr. Manghar m. | Part II p. 76. |
| Mr. Hiranand, Mukhtiarkar. | Mr. Murlidhar, ans. 36. | Part II p. 112. |
| | | Part II pp. 115. |
| | | Part II pp. 126. |
| | | Part III p. 61. |

The same witnesses also depose to the dependence of the Mukhtiarkar's prospects of advancement on the nature of his rasai. Witness Choithram (para. 2) gives the instance of tapadar Naraindas' dismissal owing to unsatisfactory rasai. Again, many witnesses relate the custom of butlers or havaldars levying a perquisite which has acquired the name of "kilo khorani" (literally peg-driving and really tent-pitching) which sometimes goes up to Rs. 100 or more. The butlers trade upon the anxiety of the Mukhtiarkar and tapadar to see that the butlers' masters' wrath is not aroused by being served with bad meals and by the butlers' misrepresentations about inadequate rasai.

Part II p. 126.

Mr. Naraindas
II p. 108, Mr
das, Part II
Mr. Nolas, Part
Mr. Jansama,
67.

13. All these factors prove what a demoralising effect rasai has both upon the givers and receivers. Many witnesses prove how non-doers are persecuted. Mr. Mathradas Ramchand relates his experience of the time when he was a non-payer of lapo and his subsequent conversion into a payer. Mr. Gardasing describes his experience and sufferings for not making rasai One of the witnesses previously cited, viz., Mr. Naraindas Motaram, whose pen-picture in paragraph 36 is worth perusal, states that the practices in question destroy the manhood and self-respect of people and reduce them to a state of serfdom.

v p. 809.

VII pp. 59 & 62;

II p. 106.

14. For these reasons no efforts should have been spared in the past to combat these practices. The policy of *laissez faire* that has been the rule, subject of course to a few exceptions, is very much to be regretted. No inconveniences were too hard to be undergone, no experiments too difficult to be tried, no expenditure too large to be incurred to root out these evils.

15. My opinion is that the difficulties of procuring supplies without the agency of tapadars or zamindars are over-rated and are more imaginary than real. As a matter of fact, no serious endeavour has been made to procure supplies independently of these agencies. Indeed, there are witnesses according to whom there would be no such difficulty.

III p. 58.

IV p. 43.
VII p. 59.

Mr. Kishinchand, Deputy Educational Inspector, Larkana.

Mr. Harper, Missionary.

Mr. Hesketh, Educational Inspector in Sind.

VII p. 150.

Although the last witness has employed the agencies in question they were mere superfluities. The Hon'ble Mr. Nicholas, whose instance has been cited in the report, is referring only to a few small places in the Lar (Lower Sind) where he had been for shkar. I don't see why these places should be the camping grounds of touring officers. As to Messrs. Bhojsing and Murlidhar having been fed on rasai when appearing before Magistrates on tour, other two cases referred to in the report, I attribute this to the facilities afforded by the system already in existence. But these examples do not count owing to the negligible cost and trouble of entertaining these gentlemen. The test is, if the abovementioned agencies did not exist would people be for ever disabled from touring for want of supplies? "Why should there be an agency for Government servants," asks a witness (Mr. Tahilram) "when commercial travellers and Educational officers can do without it?" If we conceive the case of a body of tourists as large as the camp of the Commissioner in Sind being obliged on business to go round the province of Sind, should such a tour be considered impossible unless assisted by the agencies in question for procuring supplies on tour?

III p. 126.

16. In para. 19 of the report one of the remedies suggested is the recruitment of the subordinate clerical establishments indiscriminately from all the different divisions of the population as the statistics show a disproportionate number of Hindu employes. It is doubtless a perfectly sound principle and conducive to the purity of administration that no one section of the community should have a practical monopoly of Government service as such monopoly is fraught with the dangers of nepotism, jobbery and corruption, although I don't observe much force in the connection of this principle with the three evils we are dealing with as nowhere has it been suggested that it is by reason of their religion that Hindu employes harrass in the matters of rasai, lapo and chher, or that wherever there are non-Hindu employes the harrassment is any the less, or that Hindu zamindars are less oppressed than non-Hindu zamindars by reason of the excessive number of Hindu employes. The evidence shows that the employes are the oppressors and the zamindars the oppressed quite irrespective of the religion of either. But the questions under the consideration of this Commission apart, Government have times out of number laid stress upon the administrative and political disadvantages of having the bulk of its servants drawn from one community of the province out of all proportion to the population of that community. Successive Commissioners have issued circulars and orders to attract a larger number of Mahomedans in Government services. To that end lower qualifications from Mahomedan candidates for employment have been

prescribed than those required for other employes. But this relaxation has been carried to such an extent that some officers holding high posts come ill-equipped into the service. The result is a lowering in the tone of administration, detriment of public services, and prejudice to the interests of the people to be governed. Whilst, therefore, recognizing the excellence of the suggested remedy in theory, I would recommend the exercise of great caution in putting it into practice, so that the evil effect indicated may be guarded against, because the mischief greatly outweighs the benefit aimed at.

17. This Commission should have been appointed many years ago and by official initiative. It is by far more satisfactory to hear the evidence of the parties concerned, *i.e.*, the zamindars, the higher and lower officers, specially the mukhtarkars and tapadars, than to get merely confidential opinions from the Revenue heads of districts as was done in 1901. If this step had been taken in the long past all the saving of misery and the improvement of conditions that the labours of this Commission may bring about, assuming that such a consummation is within measurable distance of achievement, would have been secured much earlier, to the salvation of the woe-begone sufferers.

21st September 1919.

HARCHANDRAI VISHINDAS.

MINUTE BY THE HON'BLE MR. GHULAM HUSSAIN.

I should like to add the following remarks to the report of the Rasai Committee.

The previous origin of the abuses complained of is obviously no excuse for their continuance. They have been universally recognized and condemned. Their continued existence admittedly brings the administration into disrepute. It is therefore in the interests of both the rulers and the ruled that, at whatever trouble and inconvenience to the higher officers, it should be put down with vigour and determination. No doubt, efforts have been made by some of the higher officers to stop the abuse, which have resulted in a considerable measure of success in combating the evil. It is only necessary that such action should be taken all along the line.

The rasai levied by the subordinates and menials of the touring officers in various forms and by various means, as disclosed by the evidence, though not directly involving the higher officers, nevertheless reflects unfavourably on the administration. It is therefore in the interests of the administration that this corruption on the part of the subordinates and menials of the touring officers should be sternly suppressed by the latter.

I need scarcely add that, while there is reason to hope for a great and permanent improvement in the state of things by the adoption of all the measures recommended by the Committee, it would at the same time be unreasonable, in view of the great age and strength of the evil, to expect that it will stop at once. The change must depend on the processes of time and education and on the co-operation of the people.

29th September 1919.

GHULAM HUSSAIN.

MINUTE BY MR. D. R. SAWHNEY.

The following few remarks may be appended to our joint Report, they express my individual opinion on a few points, and are more or less in the nature of amplifications.

Rasai, lapo and chher are deep-rooted evils of long standing. It will require every effort on the part of all concerned to eradicate them. It is no use treating the matter lightly or thinking that there are no great practical difficulties in the way of success, or that success can be achieved by the issue of Government orders only. If the duty of the people in connection with these evils ends with pointing them out to Government, then I am afraid they will continue to exist, in varying degrees, for a long time to come, no matter what orders are issued by Government. Times have however changed and people have begun to take very much more interest in such things than was heretofore the case. It is not too much to hope, therefore, that not only those members of the public who have taken the trouble of placing things, from the non-official point of view, before the Rasai Committee, but all others concerned, directly or indirectly, with the matter, will henceforth give real and constant help to Government in eradicating these evils. If this happens success may come sooner than most people think. The keen desire of Government to root out these evils is well known to Government officers as well as to the public. Earnest and continued efforts on the part of Government officers—who of course will have to do by far the most work in this connection—coupled with real and constant co-operation on the part of the public, should make success practicable.

One of the drawbacks of the zamindar contractors appointed under the 1914 rules, was that they did not consider it their duty to make rasai arrangements for officers of other than the Revenue Department, and when they were made to attend to the camps of such officers, they generally made poor arrangements, and sometimes supplied inferior articles, in order that they may not be called upon to make rasai for such officers often. Hence it is necessary that whatever suppliers are now tried, precaution should be taken to ensure that all officials of all departments receive equal treatment in every respect from the suppliers. This will contribute to the success of the suppliers.

In order that every officer who may hereafter be posted to Sind may become well acquainted with the evils of rasai, lapo and chher, and with the measures being taken to eradicate them, I would suggest that every officer on his beginning to serve in Sind should be given for his careful study, and future guidance, a copy of the first volume of the Rasai Committee evidence, a copy of the Rasai Committee report, and a copy of the orders issued by Government on that report from time to time.

Chher for camp work.—Chher for this purpose is required only for unloading kit and pitching tents on the day on which a camp arrives at a place, and for unpitching tents and loading kit on the day on which the camp leaves the place. On each of these two occasions only a few chher-men are really required, and they too for a few hours only. No chher should be employed at a camp for any other work or on any other day. All the ordinary work in a camp should be done by the peons &c., Hence all that appears necessary is that at the beginning of the tour the officer should fix the number of chher people that his peons may engage on the day of arrival, or shifting, of his camp, for the purpose mentioned above. All the chher-men thus engaged should be paid fully from the officers' contingent grant. A part of the expenditure thus incurred from the contingent grant could, if Government so desire, be recovered from the officer for the loading and unloading of his private kit. This rule should apply equally to officers of all departments. If this method is adopted then neither will it be necessary to appoint more peons and khalasis than are at present employed, nor will it be necessary to take camp chher into account when considering the question of revision of travelling allowance of officers.

4th October 1919.

D. R. SAWHNEY.

MINUTE BY KHAN BAHADUR SAYED MAHMUD SHAH.

I have read the separate minute recorded by the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas, C.I.E. I quite agree with him that the evils of rasai, lapo and chher cannot be too strongly condemned. I admit that there is much truth in the evidence which has been placed before the Rasai Committee, but at the same time I feel constrained to remark that a good deal of this evidence is grossly exaggerated. At the suggestion of the Committee the Commissioner in Sind was pleased to issue a notice requesting all Government servants and all zamindars to assist the Committee. The Honourable Mr. G. M. Bhurgri toured with the Rasai Committee and had a number of assistants, mostly Pleaders. He put in a list of witnesses for every district and most of those witnesses were examined. The majority of the witnesses, including Mr. Wadhmal Tarachand, Mukhtiarkar, to whose evidence Mr. Harchandrai has made a special reference, figured in Mr. Bhurgri's lists. Many of the official and non-official witnesses cited by Mr. Bhurgri were mal-contents and consequently disposed to colour their statements. In this connection I would invite a reference to the evidence of Mr. J. A. Shillidy, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner in Sind, and Khan Bahadur Nabi Baksh Muhammad Hussein, Indian Assistant to the Commissioner in Sind. Before the Rasai Committee arrived at Sukkur the Commissioner's notice had been made the nucleus on which certain baseless rumours were founded. Again a rumour was afloat at Larkana by the time the Rasai Committee arrived there that a certain official witness had been censured at Sukkur by his Collector for his omission to depict the state of affairs in sufficiently dark colours. It is a well known fact that rumours, however absurd they may be, can work wonders in India, and more particularly in Sind. Mr. Bhurgri's witnesses came determined to make certain statements and Mr. Bhurgri's co-workers never failed to supplement the number of questions to be put to such witnesses. It was observed on more than one occasion that witnesses volunteered certain statements in a clumsy manner. Mr. Dharamdas was Mukhtiarkar of Dadu for seven months and he did not see any rasai accounts during this period. Mr. Wadhmal discovered the existence of these accounts and brought them to Larkana in a brief period of less than ten days after his transfer from Thar and Parkar to Dadu. These so called accounts are loose sheets of paper sewn together at one corner and subject to any alterations, additions or amplifications which the Tapadar may choose to make. Mr. Wadhmal, but not Mr. Dharamdas, was cited as a witness by Mr. Bhurgri.

It became the fashion of the day to make the audience laugh by wild statements and a certain class of zamindars also joined hands with the disappointed public servants and appeared desirous to excel each other in hyperboles. The Chairman had to tell one zamindar at Larkana, who would half turn his chair, at every answer towards Mr. Bhurgri's co-workers and look at them evidently in the hope of observing a smile of approval and applause, to sit properly and attend to the Committee. It was neither necessary nor decent to question such witnesses with regard to the circumstances under which they made certain extraordinary statements, but now that the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai has based his separate minute on the evidence of such witnesses it is only fair that I should place on record my personal estimate of this evidence. The "acute sense of suffering" to which Mr. Harchandrai refers in paragraph 7 of his minute cannot exist if the rasai-making zamindar is really a recipient of profit. "in the shape of favours received or sins condoned." The reasons for the grotesque statements like the one made by Muhammad Khan of Thar and Parkar should be looked for in the extensive canvassing which went on in every district and which closely resembled the stir that precedes Council and Municipal elections. The contention raised by Mr. Harchandrai in paragraph 16 is untenable. It is a well known fact that the Hindu zamindars are "much less oppressed" than the Musalmans in the matter of rasai, lapo and chher, but this is not the only point which makes the increased employment of Muhammadans an imperative necessity. The chief argument in favour of indiscriminate employment of members of all communities is that this is the only means by which the extermination of clannishness and the consequent removal of impression from the mind of a subordinate that he is safe and secure because all above and below him are his own people can be ensured.

SAYED MAHMUD SHAH,
District Superintendent of Police, Larkana.

Below letters, dated 17th September 1919 and 10th November 1919, from the President of the Committee on Rasai, Lapo and Chher in Sind, to the address of Government,

No. REV.-350 OF 1920.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER IN SIND,
Government House, Karachi, 20th January 1920.

25th March

Forwarded to Government.

2. The report, though dated July 1919, did not reach the Commissioner in its final form until the middle of November.

3. Beyond observing that the value of the report is somewhat discounted by the absence on the Committee of an officer possessing revenue experience, a defect which betrays itself in more than one passage, and that its general effect is to present what appears, on the whole, to be a somewhat overdrawn picture of the extent to which the evils of 'rasai' and 'chher' (*vide* Khan Bahadur Sayed Mahmud Shah's separate minute) are a harassment to the zamindars and the people of the country, the Commissioner does not propose to follow the Committee in their discussion of the subject, but will confine himself to noting briefly on the Committee's specific recommendations. Before doing so, however, he would invite attention to the fact that the report makes it evident that the abuse of 'rasai,' meaning the withholding of payment for supplies or the payment of palpably inadequate rates for supplies (and it is necessary to note the difference between 'rasai' and its abuse, a thing which the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai has apparently failed to do in his remarks at the conclusion of paragraph 10 of his separate minute) is confined to the 'rasai' of the subordinate officials. This is important in view of the insinuations and attacks which have been freely made in certain quarters against the higher officers of Government. The Committee find that the latter are really the only persons who pay for their supplies and they repudiate the allegation of any lack of earnestness on the part of these officers in their efforts to check the mal-practices of their subordinates. Finally, the Commissioner would bring to the notice of Government that the effect of the proceedings of the Committee and of the publicity given to the whole question has already been to produce an appreciable reaction against the system. Nothing in this respect could be more significant than the information given him by one Collector to the effect that, when it was a question of deciding what clerks should accompany him on tour this year, there was apparent a general reluctance on the part of those concerned to be selected. This is a state of affairs the very reverse of what used to prevail until quite recently.

4. The several recommendations of the Committee summarized in paragraphs 25 to 27 of the report are taken seriatim below :—

*Paragraph 25 (1).—*Fixing of camping grounds and provision of bungalows. Bungalows make very little difference in the matter of 'rasai,' especially in view of the fact that the abuse is mainly connected with the requirements of subordinate establishments. As a matter of fact a large number of bungalows already exist, and touring can be carried on extensively without recourse to camping grounds and tents. These facilities are being steadily extended. As regards camping grounds, what is meant apparently is that touring officers should preferably camp at the larger villages where regular camping grounds are maintained. The principle, however, is one which, even if it could in practice be generally observed, would not necessarily conduce to any diminution of the hardships of 'rasai.' For there are two aspects to the question. An occasional visit by the officer to his vaillage is

not ordinarily resented by the local zamindar. On the contrary he rather welcomes it. What is objected to is a constant succession of camps in the same place. This is what the proposed rule will tend to, whereas greater diffusion of camping would on the whole be a lesser evil.

(2) Employment of modis and seridars for maintenance of camps and provision of supplies. These are essential measures and should be adopted wherever possible, the question being taken up systematically. In places there will be practical difficulties in the way, for it will often be difficult to find a reliable modi for a given village. Seridars will doubtless be forthcoming, as the distinction attaching to the possession of a grant of revenue-free land, however small, is a powerful inducement. But on the other hand this agency, being necessarily drawn from the land-holding class and thus in sympathy with the traditional system, may be disinclined to accept payment. However, the system is one which should certainly be tried. The Commissioner has recently invited the opinions of district officers on a proposal to appoint patels remunerated by revenue-free grants of land for important villages where, owing to the disintegration of the tribal and feudal system, difficulty is being experienced in obtaining the services to Government that were formerly rendered by the local zamindar. On such an organization it would not be difficult to graft a system of contracting for the provision of supplies.

(3) Exclusion of village officers from the business of arranging for supplies. This is a counsel of perfection which can be strictly enforced only when the system of bania contractors and seridars has been brought into full working order. Failing this agency, or when the seridar is absent from his village, as will on occasions happen, the tapadar must be held responsible for making arrangements for supplies; otherwise serious inconvenience will result. But certainly the exclusion of the local revenue officials from all direct concern with the collection of supplies is the goal to be aimed at. Orders to that effect already exist, though in practice it is not always found possible to adhere to them strictly.

(4) Carrying of full camp equipment. Cots and water-jars cannot be carried about. In places where camps occur fairly frequently they should be kept on the spot. This is already done by some camp contractors, a charge more often than not at an exorbitant rate being made for the use of the articles. Stables and kitchen tents are useless and costly encumbrances and should not be encouraged. At recognised camps 'landhis,' or fairly substantial sheds of branches and grass, should be erected and maintained. This, as well as the general maintenance of the camping ground, should, as at present, be undertaken by the Local Board staff, a Government grant, however, being paid to the Local Board in return. Tents for all members of touring establishments are not essential. They involve additional labour in pitching and striking, and there is generally a 'musafirkhana' in which accommodation can be found. These are, of course, quite minor points in comparison with the essential one of the proper payment of supplies. That is the dominant issue.

(5) Enhancement of travelling allowances. This is absolutely necessary in the case of all grades of touring officials. Proposals on the subject in regard to revenue officers, both superior and subordinate, are now before Government, but it may be necessary before long, at any rate in the case of subordinate officers, to supplement the present allowances still further. As already indicated the proceedings of the Committee have induced a considerable reaction against the system of free 'rasai,' and there is indeed a tendency, in places, so far at least as the higher officers are concerned, to overcharge for supplies. Officers to whom this occurs are in a difficult position, as to object to overcharges is to open the door to misrepresentation, and so they submit. Advantage is of course taken of this.

(6) Reduction of tours of Assistant and Deputy Collectors. There would be no objection, generally speaking, to cutting out, May as a touring month for these officers, thus reducing from seven to six months the

minimum period of tour. On the other hand, comparatively little would be gained by this from the point of view of the suppression of 'rasai,' for halts during May are generally confined to taluka headquarters and other more important places where the 'rasai' question does not arise in an acute form. It is certainly inadvisable to impose any maximum period on the extent of an officer's touring. The latter must be dependent on conditions and circumstances. But there would be no objection to reducing the minimum to six months and fixing the 1st May as the date on which a Sub-Divisional Officer may proceed to headquarters for the recess.

(7) Orders absolutely forbidding the acceptance of 'dalis,' including 'dumbas,' by officers have already issued. A copy of the orders is appended for the information of Government.

Paragraph 26 (r). Reduction of tapadars to a purely ministerial position and replacement of supervising tapadars by Deputy Mukhtiarkars. The presence of a revenue officer on the Committee would have prevented the making of the former of these recommendations, which is impracticable. Tapadars cannot be divested of their functions of inspection and reporting. The exercise of such functions by the village staff is inherent in the land revenue system of the province, under which land pays assessment according to whether or not it is cultivated and according to the mode of cultivation. As regards supervising tapadars, their pay has been nearly doubled since the report was drafted, and it is hoped, while not closing the avenue to promotion from the ranks of tapadars, to draft into this grade certain elements drawn from a different class. The suggested Deputy Mukhtiarkars could not well draw much more pay than is drawn by supervising tapadars on the new scale, and there is nothing to indicate that a higher standard of integrity could be expected of them.

As regards salaries, those of the tapadars have recently undergone revision, now ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30; but these rates are generally recognized to be inadequate. No hope of making these officials reasonably honest can be entertained until an entirely different scale of remuneration is applied to them.

(2) Substitution for the present large staffs of low paid men of small staffs of better paid men drawn from all classes of the community. The desirability of this is generally admitted. It will be borne in mind in the framing of proposals for the general revision of the pay of establishments. Of course, it has to be recognized that the process of transition will be a difficult one and must necessarily be gradual. Better qualified men are not to be had at a moment's notice to replace the existing men, nor can the latter be got rid of at a moment's notice.

As regards the question of recruitment from among Muhammadans as well as Hindus, it is one which has always claimed the attention of responsible officers. In the case of tapadars, equality of recruitment practically prevails; but the lack of qualified candidates is an obstacle to the establishment of this state of affairs in the case of the clerical staff, although it has been the practice to exact lower qualifications from Muhammadan candidates.

(3) Increase of personal supervision and more direct disposal of work by touring officers, and reduction in the number of inspections of offices.

The first two of these recommendations are unexceptionable, but they postulate much smaller charges for all revenue officers from the Collector downwards. There is no doubt that in Sind charges are far too large to admit of the requisite degree of personal attention by the officers holding them. Talukas should be halved. Sub-divisions should consist of two instead of four of the present sized talukas. District should be reduced proportionately. In fact, the scale of administration should be more on the lines of that in force in the Punjab and the United Provinces. This change will be absolutely forced upon us when the Barrage Scheme comes in with its immense increase in cultivation, but it is necessary to get to work on the revision now.

The recommendation with regard to the inspection of offices evidently proceeds on lack of knowledge of the system of revenue administration. In the first place the inspection of a taluka office by the Collector is in substitution of, and is not additional to, an inspection by the Sub-Divisional Officer. Consequently the proposal to confine inspections to those by the latter officer would not by itself reduce the number of inspections. In the next place the inspection of such offices by superior officers whose inspecting staff is more highly trained and has wider experience is undoubtedly beneficial, and there is no visible advantage in replacing it by an inspection of inferior standard. Finally, it does not seem to have been realized that a taluka office is an organization entirely different from the correspondence offices of Assistant or Deputy Collectors. The former not only includes a whole system of land revenue and takavi accounts, but is the repository of all correspondences and orders regarding the disposal of land, the most important branch of the revenue administration of the province. Inspection of a taluka office constitutes an audit of accounts and a review of the administration not only so far as the taluka officer's work is concerned but also in regard to the work of the superior offices. Such inspection is therefore a matter of primary importance. The inspection of Assistant Collectors' offices would be of very little use and would certainly be entirely inefficacious as a measure for the suppression of 'lapo.' The inspection of a Collector's office by the Commissioner is not a practicable proposition.

Paragraph 27.—The Committee seem to have been misled in regard to the question of 'chher.' The idea of a gang of 50 to 100 men or more being maintained daily in connection with any officer's camp is altogether novel to the Commissioner. What there would be for them to do is difficult to imagine. Apart from the occasions when tents are being pitched or struck, a matter of a couple of hours at the most for which perhaps half-a-dozen to a dozen men are required in order to help the pattawalas or khalassis, the number of men employed about a camp does not ordinarily exceed two or three. And these come in only casually for an hour or so to do odd jobs. In the nature of things there cannot be much work to do. Payment of such casual labour is difficult to make and will probably often be refused. However, the principle of payment is one which must be enforced, and matters will, no doubt, in course of time adjust themselves. Mr. Sawhney in his separate minute has indicated the lines on which action might proceed.

As regards the preparation of camping grounds, here also the Committee appear to have gone somewhat astray. Camping grounds are in charge of Local Boards, and the comparatively small amount of work required once a year in clearing them of jungle is done by the 'beldars' or permanent road staff of the Local Board.

As regards road repairs, practically all Local Boards now maintain a permanent repairing staff. Formerly the system of repairing by contract was generally in vogue. Altogether inadequate amounts were allotted, and the nominal contractors, who were generally local zamindars, used to supply labour and grass partly or wholly free. This has entirely changed, sufficient proof thereof being afforded by the impoverished finances of the Local Boards and the present miserable state of their roads.

In regard to the whole question of 'chher' it is as well to recognize what local sentiment generally is on the subject. Neither the zamindar nor his 'haris' object to the 'haris' being used occasionally for an odd job of work for a few hours. But to get a man for a full day's work on a daily wage is a difficult matter. Only extreme pressure will secure this. It is a not primarily a matter of indolence, though this element is a factor, but of self-respect. The 'hari' resents strongly anything which places him on a par with a cooly.

5. The Committee have not made any specific recommendation in regard to one important means by which the evil of 'rasai' can be minimized, namely, the drastic reduction of touring establishments. Much has been done in this direction already, but a good deal more will, with improved communications, be possible in

the future, and is even now feasible. Collectors do not require to take more than one, or possible two, clerks with them, provided satisfactory arrangements are made for the transmission of post and files to and from headquarters. Even if such a reduction is not feasible, the touring establishment, apart from a single personal clerk, should confine its halts to taluka headquarters. Similarly during short halts at outlying places Sub-Divisional Officers should leave their office establishments behind at taluka headquarters. This will be more generally practicable as magisterial work tends more and more to be transferred to Resident Magistrates. Other departments should aim at the same reductions. The Commissioner considers that this is by far the most promising line of progression towards the solution of the 'rasai' problem, though at the same time he believes that already there is taking place a change of attitude on the part of the people towards the evil traditions of the past, and anticipates that this change will develop rapidly.

6. Undoubtedly, however, the most serious evil of all is that of 'lapo,' of which, as has repeatedly been insisted, 'rasai' in its worst form is the direct outcome. The suppression of this widely spread form of corruption, ingrained as the latter is in the traditions and character of the people, is a matter of immense difficulty, not to be achieved by any heroic measures or any set of rules. While the grant of adequate salaries to tapadars and taluka munshis will not of itself directly eradicate the evil, it will at any rate make it no longer an inevitable feature of the administration, and so far then as 'lapo' is concerned, the first measure to be adopted is the revision, on a liberal scale, of the salaries of the subordinate revenue establishments. For the rest, reliance must be placed on a greater degree of personal supervision on the part of the superior staff, this being rendered possible by the reduction of administrative charges, and above all on the gradual introduction among the rural classes of a higher degree of education and sense of independence and public morality. In regard to the latter quality the presence of the Punjab colonists in the Jamrao tract may be expected in course of time to exert a certain influence. These men absolutely decline to pay 'lapo' and their example cannot fail to tell in the end.

J. L. RIEU,
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
BOMBAY.

**Committee appointed by Government
to enquire into Rasal, Lapo and Chher in Sind.**

Volume II.

Part I. Papers supplied to the Committee.

**Part II. Evidence recorded for the Sukkur and
Upper Sind Frontier Districts.**



Price Two Rupees.

THE COMMISSIONER'S PRINTING PRESS, KARACHI.

1919.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME II.

| | PAGES. |
|--|--------|
| 1. Part I.—Papers supplied to the Committee by the Commissioner in Sind | 1—32 |
| 2. Part II.—Evidence recorded by the Committee at Sukkur for the Sukkur and Upper Sind Frontier Districts ... | 1—276 |

Part I.

Papers supplied to the Committee by the
Commissioner in Sind. Pages 1 to 32.

PART I

Memorandum No. 6251/127 of 1901, dated 4th September 1901, from the
Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

The undersigned presents compliments to the Commissioner in Sind, and is directed to request that he will be so good as to favour Government with his remarks on the statements made in the extract No. 23, printed at page 21 of the Report on Native Papers for the week ending 24th August 1901.

Extract paragraph 23 of the Report on Native Papers for the
week ending 24th August 1901.

"The much vexed question of lapo in Sind must not be lost sight of. It is an old grievance not yet remedied. Lapo is an open secret in Sind and it is a charge, a duty, the tapadar levies on agriculturists who pay the Government revenue. As far as we know, the law does not sanction it, but usage unfortunately has so far tolerated it. It is nothing less than blackmail of the most harassing kind. Under the present system of revenue collection, the tapadar collects it, and while doing so he takes particular care that he first of all assesses his lapo from the zamindar and then credits the revenue to Government. He charges a certain percentage on the revenue and what is most surprising is that this illegal practice has been allowed to go on to such an extent in every district that it has gone on increasing under the very eyes of the Mukhtiar, the Deputy and Assistant Collectors, and today the tapadar makes as much as 6 to 10 per cent from his lapo. We cannot say how much longer will this state of things be allowed to continue, but for the present we beg to draw the attention of the authorities to a circular of the Revenue Commissioner in Sind, which we believe was issued last year to the effect that every khatedar and every zamindar should be supplied, before every instalment of Government assessment is recovered, with a bill—a sheet—showing the fields he cultivated, the assessment he has to pay, &c. This is to enable the zamindar to know the true demand of Government, so that he may make his arrangements to pay it accordingly, for everybody knows that Government revenue changes according to the cultivation, and the zamindar cannot be expected, ignorant as he generally is, to know beforehand what he has to pay to Government. The circular is truly calculated to put facilities in the way of the zamindar. But the question is, is the circular put in practice? Our information is that it is a dead-letter, although it has been issued last year. Now in connection with the question of lapo we beg to suggest that this circular should be ordered to be scrupulously carried out, and together with it it should also be ordered that the zamindar should be at liberty to pay the revenue in the Mukhtiar's treasury according to the sheet supplied to him previously. The sheet and the permission to pay direct into the Kardar's treasury will simply take the tapadar out of the whole business and that will at once put a stop to his barbarous lapo, and that is what is desired."

Letter No. 198 of 1901, dated 8th October 1901, from R. Giles, Esquire C.I.E.,
Commissioner in Sind to the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners.

Government have called upon me for a report on the subject of the levy of lapo or anagi by the tapadars, i.e., the levy of a definite money rate on the acre, the field or as a percentage on the assessment.

2. That its levy is almost universal is now recognised by all officers and I shall inform Government accordingly, but its general recognition must, as I am sure you will agree, be followed by a vigorous effort to stop the practice, and I therefore write to ask you to give your best consideration to the matter and your advice especially on the following points:—

- (1) Will the present salary of the tapadar be sufficient supposing that lapo is no longer levied?
- (2) Would it be advisable to supplement their present pay by a pony allowance of, say Rs. 5 to 7 per mensem, on the ground that a tapadar's work in Sind cannot be done without carriage, and also as some small recompense for the loss of lapo?
- (3) Would it be feasible to collect all revenue at taluka head-quarters?

In 1894-95, this was done under Colonel Mayhew's orders for the same object now aimed at. As a matter of fact, so experienced an officer as Rao Bahadur Dewanmal tells me that tapadars usually collect the assessment at the taluka town for safety's sake, and that they rarely receive any considerable sums in out-villages, a though they will send money by the zamindar's own man with the chalan to the taluka office and credit its receipt only after his return with the taluka receipt. Constantly banias, who live in the taluka town, pay the assessment, and it would be no hardship on them, even if they resided outside, to do so.

- (4) What would be the best method of making the zamindars recognise that we will no longer tolerate lapo and that its payment will involve loss of their privileges and that, and also of securing their co-operation?

PART I

I would propose to issue a general circular on the subject, and perhaps a meeting of the zamindars, at which the Collector would address them, would also be useful.

3. I am confident that a vigorous crusade would effect a good deal, and that gradually the custom would die out, and in the opinion of some officers this custom is the foundation for much of the prevalent corruption, because the regular payment by the tapadars to members of other establishments, which are known to take place, are made on the strength of his receipts from the zamindars. Abolish them, and the tapadar will in his turn decline to make his bequests.

4. The attempt has to be made, and I would invite your most earnest co-operation in the matter.

Letter No. 80-A of 1901, dated 15th October 1901, from W. H. Lucas, Esquire, I.C.S., Acting Collector of Karachi to the Commissioner in Sind.

In reply to your letter No. 198 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to express the following opinion on the several points raised by you:—

- (1) The present salary of the tapadars will certainly be sufficient. It was raised from Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 to Rs. 20 and Rs. 25, respectively, only a very few years ago, and it has been fixed, as I believe, absolutely, without consideration of the question of lapo. It would be a most damaging admission on our part to raise their pay, and would imply that we had deliberately tolerated lapo and practically allowed the landholders to pay part of the Government officer's legitimate salary for services rendered, ostensibly at all events, solely to Government.
- (2) I consider that a pony allowance of Rs. 4, or at the outside of Rs. 5, per mensem might be granted to tapadars and supervising tapadars, but it should be made solely on the ground that work in Sind cannot be done without carriage. Rs. 4 will ordinarily be quite sufficient because grass away from large towns has practically no sale value, and it has always been the practice for zamindars to supply all officials, not excepting district officers, with it free of charge, and the continuance of this practice is in my opinion, quite unobjectionable. Two sers of bajr á day at fifteen sers to the rupee represents a cost of less than Rs. 4 a month and will be all that the tapadar's pony will require, and the kotar will look after the animal as he does at present.
- (3) It will certainly be feasible to collect all revenue at taluka head-quarters and the kacheri days suggested by Sardar Muhammad Yakub should be fixed as the days of payment.
- (4) A circular issued by the Commissioner in Sind and couched in the strongest terms and a meeting of the zamindars at each taluka head-quarters, at which the Collector will fully explain our determination to put a stop to the practice, will perhaps be the most beneficial measures of those now proposed.

2. At the same time, I consider the scheme, for kacheri days submitted by Sardar Muhammad Yakub, and on which I shall shortly submit a separate report, ought, if adopted, to do more than anything else to put a stop to the practice of lapo. The principal reason why lapo is now paid, even by the most influential and intelligent zamindars, is that they know that the tapadars have got the power of materially harming or helping them in the numerous matters which, under our present system, are referred to them (the tapadars) and the disposal of which to a large extent must depend on their report. Let it once be seen that the decision of no question is allowed to remain, as it often does at present, virtually in the hands of the tapadar, and I believe that the practice of lapo will soon disappear.

3. I beg to be allowed to take this opportunity respectfully to observe that corruption is quite as rife, if not ruder, among the subordinates of all other departments as amongst those of the Revenue Department. Notably corrupt are canal daroghas, who almost everywhere take a fixed sum per karia or per wheel and forest subordinates, who are lenient or strict in the enforcement of grazing rules, fees for the cutting of wood in forests and the impounding of strayed cattle, according as they are, or are not, paid their dasturi. The amount of blackmail levied by the police is unhappily also notorious.

Therefore any crusade undertaken to put a stop to corruption must be directed against the subordinates of all departments alike, and I respectfully beg to suggest that the co-operation of the heads of other departments be also invited.

Letter No. A of 1901, dated 5th October 1901, from C. M. Baker, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier, to the Commissioner in Sind.

I have the honour to reply as follows to the questions conveyed in your No. 198, dated 8th October 1901:—

- (1) I have no hesitation in saying that the salary of the tapadar will be insufficient if lapo (more correctly deh kharch) is no longer levied.

He has to keep a horse in condition for hard work, which ought to cost Rs. 10 at least. He has a house given him, but almost always has to keep his family somewhere else in order to educate his children, if for no other reason. He has also to entertain other Government officials when they are on tour. This is called rasai, bribery and corruption and other hard names, but I do not myself see anything very wicked in it. We English officials do precisely the same, and the laws of hospitality are certainly no weaker among the Sindhis than among the English. I believe this obligation is taken into consideration in fixing the pay of the highest officials, why not of the lower also.

- (2) I consider that Rs. 10 per mensem is the least that should be added to the tapadar's pay as a nominal or actual horse allowance.

But the matter does not stop there. Unless I am mistaken, the lapo fund is not by any means the perquisite of the tapadars alone. Besides what they get in the form of hospitality, I believe the various taluka and district establishments divide a large amount of cash among themselves out of the tapadar's collection. This is the reason why a taluka munshi's appointment at Rs. 12 is preferred to that of a school-master or a clerk in a merchant's office at Rs. 20. I doubt if the system will ever be put a stop to, unless salaries are raised all round.

- (3) I think it would be quite feasible to collect all revenue at taluka head-quarters.

The danger of highway robbery seems an obvious objection, but the circumstances are almost the same at present, and such robberies are seldom, if ever, heard of. But I expect the lapo would be levied all the same. It might be escaped by allowing payment to the Huzur Treasury by money order, but probably the post masters would raise their rate of commission.

- (4) Circulars and addresses to the zamindars might be tried and might possibly be successful. But as far as I can see the zamindars already know that payment of lapo is illegal but they like paying it and consider that they get their money's worth, besides they know that they are perfectly safe not to be found out.

I do not think it is much use telling people not to do a thing unless they know you can find them out and punish them if they do. To convict one or two zamindars and tapadars either criminally or departmentally is the only way to make an impression on the public mind. And this might be done in many cases by means of the examination of banyas' books.

I said in a former letter that tapadars' salaries should not be raised until their unlawful emoluments had ceased. But on reflection I think that the salaries should be raised first so as to give them a chance of being honest. Some time afterwards a raid should be made on the banyas' books in several tapas, and the tapadars dismissed, if there is any evidence against them whatever, the paying zamindars being at the same time degraded unless they turned King's evidence. This, I believe, would make a genuine impression. The zamindars would probably give up paying for some time and when they had once felt the advantages of not paying would probably not return to the old custom.

Letter No. 27 of 1901, dated 17th October 1901, from Sardar Khan Bahadur Muhammad Yakub, C.J.E., Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar, to R. Giles, Esquire, M.A., C.J.E., Commissioner in Sind.

In acknowledging receipt of your No. 198, dated the 8th instant, on the subject of measures to stop the levy of lapo, I have the honour to beg your permission to make a few observations before proceeding to submit my replies to the questions contained in your paragraph 2.

2. Lapo literally means a small due in kind levied in proportion to produce. It applied in the days of the Talpurs to the dues of the zamindar, and in those days of misrule the low-paid kardar and his kotars levied in kind a fixed blackmail as their lapo. Tapadars came into existence much after the conquest of Sind; the old blackmail in kind was continued. With the introduction of cash assessment the anagi of the tapadar, i.e., the money rate (at some places on an acre and at other places on each rupee of assessment) took the place of the old lapo in kind.

3. With the increase of the number of tapadars after the introduction of the Revised Settlement an increase in the rate of lapo gradually took place, and from year to year there has been a tendency towards increase on account of the influence the tapadars have been enabled to exercise under the Irrigational Settlement, under which a good deal lies in their hands to cause loss in money to the zamindars or to save them from such loss.

4. The professed justification for the lapo from the earlier periods has been that the tapadar has to maintain a horse, and in particular that he has to meet several extra demands included in the general term rasai.

5. I distinctly remember in my experience as a Mukhtiarkar that, in the seventies and eighties, the charges connected with rasai fell on the tapadars and they met all those charges from out of their lapo. No further demand was ever made on the zamindars on that score.

6. In the nineties, on the one hand, the influence of the tapadar on account of the general extension of the Irrigational Settlement gaining ground, vastly increased and, on the other hand, a new order of things with regard to rasai also sprang up. By speedy growth in four or five years a custom sprang up by which all sorts of expenses which have close or remote bearing with rasai are put together for the season and the large sum so made up is recovered in cash from the zamindars. The distribution of the amount on the zamindars is made by the Mukhtiarkars or he fixes a proportion of it for each tapa, and the tapadar recovers it as a separate levy.

7. Instead of the old arrangement of the tapadar paying from his own lapo for the rasai the Mukhtiarkar—or on his behalf the head munshi—is now involved in guiding and authorising the distribution of the rasai expenses. This evil practice is in itself the principal cause of an undue increase going on in the scale of rasai, and I am aware it is considerably spread in Sind. Formerly, as the tapadars knew that every rupee that was spent towards rasai meant so much of loss to them, for they had to pay it from their income from lapo, there was a fair amount of check, and the expenses were kept within moderate bounds. There is no such limit now, no sort of check, the officials all combine to spend and to feast, no one is concerned to make things economical for those who guide the expenditure or who make the free supplies do not suffer in their pockets, they spend wastefully at the cost of others (viz., zamindars), and in the bargain benefit themselves in many ways, and in the end a large total is made up and the zamindars are called on to pay. The tapadars and munshis make a profit from this both in making the accounts and making purchases. A good deal is spent in feeding all menials, all sorts of private servants, peons and others, a good sum goes for the feasting and drinking of munshis, cash presents are freely made to butlers, private servants, peons and from the lowest to the highest paid munshis and their nafars, and many other things, such as fireworks, &c., combine to swell the season's amounts of each taluka expenditure on rasai. And this is recovered over and above the lapo. This was not known in the seventies or eighties.

8. From the lapo the tapadar meets now the requirements of small camps only, and when the taluka jamabandi is made, he pays the yearly quota towards the paying of fixed sums in cash to the establishments of the superior officers.

9. In endeavouring, therefore, to stop lapo, we can only succeed when we strike at the root. We should deal a blow to the causes of the disease. The first cause is the unbounded influence and power which tapadars possess to do harm to the zamindars or to save them from loss. So long as they continue to wield this influence and so long as our system of dealing with matters in which the zamindars are concerned continues as now, our endeavours to check lapo will, in my humble opinion, result in little. I am respectfully of the opinion that it is first of all necessary to break the tapadars' influence and to draw the zamindars closer to higher officials. This, I think, will be effected by such measures as I have respectfully suggested in the scheme of kacheri days placed before you under my No. 1245, dated the 19th September 1901. In the second place, it is also necessary to stop the more recent evil practice of making the zamindars subscribe in cash for wasteful rasai expenses.

10. Three Deputy Collectors and five Mukhtiarkars with whom I have had an opportunity of discussing the means of stopping lapo, have clearly warned me that it will not be stopped until the system of rasai is better regulated.

11. With regard to the points mentioned in your paragraph 2, I beg to reply as below:—

- (1) The salary of the tapadars is, in my opinion, quite sufficient. A munshi begins with Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 and does not reach the grade of Rs. 20 before 10 or 12 years, while the tapadar starts with Rs. 20.
- (2) However, I am strongly in favour of supplementing the present pay by a pony allowance of Rs. 5, not so much because the pay of Rs. 20 is insufficient, but because, if we expect them to keep a pony, we should, upon that ground alone, give them a pony allowance. I would, however, add that this increase should not be wasted on the tapadars unless and until a real and effective blow is found possible to be dealt to the two causes leading to lapo.
- (3) I think it will not be feasible to collect all revenue at taluka held-quarters. It is likely to prove troublesome for small khatadars. But there is no reason why it should not be left open to any khatadars to pay at the taluka kacheri. In this respect I think a hard and fast rule will not do.
- (4) Both your suggestions, viz., that of issue of a general circular and that of a big darbar of zamindars at which the Collector should address them, will be very effective. The determination on the part of the authorities to stop the blackmail

will be very properly impressed on the zamindars by these means. But I respectfully think that, together with this announcement, it should also be announced in what possible manner the zamindars can get an assurance of being freed in practice from the clutches of the tapadars in which they are held so fast on account of our system.

12. I may further mention that the same sort of blackmail in another shape of lapo is also levied by the canal daroghas and by the Forest jamadars. But I think these will die out if we can manage to put down the evil in the Administrative Department.

The first instalment will be paid in January, and the proposed darbars of zamindars may better begin from the month of November in order that due publicity may be gained to the most needed reform which you have so strongly desired to be taken in hand.

Letter No. C. of 1901, dated 20th October 1901, from C.E.S. Steele, Esq., Collector of Hyderabad to the Commissioner in Sind

Replying to your letter No 198, dated the 8th instant, I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. In order that the pernicious system referred to may effectually be put a stop to, it will I consider, be necessary to strike higher than at the tapadars, the mukhtiarkars are in a great measure to blame in the matter, for they are cognisant of what is going on but make little or no attempt to check it.

This, perhaps, is not surprising, for a portion of these ill-gotten gains is devoted to the propitiation of the establishment of the Collectors and Assistant Collectors when on tour, and the mukhtiarkars themselves benefit by everybody being made comfortable and contented

3. The nefarious practice of levying fees extends to all branches of the taluka office. A percentage is levied on contractors' bills, copying fees are taken when none are due balances of sums deposited as batta on account of witnesses are appropriated; and so on.

The mukhtiarkars could easily prevent these irregularities and so might the head munshis, but for one thing: the exercise of magisterial duties affords opportunities which are not always neglected, and those who live in glass houses cannot afford to throw stones, hence the levying of these petty dues goes on to a great extent unchecked, and similarly the taking of lapo by tapadars is rarely interfered with.

4. There can be no doubt that lapo is paid by zamindars from a sense of helplessness they feel that it rests practically with the tapadars whether their interests are marred or promoted, and they know from sad experience that these officers are not only in a position to harass them but that they will inevitably do so in a variety of ways and on various pretexts, unless their rapaciousness be satisfied. These exactions, it should be remembered, are not pure gain to the tapadar, for he in turn has to contribute to the jamabandi and rasai funds which are operated upon at taluka head-quarters.

5. The reasons for the agricultural classes being at the mercy of the tapadars may be said to be two—(a) Divisional officers are too frequently transferred—(b) Mukhtiarkars as a body are overworked and their responsibility cannot be properly enforced.

The first difficulty may possibly be one which cannot be overcome. There is no sufficient reason, however, why steps should not be taken which will ensure the due discharge of the responsibility properly devolving on an officer occupying the position of a mukhtiarkar. These officers are by no means all dishonest, but I have no hesitation in saying that they are all overworked and that they are the victims of circumstances. Consequently, in order to secure the end in view, I am of opinion that the first thing to be done is to relieve them of their first class magisterial powers. Mukhtiarkars have ordinarily far too much to do in connection with revenue matters for them to be able to spare time to devote to heavy judicial work. Moreover, the taluka office establishments are as a rule none too strong and the effect of conferring first class powers on a mukhtiarkar is to weaken the office by depriving it of one of the hands for the preparation of returns, the issuing of processes, the copying of judgements, the replying to references from the District Magistrates, the Sessions Judge, the Sadar Court, the filing of records and other miscellaneous duties fully take up the time of one munshi.

In my opinion a mukhtiarkar who is also a 1st class magistrate cannot possibly supervise the work of his taluka as he ought to, and it is manifest that flagrant abuses must ensue in the absence of the supervision required.

6. I admit that it would be out of the question to saddle Assistant Collectors with any extra judicial work, but this affords no justification for the present crying evil not being grappled with. Conditions in Sind are peculiar, and mukhtiarkars have, I fancy, more varied and responsible duties to attend to than mamlatdars have in the presidency proper, where there is comparatively little waste land remaining to be given out, and where questions arising from an irrigation settlement system do not occur, and the mere circumstance that it is possible for mamlatdars to discharge the duties of a 1st class magistrate does not warrant the inference that mukhtiarkars in this province are also in a position to undertake those duties.

7. If it be conceded that it is desirable that mukhtiarkars should be relieved of their higher magisterial functions and that no additional burden can be imposed on Assistant Collectors, then obviously the only course open is to strengthen the magistracy.

All that is required is that a full time magistrate be permanently posted at each sub-divisional head-quarters station to perform the duties which the various mukhtiarkars are at present called upon to undertake to the detriment of their other work.

The course proposed would be attended by further advantages which it is unnecessary to dilate upon. They will be sufficiently patent to anyone who may have had occasion to review the judicial work of taluka magistrates.

The pay might be fixed a little higher than that now granted to mukhtiarkars of the 1st grade, say Rs. 275 per mensem; a clerk and munshi combined on Rs. 25 would also have to be provided.

8. Free from the tax imposed on their time, mukhtiarkars would then be in a better position to attend to matters calling for careful inquiry at their hands and they would further be able to personally investigate complaints made against their subordinates. It is manifest that little good can come of referring charges of dilatoriness or of malicious misrepresentation of facts for explanation to the offenders themselves. Such procedure can only end in the aggrieved parties being subjected later on to further unpleasantness.

9. In order that the individual responsibility of the mukhtiarkars may be enforced however, for promptly dealing with any malpractices to which their subordinates are only too prone, it will be necessary in addition to the relief above referred to, that some extra agency should be provided, so that the mukhtiarkars may be assisted in disposing of inquiries relating to the allotment of land, etc., and the best way of doing this would be by increasing the number of supervising tapadars.

In this district there are at present 37 supervising tapadars. The average area of the charge entrusted to them is 225 square miles, it therefore stands to reason that the capability of these officers to assist the mukhtiarkars must in the very nature of things be exceedingly restricted and that a great deal of time must unavoidably be wasted, owing to the distances the supervising tapadars have to traverse in the course of their duties. For these reasons, I am of opinion that the number of the officers attached to talukas in this district ought to be at least 50.

10. From the above, it will be seen that I hold that any attempt made to abolish laps and to get rid of the corruption which its exaction fosters depends for its success on the personality of the mukhtiarkars and on their being in a position to undertake investigations themselves to a far greater extent than they are at present able to.

11. I will now deal with the four queries contained in your reference.

(1) and (2) With the improved prospects of promotion to the higher grades thrown open to them, the tapadars ought to be satisfied with their present rates of pay.

A pony allowance is not called for, as grass will always be given free wherever a tapadar may put up on his peregrinations, and in many places he would probably be given grain besides.

A concession in the form of increased pay will not, in my opinion, tend to eradicate the evil.

(3) Taluka head-quarter stations are not always conveniently situated. They occupy a central position in the case of only 5 out of the 12 talukas of this district.

Nevertheless, permission might be freely given for payments to be received at the taluka treasuries. The production of the bills of assessment prescribed under Special Circular No 87 will remove any difficulty there otherwise might have been to the acceptance of the amounts. The fact that the tapadars frequently collect the revenue demand at the taluka station does not affect the main question at issue, for, unless payments are made in the kacheri itself, and the rayats' receipt books are initialled by the mukhtiarkar at the time, the tapadar will manage somehow to deduct his lapo.

(4) So long as the power of the tapadar remains what it is, there can be no hope of improvement, but once the people are convinced that they are no longer at the mercy of these underlings, they can be depended upon not to submit to the extortion which they are now subjected to.

Letter No. 3 of 1901 dated 30th October 1901, from S. Sadik Ali Sher Ali, Deputy Collector, Mehar division, to J. H. E. Tupper, Esquire, I.C.S., Collector of Larkana.

In compliance with your No. 13, dated the 15th instant, forwarding copy of the Commissioner in Sind's letter No. 193, of the 8th idem, on the subject of lapo or anagi taken by the tapadars in Sind, I have the honour to submit my report on the points raised in the Commissioner in Sind's letter as follows.

2. (1) The present salary of the tapadars will not be sufficient if the lapo is no longer levied by them. The tapadars' charges are still large, which they cannot conveniently visit walking on foot as is done by the village accountants in the presidency. The status of the tapadars has been always widely different from that of the village accountants in the presidency. In Sind they are looked upon as naib or deputy mukhtiar-kars, and have many duties of executive nature to perform. They are necessarily obliged and even required to keep a horse and a servant, without which they cannot conduct their multifarious duties properly and punctually, and would be treated with supreme contempt by the majority of the zamindars, who have always been accustomed to call them Diwan, a high term of respect in Sind for Hindu officials. I doubt very much, if their status is lowered, they would be able to command sufficient respect and collect land revenue and other demands of Government as easily and expeditiously as they do now. Before the introduction of the Survey Settlement and the revision of the village cess establishment, the income of the tapadars from anagi was considerably more than the pay of the 4th and 5th grade Mukhtiar-kars per annum, and many tapadars were far wealthier than many mukhtiar-kars in the lowest grades whose pay was only Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. The number of tapadars in each taluka varied from 4 to 8, according to its area and cultivation, and the bigoti system afforded great facilities to them to levy large sums of money annually. Their style of living was even higher than that of many honest low-paid mukhtiar-kars. But after the introduction of Survey Settlements, extension of irrigational facilities and introduction of the Village Cess Act, the charges of the tapadars had to be reduced and their number was largely increased. Where several zamindars had to attend and satisfy one tapadar, now one zamindar has to satisfy several tapadars, and the question of lapo or anagi has become prominent and brought to the forefront because many zamindars find it difficult to gratify the demands of so many tapadars, all trying to squeeze as much out of him as they possibly can. The old tapadars wielded a greater power over the zamindars than the tapadars of the present day, as the former could easily ruin or benefit the land holders, by shortening or widening the space or area under measurement by plying the measuring staff (gandho) according to their whims. The zamindars, who benefitted by keeping in good books with the tapadars and defrauded only Government of part of their revenue, paid the tapadar his anagi without much trouble. One illustration out of many which came under my personal knowledge while I was a clerk will suffice to show how tapadars and zamindars transacted this business. In this case the tapadar calculated his anagi to amount to Rs. 2,000 (two thousand) due by one zamindar only, who offered to pay one thousand at once and made a half-hearted promise for the other thousand to be paid later on, but the tapadar refused to accept the amount which was actually placed before him, and insisted on the entire amount of two thousand rupees being paid at the same time. The zamindar could not raise the other thousand at once and was obliged to take away the thousand rupees which the tapadar declined to accept. Next day, quite unexpectedly, the tapadar received orders of transfer to some other charge in a different taluka, and the zamindar to keep his word, paid him the thousand rupees before his departure with an apology to boot that he had failed to raise the second thousand for him. This illustration will show how the tapadars were proud and thought so lightly of such large sums of money and how the zamindars were in honour bound with them. Those circumstances have now entirely changed and the present tapadar is merely a shadow of the old tapadar, and his anagi is nothing compared with that of the old tapadar. But nevertheless his position within his altered charge is the same, and must continue to be so, so long as the temporary irrigational system of settlement is in force in the province. His position and importance are not in accord with the amount of pay he receives from Government, but are the result of the executive powers exercised by him. All the agricultural classes know that the tapadar is not paid by Government in proportion to the amount of work he does and the responsibility he incurs, because he is to make up his deficit by levying anagi and other perquisites from the landholders. This impression is indelibly written upon their minds, and has been passed down from generation to generation to act according to it. But the tapadar is the most abused official in all the departments of Government, though he merely imitates the example of other officials in the kindred departments. Take for instance the Public Works, Forest, Police, Railway, Salt, Vaccination and other departments which on close examination would be found even worse in corruption. I think a few brief remarks will be sufficient to show the system followed in them:—

- (1) In the Public Works Department each and every contractor has to pay 8 to 10 per cent. of the estimated cost of the work, and not of profit, to the supervisor or overseer in charge of the work and 2 to 4 per cent. to the staff in the Executive Engineer's office. Daroghas and mukadams are rewarded separately. During the inundation season, almost all the owners of water-courses have to subscribe something and even cattleowners do not escape. Woe to the contractor if he demurs to pay the fixed percentage.
- (2) For the subordinates of the Forest Department the grazing fees are the source of the greatest income as all cattle are not registered and all the neighbouring landholders pay lapo in grain, milk, butter and ghi. The coup contractors also pay a share.

- (3) The Police Department is too notorious to call for any specific mention, but I may note that section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, places a great power in their hands, and whenever a police officer is in want of money he has merely to go out, collect a few badmashes and threaten to send them up, and his pocket is filled in no time.
- (4) In the Railway Department each empty waggon to be provided for loading goods is to bring a certain fee, which is divided between the station staff. At Lahore station, I found that luggage of passengers was underweighed on payment of a certain fee which benefitted the booking office.
- (5) The Salt Inspectors raise subscriptions from licensed vendors of salt and from villagers whose villages are in the vicinity of salt mines or land covered with salt earth.
- (6) The Vaccinators levy contributions from villagers, and any one refusing such contribution is put to the trouble of carrying his child to the neighbouring villages for the benefit of other children to be vaccinated from the fresh seed in that child.

I am speaking of the above matters from my own personal experience and assert that what I have stated is quite true, and still no finger is raised against these departments. As long as corruption goes on in these departments, it will be most difficult to stop the lapo system prevailing in the Revenue Department.

3. (2) The question of raising the pay of tapadars has been discussed before by eminent and experienced officers like Colonel Dunsterville and Mr. Erskine, but was abandoned on the ground that the system of lapo could never be stopped or even checked and the State funds would be burdened without any corresponding advantage. During the time Colonel Dunsterville was the Collector of Shikarpur it was suggested that the pay of the tapadar should be raised to Rs. 50 to place him beyond temptation. I discussed the question with Mr. Erskine, Commissioner in Sind, while I was Mukhtiar of Ghotki, and he had the proposal of revising the pay of the Village Cess establishments under consideration. I told him that the pay of the tapadars fixed by him at Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 was too low, but he told me that the tapadars depended more or less upon lapo, which they would never give up under any circumstances, and there was no advantage in raising their pay. But since his time the pay has been raised to Rs. 20 and Rs. 25, and yet there has been no corresponding reduction in anagi. It is very necessary to raise the pay of the tapadar and give him a horse allowance in order to place him beyond temptation and make him sensible of the danger of dismissal from Government service if he plays his old games, but what should be the maximum limit of that pay and horse allowance? I think no one would recommend the pay to be more than Rs. 30 and Rs. 35 with a horse allowance of Rs. 8 per mensem, or a little over 4 annas per diem, barely sufficient for the horse's grain, grass being obtained gratis. But would this increase stop or check him from levying the lapo? In my opinion this increase would be as ineffective as the increase allowed by Sir Evan James when Commissioner in Sind. The Supervisors and Overseers of the Public Works Department, in spite of their large salaries and travelling allowances, without any exception levy their percentage and entertain no apprehension of losing their appointments, and knowing this state of affairs, how are tapadars to be coerced in abandoning their anagi which has been levied by their predecessors from time immemorial? In the time of the Mirs and other Musalman or Hindu rulers the pay of the officials was most insignificant and their income depended mainly upon corruption. I have given these long explanations simply to show how the question is beset by insurmountable difficulties and whether it will be possible to achieve any success by the proposed measures.

4. (3) I do not think it would be possible to collect all the revenue at taluka head quarters. The attempt made by Colonel Mayhew failed as the mukhtiar and their head munshis being absorbed in their own heavy duties, exercised no effective supervision at all. In my opinion there is even danger of creating ill-feeling between the mukhtiar and their tapadars, if mukhtiar are compelled to exercise any effective supervision. Many mukhtiar in Sind completely depend for their revenue work and field inspection upon the tapadars; if tapadars conspired against them, they would find themselves in a most difficult position. I have already remarked that the tapadars are, by the importance of their position, naib or deputy mukhtiar, and I think, even if the mukhtiar were compelled to stop all other work, they would not exercise any real supervision over the tapadars. May I ask, has ever any mukhtiar in Sind caught any tapadar for taking lapo and prosecuted him criminally? And what is the cause? I may answer these question in one word, "Reciprocation." Unless this reciprocation is stopped, the system of taking lapo cannot be checked and much less stopped. This reciprocation is not confined between the tapadar and the mukhtiar, but extends to a great extent, needless for me to state.

5. (4) The zamindar is at the root of the entire system of corruption. He not only encourages it, but often creates and fosters it. If the zamindars were strong minded they could check materially if not stop the system entirely, as the tapadar of the present generation is not as strong and as powerful as the tapadar before the Survey Settlement. But to avoid a few rough and insulting expressions of the tapadar and to keep in good books with him, he is always ready to pay anagi and complains only behind the curtain. The rate is not uniform and universal. Many large and intelligent zamindars pay only Rs. 2

or Rs. 3 per cent. or a small amount in lump. It is the illiterate and small occupants who suffer more. I know many zamindars who pay a mere pittance to the tapadar and always keep him at arm's length, but this depends upon the favour the zamindar enjoys at the hands of the mukhtiar and the Assistant Collector; but if these high officers are not favourably disposed towards the zamindar, the zamindar has to flatter the tapadar. Much depends upon the co-operation of the zamindars and the weight that may be attached to their complaints against the ill-treatment they may receive at the hands of the tapadars. Many complaints fail, and their failure is a powerful ground for discouraging such complaints. But there is no reason why the co-operation of the zamindars should not be invited, and a vigorous attempt made to stop the system. Further measures may be regulated by the results achieved.

Letter No. 18, dated November 1901, from J. H. E. Tupper, Esquire, I.C.S., Acting Collector of Larkana to R. Giles, Esquire, M.A., C.J.E., Commissioner in Sind.

In reply to your reference on the subject of tapadar's anagi or lapo, I have the honour to submit the following remarks, along with an instructive report on the subject by Khan Bahadur Sadik Ali.

2. The question is one on which it is easy to collect a mass of opinion and difficult to get any reliable evidence. The existence, however, of the tapadar's anagi is undisputed, it is a specialised form of dasturi—contribution—sanctioned by long custom which has always found a place in every oriental system of Government.

3. Any attempt at reform finds its first requisite of success in a recognition of the universality of the practice. Anagi is simply one manifestation of a universal phenomenon which presents itself not only in every department of Government, but throughout the whole fabric of Sindhi (or, indeed of oriental) society, under the various shapes of lapo, dasturi, saliano, raj kharach, mithai, bandhian, etc.

4. By a fixed unwritten law, anything that can claim to be an institution becomes entitled to the levy of certain (more or less) fixed dues. The privilege is not confined to Government servants, it is shared by the land-owner, the priest and the professional beggar. It overrides the barrier of racial and religious distinction. The panchayat pays its fixed dues to the spiritual heads of adjacent Musalman communities.

5. It is unnecessary to enlarge further upon the universality of the practice; its importance lies solely in the demonstration it affords of the impossibility of successfully attacking any abuse, which has its roots at the foundations of society, at one point exclusively. Any attempt which is aimed solely at the tapadar's anagi is as necessarily futile as the effort of a wheelwright who would straighten one spoke of a buckled wheel and leave the remainder bent and twisted.

6. The result of a successful attempt to abolish the tapadar's irregular gains, without simultaneously checking the exactions practised in other departments such as the Public Works Department, Forest Department, Police, etc., would be to reduce the Revenue Department from the rank of highest efficiency to the lowest. Instead of the Revenue Department attracting the best men of all other departments, as is now the case, the tendency would be reversed, and the best men would abandon the revenue for service in other departments.

The attempt if it is to be seriously made at all must be made all along the line.

7. To return, however, to the point on which discussion is invited—the tapadar's anagi. A preliminary to any attack upon the practice must be a clear comprehension of the relations which subsist between anagi, the tapadar's pay and rasai. When the question of anagi is raised the first thing one hears is that it is inevitable because the tapadar's pay is inadequate and because he has to bear the expenses of rasai. There is a tendency to regard rasai and lowness of pay as the cause of anagi—the cart before the horse. Rasai and low pay are the effects not the cause, of anagi, though here, as elsewhere, the effect reacts upon the cause. Low pay and rasai, the offspring, may have helped to establish the parent anagi on a firmer footing, but the children may be eliminated without any diminution of the vigour of the parent. The corollary is as fallacious as the proposition. Rasai may be abolished and pay raised, but anagi remain unchecked. The abolition of the one and the enhancement of the other merely clear the way for an attack upon anagi. The tapadar's pay was fixed low simply, I imagine, because it was recognised that he would continue to take a certain portion of the produce, or a corresponding money payment, whether the pay was low or high. Rasai is a tithe upon the anagi levied by the tapadar's superiors and the clerical and menial branches of establishments, of which the tapadar monopolises the executive functions.

8. The actual amount of rasai which goes to meet the wants of the ordinary touring officer ranges from the inconsiderable to the non-existent. He usually pays for all he uses himself and more besides. His servants, it is true, receive something but that is because it is impossible to differentiate between them and the menial establishment of his office. The touring officer pays, and his payment goes to recoup the rasai fund.

9. Before going further, it may be well to be clear as to what exactly are anagi and rasai.

The terms are so elastic that description will probably convey a better idea than definition.

Anagi is a payment which the land-owner or occupier makes to the tapadar in return for the tapadar's good offices. It varies in amount according to locality. In this part of Sind, the divisions of Larkana and Mehar, the rate levied is usually 1 anna per jireb of cultivated land or $\frac{1}{4}$ an anna per rupee of revenue collections (tako rupayio). In the Sehwan division and in other parts of Sind, I am told it is higher—in some cases much higher, but of this I have no personal knowledge. This payment is liable to various commutations. Large zamindars do not always pay the full rate. Sometimes they pay two-thirds, sometimes half, sometimes they compound for a fixed sum, an annuity (saliano). Generally speaking, the amount of the contribution is in inverse ratio to the wealth and power of the zamindar.

10. It must be remembered that anagi by no means exhausts the irregular takings of the tapadar; in some cases, particularly when there is much new land to be given out, anagi represents only a minor portion of the tapadar's irregular gains. The Manager, Incumbered Estates, recently impounded the private accounts of a tapadar which showed (I have not the figures by me, but Mr. MacMunn can supply them) that he actually banked with various banyas an average of about Rs. 140 a month throughout the year.

11. The amount which a tapadar nets from anagi alone can only be stated within very wide limits it fluctuates with each season and with each charge. Taking the average cultivated area of a taluka (I append the figures for five average talukas for 1899-1900, not a good year), I find that, at the rate of 1 anna a jireb or 2 annas an acre, the average total contribution of a taluka in the shape of anagi amounts to over Rs. 8,000. At the rate of tako rupayio, it amounts to some Rs. 7,000. The average number of tapadars per taluka (for the same five talukas) is 19. Distribute Rs. 8,000 among 19 tapadars and each tapadar gets some Rs. 420, which represents the annual gains of a tapadar for anagi alone. To this add the tapadar's pay at Rs. 20 per-mensem Rs. 240 and say about Rs. 200 as gains from other irregular sources. The total is Rs. 860, which represents the tapadar's average annual income. If we place the tapadar's legitimate expenses at Rs. 300 per annum, this leaves him with a clear profit of Rs. 560. How much of this is to be subtracted for rasai.

12. I now turn to rasai. This is most simply described as a tithé upon the tapadar's irregular gains levied by his superior officer. He has to pay the supervising tapadar, the taluka head-quarter staff, the Assistant Collector's establishment, the Huzur Deputy Collector's establishment, the Collector's establishment and finally, when the Commissioner's camp is pitched in the taluka, the Commissioner's establishment. To the establishments must be added officers' private servants. These payments (with the exception of those made to touring establishments that do not permanently remain within easy reach) are usually made at the time of jamabandi. In addition, the tapadar acts as universal provisioner to the establishment of officers who tour throughout his tapa.

13. These charges are borne collectively, not individually, though in the case of provisioning charges, the area over which they are distributed varies. Sometimes they fall upon the whole taluka, sometimes upon the circle only. The whole of these charges do not always fall upon the tapadars, in some cases, the local zamindar bears them or a portion of them.

14. In all cases in which these charges fall upon the tapadars, they are defrayed out of a common fund to which all the tapadars contribute in a fixed proportion. This is known as a rasai fund. The circle rasai fund is of comparatively trifling dimensions, and exists in a few circles only. It does not call for separate description. The taluka rasai fund is banked at the head-quarter town of the talukas, usually in the charge of the taluka head munshi, sometimes of the supervising tapadar in charge of the head-quarters circle.

15. The annual contributions of the tapadars of the taluka to the fund aggregate, as far as I have been able to ascertain, anything from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 according to the wealth of the taluka and the calls made upon it in any particular season. The maximum limits of fluctuation include provision for a Commissioner's camp, a comparatively rare occurrence; but when it comes, the main item of rasai expenses for the year.

Probably, Rs. 1,500 fully represent the aggregate of rasai charges which fall upon an average taluka in an ordinary year. Taking the average number of tapadars to a taluka as 19, this gives a contribution of about Rs. 80 by each tapadar, equivalent to about four months' pay. The tapadar's profit is thus represented by Rs. 560 to Rs. 80; say Rs. 500 for the year.

16. When the amount of the tapadar's gains from anagi and other sources is thus considered in comparison with the rasai contribution, it at once becomes obvious that rasai is not the cause of anagi, but an effect, which is speciously represented as a cause. Rasai represents that part of a tapadar's ill-gotten gains with which he is compelled to part in order to purchase the connivance and good offices of his superior or of other establishments with which his work brings him into relation. It is the direct result of anagi, not the cause.

17. I have considered the nature and amount of anagi and rasai, the relation in which they stand to each other, and indicated the position they occupy in regard to other irregular profits that accrue to Government servants in the Revenue Department and briefly noticed how similar irregular profits accrue to all other departments and how this system extends beyond the limits of Government service and runs through the whole fabric of society.

18. I may now logically proceed to enquire into the possibility of checking anagi. What are the measures proposed? To remove temptation from the tapadar's way on the one hand by stopping rasai and by raising his pay, and on the other hand to diminish his power by taking the land revenue collections out of his hands, and setting the taluka head-quarters staff in his place at the receipt of custom.

19. I have already endeavoured to show that if we succeeded in stopping rasai, we should be no nearer to stopping anagi, and would it be possible to stop rasai, unless anagi is stopped first? Is it possible to remove the effect before the cause? As long as the tapadar gets his anagi, so long will the junior grades of the clerical establishments and the various mental establishments and the tapadar's immediate superiors, insist on a share of his profits. The only way to stop rasai is to stop anagi. *Cessante causa cessat et effectus.*

20. If Government raises the tapadar's pay (what that means I will presently explain), is there any prospect of improvement? Why, because a man receives more pay, should he demand less perquisites? The tapadar's pay was raised a few years ago. Does anagi show a corresponding decrease? The experiment will be costly in the extreme, and does the prospect of success justify the cost? If the tapadar's pay is raised and rasai stopped, other equally low paid grades must be raised in proportion. The umedwar and the munshi on Rs. 10 per mensem and the pattawallas on Rs. 8, must all have their pay substantially raised, and not only the Revenue Department but other departments must be similarly treated. What would be the increase in the Police force alone?

21. An increase of pay does not appear to be a very satisfactory solution. Take for example, the high paid grades of the Public Works Department, the overseer on Rs. 200, the sub-overseer and the darogha. Has high pay in their cases tended to reduce irregular profits? On the contrary, no department has raised its demands more rapidly. I can fully endorse Khan Bahadur Sadik Ali's remarks on this subject; only a year ago, a case in point came prominently under my notice. A very well known zamindar of Larkana taluka was given a clearance contract. Secure in his position, he refused to pay the usual 10 per cent. From the overseer downwards, the Public Works Department officials combined against him, reported him to the Executive Engineer as being hopelessly behind hand with his work and as incapable or unwilling to put the requisite number of men on the work. The zamindar endeavoured to explain to the Executive Engineer, but to no purpose. He came to me in despair and a private correspondence ensued with the Executive Engineer without result until I offered to be personally responsible for any loss incurred. I put no pressure upon the zamindar and never visited the work which was outside my charge. But the work was done, and I believe well done, and done long before that of most of the professional contractors. The whole difficulty was simply that the zamindar declined to give up 10 per cent. of his contract, and the Executive Engineer naturally believed the reports of his highly-paid subordinates. This is digression, but I think in point, for it is a clear instance of the powerlessness of high pay to moderate extortionate demands of an irregular nature.

22. It is suggested to reduce the tapadar's power by permitting the payment of land revenue at head-quarters. This will certainly reduce the tapadar's opportunities, but only to give increased facilities to the taluka head-quarters staff, who are not one whit less exorbitant. The payer of land revenue will gain nothing by it, though the tapadar may lose. The principle seems hardly sound, for so long as the tapadar retains any executive functions worth the name, he will always be in a position to raise money by irregular means. If his profits are cut down in one direction, he merely extends them in another. The tapadar's powers have been greatly contracted already, as Khan Bahadur Sadik Ali points out, by the abandonment of the old system of measurements. Has any corresponding decrease in the rate of anagi been observed?

23. The more one considers the question the more impossible does it appear to arrive at any immediately satisfactory solution. As long as the tapadar retains any powers worth the name it will be to the zamindar's advantage to fee him, and so long as it is to the former's advantage to fee the tapadar it is difficult to see what can stop him. At present it seems that the most that can be hoped is to keep the abuse within limits. Eradication is out of the question.

24. A frontal attack is impossible and the flank of the abuse can only be turned by the gradual march of education leading to the growth of a moral standard in the whole community which is not Oriental. Almost the only encouraging sign is that honesty among the lower grades of public servants would appear to be on the upward grade. It is impossible to hope to enforce a moral standard among Government subordinates which is utterly at variance with that existing among the classes from which they are drawn and among whom they continue to live.

25. The more stringent the measures adopted to enforce this unnatural standard the more ineffective would they prove. It would doubtless be possible for the Assistant Collector with the aid of a good mukhtiarkar to bring home the taking of anagi, etc., to a certain number of tapadars and the penalty might be dismissal and prosecution. What would be the result? Probably the extension of the rasai fund into an insurance fund, the remaining tapadars contributing to the maintenance of those who were broken.

26. Heroic measures would do more harm than good. I have endeavoured to examine the milder measures suggested, and the prospect they afford of an immediate result is not encouraging. I am, however, unable to suggest any measures upon other lines, and can only recommend that the same course as has been previously adopted (*viz.*, the raising of pay and the reduction of tapadars' powers) be further pursued in the hope that the want of success in the past may be found to be due rather to lack of thoroughness in application than to an error in conception. A further increase in the pay of the tapadar can do no harm, and would appear to be a necessary, if costly, condition of the diminution of irregular gains. The tapadar's power might be also further curtailed, though not, I think, by the payment of and revenue at head-quarters.

27. I would suggest, instead, that the system of optional payment, by Land Revenue Order, through the medium of the Post Office, be given a trial. Complication of accounts might be an objection, but this can hardly be very serious, since the system works well in many parts of India. It would probably necessitate an increase of establishment of one munshi at taluka head-quarters to cope with the remittances as they come in from the Post Offices. It would probably also be necessary for the Revenue Department to bear a part of the cost of the new Post Offices. Three or four would have to be started in each taluka. The work of these offices could be limited to the receipt of land revenue remittances and it might be entrusted to village school masters. The khatadar is to be billed by the tapadar, and on presenting the sum named in the bill, will receive a receipt from the Post Master. The latter will of course take something, as is done now in the case of ordinary money orders, but it is not likely to amount to nearly as much as the sums paid in anagi. This system at all events avoids both the tapadar and the equally voracious head-quarters staff, and renders it possible for any person desirous of avoiding the levy of anagi to pay through an agency which is powerless to loot him to any serious extent.

28. I append a brief resumé made in my office, with a tabular statement, which give some idea of the success the measure has met with in other provinces. Its introduction appears, however, to have been made for reasons entirely different from those for which I now advocate its adoption. Its success appears to have been due to the fact that it saves the cultivator a journey to head-quarters, and in Madras, where no such journey is necessary (as in Sind), the system was dropped, not being sufficiently popular to justify its existence. This, however, is no reason why it should fail in Sind, the reason for its adoption being to save the cultivator, not time and trouble, but money.

29. In addition, I think that something might be done if more attention were paid to the recommendations of Assistant Collectors in the matter of promotion. This is usually given by seniority and my own experience is that the Assistant Collector's recommendations go for very little. Yet he is the one officer who has some chance of knowing whether a tapadar is "straight," that is, that he does not try to extort higher rates than the people willingly pay. I consider that a reputation for straightness and efficiency should be the ground for promotion, rather than seniority. If the straight man gets rapid promotion it will do something towards raising the standard.

30. I am aware that these suggestions, considered as a remedy for anagi, must appear very inadequate. But as I have endeavoured to show, anything in the nature of a crusade would be more likely to do harm than good. The prospect of failure is probable, and failure would mean the establishment of the abuse on a firmer basis than before. The process must be a gradual one, and success can only be attained by the application of a continual and even pressure all along the line. It is useless to try and reform the Revenue Department while other departments, with less excuse, are equally corrupt, unless the same effort is made in each and every department, and it is hopeless to expect that the standard of official morality among Government subordinates will ever be raised more than a degree or two above the standard prevailing among the classes from which they emanate and in whose midst they live.

*Letter No. 83 of 1901, dated 26th November 1901, from H. C. Mules, Esquire,
Collector of Shikarpur, to R. Giles, Esquire, M.A., C.J.E., Commissioner in Sind.*

I have the honour to reply to your No. 198 of the 8th October 1901 on the subject of lapo or anagi.

2. With regard to paragraph 2, the custom has been in force from time immemorial, so to speak. Many years ago, when acting Collector of this district, I reported to one of your predecessors regarding it when the question of improving the status of tapadars was under consideration. Some improvement has been effected.

But with the general sub-division of tapas, the evil of anagi has become more glaring and has pressed more heavily on the people.

In former days a taluka was divided into 5 or 6 tapas against 25 or 30 now-a-days. The tapadar was then a person of much more consideration than he is now. He employed one or more naibs and managed to get through his work to the general satisfaction of his superiors and without incurring the dislike of the people.

He was usually an old or oldish man, sagacious and tactful, and knew better than to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs. Now all is changed, and in place of the old style of tapadar we have, as a rule, young men with a smattering of education, just sufficient to make them anxious to amass wealth and insufficient to render them proof against temptation.

3. We have also now, and luckily, the developing germs of public opinion stirring in all directions and a press which at all events fearlessly brings matters of this kind to notice.

4. Before I reply to your questions in detail, I would respectfully beg to point out that the question at issue appears to me to be, Is the wage we now give to our tapadar one on which we can expect him to maintain himself, keep a pony and servants, maintain his family and educate his children? I think all officers are now agreed that it is absolutely necessary for a tapadar to keep a pony. I do not myself see how he can do his work without one. If he keeps a pony, he must have somebody to look after it and he must have somebody to cook for him, etc. He cannot take his wife about with him, if he happens to have one; and if he has to do everything for himself, he cannot do his work. This being so, I do not consider we give the man a living wage, and therefore it may be said that we so far sink at his corrupt practices.

As regards your first question, I reply in the negative. As regards your second, this would be a step in the right direction, but I do not consider anything should be given as a recompense for lapo.

As regards your third question, it would be feasible to collect all revenue at taluka head-quarters but I do not think it would be expedient, and I do not concur with Rao Bahadur Dewanmal that payments are as a rule made at head-quarters. That officer must himself remember many occasions, when he was serving as daftardar in this district, which demonstrated the contrary. My own experience also makes me quite confident that a very large proportion of the assessment is collected in the tapas. It would be felt as a hardship, I think, if an order for payment at taluka head-quarters was issued.

As regards your fourth question, it is not only zamindars who pay lapo, but all concerned, great and small. I do not exactly see how the payments could be made a ground of depriving them of their privileges; and it must be remembered that this payment is after all more or less the equivalent of the English tip. It is a payment for some real or supposed service rendered by an individual who receives a regular salary for rendering that service.

The English people grumble and submit but would be extremely indignant if they found the giving of tips followed by condign punishment to the giver.

No. I think the idea of punishing the giver should not be entertained.

5. It is to be remembered that this anagi is a deeply rooted institution and in many cases—I might say the majority—it is willingly paid, and the favour of the recipient is looked upon as a useful return. It is a custom which will die hard.

6. Before going into the question of remedy, I would observe that the first nail in the coffin is now being driven by the attack upon the rasai system which is being made by some, at all events, of the officers of this province. I believe that you and Mr. Steele, Collector of Hyderabad, have both taken steps in this connection, and I am myself doing my best to put an end to it, regarding which I beg to refer you to my No. 10835 of the 22nd/27th instant.

7. Now, this rasai system has or had attained to a scandalous condition, and I am bound to say that your own tours—I speak, of course, of the tours of the Commissioner in Sind—were marked by the most extraordinary rapacity and extortion on the part of the members of your establishment. I have told Sir Evan James, I believe I have told you, of the immense sums which have been collected and lavished upon your people at places such as, for instance, Shadipali in the Thar and Parkar district. I have heard of similar cases in this district. The demands of the Collectors' and Assistant Collectors' establishments are not in proportion, though they too have had to be satisfied.

8. But I would here observe that it is not only the establishment of the Revenue Department who have preyed upon the country like this. I am aware that the tours of the Judicial Commissioner of Sind have also left their mark upon the land, while it is notorious that the establishments of the officials of other departments are as keen to share in the good things as those of the Revenue.

9. Then, again, the private establishments of officials have always insisted upon being well treated at each camp. Not only as to supplies but cash payments have been and are demanded and given. Much depends on the official, still more perhaps upon his head servants

I know of cases in which the demands of private servants, both as to social treatment and cash payment, have been exorbitant to a degree.

10. It may not appear to anybody unacquainted with the machinery what connection this particular part has with that coming under the description of lapo.

But they are intimately connected. The rasai system has been such as to necessitate the formation in each taluka of a fund for the purpose of defraying the cash payments to establishments. This fund is maintained by the tapadars, who pay such sums thereto as may be considered appropriate by the Mukhtiarkars, and is kept at the taluka head-quarters. Of course it may not be drawn upon every year to the same extent; but there it lies, available for the use for which it is intended.

In some talukas I understand Mukhtiarkars have had the strength of mind to refuse to keep up this fund. I am doubtful if such Mukhtiarkars are looked upon with a favourable eye by the establishments whose greed can no longer be satisfied, and I will take an opportunity of letting you know before long in what talukas and by what Mukhtiarkars this fund has been abolished.

11. Thus as I said before, the extinction of the rasai system will strike the first blow at the lapo system. At present that which it is everybody's interest to encourage is not likely to disappear. When it is no longer so, the question will be, 'Why should the tapadar get all the money?' and no satisfactory reply being forthcoming, people will make it their business to prevent his doing so:

12. I do not myself believe in any heroic remedy, but much could be accomplished by leaving it absolutely in the Collector's power to dispense with the services of any tapadar against whom he found it morally certain that he was a taker of lapo, anagi or any other form of consideration by whatsoever name it may be called. I should, however, fix a date prior to which no inquiries should be held, and make it widely known to all concerned that from such and such date any tapadar found to be taking lapo would be summarily dismissed by the Collector. I would allow no right of appeal. Such cases would be extremely difficult of proof satisfactory to a legal mind, but I am convinced the Collector and his Assistant Collector could be relied on to ascertain the facts. Give the right of appeal beyond the Collector, and—"hope springs eternal in the human breast"—the tapadar would trust to the luck going with him and go rejoicing on his course.

*Memorandum No. 1, dated 8th January 1902 from R. Giles Esqr., J.C.S.,
Commissioner in Sind to Government.*

The Commissioner in Sind presents compliments, and with reference to Mr. Under-Secretary Mead's memorandum No. 6252/182, dated the 4th September last, has the honour to state that, on receipt of the same, he asked the heads of the six districts in Sind to report on the truth of the statements made in extract No. 23 from the report of Native papers for the week ending the 24th August 1901.

2. The result was only to confirm what the Commissioner was in fact aware of, namely—that the statements in the Al Haq were substantially true, the Collector of Hyderabad remarking that the imposition of lapo is regarded by the zamindars of Sind as a "time, honoured custom" and the Collector of Karachi styling it a "deep-seated custom."

3. The only inaccuracies in the extract relate to—

- (1) the percentage which the lapo realised by the tapadar is on his revenue collections, and
- (2) the statement that the order regarding the issue of bills of assessment (Special Circular No. 87) to occupants is a dead-letter.

No 80-A., dated the 15th October 1901, from the Collector of Karachi.

No. A-Conf1, dated the 15th idem, from the Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier.

No 27, dated the 17th idem, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar.

No. C, dated the 20th idem, from the Collector of Hyderabad.

No 18, undated, November 1901, from the Collector of Larkana.

No 3, dated the 30th October 1901, from the Deputy Collector, Mehar.

No. 83, dated the 26th November 1901, from the Collector of Shikarpur.

The percentage, as Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Yakub pointed out, and the reports attached to this memorandum show, usually varies from 3 to 6, but does not exceed the latter figure; while the bills of assessment are now being issued, although their object is at present to a great extent nullified by the impossibility of preparing them in time for submission before the first kharif instalment becomes due, a matter to which the Commissioner will again refer.

4. The most serious allegation in the extract is that the practice of levying lapo (by which is meant the amount of the percentage levied) is increasing, and when that view was corroborated by the reports of the District officers, the Commissioner felt, what indeed had been for some time in his mind, namely, that however great the difficulties and however hopeless the idea of entirely eradicating the practice may be, no further delay should occur

in making a vigorous effort to combat it. Accordingly, on receipt of the Collector's replies, he again addressed them and he now submits copies of his own letter and their reports which although written from different standpoints, and divergent in detail, afford, he thinks, a very good idea of the whole position.

5. The best history of lapo will be found in the first eight paragraphs of Sardar Muhammad Yakub's report. Lapo was levied under native rule, and levied in kind until the British Government introduced cash assessments, when it also was paid in cash and calculated either on the jireb of cultivation or the rupee of revenue. To style it blackmail, or even to say that it was, prior to the raising of the tapadars' salaries, an altogether unjust exaction, would be incorrect. When Mr. Giles became an Assistant Collector in 1869, the tapadar's salary was usually Rs. 15 and his charge the size of some of the talukas in other provinces. He had one, two and occasionally three, naibs or assistants whose salaries he had to pay, the whole of them, and usually his two (the number in large tapas) kotars, also being mounted. To-day the tapadar receives a salary of Rs. 20 or Rs. 25, according as he is in the 2nd or 1st grade, and has a much reduced—but still large—charge, the duties of which he cannot perform on foot. Possibly, the Commissioner has always thought, it is due to the great heat that every one in Sind, "even," as Sardar Muhammad Yakub remarked, "the beggar rides"; but, be that as it may, the tapadar must, as all officers agree, keep a servant and a pony, and it is, as their reports show, a moot point whether even now their salaries are sufficient for the position which they at present occupy.

6. Intimately connected with the system of lapo is that of rasai or rasad (the Persian word rasaidan—to supply) of which the primary meaning was the supply to the sovereign, when on tour, of provisions of every kind, and so to his representatives, the officers of Government when in camp. On this subject, the Pioneer of the 7th ultimo contains an instructive leading article, which is headed "The Bengal Rasad Question," from which it may be seen that, like lapo, rasai is older than the British supremacy, and ordinarily referred to free gifts and provisions which in bygone days were never paid for by the officer concerned or his followers. The word also included provisions of another kind, e.g., of largess to superiors and to the menials and servants attending on them, and it is, the Commissioner fears, this form of gratification which has recently increased in Sind, although not quite, he trusts, to the extent depicted by Sardar Muhammad Yakub in his 7th paragraph.

7. The advice usually given to the Commissioner regarding the suppression of what is objectionable in the two systems is that the rasai must be first dealt with and that it is the cause, and not the effect of the lapo, but the Commissioner agrees fully with Mr. Tupper, when, in paragraph 7 of his able report, he explains that this is putting the cart before the horse, and that rasai and low pay are the effects and not the cause, of lapo. "Rasai represents," says Mr. Tupper, "that part of a tapadar's ill-gotten gains with which he is compelled to part in order to purchase the connivance and good offices of his superiors."

8. This being so, the Commissioner concurs with Mr. Tupper in thinking that any measures taken should aim first and foremost at the gradual stopping of lapo, although much may be done, and is indeed, as the Commissioner will show presently, being done to repress the evils of rasai.

9. What, then, are the possible measures for gradually stopping the payment of lapo? The Commissioner says gradually, because, after giving very much consideration to the subject, he is constrained to agree with Mr. Tupper that "a frontal attack is impossible," and that "heroic measures, designed to put an immediate stop to the practice would do more harm than good."

10. The result of a careful examination of the reports and of a long consultation with Sardar Muhammad Yakub, than whom no officer is more capable of giving an opinion on this particular subject, is to convince the Commissioner that the root of the evil lies, and consequently the remedy for it must be looked for, in two defects which undoubtedly exist in our revenue system, *vis.*, (1) the excessive power and authority wielded by the tapadar, and (2) the lack of supervision over its exercise.

11. As therein lies, the Commissioner believes, the key to the whole question, he would invite the particular attention of Government to the following passages in the attached reports—

- (1) "The principal reason why lapo is now paid even by the most influential and intelligent zamindars is that they know that the tapadars have got the power of materially harming or helping them in the numerous matters, which under our present system are referred to them (the tapadars), and the disposal of which, to a large extent, must depend on their report. Let it once be seen that the decision of no question is allowed to remain, as it often does at present, virtually in the hands of the tapadar, and I believe that the practice of lapo will soon disappear."
- Mr. Lucas.
- (2) "In endeavouring, therefore, to stop lapo, we can only succeed when we strike at the root. We should deal a blow to the causes of the disease. The first cause is the unbounded influence and
- Sardar Muhammad Yakub.

power which tapadars possess to do harm to the zamindars or to save them from loss. So long as they continue to wield this influence and so long as our system of dealing with matters in which the zamindars are concerned, continues as now, our endeavours to check lapo will, in my humble opinion, result in little. I am respectfully of the opinion that it is first of all necessary to break the tapadar's influence and to draw the zamindar closer to the higher officials."

- (3) "There can be no doubt that lapo is paid by the zamindars from a sense of helplessness; they feel that it rests practically with the tapadars whether their interests are marred or promoted and they know from sad experience that these officers are not only in a position to harass them, but that they will inevitably do so in a variety of ways and, on various pretexts until their rapaciousness be satisfied."

Mr. Steele.

"So long as the power of the tapadar remains what it is, there can be no hope of improvement, but once the people are convinced that they are no longer at the mercy of these underlings, they can be depended on not to submit to the extortion which they are now subject to."

- (4) "To avoid a few rough and insulting expressions of the tapadar and to keep in good books with him, he (the zamindar) is always ready to pay the lapo, and complains only behind the curtain."

Khan Bahadur Sadik Ali.

12. The above clear and, as they appear to the Commissioner to be, decisive remarks refer only to the first and most important of the two faults in our system, but, before touching on the second, the Commissioner is anxious to say a word on the view taken, especially by Sardar Muhammad Yakub, on the extent to which the Irrigational Settlement has placed power in the hands of the tapadar, because, although it is beyond doubt (i.e., if the tapadar's work is insufficiently tested) that the present system of settlement does give the tapadar opportunities for injuring or benefiting the zamindar, e.g., by recording a survey number, as cultivated when it is not, or vice versa, or by representing that a lift number received a flow supply when it did not, the Commissioner is strongly of opinion that in this matter the Sardar has somewhat exaggerated at once the opportunities and the extent to which the tapadars avail themselves of them; often, for instance, false entries could only be made at a great risk, and would be detected with the most casual test, as when large tracts are under rice, and all the numbers yearly cultivated, and, as a matter of actual fact, the occasions when a cultivated survey number is returned by the tapadars as uncultivated are rare. At any rate, with more supervision, this danger can be almost entirely eliminated. The opportunities under the old measuring system were far greater, when, as Khan Bahadur Sadik Ali points out, a movement of their measuring staff "according to their whims" could increase or decrease materially the area of cultivation. "Whatever we do, too, we cannot afford," as Sardar Muhammad Yakub remarked to the Commissioner, "to change our present system of settlement, for we shall not easily arrive at another so well suited to the peculiar conditions of the province".

13. Mr. Steele has enlarged most on the second defect, i.e., the lack of supervision. What he says regarding the necessity for relieving the mukhtarkars, who are all overworked, is too true to need any comment here, and it is also true that the mukhtarkars who hold 1st class Magisterial powers, and are in consequence posted to the most important charges, which are usually situated on the railway lines, and are therefore easily accessible to pleaders, cannot, as a rule, attend properly to their all important revenue work, so that one or other duty suffers.

14. Mr. Steele also refers to the need for more supervising tapadars, and in respect to this, the Commissioner desires to bring prominently to the notice of Government that the original intention of Mr. Erskine was when making his proposals for the village cess that all correspondence should be done by the supervising tapadar, and the tapadar never be permitted to report on any subject, the rule in force upto the present time being that the supervising tapadar shall "make in person, without calling on the village tapadar for a report, on requiring him to make an inquiry, every revenue investigation within his charge which the mukhtarkar shall from time to time require him to make" but as the Commissioner can testify from his own personal experience, this rule has, notwithstanding the most vigorous and continuous efforts to carry it out, proved impracticable, because an officer with 225 square miles (the average area in the Hyderabad district of a supervising tapadar's charge, vide paragraph 9 of Mr. Steele's report) of land in his charge cannot possibly see and report on the many questions about claims to land and water, disputes about unauthorised cultivation, boundaries, waste of water, etc., which, in a province where there is much waste land and room for irrigational improvements, are constantly arising in every village.

15. Yet it is undoubtedly in the reporting on these claims and disputes that the tapadar's power and opportunities lie, and if lapo is to be stopped, it will be so chiefly by taking steps to enforce Mr. Erskine's order, i.e., by entirely prohibiting the tapadar from writing such reports, and by restricting his revenue work (he has, of course, very many other duties connected with vital statistics, supplies, boat fees, etc.,) to field inspection, keeping of accounts and such collections as the land-holders may desire to pay through him.

16. This, then, ought, in the Commissioner's opinion, to be done and without delay, but already the expenditure from the village cess is in excess of the receipts, and there is no money available from that source for increasing the number of the supervising tapadars, nor in his opinion would it be right that such further expenditure should be met from the village cess, for already, as he has recently had an opportunity of stating confidentially to Government, the recovery from that cess of the entire cost of the village officers in Sind, who are practically Government servants and perform many duties not connected with the village system, seems hardly fair to the land-owners.

17. The Commissioner, therefore, ventures to represent very strongly that more real good may be conferred on the Sind landholder by removing the pressure of work, which is undoubtedly endangering the good administration of the province, and is, as shown above, practically injurious to his interests than by simply relieving them of the payment of half the village cess, and he would ask whether Government could not see their way to supplement the village cess with such fair share of the cost of the village establishment as ought in fairness, the Commissioner would, with the utmost respect, submit, to be borne by them, and thus enable him to largely increase the number of the supervising tapadars.

18. The relief of the mukhtiarkars, and also of the public, by the appointment, in a few central places, of Magistrates, who should be graded as Mukhtiarkars and appointed from their cadre, is a measure which the Commissioner has long regarded as advisable. He doubts whether any other measure would at the same moderate cost afford at once so much convenience to the public and relief to the divisional and taluka officers, and he will, if Government so desire, submit definite proposals for it after consulting the local officers.

19. In the report of Sardar Muhammad Yakub, no reference is made to the need for increasing the number of the supervising tapadars, the reason being that in a separate report he has made another proposal which is referred to by Mr. Lucas and other officers in the present correspondence and which the Sardar thinks, might, if successful, render such an increase unnecessary. The proposal, the special aim of which is to withdraw power from the tapadars, is already known in the province under the name of kacheri days, and put briefly its purport is that on certain fixed days of each of the months from January to October the Mukhtiarkar should always be present at his head-quarters and the fact made widely known, the village officers also being present, with their records, so that he may be able to dispose then and there of all petitions and correspondences, applications for land and takavi, etc., etc.

20. The proposal is an extremely valuable one, which some of the district officers regard as excellent and practicable, and all regard as being theoretically sound. The Commissioner, who has had some experience of what can be effected in the way of disposing of vernacular correspondence in a taluka office with the tapadar, the parties and the records present, is therefore directing the Collectors to have it tried by selected Mukhtiarkars. He does not, however, think it can entirely secure the object aimed at, viz, the reduction of the tapadar to a cipher as regards all correspondence.

21. The supervising tapadar does not, it may be mentioned, receive any cash payment of the nature of lapo from the zamindars, and in consequence it has happened on several occasions that the promoted tapadar has put in the plea of *nolo episcopari*. The "superwai" however, as the people call him, no doubt, receives something from the tapadar as his share of the tapadar's lapo, and would also, no doubt, not neglect other chances, but there is not, the Commissioner thinks, any cause to fear that the increase in the number of appointments of supervising tapadars will lead to an increase in the lapo.

22. With regard to the title "supervising tapadar," which the Sindhi has found so difficult to pronounce and write, the Commissioner has always regretted that a recommendation made by him, when the office was created, was not accepted and the (then) existing titles "tapadar" and "naib tapadar" maintained, the former being applied to the supervising officer and the latter to his subordinate, the tapadar. There is often more in the influence of a word than is imagined, and at a time when it is most important to reduce the position and influence of the tapadar, the alteration of his title to naib (deputy) would, in the opinion of two of the best native Deputy Collectors whom the Commissioner consulted, materially aid in reducing him in the eyes of the people and in causing them to understand the policy and intention of Government. It is therefore, the Commissioner thinks, a question whether even now the change might not be advantageously made.

23. The next measure which the Commissioner regards as most likely to aid in gradually putting a stop to lapo is the granting of permission to all landholders to pay their assessment into the taluka or into the huzur treasury instead of to the tapadar, thereby giving them the opportunity of paying it without the tapadar's knowledge, intimation being only given to him from the receiving treasury.

24. In order to allow of this, it is essential that the landholders should have their bills of assessment in the proper form some time before the instalment is due, and this has been proved to be impossible in the case of the first kharif instalment, which is due at present on the 1st of January, because the tapadar cannot possibly make out all the bills between the time of the completion of his first field inspection (sometimes in the case of wet crops

as late as the end of December) and that date. It is therefore necessary to postpone the first instalment to the 15th of February. But on that subject the Commissioner is addressing Government separately.

25. It is also most desirable that rule 82 of the Rules under the Land Revenue Code should be altered so as to allow of all payments of land revenue being made into the huzur or taluka treasury, or a general sanction to that effect given for Sind. This may increase work and occasionally cause complications, but it seems to the Commissioner to be of the utmost importance. The payment at the taluka head-quarters to the tapadar is rightly rejected by the District officers as not likely to have any beneficial effect on the payment of lapo, but an opportunity of paying in the money without the tapadar's knowledge is surely one which could not but assist the weak-kneed zamindar, and those who would rather not pay lapo are by no means (the Commissioner is assured) insignificant in number. One of the largest and most influential zamindars in the Nausahro division of the Hyderabad district is said to have for some time refused to give the tapadars any lapo, and to relate amusing stories of the petty annoyances undergone by him at the hands of the tapadars in consequence.

26. Along with the sanction to the measures above proposed, viz,—

- (1) additional supervising tapadar,
- (2) alteration of the instalment dates,
- (3) permission to pay assessment direct into the taluka or huzur office,

the Commissioner would issue a proclamation to all the land-owners in Sind stating why these measures were sanctioned; the position which Government desired the tapadar and the supervising tapadar, respectively, should hold in the matter of land grants, disputes, etc., the will of Government as regards lapo, and the fact that its payment in future would inevitably tend to discredit the zamindar in the eyes of Government and its officers, and lead to the dismissal of the tapadar from Government employ. More the Commissioner does not see his way to doing. The rest must be left to the gradual advance of education and of a higher standard of morality.

27. As regards rasai the payments to dishonest superiors will continue as long as lapo continues, but the provision of supplies to Government officers on tour and of presents to their private servants can be put a stop to, to an extent which the Commissioner hardly realised, if the officer himself to whom the camp belongs is determined to stop it.

28. Excellent results are said to have followed the new departure made by the Commissioner and the Collector of Hyderabad in leaving the larger proportion of their offices at head-quarters, and as yet the work has not suffered. Indeed, the Commissioner's clerical work is naturally carried out better in Karachi than on tour, so also have the indirect results been good of the correspondence and the orders issued last year (vide Government Resolution, Judicial Department, No. 713, dated the 30th January last), because they have, the Commissioner is informed, led to the idea becoming widely spread that nothing is to be given or to be had in future without payment.

29. Notwithstanding the general approval of his suggestion to grant the tapadar a small pony allowance the Commissioner has rejected it, because, as already stated, he is of opinion that the status of the tapadar needs lowering and not raising, and because, as Mr. Steele points out, with the increase in the number of supervising tapadars, the tapadar's prospects of promotion and pension increase also.

30. In conclusion, the Commissioner would make two remarks regarding—

- (1) the alleged corruption in other departments, viz., that two blacks do not make one white, and that in his opinion the Revenue Department is the one to set the lead in all reform; and
- (2) the native press on rasai, viz., that their remarks thereon greatly exaggerate the evil. Milk, eggs, fowls, grass, etc., have to be collected for officers on tour. From time immemorial the zamindars have aided in the collection. It is their duty to do so, and involves no impropriety so long as they also aid in seeing that payment is made by those who use the supplies.

Memorandum No. 9011/185-Conf., dated 30th December 1901, from the Under Secretary to Government, R. D.

The undersigned presents compliments to the Commissioner in Sind and, in inviting his attention to paragraphs 31 and 32 of the Report on Native Papers for the week ending 14th December 1901, is directed to request Mr. Giles will be so good as to make such inquiries as seem practicable as to whether there is any foundation for the statements.

Extract paragraphs 31 and 32 of the report on native papers for the week ending 14th December 1901.

"31. A propos of the subject of blackmail, we are informed that a heavy, and no doubt daring, kind of blackmail, worse in many respects than the notorious lapo of the tapadar, is common in Sind and is levied under the very nose of the mukhtiarkar. It is this. If a man transfers his khata to any other by sale, gift or otherwise, or when the khata of a deceased occupant is to be entered in the name of his legal heirs, or when it is to be transferred by reason of a decree of the Civil Court, the application is made through the tapadar for the same, and the tapadar, as usual, first demands his fee, which is no small sum, of a rupee or two. He levies a rupee per each survey number to be transferred. After this the application reaches the mukhtiarkar's office, where his jamabandi munshi must be greased before anything practical can be achieved. This munshi also must have a rupee per each survey number. Make it twelve annas and the application must move further than his clutches or, rather, it won't even rest there. It will soon be assigned to the waste paper basket unless the demanded ransom is paid to save it from his wrath. The result is that the khata is not transferred for months and years. If an inquiry be instituted it will be found that a piece of land is, legally speaking, in the possession and ownership of one and in the revenue records it continues in the name of another who is dead and gone long ago or who has no right to it at all. This is only on account of the jamabandi munshi and the tapadar. The application is done away with, and nobody except the tapadar, the jamabandi munshi and the poor zamindar applicant knows anything about it. And how can the poor applicant prove that it was made when the mukhtiarkar never registered it? It is also rumoured that more people in the office than the tapadar and the jamabandi munshi have an interest in this sort of conjuring. But that is a matter of detail and better be left to the authorities to go into. Blackmail and corruption have reached their zenith in Sind, and it is idle and futile to argue that things were as bad or worse in times gone by. Suppose they were, but that is no excuse for the present state of things. We can, however, say one thing, that in the time of the Talpurs in Sind there was only a kardar to be gratified, and that too once in a way, and he would do most little things for one greasing. In those days of simple business there were no such things as khata badal kabuli, and bezari. There were no canal daroghas, no forest jamadars, no separate police force to enforce exactions, and not one of the hundreds of things which the zamindar has to put up with now. So long, therefore, as the Sind administration is not cleansed of these impurities there attaches a blot to the fair name of British rule in this Province."

"32. It is high time, now, that the Government began seriously to devise some effective means to stop corruption with a heavy hand and improve the moral tone of its officials once for all. It has now assumed such gigantic and scandalous forms that there is absolutely no difference between receiving bribe and committing extortion. The few sections of the Penal Code dealing with it have proved most unsatisfactory and incapable of reaching the crime and have lagged far behind the circumstances of the present day. There is no bribery now. It is all extortion, pure and simple, and there is no such thing as abating of the offence, it is all one-sided. Give up the abettor, and the bribe-taker will at once come to light, and as an extortionist of the worst type. It is the unjust implicity of the innocent oppressed and so called abettor that protects the bribe-taker from exposure. So things are growing from bad to worse in this respect all over India, and we think it is no exaggeration to say that they are at their height in Sind. To the public the lowest canal darogha and the tapadar's kotar are as much oppressive in this respect as an official of some responsibility. If examples are necessary to illustrate our statement we can give many, but suffice it to say that there is at present a rumour (which cannot be unfounded) going round in native circles—and perhaps some European officers also may be aware of it—that there is a kardar to-day who has been able to collect forty thousand rupees in no time. And why, only the other day at an evening party a few officers—perhaps one of them was a Deputy Collector and the other a Mukhtiarkar—were overheard to say, while talking of transfers and individuals, 'and tell me now honestly, who does not take bribe, who is not corrupt now-a-days?' . . . Examples need not be multiplied and instances need not be quoted. Let a few words suffice to convince Government of the existence of this scandalous blot on the well-intentioned British administration."

Letter No. 2 of 1902, dated 4th/6th February 1902, from H. C. Mules, Esquire, Collector of Sukkur, to the Commissioner in Sind

In reply to your No. 9 of the 15th January 1902, I have the honour to state that there is no doubt that the transfer of khata is utilised by dishonest officials, or perhaps, I should say, by officials, who look upon perquisites of this kind as more or less legitimate. In point of fact there are many other business transactions in which subordinate officials find it possible to extort perquisites from private parties. I do not know how these practices are to be summarily put a stop to. They are all part and parcel of the system under which the tapadars levy lapo, etc. regarding this I reported in my No. 82 of 26th November 1901.

2. We have in every taluka office several munshis whose salaries do not greatly exceed the amount which labourers, servants and artisans can earn. These men, owing to the immense amount of work in every office, now-a-days, have so many opportunities of demanding illegal gratifications that it is hardly to be wondered at if they make use of them. I am inclined, however, to think that while the native press has doubtless done useful work in bringing to notice the corruption which undoubtedly exists, it has also in many cases exaggerated matters; paragraph 34 quoting from the Al-Haq is an instance of this. I am sure that there are now a considerable number of higher native officials who are clean-handed. But I consider it may be taken for granted that nearly all subordinate officials supplement their incomes in improper ways.

3. The Revenue Department is not the only one concerned, corruption is as rife in the Police, the Irrigation, the Forest and the Survey Departments.

4. Whether it would facilitate the detection and punishment of offences of this kind to entirely exonerate the giver of bribes is open to question. I hardly think myself it would.

*Memorandum No. 61-Conf; dated 31st March 1902, from R. Giles, Esqr., C.I.E.,
Commissioner in Sind to Government.*

With reference to Government memorandum No. 9011-185-Conf., dated the 30th December 1901, the Commissioner in Sind has the honour to append copy of a report from the Collector of Sukkur which in his opinion gives a very clear exposition of the case. There is no doubt but that the formalities necessary for the transference of khatas do afford an opportunity for the levy by subordinate revenue officers of illegal gratifications.

The transaction, however, the Commissioner thinks, is rather in the nature of a tip demanded by the official performing the service and acquiesced in as dasturi by the donor than of the crushing extortion denounced by the Al-Haq. As the Collector of Karachi has pointed out, the Sindhi is by no means backward in sending in petitions, anonymous or otherwise, and petitions against this particular form of extortion, if it may be so called, are not received.

The Editor, Al-Haq, was asked to give specific instances in support of his allegations and he forwarded four letters (one written after the request was made to him) in which there were two cases of alleged extortion in connection with transference of khatas. The letters had palpably the appearance of having been written to supply a demand.

2. It is perfectly futile to suppose that malpractices of this sort can be stopped in a day by mere denunciation. The moral tone of the people and of the subordinate officers must be gradually improved and the higher officers, especially mukhtiarkars, must be relieved or some of that excess of work which prevents them from exercising supervision over their subordinates. The Commissioner thinks it unnecessary to write a long report on this occasion, as he has already written at length on the subject in connection with the levy of lapo (vide his printed report No. 1, dated the 8th/15th January 1902).

Both malpractices are particular kinds of the general corruption (though that is perhaps rather a severe term to use of the dasturi system even when applied to Government officials) and the same remarks hold good for both.

The relief to be afforded to mukhtiarkars by an increase in the number of resident magistrates and the institution of kacheri days (vide paragraph 19 of the report quoted above) are two measures now in contemplation which should do much good. Indeed, the latter is already being tried in selected talukas in Sind and promises to be a great success.

Another remedy that should be possible is the regular maintenance of a proper complement of Assistant and Deputy Collectors in Sind, a subject on which the Commissioner has recently addressed Government.

Government Resolution No. 3115, dated 7th May 1902, Revenue Department.

RESOLUTION.—These papers disclose the existence of a deep-rooted evil which in the opinion of the Governor in Council is deplorable and calculated to bring discredit on the administration. That mukhtiarkars should manage funds collected by the talukdars for the entertainment of Government officials and their establishments and that the establishments of District officers, from the Commissioner downwards, should live, while on tour, at the expense of the people, is nothing short of scandalous. In the Presidency proper, though complaints are occasionally heard of non-payment or short payment for supplies provided for touring officers' camps, still the evil is comparatively small, and the Governor in Council sees no reason why it should not likewise be minimised in Sind. What is required is a determined and continued effort by all officers of all departments to put down the abuse, and Government desire that this effort should now be made.

2 The Governor in Council cannot agree with the Commissioner in Sind that the first endeavour should be directed solely against lapo. The connection between rasai and lapo is clearly established. The former practice being openly followed should be easier to stop; and, at all events, the good name of Government is concerned in its immediate suppression. The following orders are therefore issued for the guidance of the officers of all departments in Sind, and Government look to the heads of departments to see that they are closely followed.

3. Officers who go on tour should invariably before leaving a camp make careful inquiries whether all supplies provided for their official as well as private establishments have been duly paid for, and should not permit under any pretext the free supply of provisions. For any breach of this rule the member of the establishment concerned as well as the tapadar or mukhtiarkar should be punished. District officers of all departments should append to their diaries a certificate that they have satisfied themselves that all supplies provided for their official and private establishments at each camp have been paid for. The Governor in Council is confident that all officers will bear in mind that much depends on their own exertions. So long as the evil exists some relief will be afforded by taking on tour as small establishments as possible and that course may be desirable on other grounds, but every effort should be made to put a stop to the evil altogether.

4. In order to lessen the tapadar's opportunities of levying lapo, the Commissioner proposes to permit payments of assessment at Taluka or Huzur head-quarters, to fix certain kacheri days, to alter the dates fixed for the collection of land revenue instalments, and to issue a proclamation to all land-owners in explanation of the intentions of Government. To the adoption of these proposals there is no apparent objection, unless there results material administrative inconvenience. There is no urgent need, however, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, for the amendment of rule 82 under the Land Revenue Code. Cases of payment at taluka or Huzur treasuries for the purpose in view may be regarded as special cases and sanction may be given by Collectors accordingly. Payment of the land revenue demand by money order has already been authorised in Government Resolution No. 2039 of 13th March 1886. The Government of India have already sanctioned the proposed alteration in the dates of instalments. The proclamation which it is proposed to issue to all land-owners should take the form of a printed notice dealing with the double evil of rasai and lapo. A copy should be posted in each village and copies should be distributed among the more important zamindars, to whom also the orders of Government should be personally explained in open durbar, if possible. The proclamation should clearly set forth the intention of Government henceforth to dismiss any mukhtiarkar or other Government servant who is proved to be taking part in the administration of a rasai fund and any tapadar or subordinate of any department who is proved to have taken lapo or been guilty of any other form of extortion.

5. The Commissioner has further suggested a general increase of the supervising establishments and their relief from some of their present duties, with a view to imposing a more effectual check on the tapadar's work. In the opinion of the Governor in Council these questions need further examination and can be dealt with only when definite proposals are made and supported by ascertained facts regarding the need of relief. They must be treated on their own merits apart from the incident of their effect in checking the exaction of lapo.

6. With reference to paragraph 16 of his memorandum No. 1, dated 8th January 1902, it should be pointed out to the Commissioner that the village officers' cess fund consists merely of a proportion of the land revenue set apart for a special purpose and there is no question of fairness in regard to the payment from it of the entire cost of the village officers'. If, however, the fund will not bear the whole of the necessary cost, there will be no option but to meet the balance from general revenues.

Circular No. 554, dated 23rd September 1914 of W. H. Lucas, Esq., Commissioner in Sind.

In order to take the business of arranging for camp supplies entirely out of the hands of tapadars and subordinate officials of other departments, the Commissioner in Sind is pleased to direct that the following system shall be introduced experimentally throughout the province with effect from the approaching touring season:—

- (1) The Collector shall divide every taluka into a suitable number of areas, each of which shall comprise one or more tapas. The number and size of these areas shall be determined with reference to the number of recognized camping places in each taluka and the extent to which each of these places is visited by district officers of all departments.
- (2) The Collector will then proceed to select one or more respectable zamindars for each area and, with their consent, will entrust to them the duty of furnishing the following kinds of supplies, viz, mutton, fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass and firewood, to district officers and their entire establishments.
- (3) At least four days before entering a taluka every district officer shall send to the mukhtiarkar a list of the places at which he intends to encamp and a statement of the approximate amount of the supplies of each of the abovementioned kinds which he will require at each camp for himself and for the members of his establishment. The mukhtiarkar will then communicate these details without delay to the zamindars concerned.
- (4) On the 1st of every month every mukhtiarkar will prepare a list showing the average rates at which the different kinds of supplies can be obtained in his

- taluka. It is not necessary to fix different rates for different areas within the same taluka, but the average rate fixed by the mukhtiarkar should allow for variations in rates in different parts of the same taluka. If necessary special rates may be fixed for taluka head-quarter towns. These are the rates at which the selected zamindars will be required to furnish supplies.
- (5) If in any area no zamindars can be found who will undertake the business of furnishing supplies, the mukhtiarkar will arrange for this to be done by a contractor, but every effort should be made to induce the local zamindars to accept the responsibility.
 - (6) Before leaving a camp the district officer will pay for all supplies provided and will obtain a receipt from the zamindar, or his kamdar, or from the contractor.
 - (7) Where several zamindars are appointed for the same area, the mukhtiarkar will arrange that each in turn undertakes the business of furnishing supplies.

2. The Commissioner is aware that difficulties are likely to attend the introduction of this system, and he wishes it to be understood that for the present it is only experimental, but the time has come when the evil of rasai and the administration of rasai funds, which are nothing short of scandalous, should be sternly suppressed. The first step to be taken is altogether to deprive the tapadars and subordinates of other departments of their present excuse for and opportunities of making rasai. The Commissioner therefore expects that every district officer will do his best to make this experiment a success.

Proclamation, dated 23rd September 1914, by the Commissioner in Sind.

It is hereby notified that Government are determined to put a stop to the practices of taking lapo and making rasai—two deep-rooted evils—which are bringing grave discredit on the administration. All officers of all civil departments are therefore directed to assist Government in their endeavour to eradicate these evils.

2. Hereafter any mukhtiarkar or other Government servant who is proved to have taken part in the administration of a rasai fund will be punished with dismissal and any tapadar or other subordinate of any department who is proved to have taken or attempted to take lapo or to have been guilty of levying or attempting to levy any other form of exaction will be dismissed. Any zamindar who pays lapo or such other illegal exactions will incur the severe displeasure of Government and its officers.

3. These orders apply to all departments of Government in Sind.

Letter No. 12-Conf, dated 2nd May 1917, from the Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier, to the Commissioner in Sind.

With reference to your No 261-Conf. of 2nd September 1917, on the subject noted in the margin, I have the honour to state that experience has shown that it is not very easy to carry out to the letter the instructions contained in Mr. Martin's circular, a copy of which was forwarded to you with his No. 61 of 3rd December 1915. There are only three European officers regularly touring in this district,—the District Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer and myself. Owing to the exigencies of crime the Superintendent can never say one day where he will be sleeping the same night or the next night; and he is unable to give early information of his camps. He has to make what arrangements he can. The Executive Engineer in practice only travels from bungalow to bungalow, and at each there is a garden and no difficulty in securing supplies is experienced. In my own case I have to wage constant warfare against the zamindar, who is unwilling to take payment for supplies provided. My experience is that the bigger zamindars and sardars vie with one another in pressing one to camp at their villages, and some are genuinely disappointed if one does not visit them once a year. In these circumstances it is not surprising if Baluch ideas of hospitality must occasionally be allowed to prevail against rules which are meant for the protection of poor khatadars. As an example I may say that at one camp last season the zamindar, a wealthy man and the holder of a title from Government, spontaneously offered me Rs. 1,000 for the war relief fund in honour of my visit to his village. I accepted the amount and was not prepared the next day to insult him (as he would have considered it) by offering him a rupee or two for the supplies which my camp had consumed.

2. But while this state of things is occasionally found in the villages the rules can be and are strictly enforced in the case of officers camping at Jacobabad. I remember being with the Commissioner's camp at Jacobabad in January 1915, and the whole establishment complaining loudly that they could get nothing, i.e., nothing without payment. Further, presents in cash which were not unknown before, have entirely ceased.

3. I do not know that it is necessary to amend the present orders. But it is certain that they cannot be interpreted in the same way in this district as for example, in the Nawabshah district and much must be left to the discretion of the district officers. But I have not the

least doubt that within the last three seasons many of the old evils have been eradicated, and every year public opinion is so asserting itself that in time such evils of the system as still remain will also disappear.

*Collector of Hyderabad's confidential letter No. 163, dated 14th June 1917,
to the Commissioner in Sind.*

With reference to your memorandum No. 85, dated 25th April 1916, I have the honour to submit the reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors and to state that the revised system of rasai remained in force during the year under report. As a general rule petty zamindars do the work of rasai contractor and are fairly efficient. But the work is unpopular and no zamindar will undertake it without pressure.

2. In some places zamindars are contractors only in name, e.g., at Tando Bagq. The nominal contractor is Mir Ghulam Mahomed Khan Talpur: I found the actual arrangements were made by the tapadar, though the Mir's kamdar came up for payment at the close of my camp.

3. At Matiari I was told my private establishment got free milk from the Sayed, though the latter denied it somewhat evasively when I taxed him with it. The contractor was another man, a petty zamindar, and the Sayed had no occasion to come into the supply question at all.

4. The present system is mere tinkering at the question. The real remedy lies with the zamindars themselves: if they do not give, establishments cannot take. For this Utopian condition we must await the slow processes of time and education.

*Letter No. 16, dated 4th May 1917, from Mr. Sorley, Assistant Collector,
to the Collector of Hyderabad.*

In reply to your confidential No. 112, dated 30th April 1917, I have the honour to report as follows on the working of the revised system of arranging for camp supplies:—

1. Where the revised system has continued, the results have been quite satisfactory from the touring officer's point of view. But it is all but impossible to tell whether undue exactions are made as of old. In Guni taluka the system is being worked more successfully than elsewhere. This is due in part, I think, to the influence of the mukhtiarakar and in part to the fact that in most places in Guni the zamindars are quite willing to supply what is required. But in other talukas the business of providing district officers with camp supplies is devolving on the tapadars. I have always asked the tapadars on these occasions why they continue to make the bandobust and their invariable reply is that there is no one else to do it.

2. The real defect of the system is that it depends entirely on the willingness of the zamindars and there is no means of making them willing. The work puts them to inconvenience and probably causes them a slight pecuniary loss. If camps are numerous the zamindars are inclined to lose all interest in the work. It is out of the question to get contractors for camp supplies even at the biggest places as the sojourn of the touring officers at any particular place is too uncertain.

3. Generally speaking there are two types of zamindars supplying rasai. The first consists of those who regard rasai as a Government demand on their resources. It is only with difficulty that those can be induced to accept payment at all. The second type consists of those who have from the first shown little interest in the scheme and have been withdrawing their services. It is difficult to tell whether the new system has provided any effective check on undue exactions. In the case of the zamindars who undercharge themselves it is extremely probable that the difference is made up by increased donations to the peons and munshis. I have found it quite impossible to know how much a patewala seeks and obtains as his due. The second type of zamindar has been apathetic from the first; and his place has been taken by the tapadar again. The tapadar probably conducts himself in the time-honoured way.

4. Everywhere I have found the utmost difficulty in getting the zamindars to charge me anything for grass. I have usually had to add grass arbitrarily to the bill and have had to insist on the money for it being accepted. If munshis are exposed to a temptation of this kind, I do not feel at all sure that they will not readily succumb to it and get a good deal of their supplies for nothing. The bill they show may mean very little.

5. More serious than rasai is the system of lapo which has again, they say, become prevalent in the Tando division. I have been told by my head clerk that there were tapadars offering the Assistant Collector's establishment four annas a day per man, a sort of standard charge on the tapadar's lapo. The only way to stop these extortions is, I think, to start from the mukhtiarakar and go right down the scale warning each man that he will be held responsible individually for abetting or condoning the system of irregular gratuities. The

smaller the establishment taken on-tour the better. But even so, the abuse will still prevail. For, after all, it is only a result of the passion for obeisance that lies deep in the Indian mind

Letter No. 40 from the Collector of Thar and Parkar, dated 1st July 1917, to the Commissioner in Sind.

I have the honour to reply to your letter No. 261-Conf. of 2nd September 1916, on the working of the revised system of arranging for camp supplies.

2. I have of course no personal practical experience of the working of the system. But I am not disposed to differ from Mr. Chatfield's No. 16 of 3rd February 1916, except in respect of his first paragraph. As regards this paragraph I am assured by my chutnis, Mr. Khushaldas, that the disappearance of the tapadar is mostly nominal and that he still manages the supplies behind the scenes. I can only suggest that earnest efforts might be made to bring a few such irregularities home to individual tapadars who might be given exemplary punishments.

Letter No. C-5, dated the 3rd May 1917, from the Assistant Collector, Shikarpur, to the Collector of Sukkur.

With-reference to your No. 3513, dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. It has proved practically impossible to induce zamindars to accept payment for those supplies which they produce from their own lands without incurring actual monetary expense, e.g., milk, eggs, fowls, firewood and sometimes butter. Even if they could be persuaded to take money for these articles it would not reach those upon whom the real expense has fallen, since these provisions are furnished not by the zamindar but by his haris, whose annual contract with him includes the performance of this duty. Upon the zamindar falls the labour of collecting the supplies and finding men to help with tents, etc.; and this labour they find so irksome that, though nothing will induce them to take payment for their trouble, yet all save the very richest are dismayed to learn that an officer proposes to camp in their village (vide the resolution on the subject of touring and rasai which is an annual feature of the Provincial Conference). It is not the officer himself, or even his own immediate personal establishment, which causes discontent; the zamindar considers himself obliged to provide free meals for neighbouring zamindars (with their attendants) who come to call upon the officer, for policemen and witnesses in cases, for petitioners—for all the crowd, in fact, of miscellaneous visitors of whom a touring officer's camp is a constant focus. In one or two cases difficulty was experienced in getting supplies at all, the effect of the circular having been, not to induce the zamindar to take payment, but to make him think that he was no longer under any obligation to furnish any provisions whatever. In at least two cases I have been able to secure large subscriptions to the War Relief Fund simply by omitting to visit a village which had previously been announced to be the site of an intended camp.

3. For supplies which are purchased from the bazar such as flour, corn, ghi, spices, sweetmeats, etc., a consolidated bill for the whole establishment has always been paid at each camp in my presence to the banya, though there is no reason to suppose that the money remained in his possession any longer than it took him to get clear of the camping ground. He restored it whence it came, and debited the amount in his books to the tapadar, who paid the bill from the rasai fund.

4. Even when arrangements have been made nominally by a zamindar, I have good reason to believe that the strong hand of the tapadar was in the background, though carefully concealed, and when for any reason they break down, the tapadar is the only person who can restore order. There are one or two places where there are no zamindars with sufficient haris of their own to find supplies, or sufficient influence over others to be able to collect them unaided; in these cases it is difficult, if not impossible, to dispense with the tapadar's help. Such places in this division are Chak, Ruk and Tajo Dero, all of them common camping grounds and furnished with bungalows.

5. The old custom of distributing large money presents to servants and others has, I think, absolutely ceased.

6. If any modifications are to be made in the rules, I would suggest that we no longer try to persuade zamindars to take payment for the produce of their land, and, pari passu, I would urge the abolition of the certificates now appended to Assistant Collectors' monthly diaries to the effect that all public and private supplies had been paid for at each camp. It is impossible to sign such a certificate as it stands. For bazar supplies the fiction, though palpable enough of payment in the presence of the officer is perhaps worth continuing, since it entails upon his establishment some trouble and at any rate the appearance of honesty. Lastly, if the assistance of tapadars, in modification of the Commissioner's circular, were permitted at places such as those described in paragraph 4 above, and also in taluka head-quarters where bazar prices for wood and milk are often prohibitive, while they can be obtained from outside at a cheaper rate without injury to anyone, I think that no great harm would be done.

7. I regret to say that your No. 8210, dated 1st November 1916, has been mislaid in this office, so that it is possible that I may have overlooked in this letter, some points upon which remarks should have been made.

*Letter No. 2131, dated the 4th May 1917, from the Superintendent of Police, Sukkur,
to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police for Sind.*

I have the honour to report that I have no fault to find with the revised system of arranging for camp supplies. The requirements for camp are few; all that I have to be provided with, is eggs and chickens, grass, firewood and goat meat for dogs. When the camp is near forest I send my camels there for firewood, as under Government orders, touring officers are entitled to free firewood from the Government forests.

2. My servants and orderlies usually buy their flour, ghi and spices, etc., in bulk and all that they require at each camp is meat and milk. The prices have been usually reasonable and the supplies good.

3. There are, however, two points to which I would draw attention: The first is a complaint received from some of the smaller zamindar contractors who dislike the system as they say that under the old scheme all the zamindars of the taluka shared the expenses of rasai and that now it all falls on the one zamindar appointed as contractor.

4. The second point deals with big zamindars. At some of my camps, for example, Pirjo-goth, Kot Sultan, Sangar; the zamindars refused point blank to take payment on the ground that the articles supplied have cost them nothing. What is to be done in such a case?

5. Personally, I think that, provided an officer sees that the demands of his orderlies, servants and camp followers are kept within reasonable limits, it does not matter in the least what method is adopted of obtaining the supplies.

*Letter No. 778, dated the 7th May 1917, from the Assistant Collector,
Rohri, to the Collector of Sukkur.*

In reference to your No. 3513, dated the 2nd instant, regarding the question of rasai, I can hardly speak with authority as to the benefits of the present system because I am ignorant of the system which is supposed to have been replaced, but I think it can be said that leaving out of the question the particular individual who receives payment, goods supplied are now paid for and that the old tradition of accepting things gratis is gone. There are in this charge no contractors, and zamindars themselves bring a bill though they do not pretend to conceal the fact that they consider themselves insulted and that the whole business detracts from their abru in the eyes of those around. One man actually wept when I sent back the bill for revision when I considered it too small and said in effect that while tradition will compel him to entertain all the rag-tag and bobtail of his acquaintances who come and put up at his otak, he is not allowed to entertain a selected guest, such as the sub-divisional officer, and the result of my sending back the bill for revision was that the second bill was less than the first. For grass, milk and fuel no zamindar will take money and it simply involves useless bullying to insist on payment, but in regard to other things when the zamindars do not provide them from their own holdings I believe it is done through a banya and the zamindar brings the bill. Only in one case have I had trouble, which was at Arora, when no supplies were provided as there was no zamindar and things were brought from Rohri from ordinary shop-keepers and the tapadar received payment, and if a Rohri shop-keeper does not enforce payment, that is of course his own fault.

The office establishment have to provide themselves with all commodities, say, milk and fuel, direct from the banya or the butcher, as the case may be. Only milk and fuel they get from the zamindar and I believe it is impossible to insist on any zamindar receiving payment for these things.

The result of these measures is, I think, that zamindars are relieved of forced provisioning though they suffer much in temper and in abru but to imagine that tapadars do not now take lapo is to imagine what is absurd, though I have been told by some zamindars when I abused them for giving lapo that now they give none owing to the new system of rasai, though another told me frankly that he gave it quite independent of rasai because in fact it paid him to placate the tapadar. A system such as this, I think, can only be broken when a sub-divisional officer is so long in his charge that he is familiar almost with every field and every considerable khatedar. This under the present system of frequent transfers is impossible. There must be irregularities in the present system of rasai, but I think the wholesale treating of the menials at a camp is now stopped or carried out on a very small scale and in stealth.

Letter No. 4567 of 1st June 1917, from the Executive Engineer, Shikarpur Canals, to the Collector of Sukkur.

Adverting to your No. 3513 of 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that so far this district is concerned the system of arranging for the camp supplies through the contractor or zamindar has not proved a success.

2. The mukhtiar-kars concerned supplied list of zamindars who were to supply provisions at different camps. Shortly after this the Superintending Engineer, Indus Right Bank Division, camped at Chak and Loi and although timely intimation was given to the zamindars concerned by the Sub-Divisional Officer direct as there was no time to give such intimation four days in advance through the mukhtiar-kar, they arrived a day late and put the Superintending Engineer and all concerned to a good deal of inconvenience. Mr. Davies, Assistant Engineer, Indus River Commission, followed the Superintending Engineer and he complained very much of similar inconvenience although timely intimation was similarly given to the zamindars concerned in that case also. Again the Chief Engineer came some time after at Chak but the zamindars refused to attend to his camp. They were written to by the Sub-Divisional Officer and the darogas of the beats were sent to see them personally but they declined saying that they had no orders to arrange for such camp supplies to officers other than those of the Revenue Department. Since then no zamindar or contractor has been called on for the purpose.

3. I generally take most of the provisions with me or send for them from Sukkur market on cash payments. The only very few local supplies consisting of a fowl, few eggs, and a little milk, I arrange to get through my private servants and subordinates and I personally make it a point to settle up all claims on the last day of every camp.

4. As regards the supplies to my office and private establishment, which in comparison to that of the other departments is altogether very small, I have the honour to state that they always arrange to make purchases direct from the bazar at the nearest village on cash payment and no subordinate of the department has any hand or concern in the matter.

5. If, however, the system laid down by the Commissioner in Sind has to be rigidly adhered to I would suggest that the rules may be so modified as to admit of the intimation of the actual quantities of the camp supplies required for a particular touring officer being sent direct to the zamindar or contractor only one day in advance, as often times it would be found most inconvenient to the exigencies of the inspection work to give such intimation four days in advance through the mukhtiar-kar, who, as is the case, may generally be absent from his head-quarters station.

Letter No. 3441 of 8th June 1917, from the Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur, to the Collector of Sukkur.

With reference to your letter No. 3513, dated the 2nd May 1917, I have the honour to inform you that I usually camp in forest and my camp arrangements are made by the foresters and forest guards.

2. On one occasion I camped at Kushal Labana's village in the Rohri taluka and asked the mukhtiar-kar to send me the zamindar appointed for the place. The zamindar came, took instructions and went away and nothing more was seen of him afterwards in camp nor did he send any provisions.

Letter No. 1089, dated the 11th June 1917, from the Deputy Collector, Mirpur Mathelo, to the Collector of Sukkur.

On receipt of your circular I decided to tour with only 3 (mostly 2 and not even 3) munshis and two peons in the talukas, the rest of the establishment being left at the head-quarters.

2. In every camp I insisted on a zamindar being produced by the taluka office pattawalla in attendance, for supplying us with things as mutton, fowl, butter, eggs, milk, grass and firewood. Before starting I had satisfied myself that my own personal establishment and munshis had provided themselves with flour and rice, ghi, sugar and such other things as do not necessarily require to be fresh. The zamindars were almost everywhere able to arrange for the supply of the above things without tapadars coming to their help, because they were demanded in small quantities.

3. My pattawallas have probably paid nothing for most of the things supplied to them but have had to consent to a considerable curtailment of their demands and they could not be made to carry even flour and rice with them. I regret I was not able to enforce compliance

of your circular in their case, left as I was to choose between allowing them to receive food-stuffs free or going without peons altogether, because these men, who have families depending upon them, have come to regard, by long-established custom, that their pays, which do not even work out to be equal to ordinary wages of an unskilled labourer in a month, are not to be touched for expense on their persons. I had to dismiss one peon whom I found to be over-greedy, but it proved a sorry experience because the other man engaged in his place proved no better than him in that respect, and caused great inconvenience on account of being innocent of the skill of tent-pitching, a necessary qualification in a Divisional Officer's peon.

4. I submit the mukhtiar's reports on the subject, which speak for themselves, requiring the only remark from me that in a poverty-stricken division like mine, it is impossible to find zamindars who would be equal to supplying all things in large quantities for the officers like Collector and other district ones taking equally large establishments on tour, without the help of the tapadars.

5. Commodities like butter, mutton, fowls, eggs, milk, grass and firewood are not within the reach of every zamindar. Neither are they obtainable from the market or from one man in the quantities required. Influential zamindars only can collect them from smaller khatadars, but influential ones must requisition the tapadars to help them.

6. I do not know exactly how all other departmental officers were able to arrange for their supplies through the zamindars, but I think they had to depend on their own subordinates for them, because more than one officer had complained to me that he was unable to find any zamindar in his camp.

7. In conclusion it may be said to the credit of your circular that evils of rasai have considerably decreased and the menials who had formerly to command exactions have been reduced to a position from which they could only beg for them.

Copy of letter No. 5615, dated 5th July 1917, from the Collector of Sukkur, to the Commissioner in Sind.

With reference to your No. 85-Conf. dated the 28th April last, and in continuation of my No. 8211 of 1st November last, I have the honour to append copies of the following reports:—

No. C-5 of 3rd May 1917 from the Assistant Collector, Shikarpur.

No. 2131 of 4th May 1917 from the Superintendent of Police, Sukkur.

No. 778 of 7th May 1917 from the Assistant Collector, Rohri.

No. 4567, dated 1st June 1917 from Executive Engineer, Shikarpur Canals.

No. 3441, dated 8th June 1917 from the Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur.

No. 1089 of 11th June 1917 from the Deputy Collector, Mirpur.

2. It will be seen that the new system has been a very qualified success and I do not believe that it is likely to be more successful in the future. It is impossible to induce zamindars to take up the position of contractors for supplies to all touring officers and they will only supply the revenue and police officers of their own district. Officers of other departments have generally had to make arrangements as before through their own subordinates.

3. Nor is it possible to induce zamindars to take payment for supplies. After a short time I gave up the attempt and credited the amounts of my bills which had to be raised to a reasonable figure, to the War Relief Fund in the names of the zamindars concerned.

4. It is equally hopeless to attempt to set up professional contractors. No one will take the job.

5. What I did was to have a bania's shop at each of my camps which was not at a village with a shop. The bania's receipts were produced for my inspection and he admitted to have received payment. Whether the money was ever returned to any of the payees and the amount debited to the tapedar, as the Assistant Collector, Shikarpur, suspects, I cannot of course say. It is of course possible that this was done in the case of my mental establishment but I have had no reason to suspect it and indeed at several camps my peons complained of the high prices charged by the bania.

6. It is generally said that the effect of the new system has been to reduce demands and to abolish the system of money presents. Several zamindars have told me that peons now ask politely for milk and mutton which they used to demand as a right and in excessive quantities. All zamindars however refuse to take payment from them or from my servants and if they like to present these things free, I do not see how or why they should be stopped.

7. The tapedar, of course, gains by the system. He is no longer, outwardly at least responsible for camp supplies for which he used to pay before, at least to the bania and money presents to servants, etc., are said to have been stopped. But I am afraid that this will not make the tapedar lower his anagi a whit and as long as zamindars are so pusillanimous as to pay him or think it in their interest to do so, so long will his anagi continue. Even the biggest zamindars pay him, apparently cheerfully and without pressure. Rasai was merely an excuse for lapo. It was not the cause, and lapo will not cease under the most perfect system of rasai until zamindars acquire a little moral back bone and a sense of honesty.

8. To return to rasai, I am convinced that the only sound system is to imitate the Punjab and create numberdars as headmen of big villages or groups of villages whose duty will be to assist in collecting land revenue, to provide supplies (for payment, which will have to be strictly enforced) and generally to aid Government, like patels in the Presidency. These need not, and indeed should not, be large zamindars. Their numbers will be serfs grants of a value proportionate to their responsibility. The system will of course cost Government perhaps a considerable amount in land revenue but it may be considered worth while to avoid the fleecing of zamindars and trouble to touring officers which now goes on.

9. Failing this the best system that I can suggest is that touring officers be directed to see that a bania's shop is established at each camp which is not at or very near a village provided with one and to satisfy themselves that the bania has received payments before they move on. Touring establishments should be reduced to a minimum. Zamindars as a matter of form be appointed to supply fuel, grass, milk, mutton and butter but they will, I am afraid, continue to refuse to accept payment and will, on some excuse or other, often not turn up to assist officers from whom they hope or fear nothing.

*Letter No. 96, dated 17th July 1917, from A. W. W. Mackie, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Collector of Nawabshah, to the Commissioner in Sind.*

With reference to your No. 261-Confil, dated 2nd August 1916, I have the honour to report that I have consulted the various officers of the district, and I find all who can give an opinion, agree with what has been my own experience, viz, that the revised system of arranging for camp supplies is working sufficiently well. Hitches do occur, because the work is not popular with the zamindars; but I can definitely state that the difficulties are nothing like sufficiently serious to condemn the system. They are dealt with adequately and easily as they arise.

2. The Executive Engineer and District Superintendent of Police point out that they cannot always give sufficient notice to the mukhtarkar when they have to move unexpectedly. This is true; but at worst it means that for one day only the officer would have to make arrangements otherwise than in accordance with the circular instructions; and, moreover, the zamindars who furnish supplies can generally do so at very short notice—since they are now, as a matter of routine, always in a position to furnish supplies very soon after notice reaches them. They know they may receive intimation of the advent of an officer at any moment, and have fairly well got into the habit of being prepared to comply quickly.

3. I notice that a fairly common argument is that a zamindar, when elevated to the position of rasaidar, will exact contributions from his haris. But no whisper of anything of the kind occurring has so far reached me; and, besides, the haris of this region are pretty well able to look after themselves. In any case, whatever forced contributions a zamindar could levy would be as nothing compared with what it is in the power of the tapedar to exact.

4. In Taqdo Adam I have made arrangements by which the prescribed supplies can all be purchased at a banya's shop. Some of the supplies are such as would not ordinarily be kept by a banya, and the zamindar is responsible for seeing that the banya is provided with a sufficient supply of such articles. The banya sells for cash. This experiment has worked satisfactorily, and it will be extended to other towns of fair size. I have every hope that this modification of the ordinary form of the new system of supply will prove a success in such towns; but the experience gained so far is too narrow; and the sole experiment has been conducted too much under my own immediate supervision and direction to admit of confident prophecy.

5. I think it will not be useless if I emphasise the simplicity of the new method of obtaining supplies. For instance, in my own case, the Chitnis sends to the mukhtarkar through a rasaidar a notice stating the supplies required for me, my servants, my pattawallas, the office munshis, and the office pattawallas. The rates are already fixed, and therefore the bills are easily drawn up; and there can be no dispute as to the amount due. To ensure the actual payment is easy. The notice informs the zamindar that it is a serious matter if he supplies anything not so indented for or supplies anything for nothing; also that it is not necessary that he should bring the supplies or bills himself, and he need only ensure that his amdar does so properly.

This method has worked sufficiently well. The supplies indented for are quite moderate in amount, and there can be no great difficulty in finding them. The zamindars now send bills with their kamdars or representatives, and, unless my memory is at fault, I did not experience difficulty last year in getting payment accepted in any instance.

6. But the thing to be noted is that this new system of supply has by no means stopped the liberal entertainment at the ultimate expense of the zamindars, of inspecting offices, or the payment of money to members of inspecting offices and the attached servants, private or official, who are ready to receive such payments. It has only ensured that absolutely necessary supplies are paid for, and that the tapadar is deprived of one excuse for making exactions. The evils I have mentioned still continue to a serious extent though, I believe, they have been somewhat mitigated. Just at the time when the new system of rasai was introduced, tapadars, munshis, darogas and others got a fright, and there was a striking diminution in lapa; but since then, the balance has, so to speak, been steadily creeping back towards its original position. The tapadar can no longer make demands of the zamindars on the ground that he must furnish supplies to the officers' camps, but he has found the other means of exaction at his disposal quite good enough for him. A fraction of the total evil has been destroyed; much the greater part remains.

7. There is also this gain, that illegal exactions are now more easy to discover than formerly. So long as the tapadar has to provide supplies, he had of necessity to get them from the zamindars, and so could always hide the existence of illegal exactions under colour of the discharge of this duty. But now that he is forbidden to meddle in the matter of supplies, directly or indirectly, in any shape or form, his guilt can be presumed whenever he is found to be so meddling; he has no excuse. Moreover, any zamindar who is approached now knows that any demand made is illegal, and that it is not a legitimate demand made on behalf of an officer's camp. He also knows that if he complies with any such illegal demand, he will incur the severe displeasure of the higher officials, if discovered.

8. For the reasons given in paras. 1, 6 and 7, the new system of rasai should be continued, though it has not achieved all that was perhaps expected from it.

Letter dated 16th July 1917 from the Assistant Sub-division to the Collector of Karachi.

Contractors have been found to furnish supplies for the principal camps in this sub-division, but they are invariably contractors in name only, being actually petty zamindars who have been persuaded to undertake the job. The village banya, where there is one, will not undertake it at any price. He anticipated too much trouble from servants and munshis badgering him. Also the collecting of supplies for a camp means a certain amount of bandobust. Chickens have to be got from one man, eggs from another, milk from a third, and fodder from a fourth. The banya does not keep these in stock, and it would require a lot of money to recompense him for the trouble involved.

This is also true of the town banya. Thus, in Tatta it has been found absolutely impossible to get any sort of contractor. The big zamindar would often gladly treat the whole camp as his guests, but he would sooner die than sell supplies to the camp like a banya. It is therefore that a petty zamindar with an eye on a gun license or a chair takes up a job of which he does not conceal his dislike.

Such a system is of course eye-wash; but, as such, it works fairly well. On the night before a camp is moved, the contractor appears with his bill and the cash is handed over. The contractor looks extremely uncomfortable; and there is reason to believe that he usually gets rid of the money as quick as he can. Perhaps he gives it in charity.

There are still, however, and (for the Assistant Collector at least) must always be, many camps where it has been impossible to raise a contractor of any kind. An Assistant Collector is obliged to tour very thoroughly; which means, in so vast an area as this sub-division, a great many different camping places. Where there are no contractors, the tapadar must arrange for the supplies if the camp is not to starve; but he has always to present his bill for them, and always receives cash payment; though, whether he passes the cash on to the people from whom he obtained the supplies, is another question.

If the tapadars are prohibited from taking any part in the provision of supplies, touring will, at first, be confined perforce to those camps where there are contractors. But all tapadars will soon realise that they have only to induce the contractors to throw up the job to render themselves immune from the visits of inspection officers altogether. As it is, tapadars have constantly tried to persuade me that there was no place in their charge fit to camp in.

As for the alternative proposal, to authorise the tapadars to draw the cash from the treasuries, the introduction of such a system could only mean that touring officers were not to be trusted to pay the tapadar for the supplies which he had been compelled to provide, and it would be so interpreted by every one in the country. What would the zamindars think?

Letter No 1336 of 1917, dated 16th July 1917, from the Assistant Collector, Shahbandar, to the Collector of Karachi.

With reference to your endorsement No 5245, dated 12th October 1916, on the subject of the revised system of arranging for camp supplies, I have the honour to report that, so far as I have been able to see, the new scheme is a distinct improvement on the old one. In one case I found that the system had broken down, as none would agree to take up the contract, and the tapadar was again arranging for the supplies, but with this one exception, the supplies were being provided by local contractors (in most cases zamindars), and there can be no doubt of the advantage of taking the matter entirely out of the hands of the tapadar.

Although the new system is now in working order, it is quite clear that the zamindars and banyas are, on the whole, unwilling to take up the contract; and there are, I think, two reasons for this unwillingness. The smaller man does not want to undertake the trouble of providing supplies at a small profit, or possibly at a loss. For although the contractor is always paid according to the list of average rates and his receipt taken, still I should hesitate to guarantee that in every case he retains the money. The big zamindar, on the other hand, feels that it is beneath his dignity to take up the contract. He would be very willing to provide the touring officer with supplies at his own cost; but it goes against his feelings of hospitality to present a bill for a few rupees. Often such contractors have to be pressed before they will present a bill at all, and then the money probably goes to his haris or kamdar.

In spite of these difficulties, I think that the system will eventually work smoothly. The evils of rasai are already reduced, although it will take many years to eradicate that deep-rooted system.

Memorandum No. 218-Conf. dated 18th August 1917, from H. S. Lawrence, Esqr., C.S.I., Commissioner in Sind to Government.

With reference to paragraph 11 of Government letter No 932, dated 25th January 1916, the Commissioner in Sind has the honour to submit the following report on the subject of rasai.

2. Rasai, strictly speaking, means the system of the furnishing of supplies to officers on tour. But in the usual interpretation of the word in connection with the complaints which are heard from time to time, it includes also a portion of the illegal cash gratifications taken by village officers and commonly known as lapo.

3. The system may be thus described. Notice is given of an officer's camp to be pitched in a certain village, and it becomes the tapadar's duty to provide certain supplies of fuel, fodder for horses, milk, fowls and eggs, together with grain of different varieties, for the camp retinue. The grain, etc., may be provided by the local banya, but the other articles are collected from different zamindars and their tenants. The camp probably stays 2, 3 or 4 days, and the amount actually required is not large. Nevertheless, the tapadar magnifies to the local zamindars the vast demands of the officer and his retinue, and he presses upon them the great importance to the local interests that both the officer and the retinue should be well cared for and entertained either free as guests or at a nominal price. On this excuse the tapadar makes considerable collections in cash from the zamindars, and this extortion of cash payments and its subsequent disposal is the main subject matter of complaint.

4. There is no doubt that money is so collected, but it is impossible to say with any certainty what becomes of it. Sometimes presents are paid to the official retinue, the clerks and munshis; sometimes presents are made to the private servants; almost always some portion is paid to the office peons, some portion finds its way to the taluka officials, and it is generally believed that a large portion remains in the hands of the village officer (the tapadar). The persons who do not benefit by this system are the touring officer, who pays to the tapadar the full bill, generally at an inflated price, and the humble individuals who may have carried the fuel or produced some of the eggs and milk, etc., to whom the tapadar seldom passes on any portion of the payment.

5. This illustration of the system, as it has prevailed in the past, is taken from the circumstances of the Revenue Department, but a similar system has prevailed in other departments when the collections of victuals on behalf of the superior officers are made by subordinates of the Police, Public Works or Forest Department.

6. It is stated above that the extortion arising out of rasai is only a small portion of the illegal gratifications secured by tapadars, known as lapo. Far larger sums are secured by the tapadar in virtue of his power to manipulate the cultivation returns of a zamindar so as to reduce the bill of assessment properly payable to Government, and to assist or to harass him in other matters affecting his land or his water. But since the zamindar ordinarily receives a very handsome quid pro quo for this portion of the lapo which he pays, there is not much public complaint made on the subject.

7. Now these extortions from the zamindar have been recognised for many years, and attempts have been made to cure the evil by improving the position of the tapadar (very slightly) and by increasing the supervisory control over him. These measures, though in the right direction, have not been effective, and further steps to this same end have been

PART I

proposed in the Commissioner's report No. 2115, dated the 19th July 1917. Steps have also been taken during the last 10 years to bring to the prominent notice of all officers the necessity, not merely that they should pay for all supplies fully, but that they should satisfy themselves, as far as possible, that the payment reaches the proper people, and a certificate is attached to the monthly diaries of all touring officers that all payments have been duly made by themselves and their establishments.

8. Complaints on the subject did not however cease, and in 1914 the Commissioner issued the circular, of which a copy is attached, with the object of imposing upon the zamindars or contractors the duty of furnishing supplies. Experience has been had of this system for three seasons, and reports vary considerably as to its success in different areas. In certain tracts where important zamindars own lands, they refuse to demean themselves by undertaking this duty, but may appoint an agent or kamdar or munshi. Elsewhere some petty zamindars have undertaken the duty, and when the camp is pitched in one of the larger villages some local bahya serves as contractor. And undoubtedly a great improvement has been effected by the constant attention which has been given to the subject by officers of high position. Some extracts from the reports received are appended, which illustrate the care which the subject has received.

9. The Commissioner is not satisfied, however, that a permanent and thorough solution of the difficulty has been found in the procedure so directed. If it is true that if the tapadar is dissociated from the work of supply, he loses this lever for extortion, but he still retains far more valuable and efficient levers relating to revenue and water, and the only true solution, in the Commissioner's opinion, is to improve the calibre of the men and the standard of supervision to which they are subject.

10. In regard to the functions which the tapadar performs on the occasion of the visit of a superior officer, it must be remembered that there is not in Sind a village establishment consisting of patels, village police, shetsandis or mahars detailed by the State to perform the necessary duties connected with the preparation of a camp. It is impossible to dispense altogether with the services of the tapadar or the assistance of the zamindar and his men.

11. Part of the outcry raised against the rasai system is inspired by those malignant opponents of the British administration, who desire to malign and hamper that administration in every way possible. And some of these men also cherish the hope that the curtailment of touring may facilitate certain schemes for the oppression and the exploitation of the poor and ignorant classes.

12. In these remarks the Commissioner has dealt with the subject of rasai for superior officers. The same system applies to the tours of such officers as Mukhtiarkars, Inspector of Police, Supervisors of the Public Works Department, etc. There is, no doubt, from time to time a valid complaint of the action of some of these officials, and all that can be said is that every effort is made by superior officers to check any misdoing, and if proof is afforded the delinquents have rigorous justice meted out to them.

Government Order No. 3000, dated 26th March 1918, in the Revenue Department.

Memorandum from the Secretary to the Legislative Council No. 11-L, dated 5th January 1918—Stating that the following resolution No. 15 by the Honourable Mr. G. M. Bhurgri was passed unanimously at the meeting of the Legislative Council which commenced on 3rd December 1917, and making remarks:—

"That this Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a mixed Committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to consider what measures should be adopted for the suppression of rasai or free supplies, lapo or illegal exactions, and cher or forced labour in Sind."

ORDER—In order to give effect to the recommendation conveyed in the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri's resolution read in the preamble, the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint a Committee constituted as follows—Chairman Mr. M. H. W. Hayward, I.C.S., Additional Judicial Commissioner in Sind, Members Mr. Dhan Raj Sawhney, Executive Engineer, Hyderabad Canals; Sayed Mahmud Shah, Deputy Superintendent of Police; and two non-official gentlemen whose names will be announced later. These were the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas, C.I.E., and the Hon'ble Mr. Sheikh Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah.

2. The Committee is empowered to consider and report—

(1) to what extent the orders at present in force are effective for the purpose of preventing abuses in respect of rasai, lapo and cher in Sind:

(2) what further measures it recommends for adoption with this object in view.

3. For the discharge of its functions the Committee is authorized to require the attendance of Government officers before it as witnesses and to call for information from such officers. It is also authorized to invite non-official persons to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or to send in written statements. The oral examination of such officers and non-officials shall generally be conducted in public, but it shall be within the discretion of the Committee to examine any particular witness either wholly or partly *in camera*.

4. The Commissioner in Sind should be informed that Government desire that the Committee should commence work from 3rd April 1918, the date of Mr. Hayward's return from leave, and that it should, if possible, complete its labours by the beginning of June 1918.

5. The Committee should assemble in Karachi. It should submit its report to Government through the Commissioner in Sind.

Proclamation No. 971, dated 10th April 1918 by the Commissioner in Sind.

Whereas the Government of Bombay have been pleased to appoint a Committee to consider measures for the suppression of rasai, lapo and chher, and this Committee are now taking evidence regarding these matters;

And whereas it was announced in a Proclamation of the 23rd September 1914 that any Mukhtarkar or other Government servant who had been concerned in administering a rasai fund or taking lapo would be dismissed, and that any zamindar who paid lapo would incur the severe displeasure of Government:

It is hereby notified that all Government servants and all zamindars are requested to assist this Committee in their enquiries, and that any person who gives evidence before this Committee will be exempt from any penalty or displeasure to which he would otherwise have been liable.

Part II.

Evidence recorded by the Committee at Sukkur for
the Sukkur and Upper Sind, Frontier
Districts. Pages 1 to 276.

PART II

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ROTHFELD.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Otto Rothfeld. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Collector. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Eighteen and half years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Six months in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. The whole district. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Nearly five months. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Six or seven. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Nine of clerical establishment and 8 menials and about a dozen camelmen. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. Cannot be exactly stated. I personally take all articles of food, except meat for myself, and also take grain for horses. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Fuel, grass, milk, meat, eggs. Servants also buy flour, so do some clerks. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. The usual furniture required. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Cots are in this district obtained by all clerks as well as menials. Water jars are always obtained. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Six tents and four or six ravis (including establishment). |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Ravis or mausafir khanas or deras are used. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. The horses stay out of doors in a small shelter. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current records. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. Government tents, unless a bungalow is available. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Unskilled labour. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Bad. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Boards. Contract or departmental agency. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? | 23. Camels. Engaged for whole period. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Post is intended to be brought by peon but is usually handed from the nearest railway station to a tapadar's kotar. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. There is no list. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. There are a few camping grounds only. I believe the trees in them are planted by Local Board malis. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bazaar shops or bazars. | 27. Probably all are within reach. |

PART II

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishments ?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?
37. Fuel and grass collected by haris and brought through zamindar : milk for myself provided by my own cow : milk for establishment generally supplied by zamindar from haris : fowls and eggs supplied by zamindar : mutton usually from bazar, sometimes from zamindar ; other supplies from banias.
38. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?
39. How are they paid for ?
40. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?
41. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?
42. The haris bear the loss of labour in fetching wood and grass. Other expenses, if any, are usually borne from the taluka rasai fund for Revenue and Judicial and Miscellaneous departments. In the case of the Executive Engineer and Sub-Divisional Officers, Public Works Department, their excess expenses are paid for by the contractors of the Public Works Department as a rule.
43. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars, or tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
44. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' Fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
45. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?
46. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds ?
47. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?
48. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service ?
28. To none of which I know.
29. Bungalows are quite separate from camping grounds. There are two Local Fund bungalows and thirty-one District and Irrigation bungalows, I believe, in this district.
30. One chowkidar in each.
- Rasai.*
31. It is used in various senses. It ought to mean the provision of supplies.
32. I cannot say.
33. Do.
34. Do.
35. There is no market value in small villages.
36. That depends on what is meant by requirements. If everything is included (e.g., wine and tobacco) it would be about Rs. 25 a day. The average cost of what is required in the village including the bania's shop is about Rs. 5 a day.
37. They are not repaid to members of the camp, the guarantee being instant dismissal if found out. But the zamindars never pay the haris, and often make much profit out of the transaction.
38. I have no previous estimate, but I see that actual payments cover the cost of supplies.
39. The zamindar is paid for what is supplied by him. The bania is paid separately. Receipts are obtained and collected.
40. I have no previous estimate, but I see that actual payments cover the cost of supplies.
41. The haris bear the loss of labour in fetching wood and grass. Other expenses, if any, are usually borne from the taluka rasai fund for Revenue and Judicial and Miscellaneous departments. In the case of the Executive Engineer and Sub-Divisional Officers, Public Works Department, their excess expenses are paid for by the contractors of the Public Works Department as a rule.
42. See previous questions. Such a fund is not used either for the rasai of the Public Works Department or for the Police.
43. No.
44. I have occasionally got vegetables from Local Fund gardens and have then paid the mali.
45. No.
46. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and samindars?
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and samindars?
50. No. 258 of 7th December 1915 from Collector to Commissioner; No. 5615* of 5th July 1915 from Collector to Commissioner are reports. District order circular No. 8319 of 1st November 1916.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of samindars?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "dhalis" and sheep?
53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
47. They have broken down. The zamindars actually collect supplies.
48. All rules in detail are useless. Independent contractors are impossible and would lead to greater corruption than at present.
49. Not always.
51. As far as possible I never accept a dhali from any Government servants. Game is frequently sent in by zamindars: dumbas are accepted from the highest class of zamindars only.
52. The cost of such a dhali is about Re. 1 to Rs. 2: the cost of a dumba would be about Rs. 7 or 8, but the gentlemen who keep them do not sell them.
53. The orders are that small presents only may be accepted. I have seldom found any difficulty in carrying out the orders.

Lapo.

54. I believe that the correct sense of lapo is a cash cess or contribution levied by a tapadar from cultivators or by a zamindar from his tenants. For the purpose of this enquiry it will be convenient to deal with it as covering all gratifications obtained or demanded by Government servants or persons attached to Government servants from members of the public for services connected with their duties, except doctor's fees. I shall use it here in the latter sense.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'?
56. By whom and from whom in each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
57. Tapadar's usual lapo is levied at 1 anna in the rupee of assessment. Public Works Department lapo on contracts is usually at 10 per cent. on contract but is sometimes higher. The rates of Public Works Department lapo for irrigation are, I believe, not fixed. Camps do not affect lapo in any way. Private servants and chuprasis take lapo per taluka, if at all.
58. No. But it is the case that one part of the tapadar's lapo is so converted. Tapadars contribute to the rasai fund according to the importance of the tapa judged by income, and pay only a small portion. In the Public Works Department daroghas collect supplies by their own exertions and have no fund.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
55. (a) Lapo levied by Tapadars.
 (b) " " Public Works Department subordinates.
 (c) " " Forest subordinates.
 (d) " " Police subordinates.
 (e) " " Post masters on postal certificates and the like.
 (f) " " private servants of Government officers.
 (g) " " Inspecting staff.
 (h) " " Superior officers.
56. It is levied in many forms, chiefly for personal use. One excuse for one part of one kind of lapo is that it is levied towards rasai.
59. The rasai fund is nowadays usually managed by a supervising tapadar, sometimes by a Head Munshi.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasa' fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, Police and Forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. The kacheri system was introduced to stop it; money orders are encouraged for the same purposes; similarly payment of assessment in the kacheri for 6 days; and I have this year prohibited sending any correspondences to tapadars and have directed that all replies to petitioners be sent by post.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering services to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
78. Whence do you obtain them?
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasa' contractor?
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
60. See above. The amounts vary.
61. There is no limit.
62. The inspecting office always receives contributions.
63. No, not particularly, but there is a slight tendency for it to diminish.
64. The kacheri system was introduced to stop it; money orders are encouraged for the same purposes; similarly payment of assessment in the kacheri for 6 days; and I have this year prohibited sending any correspondences to tapadars and have directed that all replies to petitioners be sent by post.
65. I should like to give my evidence on this point in full orally.
- Chher.*
66. Any forced labour, whether paid or not paid.
67. They are usually haris of zamindars.
68. Pitching tents, fetching water, loading and unloading camels, shikar, road work and canal clearance.
69. It is an implied condition.
70. Personally I always pay for services to me. They are also fed by zamindars. Payments are made for road-work and canal-clearance.
71. There is practically none available in this district.
72. Beldars are maintained by Local Funds.
73. See Irrigation Act and Criminal Procedure Code, also English leading case of the Agincourt. See also Jagirdars' sanads.
74. No.
75. See answer to question 68.
76. About six every day.
77. About thirty on days of arrival and departure.
78. From the village, the zamindars bringing them. Sometimes Local Board beldars are sent.
79. See answer to question 70.
80. It would be unobtainable,
81. No.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. I ask people to come and reject the excess number.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. Four annas a head per day. When I am a zamindar's guest at a shoot, I have had difficulty in getting them to accept payments, but not so much difficulty as is usually stated.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. At a zamindar's shoot, the zamindars feed them.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. No supplementary labour is required, unless occasionally a zamindar make a temporary diversion.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. Labour is paid for by the Local Board. If a zamindar make a road improvement, he feeds his people.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Paid labour.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. By Government.
89. The zamindar gains; the chera does not lose; cultivation is not injured as a rule. But some Talpur Jagirdars so frequently demand shikar cher for themselves that cultivation does suffer and the men are oppressed, as the Talpurs are fond, in excess of shikar. I have seen the same happen with the Maharaja's family in Kashmir.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. Hardly at all.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. No change is possible or required at present. A Tenancy Act is not yet called for.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. ROTHFELD.

To the Chairman—

Reply to Q. 16.—The stables are generally built of grass or reeds with wooden posts. They are kacha landhis.

Reply to Q. 17.—Only one year's records are taken.

Reply to Q. 25.—There is no list of camps. There ought to be a list of camps. I could not give a list of usual places of camp owing to the short time I have been in this place.

Reply to Q. 27.—I was there speaking of camping grounds and not of places usually visited.

Reply to Q. 28.—There are no vegetable gardens attached to camping grounds but there are some few attached to bungalows and some are maintained by Local Boards.

Reply to Q. 30.—Malis are also retained.

Reply to Q. 32-36.—The average daily cost would probably be not less than Rs. 2 for myself. I cannot say as to the private servants. They generally take their supplies from head-quarters. I could not say as to peons and office clerks as unfortunately I have not kept the bills.

It must be impressed on all officers personally to suppress rasai. They should personally see that all supplies are paid for and the question whether they do so or not ought to be included in confidential reports to be submitted annually by the Collector in respect of all departments. I should deprecate any orders interfering with the acceptance of ordinary small presents, similar to the recent orders of the Punjab Government.

Reply to Q. 70.—I pay the chheras Rs. 5 a camp. Three days is about the usual time for a camp.

Reply to Q. 80.—The regular repairs are generally taken up just before the visit of the Collector. It is not customary to make any special repairs besides that. But the zamindars would clear a track from the main road to the actual camping ground.

My main point in connection with question No. 65 is that rasai in itself is a very insignificant matter. The only importance of rasai is derived from the fact that certain subordinates make it an excuse for levying exactions for their own gratification. The evil side of rasai can be stopped easily if all district officers have the wish and the will to put a stop to it. But at present when only one officer does it his life is made a burden. The real difficulty is the Public Works Department.

The real evil is lapa. The crux is the system of land grants, and corruption will never grow less until the system is altered. There is also the question of irrigation; also the khas mokal system should be stopped. Obsolete methods of correspondence should be stopped and more modern methods introduced. Delays in correspondence lead to corruption. Finally the permanent cause is general immorality. Education should be increased side by side with the suggestions noted above.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrat—

I know Gujrat better than Sind. Practically the same system prevails there with the exception that police patels take the place of zamindars in the Gujrat and Deccan. They are not real Government servants. There is no such complaint in Gujrat and Deccan. There were complaints on a smaller scale before. They have practically ceased now. I certainly think that the men there are different from the people here. The police patel is first of all a representative of the village and therefore he must take care that he does not displease the villagers. The police patel is a man of considerable influence. I would be very sorry to give additional powers to zamindars and small waderas. The police patel has no material advantage to gain in the case of land grants.

Reply to Q. 27.—The majority of camps are accessible to bania shops. It is only an excuse on the part of peons to say that they can not get supplies from banias.

Reply to Q. 32.—I take all the things with myself from head-quarters. My experience has been that my bills have, if anything, been overcharged in this district though there is sometimes reluctance in the production of the bills by the zamindars.

Reply to Q. 39.—I take care to see that all the bills are paid by my servants and establishment on the last night of the various camps. The guarantee is dismissal. Its effectiveness depends on the individual officers.

There has been some improvement in the matter of rasai because it has now been realized that superior officers are in earnest in suppressing the abuse of rasai. But the details of the rules of 1914 have broken down. I think the payment to butlers and servants, peons and clerks is less but that it still goes on. I know that my own butler has made nothing. I am not prepared to say about the peons. I have heard of complaints of demands of cash sums such as Rs. 100 for what is called pitching the tents made to servants by Mukhtiarkars. I think the question of stopping the payment to servants and peons is a matter of personality both of the payees and payers. The question of payments to inspecting establishments is a matter of personality of both officers and people. Payments to servants would be absolutely inconceivable in Gujrat. I am inclined to think that the tour of Assistant Collectors could be curtailed from 7 to 6 months or perhaps 5. But I think that touring generally is a necessary part of the Bombay system and that the curtailment of touring might lead to the touring officers getting out of touch with the people and a state of things arising similar to that in Bengal. I do not think that the Collector's tour could be curtailed. It is officially 4 months, though I generally tour 5; I think small villages ought also to be visited but most of the officers manage to curtail the establishment by making short camps in such villages. I am afraid there are a good number of officers who are not sincere in combating the evils of rasai. I do not think that Assistant Collectors are insincere nor indeed that the chief offenders are the Revenue Department. I have not had complaints in the matter of rasai against the Police. There is a case pending against a Sub-Inspector of Rohri for extortion of money on the pretext of supplying free supplies. I think it would lead to far more corruption if the tapadar made the supplies than if the zamindars did so. The rasai is a small matter amounting to Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 for a camp, so that not much material benefit could be got by the zamindar in return. The question of hospitality does not arise in the case of smaller zamindars. It does arise in the case of larger zamindars and might be well restricted by general orders to one day's hospitality as is the case in Gujrat. I think it would be an undue interference to stop the customary hospitality of large zamindars who are gentlemen and who have exercised it as an hereditary custom, and in regard to other presents. It seems to me that the more advanced and civilized the country the more undesirable would it be to interfere with social relationships. I do not think it would be practicable to obtain an independent contractor because he would not be able to get supplies from the zamindars or from their haris. If supplies are not produced the bania would lay all the blame on the zamindars or the Mukhtiarkars and the state of things would be worse than before.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The zamindars supply the cots from the houses of haris. I presume that haris and their families then have to sleep on the ground. No hire is paid for the use of cots and the zamindars provide watering pots. But I believe that they are not always new pots. Nothing

is paid for the jars. The materials for the stables are got from the nearest waste land and are of wood and reeds. The payment for erecting the stables is included in the presents to the ehar at the end of the camp. I do not know any instance in which the roads were repaired by the zamindars this year at their own cost. They are usually repaired by the beldars or by labourers obtained from the zamindars who are always paid by the Local Boards. The haris would not be quick enough to bring my post but in two cases tongas were given by the zamindars. If there is no garden I do without vegetables. The mali keeps the present given to him for himself. I am considering whether it should be paid to the Local Boards. I take about 6 eggs daily, 3 or 4 lbs. of mutton, less than half lb. of butter. I take most of the butter for eating from Sukkur. No milk except when there are guests and there is not sufficient milk from my cow. I take vegetables from the local bazar. Also a couple of fowls if I can't get mutton. I have not heard of any liquor being supplied to the clerks this year. I have personally seen that my establishment pay for their supplies. I believe my official establishment are paying daily for the supplies. I cannot say positively. I am certain that money is not taken back from the zamindars by my pattawalas and servants. It might be taken by the tapadars. The zamindars do not contribute towards rasai of Public Works Department, at least not directly. The cattle-owners supply milk because they graze on the canal banks. Though the zamindar has to make rasai still he has to pay lapo to the tapedar. Lapo is quite distinct; under the old arrangements he gave supplies to the tapedar and also lapo. The tapedar used to take more supplies than were needed in order to supply himself and his relations and he used to appropriate money. Therefore there are advantages in getting supplies direct.

I do not attach much value to the system of making zamindars contractors. Zamindars do not receive payment willingly. They do not like the idea of providing supplies from camp to camp. Smaller zamindars welcome the provisions of supplies to officers as they make the haris bring ten times as much as is needed. I think that so far there has been no trouble between the haris and zamindars. The cost of supplies is not actually paid from lapo. I believe that cash payments are made out of lapo funds.

I can't say what is the usual rate for clerks and munshis but I believe there were minimum amounts fixed. I do not think raising salary of tapedars will stop lapo. Improvements in correspondence ought to be introduced but I do not think that any actual change in their powers is necessary. I am accessible to all people on tour. Besides zamindars, Hindu Panchayats come to see me. The zamindars gain by getting miscellaneous work done free from the chheras.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I do not think that supplies as a rule are collected more than are needed unless the zamindars keep them for themselves. But I think cash is collected under the name of rasai. I am speaking of supplies for officers, servants and the whole establishment. I consider that officers should be responsible for the provisions of the whole establishment. I have no personal knowledge of any excess being paid by Public Works Department contractors. I go by repute in stating that the lapo levied from Public Works Department contractors is 10 per cent. in Sind. The darogha collects his supplies from the zamindars as he has great influence with them but the darogha does not keep regular rasai funds. If the darogha is not able to collect enough money from the zamindars the balance is made good by the contractors. I have not toured with the Executive Engineer. I do not suggest Executive Engineers are opposed to suppression of rasai but I recommend that confidential reports be submitted to the Superintending Engineers through the Collector in order to their being brought under control of the general administration. I think they are disposed to be more indifferent to this matter than departments more intimately connected with the responsibility of administration. They are not bound up with the peace and order and the general prosperity of the district. That is my personal opinion only. The Executive Engineer is concerned with the increase of revenue as a result of his engineering work. They are more closely connected with the people than in the Presidency proper. I do not think it would be possible to engage an independent bania contractor for purposes of rasai. He would become more corrupt than even a pound munshi.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I think rasai is in part due to hospitality but no doubt their desire is to please the subordinates. Payments of large sums of cash in particular would be impossible in Gujrat; the reason is that Sind zamindars are more dishonest; I would not say they are more yielding but they are more dishonest. A zamindar may be hospitable and a gentleman but at the same time ready to pay large unauthorised sums to obtain land. There are zamindars in Gujrat and Kathiawar at least as big as and bigger than those in Sind. I mean by dishonest a tendency to take any advantage of their neighbours.

To the Chairman—

Police patels are hereditary officers receiving cash payments or holding lands for services from Government. They have special petty magisterial powers under the Bombay Village Police Act.

No. 8209 OF 1916.

October 1916.

Circular.

The attention of Mukhtiarkars in the Sukkur district is drawn to this office No. 8283 of 10th November 1914, forwarding a copy of the Commissioner in Sind's Circular No. 554-Conf. of 23rd September 1914, on the subject of provision of camp-supplies to touring officers. For various reasons these orders have not yet been brought into force in the Sukkur district. The Commissioner has now ordered that these should be brought into force and that a report should be made on their working at the end of the coming touring season. Mukhtiarkars are therefore directed to submit proposals immediately, through the Sub-Divisional Officers, for dividing their talukas into suitable areas as directed in No. 1 of the Commissioner's orders and to report the names of zamindars, or, if absolutely necessary, contractors, who will undertake the duty of furnishing mutton, fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass and firewood. Meanwhile arrangements should be made to carry out the orders in this circular through zamindars as the Mukhtiarkars receive intimation of touring officer's camps. It should be explained to the zamindars that if they do not wish to undertake the duty themselves there is no objection to their entrusting it to a literate kamdar. If the mutton, etc., are not supplied from the zamindars' personal farni, it would be better for him or his kamdar to bring the men who supply them to receive payment personally. It may be possible to allot to one hari the duty of supplying eggs and fowls, to another that of supplying mutton, to another that of supplying milk and butter and to a fourth that of supplying grass and firewood. In the case of butter and milk especially, it is desirable that one man should be told off to bring a sufficient number of cows to the officers' camp and to receive payment at the end of his stay according to the quantity of milk and butter supplied.

2. Mukhtiarkars will at once prepare and supply to the Collector or the Assistant/Deputy Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Divisional Forest Officer, the Executive Engineers, Shikarpur, Begari and Ghar canals (as the case may be) and the Deputy Educational Inspector, a list showing the average rates for the different kinds of supplies mentioned above. List-of rates as well as names of zamindars and contractors appointed to provide supplies should be supplied to other officers on requisition. The rates should be mufussil rates and not those prevailing in towns like Sukkur and Shikarpur where officers can obtain these supplies from the bazar; in such town it is not necessary for any zamindar to be appointed to provide supplies but the Mukhtiarkar should make arrangements with some cow-man to supply milk and butter and some cultivator to supply grass if these cannot be purchased readily and in good quality in the bazar.

3. On the first of each month, Mukhtiarkars will intimate to the officers mentioned in paragraph 2 above whether there is any change in the rates.

4. Tapedars are strictly prohibited from supplying food, grass and fowl to touring officers or their establishments. The Mukhtiarkar should, however, send a peon to accompany each touring officer during his tour in the taluka to assist the zamindar or contractor in obtaining supplies.

5. All tapedars and other subordinates of the Mukhtiarkar should be warned that if they are discovered paying any money to the servants or office establishment of any touring officer they will be immediately dismissed.

6. Touring officers are being requested to give previous intimation of camps and supplies to the Mukhtiarkars as laid down in No 3 of the Commissioner's instructions.

Copy of letter No. 8210, dated 1st November 1916, from the Collector of Sukkur, to the various officers in the Sukkur district.

I have the honour to send herewith a copy of a circular which I have issued to the Mukhtiarkars of this district on the subject of camp supplies to touring officers. The orders may cause some inconvenience first and may lead to us having to pay more for our supplies than we have hitherto had to do, but this cannot be helped and I am sure that I shall have your help in carrying them out. I will supply you as soon as possible with a list of the appointed zamindars and contractors. You will observe that the Commissioner's instructions require that zamindars should only supply mutton, fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass and firewood. It will generally be impossible for them to supply flour, rice, dal, ghee, spices and other condiments and members of your private and office establishment should be told to obtain these in sufficient quantities at one time from towns or large villages in which these articles are sold in the bazar.

2. You are aware that one of the excuses which tapedars make for demanding "lapo" from zamindars is that they have to meet the demands of the servants and office establish-

ment of touring officers for payment in money as well as for free food, I shall be much obliged, therefore, if you will take such steps as may seem to you necessary to stop this practice and will report to me for dismissal any Revenue official in this district whom you discover paying money to any member of your private or official establishment and also of any person demanding or receiving money, if he is a Government servant in the Revenue Department.

3. You are also aware that the orders of Government, require, officers of the Revenue Department, and presumably of all other departments to certify that they have satisfied themselves that all supplies for their official and private establishments have been paid for. Where supplies are purchased from the bazar, it is unnecessary to take any precautions because the shopkeeper will complain if he does not receive payment. When, however, supplies are furnished by zamindars or contractors under the Commissioner's circular, I propose to give the following form in Sindhi to the zamindar or his kamdar or the contractor at the commencement of the camp and to instruct him to return it duly filled in at the end. I would ask you to be good enough to make similar arrangements.

Camp _____ 1917

| | DATE. | | | Total amount supplied during stay. | Price. |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | Amount supplied for | | | | |
| | Collectors. | Private servants. | Office establishment. | | |
| Mutton ... | | | | | |
| Fowls ... | | | | | |
| Eggs ... | | | | | |
| Milk ... | | | | | |
| Butter ... | | | | | |
| Grass .. | | | | | |
| Fuel .. | | | | | |

Received payment.

Verified.

Signature.

Collector.

4. I am asking officers of the Revenue Department in this district to keep their office establishments on tour down to the lowest possible limit. It is not necessary for an Assistant or Deputy Collector to take all his office establishment with him to every camp. He should when visiting outlying parts of a taluka, leave most of his office establishment in the taluka head-quarters or some other central place and arrange for his post to be sent out to him daily.

5. I would also draw attention to No. (3) of the instructions in the Commissioner's circular referred to, regarding previous intimation to Makhtiarikars of camp and the amount of provisions required.

Copy of letter No. 5615, dated 5th July 1917, from the Collector of Sukkur, to the Commissioner in Sind.

With reference to your No. 85-Conf., dated the 28th April last, and in continuation of my No. 8211 of 1st November last, I have the honour to append copies of the following reports.—

3. It will be seen that the new system has been a very qualified success and I do not believe that it is likely to be more successful in the future. It is impossible to induce zamindars to take up the position of contractors for supplies to all touring officers and they will only supply the Revenue and Police officers of their own district. Officers of other departments have generally had to make arrangements as before through their own subordinates.

3. Nor is it possible to induce zamindars to take payment for supplies. After a short time I gave up the attempt and credited the amounts of my bills, which had to be raised to a reasonable figure, to the War Relief Fund in the names of the zamindars concerned.

4. It is equally hopeless to attempt to set professional contractors. No one will take the job.

5. What I did was to have bannias' shop at each of my camps which was not at a village with a shop. The bannias' receipts were produced for my inspection, and he admitted to have received payment. Whether the money ever was returned to any of the payees and the amount debited to the tapedar, as the Assistant Collector, Shikarpur, suspects, I cannot of course say. It is of course possible that this was done in the case of my menial establishment, but I have had no reason to suspect it and indeed at several camps my peons complained of the high prices charged by the bannias.

6. It is generally said that the effect of the new system has been to reduce demands and to abolish the practise of money presents. Several zamindars have told me that peons now ask politely for milk and mutton which they used to demand as a right and in excessive quantities. All zamindars however refuse to take payment from them or from my servants and if they like to present these things free, I do not see how or why they should be stopped.

7. The tapedar of course gains by the system. He is no longer, outwardly at least, responsible for camp supplies, for which he used to pay before, at least to the bannias, and money presents to servants, &c., are said to have been stopped. But I am afraid that this will not make the tapedar lower his anagi a whit and as long as zamindars are so pusillanimous as to pay him or think it in their interest to do so, so long will his anagi continue. Even the biggest zamindars pay him apparently cheerfully and without pressure. "Rasai" was merely an excuse for "lapo." It was not the cause, and lapo will not cease under the most perfect system of rasai until zamindars acquire a little moral backbone and sense of honesty.

8. To return to rasai, I am convinced that the only sound system is to imitate the Punjab and create "Numberdars" as headmen of big villages or groups of villages whose duty will be to assist in collecting land revenue to provide supplies (for payment, which will have to be strictly enforced) and generally to aid Government like Patels in the Presidency. These need not, and should not, be large zamindars. Their numbers will be seri grants of a value proportionate to their responsibility. The system will, of course, cost Government perhaps a considerable amount in land revenue, but it may be considered worth while to avoid the fleeing of zamindars and trouble to touring officers which now goes on.

9. Failing this, the best system I can suggest is that touring officers be directed to see that a bannias' shop is established at each camp which is not at or very near a village provided with one and to satisfy themselves that the bannias has received payment before they move on. Touring establishments should be reduced to a minimum. Zamindars may as a matter of form be appointed to supply fuel, grass, milk, mutton and butter, but they will, I am afraid, continue to refuse to accept payment and will, on some excuse or other, often not turn up to assist officers from whom they hope or fear nothing.

16th April 1918.

Statement of Hindu and Mahomedan zamindars paying assessment under Rs. 1,000 and over Rs. 10,000.

| Name of the district. | Paying under Rs. 1,000 assessment. | | Over Rs. 1,000 and under Rs. 5,000. | | Over Rs. 5,000 and under Rs. 10,000. | | Over Rs. 10,000. | | Total. | | Approximate proportion of zamindars. | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Hindus. | Mahomedans. |
| Sukkur | 2,475 | 26,148 | 52 | 98 | ... | 8 | ... | 9 | 2,507 | 26,257 | 2 | 5 |

O. ROTHFELD,
Collector of Sukkur.

PART II

11

Statement showing the aggregate numbers of (1) Amils, (2) other Hindus and (3) Mahomedans employed in the subordinate establishments of the Mukhtiarkars, Assistant and Deputy Collectors and of the Collector in the Sukkur district.

| Office. | Amils. | Other Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Total. | Remarks. |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--------|----------|
| Collector | 8 | 8 | 3 | 19 | |
| 3 Prant officers | 34 | 54 | 73 | 160 | |
| 8 Talukas | 7 | 19 | 30 | 56 | |
| Account office | 5 | 10 | 11 | 26 | |
| | | | | 261* | |

* This includes village establishment also. With the exception of 2, all Amils shown belong to places other than Hyderabad.

O. ROTHFELD,
Collector of Sukkur.

NO. 52 OF 1918.

SIND 'RASAI' COMMITTEE,
Camp Larkana, 27th April 1918.

From

M. H. W. HAYWARD, ESQUIRE, I.C.S.,
CHAIRMAN, 'RASAI' COMMITTEE IN SIND;

To

THE COLLECTORS OF SUKKUR, AND LARKANA.
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, UPPER SIND FRONTIER.

SIR,

I have the honour to request you to be so good as to submit a supplementary statement on the following points:—

1. The average number of camping places utilized in each taluka by Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors and Collectors.
2. The average distances between such camps.
3. The feasibility of maintaining at such places regular camping grounds under the charge of petty zamindars holding small 'seri' grants of land on the condition of maintaining such camping grounds and providing zamindari supplies, such as eggs, fowls, mutton, vegetables, milk, karbi and firewood and paid labour at such camping grounds.
4. The feasibility of engaging small banias from the neighbouring villages as modis on small monthly subsidies for providing bania supplies at temporary shops at such camping grounds.
5. The feasibility of having the local rates for such zamindari and local supplies fixed monthly by the mukhtiarkars.
6. The feasibility of abolishing supervising tapedars and substituting in their place a joint mukhtiarkar for each taluka in order to diminish the opportunities of the levy of 'japo' by tapedars by securing the transaction of all important business direct without their intervention between the mukhtiarkars and zamindars.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

M. H. W. HAYWARD,
Chairman, 'Rasai' Committee.

No. A.D.M.-18 of 1918.

27th May 1918.

From

OTTO ROTHFELD, ESQUIRE, I.C.S.,
COLLECTOR OF SUKKUR;

To

THE CHAIRMAN, RASAI COMMITTEE,
KARACHI.

SIR,

With reference to your No. 52 of the 27th April 1918, I have the honour to answer the questions as under:—

1. The average number of camping places (excluding bungalows) in each taluka utilized by the Collector and three Assistant Collector and Division Deputy Collectors, respectively, is 4 and 8.
2. The average distance between two such camping places is about 10 miles.
3. 'Seri' grants to haris for labour are feasible, I think, on the lines of grants to 'Samasth Mahars' in the Deccan.
4. It is just possible. A bania might be induced to be a general supplier if he is allowed a fair margin of profit. I do not, however, think it necessary.
5. I do not think it will be feasible.
6. I do not favour the idea of abolishing the post of supervising tapedars and appointing in their place one joint mukhtiarkar in each taluka.

Government have recently accorded an administrative approval to the revision of the pay of the supervising tapedars. The revised scale would be 50 rising to 75 in place of the present scale of 30 rising to 35. The revised scale, when enforced, will attract better class men, and I think the recruitment thus made will be productive of good results in this direction.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OTTO ROTHFELD,
Collector of Sukkur.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KIRKPATRICK.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. P. T. Kirkpatrick. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Superintendent of Police. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Eleven and half years (November 1906). |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Six years (one year in Karachi) |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Sukkur district (twenty-one police-stations and thirty-three out-posts). |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? (To complete inspections short tours in the summer also are necessary.) | 7. October 15th to April 15th. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. (1) cook; (2) butler; (3) hamal; (4) dressing boy; (5) sweeper; (6) dhobi; (7) syce; (8-11) four camel-men. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. (1) reader; (2) sheet clerk; (3) office orderly; (4) and (5) two sowars; (6) head constable orderly; (7-12) six orderlies; (13) and (14) two camel men |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and then on tour? | 10. Personal supplies taken on tour—Tinned foods, sugar, ghee, flour, wines and spirits, aerated water, horse food, (butter and vegetables sent from Sukkur), oil. |

Private servants and establishment—Spices, atta, dal, potatoes, ghee, rice, tobacco, grain for sowar's horse.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Personal requirements at various camps—Fire-wood, karbi for horse, fowls, milk, eggs, occasionally meat for dog. |
|--|--|

Private servants and establishment—Fire-wood, karbi for sowars' horses, milk, fowls, goat-meat when available.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Private furniture—Tables, chairs, mirrors, camp cots, bathroom furniture, lamps and lanterns, teapots, durries and rugs, crockery, glass and cutlery. |
|--|---|

Office furniture—Tables, chairs, cushions and mattresses for munshis, durries, rugs, lamps.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Further requirements—Water jars, cots for servants, camelmen, establishment (1 per man). |
|---|--|

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Tents—One sleeping tent, one dressing tent, one sitting tent, one office tent; (1) one raoti for clerks, (2) one raoti for washerman, (3) one raoti for sweeper; (4) and (5) two raoties for other private servants; (6) one raoti for office orderly and records; (7) one raoti for personal orderlies. |
|-------------------------------------|--|

- | | |
|--|---|
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Private and office establishments use raoties (<i>vide 14.</i>) |
|--|---|

- | | |
|---|--|
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Landhis are erected for stables through the Sub-Inspector where there is no bungalow with stables. |
|---|--|

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Crime registers, service sheets and books and registers connected with them, maps and few law books. |
|---------------------------------------|--|

(The record on tour travel in one pair of camel trunks, two wooden despatch boxes and one confidential box for Superintendent of Police.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. Personal office.—I have a tent, or if in a bungalow with sufficient accommodation use one of the rooms. Establishment.—Live and work in the two raoties, or in the out-houses, or Sub-Divisional Officer's quarters at Public Works Department bungalows. |
|---|---|

- | | |
|--|---|
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. When my camp is in a bungalow no labour is required. When tents are pitched labour is required to pitch and strike. |
|--|---|

20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 20. There are roads between all camps. These are usually not in good order, by which I mean that a horse or camel can move with comfort, but a tonga or motor is impossible.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of roads? 21. District and Taluka Local Boards.—Beldars are engaged and are supposed to work under the supervision of the Mukhtiarkar.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. No special repairs are made.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? 23. Camels engaged for the whole period of the tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. The post is brought daily by a Constable from head-quarters who walks from the nearest railway station to the camp. If the distance is great, the nearest police-station provides a sowar to bring the post from the railway station. A policeman arriving one day with the post returns the next day with post.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. Usual camping places—

- Ubauro taluka.*
1. Ubauro (bungalow).
 2. Khambra (")
 3. Reti (Railway bungalow).
- Mirpur taluka.*
4. Mirpur (bungalow).
 5. Yaró Lund.
 6. Mithrao.
 7. Khanpur (bungalow).
- Ghotki taluka.*
8. Ghotki (bungalow).
 9. Sarhad (")
- Pano Akil taluka.*
10. Pano Akil (bungalow).
 11. Kassimpur (")
 12. Sultanpur.
- Rohri taluka.*
13. Dubar.
 14. Ghulam-jo-goth (bungalow).
 15. Salehpat or Sahipat (bungalow).
16. Kandhra.
17. Pir-jo-goth.
- Sukkur taluka.*
18. Bagarji (bungalow).
 19. Chak (")
 20. Lakhi.
- Shikarpur taluka.*
21. Shikarpur (bungalow).
 22. Khanpur (")
 23. Thahrio (")
 24. Loi (")
 25. Garhi Tegho (bungalow).
 26. Kot Sultan.
- Garhi Yasin taluka.*
27. Garhi Yasin (bungalow).
 28. Gaheja (")
 29. Drakhan
 30. Tajo Dero (bungalow).
 31. Ruk (")
 32. Keti Ayo (")
26. As will be seen from the list above, tents are used at only 10 camps. Of these the only one with a prepared camping ground is Drakhan.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping ground? There are several other prepared camping grounds in the district but I do not use them. I understand that they are supported by Taluka Local Board Funds.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 27. Every one of the camp is near (i.e., upto 2 miles from) a village with a bannla shop, except Mithrao.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. I know of no camping ground with a vegetable garden attached.
- The following bungalows have gardens where vegetables can occasionally be procured:—
1. Ubauro.
 2. Mirpur.
 3. Ghotki (Public Works Department)
 4. Pano Akil.
 5. Ghulam-jo-ghot.
 6. Chak.
 7. Shikarpur.
 8. Ruk.
 9. Loi.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Shown in question 25.

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

30. Usually a chowkidar-mali or chowkidar.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

31. I use the word Rasai in two senses, first as meaning the arrangement for providing supplies; and secondly the provision of supplies without payment.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

32. Personal average daily requirements—

4 sers milk.
6 eggs.
2 fowls.

2 bundles karbi for horse.
 $\frac{3}{4}$ maund firewood.
Fresh fish (when procurable).

33. What are the average daily requirements, respectively, of your private servants and of your official establishment?

33. Average daily requirements of private and official establishment—

Two clerks.

$\frac{1}{2}$ ser meat
Vegetables, if procurable.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ sers milk.
One or two fowls per week.
3 sers firewood

Seven personal orderlies, two sowars, and office orderly.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ "pau" ghee.
2 sers meat.
(5 sers milk, occasionally).

Six camelmen.

Seven private servants.

$\frac{1}{2}$ ser ghee.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ sers meat.
1 ser milk.
Firewood

$\frac{1}{2}$ "pau" ghee.
Vegetables.

All orderlies, servants and camelmen buy dal, rice, atta, spices, etc., in bulk at taluka head-quarters or other big towns. If these supplies are exhausted they obtain locally till they get to another big town approximately per head:—

1 ser atta, $\frac{1}{2}$ pau dal, spices, etc.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Average prices:—

Bajri, juari ... 7, 8 sers per rupee.
Rice ... 5 " "
Eggs ... 4 annas per dozen.
Fowls ... 4 or 5 annas.
Sheep ... Rs. 3 or 4.

Dumba ... Rs. 6 or 7.
Milk ... $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a ser.
Butter ... 12 annas a ser.
Karbi ... $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 annas a bundle.
Firewood ... 2 or 3 annas a maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. Probably milk has a nominal value. Karbi has none. The only people who buy firewood are banias and they pay 8 annas a camel-load (of about 4 or 5 maunds).

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. Average daily aggregate cost of requirements for—

Self—

Rs. 1-8.

Clerks—

When stock of atta, etc., is not exhausted ... 5 annas to 8 annas.

When stock is exhausted ... 11 annas to 12 annas.

Private servants—

When stock is not exhausted ... Re. 1-4.

When stock is exhausted ... Rs. 1-12.

Orderlies and sowars—

When stock is not exhausted ... Rs. 1-8 to 1-12.

" " exhausted ... Rs. 3-2 to 3-8.

Camelmen—

When stock is not exhausted ... 5 or 6 annas.

" " exhausted ... Rs. 1-8 to 1-12.

Total ... Rs. 4-14 to 9-4.

37. Where there is a contractor supplies are brought to camp by him. They are collected by him or his kamdars. Where, however, the camp is at some distance from the contractor's village as at Mirpur, I believe the Sub-Inspector collects the various supplies and hands them over to the contractor.

38. How are they paid for? 38. The contractor or where there is none, the Sub-Inspector, gives me a bill on the last day which is paid in cash.

The clerks, orderlies and servants pay cash daily on receipt of supplies.

39. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? 39. I have no guarantee. Ordinarily it is the butler who is supposed to be given the amount of the sahib's bill. In my case the butler goes ahead and the hamal gives tea on the morning of the march.

As regards retention by the collecting agent, I do not see how there can be any guarantee that the money is paid to the actual suppliers, unless each man were sent for which is impracticable.

40. The daily estimate given is Rs. 1-8. The amount actually paid is approximately this amount, though often slightly less as in most places other than big villages the zamindar refuses to take payment for karbi and milk which he says costs him nothing and for firewood which under Government orders has to be supplied free to touring officers from Government Forests.

41. The excess is in reference to karbi and milk which is borne by the contractor as he says it costs him nothing, and of firewood which either the Sub-Inspector brings by cart for which I am charged, or on my own camels.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. The Police maintain no rasai fund. I doubt if there is any excess; if there is, it must be borne either by the Sub-Inspector or by zamindars, as shown in 41.

43. Nothing is paid for cots or water-jars. No other furniture is requisitioned. Nothing is paid for materials for stables. These stables are constructed of lye. The material is cut usually by paggis from the jungle and cost nothing, beyond labour and cartage, if any.

44. Practically no vegetables are obtained from Local Fund gardens. At taluka headquarters camps the Mukhtarkar usually sends a dhali of vegetables presumably, from the Local Fund garden. This is not paid for by me. Occasionally at Mirpur, Pano Akil, and one or two other places we get, and pay for English vegetable. At other places the produce appears to consist mainly of dhannia, meti, knolkols, turnips, and onions, none of which we eat. We get our own vegetables two or three times a week from our garden in Sukkur or from the Sukkur bazar.

45. Personal establishment.—I do not see how the personal establishment could be curtailed. As it is we keep no second table boy or ayah, and we must have sufficient servants to enable me to take some with me to cook, etc., when I have to dash off to scenes of serious crime, leaving the main part of the camp behind.

Office establishment.—Consists of a reader, one clerk and an office orderly. This number could not be reduced without seriously interfering with work. In fact on a representation by Superintendents of Police, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police for Sind has found it necessary very recently to authorise the Superintendent of Police to take a second clerk on tour as the work of inspection of police station records cannot possibly be conducted efficiently by one man.

Personal orderlies.—Two sowars, one head constable and six constables. The sowars are used as a personal escort when changing camp, and to carry urgent letters or telegrams.

They are essential.

Obviously a head constable orderly, who corresponds to a revenue officer's havildar patewalla is necessary to supervise the official establishment.

The six orderlies pitch and strike tents, load and unload camels, and do duty during the day. A reduction in this number would cause endless trouble and would mean employing additional casual labour, as an experienced tent-pitcher is worth four inexperienced men.

Camel men.—The number of camel men required depends on the number of camels. Usually one man is employed for four or five camels. This is a very moderate number.

PART II

17

46. Rule 1309 of the Police Manual lays down that each outpost should be inspected once a year, and each police station twice, each visit lasting four days. Rule 1310 (3) lays down that at least one camp, *i.e.*, one night, should be put in at each outpost.

If these rules were followed strictly, as there are 21 police stations and 33 outposts in this district I should have to spend 8 days at 20 camps (Sukkur Town Police Station excluded) = 160 days and 33 days at outposts = 193 days, which is 6 months and 13 days, without any allowance for moving camp, or for halts at head-quarters during inspections by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, or visits by the Commissioner in Sind, or delay due to the visitation of serious crime.

Also the number of camps would be $2 \times 20 = 40$ camps for police stations, 33 for outposts = 73.

The rule about spending one night at an outpost has been relaxed in Sind and as it is impossible to inspect every outpost once and every police station twice all officers in Sind can attempt to inspect each outpost and police station once in the year. For the first time in three years I was able to do this last year and then only by spending 49 days out of Sukkur inspecting during May, June, July, August and September.

If inspections are to be done and one inspection a year is essential, it is quite impossible to curtail or modify further the period of my tour.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. The interest aroused by the Commissioner's proclamation soon died down. And without the co-operation of the zamindars, the system laid down in these rules is impracticable.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contract or for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. Tapedars are not employed by the Police to arrange for supplies. If rasai is to be stopped, the provision of supplies must be taken out of the hands of all zamindars. The Railway pay a fixed sum yearly to refreshment room contractors for supply of food, etc., at fair prices to their staff. Government should call for tenders for each taluka yearly, and should subsidize the contractor to supply provisions to officers. Officers have been maligned so long that none of them would find any fault with such an arrangement.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and the zamindars?
49. It is impossible for a Police Officer to give timely intimation of all his camps, as he has to go to scenes of crime at a few hours notice. Intimation of camps are sent to the contractors through the Sub-Inspectors, when possible.

50. Have you any special report on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. The District Magistrate appointed contractors for each taluka. Important zamindars were appointed, therefore the system did not work satisfactorily as many of these zamindars considered it derogatory to take money.

On other occasions, though intimation was given, no contractor appeared.

51. On arrival in the district I issued a circular forbidding all Police Officers to give "Dhalis." This rule has been observed with a very few exceptions. When accepted these dalis have consisted of fruit and vegetables in season. I have also received occasional presents of game from zamindars of high standing; dhalis of fruit and vegetables and flowers from zamindars and seths of Shikarpur; and dumbas from Baluch zamindars of the highest standing only. I never accept a dali or present of any kind from anyone when that person has any favour to ask or petition to make; nor from anyone not a chair-holder.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. Dalis of vegetables cost Rs. 1-8 or 2 of fruit from Rs. 5 to 10. Dumbas from Rs. 5 to 10.

Presents of game consist usually of a hogdeer, or a chinkara or a talur, or a few partridges or quail, and are not bought.

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. Government orders permit the acceptance of fruit and flowers. Vegetables, I presume, can fall under this heading. The custom of offering sheep is exclusively Baluchi, and acceptance is I understand permitted.

I have never been offered any other presents, &c.

Lapo.

The Police have no concern with lapo, They neither levy it nor use it for 'Rasai' or other purposes.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ? 66. I understand chher to mean labour employed on some other agreement than that of cash payment.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 67. Chheras are the men so employed, either casual labourers or men permanently connected with zamindars.
68. Chheras are employed when tents are pitched at my camps to clear the ground and help in pitching and striking tents. Their work lasts for three or four hours on the day the camp arrives and again on the day the camp leaves.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 69. I understand that any hari when called on by his zemindar to assist in such work is required to do so. There is no contract to this effect, but it is an unwritten law, and was in effect long before the British came to India.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ? 70. They are employed for so short a time that I doubt whether they receive any payment.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ? 71. Only in taluka head-quarters and large villages I believe.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge, either by local funds or Government ? 72. Beldars are employed by the Local Boards on roads and by the Public Works Department. I do not know the numbers.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ? 73. I know of no law or regulation compelling the zamindar to render assistance. They render assistance willingly.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ? 74. I know of none.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ? 75. To help in pitching and striking tents, and to prepare camping grounds.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ? 76. There is no daily requirement.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp ? 77. On the day of arrival and the day of departure, 10 to 15 men are required for about three hours.
78. Whence do you obtain them ? 78. The Sub-Inspector arranges with the zamindars near by, as in the Presidency.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars. 79. I pay nothing; as they are employed so short a while, probably the zamindars pay nothing.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractors ? 80. About 4 annas a head each day, *i.e.*, Rs. 2-8 to 3-12, or Rs. 5 to 7-8 per camp.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ? 81. It would be possible to get the work done by a temporary increase of establishment, but the increase of establishment while checking the use of chher would not tend to diminish the amount of rasai.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ? 82. Through the Sub-Inspector who gets the men from zamindars.
83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ? 83. 4 annas a head per day.
At duck shoots, 8 annas per day, Re. 1 per boat.
- Yes. If the men are haris of a big zamindar they often refuse to accept payment, even though the zamindar is not present himself.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ? 84. When the zamindar has invited me to shoot his land, he feeds the chher.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? }
 86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? }
 87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? }
 88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? }
 89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chher" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? }
 90. How far does the employment of beldars interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? }
 91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? }
- 85—86. I do not require special repairs to roads.
87. Zamindars are indented on for labour.
88. I do not know.
89. Practically not at all, when employed at my camp.
90. I use no beldar.
91. No.
92. Chher as employed at my camp, and I gather, the camps of most other officers, is far from being the evil it is represented. I have served in the Dharwar, Sholapur and Alibag districts in the Presidency. Men to help in pitching and striking tents were always obtained through the police patels without any difficulty although I never paid. Similarly I never experienced any difficulty in obtaining men for shikar, although the number of beaters for big game is much larger than for small game and I paid exactly the same rates as I pay now in Sind. Provided that officers see that the requisition for chher is kept within reasonable limits and that chheras are not allowed to do the legitimate duties of their private and official establishments, I see no necessity for the issue of orders on the subject by Government. No such orders are demanded in the Presidency though chher is employed. Perhaps it is because the people in the Presidency realize that officers tour for the benefit of the country and not for their own pleasure.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. KIRKPATRICK, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

To the Chairman—

The sheet clerk does not help in inspection.

About two bundles of stalks will be required a day for one horse.

To Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I presume that Sub-Inspectors do pay the zamindars for supplies collected. I think a contractor might be found if he has sufficient capital to keep the necessary stock of supplies.

To Mr. Sawhney—

He would collect the supplies from time to time at places required. Engineers also have to go out on sudden calls. In such cases the present system would have to be adopted.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NARAIN DAS WADHUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Narayandas Wadhmal, |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. City Police Inspector, Shikarpur. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Shikarpur town. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 16 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. I have been all the time in Sind and have served in the Karachi, Hyderabad, Nawabshah and Sukkur districts. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. At present I have not to tour: but the ordinary area of an Inspector's tour is three talukas. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. An Inspector has to be always on tour throughout the year. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. A camelman and a cook. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. A constable munshi, a constable orderly and a camel sowar. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. No supplies are taken with the exception of some spices and flour, etc., for one meal. |
| 11. Myself, including cook— | 1 lb. rice, 2 annas; 2 lbs. wheat flour, 2 annas 6 pies; ½ lb. ghee, 5 annas; 1½ lbs. milk, 2 annas; 1 lb. mutton, 7 annas; annas worth vegetables; spices worth one anna. (2 bundles karbi, 4 annas; 4 sers bajri, 7 annas 6 pies for horse). Office establishment including my private camelman—6 lbs flour (wheat) 7 annas, 6 pies; bajri, 6 annas or juari, 6 annas 6 pies; 4 lbs lasi, 1 anna; 4 lbs milk, 4 annas; ½ anna worth vegetables; 3 annas worth ghee; spices worth 1 anna. Firewood worth anna one; Dilas and cots. |
| 12. Office furniture— | one cotton big carpet, one lamp, one camel saddle bag of records. |
| 13. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | Private—one camel saddle bag of utensils and kit of servant, one lamp, one big cotton carpet, bedding, one trunk of clothes. |
| 14. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Six cots, five water jars, one or two chairs, one piece of table. |
| 15. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. None. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. In the police lines or out-houses of the Public Works Department bungalows. |
| 17. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Police line stables are used or horses are tied in the open. |
| 18. What records do you take on tour? | 17. A few registers that can be accommodated in a camel saddle bag. |
| 19. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps. | 18. If a separate room is not available, the office work is done in a part of the room where an Inspector sleeps. |
| 20. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. No labour is required. |
| 21. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. For horse and camel journey the roads are good enough. |
| 22. Formerly Mukhtiarkar, now I suppose the Vice-President of the Taluka Local Boards. | |
| 23. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Zamindars do give their men to repair the roads that are more used by them and their haris and carts than by officers who simply pass once or twice in a year over them. |

22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. No special repairs are required by me.
23. An Inspector has his own horse and camel but at a sudden call to a scene of offence whereto he has to reach by travelling partly by rail and then by road where his own animals cannot arrive in time he has to engage a conveyance usually on hire and if none is available, then a zamindar's conveyance.
24. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? 24. Inspector communicates his camp to the post office and if the delivery post office is at some distance from his camp a police sowar brings the post and at the time of investigation the post is allowed to accumulate till the camp is again fixed at a particular place.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. I have not to tour.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Nil.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 27. Nil.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. Nil.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Nil.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. Nil.

Rasai.

31. The modern writers mean to supply provisions to officers on tour either at nominal rates or free of charge. The system of rasai was not introduced in the British reign. It was in existence in Sind at least ever since the kings were made to keep peace and Pirs were made to be spiritual guides, this will be borne out from the fact that when Pirs even now go out to collect their dues they have a large retinue of their own and some disciples follow them from camp to camp and the whole lot never pay either for their own food or for the grass and gram of their horses. They are fed by the village, given oats, etc., under no compulsion, but it has been the custom ever since. One who has seen the Pir of Rohri going on tour can form an idea of the expenses incurred by his camp. Similarly were the Kings or the Sabbas given provisions free of cost and it was under these conditions that the villagers or zamindars held their lands and protection who gave the same to lower people on the same conditions. This system came down in spite of the changes of kings but now the system has been so much reduced that it can well be said with safety that it has been abolished, as some concession that is made with the touring officer and his establishment is below and not above the attentions that a local zamindar or a subordinate officer will pay even to a casual traveller in his village where the system of zamindari *utak* is that any number of guests are entertained daily.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. Vide question to answer No. 11, as the supplies are all local.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. Vide question to answer No. 11, as the average has been put down therein.
34. Rice, 4 annas per ser; wheat flour, 3 annas 6 pies per ser; ghee, 1 rupee 4 annas per ser; bajri flour, 2 annas per ser; jauari flour, 3 annas 2 pies per ser; ½ anna in villages and ¼ anna in towns per egg; 4 to 6 annas in villages and 8 to 10 annas in towns per fowl; 3 to 8 rupees per sheep; 1 to 1½ annas in villages and 2 to 3 annas in towns per ser of milk; 1½ to 2 lbs butter per rupee; ¼ annas to 2½ annas per bajri or jauari bundle; 10 to 12 annas per maund firewood and in small villages 3 to 4 annas per maund.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. No.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. About 3 rupees a day.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. Purchases are made from the banias by the servant and men themselves and paid for either as the things are purchased or when the camp moves.
38. Out of everybody's pocket. How are they paid for?
- Inspector's tour is not a regular tour and at all the times he has not his full establishment private or official with him nor is his stay at a particular place of prolonged period. In the case of an Inspector when he goes to a sudden call he partakes of the food prepared for the Sub-Inspector or arranged for by him and in return, when the Sub-Inspectors have an occasion to visit the head-quarters of an Inspector or his camp outside the Sub-Inspector's jurisdiction they are the guests of the Inspectors.
39. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. The Inspector for his personal safety has to see that this is being done as the nature of his duties is such that he has to be careful.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. The cost does not exceed the actual payment.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the banias or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. There is no excess.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. In the Police no rasai fund is maintained.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. The hire of water jars and cots is not paid and special stables are not built for an Inspector.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. Vegetables are obtained from the bazar.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. No reduction is possible.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. No, as the Inspector's work is heavy.
47. The rules of 1914 were worked temporarily and the supplies were only nominally provided by the zamindars. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
- The tapedars would not take the trouble of supplying provisions to officers of other departments than the revenue and the zamindars have no profit out of this business and on the contrary they have a good deal of money on them as naturally they are hospitable gentlemen and would not displease subordinates or peons.
48. To appoint a special establishment for this purpose would be officializing a new agency. As it is proposed that no officer should have a hand in this matter, I would recommend a system like the one on the railways where contractors are paid for by the railways for supplying food, etc., to guards on moderate charges, with some modification may be brought into force here. Supplying provision business if undertaken by banias would be paying to them but they would charge exorbitant rates and if given to anybody else, it would not be paying to him and therefore tenders for talukas may be obtained each year and the contractors should be paid from the Local Boards.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. No.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. None.
51. Do you receive "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. No.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep?
52. Nil.

53. The orders on this subject are contained in rule 2 of the rules for the conduct of Government servants. For Police Inspector to accept dhals consisting of sweets or fruit worth Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 from a very few selected persons becomes a necessity, as otherwise there is no confidence to get information.

Q. 54—55. No answers.

Chher.

66. Cher is a sort of 'Vanghar' that is in existence among zamindars for a long time. If a zamindar has any clearance work and cutting of jungle he sends for all the men of neighbouring lands and takes work from them and in return feeds them. Chher is a sort of 'Vanghar'.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Haris of zamindars.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. To pitch the tent.

69. Yes. This consent is implied as zamindars have to do so much out of the, common for their haris. Anything that they possess can not be attached under the Deccan Relief Act and they have to be supplied with most of the necessities of life through banias to whom zamindar is responsible and in the case of the failure of crop it is zamindar who has to sustain the loss and not the haris.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

70. No. They are kept for a short time for pitching and unpitching tents.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

71. No.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. No.

72. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Beldars who number about 30 can do the work of repairing roads.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. According to ancient custom the zamindars are bound to provide chheras for works enumerated under question No. 68.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. No.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. I do not require any labour.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. Nil.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. Nil.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. We have pagis for such jobs.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. Nil.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasar' contractor?

80. Casual labour is not procurable and if it will be introduced now the cost would be very heavy: about 15 to 20 rupees for pitching or unpitching tents only.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. No.

82. How do you obtain labour for 'shikar'?

82. I do not obtain any.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. Nil.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. Nil.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. The number of beldars requires to be doubled in each taluka.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. They are fed only.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. No other labour but of the haris whose lands are affected or are likely to be affected could be had on such occasions.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. Only fed by the zamindars.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. The work is for a few hours only and does not interfere with their cultivation work and besides all the men are not called in.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. Some responsible supervising officer ought to look after them as now they are not working as they ought to do, but this can only be after some increase to their pay of Rs. 7 or 8 per mensem.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. Nil.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should, wholly or partly, be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. Chher may be abolished but the number of beldars should be increased and an addition made to their salaries and a few according to the status of the individual officer should be given to him in each taluka to accompany his camp.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. NARAINDAS.

To the Chairman—

There is no lapo in the Police Department. There is no systematic levy of lapo by the police.

I do not know about chheras being paid by Government in the case of canal breaches.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I have never heard of any complaint of rasai before the matter was taken up by the Honourable Mr. Bhurgri and the local papers on Mr. Bhurgri's instigation. Rasai is harmless now. A zamindar would give the same supplies to any traveller. I mention the Pir of Rohri's rasai in connection with the ancient system of the country, not in connection with the present touring officers. Compared with that, there is no rasai for touring officers. Rasai has been gradually decreasing until practically there is no rasai now. I have never heard any complaint during the last 5 or 10 years from persons alleged to be affected by it. The complaints originated with the new zamindars. I should think that there was not even in 1914 such rasai as to give cause for any complaint.

To Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The present custom is for big zamindars to entertain the whole camp for one day or one meal. He will do the same for any traveller. I am speaking of officers of my own position and my establishment. That is the general practice which applies also to Sub-Inspectors of Police. I do not speak of other departments. I call new zamindars those who have recently purchased lands or obtained grants from Government. Those new zamindars who obtain grants from Government do complain. I do not think zamindars get lands for making rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I mean the increase of beldars is for pitching and unpitching the tents. I mean the demands of touring officers are so moderate and all the supplies are paid for that thus there is no rasai.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

No cash payment is paid to menials, none whatever. I have heard new zamindars complain of rasai. That was 3 or 4 years ago; about 2 or 3 zamindars. This was in Nawabshah district. They were colonists. They were Sindhis who were not zamindars before. One or two of them were Military men who had been granted lands. I do not know anything of their previous services. There would have to be modifications in the system of contract and perhaps for the first year the charges of contractors would be heavy. There should be contractors for the whole of the taluka and he could buy eggs and such things locally from the haris and zamindars. Towns even are supplied from small villages. He will have no official position. He will have to pay a penalty if he does not fulfil the contract. Such contractors could possibly be had if sums offered were sufficiently tempting. Details would have to be worked out.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SMYTH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. J. W. Smyth. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier. |
| 3. Head-quarter. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 13½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. All my service spent in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. The entire district. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. October 15th to April 15th. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Butler, second boy, cook, dhobi, bhristi, syce and sweeper. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. A serishtedar, two Judicial clerks, Registration clerk and typist, 5 personal and 2 office peons. The head munshi and 2 munshis meet me at taluka head-quarters and occasionally at other camps. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take for myself wines, spirits, groceries, soda water, flour, butter and potatoes and I send for beef, tongues and vegetable, etc. from the Jacobabad market as I require them. I also take with me grain for my horse. My office establishment takes flour, rice, ghi, spices, pulses, sugar and potatoes with them. I understand that my private servants and the Government menial servants obtain their supplies locally. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Milk, eggs, fowls and mutton for myself, milk and meat for the office and private establishment, and grass for my horse. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. I take Government tables, chairs and rugs for the use of my office tent, the furniture for my dining room and bedroom tents, table, chairs, durries, bed, bath, etc., is private. All lamps including those for the office are my private property. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. I require nothing further at any camp beyond a few water jars, which being fragile, I cannot take about myself from camp to camp. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. One living tent, one sleeping tent and one office tent. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. I provide tents for my private establishment and the members of my office establishment provide their own. Government raotis are provided for the peons and police orderlies. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps. | 16. A kacha landhi is erected, except when I occupy a bungalow where stables are always available. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Just sufficient for immediate requirements.—The records remain at head-quarters, and if files are needed for a particular case, they are sent out to camp and returned when done with. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. An office tent is provided by Government. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally, at your various camps? | 19. Men to help the peons pitch tent, load and unload camels and fetch water, if the well is at a distance. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. As good as unmetalled roads can be. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. The District and Taluka Local Boards. Beldars and malis are employed by the Boards. |

22. No special repairs, as I do not drive either a motor car or a tonga. The annual repairs to the roads are usually taken in hand before my arrival, so that I can inspect the work. Very occasionally some special repairs to them are required. It may be pointed out that the country side gets the full benefit of these afterwards.
23. Camels engaged at headquarters for the whole period of the tour.
24. The post is sent by post to the nearest post office or brought by one of my peons by train to the nearest station whichever is more convenient. From the post office or railway station a peon or kotar brings the post to my camp. My mounted police orderlies are available to convey telegrams and urgent communications.
25. There are camping grounds, at four out of the five taluka head-quarters and on some of the main roads. Otherwise one can camp at any substantial village.
26. Malis are maintained by the Local Boards for the camping grounds.
27. All but two, and they adjoin railway stations.
28. None.
29. None. The bungalows and camping grounds, where they exist in the same village, are separate.
30. There are 3 Local Fund bungalows in this district at each of which one man, either chowkidar or mali, is maintained, at the expense of the local funds.
- The district and canal bungalows are in charge of the Executive Engineers and the information may be obtained from them.
- Rasul.*
31. The system of furnishing supplies to officers on tour.
32. 1½ seer of milk, 6 eggs, 1 fowl, firewood and juari stalks.
33. So far as I can ascertain, about 5 seers of milk and 4 seers of meat, also firewood.
34. Milk, juari stalks and firewood have no saleable value outside the town of Jacobabad. The prices of the other commodities mentioned vary. a monthly return of average retail prices of grains, etc., is sent to the Director of Agriculture.
35. Absolutely none. The Baluch considers it a dishonourable to sell milk as to sell his daughter. Fur may be had for the picking, and stalks are always available, inasmuch as juari is the staple crop of the district. Being so common it has no saleable value.
36. Between Rs. 5 and 6, I should think.
37. By the zamindar's or contractor's agent, who is usually his kamdar.
23. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?
24. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters?
25. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?
26. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
27. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
28. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?
29. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
30. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasul'?
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

38. They are paid for in cash to the kamdar.—At times a zamindar who is perhaps a sardar of his tribe and holds a title from Government may object to his kamdar receiving payment.
39. How are they paid for?
39. It is impossible to have any guarantee: but I have never received any complaints on the subject.
40. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers, and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
40. So far as I know, they correspond.
41. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. I do not think that there is an excess. If there is, it would be borne by the zamindar.
42. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapadars or mukhtiaraks?
42. So far as I am aware no rasai fund is maintained in this district at the present time.
43. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtiaraks?
43. No: water jars and cots are borrowed from the nearest village and returned when the camp breaks up.
44. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. The local boards do not sell their vegetables.
45. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
45. No.
46. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
46. No.
47. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. It is not always possible to give early intimation of one's camps and arrangements have some times to be made at very little notice. This remark applies particularly to the District Superintendent of Police, owing to the exigencies of crime.
48. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

The officers of other departments have found that the rules of 1914 cannot be worked in their case. It is a fact that if they were, they would throw a considerable burden on the Mukhtiarakar and the subordinates of the revenue department who have more than a full day's work already. The tapadar's share in the proceedings now appears to be to see that the zamindar's or contractor's man supplies what is wanted and at the right time.

These remarks do not apply to camps at Jacobabad itself where owing to the existence of a large market no special arrangements are required.

48. No. At the present time and for some years to come I consider that the zamindar's kamdar is the only possible agency for officers of the revenue department. The same agency I believe looks after the arrangements for officers of other departments. It would be impossible to find an independent contractor in this district. Nor would there be any guarantee of his honesty. The officer and his establishment would pay their bills in full, but they would not know how far he passed on the money to the local persons who supplied the camp: e.g., milk, etc., would have to be bought at the village nearest to the camp if it were to be fresh. In other words the same person would continue to supply the commodity, but through a middleman, who would expect a profit from his contract. It would probably be found that all other commodities which could be secured in the nearest village would be, and would not be, brought out from head-quarters.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. Usually a programme of my tour is sent to every one concerned and is published in the local newspaper, but it is liable to interruptions.
50. A special local order was issued in 1914 making allowance for the Baluch sentiment in regard to the sale of milk, vide answer 35 above and the difficulty of making payment for fuel and grass. I submitted a general report on the subject to the Commissioner in Sind last year.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

51. I accept nothing from local officials, except vegetables from the Local Board gardens which happen to be in their charge. I sometimes accept fruit and game from gentlemen of position living in the district. Gentlemen who possess licenses for guns in this district are always anxious to prove their skill with them. I regard the acceptance of such trifling presents as covered by the standing orders of the Government of India. To be allowed to present a sheep is regarded by the Baluch as a privilege and as a mark of high respectability. I extend this privilege to a few of the leading sardars, jagirdars and zamindars. I refuse for more sheep than I accept.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "dalis" and sheep? 52. A dali may cost a few rupees. A sheep has no saleable value as the zamindar who is privileged to present sheep does not keep them for sale.

53. I know of no other orders than those alluded to in answer 51. If the acceptance of a sheep is technically irregular it is for consideration whether Government desire that Baluch sentiment in a simple matter of this kind should be ignored. I should regard a sheep presented by a Baluch sardar as an 'article of trifling value.'

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 54. Payment of illegal gratifications to Government servants of subordinate rank.

55. I only know of one in the Revenue Department. It used to be known in this district as 'anagi.' Nowadays lump sums are realised from the zamindars, which vary according to the circumstances of the year. They are more in the nature of 'tips' offered

55. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? by the zamindars for services rendered or to be rendered, than exactions by the tapadars for the purpose of officers' camp.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. By the tapadars and mostly for themselves. The ostensible object is to retain the good-will ('mahar-bani') of the village establishment.

57. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 57. Please see answer No. 55.

58. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund? 58. Since the burden of arranging camps has been transferred by the orders of 1914 to the zamindars or contractors, no excuse for a rasai fund has remained, and as stated in answer No. 42 I think that no such fund now exists.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund? 59. No answer.

60. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund? 60. So far as I know unauthorised lapo has ceased. The payments now made are in the forms of tips given by the zamindars, to some extent they can be compared to Christmas boxes. I have no idea what they amount to.

61. Lapo is, I understand, not the term applied to payments made for this purpose. But I imagine that little is done for nothing by the subordinates of any department, and that if any particular favour is wanted it is more easily secured if some one's palm is greased.

61. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests? 62. This practice has I believe, been stopped for some years.

62. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials? 63. I am of opinion that these rules have stopped this particular form of exaction.

63. Has the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 64. No.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorised 'Lapo' or any local orders? 65. No. An increase of pay all round may do some good. But it is not always the person who receives the money who is only to blame. The person who offers it must share the responsibility.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? 65. No. An increase of pay all round may do some good. But it is not always the person who receives the money who is only to blame. The person who offers it must share the responsibility.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. A labour corps.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. Haris, *i.e.*, agricultural labourers.
68. Chheras do work for their zamindars. They are at times required to clear karias, do jungle clearance and mend paths and roads over fields, etc. In the same way the zamindar details them to help at officer's camps. They help in pitching tents, clearing the ground, loading and unloading camels, fetching water, and doing odd jobs. Such work only takes an hour or two. The work done by chheras for a camp is a very small fraction of what they have to do than for the zamindar himself.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. The ordinary chhera does not hold land but is merely an agricultural labourer. In this district I have never heard of such men refusing to obey their zamindar. This particular obligation is universally understood and is regularly insisted on by the zamindar.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
70. A zamindar may at times supply his chher with food. Government officials do not supply them with anything.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. There is very little. The difficulty in recruiting for the army shows this.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
72. The Local Boards maintain a suitable number of beldars. Government in the revenue department maintain none.
73. They are not bound. My experience throughout my service has been that the zamindars welcome an officer camping on their land and gladly do what they can to help his camp. In this district I am every year pressed by zamindars to camp on their lands, and many consider that if I do not I am displeased with them for some reason. I assume in these circumstances that the zamindars do not regard my camp as an evil to be avoided.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. Not so far as I am aware.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. Please see answer to question 19.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. The number varies, probably 4 or 5 on a normal day.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
77. About fifteen more.
78. Whence do you obtain them?
78. From the zamindar of the village.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. No: the zamindar would object to it if I offered payment. These men are only absent from their homes for a few hours. They return home at night and are put to no expense.
80. It could not be obtained.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
80. The zamindars of this district prefer to supply labour free as it gives them a hold over their men, which they are anxious to retain. They are very tenacious of their customary rights in respect of chher.
81. I doubt it. Temporary establishments are very difficult to obtain. They would not work satisfactorily, and in Upper Sind at any rate I do not believe that there are serious abuses in the present system. The 'khalasis' which are supplied to officers of the Public Works Department are, I understand, a permanent staff.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
82. I have given up shooting.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
83. No answer.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
84. No answer.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
85. Ordinarily none. The local board establishment is sufficient.

86. Are the labourers given anything for their work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ? 86. No answer.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. In the case of a serious breach, as much zamindari labour as is available. From motives of self interest and protection the zamindars supply it.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ? 88. The Public Works Department, I understand, supplies the labourers with food and the zamindars are usually rewarded in durbar.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ? 89. I do not believe that any interference with cultivation is caused or that any loss, however microscopic, is caused to the zamindar or haris.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ? 90. The ordinary work is not usually interfered with.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ? 91. No.
92. No. I consider that the present arrangements work perfectly well, and I have never met a zamindar who lives on his lands, who objects to them, or who makes any trouble about officer's camps. Absentee landlords are fortunately almost unknown in this district. I suspect that such complaints as have been made have been made by these men. I have never heard a complaint in this district.
93. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. SMYTH.

To the Chairman—

I believe that zamindars are bound to supply labour under the Irrigation Act in the case of breaches of canals and bunds but the rules are so complicated that in practice they are not used.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I believe that lapo in the particular form of anagi has stopped but I do not suppose that tapedars have ceased to recover money from the zamindars. The class of tapedars has changed in recent years. The old type of tapedars is dying out.

I think the systematic levy is now stopped, but lump sums are obtained when required for particular purposes. I state that anagi has ceased on enquiries made in my own district. I think if the pay of tapedars be sufficiently increased it might stop irregular exactions. There is no complaint in my district as regards rasai as the Baluchi loves to exercise hospitality. I found a similar spirit 7 years ago in the Larkana district and 10 years ago in the Karachi district. I conclude that zamindars have no complaint because they pester me to encamp in their villages and are anxious to know why I have not encamped there in case I should not do so. As far as my experience goes there is no real complaint of rasai.

I do not think it would be practicable to engage an independent contractor for the districts. The ordinary unofficial Indian traveller through the district would put up with the people of his own community. I camp near bigger villages and only go to smaller villages when it is inevitable for my public duties. I do not think it would be possible to improve my touring arrangements. I visit small villages as far as possible.

I think there has been considerable improvement since the proclamation of 1914. The rules of 1914 laid the whole burden of the supplying arrangements on the Revenue Department, in the case of all departments. I think that each department ought to look after itself. To that extent I object to the present rules throwing the whole burden on the Revenue Department. I am in favour of leaving all the tapedars of the district out of the arrangement altogether if the work can be efficiently done by the zamindars. Some zamindars are able to make all arrangements by the assistance of their kamdars. When zamindars are not able to make arrangements I think they ought to have the assistance of tapedars. I do not think that the removal of tapedars will altogether stop the evil as the tapedars have sufficient dealings in other matters with the zamindars. I do not think the removal of tapedars and zamindars would have the least effect in preventing the corruption of tapedars. That depends entirely on the Land Revenue system in Sind. I consider the present arrangements of supplies in the Upper Sind Frontier should go on as being the only possible arrangement for years to come. I am not prepared to speak of other districts.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Husain—

Zamindars of the Upper Sind Frontier are particularly hospitable in entertaining strangers. They occasionally refuse to take payments for any supplies. I suppose similarly they take no payments from my private and official establishment. I have not seen my servants and office establishment actually making payments for the supplies. I think when they refuse payment it is in order to enhance their reputation by appearing as the host of the officer, that is, by receiving the head of the district as their guest. I believe that lapo was levied by tapedars before 1914. I cannot say about the rasai fund before 1914. I believe supplies were provided before 1914 by the zamindars. They are still provided by the zamindars. I do not think that there is really much difference between the systems before and after 1914. As regards the zamindars I cannot say what amounts are paid by the zamindars. I cannot say if the zamindars prefer the old system of anagi payment or the payment of the lump sums to the tapedars. I believe that payment to inspecting establishments has been entirely stopped. I cannot say if the payment to pattawalas and butlers has been stopped. I never heard of butlers and peons not pitching tents except after payment of Rs. 100. My tents are always pitched.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

I never heard of any complaints regarding chheras for breaches of canals. Zamindars give chher willingly in their own interest.

I consider that all officers in my district have done their best to stop rasai under the orders of 1914 including the Executive Engineer. I think the Executive Engineer is interested in the prosperity of the people of the district.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I think that special education amongst the zamindars might improve matters. I think in course of years the evil will stop with the spread of education.

To the Chairman—

I understand that contractors of the Public Works Department are systematically required to make payment on their contracts. I do not know of systematic levy of lapo in the Police Department nor do I know if there is systematic levy of lapo in the Forest Department. But I suppose there are exactions levied by these departments. I have once or twice been able to reciprocate the hospitality of zamindars by means of garden parties but it is extremely difficult to reciprocate their hospitality.

I do not know about the Public Works Department paying the chheras in case of breaches of canals. The commission levied from contractors of Public Works Department, has nothing to do with rasai as far as I know.

No 1533 OF 1918.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

From

J. W. SMYTH, ESQUIRE, I. C. S.,
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, UPPER SIND FRONTIER;

To

THE CHAIRMAN, RASAI COMMITTEE IN SIND.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
Jacobabad, 4th May 1918.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 52 of 27th April 1918, I have the honour to state that the average number of camping places used by the Deputy Commissioner is 16 in Jacobabad taluka and 10 in the other four talukas of the district. The Deputy Collector, Kandhkot, encamps at about 15 places in each of his talukas. The average distance between the Deputy Commissioner's camps would be 10 miles and that between the Deputy Collector's 6 miles.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter I would point out that the Executive Engineer and the District Superintendent of Police regularly tour through the district, that the former usually occupies the canal and district bungalows, and that the District Superintendent of Police has to camp wherever crime or the investigation of crime takes him. I see no ground for supposing that it is only the camps of the officers of the Revenue Department for whom special measures are needed, and therefore if any such scheme as that suggested by you is to be considered, the requirements of every department should be taken into account, with the result that a multiplicity of camping grounds would be needed. I see no objection in theory to setting up a few camping grounds, but it must be on the distinct understanding that officers are at full liberty to camp at other places if they consider it necessary. An Executive Engineer cannot efficiently superintend the construction of a work, if he is encamped five miles away from it. Similarly the District Superintendent of Police cannot investigate a crime unless he is close to the scene of it. If the Assistant Collector were to go year after year to the same camps his field and village inspection would become stereotyped. Five miles out to and back from one's work is not an economical disposition of the day, leaving out of consideration the nature of the climate for over six months of the year. Any order binding officers to camp at certain places and at no others will vitiate the whole object of touring, and will not be understood, at least in this district. It is also unnecessary here, as I have already in my evidence shown what are the views of the landholders on the subject of touring. I am not sanguine that we could find 'petty' zamindars to undertake the camping arrangements: and if we did, they would probably not be in a position to provide paid labour at the camps. It is also open to doubt whether they could provide fresh supplies, e.g., of vegetables, at short notice.

3. Presumably Government would have to pay the small monthly subsidies to the banyas. I do not see any necessity for such subsidies, as a banya is always to be found where there is any business to be done, and it may be assumed that if there is any need for a shop in the camp, a neighbouring banya will supply it of his own accord.

4. As many of the supplies required at a camp, such as milk, eggs, fowls, karbi, etc., have no saleable value, it would not appear that any advantage is to be gained by fixing standard rates for the taluka, which would be purely hypothetical.

5. The proposal contained in paragraph 6 of your letter seems to be based on the assumption that a supervising tapedar is not honest but that a joint mukhtiarkar would be. I have no desire to anathematize a class of officers who have not yet come into existence, but I take it that in the present scheme of things in Sind, where the temptation is great enough, the Taluka official, whoever he may be, will succumb before the zamindar. The payment of lapo is accepted by the zamindar in view of the advantages which he secures from it; and it will continue, until there is a radical change in the moral outlook of the Sindhi official and zamindar. This proposal would cost Government many thousands of rupees per annum, and with little, I fear, to show for it. I have not had time to consider what would be the relations between the mukhtiarkar and the joint mukhtiarkar, or how one man could take the place of four or five supervising tapedars, who after all really do some supervision of the tapedars' field work. It is generally admitted that a closer supervision of the village staff is necessary. This proposal would reduce it almost to *nil*.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. W. SMYTH,

Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier.

Statement showing (1) the number of Hindus and Mahomedans employed in the Subordinate Revenue Service and (2) the number of Hindu and Mahomedan zamindars in the Upper Sind Frontier district.

| Subordinate establishments of the Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Collector and five Mukhtarkars' offices. | | | Approximate proportion of Hindu and Muhammadan zamindars. | | Zamindars paying assessment each year. | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Amils. | Other Hindus. | Muham-madans. | Hindu. | Muham-madans. | Under Rs. 1,000. | Over Rs. 1,000 and under Rs. 5,000. | Over Rs. 5,000 and under Rs. 10,000. | Over Rs. 10,000. |
| 23 | 19 | 17 | 1 | 51 | 5,234 | 111 | 16 | 4 |

Note.—These figures do not include village establishments which consist of 12 Amils, 46 other Hindus and 53 Muhammadans.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF Mr. ISANI.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. G. M. Isani, Esquire, M.A., LL.B.
2. Appointment. 2. Deputy Collector.
3. Head-quarters. 3. Rohri.
4. Length of service. 4. About 6 years (4th July 1918).
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. Have served all along as Deputy Collector and has an experience of the divisions shown below:—
(1) Rohri division, (2) Shikarpur division, (3) Mirpur Mathelo division, (4) Rato-dero division, and (5) Naushahro division; and has an experience as a zamindar from age of discretion.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? 6. Rohri division, measuring 2,326 square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour? 7. 7 months.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour? 8. 4 servants.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? 9. 7 clerks and 4 peons.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment, respectively take with you and them on tour? 10. I purchase rice, flour, sugar, tea, biscuits, bread and grain for horse. The staff always purchase locally.
11. I require ghee, eggs, fowl, milk, meat, grass, fuel and jars. The staff requires eatables and necessaries. They cannot afford to buy them wholesale at Sukkur as in that case they will have to maintain at least half of another baggage camel because the one already sanctioned for individual clerk has to take his rawti, bedding, trunk, utensils, servant and servant's bedding.
12. (a) Private—Two easy chairs, 4 table pieces, two teapoys, book-case, box for utensils, leather bag, box for clothes, 2 tents, 2 servants' pal, ka-javo, provision box, bedding, segri, 2 trunks. (b) Official—1 tent, 8 table pieces, 8 chairs, 4 despatch boxes, 8 camel trunks, 2 woollen carpets, 6 cotton carpets, cushions and pillows. I have got 9 baggage camels for removing Government kit.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? 13. 32 cots as under:—

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) For clerks and their private servants | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| (b) Private servants of the officers | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (c) Peons | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (d) Village establishments who are usually in attendance on the Deputy Collector's camp | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Water jars | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? 13. 32 cots as under:—
14. Two private tents, two necessary tents, 2 servants' pals (one for kitchen and one for servant), rawnti for peons and one tent for office. I accommodate my servants in rawnti and the clerks also take their rawtis with them.
14. What tents do you take on tour? 14. I accommodate my servants in rawnti and the clerks also take their rawtis with them.
15. In this division the clerks take their rawtis with them, elsewhere staff generally occupies musafirkhanas or deras or other Government buildings intended for subordinate Government officials and in case there are no such buildings available, they occupy zamindars' otaks. The menial staff and private staff of an officer live in out-houses attached to bungalows, and in case where there is no bungalow they remain in rawntis provided by an officer or under the shade of trees.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? 15. In this division the clerks take their rawtis with them, elsewhere staff generally occupies musafirkhanas or deras or other Government buildings intended for subordinate Government officials and in case there are no such buildings available, they occupy zamindars' otaks. The menial staff and private staff of an officer live in out-houses attached to bungalows, and in case where there is no bungalow they remain in rawntis provided by an officer or under the shade of trees.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? 16. In places where there are no bungalows kacha sheds are put up for horses.
17. What records do you take on tour? 17. Two years' record and part of library books are taken on tour.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps. 18. Office is held always in tents provided by Government.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? 19. About 20 cheras are required for pitching and unpitching the tents, for loading and unloading the kit. About 6 cheras are employed daily for fetching water, fuel, grass, etc.
20. Roads mostly are under water during abkalani season as Rohri division mainly depends on floods for irrigation. During the cold weather and early part of the hot weather the roads are in passable condition.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?
21. Mukhtiarkar is interested in keeping the roads in good repair. Roads are looked after departmentally except when the Divisional Officer, Collector or Commissioner has to pass, shortly ahead of their intended visit zamindari labour is requisitioned and put on the roads if the roads do not happen to be in a decent condition and not otherwise. As a rule no special trouble is taken to improve the lot of roads for any non-revenue official.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to, your various camps? 22. No.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? 23. Camels. They are engaged for the whole period of tour on monthly wages from head-quarters.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. Post is redirected from the district head-quarter to taluka head-quarters from where it is taken to and from the post office by kotars and in urgent cases by tapedars.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. Camps. As a rule every tapa is visited in every touring season and for the encampment the biggest village of the tapa is selected.
26. In places where there are no serviceable and docile zamindars this work is done by beldars of the Local Funds, otherwise by zamindars. But in view of the contemplated grant of more powers to non-official members of the Taluka and District Boards there will be restriction on the free use of beldars by the Mukhtiarkars as thereafter the Mukhtiarkars would not be able to command so freely the services of beldars and their camp arrangements will entirely fall on the shoulders of zamindars.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
27. It is seldom that the camp falls in a village where there is no bania shop. Vegetables are procurable in big villages and generally in 2/3 number of the camps they are not locally available. Often times they are sent for from neighbouring big villages.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars.
28. District officers only put up in Public Works Department bungalows and not in private buildings and there are 10 such places in the division where such bungalows are available.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. To 6 bungalows vegetable gardens are attached where the vegetables can be at the disposal of the touring officers. Out of these 6, two are Local Fund gardens, one Municipal garden and three Public Works Department gardens.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. In these bungalows with vegetable gardens, one chowkidar, 2 malhis and a pair of bullocks are maintained.

Rasai.

31. Rasai. Technically rasai comes from Persian word "rasud" and it means supplies of provisions to officers and to their staff on payment and other necessary arrangements for camp. The word 'sursad' expresses the meaning of supplies of provisions on payment; the word rasai has degenerated and it now means camp supplies given without payment.
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. 1 fowl, 2 chataks of ghee, 4 eggs, 1 lb. of meat, 2 lbs. of milk, 1 ass-load of fuel, 4 bundles of grass, 2 jars, 1 cot, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of flour and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of rice.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
33. Private servants—5 cots, 4 jars, 1 seer rice, 1 seer meat, 4 seers milk, 2 chataks ghee:—
 Official staff—5 seers flour, 5 seers rice, 5 seers meat, 15 seers milk, 2 seers ghee.
 Village staff accompanying Divisional Officer.—
 They are always fed by zamindars; camel-men get mutton and milk gratis.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep milk, butter, hari or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. For each egg two pice, one anna per seer of milk, 4 annas per chicken, 6 annas per fowl, fuel is not paid for, grass 2 annas per bundle. The remaining articles are paid at the market rate.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. All these articles have market value including the firewood in small villages.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. If the establishment is satisfied with normal requirements 10 rupees are sufficient. These requirements are met by zamindars.
37. Only tapedars supervise the collection as in case of non-availability of supplies the displeasure falls on the tapedar, otherwise expenses of rasai except in big places and taluka head-quarter towns are met with by zamindar. In head-quarter town the central fund pays these expenses. In big villages in which there are several camps in the course of a year 2 or 3 tapedars are made to contribute jointly for the expenses. In small villages the tapedar is only responsible for cash payment and not for supplies. This arrangement holds good as far as the Deputy Collector and Mukhtarkars' camp are concerned. But the expenses of the camp of higher officers are borne by the taluka as a whole.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. They are paid on bills in person.
39. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. There is no guarantee and the presumption raised in the question is generally correct.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Only normal quantities of requirements are shown in the bills and paid for but the actual requisition of supplies is much in excess.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hari or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. The excess is borne by zamindars in outside places and in big villages by 2 or 3 tapedars jointly and for camp at head-quarters by all the tapedars jointly.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. This is answered in question No. 41.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. No payment is made.
45. It will not be possible to curtail one's private establishment as no one would engage private servants more than what are necessarily required. The office staff cannot be taken in reduced strength on tour without detriment to public service, in division offices.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. Tour proper is for four months, November, December, January and February. The other 3 months are passed at taluka head-quarters. This period can be conveniently reduced to 2 months

47. The orders are not workable as the individual zamindar appointed as contractor is afraid and believes that the entire responsibility falls on his shoulders. Formerly the responsibility was on all the zamindars of the neighbourhood. By specifying one man as contractor, others are made free and refuse to come to the aid of that single individual appointed as contractor. As the burden of many falls on one therefore all zamindars are reluctant to take up the work of the contractor, the result being the contracting zamindar is keeping behind and the responsibility even in small villages for rasai is made for the tapedar all the more personal.

48. The chief solution of the difficulty is that camps should be made in big villages where all or many necessities are available and not in outlying villages. The work of distant villages should be supervised by riding from the camp. The private as well as official establishment be made to buy provisions from provision-seller, milk from milk-seller, meat from meat-seller, etc. Self denial and strict supervision would be more effective than any amount of rules in the stoppage of rasai.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

If it becomes necessary to visit a distant place away from one of the camping places, the officer should take light kit with himself and should not take any clerk with himself. He must leave most of the private servants and the entire office establishment at the camp.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Camps are fixed several days ahead and beyond that no intimation is given of the requirements as apparently no necessities are to be bought from the contractors.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. In this district prices were fixed by Mr. Moysey and contractors were appointed.

51. Do you receive "Dalhis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Dalhis are received from respectable zamindars and game also. Sugar is brought by Panchayats and is accepted. Sheep are accepted from 2 or 3 selected zamindars in a division. No subordinate Government servant can dare to present such things except the Mukhtiar to the officers. Mukhtiar's do send dalhis and game to some officers and not to all; game they get from the zamindars and dalhi is supplied at the expenses of the Central fund.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dalhis" and sheep?

52. The price of a sheep is 7 to 15 rupees and of dalhi from 3 to 5 rupees, unless it is sent for from Karachi when it costs from 10 to 15 rupees.

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. It is most objectionable to accept anything from Mukhtiar's and it is also open to objection to consent to the gift of sheep but as regards the present of fruit and vegetables it will really be source of keen displeasure amongst zamindars if even the fruit and vegetables produced in their own gardens are returned to them but the acceptance of such presents of fruit should be confined to those locally produced in their gardens and when they come from the worthiest zamindars, but no foreign fruit ought to be accepted nor from a man who is known not to possess any fruit or vegetable garden. The guiding principle should be that the man making the present should be a worthy man of high standing and owner of a garden and that no money should have been spent on the purchase of the dalhi. Game should be accepted from sportsmen. This slight concession ought to be made out of respect for the national feelings as it is one means of establishing intimacy between the Government officers and the public the necessity for which is growing more pronounced every day. Such small favours could easily be returned by offer of a cigar and invitation to tea.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Lapo comes from the word lap (لپ) i.e., handfuls. Lapo in Upper Sind is popularly known as 'angi,' i.e., anna of tapedar after every rupee of assessment to Government. It means now payment of money to the tapedar by zamindar at the time of the payment of the first instalment. It bears a fixed proportion to assessment per rupee or to area per acre.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'?

55. Lapo now includes numbrano (نمبرانو) kharach kabulayat (خرچ قبولیات) to tapedar in kacha lands; salyan (سالیان) to supervising tapedar; (کاری) one basket of ripe ears of grains to kotars, (کھاری) to forest guards and the mukadums of Public Works Department and (lapo) to the jamadars of the forest and darogas of the Public Works Department.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. Each form of lapo is levied from the land-owning public by tapedar; from zamindar's haris and maldars by the Forest Department subordinates and from zamindars by Public Works Department subordinates.

The ostensible justifications advanced by such subordinates is that they have to make rasai of the higher officers which they cannot do from their limited pay, hence the necessity for anagi or lapo.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Anagi is levied in this country as per each cultivated acre of land and in rare cases per assessment of land revenue.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund?

58. The strongest justification of subordinates for the levy of lapo is rasai; but from 10 to 25 per cent. of the realizations of a tapedar from lapo go towards the rasai fund, the rest is pocketed by him. By dealing a death blow to rasai no justification will be left for the levy of tapedar's lapo as otherwise the tapedars persuade the zamindars for lapo payment by

pointing out to the expenses being incurred by them and the Mukhtiarkars have to connive at tapedar's doings.

59. Rasai Fund is managed by the smartest tapedar under the direct orders of the Taluka Head Munshi. In the management of rasai, Hindu tapedars are preferred to Mahomedan tapedars and for this purpose it is always the anxiety of the Mukhtiarkar to have smart looking, trustworthy and clever tapedar at head-quarters and at other important camping places. The tapedar's pay is cut month by month and handed over to the manager of the rasai fund. He simply signs the receipt.

60. There are two kinds of payments to inspecting offices, one for lenient general inspection and another for jamabandi inspection. Jamabandi inspection payments go by turns to the district and division offices, whichever of the two happens to do the jamabandi. Except for the Head Munshi for whom lump sum of Rs. 120 is fixed, every other man gets one month's salary; besides during the stay at the time of jamabandi and of inspection they get food from the tapedars and private servants get tips and rozina (daily payments).

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?

60. There are two kinds of payments to inspecting offices, one for lenient general inspection and another for jamabandi inspection. Jamabandi inspection payments go by turns to the district and division offices, whichever of the two happens to do the jamabandi. Except for the Head Munshi for whom lump sum of Rs. 120 is fixed, every other man gets one month's salary; besides during the stay at the time of jamabandi and of inspection they get food from the tapedars and private servants get tips and rozina (daily payments).

Rasai fund is a Central Bank for Mukhtiarkar to draw upon for all sorts of expenses. Telegraph charges in certain cases, expenses of messengers by railway are all contributed from this fund. If a hired messenger is sent to call a tapedar from tapa to the head-quarter, the charges are to be paid by the tapedar. Mukhtiarkar's office, servants, peons, supervising tapedars and his kotars, are also sharers in the rasai fund. Details of payment annually made in Rohri division to individuals are as below:—

Supervising tapedar, Rs. 40 to 50, i.e., two months' salary; 20 rupees man will pay 40 and 25 man, Rs. 50.

Mukhtiarkar's servant, Rs. 5.

Divisional officer's servant's, Rs. 11.

Other taluka munshis, Rs. 14.

Divisional tapedar, Rs. 5.

Divisional tapedar's kotar, Rs. 2.

Divisional office is given Rs. 42 in aggregate for each tapa; particulars are mentioned in the margin.

Head Clerk, Rs. 3.

Head Munshi, Rs. 3.

Judicial Munshi, Rs. 2.

Other servant, Rs. 2.

Deputy Collector's camelman, 8 annas.

Taluka Head Munshi, Rs. 10.

Supervising tapedar's kotar, Rs. 2.

Supervising tapedar's servant, Rs. 2.

Tapedar's record inspection, Rs. 5.

Head Clerk, Rs. 5.

Head Munshi, Rs. 5.

Peons, Rs. 7.

Butler of the Deputy Collector, Rs. 7.

Deputy Collector's other servants, Rs. 7.

Servants, Rs. 10.

Jamadar of baggage camels, 8 annas.

In addition they get rozinas or daily payments from the tapedar for all the days of hail in his charge as detailed below:—

Munshis 1 rupee each.

Peons 8 annas each.

Deputy Collector's servants, 2-3 rupees in all.

Deputy Collector's camelman, 6 annas.

The rasai is made of the Superintendent, Land Records and Registration in Sind, as taluka form 36 and Tapedar's Forms 16, 15, 3 and survey return go to him.

Rasai is also made of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner in Sind as birth and deaths registration done by the tapedar is sent up to him.

Huzur Deputy Collector's office is paid for the scrutiny of canal returns.

Daftardar's office is also paid for the verification of the annual accounts.

61. Except in the case of big zamindars whose high handed actions are connived at by tapedar no particular favour is shown to khatedars. This payment is paid on account of the prestige they hold by being servants of Government, but in case of non-payment they can make hot for the man refusing to pay by reporting their conduct to the Mukhtiarkar and Head Munshi and thereby enlisting their antipathy towards the recalcitrant. The zamindars who do not show reasonableness in this matter, can be hauled up before the Head Munshi and both persuasion and reprimand are freely tried in his case.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. A portion of lapo is utilized by giving money presents to inspecting staff to mitigate the strictness of examination of official records.

63. The system of lapo has not been affected by the rules of 1914. The only difference is that no physical violence is used as used to be done before these orders. The lapo system on account of its established antiquity continues.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. There are no reports to my knowledge.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. Most important thing is that rasai should be stopped, that will cut the ground under the feet of tapedar and there will be no justification for him for receiving lapo.

2. No tapedar should be harmed on account of mistakes found out at inspection unless dishonest misappropriation of Government money or property and gross inefficiency are detected. This will also deprive the inspecting offices of the power of extorting money from tapedar as tapedar being no longer in fear from them will not pay them.

3. No Form No. VIII should be filled except in certain specified big villages or on complaint without the personal orders of the Mukhtiarkar. Mukhtiarkar must satisfy himself before passing such orders that the encroachment seriously affects the Government interest. Encroachment for the effective occupation and cultivation of agricultural land and of sikini land in small villages ought to be condoned.

4. No body should be hauled up in a criminal court of law for gathering firewood from ordinary revenue jungle or for cutting trees from banks of karias.

5. There should be general permission to people to construct brick-kilns in occupied survey numbers. If the occupants spoil their own land they may do it as it is their own business and they are most concerned people.

6. Tapedar should not be allowed to make any remarks on any khas-mokal correspondence or on statements prepared for penalty under section 148, Land Revenue Code. They should be compelled to state the barest facts and nothing beyond them. Any infringement of this procedure should merit dismissal.

7. No garden rates should be charged for vegetables if 1/8th of field is cultivated with vegetables. Vegetables can only be grown at a great expense, and with personal application and industry of the cultivator and liberal dose of manure. This industrious husbandry ought not to be taxed.

8. Cultivation done purely by means of wells in kharif and rabi should be charged kharif charkhi rates and it should not be assessed according to the mode of its irrigation in the past years.

9. Small kasis not excavated in violation of the standing orders should not be considered unauthorized and the khatedar should not be penalised for such an unauthorized means of irrigation.

10. If possible, creation of darbaris and chair-sitters should be stopped.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?
66. Chher. Labourers supplied by zamindar without payment.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
67. They are labourers supplied by zamindars without payment.
68. Pitching and unpitching
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
- of tents, loading and unloading of kit. Fetching fuel, grass and cots. Putting up kacha sheds and preparing ground for camp. They are also employed as beaters at the time of sport.
69. Only with the haris of influential zamindars it is an express or implied condition to do private or official work for him without getting payment. In the case of small holders or bania zamindars no forced labour is taken from haris nor such a condition would be tolerated.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?
70. In case they go out of their village to work as chheras they get food, otherwise they get neither money nor food.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your sharge ?
71. Casual labour cannot be had at the right moment.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government ?
72. There are about 70 beldars and malhis employed by Local Fund but no such beldars by Government.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
73. The zamindars are not bound to supply labour but they do it as a matter of grace.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
74. No.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ?
75. For pitching and unpitching tents, for loading and unloading kit, for fetching water, fuel, grass and for preparing camps.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?
76. On the days of arrival and departure at least 20 men and on other days 6.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp ?
77. Answered above.
78. Whence do you obtain them ?
78. From zamindars.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
79. No.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?
80. 8 annas per head per day.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?
81. Employment of 2 khalasis on private expense and 4 khalasis at Government expenses with the aid of camelmen, peons and kotars would do away with the necessity of collecting chher for the camp.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?
82. Labour for shikar is obtained from zamindars.
83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ?
83. It is discretionary with the officer who does shikar to pay wages. The beaters are generally paid in lump sum by some officers but mostly they are not paid.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?
84. Only food.
85. No extra labour would be required for the maintenance of most frequented roads if all the beldars are allowed to do their work honestly and not taken away from their duties. Most of them now serve as servants of Mukhtiarkars and his office and are utilised as general messengers of Mukhtiarkars and take post from their camps. This results in the indolence of taluka peons. The Mukhtiarkar has a generous provision of peons but their legitimate outdoor duties are done by the malhis.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. No payment is made to them but they are fed by zamindars for the days they work for them.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Zamindari labour is always secured to close breaches. Generally the zamindars supply labour who are adversely affected by such floods and breaches in canals. In some cases when breach is serious labour is also secured from neighbouring zamindars. It is in their own interest and the interest of their neighbours and no payment should therefore be made.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. Answered in No. 87.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. This work is never on a serious scale and never interferes with the cultivation work.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. During touring seasons beldars are generally taken away from their legitimate work.
91. Have you any special reports on "chher" or local orders? 91. There are no special reports.
92. The system of taking chher should be abandoned and the touring officers may be wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. Do you consider 'Chher' should be given khalasis to do work which is taken from 'chheras. Strict orders should be passed that no Local Fund beldars should be detained at an officer's camp or should work in his private garden.

Note.

Rasai is of 3 kinds:—1st—supplies of provisions without payment, 2nd—rozinas, the daily halting allowance paid by tapedars to clerical establishment and menials, 3rd—the payment of annuities in cash. Of these the 3rd is by far the most serious as it interferes with the honest and efficient administration of an office. The 1st, *viz.*, the rasai proper or the free gift of provision and supplies of necessaries is the least troublesome. This rasai is made by individuals of a village where an officer happens to encamp. It is a kind of forced hospitality. It does not affect the people beyond that village; whereas the other two kinds are paid by the tapedars and for compensating himself he has to resort to the general levy of money from the land-owning public whether near or far. The greatest sinner in the matter of rasai is not district officer but the Mukhtiarkar and Head Munshi.

There are three kinds of Mukhtiarkars those strictly honest themselves but who allow liberty to their servants to secure the customary payments. This is by far the smallest class of Mukhtiarkars. Secondly those who only take advantage of rasai system when out on tour and pay for their necessaries when at head-quarters. Thirdly those who generally maintain themselves for all the 12 months both when out on tour or at head-quarters from the rasai fund of the taluka.

Several of the Mukhtiarkars do not make an effort to suppress rasai as they themselves profit from its existence. They take shelter behind the name of the higher officials; and help in creating an opinion that it is the district officers who are to be blamed for the prevalence of this pernicious system.

The horse allowance of Rs. 12 to tapedars is quite inadequate considering the dearness of grain and grass. It is not possible for them to maintain a horse on this allowance which has to keep company with the officer's animal. In Rohri division many tapedars have to maintain a naib which costs him from Rs. 50 to 350 a year. The charges of tapedars have to be made smaller so that they can be managed by one man.

Disbursements to individuals by a tapedar and rasai expenses on his sole responsibility comes to Rs. 300, *viz.*, this swallows up his whole pay. Besides he has to contribute Rs. 4 to 12 from the lapo proceeds as the need may be for each cultivated 100 acres for the land in his charge. Pay of the menials should be increased.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. ISANI.

To the Chairman.—

The eggs and other supplies are purchased from haris by the zamindars. These are actually brought to camp by the zamindars' men. The tapadar has now no hand in procuring the actual supplies.

I feed my own servants and pay their bills at the bania shop. The peons go themselves and pay for what they get from the bania shop. The clerks also pay their own bills at the bania's shop.

With regard to my answer to question No. 40, I mean that a larger quantity of supplies is consumed by people on tour than in their own houses but they only pay for the normal quantity and not for the actual quantity consumed. No payment is made in this district for the hire of cots but it was made in the district of Nawabshah.

With regard to my answer to question No. 47, I mean that the tapadar has still to make 'rasai' as before where it is not possible to get any contracting zamindar.

With regard to my answer to question No. 51, by central fund, I mean rasai fund.

With regard to my answer to question No. 55, Numbrano is a payment varying from 4 annas to 8 annas per survey number levied by the tapadar at the inspection of crops.

Kharch kabuliyat is a payment of about 12 annas an acre made to the tapadar at the time of renewing his temporary grant of kacha land.

Saliano is an annual payment varying from Rs. 5 to as much as Rs. 50 in the case of big zamindars made to a supervising tapadar to secure his general good will.

Lapo is a cash payment varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 15 a year. It is paid to a darogha of the Public Works Department. The levy is made at the time of the harvesting of the crop.

With regard to my answer to question No. 57. These levies are 3 or 4 times in excess of the actual requirements of rasai according to a well known Persian proverb.

With regard to my answer to question No. 60, I refer to Head Munshis of inspecting officers' establishments.

The payments to the supervising tapadars are made by the tapadars. In fact all the payments therein mentioned are made by the tapadar. The Huzur Deputy Collector's office is paid by the supervising tapadars deputed to take canal returns to that office, out of the rasai fund. The Daftardar's office is paid in a similar way.

With regard to my answer to question No. 65, I include under rasai the various payments which the tapadar has to make to the various establishments. If these are all stopped then there will not be the same reasons for the tapadar levying lapo. It would prevent systematised corruption, it would not prevent particular corruption from which he has benefits to receive. That kind of corruption the zamindars would not care to stop.

In my answer to question No. 65. Form No. 8 referred to is a register of encroachments both agricultural and residential.

Khas mokal correspondence is correspondence regarding the renewals of temporary leases.

With regard to my note on rasai, hospitality would generally be forced but it would be willing both towards private individuals as well as officials in the case of some big zamindars. They also hope that they may get eventual benefits of some kind or other by showing hospitality and gaining the intimacy of the higher officials.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai.—

In my answer to question No. 39, I mean that the money generally finds its way back either to the servants or the tapadar. I do not think there is any appreciable difference between the system before 1914 and that after 1914 but I think that the violence which was before shown to small zamindars has been stopped and the evils are more subdued.

I think tapadars and zamindars should both be freed from any connection with rasai.

Mr. Monie succeeded in stopping rasai in the Nawabshah district, that is, in the Naushahro division, owing to the energies of the Assistant Collector, Mr. Pope. But it continued in the Nawabshah district, though on a smaller scale than was the case before Mr. Monie's time. I think similar results could be obtained if the officers exerted themselves all over Sind.

The only difference was the strict supervision of Mr. Pope and Mr. Monie.

The cheras ought not in my opinion to be paid for helping to stop small breaches which it is in their own interest to stop. But they are fed and ought to be fed when taken away some distance to help in stopping serious breaches. This is on account of the urgency of the matter as the Public Works Department would not be able to make arrangements otherwise in time. It would be impracticable to ascertain what each man did and to pay him accordingly for his labour owing to the emergency of the situation.

The 'rasai' fund is still maintained but the books are not kept in an open manner. As soon as the accounts are settled the books are destroyed. They keep the accounts now only on small slips of paper.

My division is next to the Frontier district. The zamindars are of the same kind all over the province. Amil zamindars are not zamindars at all. I have not served in the Guni sub-division nor in the Karachi district. Upper Sind Frontier zamindars are shrewder and more careful than the Sindhi zamindars. They are also more hospitable but with a purpose. I know because I am a zamindar and their neighbour. I know them personally.

The fear of punishment by the inspecting officers is one of the chief reasons which have given rise to the tapadar's illegal payments and the exactions made by the tapadars.

If the zamindars were allowed to convert lands for any purpose unconnected with trade it would save complaints being made by tapadars against them and would so reduce the powers of tapadars.

Milk and fuel both have a value, except in forests. An independent contractor will have no difficulty in procuring eggs and chickens in small villages if he only pays properly for them. I object to the chair holding system as it gives power over the zamindars to various departments. The zamindars are very keen on obtaining the privilege of chairs and on retaining it. I would leave it to be decided by a man's respectability and the discretion of officers.

The Public Works Department can exercise pressure on the zamindars, for instance, by making the karia heads smaller and by closing karias on the allegation that the zamindar is wasting water or unauthorisedly giving it to other zamindars. But they cannot be influenced in the matter of rotation of water-supply which is entirely in the hands of the Executive Engineer. The most important power of the Public Works Department is that of impounding cattle found trespassing on the canal banks. The daroghas and muccadams impound cattle and in some cases they have their own pounds. These men are used to obtain rasai for the Public Works Department but not to the same extent as the Revenue Department. All other departments are subsidiary departments. The Revenue Department is the Government.

The zamindars are also afraid of the Police Department. One reason is that the Police Department is the department which withdraws honours generally and another is the exercise of Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code. They also use these means for rasai and it is more objectionable in their case as they use coercion.

The zamindar does not want to stop corruption on account of his low education just as any other individual who is anxious to obtain a favour.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The zamindars are afraid of being sent up under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, if they incur the general displeasure of the police, not particularly in the matter of rasai.

The rasai in the form of getting free provision of supplies is made for menials and office establishment. The officers pay but not always at the actual rates and the amounts shown in the bills may be less than actually supplied. That might be the case of some officers.

I don't think any district officer receives supplies absolutely gratis. Some are in the habit of making nominal payments. They would get annoyed if they were asked for the actual amounts, *i.e.*, they would get displeased but would not give expression to that displeasure. The zamindar merely hopes to be in the good books of officers by making rasai. He does not necessarily expect to obtain lands.

The servants of some officers can make it hot for the tapadars if proper arrangements are not made for rasai by misrepresenting facts to their masters. Supplies are given in addition to the daily cash payments called rozana.

There is no practical difference now between the system before 1914 and after 1914 except that exactions were then demanded as a matter of right; now they are asked as a matter of favour. The tapadars used to collect in excess under the former system for their own profits. Some of the big zamindars still pay lapo in reduced form to the tapadars and at the same time make cash payments to the menial and clerical establishments.

To a certain extent lapo was stopped by Messrs. Pope and Monie. They could stop rasai because they could supervise their own establishments. They could not stop lapo because they could not supervise the collection of rasai by Mukhtarkars. Lapo has some connection with rasai but it is not entirely dependent nor entirely independent of it. It is possible for lapo to exist without rasai.

The officers' establishments inspect the records. The Deputy Collector could not do it for them: he would not be able to do the daily routine work of a Deputy Collector. It takes an office of 6 or 7 men, 10 days to inspect a taluka office. It would not be practicable to get the work done by special Deputy Collectors. 6 or 7 Deputy Collectors solely devoted to the work might do it for the whole of Sind.

The Mukhtarkars depend to a certain extent on the good will of the office establishment of the Collector and Deputy Collector in the routine work. I have worked as an attached Deputy Collector; in that case there were practically two Deputy Collectors in charge of one division. I don't think that each need tour for 210 days. I think tours of Deputy Collectors might be curtailed from 7 to 6 months without detriment to the public service.

Private contractors would give supplies at double the price for which they can be obtained by the tapadar from the market. I don't think that the office establishment could afford to pay those prices.

The zamindars levy deh kharch towards the expenses of the zamindars. It is levied at the time of batai.

The zamindars contribute as lapo from 6 pies to 2 annas per rupee of assessment and the tapadars contribute towards rasai fund in the talukas of Ghôtki and Rohri about Rs. 12 per 100 cultivated acres during the last year. In Pano Akil it was Rs. 7 per 100 cultivated acres. The total amounts collected towards rasai fund would be about Rs. 3,000 in Pano Akil and Rs. 4,000 in the Ghotki and Rohri talukas.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

The small kasis referred to in clause 9 of my answer to question No. 65 are small kasis made from a zamindar's karia through his own lands. They should be allowed where there is no engineering objection or any objection from any other zamindar.

Question No. 87. I believe in the case of small breaches the cheras are not fed either by the Public Works Department or zamindars. I am speaking from my experience as a zamindar. A great number of men have to be called to stop the breaches as the work has to be done very rapidly and all the men cannot be employed at once; they have to be employed in shifts.

The zamindar prefers this system to the enforcement of the system under the Irrigation Act. But I think the haris would prefer the system under the Irrigation Act because they would then be paid directly under the latter system.

If the establishments receive a special touring allowance they would be able to pay the extra cost of the contractor's bills, but the increase necessary would be out of proportion to their actual pay. The contractor's charges would probably be double the present prices. I am not prepared to say without working it out what would be the proper allowance for each munshi.

I think the zamindars contribute such things as milk, wood and grass but not other things towards the Rasai of the Public Works Department. They do not pay anything in cash except to the Revenue Department, and the Police Department.

The darogha has to make payments to the Public Works Department and he compensates himself by unauthorized income from contractors and the zamindars. But there is no organized system of lapo. The rasai of the Revenue Department is wider because that department has wider connection with zamindars.

If an Engineer or Superintendent of Police had to go for a particular purpose for a couple of days to any place he ought to take his supplies with himself and not to call upon contractors. He may get fuel and grass only.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah.—

The co-operation of zamindars would be necessary to stop these exactions. I don't think that co-operation could be secured by the district associations of zamindars. I have been in the Rohri sub-division since 3rd January. The figures I have given relate to the general average of past years.

The orders of the Commissioner of 1914 regarding dismissal were communicated to the tapadars. They had practically no effect.

I got my figures from a conference of tapadars and supervising tapadars.

16th April 1918.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ROBINSON,

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. A. C. Robinson. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Divisional Forest Officer, Sukkur. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 28½ years. |
| 5. Was in charge of the Forest Working Plans Division in Sind from November 1898 to June 1903 and have been in the Sukkur district since June 1913. | |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. About 2,000 sq. miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. November to May, both months inclusive. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. A butler and a cook. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Two clerks and four peons. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take all supplies which cannot be obtained in the districts, such as tinned stores, flour, rice, sugar, wines and spirits, aerated water, butter, vegetables and fruit. |
- The clerks and menial establishments take everything in the way of flour, rice, dal and spices.
- | | |
|--|---|
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require fowls, eggs, ghee, milk and firewood. Office and menial establishments require kids, fowls, milk, ghee and firewood. |
| 12. Private furniture consists of tables and chairs, crockery, cutlery, glass lamps and lanterns, teapoys, camp stretcher, bath-room requisites. | |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | Office furniture includes tables, chairs, lamps and lanterns, stools, cushions and mattresses. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Cots for office and menial establishments and camelmen and water jars. No other furniture. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Two private tents and a Government office tent. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishment? | 15. The clerks live in quarters provided for forest guards. Office peons and private servants live in camp in a servants' pal and a temporary landhi built of tamarisk brushwood. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. I require no stable in camp. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Six camel loads of office kit, including tent and furniture. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. My own office is accommodated in one of my private tents. The clerks work in the office tent. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Labour is required for pitching and striking tents, and for bringing fuel and water. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. They are not in very good condition, but camels and even country carts can get along on them all right. |

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? 21. I presume District and Taluka Local Boards are responsible for their upkeep, but do not know what agency is employed for repairs.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. No.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? 23. I employ camels for both riding and transport of kit and engage them for the whole period of my tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. A peon or forest guard carries the post daily to and from head-quarters.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. My usual camping places are—
- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Murya Chachar (Muhromari forest). | (13) Reti (Public Works Department bungalow). |
| (2) Dost Ali Jatoi (Muhromari forest). | (14) Mirpur (Public Works Department bungalow). |
| (3) Adurtakiyo (Public Works Department bungalow). | (15) Thato Malhno. |
| (4) Keti Abad (forest). | (16) Sarhad (Public Works Department bungalow). |
| (5) Garang (Public Works Department bungalow). | (17) Ghotki (district bungalow). |
| (6) Khushal Labano-jo-goth. | (18) Gemro. |
| (7) Kutta. | (19) Sadhuja (forest). |
| (8) Saliāni. | (20) Shahpur (forest bungalow). |
| (9) Adilpur (Forest bungalow). | (21) Azizpur (forest). |
| (10) Mathelo. | (22) Keti Shah (forest). |
| (11) Raoti (forest bungalow). | (23) Ding (forest). |
| (12) Gondak (forest). | (24) Pano Akil (Public Works Department bungalow). |
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. No arrangements are made.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars. 27. All of them are within practical reach of banias shops.
28. There are vegetable gardens in the compounds of Public Work Department bungalows at (1) Garang, (2) Pano Akil, and (3) Mirpur.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. This is replied to in the answer to question No. 25.
30. The forest bungalows at Shahpur and Adilpur have temporary establishments of malhis who also look after tali plantations. There is a watchman and probably also a mali at each of the Public Works Department bungalows but I cannot say whether they are permanent or temporary.

Rasai.

31. I understand the term 'Rasai' to mean the arrangement by which officers on tour and their establishments are furnished with local supplies on payment.
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. I require 2 chickens, 6 eggs, 1 chhatak of ghee, 1 seer of milk and firewood.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
33. Official establishment—Milk 2 seers, ghee ½ seer, kid 1 a week, fowls (occasionally) and firewood.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment.

Private establishment—Milk 1 seer, ghee 2 chhataks, fowls (occasionally), firewood.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri, or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. Average prices are—
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wheat | Rs. 5 to 6 per maund. |
| Juari | Rs. 5 per maund. |
| Bajri | Rs. 5 per maund. |
| Rice (1st sort) | Rs. 10 per maund. |
| Rice (2nd sort) | Rs. 8 per maund. |
| Eggs | Annas 6 a dozen. |
| Fowls | Annas 3 to 5 each. |
| Sheep (dumba) | Rs. 7 to 9. |
| Sheep (ordinary) | Rs. 3 to 4. |
| Butter | Annas 8 a pound. |
| Ghee | $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per rupee. |
| Bajri or jauari stalks | Rs. 12 to 15 per 100 bundles. |
| Firewood | Annas 2 to 3 per maund. |
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. Milk and stalks have value but firewood has no value.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of your self, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. My average daily aggregate cost comes to annas 12, the clerks' to annas 6 and menial establishments to annas 3 each.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. They are met by purchase from villagers and bania shops and are collected and brought to camp by sub-ranger and forest guards. Supplies from bania shops are obtained by each one individually on cash payment.
38. How are they paid for?
38. Payment for things collected by the sub-ranger are made to him.
39. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. I have no guarantee except that there are no complaints, and Range Forest Officers watch over the doings of their subordinates.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. They are practically the same.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the harris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. No answer.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasal' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. No answer.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. Cots are borrowed and returned. No payment is made for water jars. No other furniture is requisitioned.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. I obtain my vegetables and fruit from Sukkur. At taluka head-quarters, Mukhtarkars sometimes send me vegetables, probably from local gardens but I do not pay for them.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. It would not be possible.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. It would not be possible.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally, provided by the zamindars?
47. No answer.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. No answer.
49. I have not been able always to give timely intimation of my camps for the reason that I cannot arrange a fixed programme of tour, my movements depending on where I am required most, for departmental thinning operations, inquiry into serious forest offences, check measurement of forest works, forest fires, etc. I have intimated camps a few times but the zamindar has either done nothing or come too late. The zamindar as a rule has no interest in the Forest Department.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. No answer.
51. Do you receive "dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. No, except for the dalhi of vegetables which I receive sometimes from Mukhtiarkars at taluka headquarters.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "dhalis" and sheep?
52. A dalhi of vegetables would be worth about annas 4.
53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. I do not think that the orders of Government forbid the acceptance of flowers, fruit and vegetables in moderation from persons who can afford to give them. I have not experienced any difficulty in that way.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund?
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

54-65. I understand lapo to mean a form of exaction levied for favours bestowed. I do not think that the Forest Department has much to do with lapo nowadays. It used to be said that lapo was levied for permission to cut wood for Persian wheels, and for hedging cultivation, also to remove firewood for burning. Permission was also granted to graze plough-cattle illicitly. It is known as 'Nari' when levied at the time of sowing, 'Valh' at the time of reaping and 'Lapo' at the time of removal from dera or threshing-floor. Possibly the custom is not yet quite extinct but it is held under strict restraint. It has nothing whatever to do with rasai; there is no rasai fund in the Forest Department. The remedy is to pay Forest subordinates better, at least a living wage—Considering the work they have to do and the valuable property in their charge, their pay should be at least 33½ per cent. better than it is. Forest guards should be on pay ranging from Rs. 12 to 18. No subordinate below the grade of forester should be in charge of a round or sub-range and foresters should be paid from Rs. 25 to 50 according to grades with Rs. 15 as horse allowance.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ? 66. Chher is understood to mean free labour.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 67. Villagers and persons who own and graze cattle in forest.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ? 68. They help to pitch and strike my tents and to carry fuel and water.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 69. I do not think so. It is merely the perpetuation of a custom that has gone on from time immemorial.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ? 70. No.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ? 71. It is not available to any large extent. Most, if not all, of it is taken up in forest fellings, irrigation works and cultural operations.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ? 72. I do not know.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ? 73. I do not know, but I do know that zamindars are of no use to the Forest Department.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ? 74. No.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ? 75. Please see answer to question No. 68 above.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ? 76. Two or three boys are usually employed.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp ? 77. Eight to ten men come and work for 2 or 3 hours for pitching and striking tents.
78. Whence do you obtain them ? 78. They are maldars or cattle-graziers in forest.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ? 79. No, except that the boys get bakshish.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ? 80. About Rs. 5 for each camp.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ? 81. It would be possible to get the work done by a temporary increase of establishments, but while mitigating the chher trouble the rasai trouble would be enhanced.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ? 82. I do not obtain labour for shikar.
83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ? 83. No reply.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ? 84. No reply.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ? 85. I do not require any road repairs to be done.

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. No reply.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Zamindars provide labour.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. I do not know.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. Not at all. No loss is caused.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. I do not employ beldars.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.

92. No. I do not consider that any orders of Government are necessary. The chher system obtains in all the districts of the Presidency Proper and no exception is taken. No hardship is imposed on the people to come for 2 or 3 hours and pitch or strike an officers' tents provided of course that they are not called away from occupations the temporary relinquishment of which would cause them loss. As a fact though persons who are employed would not leave their work but would depute other male members of their family to take their place; and, after all, the few men required out of a group are easily found, and the people themselves are not unwilling.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. ROBINSON, D. F. O.

To The Honourable Mr. Harchandrai.—

There are lands in forests given to zamindars for cultivation. I think altogether 138 acres were so given last year. Some lands reserved for departmental cultivation. The land is cultivated by hars who get 10 acres free and cultivate the other land for the Forest Department. The produce of that land comes to the Forest Department. They have also their own lands in the revenue area.

I sometimes encamp near their fields. They have nothing to do with giving me supplies. There are a number of graziers in the forests called maldars. There must be hundreds of them.

The forest guard is the man who deals immediately with these maldars. He gets Rs. 9 to 10 pay. Above him is a sub-ranger on Rs. 12. Above him is the Range Forest Officer who gets Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. There are also foresters on Rs. 20 to 35. Forest Rangers are all educated men. All the new men come from Dehra Dun. The Forest guards and Sub-rangers are illiterate and foresters are literate. The Range Forest Officer disburses the pay to forest guards. I have heard that forest guards do not actually get their pay and in consequence they live upon the maldars. I think the greater part of the fees for grazing never reach Government; but that appears to have improved since the rate of fees has been reduced about 2 years ago. Now a larger total is secured by Government. I cannot say whether the forest guards or maldars make rasai for touring forest officers; it has never come to my notice. I do not think there is any rasai system in the Forest Department.

It is not necessary to employ any other agency for the purpose of securing supplies, for supplies are procurable in the places where I encamp. The sub-rangers get the local supplies from maldars and from banias and also from villagers. They get eggs, milk and fowls. I have always paid for these articles and I cannot say if they have been supplied by the maldars free.

I have never heard of any complaint that they have not received payments. I could not find the copy of the order of the Commissioner in Sind of 1914 in my office. I do not remember to have received any circular from the Commissioner, but I had one last year from Mr. Moysey. I took steps to see that the Circular was carried out. I used to write to the Mukhtarkars but the zamindars never turned up. So I stopped writing.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—There are forest contractors. I do not know if they pay a certain percentage on their contracts.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF THE HON'BLE MR. PIR BAKSH.

Preliminary.

1. Name. The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Pir Baksh.
2. Occupation. Retired Deputy Collector.
3. Extent of business or zamindari; give amount of income-tax or land revenue. Pensioner and landlord. Income-tax Rs. 35. Land revenue about Rs. 250.
4. Residence. Sukkur.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality Local Boards or Honorary Magistrate.
 - (1) 1st class Honorary Magistrate.
 - (2) Vice-President, District Local Board, Sukkur.
 - (3) President, Anjuman-i-Islam, Sukkur.
 - (4) President, Sukkur Municipality.
 - (5) Additional Member, Legislative Council, Bombay.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term "Rasai" ? Arrangement of supply of provisions.
7. How many years experience have you had in making Rasai ? I have never made rasai.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make Rasai ? None.
9. What officers frequent those camps ? See No. 8 please.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? Not known, as I have had no occasion to arrange for their supplies.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajr or juari stalk and firewood ? Do. do.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars ? Do. do.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates ? See No. 8 please.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? No-market value in such small hamlets for milk and fuel.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? See No. 8 please.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? I can't say.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? No.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? I can't say.
19. Do you have to provide also for the clerks of the officers ? No.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? I can't say.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables? No.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? Nil.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officer and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? See No. 8 please.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? Do.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? No.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? See 25 please.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? No.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? See 27 please.
29. Do you have to make Rasai for Mukhtarkats, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials? No.
30. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? See 29 please.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making Rasai? Nil.
32. Do you make the Rasai yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? I make no Rasai. I learn zamindars make rasais.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are the payments made through contracting zamindars? (1) No, *vide* 29. As to the latter part, I can't say.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? Independent contractors who are not zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? Yes, for large camps in towns and big villages only.
36. What are your special objections to Rasai and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for "Rasai" by Government? Objections are that the Rasai throws additional burden on the zamindars and in some cases on the poor haris, who are least able to sustain the same. Government should appoint special patels as I believe is the practice in the Presidency Proper.
37. Do you present "dhali" of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? I give no dhali.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? Yes, exception should be made in case of men of position.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? Exactions from zamindars and cultivators by Government servants.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments? As far as I am aware there is only one form of cash payment. The practice is believed to exist in the departments referred.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? Is lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of Land Revenue?
- I have no personal knowledge.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purpose? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, Sub-inspectors and thanedars and Forest Rangers?
- By tapedars and other subordinates chiefly for their own personal use under different pretexts.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of Rasai for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make Rasai?
- (1) No, see 42.
(2) I neither pay lapo nor make rasai.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
- (1) No, see 42.
(2) I neither pay lapo, nor make money presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
- I do not know.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
- I can't say.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
- (1) I can't say.
(2) See 42.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
- Nil.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving Rasai contracts to zamindars?
- I learn it has been suppressed, namely, reduced and minimized.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the Mukhtiar-kars?
- Yes.
- I only suggest that the giver and taker of unauthorized lapo, when detected, should be severely punished. No change of systems of Police or Revenue Department is easy for any single man to suggest. It will to great extent prevent the evil, if licenses to carry arms for shooting purposes and parwanas for chairs in Durbars are granted by the Collector only based on his personal information collected during his tour without referring to the Police or Subordinate Revenue or other Departments, and no proceedings under Land Revenue Code for unauthorized cultivation and encroachment on Government land are undertaken without personal enquiry by the Assistant or Deputy Collector. As regards khas mukul, the tapedars and Mukhtiar-kars need not be consulted.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the Revenue or Police systems or any other special orders of Government?
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
- A gang of labourers.
53. Who are the Chheras?
- Ordinary coolies, fuel-cutters, cartmen, cultivators, etc.
54. What kinds of labour are the Chheras called on to perform?
- That depends upon the nature of demands made by respective officers.
55. Do the Chheras hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
- Yes, in many cases.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? Or from the officers of Government?
- Yes, when employed by zamindars on their own account, the chheras are either fed or shown consideration at the time of batai and in giving takavi, etc.
(2) From officers in cash.

57. How many Chheras are required at the camps of different officials? I cannot say exactly.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? I cannot say.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? See 56.
60. How many Chheras are required for shikar? I do not know.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? I do not know.
62. How many Chheras, if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? I cannot say.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? Public as well as officers.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? When Local Board employ chheras they are paid; see also 56.
65. How many Chheras are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? One cannot say. It depends upon the extent of floods and breaches.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? Generally from zamindars as well as officers. But in such cases, the zamindars and villagers voluntarily come forward to close breaches as expeditiously as possible in order to save their crops, villages, etc.
67. Does the employment of Chheras interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? Not so far as I know, except in cultivation or harvest season.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? Yes, say within 100 or so; but it requires time to collect them.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? Yes, by contractor in the neighbourhood of big towns.
70. Do you consider "Chher" ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? No chher is necessary for the touring officers. For canal clearance there are contractors and therefore no necessity. For breaches in canals and bunds chher is necessary and no modification therein is necessary.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF THE HON'BLE MR. PIR BAKSH.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

I have merely heard that rāsai has been reduced since 1914. I would not contradict the statement that it has not been minimised. I left the service 12 years ago.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Husain.—

There is certainly rāsai in Sind. There is also lapo in Sind.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GOPALDAS HARUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Gopaldas Harumal Jhangiani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 1. Sub-Divisional Officer, Public Works Department. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 12 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. All the 12 years in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. About three-fourth of Rohri taluka. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Whole year. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One cook and one camelman only. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One clerk, 3 or 4 menials and 2 camelmen. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I cannot exactly say, as for myself I take everything except meat, milk and fuel. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Milk, fuel and meat sometimes. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. None. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Personally for myself cots and furniture are available at the inspection bungalows; cots for menials and water jars for all are required. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. None. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. None, as there are outhouses to all Public Works Department bungalows. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. None, as already stated above. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current records. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. None. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. None. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Bad. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Fund Department. Local fund contractors. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? | 23. Baggage camels for whole period, but if not available, bullock carts are used. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Government tapali of my sub-division brings my post. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Ghulam-jo Goth, Sahipat, Malaho, 12th mile Nara and Arore. |

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banna shops or bazars ?
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jwari stalks and firewood ?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?
37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?
38. How are they paid for ?
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds ?
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?
26. There are no camping grounds in my charge. All the above are provided with bungalows.
27. All except 12th mile Nara.
28. One only at Ghulam-jo-Goth.
29. All.
30. A chowkidar for each bungalow.
- Rasai.*
31. It has a very wide meaning. It now means supply of provision.
32. $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of milk, about 5 seers of fuel and $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of meat sometimes.
33. I cannot exactly say.
34. Prices of them vary at different camps and I cannot give the exact price.
35. There is no market value for milk and fuel.
36. (a) That depends upon what one requires, it may vary from annas eight to rupees two per day including purchases from the bazar. (b) I cannot say.
37. Fuel, milk and meat by the daroga of the beat.
38. Fuel and milk have got no value and therefore are not paid for.
39. The amount is paid to the daroga. The guarantee is that I have received no complaint upto this time.
40. I cannot say.
41. If it is greater, the difference is paid by the daroga, and the establishment under him.
42. No rasai fund maintained in Public Works Department.
43. No.
44. Yes, on payment from large towns and villages and from Public Works Department gardens whenever available.
45. Is not possible.

44. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. Same as above.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. It is not possible to give practical effect to rules of 1914 as I cannot give timely intimation to the zamindars.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitute for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. No. It is possible for large towns and villages, but it is very difficult for camps in jungles.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of collectors and zamindars?
49. No.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. No.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. Yes, dhalī worth Re. one or two only from zamindars occasionally on holidays.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. Rs. one or two.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. The orders are that flowers and the like may be accepted. I find no difficulty in carrying out these orders of Government.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. Lapo is a sort of cash taken by a tapedar or a daroga from the zamindar.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. (a) Lapo by tapedar, (b) Lapo by the daroga.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Please see answers Nos. 54 and 55. I hear they contribute some portion of it towards rasai and rasai expenses.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. I hear tapedar's lapo is one anna in a rupee and that of the daroga vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per karia head and 8 annas to Re. 1 per khuada.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. Part of lapo used for rasai purposes.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. No rasai fund in Public Works Department.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. The amounts in each case vary. There is no rasai fund in Public Works Department.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land Revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests?
61. There is no hard and fast rule about it.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. No examination of official records is made by the sub-divisional clerk, Public Works Department.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 63. No.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? 65. The pay of the menials and darogas should be increased.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"? 66. It means any gang or party of labourers.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'? 67. They are mostly haris of zamindars.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 68. In Public Work Department in case of breaches or canal clearance late in the season.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 69. I do not know.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government? 70. When employed in Public Works Department they get either food or cash payments.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 71. No casual paid labour available outside large towns.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government? 72. A considerable number of beldars is employed by Public Works Department.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 73. Please see section 58 of Irrigation Act.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 74. I do not know.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour? 75. I do not require any labour on tour.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp? 76. I do not require any.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp? 77. No tents are taken and hence no labour required.
78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. No reply.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. See please answer to question 77.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor? 80. Do.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments? 81. Do.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. I do not make any shikar.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. Please see answer to question No. 82.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Do.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. Roads are not in charge of Public Works Department.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. Please see answer to question No. 85.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Paid labour.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. They are given either food or cash from the Government: zamindars also feed them sometimes.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. I am not in a position to say as I am not a Revenue officer.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. I do not know.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. No change is recommended so far Public Works Department is concerned.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. GOPALDAS.

To the Chairman.—

I am an Overseer on Rs. 80 in charge of the Sukkur-Rohri buildings. I have been in charge of canals in other districts. My present charge includes canals as well as buildings.

The daroghas generally make arrangements for the supplies of touring officers. Sometimes they come and consult us. The milk for touring officers is got from maldars who graze their cattle on canal banks. The fuel is brought either from lands in charge of the Public Works Department or also from Revenue land. The fodder for horses is got from the zamindars. The daroghas get eggs, chickens and other small things from the villagers.

The tapadars have nothing to do with procuring supplies for touring officers of the Public Works Department.

The darogha prepares the bill and gets payments at the end of the camp. The darogha is responsible for paying for the actual supplies and I think he does pay them.

The darogha gives free supplies to the establishment for the first day and even those under him pay the costs. Generally the Sub-Divisional Officer has nothing to pay; he does pay sometimes when the cost is great. There is also cash payment made to the establishment and staff. A butler would get Rs. 2, a peon Rs. 2 to Rs. 5. The payment of Rs. 2 to 5 is made for the whole number of pattawalls. Nothing is paid to clerks.

We supply the necessary labour from our own beldars and maccadams. We don't make use of the haris of zamindars. Nothing is given to beldars for the work.

The daroghas purchase water jars and borrow cots from the haris. The darogha pays for the jars. Nothing is paid for the hire of cots. Daroghas are not paid for jars. Sometimes the jars would be old and sometimes new.

Only 4 or 5 beldars are required as the Executive Engineers now take only 1 or 2 clerks and 1 or 2 peons.

The darogha makes good his expenses by lapo levied from zamindars. Expenses of daroghas are not very much and the lapo that is levied is much more than sufficient to cover the expenses of rasai. The darogha keeps all the balance of lapo and he does not divide it with overseers and supervisors.

There is no regular practice of levying 10 per cent. from contractors but there may be black sheep who do so. I think the most they would take would be 3 to 5 per cent.; I should not think that it would be about 10 per cent.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai.—

I think if any sum is taken from contractors it might be taken separately by the clerks, overseers and supervisors. I don't think a lump sum is taken and then divided amongst them.

The contractor might think that he would gain an advantage by getting bad work passed but I don't think that bad work will be passed.

I don't think a contractor would get a canal opened before his canal clearance has been measured and so gain an advantage.

A mistri would probably first inspect the masonry work. Above him would be a sub-overseer, above him an overseer, above him a supervisor or Sub-divisional Officer.

The work would be measured by an overseer and any superior officers. In some cases the measurements will have to be taken on trust by the Executive Engineer but in many cases they are measured and checked by the Executive Engineer. If the check is made by the Assistant Engineer it would not be necessary again to be made by the Executive Engineer.

I don't think that payments made by the contractors go towards 'rasai.'

I don't think that the pay of beldars and muccadams is sufficient for them to maintain themselves. I think they take Re. 1 or Rs. 2 from cattle owners for permitting their cattle to graze on canal banks or allowing them to cut branches of trees, but I don't think they take anything from zamindars. Muccadams sometimes beg grain from the zamindar. They go and demand it though they are sometimes paid and sometimes not by the zamindars.

Daroghas could in the case of katcha sluices improperly allow an increased supply of water to zamindars. It is the duty of daroghas to report waste of water by zamindars.

I think lapo is paid as a customary payment. I can't say if it is paid voluntarily or for a consideration.

My clerks receive no payments from daroghas. My private servants get payments from daroghas. Such payments ought to be abolished. It is the Sub-Divisional Officer who has the power to recommend the widening of sluices; that means overseers, supervisors, Sub-Engineers and Assistant Engineers and sometimes sub-overseer.

The pay of overseers and supervisors is enough for them to maintain themselves.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The zamindar does not arrange for the rasai of the Public Works Department. I have read the proclamation of 1914 of the Commissioner in Sind. I can't say if Daroghas know of the proclamation. I know that rasai ought not to be done by Government servants. It is impossible for us to call on zamindars to make rasai as we have to move suddenly in case of breaches of canals and of floods.

The circular is not being obeyed as it is impossible to obey it.

The Darogha does not pay maldars for milk. They don't receive payment because their cattle might be impounded and also there is no market value for milk. Fodder is supplied gratis by zamindars.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

I can't say that all daroghas levy lapo but I have heard that some do. Even daroghas who have no camping grounds in their charge take lapo. There is no connection between rasai of officers and the amounts *i.e.*, percentages taken from contractors.

I don't think the excess when it occurs after the expenses of rasai are paid is anything very great.

The zamindars do not show any inclination to make rasai for the Public Works Department, as they do for the Revenue Department. The darogha makes rasai through his own efforts. The Darogha cannot make zamindars mend a bad road for touring officers of the Public Works Department but the zamindars might do it as a favour.

The beldars while helping at the camp do their other duties also in addition. New jars are bought when old ones are not available.

The contractors consider it as a custom that certain amounts have to be paid to the subordinates of the Public Works Department. The contractors might take that in consideration when making their tenders. The payment by contractors has nothing to do with the quality of work turned out. That is for the Executive Engineer to decide; he has to check. The subordinates of the Executive Engineer cannot know what work will be checked by the Executive Engineer. All work must therefore be done equally well.

The daroghâ has nothing to do with water after it leaves the sluices.

I don't know of any Assistant Engineer who takes a fee from contractors.

We have to change muccadams and beldars frequently. We have to change them if they don't look after the work well.

I don't think that their employment is very paying but they can live upon it.

Daroghas could be employed in making supplies in cases of emergency. In other ordinary cases it might be left to contractors.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah.—

The beldars and muccadams would recoup themselves by money taken from the maldars. They don't share in lapo taken by daroghas.

To the Chairman.—

Daroghas have sometimes to report on the increase of water supply by the zamindars but these reports are checked personally on the spot by the Sub-Divisional Officer.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ATMARAM.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mr. Atmaram. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Mukhtiarkar. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Thirty-five years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Whole time in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 272 square miles. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided for touring officials? | 11. Eggs, chickens, meat, fuel, butter, milk, grass and other eatable things are purchased from banias shop. |

- | | Assistant Collector. | Collector. | Commissioner. |
|--|--|------------|---------------|
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Cots ... 15 | 30 | 50 |
| | Jars ... 15 | 30 | 50 |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. They have got tents or they are accommodated in out-houses of bungalows. | | |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Landhis are built, if no stables are available. | | |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 18. There are office tents. | | |

- | | Assistant Collector. | Collector. | Commissioner. |
|---|--|------------|---------------|
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Good, so far. | | |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Taluka Local Board beldars are employed. | | |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 22. When special repairs are required the zamindars supply labour. | | |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 23. They engage camels for the whole period of tour. | | |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Kotars or taluka peons bring their post. | | |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. (1) Rustom, (2) Mungrani. | | |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. The Local Board malis prepare and keep it in order. | | |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? | 27. Both of them. | | |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 28. None. | | |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 29. Rustom. | | |
| 30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? | 30. One watchman. | | |
| 31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 31. Providing supplies to officers. | | |

Rasai.

| | Assistant Collector. | Collector. | Commissioner. |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies ? | 32—33.— Eggs ... 10 | 18 | 24 |
| | Fowls ... 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | Meat ... 1 | 2 | 4 seers. |
| 33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment ? | Butter ... $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 2 lbs. |
| | Milk ... 5 | 10 | 15 seers. |
| | Fuel ... $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | 4 maunds. |
| | Grass ... 4 | 4 | 6 bundles. |

Some officers keep a cow and they don't take milk and butter.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?
34. Eggs, 3 to 6 annas per dozen, fowls, 4 to 6 annas per each, butter, one rupee per seer.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?
35. No.

| | Assistant Collector. | Collector. | Commissioner. |
|---|---|------------|---------------|
| 36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment ? | 36. Rs. 10 | 15 | 25 |
| | (including charges of things purchased from bania). | | |
| 37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ? | 37. Zamindars supply articles shown in para 11. | | |
| 38. How are they paid for ? | 38. Money is paid on bill to the zamindars and bania on the last day of camp. Some big zamindars do not charge peons and private servants for meat. | | |
| 39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp ? | 39. Yes. No. | | |
| 40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ? | 40. It is equal to the actual payments. | | |
| 41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the hais or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkar ? | 41. Nil. | | |
| 42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars ? | 42. No. | | |
| 43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ? | 43. No. | | |
| 44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds ? | 44. No gardens in this taluka. | | |
| 47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ? | 47. The rules are working well and the zamindars supply things. Tapedars have ceased to collect supplies. | | |
| 48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars or zamindars ? | 48. Camps should be fixed. None for the taluka but possibly for fixed camps separately. | | |
| 49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ? | 49. Sometimes intimation is given of the camp but not of requirements. | | |

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ? 50. No.
51. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ? 51. Never.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep and whence are they obtained? 52. Dhalis Rs. 3, sheep Rs. 5 to 8. They are obtained in the bazar.
53. What are the orders on the subject ? 53. No officer should take such things from zamindars except fruit from gardens possessed by them.
- *Lapo.
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ? 54. Fixed amount levied at fixed time.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? 55. One kind.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. Tapedars levy lapo from some zamindars and for their own purposes.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ? 57. One-anna per jireb of cultivation of kharif and half anna in rabi.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasal' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasal' fund ? 58. No.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasal' fund ? 59. None.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasal' fund ? 60. It is not used for money presents to private servants or official establishment.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land Revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests ? 61. It is not exacted for particular favours, but it is a return of hospitality shown to the zamindars by the tapedars.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishment of touring officials ? 62. No.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ? 63. To a great extent as people pay assessment at head-quarters or remit it by money order.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code. 65. The collection of land revenue should take place at head-quarters during all the time of instalments and many post offices be opened to facilitate the remittance of assessment by money order.
- Chher.
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ? 66. Labourers secured from zamindars.
67. Who are the "Chheras" ? 67. Haris and villagers.
68. What kinds of labour are the "Chheras" called on to perform ? 68. To pitch and unpitch tents, to load and unload camels.
69. Do the "Chheras" hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 69. Yes.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government ? 70. They are fed by zamindars and sometimes bakhshish is paid by some officers.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
72. Many, but not at head-quarters.
72. Is any considerable staff of " beldars " maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?
72. There are some beldars maintained by Local Fund.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
73. They are not bound at all times, but out of courtesy they supply labour.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on conditions of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
74. No.
75. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour ?
75. As shewn in para 68.
- | | Assistant Collector. | Collector. | Commissioner. |
|--|---|------------|---------------|
| 76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ? | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp ? | 4 | 11 | 16 |
| 78. Whence do they obtain them ? | 78. From zamindars. | | |
| 79. Is anything paid for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ? | 79. They are fed by zamindars. | | |
| 80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the ' Rasai ' contractor ? | 80. Re. 1 | Rs. 2-10 | Rs. 4 |
| 82. How do they obtain labour for shikar ? | 82. From zamindars. | | |
| 83. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payments ? | 83. Each one is paid 2 to 4 annas. No. | | |
| 84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ? | 84. They are fed by them. | | |
| 85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ? | 85. At the time of special repairs 50 men in all ; 15 on each day for a week or so, | | |
| 86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ? | 86. They are fed by zamindars. | | |
| 87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? | 87. 50 to 300 men looking to the nature and extent of work. | | |
| 88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ? | 88. Wages paid by Public Works Department. | | |
| 89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the " Chheras " interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ? | 89. It does interfere with their work except in the months of January, February and March. | | |
| 90. How far does the employment of ' beldars ' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ? | 90. Within 6 months, 2 days in a month. | | |
| 91. Have you any special reports on " Chher " or local orders ? | 91. No. | | |
| 92. Do you consider ' Chher ' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government ? | 92. It should be partly suppressed. The officers should be supplied with khalasis. Chher will have to be obtained from zamindars at the time of floods breaches as it is not possible to get men otherwise. | | |

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. ATMARAM.

To the Chairman—

My charge is the taluka of Sukkur.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai—

I have also served in Hyderabad, Naushahro, Ghotki, Nawabshahi and Kambar. I have referred in my replies to the period after 1914. There used to be a rasai fund before

1914. It stopped after the case of Mr. Kalandar Ali. It used to be kept by supervising tapadars or tapadars at head-quarters. It was levied according to the extent of the estimated expenses of rasai. It was levied from the tapadars. The tapadar made it good from the lapo. The rasai fund would amount to 6 or 8 per cent. of the tapadar's lapo. This amount of lapo has considerably decreased since 1914, that is to say, a number of zamindars don't now pay as they send their assessment by money-order or pay it at head-quarters. Some still pay during the first five days of the instalments in their tapas. I expect that they still pay the whole lapo. I presume that those who send assessment by money-order do not pay lapo. Some zamindars have told me that that is the reason they send money by money-order to avoid payment of lapo. The money-order system has been started since 3 or 4 years. Payment at head-quarters has been allowed for the last 15 years. The money-order system has been in existence since 4 years. It was tried experimentally before that but it has been only 4 years in force throughout Sind. I think one taluka was selected for experiment in each district. I think that the money-order system came in force about the same time as the orders of 1914. The order of 1914 has an effect on the reduction of lapo.

Lapo was not paid to secure favours from the tapadars. The zamindars pay lapo as a customary payment and in consideration of civilities in the matter of cots and carpets shown to them by the tapadars, when they come to pay assessment to the tapadar at the tapas.

The tapadar has no power to oppress the zamindar. The tapadar can make an unfavourable report to the Mukhtiarkar but everything has to be decided by the Mukhtiarkar. Zamindars may probably think that the report of the tapadar will influence the Mukhtiarkar.

I think there would have been a special payment if the tapadar had to make a recommendation in respect of grant of lands.

Rasai was to some extent a hardship upon the people before 1914. I think the whole of it has ceased after the year 1914.

Zamindars selected to make supplies have been doing the work satisfactorily in my taluka. There has been no instance in which the tapadar had to make rasai in place of selected zamindars. I am quite sure that the tapadar has now had no hand in making rasai.

Zamindars get full payment for what they supply, except grass, fuel and milk, and in few cases, meat in outlying villages.

There used to be cash payments to butlers, menials and peons before 1914, sometimes by tapadars and sometimes by zamindars. Those payments have now stopped. I should have come to know if such payments had continued.

The Mukhtiarkars have nothing to do with the tapadar's lapo. It is levied in the tapas during the first five days of payment of assessment. The Mukhtiarkar cannot stop its levy at tapas, he can stop it at head-quarters. It is not possible for a Mukhtiarkar to go all the five days to all the 14 tapas.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

Before 1914 the things were purchased and then paid for out of the rasai fund. Now the things are supplied by zamindars. The present system of rasai has had no effect upon lapo. It is quite independent of rasai. Some of the contracting zamindars are small zamindars and some big. Some of the big zamindars are willing to take up the work but not the smaller ones. Big zamindars do not object because they levy deh kharch from the haris; small zamindars are not influential enough to levy deh kharch. The contracting zamindar is paid for the supplies and he still makes the levy. So it is profitable to the big zamindars. The inspection of records of the Mukhtiarkar has nothing to do with lapo. A competent Mukhtiarkar would not be afraid of the establishment of Assistant Collectors but others might.

Mr. Monie stopped rasai in the Nawabshah district. He also stopped lapo but it still remained.

The Mukhtiarkars do not keep the rasai fund for their own benefit.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The Rasai fund used to be used for the benefit of the Mukhtiarkars.

I think lapo might be stopped by making tapadars supply cots and carpets to the zamindars at tapas. How can Mukhtiarkars enforce obedience in all the outside tapas. The tapadars who do not obey could be reported and punished. Probably contractors would charge higher rates in order to make their own profits. In my opinion an allowance should be given to subordinates, equal to the grain compensation allowance. It would not be necessary in the cases of higher officers.

Even if there was an independent contractor, the officers will not have to spend more than they spend at head-quarters.

Mr. Musto did his best to stop rāsai in accordance with the orders of Mr. Monie; that is after the issue of the Commissioner's circular of 1914.

Some zamindars also complain against the Public Works Department. They also complain against the Revenue Department.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I have been in charge of the Sukkur taluka for 3 years. I don't accompany the Deputy Collector or Collector on their tour. I should come to know of cash payments in their camps if I went with them.

The Deputy Collector generally makes 6 or 7 camps in my taluka. I used to ask zamindars about them before 1914. I have not enquired lately.

To the Chairman—

Before 1914 Mukhtiarkars used to pay annual sums to the establishments of Collectors and Assistant Collectors. It was not paid by the Mukhtiarkar but it was paid through the tapadar with the cognizance of the Mukhtiarkar. I don't think that tapadars make payments now. I should have come to know if they were made. The tapadar used to pay before 1914 to the establishment of Mukhtiarkars but they don't pay now. I should have come to know if they pay still.

I am a first class Magistrate and I have been a first class Magistrate for the last 15 years.

WRITTEN REPLIES OF R. B. ASARDAS MOTARAM NAGRANI, RETIRED 4TH GRADE, DEPUTY COLLECTOR, NOW IN RECEIPT OF A PENSION OF RS. 250, PER MENSEM, HONORARY FIRST CLASS MAGISTRATE AND PRESIDENT, SHIKARPUR MUNICIPALITY.

Rasai.

6. Rasai means supplying provisions to officers at less than market rates, feeding their private servants and tipping them, feeding the office peons and tipping them, feeding the office munshis (not universally of course), tipping their servants, paying them annuities and supplying their other demands either important or unimportant according to their greed.
7. I retired after a service of 38 years, for twenty of which I served as both Mukhtiarkar and district Deputy Collector, previous to that for the most part I have served in offices where one has to meet with experience of rasai.
8. Generally officers encamp either at taluka head-quarters or at places away from such head-quarters. At every one of such camps, rasai is made.
9. So far as Revenue Department is concerned, Collectors, Assistant Collectors, Deputy Collectors and also Mukhtiarkars encamp at these places.
10. Crushed grain and barley, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, meat, mutton, milk, butter, occasional vegetables, jari stalks and fire wood are taken for the use of these officers.
14. Milk, firewood, as also occasionally jari stalks have market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns.
17. Supplies for private servants and official staff of the officers are also provided.
19. Supplies have also to be provided for the clerks and munshis of officers.
21. Water jars, cots and materials for building stables and accommodation for syces is provided without any charge or rent.
23. As a rule superior officers pay proper price for the supplies drawn by them, but the bills are generally curtailed by tapadars in consultation with their private servants, according to the tendency of the officer.
29. Rasai is also made for Mukhtiarkars and their Head Munshis; and dishonest Mukhtiarkars and Head Munshis as also other office munshis are also paid annuities. The Mukhtiarkars, the Head Munshis as well as other munshis' private servants are also tipped.
32. Where rasai is said to be made by zamindars, it is only nominal: as a matter of fact the tapedar has a large hand in it and Mukhtiarkars have not shown conspicuous opposition to the arrangement.
33. Payment is made on bills preferred by the tapedar or nominal contractors as they are styled to avoid superior officers' displeasure.
34. No zamindar would be willing to accept the contract of providing supplies nor is it possible to secure contractors. The tapedar is no doubt an objectionable feature but he is a necessary evil.
36. Rasai is a highly objectionable arrangement and should be put a stop to at once; but proper arrangements must be made for providing requirements of officers, their peons and private servants, as well as those of their official staff and their private servants, camelmen of both riding and baggage camels, should be discouraged from laying claim to rasai.
37. Presents of dhalis of fruit, vegetable or sheep to officers are not unknown, but careful officers as a rule refuse them politely or take a nominal part of it and tip the bearer.
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?
10. What supplies do these officers require for themselves?
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?
33. How do you receive payments? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. I am not in favour of discontinuing dhalis, etc., referred to in 37, as it is not advisable to kill courteous oriental customs wholesale.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo is a perquisite levied by the tapadar from land-holders. If rasai were stopped, lapo is indefensible.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. Lapo is levied by tapadars; it is also levied in the Public Works Department though in a different form.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Ordinary lapo is exacted from ordinary land-holders at one-anna per rupée in Upper Sind and at Re. 1 per survey number in Lower and Central Sind. Large zamindars however pay much less than the above rate.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, addars and daroghas, sub inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42 and 43. Lapo is levied by tapadars in order to meet the cost of rasai for touring officials. At camps, in some important zemindars' village, the zemindar has to make rasai in addition to paying lapo to the tapadar.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

44. Out of lapo tapadars make money presents to the officers' private servants and their official establishment as well as to the munshis and their private servants. As stated above, occasionally the zamindar has to pay lapo as well as to make rasai himself.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and if so what in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. If a reasonable view were taken of the matter, no tapadar will be able to show any favour in return for the lapo, though in the other case he would not fail to make mountain out of a mole hill to trouble the land-holder who refused the lapo. This of course does not include the tapadar's dishonesty practised in collusion with the land-holder to show cultivated survey numbers as uncultivated or by showing the different mode of irrigation whereby light assessment may be charged.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. Lapo has never been reduced though several means have been devised to reduce it. On the contrary, the public opinion is that it has gone on increasing day by day.

51. Although under Government orders, lapo was meant to be reduced or discontinued, have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police systems or any other special orders of Government?

51. lies in the hands of the zamindar and if Mukhtarkars and Head Munshis choose to put a strong foot on it and superior officers keep wakelul eyes, substantial improvement must take place. One of the ways to avoid the payment of Land Revenue to the tapadar is to charge no commissions on money orders for the remittance of Government revenue and other demands direct to the taluka office. This will of course throw additional burden on the taluka establishment for which suitable arrangement should be made. Collections by the tapadars under the immediate supervision of the Mukhtarkar in the taluka office is a mere farce.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52, 53 and 54. Zamindars supply their haris to assist in the closing of breaches or to serve at the officers' camp. Chheras are also employed under the Mukhtarkars' orders for repairing roads, where, as sometimes happens, the road has not been repaired at all or it has been repaired inadequately at the cost of the Local Fund and some superior officer has either to ride or drive along it.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Every hari understands perfectly well, that if a demand is made on a zamindar for chher, he is bound to render service.

56. When so employed do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. Good zamindars feed their chheras, and good officers also either feed them or give them moderate cash presents for the service rendered.

57. About 100 chheras are supplied for the Commissioner's camp, between 30 to 40 for the Collector's camp and from 10 to 15 for the Assistant Collector's or Deputy Collectors' camp. They are however employed for a few hours until the tents are pitched and the kit and records are arranged or tents are unpitched and the camels are loaded.
58. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. On an average about 25 per cent. of the number of chheras shown in reply number 57 are required to attend for a few hours daily to supply water, stalks, and wood. It has been stated in reply 57 how many 'chheras' are required for pitching and striking tents and preparing ground for the tents.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. As a rule these services are not paid for by officers.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. The number of chheras varies according to variety of shikar.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. Under the zamindar's control, chheras show no unwillingness to serve under officers for shikar. They are either fed by the zamindar or officers or cash presents are paid to them by the latter.
62. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Repairs to roads by chheras also benefit the public.
64. Officers do not feed chheras or pay them any present for doing road repair work. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
64. Where however the work is lengthy, zamindars feed them. Nothing is paid by the Local fund direct to the chheras, but good Mukhtiarkars have the road repaired by a particular zamindar's chheras entered in his name as done by contract and get him a fair amount of money from Local funds. Such services are also rewarded by presents of afrinnamas and lungis at public durbar which is very much appreciated by the people.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
- 65 and 66. Good Mukhtiarkars always see that chheras supplied to the Public Works Department in case of floods and breaches are paid for by the Public Works Department. Where such does not happen to be the case, Public Works Department are made to feed the chheras at their cost.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. As a rule, employment of chheras does not interfere with cultivation or cause loss to themselves and to zamindars.
69. It is absolutely impossible for any contractor to procure chheras independently of the zamindars unless very good wages were paid. On occasions even this would not be possible where need is immediate and important.
70. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. In my opinion chher cannot be abolished though it could be modified by some well-worked arrangement, as for instance by prompt payment of wages, daily or on completion of the work.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. ASSARDAS.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I was in service after the proclamation of 1914. The payments to servants, menials and clerks continue upto to-day. In my opinion there has been no improvement since 1914, on the contrary things have gone from bad to worse. Payments by tapadars and supervising tapadars to inspecting establishments are for the purpose of having irregularities overlooked. They are made to Mukhtiarkars, Assistant Collectors' and Collectors' establishments. The amount varies according to the size and richness of the taluka and the fact that bigger zamindars pay less than the smaller zamindars. That system also continues upto to-day.

If Mukhtiarkars choose they could stop lapo to-morrow. A troublesome zamindar, who refuses to pay lapo, will be compelled to pay lapo by the Mukhtiarkar. Many of them take an active hand in the levy of lapo.

People are sometimes assaulted in the case of levy of rasai by menials and servants. It is exacted by force from small zamindars, but big zamindars, who can afford to pay, do not mind.

Unfavourable reports have been made against zamindars who have not made proper rasai. Zamindars do expect favours in the shape of lands, chairs and gun-licenses and so forth. It helps them to get afrinnamas, lungis and chairs at the time of the Collector's and Commissioner's durbars.

The menials insult tapadars and mukhtiarkars who do not make proper rasai. They are not insulted by officers. Persons who are beaten are haris and petty land-owners. They are beaten by tapadar's kotars or Mukhtiarkar's peons. I have myself been insulted as Mukhtiarkar. The Mukhtiarkars are much troubled by various kinds of correspondence if they do not insist on the establishment getting an annuity from the lapo levied from the zamindars, therefore they have to insist on lapo being paid by zamindars. They in the circumstances have to insist on the continuance of lapo. They cannot afford to subject themselves to the continual harassment of the establishment. The Commissioner's camp might cost from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 according to the Commissioner; the Collector's might cost about one-half that; the Assistant Collector's camp will cost as much as a Collector's.

Rasai is also made at the time of a horse show for various officers attending the show and includes even food bought by Mukhtiarkars, tips to servants, vegetables and fruit brought by Mukhtiarkars. The Shikarpur horse show is reported to have cost the zamindars Rs. 1,500 each year including everything and not rasai to officers only.

The contributions of tapadars are levied by credit of their pay which might be 5 or 7 or even sometimes 12 months' pay, to the modi who conducts the rasai fund. Tapadars merely sign for the pay, but it is handed over to the modi. That modi or supervising tapadar is in charge of the rasai arrangements. The Mukhtiarkars believe that those will receive promotions, who make rasai. There have been instances of such Mukhtiarkars being favoured and also *vice versa*. I am not in favour of the system of giving the rasai to contractors independent of zamindars and tapadars, such a system would never work. It has never been tried and would prove a failure. Rasai could be reduced by officers encamping in large villages and riding out to small villages. This proved very successful in the days of Colonel Mayhew, Collector of Shikarpur and Sukkur. The tours of Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors could both be curtailed without detriment to the public service. The tours of Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors could be curtailed by about one month; I do not think that the Collector's tour could be curtailed below the present 125 days.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The Deputy Collector's camp would cost 25 per cent. less than the Assistant Collector's. The actual personal supplies for the Commissioner for a stay of 5 days would not cost more than Rs. 30. The Collector's personal supplies would cost about the same; the Assistant Collector's personal supplies would be about half of the Collector's. The Deputy Collector's 25 per cent. less than the Assistant Collector's. The rest goes in supplies and in cash both to the menials and establishment. It depends upon individuals whether there are curtailments in Assistant Collector's or Deputy Collector's bills. The Collectors and Commissioners make no curtailment; whether the supplies are paid in full, depends on whether the bills are fully prepared. I do not suppose that the Collector or Commissioner knows whether the bills are fully prepared or not.

There would be a dozen officers attending the Shikarpur horse show. It would not cost more than Rs. 150 to cover their personal expenses including their private establishment. They are the guests of the Collector and the Collector is given the bill of all their supplies. The rest is spent on various objects, e.g. prizes for wrestling, supplies of wood and fodder for horses that are brought for the horse show, and various other similar items. I cannot say how this money is collected, whether from the tapadar or zamindars or from both. The rasai fund, before 1914, was collected from tapadars and zamindars independently of lapo and in addition to lapo. The zamindars had to give supplies in addition to collections for rasai. The same system has continued since 1914. The differences if any are nominal. The whole trouble has arisen through the tapadars insisting on zamindars paying subscription also for the rasai fund. The tapadars began to collect these amounts in addition to lapo. There were no complaints about tapadars when they only collected lapo. The bills are prepared in consultation with the butlers. The prices are fixed according to the tendency of their master, but the actual amount paid is generally a matter of indifference to the Collector and Commissioner.

The success of the work of a Mukhtiarkar depends in a certain measure on the good-will of the establishment of the Assistant Collector and Collector. There are very mischievous members in the establishment who would occasionally vex the very best Mukhtiarkar.

The system of rasai is indirectly encouraged by the Mukhtiarkars; surely there are Mukhtiarkars who profit by rasai but most care to see that officers go away pleased. The supplies are not intentionally collected in excess.

To Mr. Sawhney—

An independent contractor could not get supplies. I do not think the contractor would be big enough to make it self-supporting; it is not possible for an independent contractor to work without the co-operation of zamindars and the village establishment. In my opinion it would be very difficult to substitute any other system.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I have no further suggestions to make besides those referred to in my answers to the questions. It is in my opinion a very important and complicated question.

To the Chairman—

I retired 2 years ago. My source of information since then has been the general talk and conversation with zamindars, tapadars, supervising tapadars and Mukhtiarkars.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MANGHARAM PARUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Name | 1. Mangharam Parumal. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Mukhtiarkar of Mirpur Mathelo. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Mirpur Mathelo. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. A little over 21 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. All in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 1,600 square miles in round figures. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided locally at their various camps for touring officers? | 7. Mutton; fowls; chickens; eggs; grass; milk; butter; firewood; flour; rice; ghee; pulses; potatoes; gram, barley or bhusa for horses; sugar; molasses and spices. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 13. These vary with the class of officer touring and the numerical strength of his private and office establishments. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. Dharamsallas; deras, tents (routies); zamindars' otaks and landhis are required. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. A kacha landhi is put up, if necessary. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps. | 18. If they have no tents, and dharamsallas or deras are not available, then landhis are used, otherwise zamindari otaks or in the last resort landhis are put up. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. For pitching tents and loading camels; and when no "bhisti" is attached to the camp, for fetching water. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Fairly good throughout the year. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. The Taluka Local Board who employ a suitable number of beldars, as necessary. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 22. Special repairs are rendered necessary by the visits of district officers when the Taluka Local Board establishment are unable to mend roads in time. |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 23. Carts or camels. This is different in the case of different officers. Some engage camels for the entire period of their tour; others require carts to be hired for them from camp to camp. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Kotars carry the post of the officers in the Revenue Department. The Police and Public Works Department people make their own arrangements. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. The following is a list of camping places in the Mirpur Mathelo taluka:— |
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mirpur, | 11. Shahpur. |
| 2. Hayat Pitafi. | 12. Vas-jo Daro. |
| 3. Darvash Naich. | 13. Lohi. |
| 4. Dad Laghari. | 14. Garbi Bhit. |
| 5. Chandan. | 15. Syedkhan Gabal. |
| 6. Jhim. | 16. Sono Pitafi. |
| 7. Ghullani Hussein Laghari. | 17. Gulu " |
| 8. Fahlepur. | 18. Bazarhund. |
| 9. Khangarh. | 19. Wahi Ghoti. |
| 10. Khanpur. | 20. Khuli Khensbi. |

21. Saban Bozder,
22. Jaswar,
23. Salubkhan Lund,
24. Zangeja Bungalow,
25. Pirkuksh Gabal,
26. Khusih,
27. Labholund.
28. Jivan Pitafi,
29. Pathan Goth.
30. Garbi Cheekar,
31. Judo bungalow.
32. Jhangan bungalow.
26. The Local Board maintain a malhi to look after the camping grounds and the trees grown in them at Mirpur, Hayat Pitafi and Jarwar. Elsewhere the camping grounds are kept in order, as occasion requires, by the local zamindars.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
27. All, except Khuhi Khensbi.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banna shops or bazars?
28. The camping ground at Mirpur has a Local Fund garden close by. The Public Works Department bungalows at Judo, Jhangan, Zangeja and Khanpur have vegetable gardens attached to them.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Judo, Jhangan, Zangeja, Khaupur and Khuhi Khensbi, also Mirpur.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. The district bungalow at Mirpur has a chowkidar attached to it and the Local Fund garden surrounding it has an establishment of two malhis and a pair of bullocks. I believe there is similar establishment attached to each of the Public Works Department bungalows.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. Rasai means the making of arrangements for supplies of provisions to touring officers and their staff.
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. Vide please answer to question 23.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?
33. These vary with the numerical strength of the establishments.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. Mutton ... 5 annas a seer at Mirpur.
" ... 4 " " elsewhere.
Fowl ... 3 " per head.
Chicken ... 3 " "
Egg ... 6 pies per each.
Grass ... 1 anna 6 pies per bale of 12 seers.
Milk ... 1 " 1 pie to 2 annas per seer.
Butter ... 13 annas to Re. 1 per seer.
Firewood ... 2 to 4 annas per maund.

Food grains are paid for at the prevailing market rate and sheep are not supplied in this taluka.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stales and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. Every thing costs somebody something. In some villages wood, fuel, grass and milk are not valuable but this is rare.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?
36. This varies with the requirements of each individual officer and the number of his servants.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. The supplies are provided by the local zamindars whose men bring them to the camp. Their collection is supervised by the kotar of the tapadar or of the supervising tapadar. Sometimes the tapadar himself supervises the collection.
38. How are they paid for?
38. By means of bills preferred; and these are paid up by the touring officers in cash.
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
39. There is no guarantee that the payments actually reach the real provider.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
47. Intimation of visits of touring officers are given to the Mukhtiarkar but no requisition for supplies is made in advance. The Public Works Department, the Police and the Forest Departments make their own arrangements for supplies. Their intimations to the Mukhtiarkar are merely nominal. The zamindars who have undertaken to provide supplies really shirk the responsibility and would be glad if they were freed from the task.
48. There should be a smaller number of camps. The tapadar and the zamindar should in my opinion have no hand in the providing of supplies. The Mukhtiarkar should not be called upon to see that arrangements are made. A Jamadar who should be paid an advance of Rs. 100 and who should give sufficient security should be employed for each taluka by Government to make arrangements and provide supplies. No contractor need be employed. This will prove a failure. All supplies should be obtained on printed bill forms and as the rates will always be fixed for every season in advance, the Jamadar should prefer the bills to the Treasury officer for each individual officer.
49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
51. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
53. What are the orders on the subject?
54. Lapo connotes an unofficial payment to the tapadar in respect of cultivation undertaken. It includes payments made to the Public Works Department and Forest subordinates.
55. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
56. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
57. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
58. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
- The tapadar's lapo includes—
- (i) Anagi, i.e., 1 anna per every rupee of assessment paid;
- (ii) Numberano from 1 to 2 annas per survey number cultivated.
- (iii) Kharch kabuliyat, i.e., a rate per acre from 4 annas to a rupee for land taken up on temporary leases.
40. Very favourably.
41. No answer.
42. Do.
43. No.
44. Vegetables supplied from Taluka Local Board gardens are not paid for.
47. Intimation of visits of touring officers are given to the Mukhtiarkar but no requisition for supplies is made in advance. The Public Works Department, the Police and the Forest Departments make their own arrangements for supplies. Their intimations to the Mukhtiarkar are merely nominal. The zamindars who have undertaken to provide supplies really shirk the responsibility and would be glad if they were freed from the task.
48. There should be a smaller number of camps. The tapadar and the zamindar should in my opinion have no hand in the providing of supplies. The Mukhtiarkar should not be called upon to see that arrangements are made. A Jamadar who should be paid an advance of Rs. 100 and who should give sufficient security should be employed for each taluka by Government to make arrangements and provide supplies. No contractor need be employed. This will prove a failure. All supplies should be obtained on printed bill forms and as the rates will always be fixed for every season in advance, the Jamadar should prefer the bills to the Treasury officer for each individual officer.
49. Vide please answer to question 47.
50. No.
51. Yes: of vegetables, fruits and game only.
52. The vegetables are always procured from the Local Fund garden and the shikar is obtained from the zamindars. No sheep is presented and a fruit dali costs from Rs. 3 to 5.
53. Dhalis of vegetables etc., might be accepted from zamindars who own gardens. Their refusal would look ungraceful. The zamindar would feel stung by the refusal. They should not be accepted from others who do not own gardens.
- Lapo.
54. Lapo connotes an unofficial payment to the tapadar in respect of cultivation undertaken. It includes payments made to the Public Works Department and Forest subordinates.
- 55 to 57. Lapo properly speaking, includes all sorts of payments to the subordinate Government servants, but the term is now generally used in reference to the Anagi paid by the land owners to the tapadar at the time of the first kharif and rabi instalment.

The Public Works Department and the Forest Department subordinates have their forms of lāpo and these are different for different localities.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
59. If so, who manages the Rasai fund?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' utilized for money presents to the private or officials establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
61. Lāpo is not levied for particular favours in the matter of land revenue. It has become a customary payment for conniving at very many things done by the zamindar. It is a system which has survived because the zamindar in general is by no means anxious to discontinue it else he would make complaints, forest subordinates is similar. It is their connivance at the many things which brings in their lāpo.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lāpo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lāpo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lāpo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code.
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
58. A percentage at Rs. 4 to 8 or even more in respect of the area cultivated in each tapa is paid by the tapadar towards the rasai fund.
59. A tapedar under the supervision of the Taluka Head Munshi.
60. Most of the rasai fund goes to defray the cash payments made to the clerical members of the inspecting officers, their servants and office peons. A portion of it is utilized in payments to the staff of the jamabandi officer. Dāris came out of the rasai fund and expenses, on carrying post when kotars are not available and messengers are paid out of the fund.
61. Lāpo is not levied for particular favours in the matter of land revenue. It has become a customary payment for conniving at very many things done by the zamindar. It is a system which has survived because the zamindar in general is by no means anxious to discontinue it else he would make complaints, forest subordinates is similar. It is their connivance at the many things which brings in their lāpo.
62. A large share of the rasai fund, which in itself is only a small proportion of the lāpo, is absorbed by cash payments to the staff of inspecting officers.
63. Yes, to an appreciable extent.
64. No.
65. In my opinion a new set of rules for payment of land revenue is necessary. The tapedar should have nothing to do with the recovery of land revenue or the grant of land. I should like to give further oral evidence on this point.
- Chher.*
66. Chher means assistance of labour provided by zamindars on special occasions when labour is urgently needed.
67. A chhera is a person who renders personal service as a labourer on special occasions.
68. Closing breaches in canals; mending roads, pitching tents; fetching water; loading and unloading cameis, etc.
69. Not always. Different conditions obtain in different localities.
70. Occasionally a cash payment by the officer employing chher and never in cash by the zamindar, who merely feeds them.
71. This depends upon the season. It cannot always be had at command.
72. The Local Board maintain a staff of beldars which is increased when occasion requires. Their funds however are small in comparison to the length of the roads to be kept in proper repair.
73. They are not bound to supply labour on demand except under the Irrigation Act, etc.
74. No.

75. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour? 75. Pitching and unpitching tents, loading and unloading camels, and fetching water when no bhisti is employed.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 76. and 77. Only on the days of arrival and departure is a large number of cheras necessary according to the size of the camp.
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp? 78. The zamindars supply them.
78. Whence do they obtain them? 79. Occasionally by the officer but to my knowledge never by the zamindar.
79. Is anything paid for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars? 80. As I have above said if a jamadar were employed by Government, he would provide labour for the pitching and unpitching of tents. This should be a condition of his employment.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor? 82. From zamindars.
82. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 83. They occasionally pay the beaters. The zamindar never pays the men he brings.
83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 84. Yes, only food and that too not always.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 85. Visits of superior officers of which a short notice is given, or when tongas or motor cars are used give occasion for and necessitate the employment of chher for additional repairs to roads. The amount of labour always depends upon the previous condition of the road. The putting in proper repair all the roads of the taluka just before the Collector's visit becomes one of the anxious cases of the Mukhtiarkar.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 86. No. They are often fed by the zamindars.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials? 87. This depends on circumstances.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 88. The zamindars feed them when no payment is made by Government. Personally, I have experience of all zamindar bills having been paid by Government for closing breaches.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 89. No serious loss is caused by the employment of cheras, to them or the zamindars.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 90. During touring season beldars are sometimes taken away from their legitimate work for short hours.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 91. No.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 92. Chher should in fairness be done away with. It is not confined to the Revenue and Public Works Departments alone. The Forest Department have an institution which they call "free labour" system. All these should be abandoned. Paid labour should be substituted. On emergent occasions, such as breaches in canals chher might be employed and this will give no occasion for complaint.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MANGHARAM PARUMAL

To the Chairman.—

I don't know about any lapo being levied in the Police Department. They have their own method of levying exactions.

All payments of land revenue should be received direct at head-quarters and the form of challan should be amended accordingly. A combined form of bill and challan should be introduced. It should be drawn up in triplicate by the tapadar. The zamindar should keep one of the copies and should present the other two copies at the time of payment which should be any time chosen by the zamindar within a certain fixed period. There should be no regular fixed dates for payment. The latest date only should be prescribed. The taluka office should keep one copy and send the other to the tapedar for making the necessary

entries in the records. The levy of $\frac{1}{3}$ th of assessment as fine for non-payment at the fixed date should be relaxed. The supervising tapedar should not be called upon to report in cases of suspensions of land revenue. Khatadars should not be called upon to apply for permission for making brick-kilns in their lands. The rules against cutting timber on private karias should be abolished. The arrangement by which, according to the Collector of Sukkur's order, passes for firewood and cutting 'lai' should be issued personally by the Mukhtiar-kars, should be given effect to throughout the whole province.

These remarks refer to lapo.

All Government servants should be relieved of the responsibility for making rasai. All grants of land including eksali should be made personally by the Collector. The privilege of chairs in the darbars of the Collector and Commissioner should be granted by the Collector on his own personal information. The status of Mukhtiar-kars should be raised. Their minimum pay should be Rs. 250. They should be included in one list with Deputy Collectors. They should sometimes perform the duties of Mukhtiar-kars and sometimes the duties of Sub-Divisional Officer. All district officers should make serious efforts to stop rasai. Inspection tours should be curtailed. It would be enough if the Collector toured for 15 days in a taluka and the Deputy Collectors $1\frac{1}{2}$ months at the outside. The inspection of taluka offices should be done only by the Collector himself, the dattardar, head clerk or head munshi. The travelling allowance of peons should be increased. The official staff of touring officers should be reduced. The Mukhtiar-kars should all be called Deputy Collectors. The term Mukhtiar-kars should be abolished.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

I would not altogether abolish the system of giving chairs. I think zamindars make rasai in the hope of getting chairs. They also do make rasai in the hope of getting other honours. The Mukhtiar-kars hope to get promotions by making rasai. That is their general impression. I have the impression that Mukhtiar-kars who don't make good rasai will not get promotions. I have instances in my mind. I have known of instances when zamindars and tapadars have been insulted and assaulted for not making proper rasai. No instance of that kind has occurred in the case of Mukhtiar-kars. These insults and assaults have been administered by the private staff of touring officers, such as butlers who are the chief offenders. The impression is that butlers are responsible for complaints regarding rasai and so influencing their masters. I have known of one instance in which a butler carried tales to the master and made him annoyed with the person making the rasai. It was a false representation to the master. That is why fees are paid to the butlers. They are responsible for rasai.

The bills are prepared on prices previously fixed by the Collectors and those prices are certainly below the market rates. That is in the Sukkur district. I have also served in the Thar and Parkar district since 1914.

The fowls and eggs are obtained from great distances and the charge in the bills for them is usually about one-half there. The bills are paid as drawn in full. This money does not always reach the actual provider but is taken by the butler or tapedar or sometimes the zamindar who is not the real provider. That is to say, the zamindar gets the supplies from neighbouring zamindars, or haris and does not pay them.

I have also served in the Forest department for the first 5 years of my service. I was a clerk in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer. There is a regular system of making rasai similar to that in the Revenue Department. The maldars have to bear the cost eventually. The staff purchases food and grain for cash at the shop, which is repaid by the Range Forest Officer. Meat is always obtained gratis from maldars. Milk is also obtained from maldars gratis; so also eggs and fowls. No bill was prepared for them in my time, either in the case of the touring officer or his establishment.

There is also the system of cash payments to the establishment just as in the Revenue Department. The coupe and other contractors have nothing to do with the rasai but they make customary payments to the Range Forest Officer and to the office of the Divisional Forest Officer and to the sub-ranger. Their object is to get favours in the matter of their contracts.

Maldars are allowed to graze their cattle without any charge, sometimes also in enclosed blocks when they are entitled to graze in open forests only. In the Hyderabad and Larkana divisions, which I know personally, Forest-guards do not receive their pay which is retained by the Range Forest Officer. They recoup themselves by exactions from maldars and from people cutting wood unauthorizedly. Forest guards even sometimes draw no pay but on the contrary pay lump sums to get their employments.

In some forests lands are granted to zamindars for cultivation. The zamindars have to pay handsome fees to get those lands to the Range Forest Officer and the office of the Divisional Forest Officer.

The rasai bills are often prepared in consultation with the butler and the quantity is under-stated if he so desires.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The zamindars who provide supplies pay less by way of lapo. In some cases they pay just as much lapo as before.

The system of 1914 has to a certain extent reduced rasai and also lapo. It has reduced the amount of supplies as supplies were formerly given in excess. The contracting zamindar often makes rasai for only one camp and is only a nominal contractor for the other camps where the rasai is actually made by the tapedars.

There is still a rasai fund but it is on a lower scale. Zamindars don't, as far as I know, pay towards the rasai fund in addition to lapo. Even if rasai is stopped lapo to some extent will continue.

Zamindars in the neighbourhood of forests sometimes provide free labour and, out of courtsey, eggs and fowls.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

I should not object to the Executive Engineer making recommendations for grant of chairs.

I have not served as Mukhtiar in talukas where there has been shikar but as a clerk in the Forest or Revenue department. The officers used to invite guests for shikar. I don't know what arrangements were made for payment in connection with the shikar. I have known zamindars who themselves are fond of shikar. Some of them ask other zamindars to come and shoot with them. In that case the host would pay the cost of feeding beaters. I have also known officers similarly being invited by zamindars to shoot with them. I have sometimes but rarely seen payments being made by the officers who are guests. The zamindar's guests don't pay. I have not myself been on shikar and don't know what happens there.

I think the system of hawker contractors is bound to be a failure just as much as an independent contractor. I don't think you would get a bania hawker who would go from camp to camp even for one taluka only. I think you might find a contractor for one taluka only if bills were paid at the treasury and the prices were fixed some months before and a certain profit would have to be guaranteed to him. It would then be necessary to enhance the rate of touring allowance. The allowance ought to be 20 per cent, on their pay for all officers drawing less than Rs. 300. Nothing would be necessary in the case of officers drawing more than Rs. 300.

There is always bound to be an exception in the case of emergency when arrangements as at present will have to be made. There would be no complaint of rasai being made in such exceptional circumstances.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah.—

I suggest that jamadars should make supplies for all departments. He would be a paid Government servant and might be of any community. It will be his business to employ other men himself. Rs. 50 pay a month would be sufficient for him. He would get pay all the year round though he would only work for 5 months.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. P. O'BRIEN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. P. O'Brien. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Superintendent of Police, Upper Sind Frontier. |
| 2. Head-quarters. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 13 years 5 months. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. About 11 years. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. The Upper Sind Frontier district. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. From November 1st to middle of April regular tour. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Complete establishment: in my case 8. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Three clerks and nine orderlies. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take usual stores for my own use: officials and servants are supplied locally. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Milk, wood, fowls, mutton, eggs, fodder. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Complete camp furniture for private use: table and chairs for official use. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cot, water jars, or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. One cot for each servant and orderly and about half a dozen jars. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. One, sometimes two, large tents. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. They live in servants' quarters at bungalows and in raotis when I camp in tents: office live in police station, or thana. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Stables are provided at bungalows and landhis are made at tent camps. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Two camel trunks. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps. | 18. Office is accommodated in a police-station building. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. None. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Good, in the vicinity of Jacobabad. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head quarters? | 23. Camel: engaged for whole period of tour. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Post office is made use of: if no post office at camps police sowars bring post from nearest one. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. All taluka head-quarters and several place where there are bungalows. |

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rassi'?
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. How are they paid for?
39. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with actual payments?
41. Do you pay anything for water jars, carts or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
42. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
43. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
44. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
27. All are within such reach.
28. The majority have vegetable gardens.
29. The majority are provided with bungalows.
30. So far as I know, there is one Chokidar for each bungalow.
- Rassi.*
31. The provision of supplies for the camp.
32. For clerks— $\frac{1}{2}$ seer ata, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer rice, 6 pies ghee, one pie spices, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer mutton when available, vegetables.
33. For my private use—1 fowl; 8 eggs, milk one seer, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer butter, 1 anna sugar, 1 anna onions daily. For each man— $\frac{1}{2}$ seer ata, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer rice, half seer milk, one anna ghee daily.
34. Ata 6 to 8 seers, rice 4 to 5 seers, eggs 3 annas dozen; fowls 4 to 6 annas, butter 12 annas per seer: sheep milk, bajri or jowari, stalks and firewood have no market value.
35. No.
36. Rs. 5 per day.
37. Certain articles are provided by the zamindar who contracts, who sends his servant; remaining articles are provided from the bazaar.
38. The zamindar is paid for what he supplies; the different banias are paid on the spot.
39. No guarantee.
40. Corresponds.
41. No.
42. Free from Government gardens.
43. No.
44. No.
45. No.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars?
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
56. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
57. Who are the "Chheras"?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikas?
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
47. I have found that they are unworkable as I cannot always give timely intimation of camps. My subordinates inform zamindar who supplies what is required.
48. I have no suggestions to make.
49. Not always.
51. Yes, from zamindars and sometimes from subordinates.
52. Dhalis cost 2 or 3 rupees; sheep have no market value amongst Baluch zamindars of position.
53. I accept trifling presents but discourage such as much as possible.
- Chher.*
56. The supplying of labour for urgent work.
57. Cultivators of zamindars or persons under their control.
71. Not available.
75. Not required.
82. I usually pay for the labour: if a zamindar invites me to "shikar" he provides the labour.
83. About 4 annas per man is my usual scale, sometimes they are reluctant to accept.
91. No.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. O'BRIEN.

To the Chairman—

I write to the Mukhtiarkar if there is time, otherwise I write to the Sub-Inspector to give intimation to the zamindar.

The tapadar has nothing to do with my rasai.

I don't think that Sub-Inspectors keep any rasai fund. They make no systematic levy of money in the form of lapa, I can not say whether they exact money in any other manner.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. BHOJSING GURDINOMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Bhojsing Gurdinomal. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. 22 years' practice at Mehar in Sukkur district. Income-tax Rs. 843. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Sukkur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Municipal councillor. |

Rasai.

6. (6) Supply of necessaries and luxuries to officers of all grades and denominations, their establishment, clerical, menial and personal, including the cost of feeding other subordinate officers attending the court and other establishment of all kinds, of feeding police escorts, witnesses, visitors, gratis or at nominal rates.
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

These all being incidental to the camp.

(2) Money compensation, in lieu of or in addition to food supplies to the clerical, the personal and the menial establishments.

(3) Cost of keeping conveyance for meeting unusual demands or obtaining articles without previous notice from head-quarters or distant stations and payment of freight, etc., for such articles.

The object being to keep officers and their establishment in good books, to obtain favours particular and general, grants of land, license of arms, chair, &c., to prevent harm being done or that they may be useful.

- 7 and 8. Not owning land, I have no personal experience, but being in touch with zamindars, revenue officers and establishment and the people for at least 20 years and having had to attend camps of various revenue and magisterial officers on business, have had much information of its extent and evil.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?
9. Revenue officers frequenting the camps are the Commissioner in Sind, the Collectors, Divisional Officers, Mukhtiar-kars; also officers of other departments (e. g., of the Engineering, Forest, Judicial, Educational, Military departments, the Manager, Encumbered Estates); thus all officers who require the Mukhtiar-kar to arrange for their camps.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?
10. What supplies do these officers require for themselves?
10. Fowls, eggs, butter, gram for horses, rice, sugar, meat, fuel, suji or maida for loaf or pies, spices.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
11. The supplies are obtained in different ways for different officers—

(a) In the case of the Commissioner in Sind, the arrangement is done by the Mukhtiar-kars, and his village establishment, unless the Commissioner desires a particular zamindar to arrange for his camp.

A depot is prepared in advance by the Mukhtiar-kar who calls a conference of big zamindars in the vicinity of the camp and distributes the duty of collecting different things amongst them, chiefly fuel, grass karbi, fowls, eggs, butter, sheep, lamps, milch cows. Rice, gram, sugar, vegetables, fruit, liquor, are usually obtained from towns.

The Mukhtiar-kar is responsible and supervising tapedar is usually in charge.

(b) In the case of the Collector, no depot is formed: usually a big zamindar in conjunction with the supervising tapedar or tapedar arranges the supply in the same way. If the zamindars in the neighbourhood are small, the village establishment has to make arrangements.

- (c) In the case of Deputy or Assistant Collectors, the zamindars, if big, wholly; otherwise the tapedar and the smaller zamindars.
- (d) In case of the Mukhtiarkars, the tapedars almost wholly. Zamindars pay for 2 or 3 or 4 camps.
- (e) In the case of District Police Officers, the zamindars have directly little to do. The Sub-Inspector arranges by calling on each zamindar to supply articles annually which are stored by a Jamadar in charge; in case of deficit, it is to be made up. Cash is also contributed. The police jamadar usually extorts Rs. 5, 10 or 15 on many applications sent to him for inquiry, and this collection forms a central fund. If there are sudden or extraordinary demands by still higher officers arriving, zamindar and khatedars are to supply the necessary additional demands to the Sub-Inspector on the spot. No pressure is spared at such times.
- (f) In the case of Forest Officers, the duty devolves on the ranger and sub-ranger, who obtains the supply from the cattle owners by a previous collection and from such zamindars as own land in the forest or from fuel contractors. The forest rangers allow the whole of their pay to be appropriated to the rasai and live upon cattle owners.
- (g) In the case of Engineering officers, the darogha does the work, supplies being derived from the zamindars concerned in the irrigation.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. 12. Milk from haris or from banias, if haris have already sold their month's supply to them called mondriars.

Provisions from banias.

Eggs from haris or from towns.

Meat from haris, lambs got from them: if they are not sufficient, purchased.

Butter from haris or from zamindars.

Gram from the village or town banias.

Vegetables from bazar or from Local Funds or private gardens.

Karbi from zamindars, haris, or purchased.

Fowls from villagers in the bazar.

Fuel from the Revenue jungle, chiefly a small quantity from zamindars' survey numbers.

13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? 13. Zamindars or tapadars pay at bazar rates for all things except fuel and karbi taken out of their own stock, and except for milk and butter forced out of the haris' mouths.

The average rates in the bazar being—

Fowl 8 to 10 annas.

Eggs 2 to 2½ pice per each.

Butter 1 ser for rupee.

Milk 2 to 2½ annas per ser, if purchased from a bania.

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. They all, except fuel, have value. Haris sell karbi and milk and butter. Therefore they have value.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. Yes. Nothing except use of cart.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 16. It depends on the officer's butler. The quantity he demands and the articles he demands must be supplied: the officer does not care to know it himself.

Quantity demanded ordinarily for one Assistant Collector or Collector or such officer per day, living European fashion—Eggs 1 to 2 dozens, 2 to 4 fowls, milk 4 to 5 sers, 3 paos butter or 1½ lbs., sugar 1 lb., suji 2 lbs, gram 6 sers for each horse, jowari karbi 8 to 10 bundles.

Usual cost per day per each such officer is Rs. 5. If the butler is not otherwise satisfied a rare article is demanded which must be supplied by a special conveyance being sent over to the town for it.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? } 17. and 19. Yes, for all kinds of establishments, official, personal and menial and also for other persons who attend camp, including pleaders, their munshis, visitors, etc.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? } 18 and 20. (a) Each munshi gets through his servant (in Collector's or Assistant Collectors camp) 1 pao to 1/2 a ser of ghee per each 8 annas.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies.

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| 1 ser of flour and rice | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 4 annas worth almonds, pistachio, sugar-candy, liquor, spices | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 1 ser of milk | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 1/2 ser of meat | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 eggs | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 fowl, sometimes | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Excluding the last about Rs. 1-5-0 a day. | | | |
| (b) Peons gets each, in lieu of flour, rice, etc. | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 1/2 ser meat | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 1 ser milk | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | 0 | 12 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| (c) Officer's hamal, sowar and servant cash as above | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 1/2 ser meat | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 1/2 ser milk | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 0 | 11 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (d) Butler, same as (c), but instead of 8 annas | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| (e) Camelmen each 1/2 ser treacle | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 1/2 ser meat | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1/2 ser milk | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| (f) Loading camelmen, 1st day, each | 0 | 4 | 0 |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|

Besides the above, a butler gets Rs. 5 to 25.

Deputy Collector or Assistant Collector—

Per camp, the amount depending upon his favour with the sahila.

Peons Rs. 5 per camp. Rs. 2 per partal.

All servants Hindus and Mahomedans, Rs. 8 per camp.

Collector's butler (ordinary) Rs. 100 per taluka.

„ Peons Rs. 10 per taluka.

Daftardars, peons and servants about Rs. 15 to 20 per taluka.

Other servants Hindus and Mahomedans, Rs. 20 to 25 per taluka.

Besides the cost of bringing vegetable, conveyances, etc.

The cost can be easily calculated.

21. Jars are brought from potters without money. If no potter available tapadar or zamindar must buy. Cots are got from villagers without cost. Landhis' materials from zamindars, except patals and lighter material purchased.
22. About 8 annas for dilas, if purchased. About Rs. 2 per each small landhi, and about Rs. 20 for a big landhi for officer's horses or motors.
23. Full payment is never received. The bill contains what the butler dictates, otherwise zamindar or tapadar is in disgrace, for the officer's food is spoiled and the blame is on the zamindar or the tapadar.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

In the bill, rice, sugar, karbi, grass, gram, busa are usually not entered. Officers' bill contains hardly $\frac{1}{3}$ th to $\frac{1}{6}$ th the value of articles supplied. Fowls are paid for at 2 to 4 annas each (purchase price being 8 to 12 annas or 10 to 12 annas). Milk paid at the ancient rate of 1 anna, though purchased at 2 to 3 annas. Eggs paid for 3 pies, though purchased at 2 or 2½ pice.

The quantity actually supplied is partially shown in the bill.

Deputy Collector's or Collector's butler stands outside or goes to the zamindar or tapadar soon after and receives back the whole bill paid.

To the establishment modi gives a receipt but never is paid by them with very few exceptions amongst clerks—these exceptions also so far as their individual expenditure is concerned. Their servants are unrestrained.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. The burden falls on the zamindars and haris.

First on the zamindar, who during harvest charges hari—

Each hari is charged about 3 to 4 daris, 15 to 20 seers per each kharar.

“ “ one cart karbi per pair of bullocks.

1 cart fuel for each pair of bullocks,

6 annas cash

Besides milk, lambs, butter, which may be needed.

The deficit, the amount of which depends on the number of officers encamping, is on the zamindars.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25 and 26. Sometimes an otak is lent. No additional cost is involved, except building, if necessary, a kacha lavatory or landhi for servants. Cost negligible.

26. If so, does it cost you anything add do you receive payment?

27. The zamindars or tapadars, as the case may be, have to supply all conveyances

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

without cost: they are to be in readiness for bringing all kinds of extraordinary supplies demanded by the officer, his butler, his clerks, to bring all kinds of articles received from the station, fruit, vegetable, post. In some cases special dak arrangement is kept when distance from a railway station is great.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. No answer.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for Mukhtiar, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. Yes. Please see answer 11. There are only different ways of collecting rasai; the system of creating an annual depot for officers in other departments is more in vogue.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. No payment is made to the zamindar; Sub-Inspector, daroghas or sub-rangers never pay the zamindar even if they receive any payment, the latter being very doubtful. Cannot give the cost of it.

The Mukhtiar's camp costs about Rs. 15 to 20 per day.

An Assistant Collector's about Rs. 40 to 50.

A Collector's camp about Rs. 75.

A Commissioner's camp about Rs. 200 per day, including all expenses.

Average about Rs. 500 to 600.

31. It all depends on the number of occasions officers encamp. The Commissioner's camp in the mofussil gives a sudden jump to the average amount. If the Commissioner gives the honour of making arrangements to a particular zamindar it rises to about Rs. 2,000 or more, including all arrangements, roads, cher, etc.

32. Zamindar and the revenue establishment. Contracting zamindars exist no longer.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? If they do, it is only in name. It depends upon the officer concerned. In the case of Collector and Commissioner, the Mukhtiar and his establishment is responsible. If there is a big zamindar, the whole of the cost of Collector's camp is on him. If a zamindar is unable to bear the whole cost of a camp, it is to be met from a Central Fund, called the deb kharch collection.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
33. Bills are prepared by the zamindar or tapadar, whoever is in charge, no contracting zamindars really exist. They get bills to pay back there and then.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars?
34. Contractors are a farce and involve heavier burden than before, specially in case of bigger zamindars who are asked to arrange and yet get nothing and continue to pay the ordinary perquisite. Independent contractors are preferable provided they belong to towns. Bania contractors belonging to the deh, in which the officer is encamped, will always be paid up by the zamindar and it will serve no purpose.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. It is a difficult question. Like the Military Commissariat, if advantageous rates are offered and tenders invited, it may be done.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. Chief objections are—
- (a) It necessitates a collection of a deh kharach (central fund), which is a burden on every khatedar.
 - (b) It operates as a hardship on the poor cultivator and his family.
 - (c) It opens a door to favouritism and access of the zamindar with and to the officer and places the poorer at a considerable disadvantage.
 - (d) It places the most respectable zamindar and the subordinate, making arrangements, at the absolute mercy of the butler and the peons and munshis, and is a source of degradation to him, the officers being often more willing to listen to their personal servants.
 - (e) It impoverishes the zamindar and is one of the chief sources of the zamindar's indebtedness.
 - (f) It demoralizes the officers themselves.

Recommendations.

The Commissioner's tour in villages and the Collector's camps in villages or even head-quarters serve no purpose whatever, except their own recreation. According to the present system, the only inspecting officers are the Mukhtiarkars, Assistant Collectors and the Daftardars. The Commissioner's visits should be confined to large Municipal towns, not even to taluka head-quarter stations. The Collectors should visit for a short while, the head-quarter stations only, to sign inspection papers. The present orders prescribe 125 days' tour out of head-quarters for the Collector, 210 days for the Assistant Collector or the Deputy Collector, unlimited for the Mukhtiarkar, whose daily allowance of Rs. 2 per day instead of Rs. 25 per month, as before, is an incessant temptation to be out. The Collector does no partal, the Daftardar does a certain percentage which he can do from head-quarters. Also Jamabandi is done at head-quarters. The Collector's only function on touring is to look to the neatness of the village by walking through it, to look into the schools and pass a good remark or bad, to get petitions and endorse them to the police or the Mukhtiarkar, which can be done better at head-quarters, to shoot to the great inconvenience of the ryot, sit in his tent and dispose of papers, which can be better done at head-quarters. There is no function of a Collector or Commissioner which requires his tour. The Deputy Collector or Assistant Collector has to do inspection work to visit places, to grant lands, to visit and decide forest boundaries, see birth and death registers, pound and school registers, examine salt and bhang licenses and try badmashes or murder cases. None of these are urgent or require his presence outside often except inspection, which can be done by few camps at very large villages.

The Mukhtiarkar can be easily confined to his old travelling allowance and should be compelled to return to head-quarters every day, if possible. Similarly, the tour of heads of other departments and their subordinates require to be considerably curtailed. An Executive Engineer or his Supervisor, a Divisional Forest Officer or his assistant or Police Inspector need not be out long and encamped at small distances.

Government need not make arrangements for rasai. Remedy lies in the officer's unbelief of his servants when complaints are brought to him—

- his self-denial, if things, could not be bad,
- his refusal to receive anything from the zamindars or the village establishment,
- his paying his servants or peons himself out of his pocket or get their present bhatta of 2 annas increased to 4 annas,

in shortening the number of camps and confining them to large villages or towns, and
in appointment of independent contractors.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officer? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Zamindars do, and so do Mukhtiarkars out of 'deh kharach. It is a pernicious practice. From the Mukhtiarkar to the lowest zamindar this is done. It costs from Rs. 5 to 25 per dhali.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. At once.

Lapo.

- 39 and 40. Payment to the tapadar, supervising tapadar in the Revenue Department, to the beldar and daroga in the Engineering Department, to the ranger and sub-ranger in the Forest Department, to the police jamadar in the Police Department, in cash or in kind in some fixed proportion. It is a kind of burden on the cultivation.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department and also in the public works, police and forest departments?

In other departments, except revenue, it partakes of kind—a certain amount more, than in cash, cash amount is usually fixed in their case for the lowest subordinate.

Note.—This does not include any variable payment made to a particular officer on any particular occasion for any particular favour to be done or disfavour to be avoided.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41 and 42. (1) Tapadars levy, in the case of very large zamindars a lump sum, in consideration of these zamindars taking up some camps. In case of small zamindars 1 to 1½ anna per rupee; in case of very small, even 2 annas per rupee.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

(2) Four annas to one rupee per jireb for khas mokal land in the kacha.

(3) One rupee per number for kabul land, at time of grant, from bigger zamindars; at the rate of 4 to 8 annas par jireb from smaller zamindar.

(4) On taccavi payments, a certain percentage, varying between 15 to 25 per cent. to the tapadar or supervising tapadar, whoever recommends. This is to be distributed amongst the second munshi, khazanchi, tapadar and supervising tapadar.

(5) On kilns ijazatnamas.

(6) On transport passes for fuel, at fixed rates—

Supervising tapadars receive an annuity from the zamindars.

(2) an annuity from the tapadars.

(8) From taccavi or any special work daroghas—

(i) in lieu of not molesting cattle owners, by charging them falsely with having grazed their cattle on the bund,

(ii) in lieu of not molesting agriculturists, by not reporting them for having wasted the canal water,

(iii) for favours done, or harm avoided in the matter of supply of water, they receive annually certain amounts in cash and in grain.

Sub-Rangers—

(1) for allowing cattle owners to graze freely,

(2) for not falsely impounding cattle taken even outside the forest,

Receive cash amounts at fixed rate and butter, milk, etc., according to fixed quantity.

Rangers and Forest Office—

From fuel contractors. The former in kind, from Maldars.

Engineering Department—

Percentage on bills paid from contractors.

PART II

Policemen—

- (1) for not sending zamindars' haris under section 119.
 (2) for recommending zamindars or their relations for arms, or chairs or lungis.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Yes. And also to benefit the receiver, as below:—

In the Revenue Department there are two occasions for collecting the land revenue, in February and in June. Tapadars receive anagi at these occasions, and other payments at their season. One man amongst the tapadars is in charge. The whole of the tapadars' pay, or a major portion of it is retained by the tapadar in charge; usually about 8 months' pay is thus appropriated. Officers tour from November to February and February to June. Account of expenses incurred is taken at the end of the collection time. Each tapadar is to contribute towards this fund, according to the area in his tapa under cultivation.

The salaries deducted are set off against what is due from them. Then each tapadar pays the deficit, if any, or gets credit for excess payment. The balance, if any, of the anagi or other payments belongs to the tapadar. Lapo therefore is partly an aid to the rasai, in paying naibs, who assist them in their work and partly a bribe from the zamindar not to be troubled in his daily dealings with the tapadar or other lower Government servants except that paid by contractors, which savours of a bribe.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Yes. (a) Lapo serves for paying annuities to several munshis and clerks in the Collector's and Daitardar's establishment.

- (b) Assistant Collectors' establishment.
 (c) Mukhtiar's establishment.
 (d) Treasury establishment for inspection of returns.
 (e) Menial establishment in other departments.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. They are paid to avoid unnecessary molestation or difficulties in inspection or correspondence: the officers have hardly mind to look into matters themselves and therefore this lubricator is necessary.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and if so what in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. In case of revenue department, the adverse report of a tapadar as regards re-mokal or shifting of boundaries or of insufficiently repaired boundaries is a powerful instrument and other small molestation.

These can be avoided. The rest is answered in Q. 42.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Zamindars and tapadars know the exact amounts.

Tapadars, supervising tapadars, land grant munshis, beldars, daroghas, surveyors, forest sub-rangers, forest rangers.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar's?

50. No. The anagi must be paid.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police systems or any other special orders of Government?

51. It cannot be stopped by modification of rules; it can never be stopped, for every man has his price for the favour he does, and disfavour he abstains from. It can be minimized in the Revenue Department by—

- (1) raising the pay of the tapadar,
 (2) shortening their beat and giving them naibs,
 (3) reducing the drain of rasai,
 (4) making khatadars more self-respecting by listening to their needs with sympathy.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher is labour without payment or with nominal or short payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
- 53 and 54. Chheras are cultivators or cattle-owners impressed into labour to do officer's work—
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
- (a) to clear and level roads, forests, to watch camps, to carry water or post or to do errands or bring articles,
- (b) cultivators impressed into bund-making work or on engineering works without or with short payment in flood season as well as before,
- (c) special labour service, to pitch tents of officers and to attend officers on shooting excursions.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. No, there is no such understanding. No such condition has ever been recognised or even asserted.
56. No chheras receive anything in cash in camps. The zamindars feed them for the days they are in camp, whole of the cost is to be borne by the zamindars. Officers out on shooting sometimes choose to give a pittance or a lump sum to the chheras on duty in the jungle. No other payment is made on any other occasion. Chheras on bunds in inundation season do get some payment.
- (b) Cultivators are taken away from cultivations by the zamindars during busy cultivation season at the request of the Engineering department to supply labour to their contractors when their other labour runs away on account of low rates; to the great detriment of cultivation.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. About 50 at Collector's camp, more at Commissioner's, about 25 at Assistant Collector's camp and about 15 at Mukhtiar's camp. On second day and after, they are less.
58. The number is shown in answer 57; but for clearing the ground and preparing camps and roads about 100 men are required; when the Commissioner's camp is to be prepared all roads are to be set in order; and if he has to go out in a particular direction, new roads have to be constructed in which case as many as 300 to 500.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Nothing except sometimes chheras at shooting excursions.
60. All depends on the time the officer is to do the shikar and the area prepared for the purpose. About 100 may be necessary in the case of higher officers. The number of officers shooting determines the number of the chheras taken.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. Never willingly.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. A large number. It all depends on the number of roads repaired at the same time and the suddenness with which they are called upon; 50 to 500 may be necessary.
63. They are useful to the public as well but as these repairs are never thought of till the Collector or the Assistant Collector goes on circuit, it cannot be said that roads are repaired for the benefit of the public. Public convenience does not enter into the consideration of the officers in charge.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?
64. No, none except meals from zamindars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. All depends on the extent of the breaches,

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Nominal rates. Zamindars spend a large amount for feeding them.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. It does; it takes them away from their cultivation at all times to their great detriment; it causes loss to the zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68 and 69. Much cannot be had in the neighbourhood of zamindars except when rabi is growing and does not require much tending.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 70. Chher ought to be abolished. Payment should be made at full rates.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. BHOJSING, PLEADER

To the Chairman—

My experience extends over the districts of Larkana, Nawabshah and Sukkur.

I have encamped in small villages.

I generally stayed with Mukhtiarkars or the Munshis of the Deputy Collector or Collector.

I have no experience of making rasai for myself in small villages.

The liquor is country liquor or even brandy for clerks and wines if there is a great demand for guests of the Collector or Commissioner.

My information is derived largely from my professional experience, particularly as to the manner in which supplies are obtained by the police.

Harsh language and threats are usual things, and if any beating is also given, it is given by the police.

I am referring generally to the supplies which have to be provided by zamindars.

The average given in my answer to question 30 is the average given per zamindar.

I mean taluka stations by head-quarter stations.

I have never been actually out for shooting. I don't know what happens there. What I have said, I have heard from the zamindars. Many haris are busy in the fields from November to March. That would depend upon the amount of rabi cultivation.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai—

Messengers are sent to Sukkur to get wines and English liquors. The tapadars often come to me with letters from the Mukhtiarkar. The Mukhtiarkars and tapadars say that they are for touring officers. The Mukhtiarkars say the money for these wines is spent from deh kharch.

I believe that tapadars have been assaulted for not making proper rasai, even by officers themselves and also by butlers.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

Generally the provisions are supplied by the zamindars. In town rasai, they would not be supplied by zamindars. In big villages the zamindars provide and in small villages, the tapadars.

If rasai ceases, lapo might be reduced, but it is not possible for it to cease altogether.

To Mr. Sawhney—

Wines are required once or perhaps twice a year for the camps of the Collector and Commissioner. Wines referred to are champagne and claret. I don't mean to say that wines are demanded as rasai, but it is a kind of present.

The abkalani is a very difficult season for touring.

The checking of canal clearance is from the middle of April to the end of May. It is necessary for the Executive Engineer to check the work and go on tour throughout the year. He needn't make so many camps.

I wouldn't object to the chheras being employed if they were paid the market rate of labour at the particular times they are employed.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I think that the tour of the District Superintendent of Police could be curtailed like the Collector's. I am aware that records and reports have to be examined by District Superintendents of Police. Outposts are not fixed at particularly criminal places. They have been increased to give employment to Sub-Inspectors.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MENGHRAJ H. KALVANI, B.A.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Menghraj H. Kalvani, B.A. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Deputy Collector, Kandhkot. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Twenty-three years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Do. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. 1589.82 square miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Six and a half months. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One syce, one cook and one boy. |
| 9. What official establishment accompany you on tour? | 9. My office establishment consists of six clerks and four peons. From one to three clerks and three peons accompany me. The rest are generally left at taluka head-quarters. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. Vide the appendix. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Myself—Grass, fuel and milk. Establishment—Fuel, milk and mutton. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. All necessary furniture such as chairs, tables, teapots, cotton and woollen carpets. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. A cot per head and a jar for every one or two persons. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Two tents and two rowties. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Office tent and rowties. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Whenever the camp is not in a bungalow or near a musafirkhana a kacha landhi covered generally with lai, bushes or karbi is temporarily built by the local zamindar. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current year's records. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps. | 18. Office people are accommodated in a tent provided by Government. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Five or six men at the time of pitching and striking tents, and two or three otherwise. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Pretty good. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Board. Beldars. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? | 23. Camels engaged for the season. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Kotars. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Taluka and tapadars' head-quarters and Public Works Department bungalows. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. Camping grounds are put in order by Local Fund beldars. |

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
27. All excepting two.
28. The one at Kandhkot.
29. None.
30. One man to each bungalow.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
31. Supplying of ordinary perishable requisites not available at the village bania's shop and not easily transportable.
32. Four bundles grass; 1 pound milk; about 10 sers fuel.

33. Private servants and establishment per head—

| | Peons. | Others. | Articles. |
|---|----------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? | 1½ pound | ... 1 pound | ... Rice and flour. |
| | 1 chatak | ... 1 chatak | ... Ghee. |
| | ½ pound | ... ½ pound | ... Mutton. |
| | 1 anna | ... 1 anna worth | ... Sweets, spices, &c. |
| | 1 pound | ... 1 pound | ... Milk. |

About 2 maunds fuel for all. Peons are generally fed by the zamindar outside taluka head-quarters.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowar stalks and firewood?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. They are paid for in cash, except in the case of milk, fuel and grass and sometimes mutton when no butcher is available and it is supplied by the local zamindar, who does not charge for it.
39. How are they paid for?
39. None beyond the statements made by the bania, the zamindar and tapadar in reply to personal enquiry, and absence of complaint.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Excepting in the case of menials, actual payments equal the average actual costs.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapadars or mukhtiarikars?
41. The Baloch zamindar, who has his own notions about hospitality refuses to charge for things he has not to pay for, when he feeds peons or sometimes supplies mutton to the establishment.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtiarikars?
42. No.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No. The materials are returned to the zamindar.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. No payment is made when they are sent.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service? 45. No, beyond what I am already doing.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service? 46. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 47. Tapadars have actually ceased to collect supplies after the orders of 1914.
48. (a) A system of making seri grants to small landholders on the condition that they would supply on payment labour and provisions not obtainable from the village bania might be tried. The smaller the landholder, the better for he will not have the means of supplying anything gratis.
(b) I do not think so.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 49. Yes as a rule.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 50. None.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. Very rarely, but vegetable and fruit only, and that too from highly respectable zamindars.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? 52. About two or three rupees.
53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government? 53. (a) The orders are contained in Government Servants Conduct Rules, paragraph 2.
(b) No.
- Lapo.
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 54. Lapo is an illegal gratification paid periodically by zamindars to departmental underlings.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? 55. Vide the appendix.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. Lapo is paid by zamindars to the tapadar with the sole object of bribing the latter into conniving at the irregularities of the former and not being troublesome otherwise.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 57. Lapo is levied by the tapadar in a lump sum during the time land revenue instalments are collected.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund? 58. Not in this sub-division.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund? 59. None.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund? 60. Three or four rupees a year on an average is spent, I am told, by the tapadar on this account from his own pocket. It may possibly be a little more.
61. The zamindar pays lapo to the tapadar with a view to gain favour of the latter in general so that the latter might not put him to unnecessary loss by showing wrong mode of irrigation in his number shumari etc, and that he might also desist from reporting him for using an unauthorized source of irrigation, or wastage of water, for encroachments on village sites or cutting trees, etc.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. There are no special reports. Local orders issued draw the mukhtarkars' attention to the subject at the time of visuli and enjoin personal interest on their part in the matter of eradicating the evil.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
78. Whence do you obtain them?
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for 'shikar'?
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
62. For the last five or six years I am told no cash payment is being made.
63. Yes. Some zamindars do not pay it at all. Others pay very much less than they used to do.
65. Vide appendix.
- Chher.*
66. Labour at the beck and call of a zamindar on particular occasions.
67. The zamindar's cultivators.
68. The chheras at an officer's camp assist in pitching and striking tents, loading camels, fetching water and fuel and keeping watch at night.
69. Yes; there is an understanding between the haris and the zamindar who uses them not only in connection with an officer's camp but for various private purposes also.
70. They are, I am told, generally fed by the zamindar. No cash payment is made to them by officials or zamindars.
71. Not available.
72. Yes, by Local Boards.
73. They are not bound to do so.
74. No.
75. Vide reply to question 68 above.
76. Two or three, including watchmen.
77. Three more.
78. From the local zamindar.
79. Vide answer to question No. 70.
80. Casual labour not available. A rasai contractor would not be able to get it without the local zamindar's help.
81. No.
82. I do not go out for shikar.
83. Inapplicable.
84. Do.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. No such labour required by me.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. Inapplicable.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Zamindari labour.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. So far as I know they are fed or paid by Government, unless zamindars specifically undertake to do so themselves.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. None to my knowledge.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. A few beldars help in camp arrangements at taluka head-quarters but this does not interfere with their legitimate duties.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. None.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should, wholly or partly, be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. I would suggest that chheras employed should be paid their wages at a fixed rate irrespective of the wishes of the local zamindar.

Appendix.

10. Being a vegetarian, I take with me for myself and two of my servants, provisions consisting of flour, rice, ghee, pulses, spices, potatoes, etc., and a bag of grain. My office establishment, with the exception of peons, take with themselves a few days' provisions, which they replenish from time to time.

55. According to my information, so far as tapadars are concerned, there was only one form of it, called anagi, prevalent in the sub-division at a rate varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6-4 per every 50 acres of cultivation. Now too some zamindars pay lapo, though they do not admit it, to officers in a lump sum varying according to the nature of the season. A few do not pay it at all.

65. The most effectual means is moral courage on the part of the zamindar, who should refuse to pay it. The following suggestions may also be adopted:—

- (1) Land revenue should be recovered at taluka head-quarters only.
- (2) A zamindar may be permitted to present a challan with his bill of assessment without first having it verified by the tapadar. The suggested procedure will increase work in the taluka office and involve the entertainment of an additional munshi.
- (3) Postal commission on land revenue money orders should be reduced.
- (4) Only qualified persons, who aspire to be Mukhtiarkars, should be appointed supervising tapadars according to the new scheme, raising the scale of their pay.
- (5) Fixing a higher rate of pay for the tapadar and other subordinates.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. M. KALVANI

To the Chairman—

There are 30 bunga'ows in my charge which I make use of. Most of the Public Works Department bungalows have vegetable gardens attached to them.

The daily cost for myself and my servants is nothing, because I take all supplies with myself and purchase nothing locally, while on tour.

A seri grant is a free grant of land.

The supervising tapadar's pay varies from Rs. 35 to Rs. 40. There is a scheme which will come in force next year raising it to Rs. 45 to Rs. 75.

I don't give the chheras any money present on leaving my camp. I know of no arrangement having been made for chheras under the Irrigation Act.

It is customary to have watchmen at night in the camp.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai—

I have been for the last 24 years Deputy Collector in the Upper Sind Frontier. Before that I was Deputy Collector in the Kotri sub-division. I have been 10 years Deputy Collector—about 3 years Mukhtiar. I was 5 or 6 years Deputy Manager and Assistant Manager of the Encumbered Estates. I was 2 or 3 years in the clerical establishment. I served also in the Larkana district as Deputy Collector.

I have no personal experience of rasai but have acquired some knowledge of it. The general characteristics of rasai are the same throughout Sind.

The zamindars of Upper Sind Frontier think that it would be below their dignity to charge for those things for which they don't pay, e.g., milk, fuel, karbi and mutton. In that respect I think the Upper Sind Frontier zamindars differ from those of the rest of Sind. The proportion of large zamindars in the Upper Sind Frontier is very much greater than in any other district of Sind. They are mostly Baluchis and some of them are the Sardars of their tribes. The head of each division of a clan is a Sardar and therefore there is a great number of Sardars. They differ considerably from zamindars in all other parts of Sind.

The small landholders have never had to make rasai in the Upper Sind Frontier.

The Deputy Collector, Mr. Isani, is not a Baluch. He is a Drakhan (carpenter) and has got no lands in the Upper Sind Frontier.

I was a few months in the Upper Sind Frontier in 1910 before the issue of the circular of 1914. The system of rasai fund and cash payments to the establishment did exist in 1910 and before that. The circular of 1914 has had effect in the Upper Sind Frontier in the matter of rasai because Mr. Martin, the then Deputy Commissioner, took great pains to enforce the circular. So far as I know, the rasai fund has stopped after 1914. That is the result of my private enquiries. The tapadars used to collect the supplies from zamindars before 1914. The tapadars do not collect the supplies now. The tapadar has been removed from the management of rasai; the supplies come as before from the zamindar, those supplies which I have mentioned in my written answers.

The zamindars did pay cash payments to the establishment by way of tips, and I think they continue to do so. I can't say from my personal knowledge whether the bills presented to officers represented the actual supplies and actual prices. I can't say, as I buy nothing locally and get no bills. No complaint has been made to me by zamindars or others that they have not been paid in full. So far as my enquiries go there have been no complaints. In other places I have learnt that the bills don't represent the correct cost. I can't say about the quantity.

The banias used to supply the things direct before 1914, but whether they were paid by the tapadar or by the servants who bought the things I can't say. Now the banias bring the things to the camp when the village is not very close. I don't think zamindars pay for the banias' supplies. I am quite sure that the bania gets full payment, as far as my camp is concerned. I make personal enquiries at every camp.

I certainly think it is a hardship for people to pay from their own pockets for the supplies of others. As things go, it may be a hardship in other parts of Sind, though not in the Upper Sind Frontier.

I believe the rasai fund is formed by fixed amounts levied from tapadars and the fund is managed by a supervising tapadar, head munshi or mukhtiar; the tapadar recoups himself out of the lapo. What is paid to the rasai fund is a small part of the lapo which is collected at the time of assessment. The tapadars' pay used to be kept in deposit towards the rasai fund. It used to be 2 or 3 months' pay, according to my information, but not so much as a whole year's pay.

The zamindars used to recover something from the haris by way of deh kharch to make good their payments of lapo. I don't know of any separate levy of lapo on account of the rasai fund by tapadars from zamindars.

The zamindar pays Rs. 1 or 2 to the servants and pattiwallas when he comes to see the officials. I don't know of any other payment by the zamindars to the servants at the time of camp. The servants still get Rs. 3 or 4. I don't think that each tapadar would have to pay more than Rs. 3 or 4 to the private servants of officials at the camp. I don't think that the tapadar recoups himself for this small amount.

There is no fixed payment to the establishment by the zamindars. I have heard of tent-pitching fees paid to the butlers of some officers. I don't know what is its amount and it depends upon the kind of officers and their butlers. I know of one case in which a cook assaulted a chhera and on my making a complaint to the Collector, the cook was punished and dismissed. It is quite possible that such cases might on some occasions go unnoticed and unpunished. I have no personal knowledge.

I don't think that mukhtiarkars make good rasai in order to get promotions. They get promotions according to their seniority and merits.

The tapadars do, in general, fear the adverse criticisms of the establishments of superior officers, and so do make payments wherever there is a rasai fund. It is to a certain extent the same with the mukhtiarkar. It depends to a great extent on the mukhtiarkar. If he is a really good man, he will not care.

I couldn't curtail my tour in view of the amount of work expected from me. I don't think that I can curtail my tour to 6 months. I have already curtailed it to 6½ months.

No big zamindar in the Upper Sind Frontier would take a seri grant on condition of doing rasai.

The present system of rasai may continue for the present in the Upper Sind Frontier. I have no better system at present to suggest. I am in favour of the abolition of rasai in the rest of Sind. I never arranged rasai as a mukhtiarkar.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I think zamindars in some cases supply fowls and eggs gratis. Very probably all the perishable articles are supplied in some cases gratis. I can't say how far, as I have no personal knowledge. The big zamindars don't like the idea of working as contractors—they send their own kamdars. They don't like to be called contractors. They think that that is the work of a trader and not of a Baluchi zamindar.

Rasai exists to the extent stated in my written answers. I think the rasai fund did exist after 1914 in Kotri. I was under the impression that it did not exist but I came to know that it did exist. I can't say who managed it. Cash payments were made to menials and clerical establishments at Kotri.

I selected one bania for each camp to make supplies, while I was at Kotri, and my establishment including peons were bound to purchase supplies from that particular bania. I saw that payments were made to the bania, and the clerks paid in my very presence.

The rasai fund was not utilized as far as my camp was concerned. I came to know that it was used for the purpose of other camps.

I don't think that annual allowances are now paid in the Upper Sind Frontier to the head clerk or head munshi of the Deputy Commissioner, to Deputy Collectors and the Mukhtiarkars.

Even if rasai ceases lapo will continue.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I think the Public Works Department use beldars as watchmen. I can't say whether they have got watchmen.

I think chheras should be paid at fixed rates in cases of canal breaches. I don't think that they should be paid for the whole day when they only work for some hours. If they are paid they needn't be fed. It would not be possible to measure the work in the cases of canal breaches, but the men could be paid daily wages. It would be possible to say whether the men have done a full day's work; they are supervised very strictly.

The seri holders would have to make rasai for all departments. The amount of seri grant would have to vary according to the area for which the grantee would have to supply provisions. He would have to work himself and not employ agents or other persons. I would give a seri grant for 1 or 2 tapas according to the area of the tapas. I think that the grantee could attend to 2 or 3 officers' camp at the same time.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

It would be practicable in the Kotri division for officers to encamp at big places and then ride out to small villages, but it would not be possible in the Kandhkot division where the distances are much greater.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHAINRAI KISHINDAS, B.A.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Chainrai Kishindas. |
| 2. Appointment | 2. Mukhtiarkar, 5th grade. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Fifteen years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Ten years were spent in the Larkana district and the rest in the Upper Sind Frontier. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. The area of the taluka in my charge is 463.12 square miles. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Eggs, fowls, butter, mutton, milk, karbs and fuel. Some do not take butter and meat. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 13. That depends upon the establishment of the officer concerned. Each man gets a cot and about every two men receive a jar. No other furniture is provided. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. The private and official menial establishment live in tents or out-houses of the bungalows. The clerical establishment live in tents. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Where no public buildings exist, kacha landhis are erected for the purpose. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 18. The office is held in a tent provided by Government. The Deputy Commissioner holds office in his private tent. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. Labour for pitching and striking tents and loading and unloading kit and other odd jobs is provided at each camp. I should estimate the number of men at 15 to 5 being detained for all the time of the stay. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Taluka Local Board beldars and malhis. They are paid by District and Taluka Local Boards. |
| 22. No special repairs are done, unless the particular road has been rendered impassable by rain or canal water. In that case the Local Board establishment does the work. In rare cases this is supplemented by zamindari labour, especially when the damage happens to have been caused through his neglect, and then he does not demur. The road when repaired first serves the convenience of such a samindar and his haris. | |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 23. The district officers use camels. Casual visitors use carts. The former maintain them throughout the tour and the latter are provided with carts. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. There are two post offices in the taluka and when the camp is in those villages the post is brought by mail runner there. Else tapadars' kotars bring out the post. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Generally head-quarters of tapadars. There are 3 camping grounds in the taluka. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. A Local Board employe looks after the camping grounds. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or basars? | 27. Two of them. |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 28. None. |

29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. None. In one case a bungalow is at a little distance.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. A chowkidar.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 31. Rasai connotes arrangements for supplying such necessities as cannot be taken out in camp by touring officers.
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. The daily requirements of an officer on tour usually are,—2 fowls, 6 to 9 eggs, 1½ seer of milk, ¼ lb. butter, ¼ maund karbi and ¼ maund of fuel.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. The quantities of requirements would depend upon the strength of the establishment of the touring officers. The district officer's establishment would consist of 30 men, all told. They would require—2 kids, each weighing 4-6 seers, 15 seers of milk, 10 maunds of fuel. The other necessities are either taken along or purchased from the village shop.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jauri stalks and firewood? 34. Prices vary. A monthly return is sent to the head office. Average retail prices for these articles at Jacobabad in the last year worked out to—
- | | Rs. a. | | Rs. a. |
|------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Wheat ... | 5 9 per maund. | Eggs ... | 0 6 per dozen. |
| Rice ... | 6 13 " | Fuel ... | 0 7 per maund. |
| Butter ... | 1 8 per seer. | Kirbi ... | 0 6 " |
| Fowls ... | 0 8 per one. | Sheep ... | 4 0 per head. |
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. No. The zamindars do not part with these things for money. Such a bargain will be considered out of place and derogatory.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 36. There being no saleable value of milk, karbi and fuel, the daily cost of an officer's requirements provided come to Rs. 1-8, and of the rest to Rs. 3-8.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. The zamindar gets the above articles collected and his kamdar brings them to the camp.
38. The zamindar presents a bill of the articles to the touring officer and gets payment himself or through his kamdar. He does not charge for milk, fuel and karbi to the officer, as he himself does not purchase these articles. I do not think he charges the establishment for mutton as it is not sold retail in the mofussil. Most of the zamindars in this taluka own herds and they possibly provide from their own stock. It is not unoften that ready-made meals are provided by zamindars for menial establishment as they keep to their hereditary "bathi" system.
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 39. I will not vouchsafe that on no occasion the amount received in payment is not given back to the officer's servants as bakhshish.
40. How does their estimated average daily-cost compare with the actual payments? 40. They correspond.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by heris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 41. There is no excess.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. There is no rasai fund in my taluka.

43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No payment is made for use of water jars, cots and materials for stables. They are taken back by the zamindar's kamdar when the camp breaks.
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. There are no gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by the Taluka Local Board in this taluka.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. The zamindar of the village has been the supplier since 1914. The tapadar has ceased to be the collecting agency. When the responsibility lies on more than one zamindar, the tapadar may be determining the apportionment of the responsibility.
48. I cannot think of any.
48. The zamindars require to be educated, that they might resist the unreasonable demands made upon them. The holding of this enquiry may serve that purpose. It will not be possible to obtain a contractor to do the work now devolving on the zamindar, as its nature and extent are not such as would be remunerative. He cannot do it without the zamindari aid, and this will not be forthcoming unless the responsibility is principally the latter's.
49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. Yes.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914, or any special local orders?
50. I know of no special reports nor of any local orders except such subsidiary ones as were issued for the observance of the orders of 1914.
51. Do you give "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
51. No.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
52. As I do not give dhals I do not know its cost.
53. What are the orders on the subject?
53. The orders forbid the acceptance of dhals except such as are of trifling value.

Lapo.

54. Lapo may be said to be derived from labh, i.e., profit, or lobh, i.e., greed. Lapo signifies a share of produce taken out for all sorts of artisans in lieu of their work for the zamindar and kurmis. Some quantity called deh kharch is similarly taken out from the gross produce and retained by the zamindar who incurs the deh kharch, which presumably includes the tapadar's levy. In official terminology it means levy of some fee in the nature of illegal gratification, which seems to carry some sense of recognition on account of its old existence.
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. Tapadars' levy is termed lapo or angi just as the levy by other departmental subordinates is termed saliano, i.e., annuity, or sekro, i.e., percentage.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. I understand the tapadars receive lapo from zamindars to replenish their pockets.
57. The exaction of lapo has completely ceased here, but I will not vouchsafe that the landholders do not tip the tapadars instead. The determination of the amount is, I believe, now entirely left to the good will of the zamindars, and it varies with the prospects of the year.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Sai' fund?
58. To no extent whatever. There is no rasai fund in my taluka.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. None.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land Revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
60. I am not aware of any presents being regularly made by tapadars to the private or office establishment of touring officials. There may be occasional tipping.
61. Particular favours conferred by departmental subordinates cannot be said to be covered by lapo, saliano or sekro.
62. To no extent whatever.
63. The orders of 1914 have changed the form of levy altogether. It is no longer an exaction. The zamindar, to secure the tapadar's goodwill, makes a tip.
64. There are no special reports. Special orders are received during the collection days to see that no levy is made.
65. I encourage the direct payments of land revenue into the treasury and prohibit tapadars from receiving amounts larger than Rs. 200, and tell khatedars that I would accept challans of whatever amount, direct, and give them the treasury receipts. The following figures will show this:—

| | Total collections. | Paid direct into the Treasury. |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1915-16 | Rs. 3,86,707 | Rs. 2,85,500 |
| 1916-17 | " 4,69,847 | " 3,07,072 |
| Kharif 1917-18 | " 1,82,967 | " 1,02,918 |

(2) The remittance of land revenue by postal money order may be further facilitated by (i) remission of the commission fee and (ii) providing the khatedar with money order forms duly filled in, together with the usual assessment bill, so that he may simply hand it at the post office window with the money and not request any one else to draw up the form for him.

(3) The allowances of village and other departmental subordinates in lower grades may be substantially raised, so that they may be able to withstand temptations. At present these hardly suffice for subsistence of a man and wife.

Chher.

66. Chher implies labour employed without ostensible remuneration in cash. It usually conveys the sense of impressment of labour, for rendering which, however, there exists some tacit understanding, and therefore response is made without much demur. It has become an innate item of agricultural avocation.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. They do various jobs for the zamindar and for the public functionary when called upon by the former to do so. Primarily they do gap chher, i.e., wet clearance and close breaches in rajana karias. The other jobs for the zamindar, so far as I know, are—
67. Those that till the land are chheras.
- (1) Providing transport.
- (2) Providing grass and fuel.
- (3) Working on field-houses requiring to be put in order.
- (4) If the zamindar wants a well to be sunk it will be the kurmis who will gather to do that.
- (5) Cultivation of seri lands—the produce whereof is appropriated by the zamindar without division with the tiller of the soil.
- (6) In short, for every work pertaining to the zamindar in relation to land or otherwise, when combined labour is needed, he can always rely on his kurmis.

The work done by chheras for public functionaries are described in answer No. 75.

59. To provide chher is the chief condition attendant upon tillage of soil. This comes to be embodied in documents when a zamindar distributes land to the kurmis and advances them subsistence money. A zamindar would never waive his right to demand chher from the kurmis even if the latter were to promise a larger share of batai. The absence of this condition would deprive the zamindar of all control over the kurmis and without this power he can hardly call them his raj. However much civilization may quarrel, this last vestige of feudalism is not likely to disappear soon. It will have been generally seen that a zamindar is more pleased with his raj of a tribe different from his own and prefers to employ kurmis of other tribes because the men of his own class will take advantage of that tribal connection or not give proper chher. The money value of chher may be realized from the following cases I know of:—Zamindars favour their kamdars or private servants by permitting them to get some fields cultivated. Such fields are termed khalsas; the tiller of this class of land enjoys the privilege of remission of chher and in lieu thereof he divides his share of produce with the servant in question in the ratio of $\frac{1}{4}$: $\frac{3}{4}$ or 1: 2. It will thus be clear that the kurmi gets his ordinary share of produce not only for his work on the fields he cultivates, but for that and his responses to zamindari call for labour on other works of various sorts.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
70. The zamindar often times provides meals for the day when a larger number is called out. No cash payment is made by them. Officials rarely make payments.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. No answer.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
72. The strength of the staff is:—
1 daroga, 4 muccadums, 73 beldars and malhis.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. There is no legal binding, but in respect of roads damaged through their neglect they consider themselves morally bound to assist, if called upon.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. No.
75. For what purposes do touring officer require labour on tour?
75. Local labour is required for the following purposes:—
(1) Clearing of camping sites, if there is no regular site available.
(2) Pitching and unpitching of tents.
(3) Loading and unloading of kit.
(4) Bringing water, fuel, etc.
(5) Keeping watch at night.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?
76. About five men.
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp?
77. About ten to fifteen more men.
78. Whence do they obtain them?
78. The zamindar provides them.
79. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. No payment is made for such labour. For the second part see No. 70.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
80. It will not be possible to obtain casual paid labour. A rasai contractor would be unable to arrange this unless the zamindar again comes in.
81. How do they obtain labour for shikar?
81. The zamindar provides chheras. In Jacobabad there is a shikari who engages labour which is paid at day's wages by the official. Adequate payment is usually made to beaters.
82. What do they pay the men? Is their difficulty in making them accept payment?
82. If the zamindar himself happens to be present, he puts in a word that the payment need not be made, but this is not usually followed.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. May be sometimes.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. See answer No. 22.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials? 86. No payment is made by the officials or zamindars.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. The zamindars provide labour. The breach reduces supply in one and augments it in another part. The zamindars of both parts are interested in closing the breach. They therefore gather their men, when informed.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. The Public Works Department provides food. The zamindars sometimes feed their own men and are rewarded in durbars for their promptitude and liberality.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. There is no appreciable interference with the agricultural pursuits, nor is there appreciable loss.
90. How far does the employment of beldars interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. The beldars are rarely disengaged from their legitimate work.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. Chher cannot be suppressed as the idea is much too old to be rooted. The zamindars would resent it. See replies Nos. 66, 68 and 69. As for their employment to a lesser extent by public functionaries, the following measures are suggested:—
- (1) As far as possible camping places may be fixed in each taluka at convenient distances keeping in view the facilities needed for a camp.
 - (2) Provision of camping grounds at such places equipped with a well and sufficient number of landhis to be used as kitchen and stables.
 - (3) Provision of a godown in such grounds equipped with sufficient quantity of fuel and grass and some cots and jars. These might be purchased first at public expense and then sold or let to users; the menial staff receiving their dole gratis. The deficit may be borne by Government.
 - (4) The Government paid chowkidar may be enjoined, if possible, to keep poultry whence fowls and eggs could be provided to officers on tour on payment.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHAINRAI KISHINDAS, MUKHTIARKAR.

To the Chairman—

I mean by the neglect of the zamindar his allowing watt^{er} to flow over the road.

The bathi system is that under which a big zamindar keeps up a regular kitchen for all visitors to his village of all classes and communities.

Lapo may be derived from lap a handful.

The seri lands are those which are kept under the private control of the zamindar and which he makes his haris look after for him for nothing.

With regard to my answer to question No. 72, I mean that the staff therein mentioned is maintained by the Local Boards.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I was for one year Head Clerk to the Deputy Commissioner and for the remaining 5 years I was Mukhtiarkar in the Upper Sind Frontier. I have not been Mukhtiarkar anywhere else. I have been for the most of my time in one taluka and have remained for a few months in other talukas.

I have no rasai experience in other talukas. The tapadars made rasai before 1914, but even then in the villages of big zamindars it used to be done by those zamindars. It was more frequently done by the zamindars.

In about 6 places out of 7 rasai must have been done by the zamindars.

The only difference since 1914 is that now responsibility has been fixed on the zamindars. The tapadars used to prepare the bills; now they are prepared by the kamdars of zamindars. I think all the supplies actually received by the officers were entered in the bills properly, but possibly not all those received by the servants. I do not think that supplies were undercharged. Sometimes I went into the question myself. I corrected the prices if necessary, as, for instance, raising the price of fowls from 4 annas to 6 annas. The tapadar used to try to undercharge. I stopped it where it came to my notice.

The clerks and pattawallas got supplies free except those which they got from bania's shop, for which they paid directly in full. Pattawallas might probably be getting even provisions free from the bania. In that case the bania would be paid by the zamindars. The clerks would get a bill from the bania which was settled at the end of the camp. The head munshi and sherishtedar used to make payments as they took supplies from the banias. I think the clerks got the signature of the bania on his account books. The payments were not really made by the tapadars but were made by the clerks. Now the cash payment is made by the zamindars. The tapadars might have paid for the expenses of menials from his own pocket in small villages; otherwise it was recovered from zamindars. The tapadar recouped himself by receipt of lapo. I think lapo must have been levied with a view to its being used partly for rasai. I had no hand in the levy of lapo. I was never asked for help by the tapadars for the levy of lapo from the zamindars.

There is no rasai fund in the Jacobabad taluka. There is such a fund in other parts of Sind.

There are 5 zamindars in my taluka maintaining the universal bathi system. These zamindars only provide those things which cannot be carried on tour.

The rasai has been less since 1914. The zamindars are not so liberal in complying with the extravagant demands of the establishments of touring officers. It has reduced the amount of lapo. I cannot give the proportion; I should think, by half. The tapadars used to pay the establishment before 1914, to win their favour. Even then the establishment did not spare the tapadars, and it does not spare the tapadars now. So far as rasai means getting things gratis, it is an evil. It would be much better if it is removed.

I cannot think of any other substitutes or suggestions than those mentioned in my written statement.

We never write to the zamindars as contractors. I do not think they like it. We do not examine the accounts of our contractors.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The zamindars used to supply eggs and fowls to the high officials on payment and all the supplies to the establishment free. The clerical establishment is only supplied meat free. Other articles are paid for.

The zamindars did accept payments for eggs and fowls but not for milk, and some of them would not like the payment for meat because the meat was taken from their own flock. I do not think that zamindars keep fowls in the Upper Sind Frontier. They generally take them from their kurmis and pay for them. I do not think that officers will like to be guests of the zamindars unless pressed. Some are anxious to have officers as their guests.

The butlers may be consulted before drawing up the officer's bill as the butler's demands are extravagant, but the officers only want their actual requirements.

I do not think that large sums are paid to the butlers of officers. No zamindar told me how much he has paid to the Collector's butler.

Inspection by higher officers has nothing to do with cash payments. Lapo will continue if rasai ceases, though in a reduced form.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NARAIN DAS MOTARAM.

Preliminary

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name, | 1. Naraindas Motaram. |
| 2. Occupation | 2. Retired Deputy Collector. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari, give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Pension, Rs 250 per mensem. Income-tax Rs. 78-2 per annum. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Shikarpur, Sind. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Boards or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Member of the Shikarpur Municipality. |

Rasai.

6. Rasai means the act of pleasing, so as to win a favour. In common parlance rasaiwalla means a person who gives or supplies the most in the shape of articles of food, drink and even cloth, cash and ornaments.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making Rasai? 7. I have had about 30 years' experience of rasai, though not of making it.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make Rasai? 8. Not for me to answer.
9. Generally speaking, Commissioners, Collectors, Assistant and Deputy Collectors, Mukhtiarkars, the judicial Commissioner, the District and Sessions Judge, the Superintending Engineer, the Executive Engineer, the Assistant Engineer, the Sub-Engineer, the Supervisor and the Overseer in the Public Works Department, the District Superintendent of Police, the Assistant and Deputy Superintendent, the Police Inspector and the Sub-Inspector of Police, the Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, the Educational Inspector, the Deputy and Assistant Deputy Educational Inspector and officers of the Postal Department, take the rasai. In fact I know none of the travelling officers and their establishments who do not take rasai, with individual exceptions, of course.
10. All sorts of supplies are taken by officers and their establishments, and provisions, vegetables, fruit, ghee, butter, mutton, goats, sheep, kids, fowls, eggs, grass, fuel and spices are supplied.
11. Grain and rice are supplied by the village bania and eggs, fowls, milk, butter, bajri and juari stalks are supplied by the hari. Goats, sheep and kids are supplied generally by maldars, who graze their animals in the zamindars' holding or in Government waste land, but sometimes by the hari.
12. Do you get them from your hars or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? 12. Vide answer to No. 11.
13. The articles had from the bania are paid for either by the zamindar out of the deh kharch perquisite, which he takes out of the produce at the time of batai or out of the rasai fund held by the Mukhtiarkar or, as is more generally the case, by the taluka head munshi or sometimes by the principal supervising tapadar. This applies to the Revenue Department. The rasai of the officers of the Public Works Department, which is the most corrupt department and which causes wastage of a large portion of the public revenues, is done by the subordinates of that department, who in their own turn fall upon the zamindars or the contractors. The Forest Department is another very corrupt department. The rasai of the officers of all the departments is done by their respective subordinates.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. Milk, stalks and firewood are not sold beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns. But surely they cannot be had for nothing or for the mere asking.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. Firewood costs labour. It is had from either the jungles or from the zamindars' waste lands.

16. It varies according as the officer is single or married. Sometimes, if he has guests, as in the Christmas shooting season, the cost is heavier. But butlers take a great deal more in the names of the officers, and some Indian officers take valuable articles, e. g., legs for cots, cloth, dry fruit, black pepper and the like, because they are paid for out of the rasai fund.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ?
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ?
17. They are supplied.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?
18. One rupee per head.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ?
19. They are supplied.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?
20. One rupee per head.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables ?
21. These articles are supplied. Cots are taken from the haris and water jars from the village potter, who is allowed a fixed perquisite out of the yield of the village lands.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ?
22. They cost nothing, but the cots are sometimes broken and in many instances the water jars are broken or taken away by the servants or other menials.
23. Barring a few exceptions, the officers pay only a part of the prices of the things received. As regards clerks and munshis they pay nothing in the Karachi, Hyderabad and the Thar and Parkar districts. In the Sukkur, Larkana and Frontier districts, some of them pay only portions of their real expenses. The private servants, the menial staff and the camel drivers never pay for anything. In the last mentioned three districts, the munshis who have to inspect the records of the taluka offices, the tapadars and supervising tapadars, get heavy fixed annuities out of the rasai fund, which constitutes a heavy item, to which the tapadars and the zamindars contribute. In one taluka I heard that it came to Rs. 2,000. False receipts are, as a rule, obtained by the officers or their servants as well as by members of the staff.
24. The loss falls, as a rule, on the hari because the deh kharch is taken out of the hari's share; sometimes, when the expenses are very heavy, the zamindar has to pay something, because the deh kharch is found insufficient. In many cases there is a saving out of the rasai fund, which is devoured by the taluka head munshi and sometimes by the Mukhtiarkar. Occasionally, though very rarely, a clever Mukhtiarkar raises large sums on the pretext of making a valuable present to a high officer.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?
25. Sometimes quarters are provided for the Collector's establishment. They are, as a rule, provided for for the Assistant Collector's establishments as well as for the Mukhtiarkar and his munshis.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?
26. It costs nothing, but the zamindar places his best otak at the disposal of the officer and establishments.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
27. Camels, horses, carts and sometimes carriages, are provided by the zamindar.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
28. As a rule, they cost the zamindar nothing. Sometimes, however, he has to hire camels. Camels and horses are sometimes and carts are always taken from the hari.
29. Do you have to make Rasai for Mukhtiarkars, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?
29. Vide answer to question 13.
30. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
30. Vide answers to questions 23 and 24.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making Rasai ?
31. Vide answer to question 24. Sometimes the zamindar has a saving out of the deh kharch perquisites.

32. Do you make the Rasai yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars?
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are the payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars?
35. There is no reason why contractors for a whole taluka or sub-division should not be found. When money is paid, the scandal can be eradicated. Prices of different articles—they may come even to double the ordinary rates—should be fixed so as to leave the contractor a fair margin of profit, after deducting the expenses. If that is done, even tenders may be had. It may cost the officers and their establishments more and they shall have to pay heavier wages to their servants who at present make up a considerable fortune out of the tips they receive out of the rasai fund. To compensate them they should be allowed increased travelling allowances. These may entail heavier expenditure to Government. But the gain will be greater, in the shape of the purity of the administration, and of the leakage of revenue and—as in the Public Works Department—prevention of the waste of public money.
36. I have always detested and sometimes carried on a vigorous campaign against the rasai, and I still condemn it. My strong reason is that rasai is a bribery, which has brought discredit to the administration. I repeat that the Public Works Department is the greatest sinner. Overseers and supervisors charge contractors 10 per cent. on the value of the contract as a matter of course. Surely the contractor does not pay without deriving a corresponding profit which often is out of all proportion to the amount of the blackmail. Often increased measurements are given which it is very difficult for the testing officer to detect. And who becomes the loser? Surely none but the State or the general tax payer. Favours are done and disfavour is omitted. But my strongest objection is that the system of rasai has destroyed the manhood of the country. The agricultural community, which supplies humanity with all that is good, has been reduced to a state of serfdom. Zamindars and peasants are compelled to part with their belongings and money quite against their will. They have been deprived of liberty and freedom, which every man and woman, in the nature of things, values the most. The doers of rasai often gain advantages over those that do not do it, while owing to the devices of the subordinates on whom the European officers perform depend, those who do not do the rasai, though persons of a superior order, are placed at a disadvantage, if they do not actually get into trouble. I have often heard zamindars say that owing to loss of self-respect, the avocation of a zamindar is not worth having. The sahibs' butler and the Collectors' jemadar have proved themselves to be the greatest enemies of the administration. They threaten not to pitch tents and to tell the sahib that the mukhtiar, the tapadar and the zamindar did not supply labour, so as to bring on the sahibs' ire. And the entire population has become so demoralised, that rather than incur the sahibs' displeasure, those concerned prefer to pay the butler and the jemadar from Rs. 50 to 100 per camp. The other devices resorted to are that milk and butter are purposely spoilt and rotten eggs and bad food are placed on the table with the same motive. When any of these evils is brought to the sahibs' notice, he at first declines to believe the truth of the information, though he afterwards ascertains it to be wholly true. It is not always that the Sahib is the least participator in the rasai loot. I have known cases in which he resented the preferment of a true bill. Indeed, when a nominal and I may say a very trifling bill was given, it gratified the sahib very much, and promotion at once came to the doer of the rasai, which really benefited the latter also. When I was Mr. Lucas' Daftardar at Larkana, he accepted my advice, and he took up his cudgels against the rasai and its doers. A darbar was held at the head-quarters of each taluka, where the entire gentry of the taluka was assembled and where the tapadars were arraigned before a bar of public opinion and where the zamindars were exhorted to crush the rasai. The improvement done by Mr. Lucas disappeared with him, which goes to prove that the campaign against the rasai has been neither genuine nor persistent. The kursori, the greed to secure land grants and titles, and the desire of one zamindar to get the better of his neighbour and his enemies are enticements which make the zamindar sink his own existence and do rasai to an extent which causes him a wrongful gain and a wrongful loss to others. The Indian Deputy Collectors and Mukhtiar, too, take a very undue advantage of the rasai. Their servants too imitate the butler and have their own shares of the general loot. Indeed, the servants of high Indian officers become so enormously benefited, that it is found difficult by a non-touring officer, or by a person whose servants can get no tips, to get a servant. The hirelings as of late come into great prominence. He has acquired the reputation for exercising

influence over his sahib even in administrative matters. The real way to eradicate the rasai is to appoint contractors, to introduce free and compulsory education and to take such steps as would make the agricultural community, in common with the rest of the population, free and independent. And when the freedom of the population becomes a fait-accompli, then, and then only, the ryots will acquire a sense of self-respect and then they shall refuse to do the rasai, or for the matter of that, to submit to the wrong-doings of any official.

37. Dhails of fruits and vegetables have become a rule. It is a great mistake to think that they are presented merely as a mark of respect. The truth is that they are essentially bribes. The presenter of a dhali always wants some favour and often an undue favour. The worst feature of the dhali system is that the presenter,

when he wants a large favour at the hands of an official, places bottles of brandy, whisky, etc., at the bottom and fruits and vegetables on the top, and often the presents are valuable. Sometimes, even sovereigns and valuable gold ornaments are heard to have been placed. The presentation of sheep too is objectionable for the same reasons. They are, as a rule, taken from the poor hari or the maldar and they are intended to profit the presenter.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. I am decidedly of opinion that they should be strictly prohibited.

Lapo.

39. Lapo literally means picking or an undue exaction. When applied to the exactions of the tapadars, it means his bribe. It is not applied to the loot of the Overseer or the Supervisor of the Public Works Department or the dasturi or the exactions of the subordinates of other departments.

40. In the Revenue Department it is levied at one anna per every rupee of the land revenue in Upper Sind, while in the Central and Lower Sind the ordinary rate is one rupee per survey number. The dasturi exacted in the Public Works Department is ordinarily 10 per cent. on the value of the contract, no matter whether the contractor makes a profit or sustains a loss. I know nothing about the practices of the Police and the Forest Departments except that the subordinates and in some cases even the officials of these departments are corrupt to the core. The people in the Forest Department are universally believed to amass large fortunes.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of Land Revenue? 41. Vide answer to question No. 40. Big zamindars, who pay heavy sums on account of land revenue, come, as a rule, to a settlement with the tapadar to pay lump sums.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, Sub-Inspectors and thanedars and Forest Rangers? 42. By the tapadar in the Revenue Department and as his own bribe, pure and simple.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of Rasai for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make Rasai? 43. Not at all. Zamindars have to pay the lapo as a matter of course. When, however, the rasai becomes heavy, as it often does, the zamindar contributes to the rasai fund also.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. It is a great mistake to think that lapo is levied for the purpose of making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials. It is because the tapadar robs the ryots that the establishments like, as is often the case with ordinary thieves and robbers, to share in the loot. Stop the lapo and the exactions of the others will follow suit.

45. The establishments of Collectors and Assistant and Deputy Collectors in the Upper Sind districts get annuities amounting, as a rule, to one or two months' pay of the receiver. In the Central and Lower Sind districts the entire boarding expenses of the establishments are paid by the tapadar, with contributions from the zamindar. The presents to private servants vary

I have already dealt with the butler. The private servant of a Deputy Collector used formerly to get Rs. 6 from each tapadar and Re. 1 to Rs. 5 from the zamindar at each place of encampment. Now, I have heard that it has been raised to Rs. 16 per tapadar in some instances. Peons and camelmen and khalasis are allowed daily rations in cash. The munshis are expected to show the work of the mukhtiarkar, the tapadar and the supervising tapadar in good colours. The private servants are bribed to prevent the ire of the officials.

46. The lapo to the tapadar is paid to prevent the tapadar from harassing the landholder with respect to boundary-marks, fines for the so called waste of water, the payment of the fallow assessment, the forfeiture of survey numbers, the taking of a share of other than the agricultural produce, the grant of land and generally to secure his favour in many other matters, in which the tapadar is always in a position to help or harass the landholder.

47. Bribes are paid to the Collectors' head munshis, the Assistant or Deputy Collectors' head munshis, the Mukhtiarkars' hazri-jo-munshi and in some cases to the Mukhtiarkar himself, in matters of land grants, as well as to the tapadar and the supervising tapadar. The total payments come to one rupee per acre. Large sums are paid for new karias. Payment for every other item of business is settled in each case.

48. Altogether the amount of the exactions by the different departments constitutes a heavy item and a part of the landholders' indebtedness. But the fact is that all departments, including the Railway, are teeming with corruption. By all means, put a stop to the exactions of the tapadar. But, he must be given a living wage. His pay should be Rs. 40 rising to Rs. 50. If the pay is increased, graduates, who, taken as a class, are more honourable, will be induced to take up the appointments, with the prospect of rising to mukhtiarkarship and to higher appointments. The tapadar or for the matter of that the Revenue Department should not be singled out for treatment. Systematic bribery and corruption of the services is one of those factors which have taken away from the freedom and the liberty of the masses and caused the universal feeling of want of confidence in the working of public offices.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving rasai contracts to zamindars?

49. From the reports I have heard it has not.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the Mukhtiarkars?

50. No.

51. I would suggest (1) that no money order fees should be charged for remitting land revenue, (2) that the number of Post Offices should be increased so as to place them within easy reach of the landholder, and (3) that selected zamindars be authorised to receive payments of land revenue from the neighbouring landholders within a reasonable distance and grant kacha receipts for the same, paka receipts being prepared and sent by the tapadar to the zamindar so selected. But a radical eradication of the lapo can be effected only by giving free and compulsory education to the masses and generally by taking such steps as would make them free and independent; and then they will not care a bit for the tapadar or any other misbehaved official.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

52. Chher means forced and unpaid labour. It is also called begar.

53. Who are the Chheras?

53. The chheras are the peasants, who are forced to work for Government without receiving regular wages.

54. The chheras are called

54. What kinds of labour are the Chheras called on to perform?

on (1) to close breaches suddenly occurring in canals and embankments, (2) to put roads in order, (3) to pitch tents for touring officials and their establishments, (4) to fetch water and do other menial work and when an officer is out in the mufasil in the hot weather, to pull the pankha for him and his establishment, if he take any, and (5) to assist the officers, both Europeans and Indians, in their shikar.

55. Do the Chheras hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. Yes. But that becomes a matter of necessity, because they cannot get land for cultivation otherwise.

56. Yes, they get food from their zamindars sometimes. As a rule, however, they have their own meals. In cases of sudden breaches in canals and bunds, the Public Works subordinate pays their wages to the zamindar who supplies the labour. Sometimes, the zamindar does not accept the payment, in order to be in good books with the officials. At other times he does take the money on behalf of his peasants who do the work and passes a receipt for the same

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? Or from the officers of Government?

showing only the number of the chheras employed, but after doing so he pays the money either wholly or partially to the Public Works subordinate, in order to curry favour with him, as the zamindar has always to deal with the Irrigational Department in matters of water-supply. The Irrigational Department is seldom in touch with the real well-being of the agricultural community. The Public Works subordinate is, as a rule, extremely selfish and callous. The poor peasant, who has worked, gets nothing.

In cases of shikar nothing is paid for the labour supplied. Occasionally, however, when the shikar occupies a good long time, the sporting officer (European) pays a little money for which a deg of rice is prepared and given to the chheras to eat. But that makes up for a single meal only and can bear a very small proportion to the real value of the labour supplied. The poor peasant works and his zamindar gets favours in return.

57. An Assistant or Deputy Collector requires about 20 or 25 labourers to pitch and unpitch his tents and about 5 otherwise. The Collector's camp requires about 50 chheras for pitching and unpitching tents, and about 10 otherwise.
57. How many Chheras are required at the camps of different officials? 58. Vide answer to question No. 57, *supra*.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 59. No.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 60. It all depends on the sporting capacity of the sporting officer as well as on the number of friends who form his sporting party.
60. How many Chheras are required for shikar? 61. Unwillingly. Vide answer to question No. 56.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 62. - It all depends on the length, breadth and the actual condition of the road. I have seen sometimes 20 and sometimes one or more hundreds of labourers working, and sometimes, when the advent of the Commissioner or the Collector is sudden and in the nick of time, the labourers are required to work a whole night with torches.
62. How many Chheras, if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 63. Naturally, they must be.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 64. Nothing from the officers or the Local Board. I do not know whether they get anything from the zamindar. Probably they get food.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 65. Hundreds and thousands.
65. How many Chheras are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 66. Vide answer to question No. 56.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 67. Certainly, it does. But in cases of breaches in canals and bunds their cultivation is saved.
67. Does the employment of Chheras interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 68. Not everywhere.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 69. No.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 70. I think it should always be paid for in the form of daily wages. The Mukhtiar's patawalla wields a great deal of power over the peasantry. On the sudden occurrence of a breach, the Mukhtiar's patawalla is sent to collect labour; and he makes a harvest out of it. The petty landholder and his peasants, unwilling to leave their homes and cultivation, raise money, sometimes at one rupee per chhera demanded, and pay it to the patawalla, who goes away to another village, where he similarly fleeces the petty landholder and his cultivators. But he is a wide-awake chap. He always demands more than the required number and actually collects as many as is required, or nearly that number. At times he has to use force. The recalcitrant chhera is beaten and on

occasions, his beard is pulled. This kind of treatment, and indeed the whole system of forced labour, deprives the hari of his liberty and freedom which every man and woman love. And it takes away from him his manhood. Thus enfeebled, he is fleeced and maltreated everywhere. Even the bazaar bania takes an undue advantage of his ignorance and down-trodden condition. He calls him a jat, which is an insulting expression, and abuses him; and he is not slow to swindle him. The peasant must therefore be strengthened. Whatever measures may be taken to suppress rasai, lapo and chher, unless the root is struck at, all other steps will be simply palliative. The real cure lies in raising the peasantry of Sind to a high standard of manliness and independence. Free and compulsory education must be introduced in the rural areas, and other steps must be taken which would enable the peasant, and indeed the agricultural community, in common with the urban population, to hold their own, and then such complaints as have necessitated the appointment of this Committee will be things of the past.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. NARAINDas.

To the Chairman—

I don't know the meaning of the word rassad, which is not used in Sind.

The village potter gets his perquisites before the batai is made between the haris and zamindars. The village barber also gets his perquisites. The village carpenter who repairs Persian wheels also gets his perquisites and he does that work for nothing in consequence. In some villages there are blacksmiths and I think they charge for the work done and don't get perquisites.

The bills prepared are for less amounts than the actual expenditure. That is done with the knowledge of officers, who only pay for what is shown in the bill.

The deh kharch is taken out of the haris' share after the batai. Sometimes it costs the zamindars nothing to make rasai as it is fully covered by deh kharch. It is entirely separate from lapo. The result is that the zamindar is glad to make rasai; he saves on it; what he does object to is the cash exactions which he has to pay to the various establishments and sometimes to officers themselves in addition to lapo. The officers referred to are Mukhtiar-kars, Overseers, Sub-Overseers and sometimes Deputy Collectors, but I do not refer to officers like Collectors and Assistant Collectors.

I retired in April 1911, i.e., before the Commissioner's circular of 1914.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The contributions towards rasai by the zamindars referred to are the deh kharch and additional payments made by the zamindars when deh kharch is insufficient.

The tapadar pays about 25 per cent. towards rasai out of his lapo.

The bills as a rule are prepared by the tapadar or munshi for the zamindar and are merely signed by the zamindar. Sometimes, when he can read and write, they are prepared by him in his own handwriting. He prepares the bills for a lesser amount than that actually spent in order to please the officers, in anticipation of the wishes of officers.

To the Chairman—

I think the travelling allowance might be increased by 50 per cent. or 100 per cent. That would depend upon the prices fixed for contracts. I would extend the increase even to superior officers.

I have known instances where a dozen of whisky were placed at the bottom of dhalis; many did it, and such dhalis were given more than once to the same officer. It became in fact almost general in the case of that particular officer. I have known personally of other cases in which one or two or three bottles of whisky were placed at the bottom of dhalis.

Lapo may have been derived from lap, a handful.

The term lapo is confined to the systematic levy of the tapadar and does not apply to particular bribes for particular favours. The word is not used in connection with money extorted by the Public Works Department or Police or any other departments.

Rasai is exacted by officials who know that lapo is being levied by the tapadars. In fact they say so in so many words, that they must have a share in the exactions. The supervising tapadar always takes a share, otherwise he reports the tapadar and finds fault with his work.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

Even if rasai ceased, lapo would continue, for lapo is essentially a bribe. The result is that the zamindar provides supplies, he spends out of deh kharch, he also makes additional cash payments when the amounts are heavy, and over and above these, he pays lapo. This is in reference to question 45.

To the Chairman—

Hazri-jo-munshi is a munshi who goes on tour with the Mukhtiarkar.

I noticed in the Upper Sind Frontier that zamindars paid regular annuities to the Mukhtiarkars varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500, or even more, in order to secure the general favour of the Mukhtiarkar. I also found the same practice in the Shahbandar taluka of the Karachi district. They had to pay nothing more, in fact they had practically compounded with the Mukhtiarkars for all favours. The zamindars are also quite prepared to pay an annuity to any dishonest Deputy Collector if he chose to take it.

I think there might be a danger to small zamindars of being oppressed by the big zamindars if the collections of revenue were made by the big zamindars. That is why I said that it should be limited to selected and reliable zamindars. This selection will have to be made by the Collector with the help of an advisory committee.

The conditions for chher for clearing the canal is actually put in leases and mortgages. The condition is inserted in the lease that chher shall be supplied as well as clearance of karias; the reason is that chher will not be given up by officials. Therefore the condition as to providing chher has had to be inserted in leases and mortgages and, I believe, in sales.

The zamindars ask for chher from their own haris for their own shikar, and also for their own purposes on such occasions as marriages and funerals, but the chher are usually on such occasions rewarded with food and lungis.

I have never been personally out for shikar myself, but I believe that beaters are not paid at the rate of 6-8 annas a man per day for their labour.

I think a 16-foot square single pole tent would be pitched by 10 men. The Deputy Collector will have 3 or 4 peons and no khalasi. Three peons are generally sent ahead, but they would not be able to work as they don't sleep during the night; therefore I say that 10 men will be required. It takes about a couple of hours to pitch one tent. As a matter of fact a greater number of men are called than are required for the pitching of tents. I have never heard of any officer paying Rs. 5 or 10 to the chheras at the end of camp.

It would not interfere with the cultivation in the cold season when there is only kharif, in that case the haris would probably take up manual work under the contractors. There is also the husking of the crops during November and December of kharif cultivation and the instalments of assessments are accordingly fixed for February. The assessment used to be collected in January and February, but now, I think, it is only February.

I don't say a pattawalla always gets Re. 1 per chher, he might be getting 8 annas, but not less than 8 annas, to let go a chher.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The pattawalla must be making a large amount when he is ordered to get chher. I had dismissed pattawallas on this account in the Sukkur taluka, as they made a good deal of money. Once I ordered 100 chheras to be supplied; they went to the village and said that 300 chheras were required. The very pattawallas had to be re-appointed, for I could not get chheras without them.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The tapadar does say that he wants lapo to make rasai but that is his pretext. It is an absolute falsehood that lapo is levied in order that any portion may go towards rasai. It is levied as a simple bribe. I don't think that abolition of rasai would make any difference in lapo. Even in that case the tendency to levy lapo will continue as the tapadar can grant many favours to the zamindars. There is even a tendency now to increase the rate of lapo; Re. 1 was levied formerly per number, now it is Rs. 2.

The tapadar's pay is so low that complaints in connection with lapo are sometimes rejected out of consideration for the low wages of the tapadars. The low wages of tapadars are to a great extent responsible for the levy of lapo. What I mean to say is, that levy of lapo is due to the low moral standard of tapadars. If their pay is raised so as to encourage the employment of graduates, who should have the prospects of rising to become Mukhtiarkars and Deputy Collectors, there might be a considerable improvement in the matter of lapo. The moral standard referred to is also the low moral standard of the whole society—not only of tapadars but also zamindars, merchants, Mukhtiarkas and even Deputy Collectors.

The tapadar has to keep a servant and maintain a horse and his wages are obviously so low that he has perforce to levy lapo; on the other hand he may be of the same social status as a Deputy Collector.

The Mukhtiarkars are interested in maintaining rasai and so wink at lapo and believe in getting zamindars into trouble when they do not pay lapo. They also tell the zamindars to pay lapo.

I have known of an instance in which Rs. 5 only were paid for supplies worth Rs. 200 or even Rs. 300; no demur was made by the officer, who on the contrary was pleased.

Petty zamindars may have been illtreated for not making proper rasai but not the big zamindars. Illtreatment would consist in pulling the beard, knocking off the turban and telling the pattawallas to give a slap.

I know of one case in which Mr. Lucas' second butler broke the teeth of a hari; he was then and there tried by the Mukhtiarkar in Mr. Lucas' tent and was sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment. The officer who paid only Rs. 5 was a higher officer of the Revenue Department.

I think contractors will have to be appointed for a large area but I don't see any reason why such a contractor will realize a small profit. The prices of supplies would have to be fixed sufficiently high to make the contract pay. All touring officers should be bound to get their supplies from that contractor. I think possibly the difficulty might be met by subsidising the contractor.

I don't think that a system of seri grants would work in Sind. The seridar would oppress the haris and also corrupt the establishment just as at present. I think that a seridar might be given the necessary prestige of a headman but he will abuse his prestige. What I mean to say is that it would not get over the confirmed dishonesty of the Sind zamindars.

I don't know if deh kharch prevails in districts in Lower Sind.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

It is my general experience that Sind zamindars are dishonest because they tell lies, they swindle, they bribe Government officials, they get thefts committed. I have tried many cases against zamindars as a Magistrate. They also appeared as witnesses before me.

I have never encouraged rasai as a Mukhtiarkar. I had to fight against it and was harrassed in correspondence by the establishments of high officials. I had the courage to speak to the officers themselves and thus rose to be a Deputy Collector.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I don't use the expression gap chher simply to mean clearance of canals.

It would be necessary to compel the menials to get their supplies from the contractor at the contract rates even if the menials were able to get supplies in the bazar at cheaper rates.

The difficulty of preventing menials from buying their supplies from the bazar could be got over by giving a subsidy to the contractor.

The contractor will have to keep his agents and sub-agents ready to supply to all touring officers their supplies, and in urgent cases without notice; such emergencies would arise only in the case of the Public Works Department and the Police Department. I would try but can't guarantee that I would find such contractors.

I think there ought to be a contractor for each sub-division with a subsidy of Rs. 2,000. I mean for touring 8 months. The subsidy may be Rs. 2,500 a year. A contractor ought to be found for that subsidy. If a subsidy were given there would be no need to increase travelling allowances. In the case of no subsidy the travelling allowances ought to be doubled.

I don't think it would be a good thing if a standing committee were instituted to hear complaints of lapo.

The number of men levied as chher from each zamindar is arranged by the pattawallas, they are able to make much from the big zamindars. It is more or less fixed by custom how many chheras each zamindar has to send. The zamindar fixes it in reference to each canal. The Public Works Department contractors get the chheras in November and December but they get Odes, that is, wandering people, and Chawans that is, donkey-owners.

I have never served in the Public Works Department but I know the rules under the Irrigation Act and I have helped to close breaches in several canals. I had also as Deputy Collector received several complaints against the officers of the Public Works Department, and also in my capacity as Daftardar under the Collector. I have never heard of any complaint by the Public Works Department against the Revenue Department.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

There is no difference in the matter of dishonesty between the Hindu and Musalman zamindars.

The instance in which Rs. 5 were paid was for supplies of ten days for the personal use of the officer. It was for a party of 5 or 6 ladies and gentlemen.

I should not advise the curtailing of tours of officers for the present. It would reduce efficiency.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MADHANDAS MANGATRAM OCHANI.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Madhandas Mangatram Ochani |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Owning land to the extent of about 3,500 acres and paying land revenue of about Rs. 5,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Garhi Yasin (Sukkur). |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Member of Municipality. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. By the term rasai, I mean | the supplying of articles of food and other necessities to officers, their staff, clerks and their peons on tour. Present significance of rasai is the supplying of the articles free of charge or with nominal charge. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. About ten years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. I have to make rasai not for any particular camping ground but at my zamindari villages, Wariasa and Satrapur, where camps are usually held. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Assistant Collectors. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Grain, eggs, fowls, milk, butter, vegetables, sugar, jowari stalks, fuel and cots. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11 and 12. Grain, butter, and vegetables from shopkeepers, eggs, fowls and milk from haris and others, jowari stalks from my own house; cots from haris as well as from our own houses. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | |
| 13. (1) We pay for grain, butter, eggs, and fowls always; but for vegetables and milk, on occasions, when we have got no vegetables available as our own produce and no sufficient milk, from haris free of charge. | |
| (2) At the market value. | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Milk, stalks and firewood have each market value of its own in my zamindari. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. Yes, for the camps I do get firewood from the jungles. I don't pay anything for it. It costs me nothing as far as camp, as haris do bring directly from the jungles to the camping grounds. This has been a practice of long standing. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I can't say with accuracy; but it amounts to from five to eight rupees. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes, gentlemen. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. About six rupees. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes, I do. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. It comes to about Rs. 30. |

21. Do you have to provide water jars, pots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. About Rs. 2.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. I do receive payment in part from the officers, but receive nothing from butlers and peons; the latter on the contrary take fixed amounts in cash for daily rations. There is no practice of receiving anything as payment from clerks or munshis.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your harns or on you? 24. The loss falls on zamindars.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. It costs me nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Yes, when required.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. It costs me about Rs. 2. I don't receive payment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes, I do make rasai for mukhtiarkar and subordinate police.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. About Rs. 10 a day in the case of mukhtiarkar including tapadar and others. Only mukhtiarkar on certain occasions pays in part of whatever articles are purchased in his name alone.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making "Rasai"? 31. About Rs. 125.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I make the rasai myself. In my absence I do it through my munshis or kamdars.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. Bills are prepared generally by my shopkeepers in consultation with the tapadar or butler. They receive payment directly from the officers or butlers on behalf of the officers.
- False receipts of payment are being prepared and tendered to clerks and munshis and others who require such.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars? 34. I would prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the interference of tapadars and zamindars jointly or severally.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes, when they are adequately paid under suitable arrangement.
36. What are your special objections to "Rasai" and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. In my opinion it is only the following evils that have crept in gradually and made the practice so very unpleasant:—

(a) Many years ago a full anagi was claimed in lieu of rasai from small landholders for the camps where there were no large landholders to take upon their shoulders the work of rasai, which was done by the tapadar independent of any other substantial help from such khatedars. Adverse has been the case now. Tapadars at present claim and take this anagi openly and without the least possible fear, considering it as an established thing as of right which as it were has no concern with rasai. The result has ensued that on such camps, tapadars, in spite of having lapo, go from village to village, collect eggs, fowls, sheep, kids, grass, butter and the cash from various petty landholders in their respective beats and thus misappropriate the surplus. Hence the possibility of frauds.

PART II

(b) Provisions are being extorted by menials, in excess of what are ordinarily required, since they get them free of charge.

(c) Zabardastī and oppression are often shown by them in trying to have very heavy rasai.

(d) In spite of heavy rations, the butlers, peons and other menials receive money presents as killa thokani and otherwise. If they are refused such uncongenial presents, unpleasantness ensues.

(e) False receipts, for which the recipients don't mean to pay are being prepared and tendered against the will of those who supply.

(f) However the zamindar may be large landholder and highly respectable is considered a nonentity before the peons and butlers who are ready to insult such zamindar if the latter fails to satisfy what these wolves want.

(g) In villages generally all the articles of food and other necessaries cannot be had conveniently unless one goes to some other big place to send for them. The order of rasai has often to be made at an hour's notice by a tapedar or the like, hence the difficulty.

(h) Most striking feature is that zamindars in order to keep within bounds the insatiable desires of peons and the like try to give them as much milk as they require. To effect this zamindars try so far as to send for all the milk available in the villages with the result that the haris and their babies have to remain without it on certain occasions. Nay, poor haris and their families have to shiver during cold nights for want of beddings which they are deprived of for the camp time, for the use of number of kotars collected, the peons that don't bring their own beddings, policemen, prisoners, parties, witnesses that happen to attend the officers' courts on circuits. The more deplorable condition is of those haris, who are deputed to work as coolies in the camp. These men have to bask in the sunlight during daytime, when cold night arrives they have to lie on straws or mats in open air, with no coverlet or shabby razi (rili) on. It is only fire burning that keeps these coolies hot for the lengthy night of the winter. What a pity? It is not all; these haris have to provide peons and others with utensils also. One deg, i.e., big kettle is often required for keeping the water heated. If unfortunately no such deg is available in the village the search of fairly big degs (kettles) ensues. One has to produce it or some small ones as substitute anyhow.

It is a bounden duty of the zamindar to make officers, who are considered as ma bap of the rayats, conversant with these long sustained evils for redress. But if they sleep away as usual in sweet slumbers and continue to be ease-loving, the fault lies with them also. I would not spare them, that is to say, the zamindars.

These are from amongst the facts that have made the rasai system so very unpleasant and intolerable. Hence I recommend the following two ways to eradicate the evil for ever:—

Recommendations.—(1) The contractors should be appointed to make arrangement of rasai independent of zamindar or tapadar. I am myself prepared to procure such contractors. When tenders as usual are invited from approved contractors for the articles necessary for the camp for the particular whole year or half year, as the case may be, I am sure several contractors will come forward.

When the season of circuits is about to set in I would suggest that intimation of the camp or camps and that of the quality and quantity of the provisions or articles wanted may be approximately given to the contractor, notified, with sufficient time being allowed to him. The bills of such camps should invariably be paid through the treasuries and hence the bills ought to be prepared in triplicate: one to be given to the concerned officer; the other to be sent to the treasury direct for inspection and payment; the third to remain with the contractor. This way the rasai, which has been rampant since times immemorial and has been chewing the blood of the poor cultivating classes, might be put a stop to.

(2) As wish is father to the thought, so lapo is to rasai. If the former is nipped in its bud, the latter will have no existence.

37. I do present dhalis, on occasions, of fruits and mostly vegetables. It costs me about Rs. 6 at a time. I think it is not objectionable at all, since I consider it as a matter of courtesy, which virtue is characteristic of Eastern mind.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Hence it need not be prohibited by Government.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo, which includes anki, as chief element is a sum collected unauthorisedly by tapadaḥ beyond land revenue towards rasai fund.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments?
40. (a) It is levied in cash as well as in kind.
(b) I know chiefly of the Revenue Department, wherein it is levied openly.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? make the rasai work themselves,
(c) ordinarily from one anna to annas two on a rupee or bigha.
41. It is levied—
(a) in lump sum,
(b) in less quantity in the case of zamindars, who
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied, and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. By tapadars for the ostensible purpose of rasai.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. It is believed so. I do pay lapo and make rasai also.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Yes, it is believed that it includes money presents also. We do make presents to peons and servants only.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. We pay as daily allowance as well as money presents to the extent of about Rs 15 to all the peons and butler for each camp to avoid displeasure of officers.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Not for particular favours.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions, and by whom are they exacted?
47. Not known.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. About Rs. 150.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. Not reduced, as far as I know.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?
50. So far as I know, no mukhtiarkar takes direct land revenue. Hence no reduction.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police systems or any other special orders of Government?
50. Lapo will die by itself—
(a) when the rasai system is abolished,
(b) when the power of inspecting boundary-marks is transferred from tapadar to the grade of mukhtiarkar and above.

(c) The khatedars large and small are fully explained during darbars especially held for the purpose in presence of the tapadars, the inadvisability of such lapo, which is so abominable in as much as the tapadars have shown shabby conducts by slapping and insulting the petty khatedars in exacting lapo which has been refused by such khatedars.

(d) Collectors to send for confidential reports for at least first two years from trustworthy zamindars. These reports are to show as to how far the standing orders against the prevailing practice are put into force.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher is the supplying of labour by the zamindar to work under the orders of officers or their peons.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are generally haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
(b) To repair Local Board roads. (c) To do the duties of watchmen. (d) Pitching and striking the tents. (e) Supplying of articles, bringing water, conveying post and so on during camping season.
54. (a) To prepare or repair camping grounds. (c) To do the duties of watchmen. (d) Pitching and striking the tents. (e) Supplying of articles, bringing water, conveying post and so on during camping season.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Of course, yes.
56. When so employed do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. Nothing is being paid to them by officers or zamindars.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. It depends upon the mercy of peons. If pleased they will have the work done by fifteen men or so. If not even 50 can't suffice.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking camps?
58. We supply chheras. Distribution is left to peons.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Please see 56.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. I can't say as no shikar has been made in my zamindari.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. Nothing is known to me.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. Yes. Number varies according to the nature of works.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Surely such repairs are of benefit to the public as well as to the officers, who pass by.
64. They don't get anything.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?
- I quote a particular instance of fresh last year. I was asked to repair about three miles of road lying between Gopang and Garhi. I not only repaired it but got scattered palal, which I sent for from ten miles distance. This I did at the instance of the mukhtiar for which I got nothing. This portion of road was never repaired before. This is an additional burden, when we pay already one anna on a rupee as local cess.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. One cannot say with certainty. It depends upon the extent of breach and capacity of canal.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. Nominally on occasions by Public Works Department.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. The employment of chheras does interfere to a certain extent with the cultivation. It causes loss to both. The camps begin in October mostly. In this month the harvesting of kharif crop begins and cultivating rabi crop goes on.
68. Any number upto 200, except in the beginning of the inundation season which is busy time for haris. Harvesting time is also busy time. I think June and July in summer and September, October and first part of November are the busy months for haris.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

69. Could it be procured by a contract- or independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Only in cases of floods, breaches to loops and quite urgent repairs to roads which are unforeseen and uncontrollable, zamindars may be asked to supply chher on payment of annas eight or so per head each day. In all other cases, chher system which is felt to be annoying and harassing, should be put a stop to.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MADHANDAS.

To the Chairman—

The amounts are not fully entered in the bills nor are full prices charged.

I don't put whisky or sovereigns in dhalis. I have never heard that that has been done.

The kharif crop is harvested before the end of November. There is generally more kharif than rabi in my zamindari. I prepare the ground for the rabi crop in September and sow the crop at the end of September; we reap the rabi crops in March and April. There is practically no work on the rabi crops between September and March.

Some of my rabi is irrigated by wells, the rest is grown simply on rain water.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I pay about Rs 4 a day for butlers and pattawalas together for their rations. We also give them vegetables and other articles which they require. We do not supply other food to them.

We generally do not pay the haris for milk but if they are poor and can't afford it we pay them from our own pockets.

The daily cost of an Assistant Collector's camp would be about Rs 40, of the Collector's about Rs 80 and of the Commissioner's Rs 150-200. I have never made rasai for the Collector or Commissioner. I have come across instances in which menials have ill-treated petty zamindars and tapadars in connection with rasai. Their beards are pulled and their turbans knocked off. There is generally an account with the bania of Hindu clerks jointly and Mahomedan clerks jointly. I pay the bania. I don't get paid by the clerks. The bania gives the receipt in their names, a false receipt; I refuse to give the clerks a receipt myself. The tapadar lives at my place for nearly one month. I feed and lodge him. He pays me nothing. The total amount of rasai of one taluka comes to Rs. 9,000 or Rs. 10,000 only for the Revenue Department. No, it would be about Rs. 5,000, lapo would be about Rs. 9,000 or 10,000.

The bills are prepared in consultation with the butlers and tapadars.

The system of independent contractors will be expensive in the beginning. I don't think there will be any difficulty on account of small camps. I think there should be one contractor for each taluka. The menials and peons will have to be given an allowance to compensate them for the high prices of supplies.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I only heard of the Commissioner's Circular of 1914 about a year ago. The tapadar has a good deal to do with the rasai since 1914. Since a year before last, zamindars were made contractors but the tapadars still help in rasai. The zamindars are only nominal contractors. Rasai has not decreased since 1914. Lapo has not decreased since 1914. I have been paying 2 pice per jireb as lapo always because I have also to make rasai. I do not think I have ever paid more, that is to say, I pay about half the ordinary lapo. The same amount has been paid by my forefathers. I don't defray my expenses out of deh kharch. I do not levy deh kharch on account of rasai. It has been customary to levy deh kharch for injuries caused by the haris to our lands and boundary marks. Others may levy deh kharch for rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney—

Rasai is a burden on haris, because they are maltreated when it is exacted.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

My experience is that rasai is generally half the amount of lapo and I calculate it at 2 pice per jireb. The total amounts of lapo a year will be Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 10,000 on the assessment of 3 lacs of revenue in the taluka. I have also made enquiries on the matter from some zamindars. I have not inquired as to the individual payments made by the zamindars.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHOITHRAM, TAPADAR.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name | 1. Choithram son of Harchandrai, Hindu. |
| 2. Appointment | 2. Tapadar, Lakhi, taluka Sukkur. |
| 3. Head-quarters | 3. Lakhi. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 15 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. I have experience of Larkana and Sukkur districts. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge ? | 6. Four dehs of unalienated and one of inam land. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided locally at their various camps for touring officers ? | 11. We supply to the touring officers grass, fuel, jars, mats, milk, mutton, butter, eggs, vegetables, and whatever else they demand. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps ? | 13. At the camp of the Mukhtiarkars I supply 10 or 12 jars, at the camp of the Assistant Collector about 40 cots, 15 jars, 9 earthen dishes and 10 earthen pans and at the camp of the Collector 70 or 80 cots, 125 jars, 30 earthen pans and 25 earthen dishes. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments ? | 15. Mostly they bring tents and rowties. We provide houses for those who do not bring these things, or put up sheds, but landhis are constructed in every case for kitchen for munshis. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps ? | 16. If the camps are held at the bungalows then stables are used, otherwise we put up sheds. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps. | 18. The offices are held in tents. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps | 19. Chheras are required at the officers' camps—at the camp of the Mukhtiarkar 3 or 4 chheras, at the camp of the Deputy Collector 25 or 30, and at the camp of the Collector 50 or 60. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ? | 20. Fair, as there are kacha roads. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ? | 21. Local Board. The work is done through beldars. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps ? | 22. Sometimes special repairs are made at the time of the camp by parties of beldars, or we ask for chher from zamindars. |
| 23. What are their means of transport ? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters ? | 23. The officers sometimes travel on camels, sometimes on horses and sometimes in carriages, and thus they arrange themselves. Sometimes they ask for carts for the conveyance of kit if they have no baggage camels. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ? | 24. Post is sent for through kotars from the head-quarters. In the absence of kotars, we ask for horsemen from the zamindars. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ? | 25. Lakhi, but there is no regular camping ground. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ? | 26. Sometimes beldars and sometimes chheras are employed for preparing the camping grounds. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ? | 27. Lakhi is the only camping ground near which there are many bania shops. |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ? | 28. In Lakhi village vegetables can be had, but there is no Government garden. |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ? | 29. None. |

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 31. Rasai means the arrangements made for the supply of provisions and other necessary things to an officer encamping in a village.
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies ? 32. It depends upon the number of persons.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment ? 33. For each individual of the private and official establishments, the daily requirements are $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. mutton, vegetables, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rice, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer flour, $1\frac{1}{2}$ chhataks ghee. As much fuel and grass is supplied as is wanted.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? 34. The rates of eatables are not fixed. They change with the times.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ? 35. There is no market value for firewood as the chheras bring it from the jungle. There is a market value for grass and milk, but it is not as high as in large cities.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment ? 36. It depends upon the requirements and rates prevalent and also upon the attitude of the officer. Some like more rasai and some less and so we act accordingly, but nowadays the officers being strict the expenses are less.
37. Articles such as rice, ghee, flour, spices, vegetables, fruit, sugar, mustard are purchased from shops. Fowls, eggs, kids, milk, butter and cots are obtained from the zamindars or khatedars of the village but at some camps milk, fowls, eggs and butter are obtained by purchase from the Raj Mahajan. Jars are obtained free from the potter. The zamindars supply the grass which they take from the cultivators. Chheras bring firewood from jungles, or haris supply carts of firewood, grass and peas, etc. Chheras bring grass and firewood from the jungles. Materials for landhis are obtained on hire.
38. How are they paid for ? 38. Replied to under No. 37.
39. Articles purchased from any one are paid for. Nothing is paid by the private servants or office establishment. Articles for the personal use of the officers of the Mukhtiar's and Deputy Collector's camp are paid for. But at the camp of the Collector nothing is charged except for flour, rice, ghee, sugar, spices, from the clerks. The private servants and peons do not pay anything for whatever they take.
40. The butlers dictate to us to write less in the bill than what they actually obtain for the officers. Generally they take fowls, eggs, butter, more than what is required. They take away to headquarters the fowls for which they recover money from their officers.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?
41. Where zamindars do not pay anaki they have to bear the excess, otherwise the tapadars pay from lapo. At some places it is a custom that panchayats bear the expenses and at others the Raj people ; at every place the system is different.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapadars or mukhtiar's ?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtiar's ? 42 and 43. Are replied to above.
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds ? 44. They do not pay for vegetables.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ? 47. The rules of 1914 have not been complied with. Zamindars attend the camp in name only but in fact tapadars arrange for the camps as before with the help of zamindars.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars?
48. I cannot suggest any thing. Contractors cannot be had.
49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. We receive intimation about their camps.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. Many orders are passed but they are not complied with.
51. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
51. Zamindars give dhalis.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
52. It depends upon the kind of dhalis but the minimum cost is Rs. 5 and the maximum Rs. 20.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. I understand by lapo money other than land revenue taken from the zamindars and khatedars for the rasai fund.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. The following are the rates of lapo. In some places it is levied at six pies per jireb and in others one-anna or one and a half anna per jireb.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Tapadars receive this lapo for making rasai.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. Replied to under No. 55.
58. It is wholly converted into a rasai fund. Formerly when all the khatedars used to pay lapo there was a saving for tapadars. But owing to strict orders issued from time to time against the levy of lapo and the introduction of the money order system of paying assessments direct to the taluka offices at headquarters, many khatedars do not pay the lapo, or pay less than the dues fixed. Therefore there has been no saving for the tapadar.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
59. If so, who manages the Rasai fund?
59. The head-quarters tapadar maintains the rasai fund. Sometimes the supervising tapadar also helps him.

60. The private servant of the mukhtiarkar is paid nothing, the peons Rs. 5 in a year, the butler of the Deputy Collector Rs. 20, and other private servants Re. 1 or 8 annas or Rs. 2; besides, peons take Rs. 5 for pitching tents (kilokhorani) and one bottle of liquor, and Rs. 2 per year. Servants of the head munshi and other clerks take Rs. 7-8 and the clerk Rs. 3 for inspecting records. The butler of the Collector used to take Rs. 100 formerly and other private servants also used to take money. The peons used to take Rs. 20, but since the days of Mr. Moysey, the Collector, it has been stopped. These are the expenses of camps which the tapadars recover from lapo besides the following annuities: the supervising tapadar takes one month's pay in the year from every tapadar, the kotar and private servant Re. 1 each, the head munshi Rs. 3 and others Rs. 2. The head munshi takes Rs. 10 from every tapadar. Some head munshis accept it and some do not. At the time of jamabandi by the Deputy Collector, the head munshi takes Rs. 100 from the taluka fund, other clerks and munshis receive a sum equal to their pay, besides during the inspection days expenses are incurred for fruit, etc. Fruit and something else is also given. Even if the Collector makes the jamabandi, then too the clerks of the Deputy Collector take their dues. Moreover, the peons of the Deputy Collector take Rs. 10 and the servants too take the same amount of money during the inspection of records in the taluka office. Some money is spent for dhalis and fruit besides. They are paid for their meals. At the time of the Collector's inspection of records or at the time of jamabandi the clerks take only milk, fuel, mutton gratis, but for other things they pay themselves. But they do not accept any cash; some fruit is given to them. Cash payments are made to their servants for yearly inspection. The clerks and peons of the Deputy Collector are paid Rs. 50 while the clerk and peons of the Collector are paid Rs. 150 and the office of the Huzur Deputy Collector about Rs. 50.

61. The above is the condition of the Revenue Department. In the Public Works Department the contractor pays Rs. 10 per cent. to the Engineer and 10 per cent. to the overseer and other servants. The money spent by daroghas and mucedams at their camps is sometimes recovered from contractors. They take supplies from zamindars and cattle owners whose cattle graze free on the banks of canals and bunds. If any one does not assist in rasai then false cases are lodged against him. During the abkalan season they take gratifications for making concessions in the rotation of water-supply. If any khatedar or zamindar does not pay the dues the Revenue officers remain quiet but the Public Works Department men lodge false complaints against them. For instance, in 1909 the Assistant Engineer encamped at Bagirji. The Public Works Department men lodged complaints against 21 persons because they did not make rasai. They got off by spending Rs. 1,700. As regards the Police Department, if any theft is committed, the cattle owner feeds the police officers till the enquiry is completed, but if the cattle owner is poor then the zamindar does it as he has to arrange for all the supplies. If house-breaking is committed they lay hold of the owner of the house and tell him the friends of his wife have done so, so that the owner remains quiet. Sometimes with the help of zamindars they take bribes from the real culprits and then entangle innocent persons. They recover from the Raj all that is spent over the rasai of an officer. The Forest Department is more oppressive than the Public Works Department. Forest guards and jamadars will never spend anything from their pocket. The cattle owners pay for their maintenance and for their cattle as well as for the rasai of their officers. These guards purposely cut trees and set fire to the jungle to promote the growth of grass so that they may let the cattle graze without licenses in exchange for a gratification. If at any time the cattle owners do not pay lupo they harass them by lodging false complaints.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lupo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. Replied to under No. 60.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lupo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lupo' or any local orders?

63 and 64. Replied to above.

65. The Land Revenue Code should be amended. There should be compulsory education. The pay of clerks should be increased because then they will feel their responsibility. Touring should be curtailed; camps should be held at big villages. The camps of the mukhtiarkar should be reduced. Jamabandi should be held by the Mukhtiarkars themselves, but for the verification of jamabandi and the inspection of the records there should be a separate department which should have no concern with the appointment and dismissal of the tapadar and clerks, such as local fund auditors for whom no rasai is made. If the mukhtiarkar inspects the records of tapadars he should not pay attention to ordinary mistakes. If a separate department is not created for the inspection of taluka offices only the clerks of the Commissioner should do the inspection. But for jamabandi purposes a special department is necessary. First, mukhtiarkars should finish up jamabandi and then that department should come to inspect.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. Chher means labour without any remuneration.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Cultiyators.

68. For preparing camping grounds, for repairing roads, for pitching and striking tents for loading and unloading kit, for keeping watch during nights, for fetching water, and for serving at the time of camps. Besides chher is required when the contractors are unable to finish the work of bunds and canals, and also when there are sudden breaches or at the time of shikar.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Yes.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

70. The zamindars feed them. European officers sometimes give them tips.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 71. Labourers can be had on daily payment of 8 annas to 10 annas per head.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government? 72. Yes, but I do not know how many.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 73. No labourers are engaged.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering services to the community or to Government? 74. No.
75. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour? 75 to 79. Replied above.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp?
78. Whence do they obtain them?
79. Is anything paid for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars? 80. I cannot reply to this.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
81. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 82 to 88. As replied above.
82. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?
83. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
84. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
85. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?
86. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
87. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
88. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. Zamindars send only as much chher as will not cause loss to the cultivation, but if in some cases they cannot send the cultivators they engage labourers instead.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. Beldars generally do their own work, but at some places where it is not possible to get chher from zamindars the beldars do that work which does not interfere with their ordinary duties.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. Replied to above.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. The officials should take khalasis on tour, but for works such as clearance of canals, breaches, etc., the zamindars do not get discontented by giving chher as they are interested persons. But the repairs to roads should not be done by chher.

General note.

In some tapas more anaki is collected, while at others less. Every tapadar tries to get a tapa where he can exact more money, therefore there is a competition in the Deputy Collector's office. If one tries for transfer then 3 or 4 others are transferred in the ordinary course. Thus for every transfer Rs. 100 are to be paid to the head mushi; their transfers should therefore be made by the Collector as is done in the Hyderabad district.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHOITHRAM.

To the Chairman—

I have also zamindari in Sukkur taluka on which I pay Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 assessment. My father was a zamindar. I speak of other departments from my own experience as zamindar.

The rate for casual labour in my village used to be from 4 to 5 annas a day; owing to the recent rise of prices it has risen to 8 or 10 annas a day.

To the Hon'ble, Mr. Harchandrai—

Naraindas, tapadar, was dismissed because he did not give satisfaction in the rasai bandobast. So we are under fear of suffering great loss if we do not make proper rasai bandobast.

The zamindars are required to give chher to mend the roads just before the arrival of officers on tour when the roads are in a very bad condition and if the beldars are not able to cope with the repairs.

The chher for roads and camps ought to be stopped but chher of the Engineering Department for breaches of canal banks or for the benefit of the zamindars ought to be continued.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The chheras would come willingly to work for proper wages on road and camp if they have no work to do, but they would not be willing to come if they have got their own work.

The haris for the most part have a good deal of work to do from November to March.

I cannot say if zamindars pay lapo to avoid the harassment of taluka officers. I cannot say what is in the heart of zamindars. It is not in our power to confer any favours on zamindars. I cannot say if they pay willingly or not.

The butler takes ordinarily 2 or 3, sometimes 4 or 5, fowls a day, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 seer of butter, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 seers of mutton and 2 or 3 seers of milk every day in the case of Assistant Collector or Collector's camp. Those are the things usually supplied. Other stores they bring themselves.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The tapadars compete for the better tapas because they do not suffer any loss in those tapas. In other tapas which are not good, they suffer loss and have to make up from their pay. They do not make anything for themselves from lapo, whereas they have to pay out of their own pocket the sum of Rs. 20 or 30 a year on account of rasai. All lapo is consumed by rasai.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

It is not a fact that one-tenth of lapo only goes for rasai.

PART II

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GOPALDAS H. KESWANI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Gopaldas H. Keswani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Supervisor, Public Works Department, Begari Canals. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Thirteen years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Do. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. I am in charge of Nasirabad Canal Project, but prior to November 1917 I was in charge of Jacobabad sub-division, which comprised 110 miles length of canal system. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided locally at their various camps for touring officers? | 11. Fowls, eggs, butter, milk, grass and firewood. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 13. I have experience of Public Works Department officers only. They generally take their own cots with themselves. A few water jars are supplied. No other furniture is required by them. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. At every bungalow, where the Public Works Department officers encamp, there are outhouses and office quarters attached to it. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Stables exist at every camp. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 18. They hold their offices in the bungalow and their clerks in the establishment quarters. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | The help of a few beldars is taken for loading and unloading the kit. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. No roads in my charge. Public Works Department officers as a rule have to go along canal banks. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. District Local Board. They carry out their repairs either by petty contract or by departmental labour. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 22. See reply to 20. As regards the Revenue Department, I think sometimes they employ zamindari labour for repairs to roads to the various camps. |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 23. Camels. They are engaged for the whole period of the tour. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. They have Government-paid postal sowars, who bring the post from the nearest post office to their camps. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. In Jacobabad sub-division, the usual camping places are (1) Begari head, (2) Choi, (3) Sonwah Mouth, (4) Chana and (5) Nurwah Mouth. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. No camping grounds. Bungalows provided everywhere. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages, with bazaar shops or bazars? | 27. Choi, Chana and Nurwah mouth. |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 28. All the Public Works Department bungalows mentioned in 25 have vegetable gardens attached to them. |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 29. See reply to 25. |
| 30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? | 30. Chowkidar and a malhi. |

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishments?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. How are they paid for?
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiarkars.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarkars?
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
45. The system was tried in 1915 and 1916. The contractors or suppliers fixed for the various camps did not turn up to provide supplies for Public Works Department officers, though timely intimation was given to them through the Mukhtiarkars. I do not think the tapadars have ceased to collect supplies for officers of other departments.
46. It is a great hardship and an unpleasant task for the zamindar. The zamindars and subordinate officials should have absolutely nothing to do with the rasai matter. It is not practicable to have an independent contractor as the job would not be remunerative and, besides, he too will have to depend on the supply of milk and grass on the zamindars.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
31. Supply of such articles as cannot be taken on tour by the touring officers.
32. Fowl 1, eggs 6, milk 1 seer, butter $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., jowari stalks 4 to 6 bundles, fuel 1 maund in winter.
33. The Executive Engineers take 2 clerks, 15 official and private servants. They require 1 kid for mutton 5 seers and milk at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer per head per day.
34. They vary. Fowl could be had for 6 annas in villages, eggs 6 annas a dozen, butter 6 to 8 annas a lb., kid Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4. As regards the prices of other articles, they are periodically given in the Sind Official Gazette.
35. No.
36. The average daily cost of the requirements of Public Works Department officers is 1 rupee. As regards the peons, private servants and clerks, they require mutton and milk, which are given free of charge.
37. The daroga or his muccadam brings the supplies to the camp; the supplies are taken from the neighbouring people.
38. The daroga submits his bill and gets the money directly from the Public Works Department officers.
39. I cannot vouchsafe for this.
40. They correspond.
41. No excess.
42. No such fund maintained in Public Works Department.
43. Nothing for jars or cots. No other articles of furniture or materials for stables are requisitioned.
44. No. They obtain vegetables from Public Works Department gardens.
49. Yes.
50. It is a failure inasmuch as the rasai has not diminished at all.

51. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
53. What are the orders on the subject? and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

51. No. I personally do not give any dhali.

52. The average cost of dhalis usually given to officers by zamindars and others is Rs. 4 to 5.

53. The orders are that dhalis of trifling value may be accepted, but the practice of giving dhalis should be discouraged. Refer to Government Servants' Conduct Rules, paragraph 2.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. In ordinary language lapo is understood to mean a fixed cess levied by a tapadar from a lapdowner.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. In the Revenue Department it is more or less a fixed rate per acre of cultivated land. In the Public Works Department it is sometimes taken as a sort of annuity or saliano.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. It is levied by tapadars, darogas or jamadars for the ostensible purpose of enriching themselves.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. Usually at fixed rates per acre cultivated.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. I do not know. No rasai fund in the Public Works Department.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

59. See reply to 58.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. I do not think the proceeds of lapo are utilized in any other way except as stated in reply 56.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. For particular favours in irrigation bribes are given to petty establishment of the department.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. I do not know.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. No.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. I cannot suggest anything except that the pay of the daroghas and muccadams should be raised and daroghas recruited from better class of people.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

66. It means body of labour requisitioned for emergent works such as closing breaches.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Usually the cultivators of zamindars.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Earthwork and such other work as is necessary for closing a breach.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. I think so.

70. When requisitioned for Government work, they are either paid the daily wages or food, whichever is acceptable to the labourer; in some rare cases, big zamindars refuse to accept anything from Government and they make their own arrangement for giving food to the labourer.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. It is available for ordinary repair works in working season, but in inundation season, it is impossible to get any labour without the help of zamindars.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
72. Yes.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. The zamindars are, bound to render help in breaches as per Bombay Irrigation Act, section 58, etc.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. I do not know.
75. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour?
75. Public Works Department officers do not require any labour on tour.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?
76. Refer to reply 75.
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp?
77. None.
78. Whence do they obtain them?
79. Is anything paid for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars?
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasa' contractor?
- 78 to 80. Refer to reply 77.
- 82 and 83. Whenever Public Works Department officers are invited to shoot in a zamindari land, the zamindars provide beaters. The beaters are not paid by the zamindars, but if the touring officer shoots along his canal or bund he makes his own arrangement and pays the beaters.
82. How do they obtain labour for shikars?
83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
84. I do not think the zamindar pays them.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?
- 85 and 86. I do not know.
87. It varies with the size of a breach: in a small canal breach 20 men will be sufficient, but for a big breach in the river bund 1,000 men would not be too many. Usually the zamindari labour is called for.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
88. They get daily wages or food from the Public Works Department; sometimes a big zamindar would refuse to accept anything.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
89. It does not interfere with the progress of cultivation; on the contrary, immediate closing of a breach saves them from such a loss.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
90. I do not know.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
92. Chher should not be entirely suppressed, as otherwise it would be difficult to close breaches and control floods.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GANPATRAO BAPURAO GORE.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Ganpatrao Bapurao Gore. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Sub-Overseer, Public Works Department. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 9½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. (a) 9½ years; (b) nil |

General.

6. I am working on Nasirabad Canal Survey and Project since 26th October 1917, but prior to that I was in Kashmor sub-division, where total length of canals in my beat was 66 miles.
- | | |
|---|---|
| 7. What is the area covered by your charge? | 11. Milk, grass, butter, eggs, fowls and fuel. |
| 8. What supplies have to be provided locally at your various camps for various officers? | 12. About 10 cots and 10 jars for Executive Engineer's establishment. |
| 9. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. The establishment landhis are attached to all bungalows. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 14. Stables are attached to all bungalows. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 15. The Executive Engineer holds his office in Public Works Department bungalows and his clerks and subordinates hold their offices in subordinates' landhis. |
| 12. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 16. No labour. The beldars help in the loading and unloading of the Executive Engineer's kit. |
| 13. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 17. No roads in my charge. I go along canal banks to reach my camps. |
| 14. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 18. Local Fund. |
| 15. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 19. Refer to answer No. 10. |
| 16. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 20. They engage camels for the whole touring season. |
| 17. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 21. The Executive Engineer has two postal sowars who bring post for him from the nearest post office. |
| 18. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 22. No camping places. There are Public Works Department bungalows at Kashmor, Drakhan 19th mile Muradwah and subordinates' landhi in 12th mile Adiwah. |
| 19. No camping places. There are Public Works Department bungalows at Kashmor, Drakhan 19th mile Muradwah and subordinates' landhi in 12th mile Adiwah. | 23. No camping grounds. There are bungalows at every camp which are kept in order by annual repairs. |
| 20. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 24. Kashmor, Drakhan and even 19th mile Muradwah. |
| 21. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 25. Drakhan and 19th mile Muradwah. |
| 22. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? | 26. Vide reply No. 25. |
| 23. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 27. One chowkidar and one mali where there is a garden. |
| 24. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | |
| 25. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? | |
26. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
27. Rasai in Public Works Department is supplying at site of camp of such articles as cannot be taken there by the touring officer.

32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies ?
33. The Executive Engineer takes 2 clerks, 2 peons, 6 khalasis and 7 private servants with himself on tour. Every one of them, from clerks down to private servants, require $\frac{1}{2}$ seer milk and about 6 seers of fuel per head per day. They also get mutton $\frac{1}{4}$ seer per head per day.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment ?
37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?
38. How are they paid for ?
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp ?
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds ?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars or zamindars ?
49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ?
51. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep ?
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government ?
32. Eggs 6, fowl 1, milk 1 seer, butter $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, jowari stalks 6 bundles for two horses and fuel $\frac{1}{2}$ maund.
34. The prices vary from day to day and can best be ascertained from the Revenue authorities.
35. No.
36. For the Executive Engineer Re. 1 per day.
37. The daroghas and muccadums bring the various supplies from neighbouring cultivators, zamindars or banya shops.
38. The daroghas tender the bill and the Executive Engineer pays them direct.
39. It is presumed that the actual suppliers get the money as no complaints of non-payment have yet been received, to my knowledge.
40. They correspond.
41. No excess.
42. Refer to reply No. 41 ?
43. Nothing is paid for jars or cots. We have already got stables at every bungalow.
44. No. They do not send for vegetables from Local Fund gardens.
47. The custom was stopped owing to zamindars or contractors having failed to make arrangements for Public Works Department officers.
48. (a) No. (b) It is not practicable to find a contractor.
49. Yes, but when no zamindar turned up to do rasai work, the practice was stopped.
50. No.
51. No, I do not give dhalis to touring officers.
52. As I have never given a dhali, I have no idea of it.
53. Orders never prohibit officers from receiving dhalis of small value (see Government Servants Conduct Rules).

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasa' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land Revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests?

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishment of touring officials?

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code.

54 to 59. I do not know.

60. There is no lapo system in the Public Works Department.

61. There are no regular exactions made in the Public Works Department. But daroghas and muccadams may be getting some bribes for conniving at wastage of water by the zamindars.

62 and 63. I do not know.

64. No.

65. I cannot suggest any.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials or Government?

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Durran on conditions of rendering service to the community or to Government?

66. Chher means labour supplied by a zamindar for an emergent work.

67. Chheras are the labourers who cultivate the land of the zamindars.

68. All kinds of work in connection with breaches of canals and river bunds.

69. Yes.

70. Yes, they are given either daily wages or food whichever they accept. Some big zamindars do not accept payment with a view to helping the Government.

71. For ordinary works the labour is available.

72. Yes, Government maintain beldars on canals.

73. They are bound to supply labour according to section 53, Irrigation Act.

74. I do not know.

75. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour? 75. Public Works Department officers do not require labour on tour.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 76 and 77. None.
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp? 78. They do not want them.
78. Whence do they obtain them? 79 and 80. Vide reply No. 76.
79. Is anything paid for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars? 82 and 83. When the Executive Engineer shikars in zamindari limits the zamindar concerned makes the shikar arrangement gratis for the Executive Engineer. But the Executive Engineer pays the labourers when he shikars along canal banks.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasas' contractor? 84. Yes, they are given food.
81. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 85. No roads in my charge.
83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payments? 86. Vide reply to No. 85.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 87. From 5 to 1,000, according to the magnitude of the breach.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 88. The Government feeds or pays the men, whichever they want; but in rare cases the zamindars refuse to take payments.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 89. It does not interfere with the progress of cultivation.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 90. I do not know.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 91. No.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 92. Chher for emergent works should not be suppressed as it is nearly impossible to obtain other labour in the mufussil in the case of unexpected breaches in canals or river bunds.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KADIR BAKHSH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Kadir Bakhsh. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Inspector of Police. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Garhi Khairo Jamali. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Thirty-two years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. My entire service has been in Sind; from the grade of Constable to that of Inspector. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. Two talukas, Jacobabad and Shahdadkot. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided locally at your various camps for various officers? | 11. Flour, rice, ghee, milk, mutton, fuel, grass, cots, earthen jars, fowls, eggs. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 13. At the most 10 or 15 cots and 15 or 20 earthen jars at the camps of the officers. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. They have tents with them and generally the staff too; the office staff puts up in unoccupied Government buildings or musafir-khanas. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Landhis are erected where there are no bungalows. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 18. The office is held in a tent and they put up in it or some unoccupied Government building or musafir-khana; no other arrangement is made. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. None. The orderlies pitch the tents and very rarely ask the help of paggis and sepoy in pitching the tents. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. In fairly good condition. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of roads? | 21 and 22. It is not our duty. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 23. The officers keep their own horses, baggage and riding camels for the whole period of the tour. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. The police-sowars take the post from and to the nearest post-office. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Police stations and watching places. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. We have no concern with it. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banis shops or bazars? | 27. Generally there are shops or markets near camping grounds. |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 28. There are no gardens in the camping grounds. |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 29. There are no bungalows in camping grounds, but the District Local Board and Engineering bungalows are numerous. |
| 30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? | 30. I know nothing about it. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 31. To supply the necessary things which cannot be taken with oneself at the time of tour. |
|---|--|

32. About 4 or 5 seers of flour, 2 or 3 seers of rice, 1 seer of ghee, 3 or 4 seers of mutton, 2 or 3 bundles of fuel, 15 or 20 cots and 15 or 20 earthen jars.
33. 1½ lbs. of flour or rice, ¼ lb. of ghee, ¼ lb. of mutton, spices worth 3 pies, etc., half a seer of milk to each man. About 5 to 8 annas each.
34. We keep no record of details of prices.
35. No, there is no such custom.
36. 3 or 4 rupees.
37. Food materials are purchased from the shop. It is only sometimes that the zamindars supply the food free of charge on one or two occasions and for the rest we pay the shop-keeper. The zamindars supply mutton, milk, fuel, grass, earthen jars and cots without any charge, and the fowls and eggs are also supplied by them.
38. The zamindars prefer bills, but at times they do not, and pay up the amount due on the things. Had it not been so, many complaints would have been made.
39. The zamindars do not pay back the amount of the bill to the staff secretly.
40. Not more than the estimated one.
41. No reply.
42. There is no rasai fund in the Police Department.
43. No, because generally everybody takes back these things.
44. No reply.
47. (1) Formerly the sepoy or tapadars used to attend to rasai; while now they have ceased doing it and the zamindars do it. (2) It is not so, they have given up this system.
48. No. It will be difficult to appoint a contractor.
49. Yes. But it is difficult in sudden and urgent cases.
50. No.
51. No.
52. No reply.
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?
33. What are the average daily requirements, respectively, of their private servants and of their official establishment?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. How are they paid for?
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
40. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and the zamindars?
50. Have you any special report on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
51. Do you give "Dhalu" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalu" and sheep and whence are they obtained?

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. Accepting or giving a dhali of high-price is prohibited.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

Lapo.
54. To accept anything in cash, or in the shape of a valuable thing or in kind.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'?

55. To accept one anna and annuities in coin or kind.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. It is said that the tapadars accept it and now-a-days apparently they might be using it for themselves. Such custom of lapo does not appear in the Police Department.

59. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishment of touring officials?

62. Apparently it is not in use and there is no rasai fund in the Police Department.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. To take men for work.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Peasants of the zamindars.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Generally there is no such system in the police.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. Yes.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. Mostly none.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. No.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasa' contractor?

80. There is much difficulty about it.

82. How do they obtain labour for shikar?

82. The zamindars give men.

83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. Three or 4 annas in cash are paid to each. Sometimes the zamindars request that the money should not be paid.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. They are bound to work as chheras and sometimes they get meals.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MURIJMAL KEWALRAM ADVANI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Murijmal Kewalram Advani |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Sub-Inspector, Police. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Kashmir. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Eleven years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Eleven years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 537 square miles. |
| 11. What supplies require to be provided locally at your various camps for various officers? | 11. Milk, butter, fowls, eggs, grass, fuel and mutton. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Some cots and jars, but no furniture. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. Private servants stop in outhouses of bungalows or in raoties. Clerks stop in police buildings. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Landhis are erected in the absence of stables in bungalows. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 18. No arrangement made. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. None. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Fair. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Board. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head quarters? | 23. Camels which they engage in touring season. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Post office is made use of. In its absence sowars bring it from the nearest one. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Dakhan, Bakhshapur, Zorghar, Badani, Girblo Mian, Nahar, Gondak. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. Nil. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? | 27. All. |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 28. All Public Works Department bungalows have gardens. |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 29. Dakhan, Kobhar, Toj, Timoho, Badani, Kashmir. |
| 30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? | 30. As far as I know, one chowkidar. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 31. Providing of supplies. |
| 32. What are their average daily requirements on their tour in the matter of supplies? | 32. Eight eggs, 1 fowl, 1 seer milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer butter, grass 4 to 6 bundles, fuel. |

32. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?
33. District officer takes 8 private persons; each requires $\frac{1}{2}$ seer milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer mutton, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer flour, 2 chataks of ghee, fuel; official establishment consists of 3 clerks and 9 orderlies; each takes same quantity of supplies as mentioned above.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. Please see notification in Sind Official Gazette.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. No.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?
36. About Rs. 5.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. Requirements mentioned in question No. 32. Zamindar provides them. As regards flour or rice, ghee, &c., are purchased from bania by the establishment members.
38. How are they paid for?
38. Zamindars give bill of supplies provided to district officers and bania is paid personally by the clerks and servants.
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers, or are they either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
39. Presumably payments reach providers as no complaints are received.
40. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Corresponds.
41. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
41. No.
42. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
42. No.
43. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
43. They have been given effect to.
44. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitute for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
44. No. If a bania is paid adequately for his trouble he would do in place of a zamindar.
45. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
45. Yes.
46. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
46. No.
47. Do you give "dhalia" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officer?
47. No.
48. What are the orders on the subject?
48. Orders do not prohibit accepting of dhalia of trifling value, but that should be discouraged.
- Chher.*
49. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
49. Supplying of men for urgent work.
50. Who are the "Chheras"?
50. Men under control of zamindars.
51. What kinds of labour are the "Chheras" called on to perform?
51. Do not know.

69. Do the "Chheras" hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "holders" maintained in your charge, either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour?
75. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp?
76. How do they obtain labour for shikar?
77. What do they pay the men?
78. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
80. How far does the employment of 'holders' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
69. Yes.
70. Do not know.
71. Not available.
72. Yes.
73. No idea.
74. Police officers do not require labour.
75. The work of pitching and striking camp is done by paggis.
76. By payment in cash. If zamindar invites them, he manages for labourers.
77. Four annas per man, sometimes they are reluctant to accept payment.
78. No.
79. Do not know.
80. Nil.
81. Nil.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NARAIN DAS VISHINDAS SONPAR.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Naraindas Vishindas Sonpar. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader. |
| 3. Extent of business or samindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Rs. 243 income-tax. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Shikarpur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. None. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means the supply of provision, flowers, fruits, ice, aerated waters, drinks, etc., to touring officers, their private servants, office establishment and menials. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 15 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Camping grounds in the following talukas :— |
| Labdarya | } Larkana district. |
| Kakar | |
| Mehar | |
| Shahdadpur | } Hyderabad district. |
| Tando Mahomed Khan | |
| Ghorabari ... .. |  | } Karachi district. |

I have further knowledge of many other camps in Shikarpur, Upper Sind Frontier, Larkana and Nawabshah districts.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. Commissioner, Collector, Assistant Collector, Judicial Commissioner, District Judge, officers of Irrigation, Police, Sanitary and Educational Departments. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Butter, bread, mutton, eggs, fowls, vegetables, shikar, milk, grass, gram, boosa and in some cases ice, soda water, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. We get the following things locally :—grain, rice, eggs, fowls, milk, butter, bajri or juari stalks and fire wood. Sheep is sometimes sent for from other places. Vegetables are obtained from Local Fund gardens, supplemented by consignments of English vegetables from large towns, e.g., Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Jacobabad and even Quetta. In the case of large camps such as Horse Show and X'mas camps even butter and eggs have to be sent for from big towns. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other samindars? | 12. At one time eggs, fowls, milk and butter were obtained from haris gratis, but now some of them refuse to give these things gratis and they have to be paid for. Other things are purchased locally from the banias. Fire wood is obtained from the jungle by the haris in the mofussil, but they are purchased in larger villages and towns. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. The sub-joined memo. shows the average rate prevailing in different places :— |

| Articles | Rate in towns. | Rate in mofussil. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Grain | Rs. 4 per maund | Rs. 4 per maund. |
| Rice | Rs. 8 per maund | Rs. 8 per maund. |
| Eggs | Annas 6 a dozen | Annas 6 a dozen. |
| Fowl | Annas 6 to 12 each | Annas 4 to 8 each. |
| Milk | Annas 2½ per seer | Annas 2 per seer. |
| Butter | Rs. 1-8 per seer | Re. 1 per seer. |
| Bajri and juari stalks | Annas 2 a bundle | Anna 1 a bundle. |
| Fire wood | Annas 8 per maund | Annas 4 per maund. |

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. Yes, they have market value even in small villages.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. In places near forest or where revenue jungles abound, the fuel is brought by haris gratis. In other places it is purchased.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 16. The officer's butlers take very large quantities of supplies and ask for very small quantity to be entered in bills. It all depends on what the officers require. It may be Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 per day for one officer.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. Cannot say but sub-joined memo, shows the total average cost for each camp per day—

| | | | Head-quarters. | Outside. |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----------------|-------------|
| Commissioner... | ... | ... | Rs. 200 | ... Rs. 150 |
| Collector ... | ... | ... | " 100 | ... " 100 |
| Assistant Collector | ... | ... | " 50 | ... " 50 |
| Deputy Collector | ... | ... | " 30 | ... " 30 |

This does not represent the expenses incurred during horse shows or Xmas camps which is very heavy exceeding Rs. 1,000.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. Vide above memo.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. Vide above memo.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. No payment is made by private servants, official staff and clerks. A nominal bill is presented to the officers but the money again goes to the pocket of butlers.
24. The loss in head-quarters falls wholly on the tapedars, while in the mofussil on the zamindar, who obtains deb kharch from haris. In some cases eggs, fowls, milk, butter, etc., are exacted from haris. Cash payments are borne by the tapedars.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. They mostly live in mussafirkhana, tapedar's dheras and other public buildings. In some cases Mukhtiar-kars live in private houses. No payment is made as none is demanded.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Sometimes, specially Mukhtiar-kar's establishment.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. It costs about Rs. 2 per camp. The amount is not paid.
29. Do you have to make 'Raszi' for Mukhtiar-kars, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.

30. No payment is made except in the case of Mukhtiarkar who prys Re. *per diem* towards the cost of rasai. The cost of rasai is daily on the increase, particularly in the case of police. The Sub-Inspector and even a head constable requires rasai.

Owing to daily increasing power of the police, the rasai of that department has become very exacting and scandalous. It is more rampant in that department than in the Revenue Department, because at present the zamindar and the hari are in greater fear of the police than any other public servant.

31. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedar or by the contracting zamindars?
 32. Rasai still continues to be made by the tapedar though in some cases show is made that it is done by zamindar or by contracting zamindar direct.

33. The tapedar, though ostensibly the zamindar, prefers the bill and receives payment if ever made. I do not approve of the contract system but if one is to be introduced I would recommend that there should be independent contractors as in the Commissariat Department. The contractor should be a salaried servant. He should get advance from Government for incurring expenses in connection with officer's camp. This should be reimbursed direct from the pay of the officer and his establishment. The contractor should be independent of and should have nothing to do with the tapedar or zamindar.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
 35. No. The system will be impracticable.

36. Rasai has a demoralizing effect on the whole administration and brings it into contempt and disrepute. It has grown into scandal and tarnished the fair fame of the British character and administration. It gives a handle to subordinates to make exactions with impunity. It should therefore be totally abolished and put down. I would recommend that European and other touring officers should honestly and whole-heartedly take steps as did Colonel Mayhew, Mr. Barrow and Mr. Monie, in the matter and personally see that every thing is paid for. As far as practicable, the provisions should be obtained direct from the vendors. In head-quarters and large places every thing should be purchased direct from bazar. The camps should be in big places where the provisions could be easily obtained, and the number of camps should be curtailed. In camps outside the head-quarters the touring officer should be content with the minimum private servants and office establishment. He should do inspection work from head-quarters or other big camps. If the European officers try to put down the scandalous system of rasai with strong hand their example will be followed by other touring officers and the scandal will die out soon. Of course he shall have to put up with small inconveniences and petty annoyances, but he must make this sacrifice for the sake of pure British administration. In the alternative I would propose that small khatedars be given small grants of lands and made patels. They only should be made responsible for the supply of the provisions to touring officers on prepayment. The officers should never encamp at places where there are no patels.

37. Mukhtiarkars and zamindars present dhals of fruit, both fresh and dried vegetable sheep, etc. It costs each zamindar between Rs. 10 to 30 and a Mukhtiarkar about Rs. 100 and more. This system has grown into scandal and at present has reached its climax, as very large quantities of bought dried and fresh fruit is given in dhal not only to touring officers but to their establishment too. Now the practice of giving brandies along with fruits to officer's establishment has come into vogue.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
 38. Yes. The practice should be prohibited in toto.

Lapo.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
 40. Lapo means the annual lump sum exactions of illegal gratifications by the subordinates of the Revenue, Irrigation, Police, Forest and other departments ostensibly for the purpose of rasai of touring officers.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
 41. There are different forms of lapo exacted in different departments.

In the Revenue Department the chief form of lapo is anagi. It is levied at the rate of one anna per rupee of Government assessment or one anna per jireb of land cultivated. In the Hyderabad and Nawabshah districts it is levied at the rate of Re. 1 per Survey No. In a few cases even Rs. 2 per Survey No. is exacted. It is never levied by camp.

The other minor forms of lapo in the Revenue Department unconnected with rasai are—

- (1) Tobro—Annual payment of ears of grain or grain for village officer's horse.
- (2) Nafrano—Annual payment of annas 4 to Re. 1 from each khatedar for village officer's private servant.
- (3) Lekani—Charge for ruling ryots' Receipt books—one anna for each book. (This practice is now obsolete).

The Lapo is levied in other forms in the Public Works, Police and Forest departments.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darughas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
42. The lapo is levied by tapadars, abdars, darogas, thanedars and forest rangers ostensibly for officer's rasai.
43. The lapo is levied partly to cover the rasai expenses of touring officers. In the mofussil the zamindars have to make rasai in addition to the payment of lapo.
44. Yes. The zamindar makes no money presents. Of course he has to pay for salami to peons when visiting the touring officer in his camp.
45. The following is the list of payments usually made.—

| | Rs | Rs |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Commissioner in Sinds ... Butler | 100 to 200 | 10 |
| Collector's ... | 100 | 10 |
| Daftardar's ... | 20 | ... |
| Assistant Collector's ... | 30 | 5 |
| Deputy Collector's ... | 10 | 5 |

The butler and havaldar besides take daily allowance of Re. 1 and annas 8, respectively, on account of provisions, e. g., grain, ghee and spices only which they do not take in kind. They also get each a bottle of country liquor and a few packets of cigarettes and a kid on the first day of their arrival in the camp.

Originally the peons and private servants of the touring officers used to take provisions from the bania and the zamindar used to bear the cost but for the last 7 or 8 years this practice has been stopped and they are given each annas 8 per day. The private servants of the amla (establishment) receive lump payment varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 each for each camp. These payments are made to avoid the displeasure of touring officers and their establishments.

Besides the above money presents the tapedars are required to contribute towards the following annuities—

Daftardar's office Rs. 150 for not finding fault with annual closing of accounts called sal tamani. Again when the Collector does jamabandi of the taluka the daftardar's establishment gets Rs. 300.

When the Assistant or Deputy Collector does the jamabandi of a taluka the payments are made as under—

| | Rs | Rs |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| Head Munshi ... | 100 | 10 |
| Clerk ... | 60 | 10 |
| 2nd Munshi ... | 40 | 40 |
| 3rd Munshi ... | 40 | ... |
| Butler ... | ... | 10 |
| Naik ... | ... | 10 |
| Miscellaneous ... | ... | 40 |
| Total Rs. ... | ... | 300 |

The taluka establishment receive annuities as under: Taluka Head Munshi Rs. 10 from each tapedar. Rest of the establishment Rs. 10 from each tapedar. Peons Re. 1 from each tapedar. The supervising tapedar gets one month's pay or Rs. 50 yearly from each tapedar in his circle.

From this it is clear that besides paying rasai expenses the tapedars have to pay heavily for payment of annuities. These are considered legitimate charges on lapo and have to be paid as a matter of course.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for, particular favours and if so, what in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. Lapo is usually levied for general favours as customary dues in all departments for making rasai, etc. For particulars favours separate exactions are made.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted? 47. The following are the usual forms of particular lapo:—

Revenue Department.—1. Supervising tapadar receives on account of khatat (permanent land grant) Re. 1 per acre.

2. Tapadar receives on account of khas mokal (yearly grant of land) annas 8 per acre.

Irrigation.—1. Darogha receives from each nar or khuhada on a canal a sum varying from Rs. 5 to 10.

2. The Sub-Divisional Officer and his establishment receive Rs. 5 to 10 per cent. from contractors.

Police.—Badmashes and petty zamindars have to pay annual lapo varying from Rs. 50 to 100 to the thanedar.

Forest.—1. The forest ranger takes money payment of Rs. 5 to 10 from each maldar grazing animals in the forest. They also give butter, milk and kids for the touring officers.

2. The ranger receives two kasas of grain for each nar (well) cultivation in the forest.

3. The contractors pay 10 per cent. to the officers of the Forest Department.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars? 49. The amount of lapo has not been reduced since 1914 as the system of rasai contracts has miserably failed. There have been instances in which the contracting zamindars' men have been maltreated.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars? 50. No.

51. As long as the system of rasai exists the prevention of lapo is an impossibility. I would recommend that the European officer should take cudgels and systematically stop rasai, and award deterrent punishment for the receipt of lapo in any shape. Besides the pay and prospects of the village establishment should be materially raised. The pay of the tapedars should be raised to Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 and bhatta to Rs. 15 and the supervising tapadars should get pay varying from Rs. 50 to 90 and they should get a permanent bhatta of Rs. 20 per mensem.

Similarly the cadre of the police and other departments should be improved.

No modification in the system, or special orders of Government, can have any effect in stopping lapo.

Chher.

52. Chher means the supply of men to touring officers for pitching tents and doing other menial work in the officers' camp as well as men supplied for shikar, road-repairing, closing breaches, &c.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Mostly the haris are the chheras. In some cases bania zamindars give hired labourers as chheras.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. Chheras are required to clear the ground, pitch tents, bring supplies, water, fuel, cots, &c., to the camp, to do menial work with the butler and cooks.

When collected for officer's shikar they drive animals, beat bushes, etc. They repair roads and close breaches.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. No, though it is an unwritten law that the haris are bound to serve the zamindar as chheras and in other menial capacities.

56. When so employed do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindar? or from the officers of Government? 56. As a rule they get nothing when attending the officer's camp except leavings from the kitchen of the officers, his peons and office establishment.

When repairing roads and helping in the officer's shikar they get merely coarse food, which is supplied by the zamindar. On the occasion of breaches, etc., zamindar supplies food to the chheras. The Public Works Department pays the zamindar. The payment is hardly sufficient to cover the cost of feeding chheras. The chheras get nothing in cash.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. Commissioner's camp ... 100
Collector's camp ... 50
Assistant Collector's camp ... 25
Deputy Collector's camp ... 20

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. Chheras required—
for bringing supplies—
Commissioner's camp ... 40
Collector's camp ... 20
Assistant Collector's camp ... 10
Deputy Collector's camp ... 10

for preparing ground and pitching tents, &c.—

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Commissioner's camp | ... 60 | Assistant Collector's camp | ... 15 |
| Collector's camp | ... 30 | Deputy Collector's camp | ... 10 |

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. They get nothing except when they belong to big zamindars, who give them simply cooked rice.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. From 25 to 500 chheras.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. Naturally they do not come willingly. They get food in the shape of cooked rice from the zamindar. Some officers give a few rupees to zamindars for the purpose of feeding the chheras.

62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. From 50 to 500.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. These repairs are mostly temporary and are of no permanent benefit to the public.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. They get merely food from the zamindar if the operation continues for days; but if it be only for a part of the day even food is not given to them. They get nothing from officers or Local Boards.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods, and breaches of canal banks? 65. It all depends on the magnitude of the breach or flood. In some cases even thousands are requisitioned.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They are merely fed by zamindars, who get some money from the Public Works Department which is hardly sufficient to cover feeding charges.

67. Does the employment of the chheras interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Casual paid labour is available everywhere in any quantity during non-cultivating season. In cultivation season the haris would be willing to engage in labour if well paid.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes, but not in cultivation season.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Chher ought to be abolished totally in all aspects.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. VIRUMAL BEGRAJ.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Virumal Begraj. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Editor, "Sindhi." |
| 3. Extent of business or samindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. 25 years in Press business, paying income-tax. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Sukkur. |
| | <i>Rasai.</i> |
| 5. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai is of six kinds— |

- (a) Supply of provisions without payment, or on nominal payment, to officers and their respective clerical establishments.
- (b) Daily cash payments instead of the provisions to the menial establishments and the private servants of officers.
- (c) Payment of annuities in cash to clerks, to private servants of clerks and to the officers.
- (d) Payment for the pitching of tent to peons of District or Sub-Divisional Officer when he first visits the taluka.
- (e) Dhalls in shape of fruit, valuable articles such as imported wines, sugar-candy, shikar, &c.
- (f) Arranging for motor cars and gharries for comfort of the officer without payment.

(a) The person most responsible for the rasai is the Head of the district as well as his Sub-Divisional Officers and Mukhtiarkars who go on touring. These officers engage private servants on a pay as miserable as that of the Government menial staff knowing fully well that the deficit would be made from rasai. Thus the officers do connive at rasai, which goes on before their very eyes.

Firewood supplied to officers, clerks and menials is never charged for, though it is an acknowledged fact that the same is costly nowadays, and again other articles such as eggs, butter, fowl, fish, mutton, &c., are charged for insufficiently.

In many cases this nominal payment made by the touring officers is paid back to the butlers of officers.

As regards Mukhtiarkars they are always supplied provision without payment while on tour. The majority of Mukhtiarkars live upon rasai fund for all the 12 months of the year, be it on tour or otherwise. Some of the Sub-Divisional Officers do not pay at all for the provision while on tour; but if at all they pay in public, the amount paid is returned to them in private. Some touring officers receive provision far in excess of their actual requirements on tour with a view that the saving be useful to them in head-quarters during summer, e.g., tins of ghee, oil bags of rice, fuel, grass, &c.

(b) Peons and private servants of District and Sub-Divisional Officers get 4 to 8 annas a day per head for their provisions, in addition to fuel, mutton, fish and good quantity of milk. Peons and private servants of Mukhtiarkars get everything gratis.

(c) This is paid to the clerical establishment, menials and private servants. The practice in Sukkur district is that the inspecting staff get the following amounts from the rasai fund of the taluka, which is subscribed by village officers from anagi which they get on cultivated lands from samindars and khatedars.

Inspecting staff of dastardar get about Rs. 50 in cash from each taluka during tour, besides bottles of imported wines, fruit, butter, milk, &c. The same staff receive Rs. 60 from each taluka during summer as well while inspecting annual accounts in the head office.

Huzur Deputy Collector's office gets about Rs. 50 while preparing Public Works Department returns and an annuity is paid to the munshi in charge of forms. Judicial establishment of Collector gets Rs. 40 in addition to foreign liquor, fruit, &c., for examining judicial records while on tour.

Revenue establishment of Collector gets Rs. 5 from each tapadar for examining his books; these clerks do pay for their provision, but mutton, butter, fish, fuel, milk and other things are supplied free of charge. The clerical establishment of Sub-Divisional Officer gets Rs. 250 as annuity during tour from each taluka, Rs. 50 are paid again for examining annual accounts to the office people at head-quarters during summer days. Peons are also paid annuities. The taluka head munshis get Rs. 10 from each tapa annually, while supervising tapadar gets two months' pay every year from each tapa.

(d) Each taluka has to pay from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 for pitching of tent for the first time.

(e) Touring officers accept dhals on pretence of obtaining them as presents or hospitality from the owners of gardens knowing it fully well that fruit, sugar or liquor is costly and has been purchased on payment. Were these dhals presented as friendly presents they would be privately before two persons and not as it at present is,—presents to the rank and position of officer and not to him as private man.

(f) I have a personal experience of Shikarpur where this practice is growing to be very great nuisance for keepers of motors and carriages, &c., specially in darbar days. The petroleum (oil) for motors is very costly. These motors and carriages are made to be at the beck and call of officers for days and days together and it is natural that the owners, on the other hand, try to gain undue advantages. It is very often seen that some of these men are awarded certificates and chairs in Collector's darbar.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. The price of jars, one pice per each formerly, has risen to six times its original price, and still the same are supplied without payments, even at taluka head-quarters.

The complaints are quite numerous about the use of cots, milk, &c., so much so that on many an occasion the villagers and their children are kept starving for want of milk and have to lie on floors without cots in order that the touring officers may get every comfort. As to building materials they are supplied without charge to all the officers, for the stables; the materials are either purchased from the rasai fund or are received from the zamindars without payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. The aggregate cost for each taluka in Sukkur district comes to from Rs. 3,000 to 5,000 annually.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Rasai is made till this day by the tapadar from annagi fund or by the zamindar.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars?

34. I would recommend an independent contractor who has no land in the district and who has nothing to do in any capacity with Revenue, Police, Forest or Public Works Departments.

35. There is every possibility

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

of finding such independent contractors, but even if it be difficult the Government should come forward to offer encouraging terms by advancing money from Government funds and then if the contractor is found in league with the staff or the menials he should be severely punished.

Conditions to this effect should be inserted in the agreement. I know of people who will be quite ready to take up if adequately paid.

36. The special objections are: Under the present system if rasai is not made the inspecting staff will make mountain out of a mole-hill on trifling points relating to mere technical mistakes and poison the mind of the officer, but if the rasai is satisfactory, the work, however defective, will go as excellent even against the interests of public and the Government contrary to the standing orders. It happens so because the European officers do not take pains to go into the details and therefore cannot realize the amount of work done by each clerk and tapadar.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai', and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

Special recommendations—Separation of judicial and executive functions is most essential.

(a) The District and Sub-Divisional Officer should try to reduce their camps as much as possible and should take as little establishment with themselves as possible. It will be much better if these officers only camp at the head-quarters of taluka and go out, visit a village in company of tapadar only and then return to the camp. The Mukhtarkar, if possible, should only encamp in tapa and visit from there the different villages.

(b) The system of granting parwana of a chair in darbar at the recommendation of subordinates should be discouraged and stopped as it leads to rasai.

(c) No recommendation coming from a subordinate officer about grant of licences for arms should be given any weight.

(d) The system of giving contract to an independent and unconcerned party should be adopted.

(e) Concessions are not properly given to people at large.

(1) No body should be hauled up for cutting firewood from jungles.

(2) No body should be troubled for cutting trees from banks of private karias.

(3) No body should be taken to task for constructing brick kilns in occupied survey numbers.

(f) No clerk or munshi be punished for technical or trivial mistakes unless dishonesty or serious offence is proved. This will deprive the inspecting staff of their influence to levy rasai.

Transfer of gazetted officers, especially Deputy Collectors, from Sind to Bombay, and vice versa.

38. Pankha coolies even are paid from rasai fund if not paid from Government funds during the months of October and November. I strongly recommend that the practice should be prohibited by Government. In the case of the Public Works Department, the contractors have to pay 15 to 20 per cent.; in the case of Forest also the contractors have to pay 5 to 8 per cent.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means handful ang, i.e., one anna per every rupee of assessment to Government. It is paid by zamindars and khatedars to tapadars at the time of the payment of first instalment. It varies from 1 anna to 2 annas in general. Big zamindars pay in a lump sum, which comes to 3 or 6 pies per rupee.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest departments?

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thesedars and forest rangers?

40 and 41. (1) Angi, (2) Annuity to supervising tapadars, (3) Grain to kotars.

42. It is levied in the Revenue, Public Works, Forest and Police Departments.

In the Forest Department fowls, eggs, milk and fuel are supplied on account of pastures of animals and grazing. Public Works Department officers take from zamindars, on account of water, rasai in the shape of grain, eggs, fowls, fuel, milk and cash.

Police is paid in the form of provisions to sub-inspectors, constables, &c.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Lapo does not cover the rasai expenses only, but is used for other purposes also. Lapo and rasai both are great burdens on zamindars.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. One quarter of the rasai fund levied by tapadars goes into the pocket of touring officers and their establishments and the rest is pocketed by tapadars.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to samindars?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
45. Answered in No. 6.
46. For each particular favour separate amount is always paid in addition to lapo.
47. The figure of amount depends upon the nature of work. Such amounts are exacted by tapadars, darogas, forest guards and policemen.
48. No improvement of any kind appears to have been made after the rules of 1914.
49. There has been a little improvement in this direction. Five per cent. go free because of direct money order system.
50. Special officers should be appointed for a few years to detect rasai and lapo, as in the case of income-tax, till the system is abolished.

Increase in pay of menials and clerical staff and village officers will do something. Grain compensation allowance be given to servants under Rs. 100 and not only 80. Some local allowance may as well be given on account of high rent, etc.

Chher.

2. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
3. Who are the 'Chheras'?
4. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
5. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their samindars?
6. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
7. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
8. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
9. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
10. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
11. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
12. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, samindars or Local Boards?
13. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
52. It is a forced labour.
53. Zamindars' haris and kurmis.
54. Pitching and unpitching of tents, loading and unloading of kit putting up kaacha landhis, preparing ground for camp fetching water and keeping up guard.
55. There are no conditions of any kind. They are only to do their private work.
56. They receive no remuneration from officers, but they get food only from zamindars.
57. It all depends upon the requirements of the position of the officers.
58. Fifty to 200 men for shikar of different kinds, birds, animals, &c.
59. They never come willingly and no payment of any kind is made to them.
60. Chheras are required according to the nature of work and state of roads.
61. Such repairs are carried on primarily for the sake of officers, to avoid their displeasure.
62. They get nothing except food from zamindars.
63. Chheras are required according to the needs for floods, breaches, &c.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They are paid nothing but given food by zamindars.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Employment of the chheras does interfere with cultivation and cause loss to haris and zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Paid labour is available everywhere.
69. In many cases labour could be procured by an independent contractor, but in case of fire, breaches, flood and accident labour may not be had at hand and then it will be in mutual interest of Government and zamindars.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Chher ought to be abolished and labour be procured on payment of 8 annas per head for a day, and zamindars should only be asked to help on payments always and that also in case of fire, breach, &c. All that I have said above is derived from my intimate contact with zamindars and officials in my capacity as elitor and public man.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KISHINDAS JHAMBAL, B.A., LL.B.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Kishindas Jhamrai. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Income tax Rs. 66. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Sukkur. |

Rasai.

6. Definition of rasai. Gratuitous supply of food materials, milk, fuel, fodder of horses, eggs, chickens, fowl to the officers and their staff and peons whether at the head-quarters or on tour, or supply of these things at a very low and nominal price. I shall make the following classifications of rasai:—
- (1) Officers getting absolutely free supply of food materials, fuel, karbi, grass, and other necessaries of life not only for their own use but for use of their children as well whether at head-quarters or on tour.
 - (2) Others receive all necessaries of life free for their own personal use only while on tour.
 - (3) Others receive only milk, fuel and fodder and fruit and if non-vegetarian even meat free. They pay nominal price for eggs and chickens.
 - (4) Others receive only dalis of fruit, and vegetables and sugar candies.
7. I have personal experience for ten months as Mukhtiarkar and besides that while I was Resident Magistrate for 3½ years I used to see how Mukhtiarkars and zamindars made rasai. As a pleader I have had occasion to visit the camps of the Mukhtiarkars, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Collectors and there also I used to see something about it.
8. I had occasion to make rasai myself at Kandiaro, district Nawabshah, Bela Bhanwar, taluka Kandiaro, and Nawabshah.
9. Above camping grounds were visited by the Commissioner and Assistant Collectors.
10. Milk, vegetables, fruit, eggs, chickens, fowl, sheep or goats, fuel and fodder, wheat, rice and ghee were supplied to them. I have heard of cases where even liquors are provided.
11. Tapedars purchase these provisions partly from rasai fund and partly from contributions by zamindars and keep them ready in stock. Some of them are provided by zamindars in kind.
12. Mostly the burden of rasai falls on haris. for zamindars have their own funds for which they get some contributions in their own ways from the haris. Ostensibly however the Mukhtiarkar has to look to tapedars and zamindars for rasai.
13. Where the provisions are purchased by bantias, they are paid by zamindars and tapedars, but if zamindar supplies them he is not paid at all. Bania of course charges at the market rate unless he is a petty land holder when he is not paid in full.
14. They have not much market value beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns. But they have much value for the bhagis whose source of living depends on them. I mean where milk, stalks and firewood are by force taken from poor haris, who want them for their children and other domestic purposes, they have certainly more than market value for them.
15. Yes. We do get firewood from jungles also. Nothing is paid for it and I believe nothing is paid for their carriage. It is considered to be a privilege to use carts and camels for carrying them to the camp free of cost.
16. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?

16. In my opinion average daily cost of supplies required for the various officers is as follows:—
- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | Mukhtiarkar ... | Rs. 5 to 7. |
| | Assistant Collector ... | Rs. 6 to 10. |
| | Collector ... | Rs. 10 to 15. |
| | Commissioner about ... | Rs. 20. |
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?
17. Yes. Not only supplies are provided for the private servants but they are also paid fixed amount in coin. If they are not paid anything or paid less they spoil the whole game.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?
18. I cannot say exactly what the average of cost would be but they waste much and the fixed bukshish as they call it varies from Rs. 20 to 200.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?
19. Yes. Clerks of the higher grade just as Head Clerks, Head Munshis and the Serishtedars receive also the fixed annuities over and above the supplies of provisions of each taluka.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?
20. I cannot exactly give the average daily cost of their supplies as it depends on the number of the clerks the touring officers take with themselves.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
21. Yes. Jars for water, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables are provided.
22. So far my experience goes they cost nothing. The potters are compelled to give jars free and the banias and haris are obliged to lend cots free even at a great inconvenience and discomfort to themselves and their children.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
23. Question of payment or no payment rests entirely with the touring officer. Sometimes full payment is made and this is so generally in the case of the officers of the Judicial Department. Very few Revenue officers and officers of other departments pay in full. Sometimes they pay only for eggs and fowls either at low rates or a nominal price. Sometimes they make a show of payment. I know of an instance where in the case of a very high official a bill of Rs. 3 or 4 was presented when in fact Rs. 300 or 400 were spent on his camp. So far I remember the bill was prepared in consultation with the butler. In some cases officers consider it their right to be fed free of charges when on tour. Private servants never pay anything. Official staff and clerks pay in rare cases. They invariably get milk, mutton, vegetables, fruit and firewood free and for other provision they make a nominal or only show of payment.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?
24. Zamindars and tapedars bear the loss and as I have said above in my answer to question 12, loss is often times ultimately borne by the haris.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
25. Yes. Quarters for the clerks have to be provided.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?
26. They cost nothing nor any payment is made for them.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
27. Generally touring officers have their own camels and horses and it is in very few cases carts or carriages are provided.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?
28. In many cases no payment is made for carts or carriages. The liberal minded officers do pay for them and very handsomely.
29. Do you have to make 'Bakhi' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
29. Mukhtiarkars and Public Works Supervisors do get rasai and I shall classify them as follows:—
- (1) Some get all the necessaries of life free whether on tour or at the head-quarters and they are even supplied provisions for their family free.
 - (2) Some take necessary provision while on tour free.
 - (3) Some get such provisions while on tour on nominal payment.
 - (4) Some get only milk, firewood and karbi and few of them pay for milk but none pays for firewood and karbi grass for the horses.

I have not got much experience about Police Inspectors.

30. Mukhtiarkar's personal rasai costs Rs. 5 to 7 per diem, but where the Mukhtiarkars and Public Works Department supervisors get materials at head-quarters it means all their monthly personal expenses. As for payment vide my answer to question 29.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

31. The aggregate cost of rasai ranges from Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 or even Rs. 3,000 each year.

32. Mukhtiarkar does not make rasai from his own pocket. There is a rasai fund in every taluka to which each tapedar contributes his quota, and even zamindars pay something towards it in coin or kind. I have learnt that lately after Government circulars zamindars only make rasai at some places.

33. No payment is made except in very few cases. In case of the Collectors and the Commissioner the tapedars prepare very low bills and nominal receipt is signed by the Mukhtiarkars. The nominal bills even are not paid in most cases.

34. I do not approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars for thereby the cancer of rasai will not disappear. Zamindars have always some purpose in view whether of land grants, or chairs in darbars or honours. It is their genuine belief that the more rasai they make to please the officer nearer will they be to their goal. It often happens that zamindars get ear of the officer and achieve their object by making rasai at a very great cost to their neighbours and relations.

In my opinion it will be preferable to appoint contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars. Such contractors should be taken from the towns or large villages who should have no connection at all with the tapedar or the zamindar.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. It will be possible to get such contractors if they are given some fixed profit over and above the market rates prevalent in a particular area.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. Special objections to rasai—

(1) Tapedars, darogas and the underlings of the other departments receive lapo or other annuities from the zamindars and the other people connected with them on the pretext of rasai and annoy and harass them if they are not paid.

(2) Zamindars some times incur heavy debts to make a rasai and where the loss falls on hari he is ruined.

(3) Zamindars get undue favours and are able to harm their neighbours by making rasai. There is a proverb in Sindhi (اچھو کائي اکھون لھائي) meaning "when stomach eats eyes feel ashamed. It is natural if one gets any thing gratis he must think of repaying it in some form.

(4) Many subordinate officers just as Mukhtiarkars, Public Works Department supervisors incur displeasure of their officials if they do not make rasai and for that reason they are considered to be unfit. Many worthy people who would have been an acquisition to their respective departments have either been compelled to resign or have marred their prospects or have been transferred to out of the way places for not making rasai.

My suggestions are :—

(1) The Mukhtiarkars or Public Works Department supervisors who have smaller beats should take their provision from the head-quarters and should get supplies from there from time to time for they will perhaps find it difficult to get a banya from taluka for their tour only. As for milk they must pay for it wherever they go as it could be had in every village. As for firewood Government should supply them from forest or revenue land and in no case should a zamindar get him firewood from his own land. It is not necessary for any zamindar to be present at their camps unless they are asked to be present on business. They should not tour for more than 2 or 3 days at a time.

(2) In case of higher officials just as Assistant Collectors, Assistant Engineers, Collectors, Executive Engineers and Commissioner a bania should be taken from head-quarter for whom rates should be fixed and over and above that some profit should be allowed to him.

- (3) The Collectors and Commissioner should not encamp in small villages.
- (4) The contractor should submit the bills countersigned by the officers concerned every month direct to the Huzur Treasury and the Officer in charge of the Treasury should pay his bills directly from the Treasury and deduct the amounts from the pay bills of the officers and their establishment.
- (5) The touring officers should not repeatedly encamp at the same places and should as far as possible take very few clerks with themselves.
- (6) The officers should be very strict on their private servants who rob the most and if any servant of theirs and a peon makes any report against subordinate official, tapedar or a zamindar should not pay any heed to it and should look into the matters personally. It has been found in several cases that peons refuse to pitch tents and servants spoil milk and other eatables provided for the officers, if they are not tipped to their satisfaction.
- (7) The most depends on the co-operation of the officers some of whom often observe the Government circulars in breach.

37. Yes. In talukas vegetables are given from Local Fund gardens, sheep are brought from mukhtarkar by the zamindar, and fruit is sent for by the tapedar from the rasai fund. The mukhtarkar therefore has virtually not to spend a single pie on fruit, vegetables and sheep.
38. This practice should also be stopped because it is also likely to lead to favoritism.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

Lapo.

39. Definition of lapo. Exaction of a fixed amount in coin or receiving of a gift or a present in kind.
40. Forms of unauthorised lapo—
(1) it is paid in coin generally known as anaki,
(2) grain is also given.
This lapo is levied in revenue department as well as in forest and public works department. I have not much experience of police department.
41. Lapo is recovered by the tapedar at the time of receiving of assessment at the following rates which vary at different places:—
(1) Six pies to 2 annas per jirib of the cultivated area at some places.
(2) One anna per rupee of the assessed land revenue at other places.
(3) Sometimes they receive grain or clothes in lieu of fixed amount. Darogas receive in lump sum or in kind at a time when water is low and zamindars are anxious about water. Forest rangers get lapo to allow the neighbouring villagers to graze their cattle in forest.
42. Tapedars, darogas and forest rangers levy the above kinds of lapo for the purpose of rasai and the balance goes to their private purse.
43. Yes. It is also levied to cover cost of rasai but besides lapo, rasai is also made.
44. Presents are made from unauthorised lapo. In some cases zamindars do make presents and also pay lapo.
45. In the case of the private servants and peons very heavy charges are paid. I know of an instance where the butler of an officer used to charge every taluka Rs. 100 to 200 and I think in no case does the butler receive less than Rs. 20. The clerks of the higher offices do receive fixed annuities from the tapedars and subordinate officers. I can not give exact amount of presents paid to the clerks. They are paid to overlook the mistakes of the subordinate officer or to allow them chances to correct them. The servants are paid in order that they may not spoil the provision or that they may keep every thing ready for the officer. These presents are paid in lump sum.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darogas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

46. *Lapo* is exacted for particular favours. Tapedars overlook the boundary marks, connive at the wastage of water, overlook the cultivation of unalienated land, send recommendations for khas-mokals and muhag of lands. In the last 2 or 3 cases they get something besides *lapo* for doing little favours. If they are not paid *lapo* they will make reports in consequence whereof the zamindars are made to pay fines or do not get lands whether on khas-mokals or in their muhags.

So far as irrigation department is concerned if darogas and beldars are not paid anything or paid less than their dues they, when water is low, allow one zamindar to get water, and dam the water-courses of others, and do not allow their cattle to pass by the Public Works Department embankments, or to graze on their trees, and do not allow zamindars to take the branches of trees for their goats and camels. The forest rangers will not allow the cultivators to graze their cattle in forest or to take firewood free if they are paid nothing.

47. I cannot give exactly the amount of exaction but the tapedars, their kotars, darogas and their beldars make the exactions. The overseers and supervisors in the Public Works Department get percentage and also presents from the contractors.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of '*lapo*' and exactions of the nature of '*lapo*'?
 44. I cannot give exactly the idea of aggregate amount paid for in case of tapedars, the exactions are mostly made in proportion to the land cultivated and in case of darogas in proportion to the land irrigated.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving '*rasai*' contracts to zamindars?
 49. I do not think.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarbars?
 50. No.

51. So long there is *rasai*, *lapo* or the exactions in the form of *lapo* cannot be prevented. However if any system like payment of land revenue by means of free money order is introduced it may be checked to a certain extent. Tapedars, supervising tapedars, whose reports are given much weight are low paid persons and it is but necessary that in order to let them make two ends meet, their pay should be raised. So long stomach is hungry no order by the Government and no circular of any officer will have any effect.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term '*chher*'?
 52. Definition of *chher*. Employment of free labour or at a very nominal rate.

53. *Chheras* are persons who mostly belong to the class of cultivators and are called upon to attend free on touring officers, whether they are in camps or go out shikaring. They are also called to help the Public Works Department for erecting embankments or in clearance of canals. They are also requisitioned to help Local Board establishment in repairing roads.

54. In camps they fetch water for the officers, their subordinates and even peons, pitch tents and attend to their miscellaneous calls, while the officers go on shikaring they are required to collect birds of prey at one place or to terrify animals in a way as to drive them to a place, where the officers can prey with ease. At the time of the Commissioner's tour by steamer, they are employed to make a harbour or to cut roads through forests, jungles, canals and water-courses, sometimes to the distances of 4 miles and this is done by the employment of hundreds of *chheras* for the whole day and night. During the touring season of the officials they are made to spread grass on roads and repair them. At the time of floods they are called to help in damming water. When the contractor is not able to complete his work in time, *chheras* are requisitioned to help him, and they are also required by the Public Works Department to clear the mouths of the karias or to cut new mouths.

55. Do the '*chheras*' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
 55. I do not think these *chheras* hold any land on express or implied conditions to perform labour.

56. When so employed do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
 56. They receive no cash remuneration but they are only fed by the zamindar who supplies them. They receive nothing from Government officers. It is in very rare cases that the officer gives *bukhsish* to the persons who attend on him personally. Sometimes they are paid at the very low rate by the Public Works Department.

57. For the camp of mukhtiarkar 3 to 4 chheras are required, for the Assistant Collector's camp 7 to 10, for the Collector's camp 15 to 20 men, and for the Commissioner's camp 30 to 50 men.
58. At the mukhtiarkar's camp the number of persons mentioned above are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood. In the case of the Assistant Collector, Collector and the Commissioner about half the number of persons are required for their and their clerks' personal attendance, and the rest for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the tents.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. Neither officers nor zamindars pay them anything but the latter do feed them.
60. How many 'chheras' are required for shikar? 60. About 30 to 50 men are required for shikar.
61. They cannot be expected to come willingly specially during the cultivation and harvest seasons. Officers sometimes give them bukshish. The zamindars do not pay them anything in coin but sometimes they give them food only.
62. In ordinary times chheras are not required for Local Board roads and it is only during touring season and when there are sudden changes in the programme of the officers, chheras are called for that purpose. Sometimes 10, sometimes 20, 50 or even 100 men are requisitioned to help in repairing roads.
63. How many 'chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards? 63. There is no doubt that most of the repairs though primarily made for the benefit of officers are useful to the public as well. Sometimes, when the Collector or Commissioner tours through such places where there is no mark of road and carry carriages for their own use or use of their families, the roads that are cut and laid are only for their personal benefit.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards? 64. They get nothing from officers or Local Boards but they simply get food from zamindars.
65. How many 'chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. The number of chheras required in case of floods and breaches of canals and banks depends upon extent of flood and breach. Their number varies from 20 to 200.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. I do not think they get anything from any body except food from zamindars. The Public Works Department in very rare cases pay them only nominally.
67. Does the employment of the 'chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. It is bound to cause loss both to haris and zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Casual paid labour will be available.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Contractor can also procure them.
70. To me it appears that sometimes chheras are necessary for repairing roads during floods and breaches and for clearance of canals, but they should be paid adequately. They may be called for pitching tents, but this system should be abolished for every other purpose.
70. Do you consider 'chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHANDUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Chandumal. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Supervisor (Sub-Divisional Officer, Sukkur-Begari Bund). |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Chak (taluka Sukkur), |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Seventeen years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Seventeen years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Forty miles in length and 15 miles in width 600 sq. miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Twelve months. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One servant and one camelman, |
| 9. One clerk, one peon, two Khalasis and one najib (one pankha puller for 6 months) and one post runner, two camelmen with baggage camels for carriage of Government kit. | |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishments respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. All excepting milk and fuel and vegetables. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Milk, fuel, vegetables or sometimes mutton. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Tables, chairs, carpets, boxes, stools. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Six cots and twelve jars. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Nil. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Government buildings at each camp, |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. I have no horse. (Besides I have paka stables at every camp.) |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current office records. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. There are quarters at every camp. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Practically nil. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. I have no roads in charge. |
| 21. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? | 21. Baggage camels for the whole period. |
| 22. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 22. I have one tapali who brings post from Sukkur at each camp. |
| 23. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 23. Garang, Chak, Adurtakio, Loi, Choi, Kasim, Khobi. |
| 24. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 24. There are regular chowkidars to look after the bungalows. |

27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? 27. Mostly all.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. To Garang, Chak, Loi, Choi, Kasira.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. All.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. One chowkidar, and one malhi where there is a garden.

Rasai.

31. Literally, the word rasai comes from rasain—to please and then to gain favour—eventually it consists of supplies of provisions with or without payment or nominal payments. 31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. Three or four seers of milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ maund of fuel, for the whole establishment. 32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
33. Half seer of milk for private servants and 2 to 3 seers of milk for official establishment. 33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
34. I require at each camp milk and fuel and I pay nothing for them. 34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
35. There may be, but I do not know. 35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. Annas 6 to 10. 36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
37. Fuels are brought by beldars or mukadams or by camelmen and milk supplied by mukadams free of charge. 37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. They pay nothing for them. 38. How are they paid for?
39. I have satisfied personally about it. 39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
40. No comparison made at any time, for I pay nothing for the above. 40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. There is no rasai fund in our department. 41. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the apedars or mukhtarkars?
42. Mostly I have cots and jars kept at each bungalow so I have not to arrange for them. 42. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. Yes from gardens and on monthly payment. 43. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. My requirements are not such that the establishment needs any curtailment. 44. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. Impossible. 45. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 47. Practically nil.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor or each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars? 48. To get supplies direct from bazaars rather than through the establishment and determined and continued effort by all officers to put it down.
Yes, it is possible to find an independent contractor.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 49. I give no intimation either of my requirements or of my camps. For I make direct purchases from bazar.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 50. No.
51. Do you receive "dalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. Yes, from zamindars (excepting sheep) and none from subordinates.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "dalis" and sheep? 52. Re. 1 to Rs. 5, average cost Rs. 3.
53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government? 53. The accepting of such presents should be discouraged as far as possible. No.
- Lāpo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lāpo'? 54. It means anagi, one anna per every rupee of assessment paid by khatetars to tapadar.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lāpo'? 55. Two—one in cash and the other in kind.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lāpo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. By tapadar or by supervising tapadar from zamindars for covering rasai expenditure.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lāpo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 57. At fixed rates per year per biggah or jireb (half an acre) or per every rupee of assessment.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund? 58. I do not know it exactly.
Yes. I learn it is so.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund? 59. Tapadar.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund? 60. I do not know exactly.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests? 61. I do not know exactly.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lāpo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials? 62. To a very little extent, I think.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lāpo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 63. Not at all.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lāpo' or any local orders? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lāpo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? 65. An appointment of detectives and regular commissions, increase in pay, etc.
Yes, but not possible at present.

Chher.

65. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?
66. Forced labour.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
67. Generally cultivators.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
68. To close breaches and such other urgent and very necessary works required to be completed at a moment's notice.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
69. Yes.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?
70. I do not think anything from zamindars. In kind and seldom in cash from Government (as far as I know of my department).
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
71. Any number, excepting in inundation season or harvesting period of the crop.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?
72. Yes, by Government.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
73. I do not know myself, for I generally get any chher, if I require, through the Revenue Department.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
74. No.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ?
75. I do not require any labour on tour at all.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?
76. Nil.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp ?
77. One or two when I have tents.
78. Whence do you obtain them ?
78. I make use of beldars or mukadam (but I keep no tents).
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
79. I pay them nothing, nor are they paid by the zamindars.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?
80. Five to six annas per day.
Yes.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?
81. Yes.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?
82. I am not in the habit of making any shikar.
83. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?
83. I have no roads in charge, but number of people may vary according to the nature and amount of work.
84. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ?
84. I do not know (when I have no roads in charge).
85. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
85. Beldars, chher, any other labour that can be had even on payment.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?
86. Yes, they are supplied food by Government and on rare occasions cash payment.
87. How far if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?
87. To some extent, if detained long.
88. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Beldars ?
88. I can't say.
89. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?
89. No.
90. Do you consider 'Chher' should be wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.
90. An employment of chher to be stopped except in case of accidents such as breaches, and doing necessary and urgent clearance or repair work of canals.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MULCHAND PESSUMAL.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mu'chand Pessumal. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader and zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Thirteen years' practice in the Sukkur district at the bar and about the same period experience as a zamindar. About 600 acres, income tax assessed Rs. 204. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Sukkur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Chairman, Managing Committee, Sukkur Municipality. |

Rasai.

6. Supply of foodstuffs, cots, furniture, &c., in fact, everything required at the camps of officers of all grades on their tour either free of charge or at a nominal charge for the use of the touring officers, their establishments, servants, animals, as also payments of annuities to the camp establishments, private staff and butlers of the touring officers. Rasai fund is a fund on which requisitions of all kinds can be made by the Mukhtiarkar and officers. I have known of Mukhtiarkars sending allowance to their sons in colleges from the rasai fund. In fact, a corrupt Mukhtiarkar feeds himself fat on the rasai fund and draws on this fund for all kinds of luxury; hence he is averse to stop it, if possible, and denies its existence.

7. I have no personal experience of making rasai myself as my lands are situated in different talukas and at a great distance from Sukkur where I have to go on necessary occasions for batai, &c., only. But I have to pay contributions of lapo to the tapedar as also towards the rasai fund, but I must admit that owing to my peculiar position of being on terms of friendship with Mukhtiarkars and division officers or having easy access to them I am charged much less than the ordinary illiterate zamindars and am not required to do rasai personally. Besides being a zamindar, I have experience as a pleader attending at the camps of the different officers such as Mukhtiarkars, Deputy Collectors and Collectors for the last 12 years, and observing at the camps how rasai is being made and also I have information from some of the subordinate officers in different departments with whom we come in contact.

8. I cannot give the names of the different camps since I do not make rasai myself, as said above. Usually the camping officers are Commissioner, Collector, Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector, Mukhtiarkar, District Superintendent of Police, officers of the Public Works and Forest Department, &c.

9. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make Rasai?
10. All sorts of provisions—fowls, mutton, eggs, butter, milk, ghee, fuel, sooji, maida, grass and gram, &c.

11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
11. The supplies are obtained as follows:—
Provisions from banias; eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, mutton, vegetables, grass, fire-wood, gram, from zamindars or at their cost.

12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?
12. Zamindars get them from haris or banias, or from neighbouring zamindars.

13. Zamindars have not to pay for things which they have got in their houses or which they get from their haris, but they have to pay for things which are purchased from the bazar or from banias. Tapedar has mainly to see to the arrangements for rasai and whenever zamindar cannot supply, tapedar purchases from bazar, and has even to send for things from distant towns when they cannot be had at the villages near the camp or at the taluka head-quarters.

14. Have milk stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?
14. Yes, except fuel, but even for bringing fuel in such large quantities as required for camps, zamindars have to engage their haris for several days to make sufficient provision.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?
15. A zamindar living in villages has usually not to pay for firewood except for carting them.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?

16. This would vary with the kind of officer and his butler. But at an average the actual expense of a single officer per day would be as follows:—

Mukhtiarkar about Rs. 3, Assistant Collector about Rs. 5, Collector about Rs. 7, Commissioner about Rs. 10.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

17. Yes, including their guests.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

18. It varies according to the number of men in each case.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the offices?

19. Zamindars have to make the provision or the tapadars.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?

20. Same as 18.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, coats or other furniture or material for building stables?

21. Yes. The zamindar has to make arrangements for all these things or tapadar where no zamindar is available, but he also gets them from haris and cultivators.

22. What does that cost you for each camp?

22. I cannot say because I do not know personally as I have never been made to do it.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

23. Zamindars never receive payments for the supplies made by them to the officers, their private servants, official staff and clerks, if any nominal payments are made even, the money does not reach the zamindar and is either taken by the tapadar or returned to the butler.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

24. The loss falls on both the haris and zamindar.

25. Wherever there are no bungalows for camping or where there are no deras, the quarters are provided for clerks in the zamindar's otak, if available, at great personal inconvenience to the zamindar.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. No, except a nominal charge for slight improvements.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Zamindars have to do it whenever they have camels, horses, or carts or carriages of their own.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. No, except that zamindars have to shift for themselves and put themselves to very great inconvenience and expense.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

29. I have not to do it but other zamindars do.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. I cannot say. Zamindars do not receive payments.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making "Rasai"?

31. It costs me only payment of lupo about Rs. 40—50 per year, but to other zamindars it cost much more.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Both zamindars and tapadars make rasai. Contracting zamindar is only nominal.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. Bills are prepared in consultation with tapadars and butlers, payments are usually not made, except by high officers; but in their case also very moderate charges are made.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars?

34. I would prefer the appointment of contractors independent of tapadars and zamindars as in the Military Department.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. Yes, if officers and Mukhtiarars make serious attempt and if contractors get an assurance for a margin of profit.
36. Rasai in my opinion is a great evil and a great hardship on the poor haris and zamindar. It demoralizes the official staff and opens a door to corruption freely as well as to favouritism and undue advantage to one man at the cost of another. It places the zamindar in a very awkward position and often is the cause of maltreatment of zamindars and haris at the hand of officers and their menial staff. It even makes a conscientious Mukhtiarar often act in a manner in which he would never do but for this rasai system prevailing in the province.

(b) In my opinion the period of tour of officers should be reduced and they should hold camps in taluka head-quarters or in some big villages where every thing could be had in the bazar.

Tapadars and zamindars should have absolutely nothing to do with making provisions for camps of touring officers. I recommend the same arrangements as are made by the Military Department through contractors. Tapadars should have no other power or duty but to calculate assessment and frame bills of assessments.

37. Do you present 'dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. Very rarely, and only in the case of those who are on friendly terms with me and that also a fruit or sweats, on occasions of festivities or Hindu holidays.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. No action is necessary. For further remarks on 36 see my note at the end.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
- 39 and 40. Payments of annuities on the amount of cultivation to the tapadar in the Revenue Department and annuities to beldars and darogas in the Engineering Department, &c., and Forest officers and officers of other department establishment. It is levied in some form or other in all the departments mentioned in the question.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments?
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. It varies in different places: sometimes in lump sum and sometimes at fixed rates, sometimes in cash, sometimes in kind and sometimes in both.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied, and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and darogas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. Rasai for getting concessions in different ways, from tapadars, abdars, darogas, police sub-inspector, sub-divisional officers in the Public Works Department and Forest Rangers, &c., and for disposal of their applications pending before officers early and without hitches and for saving from harrassment.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Both.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Yes.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. The amount varies in different cases and depends upon the importance of the work.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Yes, in case of the Revenue Department, to avoid false reports of tapadars against zamindars in 'connection with remokal abadi boundaries, &c., and so also to save themselves from molestation in different ways at the hands of officers of different departments.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions, and by whom are they exacted?
47. I cannot say.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. Already answered.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No. The rules of 1914 have not been given effect to in their spirit but the arrangements are simply nominal.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar-kars?
50. No.

51. It can be reduced to a great extent by raising the pay of tapadars and by stopping rasai system, increasing the pay of the establishments and by real desire of the Mukhtiar-kar (who if corrupt enjoys the most out of the rasai fund) to put a stop to it. The tapadars' powers should be reduced, reports should not be called from him for any kinds of applications made to the mukhtiar-kar or high officials as is being done now, assessment should be paid directly at the taluka head-quarters, the final date of payment only being fixed. Assessment should be allowed to be paid freely by money orders. The grant of chair parwanas if at all given should only be restricted for Darbar occasions and such parwanas also should be issued by Collectors on personal information, or at least at the information of the Deputy Collector or Assistant Collector. On occasions other than Darbar every respectable man should be allowed a chair when visiting any officer. The zamindars should have means of more access to higher officers and the officers should try to keep themselves more in touch with them and should show more sympathy towards their needs and requirements. Arms should be more freely given and free and compulsory education should be introduced, and the masses educated to be able to know their rights.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Employment of free labour or labour on nominal payments.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are cultivators, petty zamindars, cattle owners and other poor villagers impressed for work.
54. They are required to work at the camps of officers for pitching tents, fetching water, fuel, keeping watch at night and doing all sorts of other work incidental to camp requirements which menial staff may be required to do.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. No.
56. When so employed do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. No, only in some solitary instances when they are fed by zamindars if they are taken far away from their homes.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. Commissioner's camp about 100, Collector's camp about 40, Assistant Collector's camp about 20 and Mukhtiar-kar's 10.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking camps?
58. I cannot give the details.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Usually no.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. I cannot say.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. (a) No. (b) Zamindars feed them and they get some, thing from officers at times.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. I do not know.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Such repairs are usually made for the use of officers on occasions of their visits to those parts.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. No, but sometimes they are fed by zamindars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Several hundreds.
66. I have no personal knowledge, but I have heard that they are fed either by zamindar or by the Public Works Department officer; but the cost of such feeding is simply nominal as compared to the work done by the chheras.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Labour is available if properly paid.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes, if the contractor pay proper charges.
70. Chher ought to be abolished absolutely and so also the system of rasai and lapo, all the three are inconsistent with the principle of the British administration and tell very harshly on the poor people and are a menace to the liberty, rights and self-respect of the public on the one hand and civilized Government on the other. The system of rasai has produced a very demoralising effect on the mukhtiarkars, head munshis, &c., in the Revenue Department and the general impression is that a mukhtiarkar who is not able to make rasai for the camps of the Commissioner, Collector, the Assistant Collector, is not considered fit for his office and is usually neglected and left behind. I know of a very capable and a strictly honest Mukhtiarkar who should have been a senior Deputy Collector 20 or at least 15 years ago being superseded time after time for no other reason whatever, but because he not only did not make rasai but took strong measures to see that the evil was absolutely nipped and for this crime he had to be superseded by those who had served under him as members of his own establishments. Instances can be had when Mukhtiarkars who are known in the public as thoroughly dishonest and unfit for the offices held by them finding favour with their superiors simply because they are known to be good rasai makers. The instances of such cases are also found in the Police and other departments. The rasai obtained by the police is usually by force and maltreatment. I myself was an eye-witness to an incident of that kind in my dera in the Mirpur taluka 2 years ago when a police sowar wanted to take away some of my haris to some distant village for work and he wanted them to supply milk for the Inspector and his party. It was only when I sent for the jamadar and threatened to report him to the District Superintendent of Police that the man reluctantly let my men go. Such instances of maltreatment are an every-day occurrence to my knowledge.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

As a pleader several cases of Forest Department have come to my notice when people have been prosecuted falsely because they have refused to supply milk, fowls, eggs, kids, and such instances can be found from the records of decided cases even.

I have personal experience as a zamindar that whenever my kamdars have delayed the payment of lapo or failed to make rasai of the tapadar I have had to suffer loss in one way or the other. Even bills of assessment are not sent to me. My wahi correspondence is delayed, my khas mokal applications are not even considered. False reports are so often sent against me, while the police go to the extent of most grossly and shamefully abusing the female folk of the poor haris who refuse to supply them with anything demanded. Whenever a Police Sub-Inspector, Jamadar or Inspector visits any locality he must get everything free for himself and his party consisting of sometimes even 20 to 30 persons. This department requires very great improvement in the interest of freedom and liberty of the masses.

If high officers when on tour take more interest in finding out for themselves the true state of things regarding the maltreatment of the people by the taluka officers of different grades and departments without the intervention of those officers and in their absence and actually make efforts to redress their wrong, things are bound to improve considerably. This object can also be achieved if the officers are more accessible to the people than they are at present.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MULCHAND A. MAHTANI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mulchand A. Mahtani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Sub-Engineer, Public Works Department. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Mirpur Mathelo. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 34½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Whole length of service in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. 1,200 square miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. All the year round. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One cook and one syce, and one camelman. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One peon, 2 khalasis and one clerk. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. Rice, dal, potatoes, flour and spices we take with us on tour. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Ghee, milk, mutton, grass and eggs. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Private : 2 boxes, 2 chairs, 1 teapoy and 1 table. Official : 4 boxes, 3 chairs and 2 tables. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Our Public Works Department bungalows, where I generally encamp, are provided with cots so I do not require any for my use. My clerk, and peon and khalasis require about 6 cots, and we require 3 or 4 jars. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. No tent. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishment? | 15. I have got 3 Government baggage camels and one private baggage camel engaged for all the year round, one horse and one riding camel. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Our Public Works Department bungalows have got stables. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current and two previous years. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. I generally occupy the Public Works Department bungalows, and occasionally tapedar's deras. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. None. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Fair. The inspection paths along the canals are in good order. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Fund Department beldars and zamindari labour. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. Not for me. |

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? - 23. I have got baggage camels for the whole period of my tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? - 24. I have got a Government tapali. He brings the post for me.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? - 25. (1) Rounti, (2) Ubauro, (3) Mirkush, (4) Khambra, (5) Reti, (6) Dalvichee, (7) Kander, (8) Zanger, (9) Khanpur and (10) Jadopitofee
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? - 26. I do not require any camping ground.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? - 27. Bania are available within practical reach at each camp.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? - 28. Vegetable gardens are attached to Nos. (1) (3) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) and (10).
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? - 29. All of them.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? - 30. One chowkidar and one beldar who takes care of the trees along the canal also.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? - 31. Rasai means to provide the touring officers with their requirements on nominal charges.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? - 32. I require $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of milk, one egg, one bundle of grass, $\frac{1}{2}$ pav of ghee and 1 pav of mutton if available.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment. - 33. Three or 4 seers of atta, 2 seers of milk, and a little of dal and mutton if available.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as gram, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? - 34. Grain $5\frac{1}{2}$ seers a rupee, rice $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers a rupee, eggs 6 pies each, fowl 6 annas each, sheep 5 to 7 rupees each, dumba 10 to 15 rupees each, milk $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a seer, bajri and juari stalks Rs. 10 per 100 and firewood 2 annas per man's load.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? - 35. No.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? - 36. About rupees two per day.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? - 37. I pay for my requirements in full except for grass, fuel and milk which is provided by the daroghas and the mukadams. Milk and fuel are also given to the establishment.
38. How are they paid for? - 38. Fuel is brought from canals, grass from cultivators without any payment and milk from herdsmen who graze their cattle on the canals.
39. What guarantee have you, that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? - 39. I am very careful to see that the supplies purchased for me and my establishment are paid in full.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? - 40. It makes no difference except that milk, fuel and grass are not paid at all, which means about 4 annas a day.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 41. By no one.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. No - rasai fund in the Public Works Department.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. No.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? 44. I pay annas 8 per month, for the use of vegetables in the gardens as decided by the Government.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service? 45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service? 46. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 47. I see that there has been some change in the rasai after the circular of 1914.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and samindars? 48. I would suggest that each touring officer should make his own arrangement through his private servants, and there will be no difficulty in obtaining anything and everything on payment. It is not possible to find contractors.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and samindars? 49. It is not necessary in my case.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 50. No. A copy of the circular was sent to me.
51. Do you receive "Dahis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. No.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government? 53. The orders are not to accept any dhalis. There is no difficulty in carrying out these orders.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 54. Lapo means a fixed rate of illegal instalment for tapedars and daroghas.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? 55. There are two forms, one in cash and the other in kind.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. Tapedars receive lapo from the zamindars and daroghas from either zamindars or haris.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 57. Tapedars charge so much per acre or so much per rupee which is recovered at the time of assessment, and daroghas charge so much per husd, nar or a wahi and recover during the abkalan season.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund?
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
58. Part of the lapo is utilized to cover the cost of rasai.
59. In the Public Works Department daroghas manage the rasai.
60. In the Public Works Department the unauthorized lapo is not utilized for any cash payments.
61. In the Public Works Department the unauthorized lapo is exacted for no particular favour but is being paid as a custom and this payment is reduced to a minimum.
62. Such is not the case in the Public Works Department.
63. To some extent.
64. No.
65. The levy of unauthorized lapo in the Public Works Department will be prevented if the zamindars stop payment and the officers give assurance that they will not be harassed by the daroghas.
- Chher.*
66. Chher means labour without payment.
67. Generally haris, sometimes artisans also.
68. To pitch tents, to fetch water, to cut and fetch grass and fuel, to load and unload carts and camels.
69. I do not think.
70. As far as I know, they receive no payment.
71. Labour on wages, whether for the full day or a part of it, is available everywhere.
72. There are about 70 beldars maintained by Government in my charge.
73. I think they are not bound to provide labour except for closing breaches and clearing canals.
74. I do not know any in Sind.
75. I do not require any labour on tour.
76. None.
77. None.

78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. I do not require any.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. None is engaged.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor? 80. Casual paid labour could be had at annas 2 to 3 per day. A rasai contractor may be able to supply this labour.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments? 81. Yes, it is possible.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. I do not want any.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. No labour ever employed on shikar by me.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. I do not think.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. That depends upon the condition of the road.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. I cannot say anything for certain.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Any amount of labour in case of high inundation.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. I always feed the labourers supplied by zamindars for closing breaches.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. That depends upon the period those men are employed.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. In my opinion it does not interfere with their ordinary work in the Public Works Department.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. Chher should be suppressed except for floods and breaches.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ALINAWAZ MAHOMED RAHIMBEG MIRZA.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mr. Alinawaz Mahomed Rahimbeg Mirza. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Mukhtiarkar of Shikarpur. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Shikarpur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. About 19 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. I have served as Mukhtiarkar in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thar and Parkar and Sukkur districts. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 489 sq. miles. |
| 8. What supplies have to be provided locally at your various camps for various officers? | 11. Flour, rice, grain, ghee, butter, sugar, milk, mutton, grass, fuel, fowls, eggs. |
| 13. What are their further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. They require cots and water jars only. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. Tents, musafarkhanas and tapadars' deras are used for the accommodation of their private and official establishments. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Stables are connected to all bungalows, but in places where there are no bungalows temporary landhis are made for stables. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps. | 18. Office is held in the tents. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. They require men for pitching their tents and keeping things therein and for bringing water. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Fair. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Taluka Local Board and District Local Board. A permanent establishment is maintained for repairing the District Board roads and a party of beldars is engaged during cold weather to repair the Taluka Board roads. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. If a road to any camp is not in good condition and if there is ample time, the Local Fund establishment is employed to put it in proper order. |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 23. Camels are engaged for the whole period of their tour at the head-quarters. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 24. Peons and kotars do this duty. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. A large village in each tapa, especially the tapadar's head-quarters. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. For some camping grounds there is a permanent Local Fund establishment and the camping grounds for which there is no such establishment the road malhis look after them and keep them in order. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banna shops or bazars. | 27. All of them. |

28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. None.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Thahrio, Redho, Loi, Hamayun, Uner and Chaimouth.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. They are all in charge of the Public Works Department except one at Hamayun where a watchman is appointed by the Local Board.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 31. Rasai is the general term applied to all sorts of arrangements that are required to be made for the officers' camps such as supply of provisions and labour.
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. This information can either be given by the officers themselves or by the tapedars or zamindars who supply the things.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 33. The zamindar and the tapedar can give this information.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 34. The average prices are as follows:—
eggs 3 pies each, fowls 5 annas each, milk 6 pice a seer, butter 12 annas a seer, jowari grass 1 anna a bundle, firewood 3 annas a maund.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. No, as people do not sell these things in the small villages.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers and their servants and of their official establishment? 36. I cannot make such an estimate as I do not know of their requirements.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. The bazar things are bought at the banias' shops while milk, fuel, grass, butter, fowls, eggs and water jars are supplied by the zamindars.
38. How are they paid for? 38. The bazar things are obtained on payment at the shops while the zamindars receive payment for the other things.
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 39. The bazar things are purchased on cash payment at the shops. As regards other things, it cannot be said whether the zamindar pays the men from whom he collected the supplies.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 40. There should be no difference whatever as full payment is made to the bania at the prevailing rates. As regards other things, for which average rates are fixed, they are generally sold at the same rates.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 41. When there is no-difference, nobody pays the excess.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. No.
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. Nothing.
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? 44. There are no such gardens in my charge.
45. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 45. In places where there are big zamindars they supply all the things except the bazar things, but where there are no big zamindars the tapedars collect supplies.

48. The rules are not liked by the big zamindars, who feel that all the burden falls upon them. It is very difficult to find a contractor, but even if one is found it will be impossible for low paid clerks and menials to purchase supplies from him at heavy rates as he cannot sell things at ordinary bazar rates for he will have to incur extra expenditure for the carriage of the supplies from place to place. At times there will be several officers touring in one taluka and he cannot appoint so many agencies for this little business by which he will practically gain nothing. In all the big villages there are banias' shops where provisions can be easily obtainable on cash payment. As regards milk, grass, fuel, etc., the local zamindars must make the arrangements and they must be forced to accept price thereof.

49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. The timely intimation of camps is given but no intimation of requirements is ever given.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914, or any special local orders?

50. No.

51. Do you give "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?

51. No.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?

52. This requires no reply when I do not give such things.

Lapo

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. 'Lapo' is an unlawful charge levied by the tapedar from landholders.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. There is only one form of unauthorized 'Lapo' in the Revenue Department.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. The tapedar levies lapo from the zamindars for making 'rasai.'

57. It varies according to localities. In some places the tapedars charge one to four annas per acre, while in others at the rate of Rs. 3 to 5 per Rs. 100 of assessment, and in some one anna per rupee. The big zamindars do not pay at the above said fixed rates. They pay once a year a lump sum to the tapedar according to their wishes and the tapedar accepts

whatever small sums he is given.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund?

58. A part of this money is utilized to cover the cost of rasai for touring officers' establishments and is converted into a rasai fund.

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?

59. The tapedars themselves manage this fund.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?

60. A portion of this fund is utilized for money presents. As the tapedars do this secretly I cannot say what amount each man receives.

61. As regards revenue matters, the tapedars cannot do any favour or disfavour to the zamindar, who can discontinue payment of lapo altogether if he wishes. In the Police and Forest Departments there is no such thing as lapo but to the subordinates of the Public Works Department the zamindars do

pay a fixed amount annually. The Public Works subordinates have got water in their hands and if a zamindar refuses to pay them they can stop his water-supply at a time when he needs it badly. In comparison with the tapedars' lapo, this is the worst form of lapo. In the former case it is obtained by begging while in the latter it is obtained by coercion. Besides this they get a fixed percentage from all the contractors of works under them. In the Revenue Department several persons have been criminally prosecuted and punished for these evil practices and this has had a salutary effect upon the members of that department but in the

Public Works Department I know of no such instance, hence they have been taking lapo and rasai without any restraint or fear. The zamindars fear the officials of the Public Works Department and the police much more than the officials of the Revenue Department as the former can injure them in the matter of their water-supply and the latter can deprive them of all the honours at any moment, hence the orders of the subordinates of these departments regarding rasai are obeyed more promptly than those of the Revenue Department. As regards the Forest Department, the rasai is made by those zamindars only who live near the forests and have got dealings with the officials of that department.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. As far as I have seen, the examinations of my record have been very strict everywhere, but in some places lapo might have been utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials.

63. Yes. It has decreased to a certain extent. Formerly it was considered the legitimate perquisite of a tapedar but now the people understand what it is and do not come forward with open hands as they used to do before. It cannot be totally denied that the tapedars do not take it. They do take it but as

secretly as possible and accept whatever small sums they are given without a murmur. But this is the fault of the zamindars. Why do they pay it? The tapedar is not the arbiter of their destinies. He can do no harm to them. The times are changed now. It therefore entirely rests with the zamindars to stop this illegal practice if they wish it. It is the duty of the educated and influential zamindars to make extensive tours in the districts in order to educate public mind and preach to them that they must not pay lapo and rasai to the tapedar. If the tapedar refuses to take land revenue from them during the first 5 days of the instalment period, they must come to taluka head-quarters in the last 5 days and pay it before the Mukhtiarkar where the tapedar is bound to receive it.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. None

65. If it is desired to stop lapo and rasai altogether by official hand, it is necessary to

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

have the co-operation of the Mukhtiarkars and in my opinion this cannot be fully had unless their status is raised. I would suggest that the lower division of the gazetted officers should be abolished and the Mukhtiarkars should be brought on the same list with other gazetted officers of the upper division. Also this pre-English designation of

'Mukhtiarkar' should be done away with now and the Mukhtiarkars who are also the deputies of the Collector should be ranked with the Deputy Collectors on the same list like the class of the Sub-Judges. There should be no distinction whatever between a Deputy Collector and a Mukhtiarkar as there is none in the cadre of Sub-Judges. A Sub-Judge drawing Rs. 150 has the same status and designation as a Sub-Judge drawing Rs. 800. These officers get their promotion by seniority. Promotion by selection is quite unknown amongst them. Why should this pernicious practice be followed as regards the Mukhtiarkars? They must also get their promotion by seniority unless there is something very serious against an individual officer. These are the things which have made most of the Mukhtiarkars 'timid.' They dance attendance even upon petty clerks of their superior officers in order to please them so that they should not say anything against them to the officers and create hitches in their promotion. When the Mukhtiarkars' status is raised, there will be no need to examine taluka offices. In fact the examination of taluka offices by Deputy Collector's or Collector's establishments is responsible to a considerable extent for the continuance of this malpractice of rasai and cash payments to clerks. The Commissioner's occasional examination is quite enough for discovering mistakes of procedure as no other serious mistakes are ever noticed even if the examination is very strict. The touring of officers should also be as little as possible. The Commissioner's tour must be confined to district head-quarter towns and similarly the Collector's tour to taluka head-quarter towns. The Assistant or Deputy Collector should make his camps only in villages of considerable importance. They must take with them as few clerks and menials as possible and the time of touring should also be curtailed to a great extent and the touring officers directed to pass much of their time at the district head-quarter towns. Since long there has been a very great improvement in the Mukhtiarkars, most of whom are highly educated men and honest too, and they should therefore be relied upon as the field and emission inspections and examination of jamabandi accounts and other work done by them is quite thorough and satisfactory. Hence the occasional superintendence over their work by the Assistant or Deputy Collector will have the desired effect. In my opinion the Mukhtiarkars must be made quite independent of their superior officers' establishment, otherwise it will be quite impossible to stop these obnoxious practices. In order to save their skin and be not prejudiced by their superior officers, most of the Mukhtiarkars connive at these things. But if their status is raised and they are made independent they will certainly check these illegal practices by heavy hand. But before vigorous steps are taken to suppress

lapo and rasai, it is very necessary to consider the advisability of increasing the pay and travelling allowance of clerks, village staff and menials, because in these days when everything is dear, it is very difficult for these admittedly low paid servants of Government to make both ends meet. In order to wipe off the fear of the Assistant or Deputy Collector's establishment from the mind of the tapedar, it is imperatively necessary that the transfer of the tapedars should only be made by the Collector with the consultation of the Mukhtiarkar, whose opinion should always be given weight to, since he is the proper person to know the worth of every tapedar serving under him. It cannot be prevented by any modifications of the Land Revenue Code Rules...

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?
66. Chher is the term applied collectively to a number of persons supplied by the zamindars for any Government or private work.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
67. Any one of these persons is called a chhera.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
68. The chheras pitch tents, fetch water, assist in closing breaches to canals and also assist in shikar.
69. Most of the zamindars give their lands to haris upon the express condition that they will not refuse to do any work which the Government officials ask of their zamindars to do but the haris generally understand that apart from the field work, they have to do any other work which they will be called upon by the zamindars to perform.
70. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
70. They do not get any cash remuneration from the zamindars or from officials when so employed, but the zamindars feed them for the days they so work and the cost of their feeding is much more than the wages which they can get for the amount of work which they are required to do.
71. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?
71. After the cultivation seasons are over, any number of men can be available.
72. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
72. The Local Fund employs a good number of malhis for repairs to roads in my taluka.
73. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government ?
73. They are not bound to provide labour for any work, but they consider it a duty to help Government officers by supplying men to pitch their tents and keep things in them. The peasants do not follow any other profession except the cultivation and they pass most of their time lazily in their homes and if a few of them went and assisted an officer's men, they would lose nothing. If the zamindars do this little service to Government officers, no great harm is done, but on the contrary they feel proud that they have been of some service to officers of the Crown. I have seen some liberal minded officers giving these men a little bakshish for their trouble.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
74. I do not know of any such grants in my taluka.
75. For what purposes do touring officers require labour on tour ?
- 75 to 77. Labour is required for pitching tents, etc. Some officers want more while others less. It depends upon the number of tents they carry. On an average they want from 15 to 30 men on the first and the last day for pitching and pulling down tents, and on the days of halt 4 or 5 men are quite enough to do other work.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ?
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp ?
78. Whence do they obtain them ?
78. The zamindar of the place supplies them.
79. Is anything paid for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
79. As this is a trifling work because they are not detained the whole day, nobody pays them.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ?
80. I cannot say, and the rasai contractor cannot supply labour without the assistance of the zamindar.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. The zamindars supply labour for shikar.
83. I have never accompanied officers when they go out for shooting and I have
83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? therefore no personal knowledge as to whether they pay the men or not, but I am told that they always pay them something for their trouble.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. I do not know this.
85. The road-repairing is all done by the Local Fund malhis and beldars in my
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? taluka, but if a road is required to be repaired urgently and the Local Fund establishment cannot repair it in time the zamindars of that side only are required to supply their men for the purpose.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. The zamindars feed these people for the time they are on work.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. The zamindars supply their men for the purpose as they are also concerned in the matter.
88. The zamindars feed their men for the time and I do not know personally whether the zamindars are paid by Government or not, but I have learnt from some of my brother-mukhtiarkars that the zamindars are paid by the Public Works Department officers at the rate fixed in consultation with them.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. The zamindars supply men in such a way that their employment does not at all interfere with cultivation work.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. Beldars are required to do the work only at head-quarter towns where chheras cannot be available and their absence from their legitimate duty does not interfere with their ordinary work.
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders? 91. None.
92. For the speedy discharge of official duties, it is not desirable to stop this practice altogether because in emergencies like floods or breaches nothing can be done without the zamindari labour, but for other purposes as few men should be taken as possible and they should not be detained more than it is necessary. For shikar purposes the men must be paid fully for their work. The number of men required should be engaged beforehand and paid on the spot by the officer himself.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. DILMURAD KHAN WD, KHAN SAHIB WADERO
BAHADUR KHAN BALOCH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name | 1. Wadero Dilmurad Khan wd, Khan Sahib Wadero Bahadur Khan Baloch. |
| 2. Occupation | 2. Zamindar |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Paying Rs 8,000—10,000 as assessment. |
| 4. Residence | 4. Resident of my own village, taluka Jacobabad, Upper Sind Frontier. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Boards or Honorary Magistrate | 5. Member of the Taluka Local Board. |
- Rasai.*
- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means—making bandobast (supplying) of articles which cannot be taken with oneself. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have experience since 8-10 years |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Bahadur Khan village and Bhal or Pul (bridge) musafirkhana. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. Deputy Commissioner and the Mukhtiarkar. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Grass, fuel, milk, jars, cots, fowls, eggs and butter. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or juaari stalks and firewood? | 11. The above articles are given by us and we give no other articles. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. From our houses, <i>i.e.</i> , by me |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. We spend nothing on these articles nor we purchase them these. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Milk, grass, fuel, &c. have got no value in the villages. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. My own men bring them or they are supplied by haris who are bound to give according to the cultivation provisions and they too spend nothing |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I cannot say how much they spend and have got no reason to inquire into this, such articles are not given. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Grass, fuel, cots milk are supplied. I give bread (meals) to Mahomedan peons according to Baloch system. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. Bread is distributed in great quantity hence no such account is kept 1 maund atta (flour) is required daily for guests though there is no camp (at my village) |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Grass, fuel, milk, cots and jars |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. We spend nothing |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables? | 21. Yes according to the question to answer 19 (jars, fuel, grass, milk and cots). |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. We do not spend anything |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | 23. We do not take money for articles as we do not spend anything |

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. There is no loss to haris (cultivators) as well as to zamindars because no price is paid for the articles.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. No.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. I give no houses nor do I spend anything.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. No.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. I take nothing as I spend nothing.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for Mukhtarkars, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes (grass, fuel, jars, cots, milk).
30. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 30. I spend nothing as I do not purchase anything.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. I spend nothing as I do not purchase anything.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. We ourselves or our kamdars make rasai. There is no practice of making rasai through tapedars since 4-5 years.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. We give no such bills nor do we take money because we do not give any costly things.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. It is very difficult to introduce this system in this district because according to Baloch system it is a disgrace not to entertain a guest.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. It will be very hard to get people because such thing has not been done before nor would the zamindars of the frontier like it.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. I have no objection and I cannot give any opinion.
37. I give a goat and dhali according to Baloch system to an officer who encamps at my village once a year. I spend nothing on the goat. The expenses on dhali, in my opinion, are trifling. I feel and think it a disgrace for me when any officer refuses to take my hospitality.
38. Do you present "Dhalis" of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 38. There is no harm to me nor do I wish that the Government should abolish this system. If Government or other officers think rasai to be a tyranny they will be good enough to order the touring of officers in small villages excepting in established headquarters to be abolished. By this the little rasai would disappear. It is very difficult to root out rasai without abolishing the touring of officers in Bahadri. The zamindars of the frontier would not like to see it rooted out, or to give contracts or to make any other changes, nor would they like to take price for grass, wood, jars, cots, milk and butter as it is a practice in the frontier to spend anything on the entertainment of guests and the zamindars consider it a pride and custom according to their religion to do so.

Lapo.

39. Lapo means giving of murad (perquisite) to all inferior Government servants at the time of reaping of harvest. Its other meaning was giving anaki before 4-5 years. But this system of giving anaki is not in vogue since 4-5 years. The payment of lapo to inferior Government servants of all departments according to their position continues on as usual. This is not compulsory. It is left to the sweet-will of the zamindars to pay this or not.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments ?
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of Land Revenue ?
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, Sub-Inspectors and thanedars and Forest Rangers ?
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?
48. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the Mukhtiar-kars ?
50. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the Revenue or Police system or any other special orders of Government ?
51. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?
52. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
53. For removing sluice from canals, for excavation, for checking breach of canals, inundations, for arranging for Government camps, for our facility and for the facility of other people and Government servants, and in special cases for repairing the roads near our villages.
54. What lands of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? Or from the officers of Government ?
- 40 and 41. Vide No. 39.
42. The inferior servants take for themselves.
43. For lapo I have said in the above answers. It is the same. We make rasai for above articles. Lapo is not taken for rasai.
44. For lapo I have said above. I do not know whether kharchis are paid or not.
45. There is no such practice.
46. The lapo is paid to inferior servants at our will and according to their position. They have got no power to bestow any favour, nor lapo is given with such intention.
47. As there is no compulsion or as the amount is not fixed, no account is kept. I have already named those who take.
48. Yes. It has decreased after the circulars of 1914 but there is no practice of employing contractors.
49. It has decreased.
50. In my opinion the pay of the inferior Government servants should be raised if this lapo system is to be abolished by any other means but if the inferior servants get good pay for their livelihood this system will be nowhere seen.
- Chher.*
52. According to cultivation system haris are collected and they are pledged to help us or Government servants.
53. Haris are chheras.
54. This condition (*i.e.* of giving help) is imposed on them at the time of first engaging them for cultivation.
56. They are given land for cultivation and are subjected to batai rules because of the above condition. They are fed twice a day at the time of chher.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of different officers? 57. Ten to fifteen chheras are required when big officers come on tour.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. Four or five chheras are required for daily use and 10-15 at the time of pitching and unpitching tents and for arranging camping ground.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. Chheras get nothing excepting meals (bread).
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. There is no practice of giving chheras at the time of shikar but if 5-8 chheras are supplied under special circulars the officers pay them reasonable kharchis.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. Same as above. They are bound under the cultivation rules.
62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Yes in special cases for facility of people, and officers chher is supplied. But this occurs rarely as there is local establishment here.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. I have replied this in the above answers.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. They get nothing from Government or zamindars as they are bound according to cultivation rules. They get bread only from zamindars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. There is no fixed amount.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. I have above said about this.
67. Does the employment of 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Zamindars and haris would not experience any inconvenience nor would they suffer.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. There are no labourers (working on daily wages) in our village.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. No contractor will be able to get labourers without the help of zamindars.
70. As there is no compulsory chher and as none is taken except under special cases when there is good to be done to public and when it is not considered a trouble it is not proper therefore to do away with chher.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF KHAN SAHIB SAIF-AL-DIN.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Khan Sahib Saif-al-din, zamindar, pattadar. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. I pay about Rs. 12,000 assessment. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Kot Sultan, taluka Shikarpur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Local Board member. |
| <i>Rasai.</i> | |
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Providing supplies for touring officials. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. Thirty-five years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Kot Sultan. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiar, the Inspector, the Superintendent of Police, the tapadar, the supervising tapadar and the thanedar. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Provisions for themselves and feed for their horses, mutton, milk, grass, eggs, butter, fowls, grain, firewood and vegetables. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. Whatever supplies are to be obtained from banias are obtained from them and the rest, <i>viz.</i> , grass, firewood, mutton, eggs, butter, are supplied by me and my haris. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. | 12. This has been answered under No. 11. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for the supplies that I obtain from others. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. They have market value. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I ask my haris to bring firewood from the jungle. In return I show them consideration at the batai. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The daily cost is within Rs. 10, provided their demands are moderate; otherwise it exceeds Rs. 10. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I cannot estimate it as no account is kept. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. I cannot say from memory. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. I cannot say. The cost depends upon the number of men. It has never been worked out. |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | 23. High officials pay through their butlers. As regards their clerks and private servants and official staff, I do not remember, but some payment is made. |
| 24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? | 24. The loss falls on haris as well as on us. |
| 25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? | 25. If they have no rowtis with them, I place my otak at their disposal. |
| 26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? | 26. I receive no payment. |

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?
33. How do you receive payments ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and if so what in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?
27. If any one has no camels of his own, I provide conveyance.
28. I receive no payment for my own animals.
29. Yes, according to the status of the official concerned.
30. No.
31. I cannot give the figure.
32. I make rasai myself.
33. Part payment is made on the bills presented as stated in No. 23.
34. There should be contractors independent of zamindars and tapadars.
35. Yes.
36. Rasai should be stopped. Officials' tours should be curtailed. Smaller establishment should be taken on tour. Cases should be fixed for hearing at taluka head-quarters. Kacheris, etc., should be held at head-quarters. Officers themselves should keep an eye on things.
37. Yes, if I grow vegetables on my wells and in my gardens.
38. The practice of giving vegetables growing in one's own garden should not be stopped.
- Lapo.*
39. Means a fixed sum or anagi annually paid according to custom.
40. Anagi or annuity is levied in all departments.
41. As in No. 40.
42. As in No. 40. It is levied by all in connection with matters connected with my lands.
43. It is levied by them for themselves. We do rasai in addition.
44. I pay lapo to peons, butlers, tapadars, supervising tapadars, kotars, etc.
45. I do not remember how much is paid to each.
46. It is paid in accordance with custom and without reference to particular favours. In other departments, it is similarly levied.
47. Answered under No. 46.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ? 48. I do not remember.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasas' contracts to samindars ? 49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars ? 50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police systems or any other special orders of Government ? 51. Tapadars and supervising tapadars should have nothing to do in matters such as rasai, recoveries, mutations, etc., in which they can fleece zamindars. Similar steps should be taken in the case of other departments.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ? 52. Chher means haris made to work.
53. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 53. Generally they are haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ? 54. Doing work at camps, closing breaches and repairing roads, etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 55. Yes.
56. When so employed do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government ? 56. We give them food. Sometimes the Public Works authorities give them at the time of breaches. Others do not give.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ? 57. The number of chheras required depends on the amount of the work at a particular time.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ? 58. They do all manner of work.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ? 59. As in No. 56.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ? 60. There is no shikar in my part of the country.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ? 61. As in No. 56.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ? 62. The number supplied depends upon the extent of holding of a zamindar.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ? 63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ? 64. As in No. 56. They get nothing from Local Boards.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 65. Each zamindar is called upon to supply a certain number fixed with reference to his holding.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ? 66. The Public Works Department officers pay them something for food.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ? 67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ? 68. Such labour is available.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ? 70. It should be stopped.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF KHAN SAHEB SAIF-AL-DIN.

To the Chairman—

I am also a jagirdar.

I cannot give the average cost as I do not keep accounts.

About 24 or 25 chheras are required for each camp.

Thirty or 40-50 have to be given for repairing roads.

I supply 50-70 chheras for canal breaches.

Both rasai and lapo are equally bad; lapo is quite separate from rasai.

Rasai is not a gentleman's business. It has nothing to do with hospitality.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I was appointed contractor for the camp of the Assistant Collector after the circular of 1914. I cannot say what happened; my servants made rasai. My servants were beaten. Things went on as before.

We respectable people do not make rasai but we depute our servants to do rasai. Tapadars also helped in making rasai. I am not prepared to answer about the instance referred to in connection with the Assistant Collector's camp.

To the Chairman—

Payment of lapo has been going on as long as I have lived. Anagi has been going on from ancient times.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

There are bania shops at Sultan Kot. All supplies can be obtained in the bazar, even eggs, fowls and mutton. There are 2 or 3 butcher's shops.

The tapadars used to make rasai before 1914. Tapadars used to take supplies from all zamindars in the neighbourhood. I always used to make rasai myself in my own village.

Money has also to be paid when occasion arises in addition to lapo.

For the Collector's camp are required 6-12 eggs, 2 or 3 fowls, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of butter, 1 or 2 seers of mutton, each day. Superior officers pay for their supplies. Our kamdars perhaps do receive the payment.

I have lands in Jacobabad.

To Mr. Sawhney—

If the zamindars feed the chheras the zamindars are paid, but it may or may not be the full payment.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

In our village labourers can be had other than zamindars' men. You will surely get labourers from smaller villages, for they come from the smaller villages to bigger villages. I cannot say about the contractor; surely when you pay, you can get labour.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MURLIDHAR.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Murlidhar Jerandas Panjabi. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar and pleader. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Paying Rs. 800 as income-tax and about Rs. 1,000 as land assessment. |
| 4. Residence | 4. Shikarpur (Sind). |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Municipal Councillor, Chairman of the Shikarpur Education Society, Chairman of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. |

Rasai.

6. By rasai I understand, contributions made by zamindars, villagers and cultivators, in cash and kind for the feeding and comforts of touring officers, their private servants, such as butler, cook, syce and camelmen and for their office establishment including peons.
7. How many years' experience have you had making 'Rasai'?
7. About 25 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'?
8. Chief camping ground is Shikarpur. Small camping places are Machi village, Kakepota village, Gindals village, &c., my lands being only a couple of miles from Shikarpur.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?
9. All divisional, district and Sind officers encamp at Shikarpur. The taluka and divisional officers encamp in the villages.
10. The requirements of officers depend more or less upon each individual but it is generally the butler or the havaladar or the cook who issues orders for supplies and these consist of flour, rice, lot of eggs and fowls, vegetables, butter, fruits, meat, milk and other luxuries, many times over the quantity required by the officer. In addition to the savings from the supplies taken in the name of the officers, the butler, the cook and other private servants take milk, meat, rice and atta for themselves also. They eat to their heart's content and then waste a good deal without the slightest pity for the contributors.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
- 11 and 12. We pay in cash but our haris give kids, goats, sheep, milk, butter and juari stalks and sometimes fowls if they have any.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?
13. We don't pay the haris for the articles they give in rasai. We only allow them to retain good lands for cultivation from year to year if they do not fail in making rasai.
14. Milk, stalks and firewood have good market value everywhere but with us they have high value. Even in remote villages juari or bajri stalks cannot be had for less than Rs. 10 per hundred bundles called bund (about 2 feet in circumference). In Shikarpur they are sold now at about Rs. 15 per hundred. Fuel too has value everywhere. In small and distant villages they cost about Rs. 2 per cart-load while in Shikarpur a cart-load will cost at least Rs. 3 or 4.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?
15. There are no jungles in or near our lands. Fuel has to be brought from distant forests.
16. The average daily cost of the supplies required by any officer depends upon the officer's position and the number of his private servants and the number of guests or friends he entertains. Roughly speaking, the cost of the Mukhtiar's supplies will be about Rs. 3, of a Deputy Collector about Rs. 5, of an Assistant Collector Rs. 10 to 15, of a Collector about Rs. 20 and of the Commissioner about Rs. 50 per day.

17 to 20. Of course supplies have to be provided for all the members of the touring officer's party, including clerks, munshis, private servants of each member of the staff, their camelmen, cartmen and peons. Others who become guests of the officers or the staff also partake of the rasai. The daily cost of rasai for clerks depends upon various circumstances but the average total cost of one camp of 3 or 4 days duration of an Assistant Collector used to be calculated at Rs 50 or 60, of a Collector at Rs. 200 to 300, of the Commissioner Rs. 800 to 1,000. English vegetables, fruits and tinned articles are also sent for from big places.

21 and 22. In big towns water jars and cots are obtained from the rasai fund except furniture which we lend for use of officers but in the muffasil, often all the cots and sometimes even beddings are taken away from the villagers. Even sick inmates are thrown on the floor and cots taken away. Peons and camelmen also insist upon sleeping on cots even though the zamindars and mukhi of the village may have to sleep on the floor.

23. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 23. Yes. Nominal bills are prepared and paid for but they contain only a fraction of the actual supplies taken and the amount of these bills is very often taken as bakshish by the officers' private servants.

24. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 24. The loss falls upon us as well as upon our haris as we both contribute to the rasai.

25. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 25. No. I have never provided quarters to the clerks but I know that the best houses in the village are vacated by the owners and used by officers and clerks.

26. What does that cost you for each camp? 26. It costs the owners and occupiers a good deal in their comforts, &c, no payment is ever made in the shape of rent.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27 and 28. Not I, but zamindars living away from big towns have sometimes to provide camels or horses or carts or carriages. Several times I have seen a camel or a carriage of a zamindar in daily attendance upon an officer on tour and it is never paid for.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 29 and 30. Living in a big town as I do, I have not to make rasai of the Public Works Department or of the police. In these big places the rasai of the police is made from the carriage clerk's fund and such other sources. In the villages the police levy their rasai directly from the bania or the zamindar or the villager and do not hesitate even to use violence. Seldom does a policeman in the muffasil purchase his requirements.

The Public Works Department get rasai in big places from their contractors and in small places from the zamindars and the cattle grazers. The Public Works Department have their separate fund for rasai.

31. I own lands in partnership with others and my share is about three-eighths. We pay in all Rs. 100 as lapo which includes rasai contribution though formerly we paid much more. My land is given on lease but I have now a share in bhatai also.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32 and 33. I do not make rasai. It is still the tapedar and the taluka head munshi who have charge of the rasai fund and it is they who make rasai.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 34. I am strongly against the zamindar or any revenue official being allowed any hand in the making of rasai. I am in favour of an independent contractor who should get some fixed salary in addition to his fixed charges for supplies.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 35. It will be easy to get such contractors if Government make it worth their while. In my opinion some fixed salary plus some commission on supplies will be sufficient emoluments to attract good men.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. My objections to rasai are as follows :—

- (a) Rasai is a form of corruption and demoralises the giver, the intermediary and the taker.
- (b) It puts the people and the Government servants on terms of giving and receiving bribes in a systematic way and leads to other corrupt practices and favouritism.
- (c) It works great hardships upon the middle and the poor classes. The Government servants in all important departments who have to deal directly with the people, insist upon rasai and claim it as of right and exact it even by violence, &c.
- (d) Every one in the country knows that his work and conduct will be recommended and recognised as meritorious or otherwise according to the rasai he makes. Recommendations for chairs and licences for guns in most cases proceed upon this basis. Even the highest officials accept these reports and act upon them. They thus fail to know true facts.
- (e) Failure in making rasai is very often the cause of many false reports and prosecutions.
- (f) I must admit that favours, sometimes at the cost of Government work, are often shown in consideration of rasai.
- (g) Rasai is in fact an evil system prejudicial to the interests of Government as well as people.

If rasai is to be seriously stopped three things are very necessary to be done, *viz.*, (1) independent and salaried contractors for providing supplies should be engaged and their bills should be paid directly from the Treasury, (2) unnecessary tour, especially of high officials to remote and small places should be cut down and the touring staff of each official should be reduced to minimum; (3) an independent and mixed committee of officials and non-officials be appointed for the purpose of watching the working of preventive measures and of hearing all complaints in connection with rasai. I am emphatically of opinion that nothing important and lasting could be achieved unless such a committee is brought into existence. The people are under a firm belief that all these efforts of Government are only a sort of show and that in spite of circulars to the contrary if they fail to make rasai they will still incur the displeasure of their officers. They have had long and bitter experience that nothing will save them from the wrath of their officers and that if they complain, it will be the same officers or their superiors, who themselves receive such rasai from them, who will investigate their complaints so that they will come out the worst. The fate of the recent rasai complaint of Garhi Yasin taluka is an instance in point. This case will make a firm impression in the whole taluka and beyond, that not only must they never complain against rasai but that they should submit to the exactions without a murmur. The Rohri case is another instance in the present year. Both these cases have not been properly dealt with.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruits, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. No, I do not present dhalis to Revenue officers, but I do sometimes send some fruit as social or friendly presents. It costs me very little.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. I do think it necessary that Government should prohibit this practice of dhalis being given by zamindars or contractors or subordinates.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo I understand to be a contribution by a zamindar, great part of which will go to rasai and the rest to the tapadar and upwards.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

40 to 42. I do not know exactly.

43. As said before, I pay only lapo which includes my share of rasai; further rasai in kind is made by my haris.

44. Is an authorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials- or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
- (a) that subordinate officials will refrain from poisoning the ears of the officers and that unnecessary and petty complaints of a harrasing nature will not be made;
- (b) that a recommendation for a chair or license or some such honour will be made;
- (c) in the case of the police rasai is submitted to in order to save oneself from false cases or false reports being made that he is a bad character or is helping or harbouring thieves or does not help Government, or in order to save oneself from other petty indignities. It is, however, different in the Public Works Department, though I have no personal experience of it.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarikars?
51. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
44. A part of lapo is used for making money presents to private and official establishment. We pay, separately, to peons what is called salami.
45. I do not know.
46. The only favours expected in return for 'lapo' are—
47. Cannot say exactly.
48. We pay about Rs. 100.
49. Rasai has not decreased at all in the case of uneducated zamindars, and the rules of 1914 and the system of giving rasai contracts to zamindars have had very little effect; on the contrary there has been greater burden on the zamindars.
50. Yes, to some extent.
- Chher.*
52. Chher means forced labour. It also means labour procured through a zamindar for Government officers or by a zamindar for his zamindari purposes.
53. Chheras are hari of a zamindar working gratis or on getting food only or on getting nominal payments.
54. Chheras work for the zamindar or for Government officers at the instance of the zamindar.
55. The system has become so common and recognised that it is not at all necessary to make any express stipulation; so that if a hari does not come to work as a chhera when called he has to pay the charges of engaging a coolie on his behalf.
56. Sometimes they are only fed by the zamindar and sometimes they receive payments also from the zamindar or from the Public Works Department, but for preparing camping grounds, fetching supplies or otherwise serving officers encamped there, they never get payment.
- 57 and 58. The higher the officer the greater the number of chheras required for his camp. Usually a very much larger number than required is kept waiting, day and night; they are treated like slaves.
59. They get only food from the zamindar at very late hours for all their labour and no payment.
60. The number of chheras required for shikar varies with the position of the officer and the means of the zamindar or zamindars making the arrangements. Very often hundreds are thus employed in arranging for a high officer's shikar.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. A chhera seldom comes to work for officers willingly, but since he feels that his livelihood and the welfare of his zamindar depend upon his compliance, he submits as a matter of course. He gets only food from his zamindar and some slight favours.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. I cannot give the number, but it depends upon the position and means of the zamindar contributing chheras.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Of course they are of benefit to the officer and to the public.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. Sometimes they do get wages for repairing the roads either from the zamindar or from the Local Board.
- 65 and 66. A very large number of chheras is required in case of floods and for repairs of breaches and they are contributed by zamindars according to requirements. They are fed by their zamindar and in some cases by the Public Works Department, and they sometimes get a part of the money sanctioned for payment to them.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. The employment of chheras does interfere with their cultivation and cause loss to them and to their zamindars whenever it is their business season or when they are made to work without payment or under hard conditions.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. As much casual paid labour as is required is available in my neighbourhood.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes, any contractor can get casual labour on proper payment of wages.
70. I am of opinion that chher ought to be abolished except on occasions of emergencies such as floods or sudden breaches. No chher should be employed for repairing roads or preparing camping grounds or pitching tents or carrying supplies for officers.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MURLIDHAR JERAMDAS.

To the Chairman—

The carriage clerk is a policeman deputed to look after hackney carriages.

I live in Shikarpur. My zamindari is near Shikarpur which is a very large town. What I have said with regard to my zamindari refers to zamindari near that town. I move about the three districts of Larkana, Sukkur and Jacobabad in the course of my professional duties and know almost all the villages of these districts and I am frequently in communication with zamindars and officials. My rasai on those occasions is made by the officials or zamindars with whom I stop. When I have had to make my own arrangements I have had no difficulty in getting supplies on payment. When I have no cook I have to pay rather more than in Shikarpur. My evidence does not refer to the town of Shikarpur only but also to parts of districts away from the big towns.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai—

My remarks also apply to the small villages of the district of Upper Sind Frontier.

It is not a fact that rasai in the Upper Sind Frontier district is done as a matter of hospitality. The evils of rasai are just as much in the Upper Sind Frontier district, as in other districts. The state of rasai is the worst in Larkana, next comes Jacobabad and last, the Sukkur district.

I also know personally of the Shikarpur Horse Show rasai.

The aggregate contribution towards the Shikarpur Horse Show by zamindars comes to Rs. 1,500 to 2,000, besides karbi, patal and fuel. The amount of the expenses is first drawn from the pay of the tapedars and then recovered from the zamindars. I do not agree with Mr. Asardas' estimate of Rs. 200 to 500 for a Commissioner's camp which very likely applies to Lower Sind. In my opinion the correct estimate is from Rs. 800 to 1,000 as rasai for Commissioner in Sind's camp for Upper Sind. That is the average cost.

The butler's payment amounts to one-tenth of the total cost of rasai. He takes a lump sum under the name of kilo khorani, that is to say, driving in the first peg of the tent.

There are generally 2 or 3 camps in one taluka and the highest amount is paid for the first camp. It would be about Rs. 100. I have, on two occasions, personally seen that sum paid. I was present on one occasion when the butler threatened the Mukhtiarkar as Rs. 100 only were paid to him; the Mukhtiarkar promised to pay more at the next camp. That same butler used to get as much as Rs. 300 at Jacobabad for one camp. The Mukhtiarkars were afraid of losing their service unless they submitted to the butler's exactions. In Kambhar taluka that butler got Rs. 1,400 for 3 camps. This I learnt from zamindars. The zamindars made complaints to me privately but through fear of the results they made no complaints in court. That refers also to zamindars of the Upper Sind Frontier except in the case of big Sardars who are heads of tribes.

It might be true that milk, karbi and fuel had no market value 15 years ago away from big towns. They certainly have a market value now. This change is due to the decrease in cattle, high prices for labour, increased demands of towns and also the extension of railways. These articles could be procured by the officers at their camp without any difficulty.

As a matter of fact hawkers carry the necessary supplies to cultivators when they are scattered miles away at their cultivations. Such hawkers would attend camps if they were sure to get the price of the things supplied. The prices would be a little higher than those prevailing in big towns. They would probably be 10 or 20 per cent. higher than in towns. I think a hawker bania could probably accompany camps just as the regimental bania accompanies the regiment. They would also make arrangements for perishable supplies, e.g., eggs, fowls, when they got to know the needs of the camp.

The circular of 1914 has not effected any improvement; quite the contrary. Now we have to pay both rasai and lapo whereas formerly rasai was included in lapo. I should say about one-third of rasai goes for lapo. I have no personal means of knowledge of the exact proportion. I think abolition of rasai will in the long run result in abolition of lapo. The reason is that rasai is given as an excuse for the levy of lapo and the exact amount spent on rasai is not known to zamindars. If rasai were abolished, zamindars would refuse to pay any thing for lapo.

To some extent they pay lapo to avoid worries and exactions and with a view to getting favours as regards their lands. One year I did not pay lapo consequently my boundary marks were reported to be out of order to the Mukhtiarkar.

Rasai has decreased in certain individual cases of officers but not as a general rule.

I did not discontinue lapo after the circular of 1914 for I heard that the Assistant Collector at one camp had said that the circular was not binding on him as he had not endorsed it and that rasai should be made as usual. That was the Assistant Collector of the Shikarpur division.

Recently some policemen stationed in the Garhi Yasin taluka made rasai by force from the banias. The banias complained to me and I advised them that it was no use proceeding to a court of law and directed them to go to the District Superintendent of Police, and I wired the District Superintendent of Police also. They accordingly waited in deputation on the District Superintendent of Police who ordered the policemen to leave the village. Subsequently the matter was investigated by the Inspector of Police and by the District Superintendent of Police, but no action has been taken. So the people of the taluka believe that no complaint about rasai will be entertained by officials.

There is also a complaint against the Sub-Inspector of Rohri, of having offered indignities to a man who refused to make rasai for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The man filed a complaint before the Mukhtiarkar and there was an enquiry but, to the best of my belief, nothing further has been done in the matter. That is why I have advocated a separate tribunal for hearing rasai complaints.

The Committee of the kind I want should consist of persons independent of the executive either for each district or for the whole province. For instance a Committee of the District Judge and two assessors.

The rasai levied by the police causes the greatest amount of oppression and trouble for they use violence. They levy it themselves and not through Revenue officials.

The complaints against the police in all matters including rasai are discouraged by a circular which requires that all complaints against police officers should be tried by the District Magistrate or Sub-Divisional Magistrates.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The haris of zamindars provide the supplies for the rasai. Zamindars also on some occasions make cash payments in addition to the supplies. Zamindars now do rasai and also give lapo.

The particular butler referred to was in employment about four years ago. He also had lands and has retired to his lands, some in Jacobabad and some in Kambar.

The average now for pitching tents is about Rs. 50 in the case of a Commissioner's camp. It would be Rs. 10 in the case of a Collector's camp and nothing in the case of an Assistant Collector and Deputy Collector.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The Public Works Department's rasai is done by clearance and earthwork contractors of Shikarpur. I do not know anything of rasai at Sukkur. I have personal knowledge of the rasai of Public Works Department contractors only at Shikarpur.

The hawker bania could also provide cots locally on hire. The hawker will take all the supplies on donkeys, bullock carts and camels. I myself would guarantee to supply a contractor or hawker for various camps. Then there would be no necessity for making rasai.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I heard of the Rohri incident from persons who saw the men being mal-treated and from witnesses who gave evidence before the Mukhtiarkar. I made no enquiries on the spot regarding the Garhi Yasin incident but I did so at Shikarpur. I am satisfied that those banias had a genuine grievance. I have personally made rasai for police officers. The police officers who have to move to villages at great distances could get anything there, if they are prepared to pay the price.

I pay much less in the way of exactions than an ordinary illiterate zamindar.

I have contributed towards the Shikarpur Horse Show fund.

To the Chairman—

I cannot personally say what amount for tent pitching has been paid to the butler of the Collector of Larkana.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SARDAR KAISAR KHAN BOZDAR.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name | 1. Sardar Kaisar Khan Bozdar, zamindar. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Zamindari in taluka Mirpur Mathelo. Rs. 3,000 land revenue assessment. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Garhi Chakar Khan. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Member of the Taluka and District Local Boards and a Commissioner's darbari. |

Rasai.

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------|---------|-------------------------|---|-------|---------------|-----|---------|------------------|--|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to provide supplies at officers' camps. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. Twelve or thirteen years' experience. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Mirpur, Garhi Chakar, Jarwar, Kandio Bungalow and Sabar Bazar. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer, officers of the Salt and Educational Departments, all other lower officials, the Mukhtiarkar, the Sub-Engineer and the Inspector of Police. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, butter, milk, mutton, juari stalks and firewood. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I get firewood through my own men. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I get firewood from my survey numbers; flour, rice and vegetables from banias; eggs, butter, stalks, firewood and mutton from my own house and not from haris. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I get these things from my own house. I do not pay for them. But if any of these are not available at my house, I purchase them at the following rates:— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Fowl per each</td> <td>...</td> <td>Rs. 0-5-0</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">Mutton per ser</td> <td>...</td> <td>Rs. 0-5-0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Egg per each</td> <td>....</td> <td>" 0-0-6</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">Firewood per cart-load.</td> <td>"</td> <td>1-0-0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Milk per seer</td> <td>...</td> <td>" 0-2-0</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">Grass is my own.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Fowl per each | ... | Rs. 0-5-0 | Mutton per ser | ... | Rs. 0-5-0 | Egg per each | | " 0-0-6 | Firewood per cart-load. | " | 1-0-0 | Milk per seer | ... | " 0-2-0 | Grass is my own. | | | |
| Fowl per each | ... | Rs. 0-5-0 | Mutton per ser | ... | Rs. 0-5-0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Egg per each | | " 0-0-6 | Firewood per cart-load. | " | 1-0-0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milk per seer | ... | " 0-2-0 | Grass is my own. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. Generally I get it from my survey numbers. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I cannot give an exact estimate. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I cannot estimate it. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies. | 20. Same as under No. 18. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?
22. Same as under No. 18.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?
23. Bills for officers are paid but not those for others.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?
24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?
25. No.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?
26. As no quarters are provided, no expenses are incurred.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
28. Sometimes payment is made for carts only.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for Mukhtarkars, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?
29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
30. Sometimes payment is made and sometimes not.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?
31. I cannot estimate it.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars ?
32. Formerly it was made by tapadars and me jointly, the expenses being defrayed by me. This year too I had the contract, but the rasai has decreased to a great extent since Mr. Rothfeld began his tour.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?
33. The payment is made on bills.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars ?
34. It would be a good thing if zamindars were not appointed contractors. The burden of rasai should not fall upon the tapadars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?
35. Yes, if full payment is made to them.
36. My suggestion is that officers should curtail their tours, should take out a clerk and two peons only with themselves and should encamp in big villages. The tapadars and other munshis should not accompany them, nor should criminal cases be fixed for hearing at the villages of zamindars. They should be required to maintain a camel and a horse for themselves and to keep servants. The tapadars should not recover the assessments. Those should either be remitted by postal money order or recovered through zamindars as is the case in the Bahawalpur State. The Collector, the Assistant Collector and the District Superintendent of Police should personally look into the matters of khasmokal, of permanent grant of land, of licences for shikar, and of grant of a chair, and should not pay attention to the reports of their subordinates. If this is done, the rasai will decrease to a great extent. Similar arrangements should be made in the case of the Police, the Public Works and other departments.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?
37. Dhalis consisting of fruit grown in my own gardens are given of my own accord and as a matter of courtesy, position and status. No payment is received for them.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?
38. No.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?
39. It means a fixed payment made annually.

40. The tapadars levy Re. 0-2-6 per acre and Re. 0-4-0 per number. The officials of the Public Works Department stop water-supply and then by fixing a rotation of their own gain their object. The daroghas and beldars levy lapo also at the time of harvesting crops. The officials of the Forest Department get trees cut down and falsely accuse others of the offences and thus gain their object. They also seize cattle grazing outside the forests and impound them. If they get something they release them.
41. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department, or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
41. This has been answered under No. 40.
42. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
42. This has been answered under No. 40.
43. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tepe-dars, ab-dars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. I make rasai as well.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Subordinates get money and other presents at camps. It is not known how they utilize these presents.
45. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. They are paid to ensure an early disposal of matters under correspondence and to avoid the displeasure of kamoras, lest they may cause harm by getting up a false case.
46. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. This has been answered under No. 45. As regards the Irrigation Department, they are more troublesome.
47. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. By subordinate officials.
48. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. As stated before, the amount cannot be estimated.
49. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. From my experience of the rules of 1914 I can say that the rasai has not decreased thereby and that the rasai contracts have done more harm than good to zamindars.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
- No.
51. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. This has been answered under No. 36.
52. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. It means the employment of men without payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. They are zamindars' baris, relations and servants.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To pitch tents, to construct landhis, to fetch water, to bring supplies, to keep watch at night, to carry post, etc., in connection with officers' camps.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Chheras are not paid any fixed remuneration for their chher work. They are, however, shown some consideration at the time of the batai.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. Zamindars feed the chheras. Formerly the officials made no payment but payment was made at Mr. Rothfeld's camps.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. The number of chheras is not fixed.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
58. The number supplied depends upon the quantity of work to be done and is not fixed.
59. They get food.
60. Ten chheras are given to each officer for shikar.
61. They are paid for their work at the shikar.
62. Chheras are supplied for the repairs of the roads according to requirements.
63. The public also are benefitted
64. Food only, which is given by zamindars.
65. This depends upon the amount of the work involved.
66. Food only.
67. Yes.
68. Chheras could be had if they were properly paid.
69. Labour could be provided by a contractor, if he paid good wages.
70. Government work will suffer unless each officer maintains on tour a party of labourers on payment. If this is done, Government work will not suffer and chher will disappear.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SARDAR KAISAR KHAN.

To the Chairman—

The burden now falls on one zamindar after the issue of the Circular of 1914. Before it used to fall on all neighbouring zamindars.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I think chher ought to be abolished.

The zamindars supply provisions and also make cash payments to menials and the establishments.

Even if rasai is stopped, still lapo will continue.

To Mr. Sahwney—

It would be necessary to get chheras in case of floods, but they ought to be fed. Those people who would suffer loss would willingly give labourers. They would work just as well as contractors' men.

To the Chairman—

The bills of officers are prepared and paid in full but those of subordinates are not prepared in full, and even then they are not paid in full.

The system of chairs ought to be maintained for Darbars but all zamindars should be given chairs when visiting officers.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JAM BHAMBHO KHAN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Jam Bhabho Khan wd. Marahum Jam Khan Mahomed Khan. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar, hissadar and pattadar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Land Revenue eight thousand. Pattadari, one-eighth of the Government Land Revenue for the taluka which varies from twelve thousand to twenty thousand according to the extent of cultivation. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Ubauro. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. District Local Board member and chair holder of the Commissioner's darbar. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means the provisions and cash given to officers and their servants and establishments while on tour. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making Rasai? | 7. Fifteen years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Ubauro, Dhaherki, Khechun, Shahwali and Mahomedpur. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Supervising Tapadar, the Mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Collector, the District Superintendent, officers of the Public Works Department and others. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Assistant or Deputy Collectors require fowls, eggs, butter, grain, stalks, firewood, milk and other provisions obtainable at shops. The Collector, the Superintendent, and others require the same things. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. Provisions from banias; and the rest. <i>viz.</i> , fowls, eggs, butter, stalks, firewood and milk from my own house or the haris. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. | 12. Answered under No. 11. |
| 13. I pay at bazar rates for provisions obtained from banias; as regards the rest, I pay for a fowl 6 annas, for eggs nil, for milk 2 annas per seer, for firewood Re. 1 per bullock-cart, for stalks Rs. 2 per cart, for butter Re. 1 per seer, for kids Rs. 2 each. | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market valuts beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. They have. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get haris to bring firewood from the jungle. If they were to be had at the rate of a rupee per cart, the average cost for each camp would be Rs. 30 but I pay nothing for this work and simply feed the men. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. For the Mukhtiarkar, Rs. 1-11; for the Assistant Collector, Rs. 5; for the district officer Rs. 10. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes, we do have. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. Private servants and official staff of the Deputy Collector Rs. 10; private servants and official staff of the Collector and District Superintendent, Rs. 16. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. I do have. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. For the Mukhtiarkar's establishment, Rs. 8; for the Deputy Collector's establishment Rs. 15; for district officer's establishment, Rs. 25. |

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?
21. Yes, cots from the town, and materials for building stables partly from haris and partly from the town. I get these things by force and without payment.
22. I get jars from potters,
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?
23. I receive payment in part from the Assistant Collector, the Collector and the District Superintendent, but nothing from others.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?
24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?
25. If they have no rounties with them, landhies are constructed for them.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?
26. I get the materials for landhies by force by way of impressment. I neither receive nor make payments for them.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
27. Yes, whenever necessary.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
28. I receive no payment but the expenditure at every camp comes to Rs. 5 or 7.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors, and any other subordinate officials ?
29. I make rasai for all officials high and low.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
30. I receive nominal payment and am made to pass receipts for full amounts.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?
31. My expenditure on rasai per year amounts to about eight or nine hundred rupees.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?
32. I make it myself through my kamdars.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?
33. My kamdars prepare bills but generally we receive no payment.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?
34. I prefer the appointment of contractors, preferably, hindu contractors, independent of the tapedars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub divisions of the district.
35. Such contractors, can be had for talukas and districts, if the officers assent to the arrangement.
36. I recommend that the tours of the officers and the powers of the tapedars should be curtailed, that the Mukhtiarkars should be deprived of their magisterial powers, that superior officers should pay special attention to the reports made by the subordinate officials against zamindars, the impression should be removed from peoples' minds that no one can get the distinction of holding a chair or a license unless he is recommended by the Mukhtiarkar or the Sub-Inspector, distinctions the grant of which must be regulated by special rules. Nor should any man be deprived of his chair or license on the reports of these officials. Steps should also be taken to ensure, that a zamindar who does not tip an official's peons is not prevented from calling on the official. There is no rasai in the Presidency proper. If Mukhtiarkars and Sub-Inspectors, and Inspectors of Police are from time to time transferred from Sind to the Presidency and from the Presidency to Sind it is hoped that rasai will cease, as this system of rasai depends on the wishes of these officials, who resort to it and oppress the people in order to find themselves favourites in the eyes of their superiors.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?
37. Do you present 'Dhais' of fruit, vegetable or sheep to any officers ? If so what does it cost you ?
37. I present dhais to officers.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?
38. In my opinion this system should not be abolished as it is a matter of courtesy and has been with us from generation to generation since ancient times. Of course, it will not be well in my opinion to put a stop to it.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. (1) Lapo is called anagi in this country.

(2) The officers of police and other departments take cash. The tapedars for instance takes 3 annas per acre along with the land revenue assessment, Rs. 2 per acre on permanent grants, Rs. 2 per Survey No. in the case of yearly grants, Re. 1 per wheel on wheel-land at the time of inspection and 4 annas per No. on moki lands. The supervising tapedar takes from each khatedar from Re. 1 to Rs. 5, Rs. 30 for permission for a kiln and Rs. 5 for a pass for fuel for kiln. In this way there are separate rates for separate charges. At the time of paying takavi, the treasurer takes 5 per cent.

40. Revenue tapedars, supervising tapedars, and treasurers levy lapo as mentioned above. The members of the Public Works Department take Rs. 5 when opening a water-course, and from Rs. 15 to 50, when sanctioning a new water-course, Rs. 10 for a khubado, grain from each hari and zamindar at the time of the harvest. 10 per cent. on clearance work is taken according to an old custom from contractors. Besides when I close the mouth of my own water-course on the subsidence of water, they employ or pretend to have employed a few men and recover hundreds of rupees on bills through the Collector.

Members of the Police department.—They raise whatever amounts they like by subscription. If for instance the expenses for officers amount to Rs. 100, they will raise Rs. 300 or 400, getting money by force from zamindars. At the harvest, they take grain or reaped ears of grain, keeping the grain for their own use, besides bribes referred to below:—

For taking security on a warrant Rs. 10. For recording a complaint Rs. 5.

Forest Department.—They make cattle owners to raise money enough to meet the whole expenses. Besides, they take lapo at the rate of one kassa of grain per pair of bullocks on lands in the neighbourhood of the forest.

If the tapedar is not paid lapo as above—

(1) he will fill up Form No. 8 for encroachment;

(2) if in a Survey No 4 ghuntas per acre are under onions he will enter 6 ghuntas with the result that the whole number shall be assessed at the garden rate;

(3) he will fill up a form of peech badal (taking water from unauthorized source of irrigation) if owing to the deficiency of water (in one's own water-course) water is taken from another water-course;

(4) in the case of khatedar who is poor and has had poor crops, the tapedar will report that he is a well to do man and intentionally defers payment of assessment with the result that he will be charged chouth.

(5) if a zamindar cuts down tree on his land, he will be reported by him as having cut down a tree on Government land or the bank of water-course for which he will be liable to criminal prosecution.

(6) the tapedar will cause delay in the disposal of correspondence regarding permanent or khas mokal grants of land and making untrue notes will cause the application to be filed or rejected.

If no rasai is made of the police department—

(1) they will get a badmash to make a false complaint;

(2) they will make an anonymous application to disgrace him;

(3) if a theft is committed they will implicate a respectable man, beat him and harass him for a few days;

(4) if the complainant does not pay them their due, they will get it from the accused and make report under section 169;

(5) failing other charges, they will proceed against him under section 110 and make false notes against him in their diaries;

(6) they will make reports with a view to zamindars being deprived of their arms licenses and their chairs and served with notices by the District Magistrate for keeping good character;

(7) to quote a fresh instance, a policeman told a washerman to bring him milk. He had some urgent business of his own to attend to and did not do so. Thereupon he brought him to thana and beat him so severely that he passed urine and stools in his clothes and was lying in hospital for several days.

If no rasai is made of the forest department, the result will be following annoyance :—

(1) they will cut off a piece of timber, throw it into one's house and report to the police that one has committed theft,

(2) they will send all cattle to the pound if a single beast goes near to the forest.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The details have been given under No. 40.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. The lower subordinates say that they levy lapo to meet the expenses of touring officers as there are authorities fixed for each department.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. Unauthorized lapo is levied for the purpose of making rasai of touring officers. We pay lapo as well as make rasai at some camps.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such present?

44. Yes, we pay lapo as well as make money presents to private servants and peons at the camps at which we make rasai.

45. Naik Rs. 5, peons Rs. 2 each, besides kbanda for peons and naiks at Re. 1 each, per day. If we don't do so the butler will spoil the milk and tell the saheb that he does not get good milk and good provisions, the peon will complain that there is no fuel. They will let go the chheras for tents and then complain that there are no chheras and watchmen, with the

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

result that the officer will get annoyed and issue orders that no body should call on him to the disgrace of the zamindars.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. In spite of the lapo no favour is shown. The lapo is given with a view to ensure that the officials who possess large powers do no harm.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Answered under No. 40.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. I pay lapo according to the extent of my cultivation, but can't say how much I pay.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarars?

50. In this taluka, I alone pay Land Revenue direct to the Mukhtiarar, but the amount of lapo has not been reduced.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. As suggested under Nos. 40, 34 and 36. It will at the same time be well to collect Land Revenue as in the Punjab from small zamindars through large zamindars independently of the lower officials. Owing to this system there is no lapo or rasai in the Punjab. Here too the system if introduced will put a stop to lapo and rasai.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ? 52. Chher means haris, way-farers, artisans or labourers made to work by force.
53. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 53. They are from the classes mentioned above.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ? 54. To prepare the camping grounds of officers, to pitch tents, to fetch water, to bring fuel and grass, to keep watch at night and to be present at the camp.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 55. No condition is imposed, they are forced to work.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from the officers of Government ? 56. They receive no remuneration. The zamindars only feed them. When the Collector encamped at Ubauro this year, he paid them Rs. 5 as bakhshish. A malhi who was standing by took the money telling that officer that he was a chhera. He then appropriated the whole money and gave nothing to the chheras.
57. At the Mukhtiarkar's camp on the first day 10 and on subsequent days 4. At the Deputy Collector's camp on the first day 25 and on subsequent days 5. At the Collector's and Superintendent's camp on the first day 40 and on subsequent days 10. At the camps of other officers from 15 to 20 chheras are provided.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ? 58. Answered under No. 57.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ? 59. Nothing ; the zamindars only feed them.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ? 60. Ten or 15, sometimes 20.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ? 61. Chheras do not come willingly but the zamindars bring them by force and sometimes an officer gives them Rs. 5 or 10 as bakhshish.
62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ? 62. The work on Local Board roads is entirely done by chheras. The number supplied depends upon requirements.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ? 63. They are of benefit to the public also.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ? 64. The Local Boards pay them annas four where a rupee should be paid. As regards the other work they are beaten by the peons of the Mukhtiarkar into doing it.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 65. From 100 to 500.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ? They get something from Government, or the zamindars feed them.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ? 67. The time being the time for harvesting, their employment as chheras causes loss both to zamindars and themselves.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ? 68. It could be had freely at the rate of 4 or 5 annas per day.

69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. If chher is abolished and contractors appointed, labour can be had and poor people getting rid of chher will pray for Government.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF JAM BHAMBO KHAN.

To the Chairman—

The average cost of the camp of an officer-as shown does not include the cost of his family.

I consider it below our dignity to act as contractors for supplies for officers' camps.

We like to entertain superior officers as our guests but only superior officers. We do entertain zamindars who come as our guests as they also entertain us in return.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I myself have to pay lapo. I am a lessee of my own estate under the Manager. I have supplied eggs, fowls, milk, meat, wood and butter and sometimes flour and ghee at the various camps. At some places I pay for the supplies obtained from the bania and sometimes the tapedar pays. Now the tapedars and zamindars make rasai together. There is a rasai fuid in my taluka. I don't pay anything besides lapo. I also pay allowances to the menials, butlers, pattawallas, in addition to lapo. I also pay annual allowances to some members of officers' establishments.

If rasai is stopped, still lapo will go on. More money is being spent on rasai. Lapo depends upon the cultivation. Both rasai and lapo are given out of fear. The tapedars will connive at our faults on payment of lapo and if we make rasai the Mukhtiar-kars won't report against us.

To the Chairman—

The bills are prepared in consultation with butlers. European officers pay their bills properly. The supplies and also the prices are properly shown.

It would be well if the tours of inspecting officers were curtailed.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF RAO SAHIB GOKALSING

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name | 1. Rao Sahib Gokalsing. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Principally zamindari, rice factories and trade. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Land revenue Rs. 1,600 including that on land in my son's khata. Income-tax Rs. 63. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Garhi Yasin. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. A Rao Sahib, Chairman of Bench of Honorary Magistrates and Commissioner's darbari. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. It means to provide facilities to Government officials in getting their supplies at their camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. About 30 years. |
| What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. No officer has encamped in my zamindari, but officers generally encamp in Garhi Yasin. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. This has been answered under No. 8. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Provisions, fowls, eggs, mutton, milk, firewood stalks, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. As no officer has ever encamped in my zamindari I supply only firewood, stalks and chher at the camps in the town. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your town house or from other zamindars? | 12. I supply rice, straw from my own house; but firewood, whenever it is supplied, is obtained on payment. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rate? | 13. I pay for firewood at the rate prevailing at the time, as rates vary from time to time. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Generally they have no market values. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood in the town whenever required. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. As no touring officer has ever encamped in my zamindari I am unable to say. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. The articles which I have referred to above are made over to those who are in charge of the arrangements and I cannot say to whom they supply. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. This has been answered under No. 17. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. As no officer has ever encamped in my zamindari I cannot say. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. This has been answered under No. 19. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. I give cots only and I have occasionally given materials for constructing landhis. |

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?
22. As I have never provided all the supplies at a camp, I cannot say.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?
23. I receive no payment for the supplies referred to above. The cots are of course returned to me when no longer required.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?
24. I have never asked my haris to share the loss.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?
25. No officer has ever encamped in my zamindari.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?
26. I have therefore never made such arrangements.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
- 27 and 28. No officer has encamped in my zamindari and I have never provided camels, etc., at the head-quarter towns.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?
- 29 to 31. As none of these officers has even encamped in my zamindari, I am unable to say.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?
32. There is no contracting zamindar in our taluka. The tapedars make the arrangements.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?
33. No officer has encamped in my zamindari.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?
34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?
35. It would be possible to find many such contractors, because of their desire to earn a livelihood.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?
36. Following are my objections to rasai. If an officer requires say a seer of an article, the collecting agency collects 5 seers of it. Such is the case in respect to all supplies. The collection of supplies on such a scale serves the purpose of the collecting agency themselves, while it gives a bad name to the officials. The public alone suffers.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?
37. I have sometimes given dhals to officers but I have never given them sheep.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?
38. No. Because the giver of dhali gives it of his own free will and does not thereby secure the goodwill of the officers who take it.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?
39. Lapo means a payment made in cash or in kind.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest departments ?
40. Whatever lapo is levied is unauthorized. I believe that lapo is levied by all low-paid officials in all departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?
41. In almost all ways.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtalkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
42. Subordinates in every department, specially the tapedars take lapo. A portion of the lapo is spent on rasai.
48. Answered under No. 42.
44. I have never given a money present at any camp.
45. As no officer has ever encamped in my zamindari I cannot reply to this question.
46. I cannot say.
47. I have replied to this under No. 40.
48. From Rs. 40 to 50 per year.
49. I cannot say, as I have never taken up a contract myself, and as I know of none in this taluka having taken up such a contract.
50. I do not think that it has been reduced.
51. My recommendation for the prevention of lapo is that special arrangements should be made for zamindars to remit their assessments to the Government treasury by postal money order without payment of the commission.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and riking the camps?
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
52. Chher means labour supplied for employment at the officers' camps and on Government works.
53. They are mostly zamindars' haris.
54. Chheras are obtained to pitch tents, to prepare camping grounds, to put straw on roads, and to do miscellaneous work.
55. Zamindars do not impose such conditions, but if the haris refuse to work as chheras whenever required to do so, paid labour is supplied at the cost of haris.
56. They receive remuneration from none.
57. As no officer has ever encamped in my zamindari I cannot say the numbers.
58. This has been answered under No. 57.
59. This has been answered under No. 56.
60. No officer has ever shikared in my zamindari.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. This has been answered under No. 60.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. I cannot say the number as such assistance is given occasionally.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. If such assistance is ever taken it is taken at the time of the officers' visits. Generally roads are repaired on such occasions.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. I do not know of any payment having been made for such labour.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Chher is supplied at the time of breaches. If the breach is small, from 20 to 25 persons are supplied; if it is a large one, hundreds of men are employed. There can be no floods without breaches.
66. Labour employed on Government canals is paid by Public Works Department at the rate of annas 5 a day, the difference in the wages being paid by zamindars at a time when haris are very busy with their agricultural operations.
6. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 67. The employment of haris as chheras at the time of sowing crops and harvest interferes with cultivation and causes loss to themselves, the zamindars and the men who make batai.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 69. It could be procured by contractors.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 70. It is necessary to supply chher on occasions of breaches. The chheras so supplied must be fully paid.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

ORAL EVIDENCE OF RAO SAHIB GOKALSING.

To the Chairman—

I pay Rs. 2 per Rs. 100 of assessment by way of lapo but a considerably higher rate is exacted from smaller and illiterate zamundars.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai—

I have to make supplies in addition to the levy of lapo. If I don't do that I shall be insulted. They have threatened that if we don't make rasai we shall be reported to the officers and suffer.

Tapedars and police exercise very serious oppression in getting rasai and they exact very much more than is really wanted by officers. The same oppression is exercised by the beldars in the Public Works Department.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

The exactions have on the contrary increased since 1914. It is the subordinates of the Public Works Department who exercise oppression. They put cattle in the pound and also abuse and assault the people.

The contractors take chheras if they can't complete their contracts within time. The zamindars are not generally paid.

To Mr. Sawhney—

We give the labourers to the contractors at the instance of the officers of Government. It is the subordinates who tell us to give labour. It happens very occasionally. If we give it direct to the contractors we would surely be paid for it. I have to obey, if I don't want to be insulted.

The beldar may be there for six months or two years. The new beldars are just as bad as the old ones.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I get my information through the bandobast I actually make and from other people who also make bandobast. Things have gone from bad to worse.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF WADERO MAHOMED KHAN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name | 1. Mohomed Khan son of Razikdinokhan. |
| 2. Occupation | 2. Zamindar of my own village, Taluka Ghotki. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Land 4000 jirebs and assessment about 3 or 3½ thousand rupees per year. |
| 4. Residence | 4. My own village taluka Ghotki. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. I am Sardar of my own tribe. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means the supply of provisions etc. to a touring officer. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have a life long experience of rasai. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. I make rasai when an officer encamps in my village or taluka. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, the supervising tapadar, the Mukhtiarkar, the tapadar, the sub-inspector of Police, and the District Superintendent of Police. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Flour, rice, ghee, milk, butter, eggs, firewood, stalks, jars, cots, chher, kids and fowls. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalk and firewood? | 11. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, and Mukhtiarkar pay in part the bania's khando. The rest is paid for by me. As for the tapadar supervising tapadar, the sub-inspector of Police, I pay the whole expenses. |
| 12. Do you get them from your banias or from banias or from your own house or from mother zamindars? | 12. I get some of these thing from bania, and the rest from my house. I take from haris fire-wood grass and milk. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay at the rate ruling at that time. I do not remember them. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. No. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get fire wood from the jungles and from my own land. This costs me something, (how much I cannot say as haris are my own men) as I show the haris some consideration at the bhatai and also feed them. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I cannot say. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I cannot say. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. I cannot say.
21. Do you have to provide water jars cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. I cannot say.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, and the Mukhtiarkar pay in part, but the clerks and servants do not pay at all.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hans or on you? 24. The loss falls on the zamindars.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Whenever necessary. Otherwise they live in their own tents.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. It costs nothing, the houses being my own. As answered under No. 23.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. We provided carts, camels and horses formerly but not now, as they have their own camels.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. It costs nothing, the animals being our own.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. As answered under No. 23.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30-31. Cannot say.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? 32-33. Rasai is still made by the tapadars through me. I provide the money. Bills are prepared not by me but by the tapadars. No payments were made formerly. This year payments were made. It is said that wherever they have gone they have made payments. They have not yet come to my village.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors. I do not approve of rasai being done by tapadars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35-36. Yes, contractors can be had. When contractors can be set for other contracts there is no reason why these cannot be had for this purpose. My objection is that I should not be called upon to give what I now give.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. No.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes, the practice should be stopped.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means payment in cash and kind.

Lapo.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works police and forest departments?
40. Tapadars and daroghas, supervising tapadars, policemen, kotars and other subordinates are said to take grain and grass. I too give these things.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. As answered under No. 40. Also. 0-1-6 per jireb on the area, 0-2-0 per jireb on occupied land, -4-0 per jireb on khas mokal land 0-8-0 per jireb on 5 year tenure, are levied by the tapadar and supervising tapadar annually. In the event of non-payment they get fines inflicted. The other officials referred to above also take lapo.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Tapadars say that whatever they take from zamindars is spent by them on the rasai of the high officials. I have no personal knowledge of this.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Same as under No. 23, 41 and 42.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Same as under Nos. 41, 42 and 23.
46. I pay unauthorized lapo not with a view to special favours, but to save my honour. Otherwise many fines are imposed upon me. My water supply is stopped, my cattle are impounded etc., etc. I cannot say how much is paid in each case.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. As answered under Nos. 23, 41, 43.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. Cannot say.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. To some extent.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
- 50-51. Government can stop it by strict vigilance. We poor people cannot do so.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means labour supplied free of payment.
53. What are the 'Chheras'?
53. They are my haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. Clearing canals etc., etc.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Yes, I impose such conditions
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?
56. They received none formerly except for closing breaches and clearing canals. They have received it this year.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. Cannot say.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. Cannot say: the number supplied depends upon the requirements.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Formerly, Cheras were fed by zamindars. This year they have been paid in cash by the Collector and the Deputy Collector.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. Cannot say, the number supplied depends upon the requirements. The higher officials pay them.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They come unwillingly in pursuance of an agreement entered into by them. Sometimes, when the Mukhtiar kar wants them for urgent work, the zamindars supply them.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. Cannot say. The number supplied depends upon the number required.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. No.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards?
64. Atrinnamas or lungis are given.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. Cannot say, the number supplied depends upon requirements.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. They are paid by the P. W. Department and not by others.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. Yes, it causes great loss.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. It can be had for there are many labourers provided they receive full wages.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Yes, if they receive full wages.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. As appears proper to Government.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF WADERO MAHOMEDKHAN.

To the Chairman.

I can get 20-25 labourers from my village of 60 houses, if it is not in the cultivation season. They would be my haris. There might be some who are not my haris. For 2 or 3 months of winter there is no cultivation. During the cold weather there is no injury to cultivation but there might be in the matter of their gaining their livelihood. There would be no objection if they received proper payment.

With regard to my answer to question 38 I don't want to abolish dhals, I have never given a dhali. They are given willingly out of respect. It is no hardship, they are not demanded by officers.

My statement was written by one of the petition writers. The rest of the statement is correctly written.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandras.

I do pay towards the rasai fund in addition to lapo. This amount depends on the expenses incurred by the tapedars. That is in addition to lapo.

The Police take supplies from us and if we don't give them cash also they oppress us very grievously. They beat our haris. They now prepare a case against men under Chapter VIII; before that they used to haul them up at once under that Chapter.

The tapedars prepare the bill. Some of the supplies are entered and some not. Low rates used to be entered before. This year full rates were entered.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

I know of the Commissioner's Circular of 1914. The tapedars used to make the bandobast before the Circular. The tapedar still makes the bandobast but through the zamindar. The zamindars give the supplies just as they did before. The tapedar used to collect money from the zamindars and pay the bills of the clerks at the bantia's shop. Even after the Circular of 1914 this went on but to a somewhat less extent. It did not go on this year. The burden now falls on one or two well-to-do zamindars; before it used to fall on many zamindars. If rasai stops then I shan't have to pay lapo. We now pay every farthing for rasai and also lapo. If we don't make rasai our haris are beaten and insulted. The officers are undercharged in the bills in consultation with their butlers.

To Mr. Sawhney.

The tapedars make the excuse that they want lapo for the sake of rasai. I can't say if it is for rasai.

If rasai was stopped I wouldn't pay lapo. I pay lapo now otherwise I shall be insulted and subjected to loss by tapedars and supervising tapedars in the revenue work.

We are more afraid about our lands than anything else. If rasai was stopped we should be able to tell officers, without any fear, of the real facts.

To Mr. Mahamud Shah.

The Police have actually used violence to my haris and it has happened very often.

To the Chairman.

If rasai is stopped then it would be easier to approach the Mukhtiarkars in connection with the grievances in respect of our lands. It is possible that the Mukhtiarkar is interested in rasai.

The expenses of camp in the case of big zamindars come out of the pockets of zamindars and not out of lapo.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHOITHRAM TAPADAR.

Preliminary

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Choithram son of Harchandrai Hindu. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Tapadar Lakhi, taluka Sukkur. |
| 3. Head-quarters | 3. Head quarters Lakhi. |
| 4. Length of service | 4. 15 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. I have experience of Larkana and Sukkur districts. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. In my tapa there are 4 Government villages and one inam village. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. I supply to touring officers grass, firewood, jars, mats, milk, mutton, butter, fowls, eggs, vegetables and whatever else they require. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. At the camp of the mukhtiarkas I supply 10 or 12 cots and 10 to 12 jars, at the camp of the Assistant Collector about 40 cots, 15 jars, 9 earthen platters and 10 earthen baking pans, and at the camp of the Collector 70-80 cots, 125 jars, 30 earthen baking pans and 25 earthen platters. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. Generally they bring tents and rowtis with them. Those who have none are accommodated in private buildings or in landhis constructed for the purpose. For the kitchens of munshis and peons landhis are always constructed. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. If officers put up in Government bungalows the stables attached to the bungalows are used, otherwise landhis are constructed. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. Generally they hold their offices in tents. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. At their camps chheras are required. At the camp of the Mukhtiarkar 3-4 chheras, at the camp of the Deputy Collector 24-30 chheras and at the camp of the Collector 50-60 chheras are required. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. The roads in my charge are in fairly good condition as they are kacha ones. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The Local Board is responsible for the repairs to roads. The work is done through beldars. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. We do sometimes require to have special repairs made. The work is done by parties of beldars. Sometimes chheras obtained from zamindars are employed. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 16. Officers sometimes tour on camels, sometimes on horses and sometimes in carriages. They maintain the equipage for the whole period. When they have not engaged baggage camels they get carts for their kit from camp to camp. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 17. The post is brought by kotars from the head quarters. If the kotars take the post mounted men are supplied by zamindars, by way of chher. |

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 18. The village of Lakhi is the only camping ground in my charge. But there is no regular camping ground.
19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. Where there are camping grounds sometimes beldars and sometimes chheras supplied by zamindars are employed to put the camping grounds in order.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 20. I cannot reply to this question as there are no camping grounds in my charge in Lakhi which is a camping place, there are many bania shops.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. Vegetables are available at Lakhi but there are no Government gardens there.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22. There is no bungalow in my neighbourhood.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. None.
- Rasai.*
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means providing necessary supplies for an officer's camp at a village.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 25. This depends upon the number of men.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. Each of their private servants and official staff gets $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. mutton, vegetables, milk $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rice $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour and $1\frac{1}{2}$ chhatanks ghee per day. Besides firewood and grass according to requirements.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. There are no fixed rates for provisions; they vary from time to time.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Firewood has no value for the chheras bring it from the jungles. But grass and milk have market values slightly lower than those in large villages.
29. This depends upon the quantity of things taken and their rates. The quantity again depends upon the attitude of officers. The rasai made is large or small according as the officer concerned likes large or small rasai. Owing to the strictness of the present officers however the expenditure on rasai is reduced.
30. Supplies available in the bazar e.g., rice, ghee, flour, spices, vegetables, maida, sugar, sugar-candy and patashah are obtained from bania shops and the rest, fowls, eggs, kids, milk butter and cots are supplied by zaindars or khate dars who get them from their raj. But at some camps even milk, fowls, eggs and butter are purchased from the raj. Jars are obtained free of cost from the potter. Grass is supplied by zamindars who get it from haris, firewood is brought by chheras from the jungles in their own carts and green grass such as gram grass, peas grass etc. is brought from cultivated lands. The chhabar grass is brought by chheras from the jungles. Mats are purchased. The stabling materials are obtained on hire from banias. Firewood is brought from Government jungles.
31. How are they paid for? 31. This has been answered under No. 37.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 32. Payments for things purchased reach the actual providers. But no payments are received for the supplies excepting those for the officer in the case of the Mukhtiar's and Deputy Collector's camps. At the Collector's camp, munshis make payments for flour, rice, ghee, sugar and spices only. Private servants and peons make no payments. They get every thing gratis.

33. Butlers get the supplies for their masters under-stated in the bills. They generally take more eggs and fowls than are shown in the bills. They eat the eggs themselves and take the fowls to head quarters and charge the officers for them.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
34. This has been answered under No. 40. At some places the excess is borne by the zamindars who do not give anegi at some places by the tapadars out of their lapo, at some by the panchayets and at some by the raj. There are different practices in different places.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapadars or mukhtarkars?
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtarkars?
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
- 35-36. Answered above.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
37. No payment is made for them.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rule of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
38. Proper effect has not been given to the rules of 1914. Zamindars are in attendance for name's sake, only the whole of the arrangements being made by the tapadars as before with the assistance of zamindars.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars?
39. I can make no suggestion. It would not be possible to find a contractor.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
40. Timely intimation is given of camps.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
41. Many local orders are issued but no effect can be given to them.
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
42. Zamindars give dalis.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
43. The cost depends upon the contents of dalis. The minimum expenditure per dali is Rs. 5 and the maximum Rs. 20.
- Lapo.**
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
45. Lapo means the amount levied from zamindars and khatedars over and above Government assesment for the rasai fund.
46. Lapo is levied at following rates—At some place, at 6 pies per jireb, at some at one anna per jireb and at some at one and half annas per jireb, of cultivated area.
46. How many forms are thereof unauthorized 'Lapo'?
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
47. This lapo is levied by tapadars from zamindars for the ostensible purpose of rasai.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? Fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

48. Answered under No. 55.

49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

49. The whole of the lapo is paid into the rasai fund. Formerly when all khatedars paid lapo, some amount was left over for tapedars to appropriate but owing to issue of Government orders from time to time, to the introduction of the system of paying assessment by money order and direct at taluka offices and to the collection of assessments at head quarters, several khatedars do not pay lapo or pay it at lower rates, with the result that the tapadars have nothing left for themselves.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

50. The rasai fund is managed by the headquarters tapadar. Sometimes the head quarters supervising tapadar is associated with him.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. The lapo is utilized for giving money presents to the private and official establishments as follows.—

The Mukhtiar's private servant gets nothing; his peons Rs. 5 each per year. The Deputy Collector's butler gets Rs. 20. Of his other private servants some get one rupee each, some eight annas each and some two rupees each. Besides this the peons get Rs. 5 and a bottle of liquor for driving the peg and an annuity of Rs. 2. The servants of the head munshi and other clerks all together get Rs. 7-8-0. The munshi gets Rs. 3 for the inspection of records. In the case of the Collector's establishments Rs. 100 was paid to the butler formerly. The other private servants also received something. The peons got Rs. 20 per camp. But since the time of Mr. E. L. Moysey, all this has ceased. The money presents made at camps are met by the tapadars from the lapo direct. Besides these, there are some annuities to be paid as follows :—

The supervising tapadar gets from each of the tapadars under him one month's salary and his kotar and private servant one rupee each. In taluka office the second munshi gets Rs. 3, all other munshis Rs. 2 each and the head munshi Rs. 10 from each tapadar. Some take it while others do not. The munshis of the Deputy Collector at the time of the jamabandi are paid as follows :—

The head munshi gets Rs. 100 and other clerks and munshis amounts equal to their salaries from the rasai fund at taluka head quarters. Besides this during the time of the jamabandi, money is spent on fruit etc., every day. Presents of fruits etc. are also made. Even when the Collector does the jamabandi, the munshis of the Deputy Collector get these money presents all the same. The peons of the Deputy Collector get Rs. 10 and his servants get as much. At the time of the inspection of records in the taluka office, expenses are incurred on dalis, fruits, etc. Both on this occasion and on the occasion of the jamabandi they get what they spend on their food. The munshis of the Collector get only milk, firewood and mutton free of cost and pay for all other supplies at the time of the inspection of records and of the jamabandi. Fruit and sweets are also given to them. They get no cash on account of jamabandi or inspection of records but money presents are made to their servants. At the Saltamami inspection the Deputy Collector's munshis and servants are paid about Rs. 50; those of the Collector about Rs. 150 and those in the the Huzur Deputy Collector's office about Rs. 50.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. The extent to which lapo is levied in the Revenue Department has been shown above.

In the Public Works Department, contractors pay 10 per cent. to Engineers, 10 per cent. to overseers and other subordinates. The expenses of their camps are borne by daroghas and mukadams, sometimes by contractors. Daroghas and mukadams get provisions from zamindars and cattle-owners free of cost. Their cattle are allowed to graze on the forest shores of Government canals free of charge. If any one refuses to supply provisions, the daroghas set up false cases against him. Besides during the abkalan season, they get money presents on the rotation of water-

supply and on letting off water from regulators. They also levy lapo on water wheels. They get money presents for water allowed to khatedars in special cases from canals under restriction. They also get money presents at the time of fixing coosharers of a water-course giving water supply from canals and of granting permission for wheels. In short the exactions levied in the Revenue Department fall much sort of those levied in this department. The Revenue officials keep quiet when they get no lapo from any zamindar but the Public Works officials do not refrain from setting up false cases. The Engineer's camp at Bagarji in the year 1909 is an instance in point. A case was filed against 21 men over the question of rasai and the poor men had to spend 1700 rupees to save themselves.

The Police Department surpasses all other departments. If a theft is committed, the investigating officers during the investigation live on the hospitality of the complainant or if he is poor on that of the zamindar of the village. If a theft by house-breaking is committed, the police officials will say that the theft was committed by the paramours of the complainant's wife at her instance, with the result that the complainant will keep quiet over the matter. Sometimes the real culprits are let off on payment of bribes and innocent men dragged in. The expenses on the District Superintendent of Police's camp are met from contributions collected by them from the raj.

More high-handedness is practised in the Forest Department than in the Public Works Department. The forest guards and jamadars spend nothing from their pockets. Their own expenses and the fee of their horses fall upon the cattle-owners who also bear the expenses of forester's camps. The expenses on the Forest Officer's camp are met from the pay of guards and jamadars. These latter never receive their pay as it is set apart to meet the cost of such camps. They in return allow people to cut down trees secretly and levy some money on them. They also set fire to forests in order that there should be more grass for cattle to graze on. Some cattle graze on the authority of passes, others are allowed by them to graze without such passes on payment to them of half the grazing fees. The weapon which they have in their hands is that if a cattle-owner refuses to accommodate them they file false cases against him one becoming the complainant and the others witnesses.

53. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials? 53. Answered under No. 60
54. Has the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 54. This has been answered above
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorised 'Lapo' or any local orders? 55. This has been answered above.

56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? 56. The Land Revenue Code should be amended, compulsory education should be introduced, the pay of the lower officials should be raised to make them more responsible, the period of tour should be curtailed, camps should be made in towns only, the duration of Mukhtiarkars' camps should be curtailed, the jamabandi should be made by Mukhtiarkars themselves, there should be a special department on the lines of the Local Fund auditor's Department (for whom no rasai is made for the inspection of records and of Jamabandi, which should have nothing to do with the appointments or dismissals of tapadars and munshis of taluka offices; the mukhtiarkar if he inspects the records of tapadars should not mind ordinary mistakes; if a special department is organized for the inspection of taluka office records then the Mukhtiarkars should make no such inspection; the Commissioner in Sind's inspection may continue but it is necessary to organize a special department for jamabandi inspection; the jamabandi should be completed by mukhtiarkars before inspection is made by the special department.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"? 57. Chher means the employment of forced labour without payment.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'? 58. They are haris.

59. They are required to prepare camping grounds, to repair roads, to pitch and strike tents, to load and unload kit, to watch camps at night, to fetch water and to do miscellaneous work at camps. Zamindari chheras are also called in when contractors are unable to complete their clear ance and bund work, when sudden breaches occur in bunds or when shikar is made.
59. What kind of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
60. Do the Chheras hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. Chheras hold their lands on conditions to perform such labour.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?
61. When so employed they are fed by zamindars. Some European officials give them bakshish at their camps or at the time of shikar.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
62. Casual paid labour could be had in my charge at the rate of 8-10 annas per day.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government?
63. Beldars are maintained on roads in my charge but I do not know how many.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
64. No labourers are supplied.
65. Are any lands held like those of the villages ervants of the Decan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?
69. Whence do they obtain them?
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
- 66-70. This has been answered above.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor?
71. I am unable to answer this.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
- 72-76. This has been answered above.
75. What labour if any is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?

77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?
80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government
- 77-78. This has been answered above.
79. Zamindars provide chher in such a way that no loss is caused to cultivation. If in some cases they do not take off haris from their cultivation, they supply paid labour at their cost.
80. Beldars generally do their own work but when a camp is made away from any village and no zamindari chher is available, they are sometimes employed to do the work at camps, which does not much interfere with their ordinary work.
81. This has been answered above.
82. The touring officers should take khalasis with them and make their own arrangements. But zamindars and chheras do not object to rendering assistance on canal bunds, clearance work and the closing of breaches, for these are matters in which they are concerned. But they should not be called upon to repair roads.

General Note.

The anaki collections vary in different tapas. Every tapadar tries to be in charge of a tapa where more anaki is levied. Tapas are as it were sold in the Deputy Collector's office. When one tapadar tries for a transfer, four others are also transferred. The Deputy Collector's head munshi gets Rs. 100 on each transfer. The transfers of village officials should be made by the Collector, as is the case in Hyderabad district.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHOITHRAM.

To the Chairman

I have also zamindari in Sukkur taluka on which I pay Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 assessment. My father was a zamindar. I speak of other departments from my own experience as a zamindar.

The rate for casual labour in my village used to be from 4 to 5 annas a day. Owing to the recent rise of prices it has risen to 8 or 10 annas a day.

To the Honorable Mr. Harchandrai.

Nariandas tapadar was dismissed because he did not give satisfaction in the rasai bandobast. We are under fear of suffering great loss if we don't make proper rasai bandobast.

The zamindars are required to give chheras to mend the roads just before the arrival of officers on tour where the roads are in a very bad condition and if the beldars are not able to cope with the repairs.

The chher for roads and camp ought to be stopped but chher of Engineering department for breaches of canal banks or for the benefit of the zamindar ought to be continued.

To the Honorable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

The chheras would come willingly to work for proper wages on road and camp if they have no work to do but they would not be willing to come if they have got their own work.

The haris for the most part have a good deal of work to do from November to March

I can't say if the zamindars pay lapo to avoid the harassment of taluka officers. I can't say what is in the heart of zamindars. It is not in our power to confer any favour on zamindars. I can't say if they pay willingly or not.

The butler takes ordinarily 2 or 3, sometimes 4 or 5 fowls, a day, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 seer of butter 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 seers of mutton and 2 or 3 seers of milk every day in the case of Assistant Collector or Collector's camp. These are the things usually supplied. Other stores they bring themselves.

To Mr. Sawhney.

The tapadars compete for the better tapas because they do not suffer any loss in those tapas. In other tapas which are not good they suffer loss and have to make up from their pay. They don't make anything for themselves from lapo whereas they have to pay out of their own pocket the sum of Rs. 20 or 30 a year on account of rasai. All lapo is consumed by rasai.

To Mr. Mahamud Shah.

It is not a fact that 1-roth of lapo only goes for rasai.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KARIMBUX TAPADAR.

Preliminary

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Karim Bux. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Tapadar. |
| 3. Head-quarters | 3. Head quarters at the village of Bharkan taluka Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Commencement of appointment from October 1922. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Five years six months. |

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7. At Bharkan the head quarters village of my tapa or at any other village, no officer except the mukhtiarkar has encamped so far. | |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | For the mukhtiarkar's camp provisions such as, mutton, ghee, rice, flour, milk etc. are obtained locally and supplied by the zamindar. The bill is presented by him on the last day of the camp when payment is made. Milk, mutton, jars, grass etc. to peons are supplied gratis. The tapadar is not concerned with all these things. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. At the mukhtiarkar's camp about 10 cots and 10 jars are required. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. The mukhtiarkar lives in his rowti in camp. His establishment live in the tapadars' deras when convenient. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. The mukhtiarkar's horses are stabled in zamindars' otaks or other convenient places. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. Arrangements are made for his office in tapadars' deras. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. Two labourers are required at his office ordinarily but at the time of pitching and striking his camp 5 labourers are required. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. The Local Board roads in my charge are in a good state of repair. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The Local Fund mistri is responsible for the repair of these roads and the repairs are executed by the malhis appointed for the purpose. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. Repairs to these roads are specially necessary during the abkalani season. The repairs are made by the persons appointed for the purpose. Sometimes zamindars also help, if the roads stand in need of thorough repairs. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 16. The mukhtiarkar maintains his own camp equipage throughout the year and has that equipage at every camp. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 17. His post is brought from and to the head quarters by the kotars of tapadars and supervising tapadars. |

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge; 18. Bharkan alone is a camping place in my charge but there is no special camping ground.
19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. There is no camping ground in my tappa.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banias shop or bazars? 20. There is a camping ground in the village of Chak which is near the village of Barkan. Chak is a large village with a bazar and banias' shops. There is a Public Works Department bungalow in the village and officers generally encamp there. There is a vegetable garden attached to this bungalow.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. Darogas, beldars and malhis of the Public Works Department are maintained at this bungalow.
- Rasai.**
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means the provisions of supplies at officers' camps.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 25. They require mutton, milk, rice, ghee, flour, cots, etc., in proportion to the strength of their establishments.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. Their private servants and official staff require a certain amount of provisions daily.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. I do not remember exactly the rates for provisions, rice, fowls, eggs, etc.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Firewood, stalks and milk have market values in small villages, which are slightly lower than those in the towns.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. I cannot say.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. These supplies are collected and brought to camp by zamindars who also present bills for them.
31. How are they paid for? 31. I do not know.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 32. I cannot say with certainty whether the payments reach the actual providers.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 33. Their actual payments exceed their estimated daily cost.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 34. The excess is probably borne not by themselves but by haris or zamindars.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedar or mukhtarkars? 35. A rasai fund is maintained under the care of the tapadar at the head quarters.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 36. They do not pay anything for such supplies.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds? 37. Local Fund gardens are not near camping grounds.
38. By the rules of 1914, lapo has been reduced considerably, as people generally remit their assessment by money order. Nor is lapo levied when recoveries are made at the mukhtiar's office during the last five days of the month. During the first five days, however, when recoveries are made in the tapa, lapo is levied. When all collections have been made contributions are ascertained and recovered at head quarters. This money is spent at head quarters, how I cannot say. Tapadars have generally ceased to collect supplies. They collect them occasionally.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars? 39. Zamindars or contractors will not do for the purpose of providing supplies, unless camping places of officers are fixed. Nor can a zamindar contractor be found willing to undertake the work.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely information of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 40. Zamindars as a rule know of and provide the requirements of officers' camps. They are given information of camps.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 41. Officers have issued orders in accordance with the rules of 1914 and the avowed object of these orders is to suppress lapo and rasai.
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers? 42. Such presents are not made by zamindars to my knowledge.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained? 43. I cannot say. The cost will depend upon the quantity of the dali.

Lapo.

45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 45-46. Unauthorized lapo means what is unauthorizedly taken in excess of the Government due.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 47. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the lower officials of the Revenue Department i. e. tapadars, by officers of the Forest, the Police and the Public Works Departments, from the people with whom they deal.
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 48. Lapo is not levied in a uniform system throughout Sind. In some places it is levied per survey number, in some per acre and in some both per number and per acre. It is levied according to local system and the expenses of a camp.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purposes into a 'Rasai' fund? 49. The whole of the lapo is utilized to cover the cost of rasai for touring officials. It is even supplemented from the tapadar's pay. I cannot say how it is spent as I have never spent it.

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai fund'?
50. Such a fund does exist and is managed by the tapadar at the head quarters.
51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. I do not know as I have stated above.
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
52. It is levied not for particular favours but to meet the expenses incurred. It rests with people to pay or not to pay. If there is any deficit, it is made up by the subordinates.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. It is not used to mitigate the strictness of examination of records. If the work has been done carefully, there is no occasion for the examining establishments to be strict.
54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. It has been considerably affected by the rules of 1914.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. There have been orders of local officers regarding the stoppage of lapo since the rules of 1914.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
56. For reducing or stopping unauthorized lapo, following measures might be taken:—
- (1) Assessment should be made payable by money order.
 - (2) Times and places of officers' camps should be fixed.
 - (3) The pay of tapadars should be increased.
 - (4) Undue hospitality should be stopped.
 - (5) Subordinates should not be treated with strictness except when they behave dishonestly in pecuniary matters of Government.
 - (6) They should be given promotion, when due according to their merits.

Chher

57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
57. Chher means labour employed temporarily on Government works, free of cost.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
58. They are persons who do Government work without payment.
59. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
59. Chher is required to work at officers' camps both at the officers' arrival and departure and during his stay.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. In the case of old haris, the general practice is for these to work as chheras when required to do so. In the case of new haris an express condition to that effect is imposed.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
61. They receive no remuneration except from the Public Works Department. Their own zamindars only feed them.

62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 62. All men of the working class in my charge can be procured on payment.
63. Is any considerable staff of beldars maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government? 63. One or two beldars are probably maintained for the local roads in my charge.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 64. Under instructions from Government officers zamindars are called upon to supply labour as they can do this very easily.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Decan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour? 66. For doing private work of touring officers.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 67. About 5 men will suffice.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps? 68. For pitching or striking tents about 10 men are required.
69. Whence do they obtain them? 69. They are obtained locally through the zamindars.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 70. The men receive no payment for their labour.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor? 71. If such labour is employed, the daily wages per man should be six annas at least. It could be obtained from rasai contractors.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 72. They obtain labour from zamindars for shikar.
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 73. Nothing in cash. Sometimes they get some thing as bakshish.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 74. Nothing.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 75. None is required except in abkalani season.
76. This work is in the charge of the local fund mistri. It seems, however, that the labourers are probably given nothing by Government or zamindars. Of course when new bridges are under construction, they get their usual daily wages.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 77-78. In case of floods and breaches, zamindars supply labour. For such assistance zamindars get rewards and afrinamas from Government but labourers get nothing except food.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. The employment of chheras on this work never lasts for more than three days. If the work continues longer, zamindars supply chheras by turn. This causes them loss.
80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 80. Beldars do no work other than their ordinary work.
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 81. No.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 82. Chher should be replaced by paid labour. Chher should be entirely abolished. It should never be employed except on payment.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. KARIMBUX.

To the Chairman :—

The lapo which I collect at the tapas from zamindars I take to head quarters and pay into the rasai fund to the tapadar at head quarters who manages the fund. All Tapadars do that.

5 or 7 month's pay of tapadars is kept in deposit. If there is any saving when the years' account of lasai is made up, we get a part of our pay back, otherwise we don't get it. Our pay is kept in deposit at the taluka office, where all the lapo is collected and paid. We don't make our pay good from the zamindars who would not pay 'lapo' a second time. Consequently we are always in debt.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai :—

I don't know exactly what the arrangements were before 1914 as I was only engaged in 1914.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain :—

Tapadars have nothing to do with rasai now. It is the zamindar who provides the supplies and even pays for the supplies from the bania. In my tapas the tapadar has absolutely no concern with rasai. The tapadars pay the expenses of the camp of touring officers at other places in the taluka.

To Mr. Sawhney :—

The tapadar saves nothing out of lapo. The tapadars like to get tapas where there is more lapo for there they lose less pay.

If rasai is stopped there will be no need of lapo.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF PIR RASUL BAKSH.

Preliminary

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Pir Rasul Bakhsh Shah Jilani of Ghotki. |
| 2. Occupation | 2. Pir and zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. A small zamindari paying about Rs. 700 as assessment. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Ghotki. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate | 5. A Municipal and Taluka Local Board member and a Commissioner's Darbari. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means making arrangement for any business in connection with camp i.e. making arrangement for the necessaries of one's self. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have no personal experience of rasai. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. None excepting the Ghotki town. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. Commissioner in Sind, Collector, District Superintendent of Police, Executive Engineer, Assistant Collector, and the Divisional Forest Officer. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. These officers have not sent for any food materials from us |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I have not given such food material at any time |
| 12. Do you get them from your hais or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. These officers have at no time sent for any thing from us |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. Money is not charged in case nothing is given. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. All things excepting fuel fetch certain price and their price depends on the quality. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungle? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I do not send for fuel for rasai and nor do I give it for rasai. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I have no such experience |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. No. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I have no such experience. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. No. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. I have no such experience. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Nothing excepting cots is given and no tent for cots is charged. |

22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. We spend nothing.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants official staff and clerks ? 23. No. money is charged in case nothing is given.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ? 24. The deficit is not made up by my haris or myself.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 25-30. No.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' your self or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars ? 31. We give nothing and therefore spend nothing.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ? 32. We do not make rasai ourselves. But we hear that the tapadars used to make rasai. Last year the zamindars were given contracts.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars ? 33. When we make no arrangements for rasai we prepare no bills
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 34. We don't like that the contracts should be given to zamindars. It would be better if persons other than the tapadars are given contracts.
36. In my opinion it appears that with a view to stop rasai it should be ordered that the assessments should be remitted, by postal money order on receipt of the bills from tapadars. The taluka officials should have no interference in the grant of the privilege of a chair or a license for a gun and the tapadars and supervising tapadars should have nothing to do with the correspondences regarding the permanent grants of land. As regards the grant of land on khas mokal tenure the Sub Divisional Officers should make enquiries in their presence at the kacheri sessions on receipt of the applications and grant ijazatnamas personally or by post
37. Do you present 'Dalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ? 35. Yes.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ? 36. No.
39. Wherever the dalis are given if they consist wholly of the fruit of one's own garden they need not be prohibited.
- Lapo.*
40. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ? 37. By lapo, we mean what is given to barbers and others at the time of batai. Other people take it to be one anna which they pay to tapadars.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works police and forest department?
40. I have been hearing that members of all departments satisfy themselves.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre, or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. It is taken in lump sum in proportion to the areas of survey nos. and in keeping with the expenses of camps.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. This has been replied to in the above questions.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. This lapo is taken for touring officers but it is swallowed up by tapadars. We make no 'Rasai'.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. We have not paid anything in cash ourselves in this behalf.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Such sweetmeats are given by those who want to gain their own ends.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. I have no experience of it.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. I have no experience of it.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I do not know of such amounts.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. I am ignorant of the rules framed in 1914 and therefore can say nothing.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar-kars?
50. The mukhtiar-kar in this taluka has not taken the assessments directly and therefore nothing can be said.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. As regards the Revenue Department, the answer has been given in question 36. The lapo can be stopped if the Government is pleased to effect changes in the Police and other departments.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. By chher, we mean exacting work from the poor without paying them anything.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Poor men.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To fetch fuel, to dig, to fill jars and to cut, grass.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. The lands are not given on the conditions of work nor are they given for work,

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government ?
56. Only the zamindars feed the chheras and nothing else is paid to them.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?
57. I have no experience of it.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ?
58. I have no experience of it.
59. Do they get anything for the services from the officers or from the zamindars ?
59. This has been replied to in question 56.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?
60. I have no experience.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?
61. The chher does not come willingly. The officers who go on shooting, pay them a little.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?
62. I can not say the number.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?
64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
65. I have no such experience.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government.
66. Nothing excepting meals is given to them and that also by the zamindars.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?
67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?
68. The labourers can be had on payment of proper dues.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?
70. Some difficulty will have to be experienced without chher; if the reasonable charges are paid there is no objection.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SOBHRAJ MULCHAND.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Sobhraj son of Mulchand. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Late tapadar Yaru Lund, taluka Mirpur Mathelo, district Sukkur. |
| 3. Head-quarters | 3. Resident of Ubauro taluka, district Sukkur. |
| 4. Length of service | 4. About nine years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. A taluka in the case of a mukhtiarkar and a tapa in the case of a tapadar. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. Flour, rice, ghee, spices, mutton, sweet and bitter oil, kerosine oil, gunny bags cloth, butter, milk, sugar candy, sugar patashas, rice straw, grain, juari, paddy, fowls, eggs, soda water, lemonade, ice, pistachio nuts, almonds, fresh fruit, curry cakes, molasses and vegetables |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. In the case of the mukhtiarkar, 25 cots, 25 jars and about 10 or 12 chheras are required. In the case of the Deputy Collector, 50 cots, 50 jars and 40 chheras are required. In the case of the Collector, 100 cots, 100 jars and 50 chheras are required, grass and 6 or 7 bullock carts are required for the private kit of the establishment. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. For some time now they have lived in rowtis. Formerly they lived in deras and zamindars' otaks. For peons and servants landhis are constructed. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. Tapadars get landhis constructed for horses. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. Camping grounds are prepared, chheras are provided and arrangements made for watering the ground. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. Answered under No. 13. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. This is for the taluka officer to answer. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The taluka officer is responsible. Zamindars and tapadars get the work done on the wangara system, giving food only to the labourers employed. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. Tapadars give verbal instructions and not orders |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 16. Generally they do not maintain transport in the months of March and April. The tapadar provides transport from camp to camp at his expense. Similar arrangements are made for the butlers and servants |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 17. The tapadar provides a private man (mounted) besides his kotar. Sometimes the malhis are also employed. |
| 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 18. Officers camp where they like. Sometimes they halt after a march of two miles |

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. The tapadar makes arrangements at the touring season every year under the orders of the mukhtiarkar for which he receives no payment.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banna shops or bazars? 20. Officers camp at places where there are such conveniences. If they camp at places where there are no such conveniences, the tapadar has a shop opened there.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. Pano Akil, Ghotki, Mirpur and Ubauro.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22. Except in Rohri, bungalows are attached to camping grounds in all the talukas of this division.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. Chowkidars are maintained at such bungalows.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means to satisfy taluka officers and superior officers.
25. The daily requirements are in the case of the mukhtiarkar, flour 15 seers, ghee 5 seers, rice 8 seers, milk for morning and evening $\frac{1}{2}$ maund, butter, fowls, eggs, mutton 8 seers, spices oil, etc., Rs. 4, grain 1 maund.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

In the case of the Deputy Collector thrice the quantities for the mukhtiarkar. In the case of the Collector twice the quantities for the Deputy Collector.

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of the official establishment? 26. Every one takes as much as he can get. The expenses are defrayed by the tapadar. The cost per man is more than a rupee.
27. Firewood has no market value except in large villages. For camps in the country side, firewood is brought in impressed carts. As regards grass, mutton, milk, fowls, eggs, grain, rice, etc., they are more dear there than in towns. Sometimes they are not obtainable there. But they are procured somehow, otherwise the tapadar is ill-treated.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. This has been answered under No. 34.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. In the case of the mukhtiarkar it is 15 rupees, of the Deputy Collector 30 rupees, and of the Collector 50 rupees.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. They are met by the tapadars with the assistance of the zamindars.
31. The establishments obtain receipts but the payments are made by the tapadar. How are they paid for? 31. The officers make payments but the money is returned to their butlers.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 32. Answered under No. 38.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 33. The payments are quite out of proportion to the daily cost.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hais of zamindars or tapadars or mukhtiarkars?
34. The whole expenses are defrayed by the tapadars at every camp
35. At officers' camps at taluka head quarters, the expenses are borne by all the tapadars of the taluka. One of their number defray the expenses under the instructions of the mukhtiarkar from the tapadars' fund. The private expenses etc., of the mukhtiarkar are met from this fund.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtiarkars?
36. No. Chher is obtained by the tapadars from the principal zamindar of the village. In large villages stabling materials are purchased by the tapadar.
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
37. Vegetables are obtained by the higher officials from taluka officials.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
38. They have not been given effect any where. I gave effect to them with the result that I lost my appointment. Mr. Kundansing, Deputy Collector, wants much rasai. Tapadars have not ceased to collect supplies. Zamindars are nominal providers but they provide nothing.
38. How far it has been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
39. It would be well to modify them, as there is wasteful expenditure. Expenditure should be reduced and tapadars should not be worried. It would be possible to find contractors provided the taluka officer is not opposed to the arrangement.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars?
40. Formerly officers fixed their programmes with a view to convenience. Now they do not.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
41. These rules do not work well. Probably the mukhtiarkar knows more about this than I do.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
42. Mukhtiarkars present dahs to all superior officers and their establishments from the tapadars' fund. Zamindars also present dahs.
42. Do you give "Dahs" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
43. The mukhtiarkar spends as much as he likes with a view to enhance his respect. Sometimes the cost exceeds Rs. 100. The expenditure is met from the tapadars' fund.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dahs" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
44. The orders prohibit dahs.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?
- Lapo.*
45. Lapo is a payment by zamindars sanctioned by long usage.
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
46. There are five forms of lapo, which are—
46. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'?
- Anagi 2 or 2½ annas per acre;
- Khasrakal grants .. 8 annas per acre to the munshi who takes kabuliati; Rs. 2 or more per acre to supervising tapadar.
- Takavi 6 per cent. to supervising tapadar and the munshi.
- Grants of new village sites. Rs. 5 per kabuliati to supervising tapadar.
- Kiln pass .. Rs. 5 to supervising tapadar.

47. It is levied by the tapadar, the supervising tapadar and munshis of the taluka office and of superior officers from the khatedars, zamindars and panchayats. The ostensible purpose in the care of tapadars is the maintenance of the tapadars fund and in that of the munshis, the connivance at the mistakes of the tapadars.
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

48. It is levied at a fixed rate per acre in Rohri Division and recovered simultaneously with the assessment.

49. There is a deficit which tapadars make up from their pay. Under the present system the rasai fund is maintained under the supervision of the mukhtiarkar.

50. One of the tapadars is selected to maintain the fund under the supervision of the mukhtiarkar.

51. The customary money presents are as follows :

| | | |
|------------------------|----|---|
| Head munshi | .. | half the pay per year. |
| His servant | .. | Rs. 4 per year. |
| Other munshis | .. | Rs. 15. |
| Mukhtiarkar's servants | .. | Rs. 8 per year. |
| Supervising tapadar | .. | 2 months' pay from each tapadar per year. |

His servant (illegible).

Deputy Collector's butler. Rs. 15 per camp.

Deputy Collector's peons. Rs. 17 per camp.

Deputy Collector's Head Munshi. Rs. 5 per camp.

Deputy Collector's Head Clerk. Rs. 5 per camp.

Inspection munshi .. Rs. 5 per camp

Deputy Collector's other munshis. Rs. 3 each per camp.

Munshis' servants .. Rs. 2.

Jamabandi Inspection payments.

Head Munshi .. Rs. 100.

Head Clerk .. Rs. 80

Second Munshi. .. Rs. 40.

Peons Rs. 15.

Collector's establishment.

Butler Rs. 50 per camp.

Peons Rs. 15 per camp.

Daftardar's servants .. Rs. 5 per camp.

Peons Rs. 5 per camp.

Payments on inspection of records and to servants.

Head Munshi .. Rs. 40.

Butler Rs. 15.

Other servants .. Rs. 2 each.

Second Munshi .. Rs. 25 at the time of second inspection.

At the time of Jamabandi. Rs. 4 per day for pakoras, sweets, etc.

Head Clerk or Head Munshi. Rs. 100 for a transfer of a tapadar.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. This has been answered under No. 60.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 54. No.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders? 55-56 My present position forbids my answering this question.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? *Chher.*
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"? 57. It means unlawful and forced labour
58. Who are the 'Chheras'? 58. They are haris.
59. What kind of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 59. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike camps, to fetch water for camps, to keep watch at night, etc.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 60. No.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government? 61. Food only from tapadars while so employed
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 62. Casual paid labour is available to a great extent in each taluka.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'bel-dars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government? 63. This is for the mukhtiarkar to answer.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 64. It is the custom for zamindars to provide labour, etc.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour? 66. This has been answered under No. 48.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 67. This has been answered under No 48.
68. Whence do they obtain them? 68. They are obtained from the nekmard of every deh.
69. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 69. They get food only from the tapadar.
70. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasi contractor? 70. In towns the daily wage is 8 annas, in villages 6 annas. Labourers on daily wages could be had freely.
71. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 71. Tapadars and zamindars together make special provision for shikar.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 73. They get some food from the tapadars' fund and bakshish from the officers when the latter are in good mood.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 74. The zamindars give them lands for cultivation as a consideration.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 75. It is required occasionally.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials? 76. They are given food only by the tapadars.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 77. Chheras.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 78. They are paid for this work by the Public Works Department.
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. No such case occurred in my time.
80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and if so what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
- 80-82. This is for the Mukhtiarkar to answer

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF KAZI KHAIRULLAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. Kazi Khairullah son of Kazi Muhammad Hassan.
3. Extent of business or samndam. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. 3. None. Was tapadar till 13th. June 1916.
4. Residence 4. Original native place Shikarpur, now resident of the village of Bharkan in the taluka of Sukkur.

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. It means to oblige or to give a warm welcome.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? and supervising tapadars doing rasai for about 20 years. 7. I was honest in Government service and did not make rasai but I have seen zamindars, tapadars and supervising tapadars doing rasai for about 20 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? tapadars The mukhtiarakar 8. The Mukhtiarakar and the Assistant or Deputy Collector alone encamped in my charge and the rasai was made by the zamindars and supervising was also present at the Collector's camp.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? 9. The Collector, the Assistant or Deputy Collector
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. Fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, stalks, jars, mutton, rice, sugar candy, sugar, bran and grain for horses, etc.
11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs fowls sheep, milk, butter, vegetable, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? the head quarters tapadar for mukhtiarakar or the taluka payment, if they have none 11. For rice and other provisions a shop is opened. Other supplies such as eggs, sheep, milk, butter, stalks and firewood are provided by the zamindars at camps in small villages ; at head quarters by rasai, whd purchases them under the orders of the head munshi. Zamindars also get these things on of their own.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other samindars ? 12. At the camp of the Collector, the local and neighbouring zamindars provide eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, stalks, firewood and kids, getting them from the haris if they have them or buying them.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates ? 13. Zamindars know about this
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. All things have market values but no-one makes full payment, if he does pay at all.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. Haris bring cartloads of firewood under the orders of zamindars. They receive no payment The cost of bringing a cartload will be 12 annas in the case of cartmen other than haris.
16. The daily cost of supplies taken in the name of the officer is as follows :—
In the case of the Collector about Rs. 10.
In the case of the Assistant or Deputy Collector Rs 7.
In the case of the Mukhtiarakar Rs 5
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ?

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. The daily cost in the case of the private servants is Rs. 5 and in the case of the official Rs. 5.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. The daily cost in the case of the Assistant or Deputy Collector's munshis is Rs. 15, in the case of the Collector's munshis Rs. 25 and in the case of the Mukhtiarkar's munshis Re. 1.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. About Rs. 100 at the camp of the Collector, Rs. 60 at the camp of the Assistant or Deputy Collector and Rs. 20 at the camp of the Mukhtiarkar.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. Full payment is not made for the supplies for officers. Their private servants, official staff and clerks make no payment.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hands or on you? 24. The loss falls upon the zamindars.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. If any munshi has no rowti of his own, he is accommodated in a zamindar's otak.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. The zamindars receive no payment.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Bullock carts are provided for the carriage of kit. The cartmen are zamindars' haris who receive no payment. Conveyance is provided for any one who has none of his own.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. The hire is paid by the zamindar or tapadar.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Zamindars have to make rasai for all.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. The zamindars receive no payment. The cost in the case of the mukhtarkar is about Rs. 20.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. Zamindars know exactly what it costs.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. In small villages rasai is made by the zamindars, tapadars, supervising tapadars and contracting zamindars, and at head quarters by the head quarters tapadar.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. The zamindars receive no payment. The bills are prepared by the tapadars or supervising tapadars or by the contracting zamindar if there is one. If no one receives no payment.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors as this will deprive the tapadar of his excuse on the score of rasai and save zamindars and contracting zamindars from the bother.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 35. Yes.
36. If the zamindars make no rasai they suffer losses and if a tapadar makes none, he is superseded and even dismissed on false allegations. The mukhtarkar should be prevented from making rasai. If this is done, neither the zamindar nor the tapadar or supervising tapadar will make rasai. A special officer should be appointed to see that no rasai is made.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Zamindars do present dalis to officers.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. It should be prohibited in the interests of zamindars, the public and the haris.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. It means what is received in excess of Government demand.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. There are several forms. In some tapas the rate is 4 annas per jureb or 1 anna per rupee, in others two annas per jureb and in others less than that. I have experience of the Revenue Department only. I know tapadars receive it. As regards other departments I know nothing.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. This has been answered under No. 40.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. It is levied by tapadars for the purpose of making rasai of officers, their private servants and others and of making annuities. If an honest tapadar does not levy it, the supervising tapadar levies it and pays the contribution to the expenses. I know of the Revenue Department and of no others.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. Yes, zamindars pay lapo as well as make rasai in small villages. The rasai at officers' camps at head quarters is made by the head quarters tapadar, the expenses being met from the contributions of all lapo-taking tapadars. He keeps account of contributions received from tapadars and of money spent.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. Yes, the zamindars make annuities and money presents to the private servants and official staff of touring officers as well as pay lapo to tapadars.
45. Zamindars know the amounts They pay them because they think that the private servants and official staff of the officers will speak well of them to their master and there will be no obstacles in their affairs. These payments take the form of daily allowances and are paid in lump sums.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. Yes, the zamindars pay it because they expect favours. I know nothing about other departments.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar-kars?
47. The zamindars incur expenditure on rasai, lapo to tapadars and supervising tapadars, annuities to the private servants and official staff of officers and on rasai made for officers of other departments.
48. Zamindars know this in detail.
49. The amount of lapo has not been reduced by the system of giving rasai contracts to zamindars. This system has only enhanced the burden of the contracting zamindar.
50. No.

51. If one zamindar refuses to pay lapo, he suffers, but if all refuse to do so, no one will suffer. Lapo can only be stopped if the mukhtiar-kar is directed to prohibit zamindars from making rasai and giving lapo. The Mukhtiar-kar should make a declaration that no one paid or received the lapo and that no rasai was made. To see that this is done, an experienced officer should be appointed who should be empowered to examine bandis and hold the Mukhtiar-kar responsible for any entries found therein. If some mukhtiar-kars suffer for this, every one of them will suppress lapo and rasai.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
54. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to pitch tents, to help in shikar
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
52. Chher means labour employed without payment.
53. The chheras are those who work without payment whether haris or others.
54. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to pitch tents, to help in shikar to watch at night and to do the private work of the whole establishment such as to fetch water, to cut grass, etc., etc.
55. Yes.
56. They receive no remuneration.
57. At the camp of the Collector 70, at the camp of the Assistant or Deputy Collector 60, at the camp of the Commissioner 100 and at the camp of the Mukhtiar-kar 30.
58. At the Commissioner's camp 15 are employed to bring provisions, 15 to fetch water, 5 to cut grass, 5 to bring firewood, 30 to prepare the camping ground and 30 to pitch tents,

At the Collector's camp 10 are employed to bring provisions, 10 to fetch water, 5 to cut grass, 5 to bring firewood, 20 to prepare the camping ground and 20 to pitch tents;

At the Assistant or Deputy Collector's camp 10 are employed to bring provisions, 10 to fetch water, 5 to cut grass, 5 to bring firewood, 15 to prepare the camping ground and 15 to pitch tents;

At the Mukhtiarkar's camp 5 are employed to bring provisions, 5 to fetch water, 5 to cut grass, 5 to bring firewood, 5 to prepare the camping ground and 15 to pitch tents.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officer or from the zamindars? 59. Nothing.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. About 20 chheras.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. They do not come willingly and they get nothing from the officers or zamindars.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local Boards? 62. According to the extent of the holding of each zamindar. Large zamindars supply chheras not exceeding 50.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. They get nothing from any one.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. According to the extent of the holding of each zamindar. Large zamindars supply chheras not exceeding 200.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They get food only at Government expense.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is available.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes, its abolition or modification will be welcomed by the people.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MAHOMED BACHAL BAGHAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. My name is Mahomed Bachal son of Bagal Bhuto, resident of my own village near Rohri.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindar and contractor.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. I pay about Rs. 600 as land revenue assessment and Rs. 200 as income-tax.
 4. Residence 4. My own village near Rohri.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate 5. Chair holder of the Collector's darbar, and Railway contractor.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. It means to supply anything at one's expense or getting it from others, to a Government servant or zamindar with a view to please him and gain one's object.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. 4 or 5 years'.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. I make rasai at all officers' camps within my locality.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? 9. All the touring officers of the Revenue, Police, Engineering and Forest Departments.
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. Flour, ghee, rice, firewood, cots, grass, milk, fowls, etc.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? 11. I get provisions from the shops of Hindus, milk on payment from cattle-owners and firewood from Government depots or contractors' depots.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars 12. I do not get them from my own house nor from my haris but from banias on payment.
 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates ? 13. I pay for them at the market rates.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. No.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. I cannot get firewood from the jungles at Rohri, my native town, as it is a paka town. Firewood required for a camp is obtained from a depot, the cheras being employed to carry it to the camp, which costs me nothing.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? 16. The daily cost depends on the status of the officers as their requirements are in proportion to their means. It is from rupee one to Rs. 2.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? 17. Mutton, firewood, cots etc., are provided.
 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 18. The daily cost varies with the number of men. No estimate has been made of it.
 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Firewood and cots are provided.

20. No estimate has been made but it is very small, for firewood alone is obtained on payment. In a paka town firewood is obtained on payment. The cost varies with the number of clerks.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
21. I provide them when asked to do so.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
22. Generally it costs me nothing. The things are not valuable and are obtained on loan for a few days. They are returned to the owners on the termination of the camp.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
23. Nearly full payment has been made since two years ago.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
25. I provide quarters when there are no Government buildings or tents.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?
26. It costs me nothing and I receive no payment.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
27. I do not provide camels and horses. I provide carts only, the hire for which is paid at Government rates.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?
28. Answered under No. 27.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
29. No rasai is made for them, Rohri being a paka town.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
30. Answered under No. 29.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
31. I cannot estimate the cost as I do not pay from my pocket.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?
32. In a paka town fire wood and cots alone are to be paid for. I do not know what else is provided here. There is no contracting zamindar here. I do not know if the tapadars make the rasai.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
33. I prepare the bill for what I provide and receive payment accordingly.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
34. I approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars. But it is not possible to introduce this system as officers sometimes get their supplies direct or bring them from the Head-quarters.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. I cannot say.
36. There are several objections to rasai. If rasai ceases, the sufferings of the poor will cease. But its cessation will not be an unmixed blessing. Officers and their subordinates dispose of zamindars' matters to their satisfaction, owing to the rasai. If zamindars commit any irregularities they are connived at by officers, thanks to the rasai. If rasai ceases fair field and no favour will be the rule to

the disadvantage of the zamindars and the public. Care should therefore be taken to afford facilities to the zamindars and the public in the disposal of their matters. The pay of the subordinate officials should also be increased to keep them above want.

37. Do you present 'Dhais' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. I present dais of fruit of my own garden, which cost me nothing. I do not give sheep.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. It had better be stopped, provided its cessation causes no harm.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. Lapo, means anything to which one is not entitled and which is received gratuitously under show of one's authority.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. (1) Anagi on the assessment (2) grain taken from the produce of the crops, or a bundle of ears of corn taken at the harvest (3) something taken for restoring water supply after previously cutting it off and others.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. It is levied in all these ways.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. It is levied by the tapadars, abdars, daroghas, and forest rangers for the purpose of making rasai at the officer's camps and for themselves.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Lapo alone is paid. No money presents are made. Lapo is paid at the time of the payment of the assessment or when the crops are ready. It is paid either in cash or in kind.
45. I cannot state the amounts. The total amount spent at a camp is either recovered from the concerned men of the locality or is met from the anagi levied with the assessment. The presents do not take the form of daily allowances.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. It is exacted for particular favours as well as a customary payment. It is exacted as anagi in the Revenue Department for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. I cannot say what are the usual amounts of such exactions; but the receivers are the subordinates of all departments present on the spot.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. These are not paid in lump sum yearly and no account is kept from which the amount can be ascertained.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. It has been reduced during last 2 years owing to the efforts of the superior officers for the time being.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. Yes, to some extent.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Its prevention will be of benefit to the people subject however to the observation made in No. 36.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means men employed without payment
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. These chheras are men who must work without any inducement or payment, no matter whether they are willing to do so or not.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To prepare camping grounds at the time of an officer's camp, to carry cots or firewood to camp, to guard the camp, to load kit on the termination of the camp, to clear canals, to close breaches of Government canals etc., etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. The conditions are not express but implied. But for such services zamindars will not have the respect that they have.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or land from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. They receive no remuneration. Some zamindars give them food only. Generally they have their own food. If they did not render such services at the call of their zamindars they would not be given by them lands to cultivate nor allowed by them to live in their villages. They would even be threatened with proceedings under Section 110 C. P. C.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. I cannot say as the number required depends upon the status and establishment of each officer.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. The number depends upon the status and establishment of each officer.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Nothing.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shukar?
60. Not more than 15 are required for shukar.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They do not come willingly. They get nothing in cash. They get food only and that too not always.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. The employment of chheras on such work is rare in this taluka. There are malhis and beldars appointed to do the work. In emergencies they are employed.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. But for such services, the zamindars would not have the respect that they have.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?
64. No.

65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Every zamindar supplies chher in proportion to his importance. The number depends upon the circumstances of each case.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They get food only from the zamindars.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. The employment of 'chheras' interferes with cultivation and their non-employment also might cause loss to zamindars if their crops are flooded.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is available in my neighbourhood because of its nearness to a paka town. The daily wage is 8 to 10 annas.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. It could be procured by a contractor on payment.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. It should be modified. Its total abolition is likely to cause harm especially in emergencies.

NOTE.—I am a small zamindar and an inhabitant of a large town. I therefore do not know what are the practices in the villages. I find, however, that things have gone from bad to worse. This is so because the number of low-born zamindars has increased. They freely indulge in such practices in order to enhance their respect. Well-born zamindars have lost in respect because of their unwillingness to resort to such practices.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. RAMUMAL KHATUMAL.

Preliminary

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Ramumal son of Mukh. Khatumal. |
| 2. Occupation | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Land revenue Rs. 2,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Khambra, taluka Ubauro, district Sukkur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Member of the District Local Board. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. To provide supplies for the touring officer, his servants and munshis. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 30 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Khambra, Kandrevalo, Mahar Burdi and Mir Kosh. |
| 9. What officers frequent these camping grounds? | 9. The mukhtiarkar, the Deputy Collector, the Collector, the Superintendent, the Engineer and others. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Provisions, cots, grass, firewood and water jars. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs fowls, sheep, milk, butts, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. Partly from banias and partly from haris. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. Provisions from banias and the rest <i>i.e.</i> , fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grain, grass and firewood from haris or from neighbouring zamindars. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. From banias at market rates and from haris generally gratis or if necessary at nominal rates. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. People from the country side bring these commodities for sale. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. Firewood is brought from the jungle by haris who get no payment for it. They are only fed in return. If they were paid, the payments would amount to Rs. 20 or 25. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. In the case of the mukhtiarkar, Rs. 1-8-0, of the Deputy Collector Rs. 4-0-0 and of the District Officer Rs. 8-0-0 |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. In the case of the servants of the Deputy Collector Rs. 8-0-0 and of the servants of the District Officer Rs. 12-0-0 |

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Yes.
20. In the case of the mukhtiarkar's establishment Rs. 5-0-0, of the Deputy Collector's establishment Rs. 10-0-0 and of the District Officer's establishment Rs. 20-0-0. 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. Jars are taken from potters, cots from people in the town and stabling material from haris, free of charge. Only haris are given food, when they are employed in building landhis.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. Payment is made in part.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ? 24. The loss is distributed between ourselves and our haris.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. Landhis are erected for them, if they have no tents with them.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ? 26. Landhis are made by impressed haris. They are not paid but only fed. No payment is received.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ? 27. Yes, whenever necessary.
28. Horses and bullock carts are impressed from haris free of charge. If horse-carriages or animals are engaged on hire, I pay for them but receive nothing. This item amounts to Rs. 2 or 3 approximately.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. I make rasai for all subordinate officials.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 30. They make nominal payments but obtain receipts for full amounts.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 31. About 200 rupees per annum.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting samindars ? 32. I make the rasai myself.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting samindars ? 33. I prepare bills for full amounts but nominal payments are made.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to samindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and samindars ? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 35. Such contractors could be found if the officers accepted the system. Otherwise it is impossible to find them.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. The touring period and the powers of subordinate officials should be curtailed. Special attention should be paid to reports made against zamindars by tapadars and sub-inspectors.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. Yes.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. In my opinion the practice should not be prohibited as it is a time honoured one.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. Lapo is called anaki in this country.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. The tapadar gets 3 annas per acre as anaki, Rs. 2 for a khasmokal application, Rs. 2 per acre on a permanent grant of land, Re. 1 per wheel at inspection, 4 annas per survey number of moki land, Rs. 10 per brick-kiln and Re. 1 for a pass for firewood.

In the Public Works Department Re. 1 at the time of opening a water-course, grain at harvest from each zamindar and hari. I bear all the expenses incurred at the time of giving a cut. These amount to about Rs. 30.

In the Police Department lapo is levied in lump sum, each zamindar contributing his share to it. The contribution is about Rs. 100.

There are no forests in my part of the country.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. This has been answered under No. 40.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. It is levied by tapadars, daroghas and sub-inspectors for the rasai of touring officers.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Unauthorised lapo is levied for the rasai of touring officers. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents at camps at which I make rasai.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. I pay the khando of peons and give them a money present of Rs. 8 or 10. This has grown into a custom.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. No favour is shown.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted? 47. This has been answered under No. 40.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'? 48. I cannot say how much I pay on account of anaki and other exactions.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars? 49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar-kars? 50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? 51. It will decrease if the measures suggested under No. 36 are adopted.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? 52. Chher means the impressing and employing by force of haris, way-farers and artisans.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'? 53. The men referred to in No. 52.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch tents, to fetch water, grass and firewood, to keep watch at night and to be present at the camp.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. There are no conditions. They are employed by force.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government? 56. They get no remuneration but are given food.
57. At the mukhtiar-kar's camp 10 on the first day and 4 on every subsequent day; at the Deputy Collector's camp 25 on the first day and 5 on every subsequent day, and at the District Officer's camp 40 on the first day and 10 on every subsequent day. 10 or 15 chheras are provided at the camps of other officers.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. This has been answered under No. 57.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. They get nothing but are given food only.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. 10 or 15.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. They come under pressure from zamindars. Sometimes they are paid Rs. 5 or 10 by an officer as bakshish.
62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Repairs to Local Board roads are carried out by chheras.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. They are of benefit.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards? 64. They are paid by Local Boards.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. From 100 to 200, the actual number depending upon the condition of the breach.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They get part payment.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Generally it does not. At the time of reaping crops however it causes loss both to themselves and the zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Casual paid labour is available at the rate of 4 annas a day.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Certainly, it could be procured.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. I consider that the chher begar should be abolished and that it would be better to have contractors who can procure any number of men willing to work.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. IMDAD HUSSAN KHAN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | I. Imdad Hussan Khan son of Mir Mahir Baksh Khan Talpur. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Supervising tapedar, Kandhra. |
| 3. Head-quarters | 3. Kandhra. |
| 4. Length of service | 4. 2 years and 5 months. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind | 5. Nil. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. A whole circle. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Nine months in the year. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One private servant to cook food. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One kotar. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. Only utensils and bedding. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Provisions and grain. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. None. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water, jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Only two cots, two jars of water and one bundle of grass. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. None. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. The tapadars' dera or musafir khanas. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. There are stables attached to deras and musafir khanas and in small villages horses are tied underneath trees. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. A dasti of records, field books and deh maps. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. I do my work on a cot. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. None. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. The roads are not in my charge. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. The Local Board officers employ beldars on the work. |

22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. No.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. There is a post office at Kandhra from which my kotar brings my post.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. Kandhra, Pir Jo Gote, Maghanvari.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Camping grounds are put in order by employing chheras, when an officer is expected.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bazaar shops or bazars. 27. Nearly all.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. To none.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. None.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. None.
- Rasa.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasa'? 31. To provide for three things for an officer's camp viz, (1) cash, (2) provisions and (3) dais and presents.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. Flour, rice, ghee, milk, mutton, grain for horses, grass and firewood.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. Same except for grain and grass.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, hair, or jowari stalks and firewood? 34. There are no fixed rates. The rates vary from time to time.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. In small villages there are no fixed market rates.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. Within a rupee, as firewood is brought from the jungle by my private servant. The cost of the kotar's requirements is four annas.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. My private servant buys them at the bazar.
38. How are they paid for? 38. He makes immediate cash payment for them.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? 39. There is no definite evidence about it but there has been no such complaint.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 40. My own expenses on food are low but I cannot maintain my family.

PART II

251

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. The excess is met from the produce of my jagri and rayati lands.
42. Is the excess met out of a Rasai fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. No.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. After having done with them, we return them back and therefore do not pay for them.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. No.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public services?
45. Not without detriment to the public service.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. It is not possible to curtail my period of tour.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindar?
47. Tapedars as usual make the rasai as no contractor has been appointed, but rasai has decreased to some extent.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. The pay of the village establishments should be increased. The tapas should be smaller so as to enable tapedars to carry on their work without the aid of assistants. The touring period of the officers should be curtailed. Such a contractor could not be found.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. No.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. No.
51. Do you receive "Dhais" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate, officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. I do not receive dalis or presents of game etc. But if a zamindar feeds me as a guest, I accept his invitation as I also invite him to dinner on occasion.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhais" and sheep?
52. I have no correct idea.
53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. I do not make rasai and therefore know nothing.
- Lapo.*
54. Lapo means what is taken by the tapedar for the purpose of rasai etc., from the khatedar at the time of payment of assessment at the rate of 2 annas per acre in some places and of 3 annas per acre in others.
55. One has been mentioned above and another is that taken at the time of partial survey at 4 annas per survey number in the case of special dehs but the latter practice is not general. It is confined to some places. In Lower Sind, lapo is levied at the rate of Rs. 2 per block of 16 acres. Even if a single acre is cultivated, the lapo is levied on the whole block.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. The tapadar levies lapo from the khatedars and zamindars ostensibly for the purpose of rasai.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. This has been answered under Nos. 54 and 55.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund?
58. In every taluka about Rs. 4000 are utilized to cover the cost of rasai and not the whole amount. Some of it is used by the tapadar for himself.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?
59. A tapadar under the supervision of the head munshi of the taluka.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent, are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?
60. Every tapadar spends about Rs. 200 to 300 on this item. The cost of such a present which does not exceed Rs. 100 is paid from the rasai fund but other miscellaneous expenses are paid from lapo.
61. Just as the lapo of the tapadar is exacted; for each water-course, kasi or karia from one rupee to ten rupees, from every zamindar and nekward of the village from Rs. 5 to Rs. 100, from every cattle owner from Re. 1 to Rs. 15 according to the number of his cattle.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land Revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. I do not know.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. Affected to a small extent.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. If the practice of rasai is not prohibited, lapo will not cease.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
65. If measures are taken as suggested under No. 64 lapo will cease.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
66. Chher means forced labour employed at the officer's camp whether it is paid or unpaid, though as a matter of practice it is not paid.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. Men so employed are called chheras. They are generally haris and small khatedars.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch tents, to load and unload kit, to bring grass and firewood, to construct landhis, to fetch water, to watch the kit at night time, etc., etc.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labours when demanded by their zamindars?
69. There is no such express condition.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
70. If their houses are far off, they are only fed by the zamindars. They receive nothing else from zamindars or Government.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 71. Enough labour can be procured for this work.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government? 72. No beldars are maintained in my charge.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 73. They are not bound by law but they do disobey the orders of officials.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Decan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 74. No.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour? 75. I require none.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor? 80. It could be obtained from the rasai contractor. The cost will depend upon the number of men.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments? 81. No. That will only lead to an increase of rasai and chher.
82. How do you obtain labour for shukar? 82. I obtain none.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. If a road which leads to an officer's camp is in a bad state of repair, it is put in order by chher obtained from zamindars.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. Zamindars give chheras food only.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. The number of chheras required depends upon the force of the floods and the section of the breach. These are obtained from zamindars.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. The Public Works Department authorities sometimes give food and also wages at low rates. But generally they work without payment.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. It does not interfere with cultivation for only some of the men employed on each number of land are drawn away. Those who remain behind look after the crops.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. If beldars are employed on this work, their ordinary work will not suffer.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. If the rasai contractor were to supply labour at fixed rates there will be no need of chher.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF WADERO DIL MURAD KHAN.

Preliminary

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name | 1. Wadero Dilmuradkhan walad Khan Sahib Wadero Bahadurkhan Khoso Baloch. |
| 2. Occupation | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue | 3 Rs. 8,000—10,000 assessment. |
| 4. Residence | 4. My own village, taluka Jacobabad, Upper Sind Frontier |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Ma- gistrate. | 5. Member of the Taluka Local Board. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to provide such supplies to tour- ing officers as they cannot take out with them. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 8—10 years' |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Bahadurkhan village and Pul Musafirkhana. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Deputy Commissioner and the Mukhtiar- kar. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Grass, firewood, milk jars, cots, fowls, eggs, butter. |
| 11. Whence do you get those sup- plies namely, grain, rice, eggs fowls, sheep, milk, butter, ve- getables, taji or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I get the supplies from my own house I pro- vide nothing else. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. From my own house |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates? | 13. They cost me nothing I do not buy them |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neigh- bourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. No. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay any- thing for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. My own men bring it from the jungles or my haris are required each to give a load under the terms of then kabuliat This costs me nothing. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16 I cannot say what the daily cost is I have no reason to inquire about it. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17 I provide grass, firewood, cots, milk and jars and give cooked food at one or two meals to Mahome- dan peons according to the Baloch custom. |
| 18. I give cooked food to | 18. I give cooked food to people on a large scale every day. I therefore cannot estimate the cost. Even on ordinary days I use a maund of flour for the guests daily. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | |

PART II

254

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Grass, firewood, milk, cots and jars.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. They cost me nothing.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes, so far as stated under No. 19.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. It costs me nothing.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. I receive no payment as I provide nothing bought from the bazar.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hans or on you? 24. As nothing bought from the bazar is provided, there is no loss to be made good either by the haris or by me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. No.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. I provide no quarters and incur no payment.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. No.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. I spend nothing and receive nothing.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes I provide grass, firewood, jars, cots and milk.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. It costs me nothing as nothing bought from the bazar is provided.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. It costs me nothing as nothing bought from the bazar is provided.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting samindars? 32. I make rasai myself and through my kamdars. The tapadars have ceased to make rasai since 4 or 5 years ago.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting samindars? 33. As I provide nothing bought from the bazar I present no bill and receive no payment.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and samindars? 34. It is very difficult to introduce this system in this district because according to Baloch custom it is a disgrace not to serve a guest.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. It would be very hard to find such contractors, as it is a new system and one which the zamindars of Upper Sind Frontier will not approve of.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. I have no objection, nor have I any recommendations to make.

37. I give a dumba or dali to every officer who encamps in my village once a year. The dumba costs me nothing. The cost of a dali is, in my opinion, trifling. If an officer refuses this hospitality of mine, it is a disappointment and humiliation to me.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
38. The practice causes no harm to us, and I do not consider that it should be prohibited by Government. It Government or others regard rasai as a tyranny officers' tours should be confined to headquarters towns. By the adoption of this course, rasai will disappear. So long as officers camp in villages, so long it is difficult for rasai to disappear. The zamundars of Upper Sind Frontier do not approve of the prohibition of rasai nor of the system of contracts, nor of any other changes. Nor will they accept payment for grass, firewood, jars, cots, milk and butter because the Upper Sind Frontier District is famous for its hospitality, the people there taking pride in serving their guests both according to custom and religion.

Lapo.

39. Lapo means a gratuity paid to low-paid subordinates whether Government or one's own from one's crops. It also means 'anagi (one anna per jireb) paid to the tapadars—a payment which has ceased since 4 or 5 years ago: Lapo however is still in force. It is paid to all subordinates whether Government or one's own, according to the status of each. It is not a compulsory charge. It is left to each zamindar to pay or not to pay it.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. Answered under No. 39.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. Answered under No. 39.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. It is levied by these subordinates servants for their own use.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. It is not levied to cover the cost of rasai which is made apart from the payment of lapo.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. I do not know if it is levied for making money presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. The presents are not fixed charges.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. It is paid according to the wish and status of the donor especially to the lower subordinate officials who can show no favour.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. As the payments are not fixed charges no estimate can be made. I have said above by whom they are exacted.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. Same as under 47.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. It has been reduced by the rules of 1914, but there are no contractors here.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. Yes.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. I consider that the pay of subordinate officials should be increased if it is intended to stop lapo entirely. Until they are given enough to live upon, lapo will not cease. No orders and no modification of orders will serve the purpose.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means to get haris to do work, whether for Government or for oneself under the terms of their agreements.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. The cheras are haris.
54. To clear their canals, to close breaches and floods, to prepare camping grounds, and in emergencies to repair the roads near their own village for their own convenience and for that of the public and the officers.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by the zamindars?
55. Yes.
56. The share in the batai which is allowed to them in consideration of their agreeing to work as cheras. When so employed they are given two meals a day, cooked food being served to them.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or land from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. From 10 to 15 cheras are required at the camps of high officers.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. From 4 to 5 are required daily; from 10 to 15 are required for pitching and striking tents and preparing camping grounds.
59. Do they get anything for those services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Nothing but cooked food from the zamindars.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. Officers shikar here occasionally. In some cases from 6 to 8 cheras are supplied and they are given adequate money presents by the officers.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They are bound to come under the terms of their agreements.
62. In emergencies some chher is supplied to repair the roads, with a view to our own convenience and to that of the public and the officers. Such cases however are very rare here as the Local Board establishment is sufficiently strong.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Answered above.
64. They get nothing from Government or from the zamindars, as they are bound to perform such labour under the terms of their agreements. The zamindars give them cooked food only.
64. Do they get any thing for such labour from the officers, zamindars, or local boards?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. The number is not fixed.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Answered above.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and causes loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. No
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is not available in my neighbourhood.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. No.
70. I consider chher ought not to be abolished in view of the facts that it is not a compulsory service and that it is resorted to in emergent cases for the benefit of both Government and the public and that people do not regard it as a nuisance.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. FAIZ MUHAMMED SON OF MUHAMMED ALAM KAZI.

1. Name. 1. Faiz Mahomed son of Muhammad Alam Kazi.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindar; Pensioner.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. Land revenue Rs. 281-11-0.
 4. Residence. 4. Kandhra, taluka Rohri, district Sukkur.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. 5. Chair holder; zamindar.
- Rasai.**
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. It means to provide 3 kinds of things for an officer's camp in a village viz.—(1) Cash,
(2) provisions such as flour, ghee, rice, butter, milk, fowls, eggs, grass, fire-wood and landhis for servants and
(3) fruit, dahls and presents.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. 36 years.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. Khandhra.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? 9. The Mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police and others.
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. Milk, fowls, eggs, butter, ghee, rice, flour, grass, grain, jowari, bajari, paddy, mutton, vegetables, potatoes, fire-wood etc.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri, or jowari stalks and firewood ? 11. Rice, flour, vegetables, potatoes, grain and ghee are obtained from the shops of banias and grain, milk, butter, fowls, eggs, mutton and firewood from zamindars or haris.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars ? 12. I get provisions from banias and the rest from my own house if available there, otherwise from my haris or neighbouring zamindars.
 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates ? 13. I pay for all things to bania at market rates, and to the haris at rates lower say by 2 annas than market rates if they are poor. In case they are well-to-do I pay them nothing for it.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. Yes.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. I get firewood from the jungles. I send wood cutters to bring it and I pay them at 8 annas a donkey load or get my haris to bring cart loads of it for which I pay them nothing. The cost per camp is at least 40 or 50 rupees in winter.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? 16. Officers require milk, butter, fowls, eggs, mutton, grain, flour, rice, potatoes, firewood and grass which costs about Rs. 5 at the rates prevailing in the villages in the case of the Assistant Collector and Collector.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. The average daily cost is about Rs. 10.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. The average daily cost is about Rs. 20 or 25.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. It costs about Rs. 10 because jars are obtained on payment, some only being obtained free from the potters. Nothing is paid for cots. Materials required for building landhis are obtained on loan which are returned to the owners when no longer required. This causes them some loss but they bear it quietly. When these materials are not so obtained, they are bought and when done sold at half rates.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. We do not get full payments. Whatever the officers pay on their bills is generally taken away by the butler. Others do not at all pay. Sometimes they obtain nominal receipts and certificates from us.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. We do not get full payments. Whatever the officers pay on their bills is generally taken away by the butler. Others do not at all pay. Sometimes they obtain nominal receipts and certificates from us.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. The loss falls on both haris and ourselves among whom it is distributed.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. They have their own rowties generally. Failing them they live in musafir-khanas. When there is no musafir-khana houses are provided for them.
26. Nothing is spent and nothing is received. Only the owner of the house puts himself to inconvenience for the time he vacates it.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. If there are no houses available landhis are built and the building materials returned to the owners when done with.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. They engage camels of their own on hire by the month. Occasionally we provide horses, camels, carts and carriages.
28. That depends on the occasion itself. Horses and carts very often belong to haris and zamundars who charge nothing. As regards haris and hired camels the expenses at each camp are from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. That depends on the occasion itself. Horses and carts very often belong to haris and zamundars who charge nothing. As regards haris and hired camels the expenses at each camp are from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. No, it is made as follows :—
 For Mukhtiarkar and his establishment } by the tapadar.
 and the supervising tapadar. }
 For Police Inspector and other } by the Sub-
 superior officials of Police. } Inspector of
 Police.
 For Public Works Department officers. } by daroghas
 or beldars.
30. Whatever is spent by them is recovered by them except in the case of tapadars, from zamundars and haris because they receive no payments themselves. They actually make rasai and not the zamundars or haris.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. Whatever is spent by them is recovered by them except in the case of tapadars, from zamundars and haris because they receive no payments themselves. They actually make rasai and not the zamundars or haris.
31. In the case of Revenue officers alone the rasai costs tapadar Rs. 4,000 in each taluka. This is apart from the rasai for the Police and Public Works Departments and Forest officers.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. In the case of Revenue officers alone the rasai costs tapadar Rs. 4,000 in each taluka. This is apart from the rasai for the Police and Public Works Departments and Forest officers.

32. The tapadars make rasai for Revenue officers, the Army Remount officer, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, the Manager Incumbered Estates and the Manager Junior Talpurs. The Sub-Inspector for Police officers, the daroghas and beldars for Public Works Department officers, the forest guard for the Range Forest officer and his superiors. No contracting zamindar makes rasai

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

33. The bills are prepared by those who make rasai.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars?

34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. If the officers are in earnest they can find such contractors for Districts, Divisions, and talukas as is the case in the Military Department.

36. We pray that rasai should be stopped and the hardship to which the people are subjected for not making rasai removed. Until the pay of the tapadars is increased or officers' tour curtailed rasai will not stop. Officer's camps should be confined to a few select villages in each taluka and if there are camping grounds or musafir khanas in such villages cots and stables should be maintained there. There should be a contractor to provide all supplies independently of tapadars and zamindars. The tapadars should not be admitted into the camp and nothing should be obtained from or through him. The tapas should be made smaller to enable them to do their work themselves. At present there are some tapas which are so big that the tapadars cannot cope with their work without the aid of maibs. Each maib costs about Rs. 300 a year. When their records are inspected nothing but defalcations should be taken notice of. Ordinary irregularities should not be minded. They should not keep any paper or order with them for more than 15 days except in special cases. Their reports against khatedars should be carefully scrutinized by the Mukhtiar-kar. The pay and travelling allowances of the clerks and munshis should be increased, as without such increase it will not then be possible to get them. Moreover the contractor will charge higher rates than market rates with a view to some profit. Or if all officers follow the example set by the Collector and the Deputy Collector this year, the evil will abate.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

37. Do you present 'Dhalls' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

37 & 38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. It means the levy by the tapadars of 2 to 3 annas per acre from the khatedars in addition to 4 annas per number at the time of partial an exaction which is now rare except in certain dehs.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

The Police levy a sum according to their requirements from the zamindars and nekwards of villages who in their turn ask the haris to raise it by subscription among themselves. Similarly Public Works Department men levy a sum from zamindars who receive water supply from their canals and the Forest men from maldars.

40. If the lapo is not paid to the tapadar he will, when doing partial, fill in form 8 when he finds the hedge of a zamindar's land slightly encroaching at some places, or a if landhi is put up for the benefit of cultivation; he will assess the whole number at the garden rate, if there are a few ghuntas in it under garden produce such as onions etc. If he finds water being taken from an unauthorised karia, he will fill in the form of unauthorised water supply. If a khatedar is poor and his crops are poor, and he does not

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo' Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

pay the assessment at the proper time because he has no money left to pay it, the tapadar will proceed against him under section 148 making a note that he is able enough to pay the assessment but is wantonly postponing the payment with the result that he will be made to pay a fine not exceeding one fourth of the assessment. If the bana is not in order or if a tree has been cut down, the tapadar will report against him. If his cultivation is on a well the tapadar will enter it as moki aided by wheel, owing to which he will pay additional 10 or 12 annas per acre.

Public Works Department and refusal to pay lapo.

1. If one's animal goes on to the embankment of the karia all his animals will be impounded.
2. One will not be allowed to open one's karia in time.
3. One will be reported against as having wasted water. The section of one's karia will be shortened.

Police and refusal to pay lapo.

1. If a theft is committed one will be sent for and beaten and disrespected and detained for a few days for the comparison of foot prints.
2. The Police will tell a badmash to file a false complaint against one, search one's house under suspicion of theft, or cause anonymous application to be made with a view to calling one's females in or insult and ill treat one. To quote an example, a man told me that a thanedar asked a zamindar to contribute Rs 50 towards the rasai of officers. On the man's refusing to pay, the thanedar bridled him like a horse and putting a saddle on him made a man ride on him. After he was so insulted he borrowed Rs. 50 from a bania and paid it to the thanedar. Others were threatened with the same treatment. The man who was insulted complained and produced the bandi, and statements were recorded but it is not known what orders were passed.

Forest Department and refusal of lapo.

1. No pass will be issued for grazing animals in a forest on the ground that it is closed.
2. If one's animal enters into a forest all his animals will be imponded.
3. They will set fire to a portion of a forest and will foist the guilt upon the man who has refused to pay lapo on the evidence of a few false witnesses.
4. They will have a piece of wood cut and thrown into the man's house. Then they will ask some body to lodge a complaint against him, while he is not aware of the timber being in his house. The Police will then send him to a Magistrate.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?</p> | <p>41. In this part of the country 2 to 3 annas is levied per acre while on Shikarpur side one anna per rupee of assessment.</p> |
| <p>42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghahs and forest rangers?</p> | <p>42. The above lapo is levied by the tapadar.</p> <p>The Sub-Inspector levies from 5 to 100 rupees from each zamindar who gets his hars to raise the sum.</p> |

The Forest men levy lapo from maldars and beldars from owners of karias.

43. The lapo is levied for their own use as well as for the rasai of touring officers. We pay lapo, as well as provide cots, mats, grass firewood, fowls, eggs, milk, materials for building landhis and chher for putting up and demolishing them. We pay lapo. The money payments to memals are made by the tapadar, Sub-Inspector and others who make rasai.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
45. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. The tapadar so far as I know makes money presents to the following in addition to the payment for provisions:—
 - (1) The supervising tapadar, the kotar and servant.
 - (2) The Mukhtiarkar's servant, head munshi and his servant, all other munshis of taluka offices, also farashes and peons of taluka office.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

(3) The private servants, official staff and clerks of the Assistant Collector.

(4) The private servants, official staff and the munshis of the Collector in camp.

Each tapadar contributes Rs. 250-300 rupees towards this expenditure. In addition to this, expenses on camps in or outside taluka head quarters and fees in connection with annual inspection of records, including those paid to the Dattardar's establishment and the Huzur Treasurer's establishment and expenses on the camps of other officers such as the Superintendent of Survey, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, the Army Remount officer etc., etc. are all to be borne. All these expenses amount to about Rs. 4000 in each taluka and are borne by the tapadars in proportion to their incomes. Those paid in villages are paid by each tapadar individually and are included in the Rs. 300 mentioned above.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. No.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. Answered under No. 42.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. The tapadar levies lapo at a rate varying from Rs. 13 to 19 per 100 acres.

The Police officials levy lapo from Rs. 5 to 100 from the zamindars or nekmards of a village.

Public Works Department from Rs. 1 to 10.

Forest Department from Rs. 1 to 20 according to the number of cattle from maldars.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. No contractors have been appointed under the rules of 1914 but rasai has decreased a little.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtar-kars?

50. It has decreased slightly as it causes zamindars some trouble to send money by money order.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. If the suggestions made under Nos. 34-40 are carried out the evils will decrease.

Chher.

52. It means men supplied at the time of officer's camps to pitch tents, to prepare camping grounds, to bring grass and firewood, to fetch water, to bring provisions etc., from the bazar and to escort the kit at night and to keep watch at camps.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. Haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. Those mentioned in reply to No. 52.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They hold their lands on implied conditions to help when commanded to do so.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or officers of Government?

56. Officers pay them nothing. If the chheras belong to the village of the camp they have food of their own but if they are from outside they are fed by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. For Mukhtiarkar 4, Assistant Collector 10, other District officers 30.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. For bringing water, grass and firewood for the Mukhtiarkar 2, Assistant Collector 5, other District Officers 8. For preparing camping grounds and pitching camps 30.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. No.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. 10, 15 or 20 and sometimes more in the case of the Commissioner or in the case of pig shooting.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. The zamindars bring chheras when ordered by officers to do so. The officers pay them about 5 or 10 rupees as bakshish.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. When the officers begin their tour early and the roads are bad or flooded, then 50 to 100 chheras are employed. Sometimes a road is divided into pieces and each piece is given to a zamindar to repair.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. No. Only the zamindars feed them.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. The number depends upon the occasion. Sometimes 10 or 15 are required. In the case of a large breach a hundred or more men are required.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. The Public Works Department officers pay them something or the zamindars feed them.
67. Does the employment of the chheras interfere with cultivation and causes loss to the selves and the zamindars? 67. No.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Yes. At 8 or 10 annas per day.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. If chher is employed contractors can procure paid labour.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MUNSHI MAHOMED BAKSH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Muhammad Baksh walad Muhammad Azim Ahmedani. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pensioner ; supervising tapadar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Zamindar. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Shikarpur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Licensed holder of arms, clair holder and assessor. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? | 6. It is a flattery and a sin warranted neither by religion nor by law. It interferes with justice. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? | 7. I have 30 years' experience. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? | 8. Rasai is made every where for every camp whether in large towns or taluka head quarters or small villages. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? | 9. All touring officers of Revenue, Police, Public Works, Forest and Salt departments. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? | 10. Mutton, kids, dumbas, sheep, fowls, eggs, vegetables, milk, butter, rice, flour, grain, jowar, gram, spices, dal, firewood, stalks, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowar stalks and firewood ? | 11. Whatever supplies could be obtained from bania shopkeepers are obtained from them. The rest i. e., stalks, firewood, mutton, milk, fowls, eggs, dumbas, kids, etc., are taken from zamindars and haris. |
| 12. Do you get them from your hands or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars ? | 12. Answered under No. 11. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates ? | 13. No body receives payment nor are there fixed rates |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? | 14. Yes, but the rates are lower. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? | 15. Haris bring firewood from the jungles in their carts, for which no payment is made. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? | 16. The average daily cost in the case of certain officers varies from 5 to 10 rupees provided economy is practised, otherwise it is more. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? | 17. The same supplies are to be provided, nay even liquor, meat preparations, sweets and fruits are provided either by the tapadars or by the zamindars. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? | 18. The daily cost including grain for horses in the case of the District Officer's private and official staff is Rs. 40 ; in the case of the Divisional Officer, Deputy Collector, Forest Officers, Sub Engineers and Police Superintendents Rs. 30 ; in the case of taluka officers, Inspectors, Surveyors, thanadars Rs. 20. |

18. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?
19. Yes, we have to provide all supplies.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies?
20. In the case of District Officers Rs. 40; in the case of Divisional officers Rs. 30; in the case of taluka officers, Rs. 15.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
21. We have to provide water jars, earthen baking pans, small earthen vessels, cots and hutting materials.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
22. It costs a zamindar about Rs. 10 at each camp.
23. Payment is made by European officers only. They pay through their butlers on bills which the latter get reduced. The money however is pocketed by the butlers. Others whether private or official staff make no payments. They obtain false receipts.
24. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
24. The loss falls upon poor haris except when the amount is large, when it falls upon the zamindars also.
25. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?
25. If they have no rowtis they live in zamindari otaks, Government buildings, musafarkhanas and Public Works Department bungalows.
26. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
26. It costs nothing.
27. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?
27. If they have not engaged camels, we have to provide camels for them.
28. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
28. It costs rupees 2 or 3 per man. No payment is received. It is met by zamindars or from the general fund.
29. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?
29. Zamindars make rasai for all these officials, with whom they have constant dealings.
30. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
30. As stated in No. 18, the daily cost is Rs. 30. No payment is made to zamindars.
31. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
31. The aggregate cost in the case of a large zamindar is about Rs. 500 including the contribution of the haris.
32. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
32. There is no uniform system. At some places zamindars, at some tapdaars and at others contracting zamindars, head munshis or mukhtarkars make rasai
33. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?
33. None receive payment. False bills are obtained from the principal contracting zamindar, who in his turn makes no payment to other zamindars.
34. How do you receive payment. Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. I prefer the appointment of an outsider as contractor independent of the tapadars and mukhtarkar, provided care is taken to see that he does not play into the hands of the tapadar or mukhtarkar
35. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
35. Many contractors could be found for divisions or districts provided previous intimation is given of the programme and of the contractors required.
36. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and, have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. 1. The touring officers should take a few munshis, clerks and peons on tour. This will cause a saving to Government in travelling allowances and relieve the public also.
2. Few experienced munshis should be deputed at a time to taluka offices to inspect the records and jamabandi. These can get all supplies from the bazar at taluka head-quarters at their own expenses.
3. As Deputy Collectors and Mukhtarkars now know survey work themselves, they should do the partial themselves taking with them at the most one tapadar. There is no need to take more tapadars or supervising tapadars.
4. Cases should not be fixed for hearing at camps. This causes inconvenience to the men themselves and the local zamindar who must feed them.
5. Kacheries whether for land grants or disposal of papers should be held at the taluka office.
6. The officer should himself watch the limited rasai required under the proposed conditions and keep an eye on the butler as well as peons.
7. The bill for the supplies should be paid by the officer personally.
8. The bills for the establishment should also be paid in his presence.
9. There should be a uniform system of batai among the zamindars and haris, which should take no notice of contributions towards rasai and lapo etc., and of conditions regarding chher.
10. The Public Works and Forest Departments have more rasai than the Revenue Department. They have it through their beldars and peons. This should cease. There should be contractors for them also. Rasai will disappear if all officers will co-operate.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. It is a custom.
38. The practice should be stopped at once otherwise it will grow to larger proportions for the officials will think that Government could not prohibit it however hard it tried.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. Lapo is a bribe, an undue exaction. The taking of it is a crime according to the law of Islam and of Government. It interferes with justice and is an injustice to the public.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. In the Revenue Department, in the form of lapo of a fee on survey measurement, on inspection of boundary marks, on bigoti measurement, of reaped ears of corn, grain, khando, and bribes. Unauthorized lapo is levied in all departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum, or fixed rates per camp per acre, or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. Unauthorized lapo is levied in different forms in different departments. It is levied on the crops of Chet and Kati at a rate varying from 1 anna to 4 annas per jireb or at 1 rupee per acre or at 6 to 11 per cent. on land revenue assessment, or in lump sum or at a percentage per jireb. It is apart from the expenditure on camps, on the tapadar's own supplies, the supplies of his kotar and servant, from fees in connection with cases of correspondence, from annuities of the supervising tapadar, his kotar and servant. The

officials of Public Works and Forest Departments levy lapo separately. If it is not paid to them they stop water-supply or keep out cattle. The Public Works Department's lapo which is levied from zamindars and contractors is the heaviest of any department. It is something more than can be conceived. The officials of the Forest Department stand next and those of the Revenue Department stand next to the Forest Department. The poor are harassed. The Police oppression amounts to tyranny.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. It is levied by all officials e. g, kotars, beldars, rangers, tapadars, supervising tapadars, abdars, daroghas, forest officers, etc, for themselves and their officers.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied in addition to rasai for touring officials. Zamindars give lapo as well as make rasai Mukhtiarkars receive contributions from the lapo from every tapadar varying from Rs. 100 to 300 according to the extent of the tapa. The touring establishments also get something from this lapo.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 44. From lapo are paid fixed annuities to the private servants and official staff of touring officers including servants, peons, butlers and munshus who inspect records. Zamindars also make money presents, each on his own account.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 45. Tapadars, supervising tapadars and zamindars respectively pay fixed annuities as follows :—
Servant Re 1 per munshu, butler Rs 10, peons Re 1 each, the inspection munshi Rs. 5. The members of the District Office, the Divisional Office and the Taiuka Office receive money presents separately.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. Lapo is not exacted for particular favours. It is levied by force, by threats, by tricks and by impoliteness. The Public Works men cut off water-supply. The Police oppress.
47. Such exactions are made by unprincipled officials dishonestly, in matters of land grants by supervising tapadars and mukhtiarkars who make recommendations for some, ignoring the claims of others and in criminal cases and cases under the Mamlatdar's Act and remission matters by mukhtiarkars.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted? 48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'? 48. Large zamindars have to pay from Rs 500 to Rs. 1000 and small zamindars according to their means.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars? 49. Not at all. The system is a curse to the contracting zamindar.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars? 50. On the contrary it has increased and tapadars get it all the same.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? 51. I. Tapadars should have no hand in the recovery of land revenue and other dues. They should not be allowed to come in. Many have absconded with thousands of rupees.

2. The delicate work of khatebadal should not be assigned to tapadars, because it enables them to take large bribes and has led and will lead to serious evils.
3. The khatedars should be given bills of bigoti measurements ismwar for each hari.
4. Detail of measurements of survey numbers should be given to the khatedars at once along with the sketches.
5. Authenticated bills of assessments showing separately the assessment for each sub-division and the cooccupants should be given to khatedars in advance.
6. All zamindars should make declarations not to provide rasai, lapo and chher and those who do so should be punished.
7. Similar declarations should be taken from mukhtiar-kars holding them responsible for the evils of rasai etc., in their talukas and for preventing their establishments from having anything to do with rasai, lapo etc.
8. The district and division officers of revenue or other departments should regard it as part of their duties to watch openly and secretly both on tour and at head quarters.
9. As far as is possible cases and petitions should be disposed of by officers in person in kacheries. The proceedings should not be prolonged, as this causes trouble to petitioners. The kacheries regarding grants of land should also be held in taluka head quarters.
10. For some time a Secret Inquiry Officer should be appointed to see to what extent officials harass the people because of the stoppage of the practice of lapo and whether practice is suppressed. It will be the duty of this officer to make inquiries in the case of all departments and to make surprise inspections of banias' and zamindars' bandis.
11. All officers should set apart an hour daily for receiving visits from respectable zamindars and others. The callers should not be left to the mercy of peons.
12. Increase in pay will not produce any improvement. Those who get large salaries do not abstain from taking bribes.

Chher.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? | 51. It means forced employment of helpless men. |
| 53. Who are the 'Chheras'? | 53. They are poor haris. |
| 54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? | 54. They are required to bring supplies e. g., firewood, grass, milk, etc., to fetch water and to pitch and strike tents, to watch at night, to assist the servants and to look after the horses at officers' camps, to help at shukar, to prepare roads and bridges and to help at the time of breaches and floods. |
| 55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? | 55. Such conditions are generally imposed. |
| 56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government? | 56. They get nothing. |
| 57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? | 57. For the district officers 50 chheras are required, for the divisional officers 20, for the mukhtiar-kar, the inspector and the thanedar 10 and for the supervising tapadar 2. |
| 58. How many are required daily for bringing up water, stalks and wood? many more for preparing ground and pitching and striking camps? | 58. These do all kinds of work at camps. |

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. They get nothing.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. 8 or 10 who get money presents from European officers.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. They come unwillingly for zamindars threaten to haul them up as bad characters if they refuse to come. They receive nothing not even food, for they bring flour from their houses.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. From 100 to 500.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Such repairs are also of benefit to the public.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Thousands.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Nothing.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. The employment of chheras at camps, on roads and at skakar in the cultivation season does interfere to some extent with their cultivation. But in the closing of breachss, in which the public is concerned, it is necessary to employ chheras who must be paid for their labour.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is freely available as Public Works Department contractors employ it on their works.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Certainly.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. I consider that chher should be abolished so that the poor may be grateful to Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR GORDON.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Alexander Gordon |
| 2. Appointment | 2. Executive Engineer, Public Works Department and Executive Engineer, Begari Canals. |
| 3. Head-quarter. | 3. Jacobabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 8½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 8½ years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Upper Sind Frontier district, Nasirabad Tahsil of Sibi district and Shikarpur taluka of Sukkur district. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Ten months. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Seven. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Two clerks and eight peons and khalasis. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. In my case all supplies required except eggs, fowls, milk, grass and ghee; as regards others everything except milk and mutton. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. The exceptions noted under (10) and fuel. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. All that I require. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. None. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Generally one small Swiss cottage tent. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Bungalows and quarters have been built by Government. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. See (15). |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current record and such other record as may be required during the period of the tour. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. See (15). |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. None. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. No roads in my charge. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. District Local Board. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads at your various camps? | 22. No special repairs made though sometimes badly required in Shikarpur taluka. |

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters?
23. Means of transport—Camels engaged for whole period of tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?
24. Government sowars bring my post.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
25. All the lungalows in the district.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
26. No camping grounds in my charge.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
- 28-29 See (26).
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
30. In Public Works Department bungalows there is always a chowkidar, etc.; if there is a garden, a malhi also.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. Supply of necessaries of life which the touring officer cannot conveniently carry with him.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. One fowl, six eggs, 11 lbs. milk, 4 bundles grass, occasional small quantities of ghee and butter.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
33. Clerks. Per head 1 lb. milk and occasionally a little mutton. Others $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri, or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. This can best be found from the Sind Official Gazette in which periodical returns are inserted.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. No.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. For myself one rupee daily and nothing for the others.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. The supplies are obtained from neighbouring cultivators by the daroga and brought to my camp by beldars.
38. How are they paid for?
38. In cash.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. None, except that I have never received a complaint from anyone that supplies have been taken without payment.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. The estimate is based on actuals.

PART II

273

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the harns or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 41. There is no excess.
42. Is the excess met out of a Rasad fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. There is no excess.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. No.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? 44. No.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service? 45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service? 46. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindar? 47. Contractors did not, as a rule, attend my camp when requested to do so. Tapadars had never anything to do with my camp
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? 48. The rules throw an unnecessary and unpleasant burden on the zamindars and cause them to incur expense. They should be abolished.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 49. Generally yes.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 50. No.
51. Do you receive "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. Yes.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep? 52. Dhalie—two or three rupees. Sheep are only taken as a favour from Baluch gentlemen of standing and have no value to them.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government? 53. The orders will be found in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules and these are obeyed. I have found no difficulty in doing so
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 54. Lapo is of the nature of a cess collected unauthorizedly from zamindars or cultivators.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? 55. None in my department.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. None in my department.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' Fund?

59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent, are they made out of the 'Rasai' Fund?

57-60. None in my department.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of Land Revenue, Irrigation, Police and Forests?

61. I do not consider that any lapo is exacted for special favours in irrigation. When an improper favour is granted it is paid for by a bribe.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. None in my department.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. None in my department.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. I have not studied the question.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

66. Chher is a body of labour produced by a zamindar in an emergency.

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Cultivators of zamindars.

68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

68. Earthwork and other sundry work in connection with the closing of breaches.

69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

69. I understand so.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or land from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?

70. Daily wages are always offered in my department. If they are not accepted free food is offered. If this is not accepted, which is rarely the case, food is supplied by the zamindars.

71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?

71. For ordinary works and repairs labour is available but not in sufficient quantity on emergencies arising during the abkalan.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. Yes, by Government

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 73. See paragraph 58 of the Bombay Irrigation Act.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 74. Not as far as I know.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour? 75. None.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp? 76. None.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp? 77. None.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. When I am the guest of a gentleman on his own estate he provides the beaters. Otherwise they are paid by me.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. At the current rate of wages. No zamindar in this district would allow me to pay beaters on his land.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Presumably yes.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. No roads in my charge.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. No roads in my charge.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. It depends on the size of the breach. The number may vary from 10 to 1000.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. Daily wages are always offered in my department. If they are not accepted free food is offered. If this is not accepted which is rarely the case, food is supplied by the zamindars.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. Does not interfere at all. The labour turns up readily as the work done is for his own immediate benefit.
90. How far does the employment of 'haldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. Not known.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. If chher were suppressed it would be extremely difficult to control floods and maintain canals in their proper condition.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. GORDON, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.

To the chairman:—

I have 3 postal sowars engaged, one during the touring season and the other two for the whole year.

We can get grass. Now generally it is karbi.

There are vegetable gardens attached to some of the bungalows for the purpose of touring officers. We take whatever we require.

I believe a percentage used to be paid on contracts by contractors. It must be very much reduced now. I don't believe very much could be paid in my district. I say so judging from the rates tendered and from the fact that all the work is checked by the Executive Engineers.

I don't state that there is anything regularly levied by either the daroghas or the muccadams. They always get tips in the nature of X'mas boxes from the zamundars.

No special road repairs are made for my own convenience.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai —

My establishment pay nothing for their supplies. They get milk which is never paid for in the Upper Sind Frontier. They carry supplies with them for certain periods. They purchase them again at big places like K'ndhkot, Kashmore and Thul. I understand they purchase direct from banias. I believe they pay cash for their purchases but I can't say about Jacobabad where they may possibly have a running account. My establishment don't live on eggs and fowls. They very occasionally get a kid which is divided among the camp. They are not vegetarians. They eat mutton when they get the chance.

I tour along the canals. All my camps are at bungalows which are placed at convenient distances for canal administrative purposes. Only two of the bungalows are in big villages.

The daroghas and muccadams have to do with the maldars. They would be dismissed if they allowed cattle to graze and levied the fees for themselves. They could not do it very well for I tour ten months a year and should find out. They don't therefore allow unauthorized grazing to any appreciable extent or trees get damaged owing to maldars cutting them. The animals are then impounded or the muccadams get dismissed. It is quite possible they sometimes levy fees for not reporting the damage. If I find them out they are dismissed. There is no appreciable levy of fees in this direction.

They do not requisition supplies from the maldars. They don't requisition the maldars for 'kids. They possibly get milk from them. The milk generally is buffalo milk. We rarely see buffaloes grazing on canal banks but only goats.

There are about 25 daroghas in my beat and about 125 muccadams and beldars. This establishment is considerably increased in the abkalani. I now give the muccadams a separate beat of their own to make them work. Before that they had 2 beldars under them. I have had to punish quite a number of daroghas and beldars for allowing unauthorized grazing. I could not say how many. A record is kept.

There is in fact no systematic levy of lapo in my beat. I have been for 3½ years in my present beat, 4½ years in the Jamrao and short periods in other beats. The abdar brought the supplies on the Jamrao. The abdar is a kind of tapadar under the orders of the P. W. D.

To the Hon. Mr. Ghulam Hussain —

I can't say what tips the darogha gets. I should say the maximum would be Rs. 20 from one zamindar. The number of zamundars in the beat of a darogha would vary considerably. A contractor might undertake to supply all the supplies but he will have to charge heavy rates. I suppose it would be possible to find one if he was subsidized to sell at market rates. The darogha gets eggs and fowls from neighbouring cultivators. I can't say if they pay for them. I pay the daroghas.

I suppose some daroghas would be pleased to get one rupee. I think there might be 3 or 4 zamundars who pay daroghas Rs. 20 very rarely. Many zamundars if they pay at all will only pay very small amounts.

To Mr. Mithmul Shah:—

I was stationed in the Jacobabad district and heard that there were many complaints by the zamundars but I have never received actual reports from any zamundars.

Committee appointed by Government
to enquire into Rasai, Lapo and Chher in Sind.

Volume III.

Part III. Evidence recorded for the Larkana District.

Part IV. Evidence recorded for the Hyderabad District.

3



Price Three Rupees.

THE COMMISSIONER'S PRINTING PRESS, KARACHI.

1919.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME III

| | PAGES |
|---|-------|
| 1. Part III.—Evidence recorded by the Committee at Larkana for the Larkana District | 1—206 |
| 2. Part IV.—Evidence recorded by the Committee at Hyderabad for the Hyderabad District | 1—223 |

Part III.

Evidence recorded by the Committee at Larkana
for the Larkana District. Pages 1 to 206.

PART III

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. BOLUS.

1. Name. I. E. J. Bolus.
 2. Appointment. 2. Acting Collector of Larkana.
 3. Head-quarters. 3. Larkana.
 4. Length of service. 4. 14½ years.
 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. 2½ years.
- General.*
6. What is the area covered by your tour? 6. Larkana District.
 7. What is the period of your tour? 7. 125 days, excluding any day spent at head-quarters.
 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? 8. Butler, cook, second boy, ayah (for part of the season), dhobi, 2 syces, bhusti, sweeper.
 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? 9. Daftardar, head munshi, sheristedar and 4 munshis.
The Collector's inspection staff (4 munshis) and the registration clerk visit the taluka towns.
Havaldar, one naik, 4 peons and one khalasi.
Office—6 peons.
 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? 10. (i) All ordinary grocery.
(ii) My servants obtain all supplies at the camps.
(iii) The Daftardar takes his own supplies of grain etc. from head-quarters. The other members of the establishment obtain their supplies at the various camps.
 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? 11. (i) Chickens, eggs, milk, grass, firewood, mutton.
(ii) & (iii) Flour, rice, ghee, milk, dal, vegetables, mutton, spice, fire-wood, sugar, salt.
 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? 12. (i) Chairs, carpets, tables, beds, crockery and other household requisites.
(ii) Chairs, carpets, tables, boxes.
 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? 13. A few cots and water jars are borrowed by my servants and munshis at each camp.
 14. What tents do you take on tour? 14. One dining tent, office tent, sleeping tent, 5 raotis.
 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? 15. (i) Servants' quarters at bungalows. Also raotis.
(ii) Raotis. The inspection office munshis usually stay with the munshis.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? 16. Stables are attached to the bungalows. Where I am in tents, 'landhis' are erected for the horses.
17. What records do you take on tour? 17. Generally 2 years' vernacular records. Also a few books of reference from the Collector's library.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? 18. My office is held either in a room of the bungalow or in an office tent.
19. When tents are to be pitched, about 20 men are required for some 2 hours, and again when tents are removed. At other times 5 or 6 men.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 20. Practically all the roads are kacha. The main roads are kept in fairly good condition.
21. The Taluka Local Boards are responsible. The work is effected by means of beldars. This establishment is subordinate to the Vice President of the Taluka Local Board.
22. Sometimes special repairs of this kind are made, but not on my requisition.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? Such repairs are carried out by the beldars. Occasionally the zamindar is asked to assist with his men.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? 23. Camels are my means of transport. These are engaged at head-quarters for the whole period of the tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. The post is brought by a peon. Occasionally the Mukhtyarkar is asked to arrange.
25. The usual camping places consist of the 11 taluka head-quarter towns, and an average of 3 or 4 large villages in each taluka.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
26. The Mukhtyarkar is in charge of the camping ground. When a camp is expected, the ground is cleared and swept by the beldars or by the zamindars' men. These camping grounds are seldom occupied by me, since ordinarily I use the bungalows.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
27. The great majority of the camping grounds are within practical reach of such villages. Some of the villages have only one or two shops, of the poorest description.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?
28. There are Local Fund gardens at Johi, Mehar, Warah and Dokri. Ratodero has a municipal garden.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. There are bungalows at all the taluka towns, and also along the banks of the main canals. On an average there are 3 or 4 bungalows in each taluka.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. A chowkidar is maintained at each bungalow. If a garden is attached, there is also a malhi.
- Rasai.*
31. 'Rasai,' derived from the verb *rasai*, denotes access or entrance. In Sind. the word is used *in malam partem* to denote a system of giving supplies either gratis or at reduced rates.
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. My average daily requirements are as follows:—1 chicken, 1 dozen eggs, 2 seers milk, 1 seer meat or fish, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 maund of firewood, 20 lbs glass and palal.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?

PART III

8

33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33 So far as I can ascertain, the requirements vary considerably according to the individual. I am unable to give definite figures.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or, jowari stalks and firewood?

34. Average prices are approximately :—

Rice 7 to 6 seers per rupee.
Wheat 5 seers per rupee.
Eggs 5 or 6 annas per dozen.
Fowls 6 to 10 annas.
Butter 5 or 6 annas per lb.

There is no fixed rate for bajri or jowari stalks. In the larger centres, where there is a recognised rate for fire-wood, this ranges from 5 to 8 annas per maund.

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

35. The articles mentioned have no market value outside the larger villages and towns.

36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?

36. My average daily requirements cost from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 2.

The supplies needed by my private servants cost from 6 annas to 10 annas per head. A similar estimate applies to peons.

Supplies to munshis probably cost from 8 to 12 annas per head.

In some cases the men mess together in groups of 2 or 3, and thus live cheaper.

37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

37. The supplies are collected and brought to camp partly by the tapedar and his kotar, partly by the local zamindar and his men.

38. How are they paid for?

38. Bills are presented, and receipts given on payment.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?

39. There can be no such guarantee. I always pay my own bill personally. Zamindars, even where nominally contracting for a camp, are seldom willing to appear with the bill. In their absence, the amount has to be paid to the tapedar.

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

40. Actual payments are about the same as estimated cost, but some of the payments are only dummy transactions.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?

41. If there is an excess, it is borne eventually by the zamundars. The Banias suffer no loss.

42. There is a rasai fund maintained in each taluka by the tapedars. This fund meets various expenditure incurred in connexion with camps. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?

42. There is a rasai fund maintained in each taluka by the tapedars. This fund meets various expenditure incurred in connexion with camps.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

43. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?

44. I get potatoes, brinjals and some other vegetables from taluka town bazaars. These are supplemented by dhals, which often contain vegetables.

45. I hardly think my private establishment could be reduced, save with detriment to health and a loss of mobility. A Collector must keep horses.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment, without detriment to the public service?

It might be practicable to reduce the official establishment on tour. The tour of the Daftardar, the Collector's sheristedar and head munshi might well be confined to the taluka towns; the Collector taking with him only two munshi to the smaller places. I consider it desirable that no munshi on a lower pay than Rs 25 should be allowed to go on tour; and that the touring munshis should be changed fairly frequently. At the same time it is important that the Collector should have full discretion to encamp wherever he pleases. The suggested arrangement would not be possible in the case of Assistant or Deputy Collectors holding charge of Sub-divisions. The main difficulty here is in regard to criminal cases. Moreover the Sub-Divisional Officer has a much smaller area in which to tour than the Collector, and is bound to spend more time at the small villages.

46. The length of the Collector's touring season might be reduced to 100 days outside District headquarters. The occasions upon which a Collector is unavoidably compelled to return to head-quarters in the touring season are growing more and more numerous.

46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?

The tour required from Assistant and Deputy Collectors should, I suggest, similarly be shortened to 125 days. At present, the last 5 or 6 weeks of their tour, after all inspection work is over, has not much practical value.

47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?

47. The rules of 1914 have not brought about any radical change in the system. Although zamindars have usually consented to become contractors for supplies, the actual arrangements are still almost universally in the hands of the tapedars.

The main reason is that the zamindar, having already paid his lapo, does not consider it fair that he should be called upon to undertake a fresh burden in the form of rasai. Lapo is a general exaction, whereas contracting is a burden on the individual. Moreover most zamindars consider it not in accordance with their dignity to play the part of providers.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. I am of opinion that the rules of 1914 cannot be effectually worked until lapo is abolished. Probably every zamindar would be perfectly ready to provide fowls, eggs and similar articles at equitable rates to officers and their establishments, if he were not called upon for illegal payments, and for forced hospitality not only to Government servants but also to others.

The system of independent contractors might be possible, but it is unlikely that any man would accept one contract for a whole taluka or a division. The most that could be looked for is a contractor in each taluka town and each large village. I doubt if there would be much competition for these appointments. It might be necessary for Government to subsidize such contractors by means of seris, to be paid for by a slight reduction of travelling allowance.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. The earliest possible intimation regarding my camps is always sent to contractors and zamindars through the Mukhtyarkars. It is not practicable to state in advance the exact requirements for each camp. But these are usually well known.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.

50. A copy of a local order issued by me is appended.

51. Do you receive "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?

51. Mukhtyarkars and some zamindars give me dhals, and sometimes zamindars make presents of game or sheep.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep? 52. The average cost of a dhali is from Re. 1 to Rs. 5. The value of a sheep (dumba) is Rs. 4 or Rs. 5.

53. Gifts of trifling value are allowed. Dumbas are not accepted save from big zamindars of good repute. It is well-known which zamindars are traditionally allowed to offer dumbas. Sometimes it is difficult to carry out the orders on the subject, and presents of more substantial value have to be returned to those who offer them.

Lapo.

54. Lapo was originally a gratuity paid to harvesters. It now signifies an illegal exaction in money, made by the tapedar, from the zamindar.

55 & 56. There is only one true form of lapo. Payments levied by the subordinates of the Public Works Department, the Police, Forest and other Departments are not properly described as lapo, since they are not charges based on the fact of holding land, or fixed in proportion to the area held. Rasai is made an excuse for the levy of lapo. The tapedar pleads that he has to bear the expenses of officers' camps. He also offers to obtain favours for the zamindars in connexion with his lands.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? 56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 57. The original rate was one anna per rupee of land-revenue. The present rate of lapo is believed to be not uniform. In the case of small holdings it is commonly 3 to 5 annas per acre. But the bigger zamindars usually compound for a lump sum at a reduced rate. Some of the most important zamindars refuse to pay lapo.

58. Out of the lapo collected about a third goes into the pockets of the tapedars themselves. The remainder is used in making presents and giving hospitality to munshis on the establishments of the Collector, Assistant and Deputy Collectors, and to their private servants, and also to other visitors.

59. The Rasai Fund is managed by the tapedar or the supervising tapedar of the head-quarters tapa. Sometimes one or two other tapedars are appointed as auditors of the fund.

60. About a third of the lapo is used for such money presents. At the time of jamabandi most of the munshis receive substantial presents; but some of the better-paid men decline them. In some instances the amount given is said to be one month's pay. Peons get small tips from the fund. Private servants of officials also get money from the fund. I may mention that I was obliged to dismiss my butler on this ground.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 61. The zamindars are unduly afraid of tapedars. It is true that the tapedar is able to render service or disservice in connexion with such matters as potal, khasmokal and remokal cultivation. The zamindar prefers to bribe him rather than to rely for justice on superior authority. In the matter of irrigation, daroghas levy money from the zamindars on account of sluices; but this is not strictly lapo. Nor can exactions of the Police and Forest subordinates be classed under this head.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilised to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials? 62. The answer is indicated by the fact of the money payments above mentioned.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 63. The rules of 1914 have slightly mitigated the rigours of lapo. The spread of education contributes to the same effect.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
65. (1) The proposed substantial increase in the pay and prospects of tapedars and supervisors should attract a better class of man for these posts. At present a tapedar finds it very difficult to live on his pay. He has to keep a horse and to live more or less in Amil style.
- (2) I think it should be clearly and definitely announced that lapo must cease and that after a given date any zamindar found paying lapo will be for ever debarred from any fresh grant of land or any favour from Government or from Government officials. It would probably also be necessary to prosecute a few tapedars before the offence could be stamped out. If these measures are accompanied by a determination on the part of officers, especially the Mukhtyarkars, to suppress lapo, success is assured. *Pari Passu* we must endeavour to get rid of rasal, though it is not quite true to say that the existence of lapo entirely depends on rasal.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
- 66 Chher denotes a system under which the cultivators, in return for land, loans, gifts of seed, and other favours, give their labour free to the zamindar for certain recognised purposes.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. The chheras are the tenants of the zamindar land-lord.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
- 68 They are required to fetch supplies, to act as beaters for game, to assist at breaches, to build bunds, and to do miscellaneous work required by their zamindar. They are not very dissimilar in status from feudal serfs.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. These conditions are implied. Sometimes they are actually incorporated in written agreements between the parties.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
70. If employed for camps, they are fed by the zamindars for the days on which they actually serve. No money is paid them by the zamindars. They sometimes receive 'bakshish' from Government officials.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. Such labour is hardly available except in some taluka towns.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
72. Beldars are maintained by Local Funds in all the talukas.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. Except under the Irrigation Act, zamindars are not to bound provide labour. But they cheerfully do so, and seldom count it a hardship.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. There are a few small grants on such tenure. But Sind has nothing corresponding to the Maharki Watans of the Deccan.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. Labour is needed for occasionally pitching tents, for loading and unloading camels and for errands and messages.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. About 4 or 5 are required.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
77. About 15 to 20.

PART III

78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. From the zamindar. There is usually no other source.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. I do not pay them as a rule, except for special services. The zamindars object to these payments. The zamindars, as already stated, give the men food.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor? 80. Such labour is practically unobtainable.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments? 81. The course suggested would, I think, only aggravate the Rasai evil.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. The zamindar, who issues the invitation to shoot, supplies beaters.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. About Rs. 3 for an evening's shoot. Difficulty is always experienced in making the men accept payment. I usually force them to take it. Sometimes if both the zamindar and his men show a very strong objection, I consider it best not to pay.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Probably the zamindars feed them, and would feel hurt if one enquired.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. Sometimes the help of the chher is needed for road repairs; but only in an emergency, and not necessarily on account of officials.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. It is to the interest of zamindars to help to keep their roads in good condition. Sometimes haris are employed as temporary beldars, and paid accordingly.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. The zamindar has to produce his chher to close the breaches.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. The labourers are paid at the usual rates.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. Interference with cultivation is practically nil. It cannot be said that any appreciable loss is caused.
90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. It may interfere to some slight extent.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. I think it is unnecessary to interfere with the existing system of chher.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. BOLUS.

To the Chairman.

It requires about 10 men to pitch a 16 foot single pole tent.

When the Mukhtiarkar arranges for the post, he arranges through his peon or kotars. The kotars generally have ponies.

Seris are free grants of lands.

Sometimes officers send for beaters from zamindars and sometimes they are invited for shooting by the zamindars.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.

I consider it desirable to stop rasai as it now exists. Probably it would be desirable to eliminate both tapedars and zamindars from it. The tapedars make rasai an excuse for levying lapo from the zamindars. It is proved to be merely a pretext by the fact that they collect much more for rasai than is necessary. If rasai ceases probably they would be paid less by way of lapo. The zamindar now pays lapo quite apart from rasai in order to secure favours from the tapedars and to avoid disfavours. Rasai is only one of the elements of lapo. You can't lay the whole blame on rasai.

The Mukhtiarkars could stop lapo to a great degree if they would. I don't think it fair to say that all Mukhtiarkars encourage the levy of lapo; they may connive at it and in this respect there is a great difference between different Mukhtiarkars. I have heard of cases where pressure has been brought to bear on zamindars to pay lapo by the Mukhtiarkars. But I think such cases are rare. I presume the interference of Mukhtiarkars is due to the fact that they have to make rasai.

I don't think that Mukhtiarkars stand a better chance of promotions if they make good rasai. I think the average Mukhtiarkar feels he had better support the traditional system.

It might be possible in respect of certain camps to have a system by which supplies could be obtained without the interference or intervention of zamindars and tapedars, but it would not be possible for all camps. Generally speaking it would be possible in big but not in small villages. I don't think small villages should be absolutely excluded from tour but they are rightly avoided as far as possible during touring.

There are 2 reasons against visiting them only by riding from large villages viz. (1) that the Collector will have no time to spare for this from his office work; (2) the Collector finds out many more things by camping at the small villages than he would by a visit of an hour or so. This applies still more to the Assistant Collector. Complaints of various petty tyrannies would not otherwise come to light. People having those complaints would not be willing to come 10 or 20 miles' distance but they would complain if the camp of the officer was near their village. I find such cases quite frequent. The practice of officers varies. My own is to receive complaints at any time of the day. Some officers call them in the evening. I have also a fixed time to receive petitions in addition to taking them when the petitioners come.

The private traveller would not get supplies from small villages apart from the zamindars. If a pleader encamps in such villages he gets supplies from the zamindars or from munshis who in turn get them from zamindars.

I encamp as a general rule at 3 or 4 big villages on an average in each taluka besides the taluka head-quarters. Even in these big villages there would be great difficulty in getting fresh supplies, e.g., eggs and fowls, without the help of the zamindars. I don't think that haris bring fowls and eggs for sale in big villages to any great extent. I don't remember to have seen any body selling and buying such things. Any body visiting these small villages would suffer the same inconveniences as the touring officials.

I think it would be practicable for a contractor, if he went far enough, to collect supplies in advance. Under the present system rasai is made even in big villages by the tapedars—but in big villages more is bought direct from the bania.

I fancy that munshis some times buy their supplies direct from the bania. Sometimes the tapedars buy for them.

I think it might be possible to find a bania to travel with the Collector's camp but he would probably have to be subsidised. He would have to keep camels and carts to take supplies with himself.

I think in taluka towns a certain amount of supplies is purchased and paid for direct by the munshis—but I can't say how much. I have not officially enquired into the matter. I think it would be better if everybody purchased his supplies direct from the bazar.

I think the tapedar is content to make these payments for the munshis' supplies out of the ill-gotten payments by way of lapo in consideration of favours received. He also does so to avoid the harrassment of the munshis. It is also a traditional understanding between the tapedars and the munshis, and the Mukhtiarkars must be aware of it.

I have no doubt that in some cases butlers, pattawallas and munshis are repaid by the tapedars the amounts of their bill which they pay. I dismissed my butler in the beginning of February 1918. It was about the time of my circular of February. The circular came out some days after. I had reasons to think that he was taking illegal cash payments. I have heard rumours of kilo-khorani but I don't think it happens now.

The old system practically continues since 1914. Attempts were made in every taluka by the Collector, Assistant Collector and Mukhtiarkar to induce the zamindars to become contractors for the supply of provisions. A large number did consent—but as a matter of practice the work was done by the tapedars and is still done by them.

I have never heard or seen liquor being put at the bottom of dhalis. I saw a bottle of chutney in my dhali recently which I promptly returned. I have never heard of wines such as champagne and claret being supplied by rasai officials to superior officers. Such a thing would be impossible in my opinion. I can't imagine superior officers trusting the taste of Mukhtiarkars in the matter of wines.

To the Chairman.

I have occasionally seen a bottle of brandy on the table when I have been invited to an Indian tea party. I would never touch it. It is not the custom of officers to take brandy at tea time. It is provided under an entire misapprehension of the habits of officers.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.

My expenses on tour would be roughly Rs. 2 a day. I get very little from the bazar. I take most of the things with myself from head-quarters. I get locally only what is required fresh but butter I get from the dairy at Ruk. I think prices would be dearer in Larkana itself.

I could not give any useful estimate of the exact amount of lapo paid in the district. The net gain to each tapedar would vary from Rs. 100—800 a year—varying according to the size of the tapas. The total land revenue of the district is about 30 lacs.

I believe there are books kept of the rasai fund but I have never seen them. I suppose if I called for them they would at once be fabricated.

I have experience of the endeavours of butlers to prejudice their sahibs against tapedars and mukhtiarkars. They would try to raise such prejudice by stating that proper rasai had not been made. They would try in that manner to extract money. I doubt if butlers would exact Rs. 100 at one time in that way.

I only heard general complaints against my butler. I have no doubt that all butlers do get something and also head peons.

I was 9 months on tour in the Shah Bunder division of the Karachi district. I should say to the best of my recollection that there touring officers were more dependent

on the zamindars—more specially in the lower part, towards the delta of the river Indus. I think there would not be much difference between them but probably more money would change hands here as Larkana is a richer district.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

The Collector has two or more camps in one taluka. The Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector would encamp at 4, 5 or 6 places in a taluka.

I think it would be very difficult to find a contractor to provide all the supplies in the taluka—but we could find one if he were subsidised. I think probably his subsidy would have to be Rs. 15 a month. I have never tried to work out the system. I think it might be worth while to make the experiment. It has been reported that zamindars are unwilling to act as contractors in the Larkana district.

I get 9 or 10 complaints a day at head-quarters. Some come from long distances—others would not take the trouble to come from such distances.

I think bills presented to me represent what I have actually had. I can't of course say what goes on behind my back. My daily cost of Rs. 2 sometimes does and sometimes does not include fodder supplies for my horse. I think karbi is sometimes included in my bills and sometimes not. I take grain for my horse from head-quarters and sometimes purchase it from the bazar at the taluka towns.

Such things as eggs, fowls, grass, etc., are provided by the zamindars—they are not purchased by tapedars.

I think if rasai were stopped, it would deal a blow at lapo but other blows would have to be dealt, otherwise lapo will continue. What I mean is that you must attack lapo at the same time independently of rasai.

I should not recommend putting the whole criminal work of talukas under the Resident Magistrate; in some cases it is important that they should be tried by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates.

Some Mukhtiarkars are benefited by the rasai fund. I shouldn't like to think that zamindars make rasai for officers in order to curry favour. They do it perhaps from tradition and also perhaps from a spirit of hospitality and friendliness. I think officers of the district in a general way do reciprocate their hospitality.

The question of rasai would not weigh with me for a moment in making recommendations for titles and granting chairs.

I suppose officers naturally get annoyed if there is no arrangement for their supplies. A hungry man is an angry man.

It is not improbable that butlers get in more supplies than are actually necessary. I think the expense of an Assistant Collector's camp is heavier than that of a Deputy Collector's camp.

To Mr Sawhney

Officers go to small villages to camp, not for their own pleasure but to do their duty.

Zamindars ask officers to shoot with them in order to increase their abroo which in fact it does increase.

I think it would not be necessary to prosecute the zamindars if they give lapo as much as the tapedar. They could be otherwise dealt with. Their fault is less than the tapedar's.

I think for instance that the appointment of this Committee will convince the zamindars that Government is seriously determined to put a stop to rasai and lapo and this will have considerable effect in stopping these practices.

There is very little rasai in the Deccan as compared with Sind. I don't think it would be practicable to transfer Mukhtiarkars from Sind to the Deccan. I think they would all resign. No Sindhi will like to go there.

I think it would be necessary to raise the tapedars' pay about 50% at least in the lower grade. I think some substantial touring allowance or some increase of pay would be necessary if rasai were abolished and in its place the more expensive contract system is introduced. I speak in respect of peons and also clerks. I think it would hasten the end of the rasai and lapo systems. I think the private servants such as butlers will clamour for higher pay and bhatta on tour. It would indirectly mean higher cost of touring to officers. The general tendency is for wages to rise but I don't think it is necessary specially to compensate the touring officers by additional allowances on account of stoppage of rasai.

There would be undoubtedly exceptional cases in which the present system will have to be resorted to e.g., in the cases of District Superintendents of Police and Executive Engineers. In those cases exceptions would have to be made in the contract system.

I think it would be an improvement if tapedars' pay were increased and if they and supervising tapedars were graded with the clerical establishments and given opportunities to rise to the post of Mukhtarkars.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.

I have sometimes had to visit small villages to see disputed sites.

I think some improvement has been made by my circular of February 1918—but I don't suppose to any very great extent.

To the Chairman.

There are questions in connection with crops, lands and irrigation which have to be enquired into on the spot by the Collector. It is also desirable to see the zamindars in their homes and on their own lands. The mere presence of the Collector is a safeguard to some extent against petty tyrannies. The Collector has also to visit schools and inspect public buildings and dispensaries. It is also his business to see how far the roads are maintained. He has also to study questions of reduced rates of land revenue and the protection of the district and all these things mean visits to the spot; they cannot be done at headquarters. These are only a few of the matters which require the Collector's going on tour through the district. I did not go into the details of the complaint against my butler: I dismissed him as I found there were general complaints, after consulting the Mukhtarkars.

The introduction of the system of independent contractors for rasai is very largely a question of cost—that is apart from the question of chher.

Circular No. 1016 dated 21st February 1918.

It has been brought to the notice of the Collector that standing orders on the subject of Lapo and Rasai are still frequently violated by the Mukhtarkars and the Kanungo (village officers) establishment. They are hereby again warned that if they are found countenancing anything in the shape of Rasai to the touring officers and their establishments they will be punished with the utmost severity. Moreover any zamindar found in fault in this respect will be regarded by the Collector with the utmost displeasure. The Mukhtarkars should understand that the direct or indirect making of presents of money to any private servant or peons is absolutely prohibited.

The Collector will be much obliged to the Mukhtarkars who report personally or demi-officially any such menials found making improper demands or otherwise creating trouble.

The touring officers are requested to see that all articles so far as possible are bought from the village banias at camps where there is a sufficiently large bazaar to enable servants to make purchases direct. Zamindars or Tapedars are expected to make arrangements only for those supplies which cannot be procured from the market such as grass, fuel, milk, butter, mutton, fowls and eggs and no more. They should not be asked to supply grain. Fuel and grass where they cost nothing need not be paid for. If this system be carried out, zamindars will, it is believed, no longer object to undertaking contracts for supplies; and Tapedars will gradually be eliminated from the business.

The Mukhtyarkars are requested to make these orders widely known to all subordinates and to those zamindars who have undertaken to procure supplies for the camp of touring officers. The Collector is convinced that the Mukhtyarkars can do a great deal towards stamping out the evil, and he trusts that each of them will make a real effort for this object.

Letter No. 2456 dated 11th May 1918. -

TO THE CHAIRMAN, 'RASAI' COMMITTEE IN SIND.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 52, dated 27th April 1918, I have the honour to report as under :—

2. In each Taluka of the District, Assistant and Deputy Collectors camp, on an average, at 6 places, and the Collector at 4 places.

3. The average distance between such camps may be put at 8 to 10 miles.

4. I am of opinion that the experiment of granting seris to certain zamindars on condition of their acting as camp caterers might in the first instance be tried in one taluka. I doubt if the scheme will be popular among the zamindars. In most cases it would probably be necessary to bestow a seri grant of a size sufficient to yield Rs. 200 per annum to the holder. It has to be remembered that there is a very considerable difference in the numbers of camps at the various centres. Some of them are visited only by the Assistant or Deputy Collector, whereas at others there are also camps of the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer, the Divisional Forest Officer, the Deputy Educational Inspector and other officers. Apart from these, the case of the Mukhtyarkar has to be considered. Naturally he has a greater number of camping places than the Sub-Divisional Officer. But this difficulty could be removed by restricting the Mukhtyarkar to the 5 or 6 recognised camps. The case of the Police is less simple. A robbery or a dacoity may occur in any village, and for purposes of investigation it may be absolutely imperative that a Police officer—whether the District Superintendent of Police himself, or his Assistant, or an Inspector or a Sub-Inspector—should camp at that village. If they were confined to a few stated camps, the detection of crime would assuredly become less thorough. It may be added that an investigating Police Officer is often accompanied for a few days by a troop of zamindars, who come to give their assistance. Their presence is another factor in the problem of rasai.

5. It is possible that the seridar would have difficulty in securing labour for the camps, though this is a matter which actual experience must decide. If he is to provide vegetables, he will generally be required to cultivate them himself. It is unlikely that he will have either the skill or the inclination to do this properly. In the case of some camping-grounds, it is almost certain that no suitable seridar will be available. Moreover, once the seri is given, we shall be very much in the hands of the seridar. It will not be practicable to transfer the grant whenever a complaint is made about the quality of the catering. These complaints will no doubt be very numerous, and will provide a ready weapon for subordinate officials who may quite unreasonably fall foul of the seridar.

6. While I have ventured to point to some of the obstacles which confront the proposal, I am yet of opinion that it might be given a trial. For the scheme has at least the great merit of eliminating the tapedar from the task of furnishing supplies.

7. I am in favour of the suggestion for inducing banias to act as modis at camps, on the understanding that cash payments at the time of each purchase are rigorously enforced. I am not in favour of monthly subsidies, but would propose that, if a money inducement is requisite, a fixed fee of about Rs. 1 for each day that the bania actually attends the camp should be allowed.

8. The local rates could be fixed every month by the Mukhtyarkar for the camping-places within his taluka.

9. It would certainly be desirable to replace supervising tapedars by superior officers. But I think, that in order to check the power of the tapedar it will be necessary to provide at least two Joint Mukhtyarkars. These should ordinarily be Muhammadans. Their duties should be confined to outdoor work, and include the testing of the tapedars' partial, and the personal supervision of all such matters as land grants unauthorised cultivation, and encroachments. In order to maintain their authority, the Joint Mukhtyarkars might be invested with magisterial powers, but they should very rarely try cases. At best, a large measure of influence will remain with the tapedars, as being the men on the spot, and the men to whom land revenue is paid. Travelling by day in the hot weather is sufficiently unpleasant, and it may be expected that the Joint Mukhtyarkars will not seldom shirk this arduous work. The question also arises, whether they are to tour the whole year round, and as to the nature of their duties during any recess which they may be permitted to spend at head-quarters. Their relations with the Mukhtyarkar of the taluka will be of a delicate nature, and calculated to engender bad feeling, with the result that the administration may suffer. Although I am not sanguine as to the outcome of the scheme, I am respectfully of opinion that it might be introduced in a single taluka as an experiment.

Statement showing the aggregate number of (1) Amils (2) other Hindus and (3) Mahomedans employed in the subordinate Establishments of the Mukhtiarkars, Assistant and Deputy Collectors and the Collector in the Larkana District. 14

| MUKHTIARKARS | | | ASSISTANT & DEPUTY COLLECTORS. | | | COLLECTOR. | | | TREASURY. | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Amils | Other Hindus. | Mahomedans | Amils. | Other Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Amils. | Other Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Amils | Other Hindus. | Mahomedans. |
| 19 | 20 | 38* | 8 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 3 |

Rough Statement showing the number of Zamindars in the Larkana District.

| Paying assessment under Rs 1000 each year. | | Paying over Rs. 1,000 but under 5,000. | | Paying over Rs 5,000 but under 10,000. | | Paying over Rs. 10,000 | |
|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Mahomedans. | Hindus. | Mahomedans | Hindus. | Mahomedans | Hindus. | Mahomedans. | Hindus. |
| 52,030 | 10,000 | 132 | 62 | 15 | 6 | .. | .. |

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CURRY.

Preliminary

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. J. C. Curry. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. D. S. P. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Larkana. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 10½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 8½ years in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. 5,000 sq. miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Regular tour about 5 months. Totring in connexion with crime throughout year at intervals. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Varies from one to seven according to circumstances. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. 2, sometimes 3 clerks, 3 to 7 orderlies. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. See attached note. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. See attached note. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Question not understood. Amount varies according to circumstances. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Nil, for my personal use except occasionally a bed. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Varies according to circumstances. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. They ordinarily occupy tents, rowtjs and the outhouses of bungalows. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for bungalow stables, thana stables at your various camps? | 16. Bungalow stables, thana stables are used, occasionally temporary shelter is put up by borrowing materials worth a few rupees from local zamindars, labour is done by trackers and zemindar's cher. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. None—current work in 2 boxes. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. In bungalows or tents. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. I require none. My orderlies do the labour and sometimes get voluntary help from villagers who happen to have nothing to do and from zamindars cheras. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Some are good especially where the higher revenue officers tour. Same are very bad. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. The Mukhtiarkar. |

21. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ? 22. No, none.
23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters ? 23. Camels, horses, public conveyances.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ? 24. The Post Office and police orderlies.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ? 25. Not understood. I camp anywhere throughout the district where I may have work.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ? 26. None.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars ? 27. Ordinarily all camps are near a village, all villages have shops or nearly all.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ? 28. I do not know.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ? 29. See list of bungalows in the district.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ? 30. Ordinarily a chowkidar.
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 31. See note attached.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ? 32. See note.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ? 33. They equal the average daily requirements of ordinary men of their class.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? 34. Bazaar rates for articles purchasable in the bazaars.
Fowls 3 to 6 as. Milk, not usually sold. Fuel, and grass, bazaar rates if bought; usually supplied by zamindars who refuse payment.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ? 35. This question requires explanation.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ? 36. Varies between less than Rs. 1 and Rs. 15. My mathematical education does not extend to calculating this average. Call it X.
37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ? 37. By buying them from the shopkeepers except in the cases detailed in the note.
38. How are they paid for ? 38. By paying the shopkeepers; for my personal requirements not obtained from shopkeepers see note.
39. What guarantees have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ? 39. As regards shopkeepers the same guarantees that I have in head quarters. As regards others none, but the average honesty of a Sindhi.

PART III

17

40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? ?
40. As x to y.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the harris or samundars or tapedars or mukhtar-kars?
41. It is less in some cases, the difference being pocketed by banias who over-charge. It is greater in some by the amount of free milk, grass and fuel provided.
42. Is the excess met out of a Rasai fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtar-kars?
42. There is no police rasai fund.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. These are all sent temporarily and in small numbers and not paid for.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
44. I do not obtain any. I have my own and they are sent out with the post.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. Zamindars object to taking up the contracts. I have nothing to do with tapedars and they have nothing to do with supplies for my camp.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. See note attached.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. No, I never know one day where my camp will be the next.
50. No and my orders are that whatever can be obtained in the bazaar will be bought there. The thanedars are only responsible for producing milk, chickens, eggs, grass fuel when they cannot be bought in the bazaar.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. I receive such presents very occasionally. Many zamindars see me constantly without making them. Some never make them. PUNCHAYATS always bring a little sugar.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. From a few annas to Rs. 4 or 5 for a sheep. I have received either 2 or 3 sheep in the whole touring season.
53. The Committee have
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government? any such presents. I recently had trouble with an Amul officer who was unwilling to take a refusal of a few annas worth of vegetables.
- presumably learnt the orders of Government by this time. I have never insulted a zamindar by refusing but I endeavour to let them see I do not want them.
- My own subordinates are strictly forbidden to make

Lapo.

54. Does not concern the Police. * I see it has been suggested by Mr. Bhurgri and others that lapo is only levied to provide rasai. This I consider is wholly untrue.
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
61. I have never heard of the Police getting Lapo in any shape or form and do not see how they could, as they deal with no such questions.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "heldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. I do not require any at all—my orderlies get a certain amount* of help of an apparently voluntary nature in pitching tents. The voluntary helpers are frequently to be seen sitting, smoking the orderlies' tobacco, while the latter do most of the work.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. I require none—police trackers do occasional odd jobs.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
77. The number who turn up varies considerably.
78. Whence do you obtain them?
78. I have seen men idling in a village asked casually to lend a hand, or called up by the zamindar. They never ask for payment; for zamindar's chher vide 66.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. I have seen men idling in a village asked casually to lend a hand, or called up by the zamindar. They never ask for payment; for zamindar's chher vide 66.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
80. The cost of hired labour might be one rupee for striking or pitching camp. I do not think it would always be available.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
81. No; it would also be objectionable.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. See note.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. See note.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. See note.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. I do not know exactly.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. I have never inquired closely into the matter.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. I do not know exactly. I have never inquired.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. Do.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. I do not know—large cherras for making roads are probably the only ones which interfere with cultivation.
90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. I do not know.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. See Note.

Note on questions 10 & 11.

I carry the ordinary stores with me. I buy butter from Ruk. I get my own vegetables from Larkana; they are brought out by the orderly who brings the post. I keep a riding camel and loading camels which bring these and similar articles from the station to the camp. I keep and take on tour a cow for milk. When I move suddenly on long distances I have to get milk from zamindars. Big zamindars and even small men will refuse money for milk. When following dacoits or similarly moving rapidly without any kit I have frequently received hospitality from the poorest people who scorn the idea of payment for a small quantity of milk etc. Ragged Baluchi shepherds will refuse money offered to them under circumstances where no official pressure by subordinates can possibly come into question. I have been offered food when on a journey by the poorest people.

In the ordinary way when at a camp with full complement of servants and office establishment my personal requirements apart from such things as can be and are bought from the bazar are limited to an occasional chicken, eggs daily, fuel, and grass for the horses. Chickens and eggs could only be obtained by an officer's servant by a house to house inquiry where there is no 'kokri' (chicken seller). It is clearly impossible and objectionable for strange servants to arrange this. Grass I pay for where I find it is to be had, but usually the local zamindar sends it. Fuel he also sends as there is some difficulty about purchasing large quantities.

The servants and office establishment get free milk and fuel. The milk is supplied by zamindars because the 'gaulis' apparently cannot arrange suddenly for an extra supply for 15 to 20 extra people.

The thanedars have no responsibility for arranging for any other supplies hence, as they are, not taken to task if a servant or orderly complains that he cannot get anything—flour for instance—there is no reason for them to supply the things. Those which I do ask them to supply are of small value, being the local produce of the land for which the landowners will not take payment as they have been so supplied from time immemorial. I pay for eggs, chickens, etc. to the thanedars who provide them. They cannot be obtained in any other way and they are the necessities of life. I do not however approve of the system. It has been a constant source of worry and annoyance to me for several years and is bound to lead to abuses on the part of subordinates however closely I may watch them. Watching and constantly inquiring about the matter is exceedingly irksome and disagreeable. If the committee can find any way out of the difficulty I shall personally be profoundly grateful to them. The zemindar-contractor system has been tried and failed. My system, though limiting the room for abuse, does leave some room for it. The

proposal to give 'seris' to zemindars on condition of their supplying such articles as cannot be purchased in the bazaar may be considered. I am afraid it would leave loop-holes for unscrupulous subordinates. I suggest that khansamahs, preferably Muhammadans from Northern India, should be provided at all the important bungalows and they should be entirely responsible for providing all requirements of travellers as is done in Baluchistan and other civilized places. All responsibility for the collection of supplies could then be removed from officials. It might be necessary to increase taxation in order to provide sufficient fully equipped dak bungalows, as they should be sufficiently commodious to accommodate more than one person at a time—but no improvements can be made in the administration of a country except by paying for them.

The removal of the difficulty as to supplies as regards district officers would not remove that as regards taluka officers, who have to visit small villages constantly (whereas district officers, though it is absolutely necessary for them to camp at small villages sometimes, are able to do a considerable portion of their work from central places).

In the case of Muktaarkars and others I think the line between rasai and corruption is not easily drawn and with corruption the present inquiry has no concern. As regards Muhammadan officials the question of their rasai is modified by the fact that most of them keep open house and entertain in head quarters the zemindars who entertain them on tour. It is noticeable that Muhammadans as a rule retire in comparatively poor circumstances. Hindu officials do not return the hospitality of zemindars in quite the same way. I would suggest to the Committee that they should hold a special inquiry into the house property and other property of ex-tapedars and others in Hyderabad and other places where such people are numerous with a view to obtaining accurate data as to sources from which the property of these people is obtained. It is well known that large quantities of grain and provisions are sent into towns like Hyderabad from the rasai collected by subordinate officials on tour and in the talukas.

Note on Shikar.

For this purpose I obtain casual labour where it is available and where I am not the guest of a friend. I pay the casual labour at the rate of about 8 as. a day and 2, 3, or 4 as. for shorter periods. I have sometimes offered money to zemindar's men in the absence of the zemindar and had it refused. I have heard of cases of zemindars severely punishing their servants for taking money for shikar.

I have never insulted a zemindar by asking him whether he paid his men.

Some of the zemindars with whom I am on friendly terms go out shooting themselves with me and are very keen shots. It would be an obvious insult to such a man to offer to pay his 'chher.' I have sometimes with their permission distributed tobacco, etc. I have offered to pay the chher of men who do not shoot themselves but in 9 cases out of 10 they will strongly object.

One feature of the present agitation which I consider objectionable is the suggestion, implied in this matter of shikar, that officers should treat all zemindars as their inferiors. Most officers treat a number of zemindars as their friends and behave on terms of equality with them.

Note on Chher.

The question of chher does not concern the Police, except in a very unimportant and casual way. There is however one question in connexion with the chher employed by the Revenue Department for mending roads which would be the better for some alteration.

The objections to the present system are that large chhers are sometimes used by Mukhtiarkars—both at the time of the Collector's tours and otherwise—to perform the labour supposed to be done by beldars. (It is commonly said that the beldars are employed as pankha pullers, etc., by the Mukhtiarkars, or their pay is misappropriated by the Mukhtiarkar's munslus—and their work is therefore left undone when the Collector is not touring). Not being skilled workmen they (the chhers) do it very badly. I would suggest that the care of roads should be handed over to the Public Works Department as elsewhere. The Mukhtiarkars and their subordinates are not properly trained in this technical work.

If the P.W.D. undertook the work it would be better done and the workmen would be properly paid as is probably not always the case at present. It is important from the police point of view that communications in the district should be good.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CURRY.

To the Chairman:

I don't buy chickens in taluka towns, only at Larkana.

With regard to my answer to question 73, I say Rasul Bakhsh has a seri grant in consideration of which he has to supply labour. I don't know the details of seri grants.

I think it would take half an hour or so to pitch one big tent. It would require at least 7 or 8 men.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandvai.

I have said that rasai is an evil which ought to be stopped.

I can't say generally if the establishments of officers do not pay for their supplies. I have not specially studied the rasai of the revenue department. The tapadar has nothing to do with my rasai. I get only fodder from the zamindar. Whatever can't be purchased from the bania locally is got from the zamindar through the Sub Inspector. The Mukhtiarkar has nothing to do with my rasai. I can't say exactly about eggs and fowls but I think zamindars are paid by the Sub Inspector and I pay the Sub Inspector. I think the Sub Inspector buys eggs from small zamindars or even haris or from towns. I can't say for certain whether these people are paid by the Sub Inspector.

To the Chairman.

I don't think that Sub Inspectors make improper use of powers under Chapter VIII for instance to exact supplies from the zamindars. Of course there might be instances of such things being done by dishonest men. The power to authorize prosecutions under Chapter VIII are retained by the D.S.P. and also Dy. Superintendent. The power is not left to the Sub Inspector or Inspector.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I do not act on reports received from the Sub Inspectors. The preliminary enquiries are made by the Inspector. It is not the business of the Sub Inspector to make enquiries under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Inspectors now make such enquiries. Those are the orders of the Commissioner.

The Sub Inspector does sometimes make recommendations in the matters of gun licenses and chairs.

The contract system was tried in the Hyderabad district while I was there and also in the Karachi district and some attempts were made in this district but it failed owing to zamindars' objections. As far as I know it was not a success in any of the three districts. There were many places in which no zamindars would come forward to act as contractors. They were appointed by the Collector and were to work for all departments; that was in accordance with the Commissioner's orders of 1914. I was then in Sukkur.

To the Hon. Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

I think the circular of 1914 has indirectly improved matters because it has brought to the notice of people that the system of rasai is considered objectionable. I think there has been some improvement in abuses of rasai since 1914 in places where contractors have

been appointed—that is to say zamindar contractors. Sometimes they are bania contractors. I don't think there are any zamindar contractors in Larkana district. They are Bania contractors. The zamindar contractors were tried in Hyderabad and Karachi districts.

The bills were usually presented by the kamdars and the actual amounts were paid. The zamindars strongly object to act anywhere as contractors. I think khansamas of staging bungalows would do well if you got the right type of man. But I don't think the contractors could be found to go with the camps. I don't think you can get the contractors in the rural areas of Sind. You might get a few from big towns or bring them from the Punjab. The zamindars do not get honours for making rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney.

I think it possible to have contractors for central places. Exceptions would have to be made in emergent cases.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.

The police posts are established to maintain order, to protect the public, to enable the police to supervise criminals who are far from police stations and to enable the people of the neighbourhood to prefer complaints. It is in the interest of the public that these outposts should be inspected by the D.S.P. Applications for gun licenses are made direct to the District Magistrate. As a rule these are sent for report to the Sub Divisional Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police. I only call for report from the Inspectors when I do not know the men personally. I have never heard of Sub Inspectors recommending a man for gun license or a chair.

Note on the Police Modi.

The Police modi is appointed at every thana by the thanedar, that is to say the thanedar agrees with one of the banias of the local bazar that he shall be recognized as such. The advantage, in this agreement, to the modi is that he practically has a monopoly for the supply of the ordinary requirements of the policemen of the thana and that he has a guarantee for the payment of bills because the thanedar sees that his subordinates fulfil their obligations, sometimes, when necessary, by having the accounts settled with the modi when the men receive their pay.

The advantage to the policemen is that they are able to keep a running account and even borrow small amounts from the modi which they would not otherwise be able to do without furnishing security.

The policemen usually obtain all or most of their requirements in the way of flour, oil, ghee, etc., from the modi.

Miscellaneous supplies such as food for prisoners in police custody, paper, oil etc., required at Government expense are ordinarily obtained from him by the thanedar.

Although the thanedar to a great extent guarantees payment by the subordinates the modi charges heavy interest for advances, varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ anna to 1 anna in the rupee per mensem.

The existence of the modi is recognised by the District Superintendent of Police. Applications are frequently made by policemen, on transfer, that their pay may be paid direct to the modi of the thana they have left. This, being convenient to both parties, is sanctioned.

J. C. CURRY,

District Superintendent of Police, Larkana.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. PHILPOT BROOKES.

1. Name. I. C. H. H. Philpot-Brookes, Assoc. M. Inst. C. E., Assoc. Kings' College, London University.
 2. Appointment. 2. Executive Engineer, Western Nara District.
 3. Head-quarters. 3. Larkana.
 4. Length of service. 4. Ten and a half years.
 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. 21 months in Sind. No special experience.
- General.*
6. What is the area covered by your tour? 6. About 6,000 square miles.
 7. All the year round, but chiefly during the months of November to June, that is eight months; and I never stay more than 2 or 3 days at a camp and often only one day.
 7. What is the period of your tour?
 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? 8. Butler, cook, sweeper and syce.
 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? 9. Two clerks and 5 menials (peons).
 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them of tour? 10. I take all general stores except perishables. The establishment I understand take potatoes, pulse, grain.
 11. I personally require chickens, milk, potatoes and such like perishable articles. The servants and establishment require milk, meat and if they run short of grain they get it from the local village shops.
 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps?
 12. I take every thing that is necessary during the tour except cots for servants and these I consider should be provided in each bungalow.
 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour?
 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? 13. As stated I only require cots about 10 in number, which I propose to provide in each Bungalow.
 14. What tents do you take on tour? 14. Only the office tent.
 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? 15. There are permanent quarters in Bungalows. I never have kacha huts put up as it is against Government orders to do so in Government compounds.
 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? 16. All Bungalows are provided with stabling for horses.
 17. What records do you take on tour? 17. These vary according to the time of year but generally speaking the records of the last three years.
 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? 18. Office quarters are generally provided to Bungalows and otherwise the clerks work in the tent, they require no other arrangements.
 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? 19. I require no outside labour, my establishment attend to all my and the office needs.
 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 20. There are only 5 miles of road in charge of the P. W. D. and they are in excellent condition.

21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ?
21. For the 5 miles referred to in Answer 20, the Public Works Department are responsible; all other roads are in charge of the Local Board or Municipalities.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ?
22. No special repairs are ever done for my special benefit.
23. What are your means of transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters ?
23. By horse and camel, and kit by camel and I employ my pack camels for my private and official work for the whole touring season, except in hot weather, July to October, when I generally keep near the railway which runs through my district.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?
24. By railway and special camels employed all the touring season.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ?
25. There can be said to be no usual camping places. I tour all over the district.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ?
26. I do not use camping grounds, neither are they under my charge.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bama shops or bazars ?
27. All the Bungalows are in practical reach of villages, where all general supplies can be obtained.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ?
28. Some of the P. W. D. Bungalows have a small vegetable plot for cold weather vegetables.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalow ?
29. All my camps are provided with Bungalows.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ?
30. The permanent establishment employed is generally a chowkidar and some places with mali as well.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
31. Any thing supplied to any one without payment for the same.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?
32. One chicken, 3 seers of milk, occasionally wheat flour if my supply runs short, no eggs as I take my own chickens with me; potatoes and sugar if my supply is run out.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?
33. I really do not know what they cost, but know it costs about 3 to 4 annas to servants and about 8 annas for clerks.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?
34. Chickens, 4 to 6 annas, milk 1 to 2 annas per seer, sugar 8 annas per seer; Potatoes 3 to 4 annas per seer; eggs, if required 4 to 5 annas per dozen; Fire wood no value.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?
35. Beyond large villages there is no market value for milk and firewood, a large babul tree selling often for under a Rupee.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?
36. For the things supplied in district for myself about Re. 1 per day, sometimes less; for servants and menials 3 to 4 annas and for the clerks 8 annas per day.
37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?
37. The darogha goes to the nearest village and buys them.

38. How are they paid, for? 38. By cash payments to the shop keepers except chickens which he gets locally.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? 39. None, but I presume a shop keeping bania will not give things for nothing and secondly as I pay personally I do not think one's own men would cheat me.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 40. My estimated average daily cost is the same as the actual payments because I see I pay for everything I eat.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkar? 41. See answer 40.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasa' fund managed by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. See answer 40—there is no rasa fund in the Public Works Department.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. I have my own water jars—the cots for establishment I do not pay hire for—for my own they are in very bungalow and I requisition no other furniture. See answer 12.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds? 44. Vide answer 28. Vegetable plots are run by me in some P. W. D. Bungalow compounds, otherwise I get no vegetable.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service? 45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service? 46. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 47. It has not been practicable as neither the tapedars nor the zamindars come forward to provide supplies to P. W. D.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? 48. No. The latter portion does not concern me.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 49. Timely intimation is always given to my own establishment but not to contractors or zamindars who have nothing whatever to do with the arrangements of my camp.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders. 50. Nothing special that I have seen.
51. Do you receive "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. Zamindars when calling sometimes, but seldom, bring dhals of fruit and sometimes a sheep at Christmas, but never vegetables. Subordinates are not allowed to give dhals.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep? 52. I should estimate the price of a fruit Dhali at Rs. 2 to 3 and a sheep at Rs. 4 but the latter perhaps cost the zamindar less. A sheep in the Ahmednagar District used to cost Rs. 1-8-0 to 2-0-0.

53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. The orders are defined in rule 2 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. The customary yearly gratuity given to and accepted by certain classes.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?

55. There are many.

56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?

56. I know nothing of other departments, but I feel sure that some daroghas receive presents from zamindars once a year and it is no way a forced gratuity.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?

57. I think it depends on the man and there are no fixed rates, I again refer to the P. W. D. of this district.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?

58. The item of gratuity I have classed under lapo in no way goes to pay for expenses of touring officers and as there is no rasai fund it does not go to that but as far as I can gather simply goes into the pocket of the darogas.

59. If so, who manages the Rasai Fund?

59. As stated there is no rasai fund as far as we are concerned.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

60. Vide answer 58; in no way does any of this money go as presents to any of the private or official establishment of touring officers.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

61. I do not know and as stated in answer 56 I consider it depends on the parties. I understand there is no fixed rate at all.

62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

62. This question does not apply to this department.

63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

63. No.

64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

64. No.

65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?

65. I can not suggest anything as it appears to be solely in the hands of the zamindars to give or not to give and they alone are the people who can stop it.

Chher.

66. Conscription—Labour

forced on to works at times of great emergencies for public benefit, vide Irrigation Act, Section 38. The term in no way means forced and unpaid labour or should not mean this.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?

67. Who are the 'Chheras'?

67. Any able bodied man.

68. In this district, Western Nara, for closing serious breaches, but under this Act can be called upon to do any work so as to prevent any serious injury or loss to the public.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. No. A chher may be any able bodied man nominated by the Collector and called up by the Executive Engineer.
70. When so employed, do the receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
70. They are paid at the current rate of labour prevailing in the locality and are paid in money or if they prefer in part food and part money.
71. For general works in normal years casual labour is plentiful in this district, but in case of emergencies where public interest is at stake we can not wait to collect this casual labour to a sufficient extent; of course all casual labour that can be obtained locally is first taken.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
72. During the abkalani a staff of beldars are employed by Government.
73. They are in no way bound at all but in such times of emergencies I have found except at and near Sehwan and Dadu, the local zamindar is always ready to give help in collecting chher but this is often because his own interests are immediately at stake but the chher they collect are as a general rule paid or fed.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. I do not think so, and even if there are such cases, it makes no difference as far as this department is concerned, as from my 4 years' irrigation experience in the Deccan these were never sufficient and were low caste people and had to be worked in special gangs and I often had occasion to bring into force section 53 of the Bombay Irrigation Act, and never heard of any complaints.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. I do not require any outside labour when on tour.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. Only my own establishment which is sufficient.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
77. None.
78. Whence do you obtain them?
78. Therefore I don't have need to obtain them.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. I do not require outside labour.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasa' contractor?
- 80 }
& See answer 76.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
- 81 }
82. I have only shot a few times, and at these times I was the guest to a zamindar and I could not insult them by offering to pay, the same as one could not insult a large farmer in England if he asked you to shoot over his estate.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. Vide answer 82. I did not offer to pay.
84. I did not ask, the same as I have never asked a friend if he paid his servants when I have shot over an estate in England as a guest.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85 }
& } Do not refer to me.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86 }
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. This solely depends on the circumstances and the seriousness of the case and may vary from 20 to 1,000.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. As stated in answer 70—they are paid by the Government.
89. I cannot say definitely but when I call a Chher it is for a public benefit and private interest cannot be always considered, the same as it is not considered in any other country, but I always try to cause the least hardship possible.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
90. Beldars employed by the P. W. D. would be nothing like sufficient to cope with the work at times of such emergencies and again these men cannot be taken from their allotted posts, otherwise damage may be caused elsewhere.
90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. Absolutely no, (if they are called for a public benefit only as is done by this department), otherwise public interest would suffer for the sake of a few private individuals who may suffer very little if at all.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. PHILPOTT BROOKES.

To the Chairman.—

My charge extends from Larkana to Kotri and from the river to the hills. I only use tents when there are no office quarters provided at the bungalows. All my camps are in bungalows.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrat.—

With regard to question 92 I refer simply to paid labour (chher) called in emergent cases. All my answers to questions deal with my own department only (P. W. D.) Daroghas in my department have no influence over the zamindars.

The darogha might favour the zamindar by not sending his cattle to the pound. He might favour him by reporting the possibility of a breach. He might refrain from reporting waste of water but he would run the risk of being found out by Sub-Overseers; Overseers and Executive Engineers and of getting dismissed.

I know of no cases in which daroghas have received fixed payments for shewing favour to the zamindars. The orders as regards daroghas and mucadums are first, fine of Rs. 5 and then dismissal, in cases of lopping or damage to trees on canal banks. I take no excuse. If the wood is cut this rule is enforced.

The overseers and sub-overseers have means of showing favours to the zamindars.

The supplies are not supplied by the zamindars but they are supplied by villagers on tour. I can't say if the supplies are arranged for by the daroghas or muccadams. I do not know of any case in which they have got free supplies from zamindars.

To the Chairman.—

I don't know of any payment of percentage of 3 or 5—6 or 10% being exacted from contractors. It would be impossible to get false measurements made or bad work passed by making payments to the subordinate establishment as 60% of everything is checked by the Executive Engineer.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

As far as I can ascertain presents are not made to the subordinate establishments. No payments are made to overseers or sub-overseers by the contractors. The amounts given to daroghas would vary enormously. That would depend upon the position of the zamindars and the civilities of the daroghas. I should think that it would vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 20. The daroghas' beat covers the lands of many zamindars. I should say that the darogha spends nothing out of the presents that he receives on supplies given to the touring officers including overseers and sub-overseers, nor does he pay anything to their establishment. Every thing goes to his own pocket.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

A fair number of zamindars would pay Re. 1 or Rs. 2; very few would pay Rs. 20. The payment would be made once a year.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF K. S. DHANI BAKSH JATOI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Khan Saheb Dhani Baksh Jatoi |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. About 10 thousand. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Beto. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Honorary Magistrate. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. The word rasai is derived from 'Rasadan' which means supplies. Therefore rasai means to provide supplies at officers' camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 25 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Mehar, Rawan, Garkan, Wagon and Nasirabad. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtarkar, the Judicial Commissioner, the District Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, milk, grass, firewood and butter. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11 and 12. We get these supplies from our own houses. If anything which is wanting we purchase it from our 'raj' and supply it. We pay for it at the bazar rate. |
| 12. Do you get them from your hais or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. In big and small villages milk, firewood and grass have market values. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14 and 15. Even in small villages we purchase firewood for our own use as it comes from the forests. There are no jungles in our kabuli lands nor in Government waste in our neighbourhood. Even if there were Government jungles, we could not touch them. We buy firewood for camps in the neighbouring villages to save unnecessary cartage. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. It is very small; not more than a rupee per day. |
| 17. Yes, we provide fowls, | eggs, mutton, milk, firewood, grass and butter. The rest such as grain etc., are obtained by them from the shop-keeper for which payment is made by the tapadar, who previously levies for the purpose 2 or 2½ annas per jireb from zamindars at the first instalment for both Khan and Rabi. If the camp is in the village of a large land holder, supplies of grain and other provisions are also paid for by him. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | |

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

18. The daily cost is for the :

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Mukhtarkar | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 10 to 20 |
| Assistant and Deputy Collector | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 to 30 |
| Collector | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40 to 50 |
| Commissioner | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50 to 100 |
| Sub-Inspector | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 to 10 |
| Inspector | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 to 15 |
| District Superintendent of Police | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 to 40 |
| Deputy Inspector General of Police | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 to 60 |
| Sub-Overseer | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 to 15 |
| Overseer | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 to 25 |
| Executive Engineer | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 to 50 |
| Superintending Engineer... | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40 to 60 |

Officers of the Forest Department come to us seldom as there are no forests in our neighbourhood.

19. Supplies from banias' shops are provided by subordinate officials in each department. They levy japo for the purpose previously. Tapadars levy one anna per rupee, the Police Department a lump sum at the beginning of winter, the Public Works Department Rs. 4 per paka culvert, Rs. 2 per kacha culvert and Rs. 1-4-0 per Pirsian wheel at the close of the inundation season.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ?

20. Vide answers to questions 16 and 18.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ?

21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?

22. The cost per each camp has been shown above.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?

23. We receive no payment.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?

24. The loss falls on the tapadars.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?

25. Generally not ; as they have their own rowtis. Only the Mukhtarkar, the Surveyor, the Sub Inspector and the Inspector live in our otaks.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?

26. It does not cost us anything.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?

27. No. When, however, officers dismiss their camels we have to provide them with bullock carts for which they do not pay us.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?

28. See reply to question No. 27. Generally it costs us nothing.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?

29. We have to make special rasai for the local officials on whose good will depends the water-supply of our lands and our respect.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?

30. Details have been given above.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?

31. Rasai and anaki cost between Rs. 800 to 1,000 a year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting samindars ?

32. Rasai is made through tapadars, policemen and daroghas.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
33. The subordinates present bills to their officers but I cannot say whether they receive payment, as none is made to us.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars, firstly, because we shall have to neglect our own work and secondly because if we accept payment, we shall do so to our shame and to the displeasure of officers.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. No Muhammadan will come forward to take up such contracts. Probably Hindu contractors will be found.
36. My first contention against rasai is that since officers get their pay, zamindars should not be burdened with their rasai. Secondly rasai interferes with our own work. In my opinion touring should be curtailed. The higher officers should encamp in taluka headquarters and the lower officers in big towns. They should either carry provisions with them or buy them locally through their servants and not through zamindars, tapedars, policemen or daroghas, for these subordinates in their difficulty to meet the cost trouble zamindars who have constant dealings with them.

37. We do, as we present them of our own free will and it gives us pleasure to do so. It costs me about Rs. 50 or 60 per year. I give sheep and some fruit of my own. On fruit obtained from the market my expenditure is about 50 or 60 rupees per year.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. It should not be stopped.

Lapo.

39. Lapo is the elder brother of rasai. Formerly it was known as 'anaki' (one anna) but now it is known as 'duanki' (two annas) or 'sianki' (3 annas). The word lapo is derived from 'lap' (a handful) and means a little grain from the produce given to one who renders some service. All officials however take cash in lieu of grain.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest Departments?
40. The forms of unauthorised lapo have been given above. It is levied in all the departments whose officer tour.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. At the rates given above.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. All taluka officials levy it at the rates given above.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Lapo is levied for making rasai. What remains over is retained by subordinate officials.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Peons and private servants are paid Rs. 2 annually as bakshish. This is not a heavy charge for us and it is left to us to pay it or not.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Because they render us service.
46. We pay unauthorized lapo unwillingly as tapedars make reports against us over trifling things and cause delay in the disposal of papers relating to our land grants. Their officers also indicate that we should help them in rasai. If we do not pay lapo to Public Works subordinates they trouble us and our haris in the matter of water-supply and when we pass along the banks of canals they make reports to their officers against us with the result that they get displeased with us. The Police subordinates have unlimited powers. If we displease them our respect is imperilled.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. Tapedars and subordinates of other departments levy such exactions.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. Details are given above.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. Not at all.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. On payments made by money order, lapo is levied to some extent. On payments at the taluka office it has on the contrary increased.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Lapo cannot be stopped until officers of revenue and other departments are in earnest about it. Powers of tapedars, policemen and daroghas should be curtailed.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means helpless men employed on work without payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are Muslim haris or small khatedars.
54. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to bring firewood, water, grass and cots to camps, to cleanse kitchen utensils and to do miscellaneous work under the orders of servants.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. According to an ancient custom they hold their lands on condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars. In some places this condition is insisted in the agreements taken from new haris. Consequently they cannot refuse to work as chheras at officers' camps.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or land from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. They receive no payment from Government officers but they get food from their zamindars.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. Chher is required as under :-

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| At the Mukhtarkar's camp | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 chheras. |
| At the Deputy Collector's camp | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 .. |
| At the Collector's camp | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50 .. |
| At the Commissioner's camp | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 .. |

These numbers are required when pitching and striking camps. On other occasions the number required is one fourth of the above.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. This has been answered above.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers of from the zamundars? 59. This has been answered above.
60. For water-fowl shooting, Marbahar chheras are required. They get bakshish from officers. The men required for partridge shooting are also given bakshish.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 61. They come willingly at the call of the zamindar who feeds them.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamundars? 62. There are beldars and malhis for roads, but as much of their time is spent in the services of the mukhtiankar and the head munshi, chheras are employed at the time of officers' camps. They receive no payment.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 63. Such roads only are repaired as lead to officers' camps. These repairs there fore are of limited benefit to the public. If public convenience were consulted, all other roads must be repaired also.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 64. They are fed by zamundars and get nothing else.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamundars or Local Boards? 65. The number required depends upon the size of the breach.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 66. They get nothing. They are only fed.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamundars or officers of Government? 67. It causes much loss during the cultivation season.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamundars? 68. Such labour could be had in my neighbourhood on daily wages at 6 to 8 annas per day.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 69. It could be procured by a contractor provided full wages are paid.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamundars?

ORAL EVIDENCE OF KHAN SAHEB DHANI BAKSH JATOL.

To the Chairman.—

The payments per jireb, are also called anagi; 2 or 3 anagi in my answer means one or two annas per jireb. At the time of canal breaches we supply chher to the Engineering Department. The chheras come willingly if they get paid, otherwise not.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

I think that chher of camps should be abolished altogether. It would not work even if the chheras are paid. I think tapedars and zamindars ought to have nothing to do with rasai. If rasai is abolished the lapo will materially decrease.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

Chher should be given for breaches of canals but the chheras should be fully paid. They should do full work and should be fully paid. The present system of chheras is

preferable. It would ruin the rayat if the chher is levied under the Irrigation Act. I do call upon the officers for whom I make rasai. I met the Executive Engineer twice, at Mehar and Larkana, but not the Superintending Engineer. I have not made rasai for the P. W. D. this year.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah.—

It would be no trouble to officers to ride off 8 or 10 miles a day for inspection and remission work if they made camps at headquarters or some big villages.

To the Chairman.—

I have never personally made rasai for officers of the P. W. D. The rice harvest goes on until the 1st or 15th of December. It suffers a good deal on account of chher.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KISHINCHAND GULABSING GIDWANI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Kishinchand Gulabsing Gidwani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Deputy Educational Inspector. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Larkana. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 13½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Entire service in Sind |

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour ? | 6. Larkana District |
| 7. What is the period of your tour ? | 7. At least 8 months. It may go up nine or little more. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour ? | 8. A cook. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ? | 9. Generally two clerks and sometimes three, and three peons. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ? | 10. Generally food stuffs which are replenished from time to time at some central places and oil. Establishment.—Tea and oil and occasionally some food stuffs from some central places. |

Peons—Nil.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ? | 11. Fuel and Milk. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ? | 12. Private—Nil. Official—camp tables, chairs, carpets, lamps, lanterns and kerosine oil. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ? | 13. Cots 9, Water jars 12. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour ? | 14. None. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ? | 15. Generally P W D. or District Bungalows. Where they are not available then tapedar's dero, musafarkhano or a private house. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ? | 16. No stables are required. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour ? | 17. 6 Boxes including Magic lantern. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ? | 18. No separate arrangement for the office is required. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ? | 19. Nil. |
| 23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters ? | 23. Baggage and riding camels are engaged for the whole period but sometimes they leave in summer when arrangements have to be made from place to place. |

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters ?
24. The post master of the Head-quarters despatches post at the camps. When the camp is away from the post office which is very rare the camel men or Taluqa peons bring the post.
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
31. Cash payment or taking of services in kind which could be paid for.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies ?
32. Fuel 6 seers and milk one seer.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment ?
33. For two clerks—Rice $\frac{3}{4}$ of a seer, flour $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, ghee $1\frac{1}{2}$ pao., mutton $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer, fuel 6 seers and milk $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers
Peons, flour one seer each, Fuel 5 seers for all. Dal Rs. 0-0-6 each. Milk for each $\frac{1}{2}$ pound.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bayri or jwari stalks and firewood ?
34. Flour Rs. $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 a maund. Rice Rs. 11 a maund Milk 4 pice to 2 annas a seer. Fire wood 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas a load of about 14 or 15 seers.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns ?
35. Generally there is no market value of milk and fuel in small villages.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment ?
36. 6 annas a day for local retail supplies exclusive of food stuffs. Ten annas a clerk, cost of all supplies purchased locally inclusive of foodstuffs, peons 3 annas a day each.
37. How are these requirements met ? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp ?
37. Milk and fuel are arranged for by the masters and the remaining articles are purchased by the servants directly in the bazar.
38. How are they paid for ?
38. For fuel and milk through the master and for the rest through the servants; in some cases milk and fuel generally are not paid for.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?
39. The masters are personally paid long after the camp leaves so that there is no chance for the money being returned. The things purchased from the market could never be obtained gratis.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?
40. There is no difference. The bills are well scrutinized.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?
43. Nothing for cots and water jars and no other furniture or materials are requisitioned.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?
44. No.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?
45. Minimum official or private establishment is taken.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service ?
46. No.
51. Do you receive " Dhals " of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of samandars ?
51. No.

NOTE.—Nos. 20 to 22, 25 to 30, 41 and 42, 47 to 50, 52 to 92, are not applicable.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. KISHINCHAND,

To The Chairman.

I don't get my supplies through official agency and I have no difficulty in getting supplies on tour. But I get some of the things through local masters and they are officials.

My camp leaves at night and I personally pay the masters next morning. Milk and fuel are obtained through the masters but other articles are purchased direct for cash.

I used to pay for water jars but I found it unnecessary. What happened was that they lent us the school jars or if they purchased new ones they retained them for school purposes.

I am not even aware of the rules of 1914. We could not give notice of our visits as we have to pay surprise visits to schools. We don't get supplies either from tapedars or zamindars.

My clerks don't take any part in the inspection of schools. I think the clerks used to get payments from the masters but they don't get them now. There are ways in which clerks might favour school masters as for instance, keeping back information from a new Educational Inspector.

The untrained masters only get Rs. 11 to 15 pay but they could of course get presents from the parents of students. There is however no systematic levy.

I should say from my personal observation that tapedars though on low wages manage to build good houses and appear to be rich; for instance every master of mine would be glad to be a tapedar. So it is clear that tapedars must be supplementing their pay. I get numerous applications from masters for recommendations to Deputy Collectors for appointment as tapedars.

I remember one case in 1915 or 1916 in which one of my masters represented that he had no employment other than that of a cook on Rs. 4 and obtained a nomination to the Training College of tapedars at Hyderabad. He was however displaced on an anonymous application put in by disappointed rivals. I reported to the Deputy Collector that he was one of my masters.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I should say anybody could get eggs and fowls on payment wherever I encamp. I don't personally use them but my assistant Mr. Abro uses them.

I visit not only villages where there are schools but other villages with a view to establishing schools or to inspect unregistered mulla schools so that my duties take me sometimes even to the smallest villages. I don't experience any difficulty in getting supplies.

To The Hon. Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

I use mutton when I can get it. I can get mutton in a village with a population of 500. In some villages mutton is available on some days but not on other days.

To Mr. Sawhney.

I don't encamp in villages where there are small schools but I ride off to such places.

I don't eat mutton every day. I eat it on most days. I have been with the Educational Inspector but he does not encamp in small villages.

For inspecting them he rides out and sometimes takes his breakfast with himself.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah.

I suppose in my last tour I must have visited about 30 villages where there were no schools. I have opened 12 new schools in villages in which there were no schools before.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GURMUKHSING

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Gurmukhsing Joharsing Butani |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Overseer, P.W.D. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Larkana. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 14 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 14 years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. About 250 sq. miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. All round the year. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One servant. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One clerk and two peons. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. Rice, flour, spices and ghi are taken by me. All others don't take anything. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require milk, fuel, jars and grass. The others—Rice, flour, milk, fuel, ghi, jars and cots, also sometimes, mutton. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Two chairs, two tables and one deck chair. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Four cots, 8 jars. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Nil. I always occupy P.W.D. chowkeys. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Nil. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Nil. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Only current year's record—say a camel trunk full. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. Nil. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Nil. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Fair. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Fund. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters?
23. Horse and Camels which are engaged for the whole period.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?
24. I have a Government Postal runner.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
25. Naudero, Ghar Head, Tajodero, Ayo's village, Sukkur and Chousul.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
26. Nil.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars?
27. All.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
28. The first two.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
29. All.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
30. One chowkidar at all of them. An extra bullock-man at the first three and also a malhi at the first.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. Rasai means *رساى* to supply and may mean anything that is demanded in camp and supplied whether willingly or through fear of incurring displeasure.

I would however say that 'Rasai' is *رساى*, to reach. A man who does rasai reaches his purpose. You go to an officer. If you have done rasai with the peon, you are at once given due respect and announced to him. If you have done rasai with the cook or the butler you need not fear anything. He is always ready with an excuse for you before the officer in case there is any deficiency in the supplies. If you have done rasai with the clerks, there is always a good word before the officer in your favour.

32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. A seer and half of milk, 10 seers fuel, 5 jars and two bundles of grass.
33. The one private servant that goes with me, is also fed by me and his requirements are included above. My official establishment require one seer rice, one seer flour, two seers milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ maund fuel, two chataks ghi, 3 jars and 3 cots.

| | Rs. $\frac{1}{2}$ p. |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 34. Grain i.e. flour | 0 2 6 |
| Rice | 0 3 6 |
| Eggs, fowls, sheep | 0 0 0 |
| Milk | 0 3 6 |
| Butter (ghi) | 0 2 6 |
| Jowari stalks | 0 3 0 |
| Firewood | 0 2 0 |
| | 1 1 0 |

35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. For milk and stalks only.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. Re. 1.

37. How are these requirements met?
That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. Mukudum of the department (P.W.D.).
38. How are they paid for?
38. First day's supplies are not generally paid for—Then cash payments are made.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. I have no particular guarantee, but when anything is not paid for I generally get complaints.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Two to one.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hatis or samndars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. Hari and cattle owners.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. No such fund is maintained in my department.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
44. I get vegetables from P.W.D. gardens for which I pay Rs. 3 per year as fixed by my officers.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
4. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the samndars?
47. As far as I can say, the rules of 1914 had had no effect.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and samndars?
48. No. (a.) As little establishment should be taken on tour as possible.
(b.) Camps may be made near bigger villages as far as possible and provisions purchased direct for cash.
(c.) Orders regarding officer's supplies may be given direct as far as possible if supplies have to be made by establishment.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and samndars?
49. I don't get supplies through these agencies.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.
50. No. There are some local orders about stopping rasai.
51. Do you receive "Dhais" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of samndars?
51. Yes, vegetable and fruits only, but not any game as I am a vegetarian.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such " Dhals " and sheep ? 52. Rs. 10 in a year.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government ? 53. Orders are that vegetable and fruit may be accepted provided the value is small. 'No
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term ' Lapo ' ? 54. ' Lapo ' is something paid by the zamindar at the end of each crop to keep in the good books of the lower government official.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized ' Lapo ' ? 55. One that is paid to a tapedar and the other that is paid to P.W.D. daroga and mukudum.
56. To tapedar and daroga, lapo is paid by zamindar but he makes up for that in taking something in kind at the time of batai. The mukudum is given something in kind at the time of batai. This is for conniving at trifle irregularities.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized ' Lapo ' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?
57. How is each form of unauthorized ' Lapo ' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ? 57. The tapedar gets it per acre, per survey number or per assessment, practice varying in different parts. The daroga gets it per kario or khuhado.
58. How far is unauthorized ' Lapo ' utilized to cover the cost of ' Rasai ' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a ' Rasai ' fund ? 58. The tapedar pays a part of his lapo for rasai at the head quarter station. At the outside camps, rasai is generally made by the zamindar.
- There is no fund for rasai in the P. W. D. But the deficiency in payment is made up by the daroga and the mukudam.
59. If so, who manages the ' Rasai ' Fund ? 59. There is no such fund in the P. W. D. In the Revenue the fund is managed by the head munshi or the supervising tapedar.
60. How far is unauthorized ' Lapo ' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the ' Rasai ' fund ? 60 I cannot say about other departments. But in P. W. D. something in cash is paid to the private and official and memal establishment of officers by the daroga and the mukadam.
61. How far is unauthorized ' Lapo ' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ? 61. Lapo is not for any particular favour.
62. Amounts are fixed for the establishment of various officers which are met with from the Rasai Fund. In the P. W. D. there is nothing fixed like that. But at the time of examination of records particular hospitality is shown towards the inspecting staff.
62. How far is unauthorized ' Lapo ' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?
63. Has the ' levy of unauthorized ' Lapo ' been affected by the rules of 1914 ? 63. No.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized ' Lapo ' or any local orders ? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized ' Lapo ' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ? 65. The tapedars' pay should be increased—the minimum being Rs. 50. He may be a man with English education say, at least a matriculate and may be on the same lines as the revenue clerks who can, after passing Revenue examinations, rise to be mukhtarkars and deputy collectors.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term " Chher " ? 66. Chher is labour without payment, sometimes willing, sometimes forced.

67. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 67. Haris.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ? 68. Clear camping grounds, pitch tents, load and unload camels, and assist in shikaring.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 69. The condition is more or less implied.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ? 70. They are generally fed by their zamindars during the time they work as 'cheras.'
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ? 71. Excepting at sowing and harvest time, labour could be had in plenty.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ? 72. A few beldars are always maintained by Government. In Abkalani their number is increased.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ? 73. They are not bound excepting under very emergent circumstances. But they do supply whenever asked.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ? 74. No.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ? 75. I don't require any labour while on tour.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ? 76. None.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp ? 77. None.
78. Whence do you obtain them ? 78. No answer
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ? 79. Ditto.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasas' contractor ? 80. Ditto.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ? 81. Ditto.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ? 82. I don't do any shikaring.
83. What do you pay the men ? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment ? 83. No answer.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars ? 84. Ditto.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ? 85. Ditto.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ? 86. Ditto.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 87. Men and sometimes donkeys and carts.

88. If the zamindar likes that Government should not pay, he feeds the men and is generally recommended for a reward. But if he does not find the men, the 'cheras' are either fed or paid in cash by Government.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
89. Generally there is no interference as 'cheras' work only for a day or two. On the other hand, 'cheras' are generally interested in closing breaches as they damage their crop.
90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
90. Their number would not be enough to do anything.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.
92. Chher should be suppressed excepting when wanted for public safety, say for closing a breach or stopping floods. But payment should always be made in cash. It is often necessary to make feeding arrangements for the 'cheras'; in that case the cost of feeding should be deducted from the ordinary daily wages.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. GURMUKHSING.

To The Chairman.

I am Sub-Divisional Officer of the Ghar Canals.

To The Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—The daroghas and muccadams of the department have dealings with the maldars. They could allow maldars to graze on the canal banks if supervision was slack.

There is no regular grazing allowed on payment of fees as in the Forest Department. The daroghas and muccadams would probably get paid for allowing illegal grazing.

To The Chairman.

There is such illegal grazing but not to a very large extent.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

Daroghas make *rasai* of the Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineer and S. D. O. There are no payments for milk, grass and fuel; other things are paid for. They are paid for at the customary rates. Sometimes they would be less than the market rates. I don't think any payments are made to the munshis, but they are made to the menial establishments. If the darogha allows illegal grazing he would get butter, milk and kids free from the maldars.

He has also relations with the zamindars. He could favour the zamindars in the matter of supply of water. He might for instance connive at improper enlargement of the *kania*. He might also cause harm by reporting a *khuhada* to be in bad condition and decreasing the flow of water in the canal.

Sometimes the darogha gets money for these purposes from the zamindars. It is from these sources that the darogha recoups himself for what he spends from his own pocket on account of *rasai*.

To The Chairman.

Sometimes the payments are made at the rate of 10% on contracts by the contractors to the subordinate staff of the department.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

It is a sort of customary payment for which probably they make allowances when putting in tenders. They could not get any other advantage owing to strictness of supervision. Maldars are generally harras of zamundars. I have sometimes seen *rasai* given to revenue officers.

Roads are sometimes specially repaired for the high officials of the Revenue Department.

To The Chairman.

The roads are not in charge of the P.W.D. They are not very well kept up by the taluka Local Boards.

To The Hon. Mr. Harchandrai.

I think the circular of 1914 was circulated to us. It was not acted upon. I think the officers found it unworkable in any department.

To The Chairman.

If the darogha did not make presents to butlers and cooks the latter might get him into trouble.

To The Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain.

The clerks and all establishments would trouble the darogha if they were not fed the first day. It is the ordinary form of rasai. Cash payments are not made to the clerks. The darogha levies rupees one or two per kana and the same rate per khuhada where there is such a custom prevailing. This custom does not prevail throughout this district. It does prevail in some parts of the district. I have also served in the Karachi, Sukkur and Begari canals. I was for a short time only on the Begari so I don't know much about it. The levy is prevalent in some parts of the Sukkur as well as the Karachi districts. The higher officers of the department do not all know about the 10% given by the contractors.

To Mr. Sawhney.

The higher officials, could not have any personal knowledge of the 10%. The Sub Divisional officers might share in the 10%. The rest would be distributed amongst the subordinate staff. The S. D. O. might stop the payments but they could not stop them all over the district. Whereas if they stopped taking themselves the payment would be very much less than 10%. It would vary from 1 to 5%. Generally the bigger zamindars refuse to pay the daroghas. The daroghas are not very rich men. They could not save much. They spend what they make. They generally remain in their appointments. That is my personal experience wherever I have served. It is not in the hands of the darogha to allow enlargement of the karia. The S. D. O. tours throughout the year round the sub-division. It is not a fact that the chief duty of the S. D. O. is to check the karias—at times he would do it. If there is a dangerous khuhada it might cause a breach in the canal. It would not be oppressive to report in case of dangerous khuhads. Even if there were no camp in his beat the darogha would take his customary fees from the zamindar. He could not say to the zamindar that he was taking it for making rasai.

It is one of the chief duties of daroghas and muccadams to see that trees are looked after and to see that they are not cut or lopped. The trees are useful for closing canal breaches and the general appearance of the canals. The daroghas submit challans when the cattle are sent to the pound. If there was no challan but there was damage to the trees, the darogha would at once be suspected and punished.

The darogha might make rasai presents of Rs. 10 to 12 to the whole establishment of the touring office. The establishment would not get anything at the second visit. If they got it it would be less.

My records are inspected by the accountant and the Exg. Engineer's records are inspected by the Accountant General and the Superintending Engineer. At that time the inspecting establishments are treated with hospitality. Executive Engineer's accounts are inspected at Head quarters which are always at big towns.

The S. D. O. is not connected directly with their inspections nor has he any connection with the inspecting staff of the Accountant General.

I mean that chheras should have daily wages if they do a day's work.

I referred to the menial staff when I said that the first day's supplies are not paid for. It is in the case of each visit to that particular camp.

To Mr. Mehmud Shah.

If the contractor raises his tender by 10% the loss falls on Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SHAH MUHAMMAD DUR MUHAMMAD LAHORI.

1. Name. 1. Mr. Shah Muhammad Dur Muhammad Lahori.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindar.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. Individually about Rs. 6,000 apart from members of my family whom I represent.
 4. Residence. 4. Larkana town, Lahori quarter.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. 5. Vice-President, District Local Board. Chairman, Managing Committee, Municipality. Chairman, Hon. Magistrates' Bench A.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. "Rasai" is derived from the word 'Rasad' which signifies the supplies of food stuffs and other necessaries, made for all the touring officials of almost all the departments in Sind during their tour.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. Twelve years.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. & 9. I live in the district head-quarters, hence make no rasai. Nor do I attend any officer's camp in my zamindari or near it. Of course there are certain places like Pukho, Rashid Wagan, and Arija, where officers of all the departments excepting those of the Judicial and Forest Departments encamp.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ?
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. Butter, fuel, milk, grass, chickens.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood ? 11. All those things are extracted from the khate-dars of my "Raj" and other people living near Public Works Department canal bank, and are partly contributed by my kamdars.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. 12. Whatever little my kamdars supply, is paid at my own cost and purchased from the village people.
 13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates ? 13. Butter 0-6-0 per lb.
Fuel from my own trees on the bank of private karias and lands.
Milk free from haris.
Chickens at the rate of 0-5-0 each.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. They are so nearly at the same rate in villages as in town.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. Already replied.
 16. My kamdars also do 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? not make direct rasai, but tapedars and supervising tapedars do it, hence have no personal experience. However, I think it is left to the discretion of the butlers, how much they want to spend and save, for their own purpose.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? 17. It is all done by the tapedars and supervising tapedars.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 18. Tapedars, no doubt, collect all sorts of things for these people too, but it is best known to tapedars and those zamindars who make direct rasai.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Tapedars do collect for them.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 20. It is best known to tapedars and those zamindars who supply directly.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Cots are collected and things arranged for the lodging of the menials and the clerical establishment.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. Best known to tapedars and those who do direct rasai.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. No payment is made to any kamdar or khatedar and if at all made, it is always made from the officer himself, but the tapedars keep it for themselves or give to the butler and the peons.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ? 24. Already replied.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. Private houses are arranged in the villages by the tapedars for munsbis.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ? 26. It costs nothing, hence no payment is made.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ? 27. Carnages and camels are engaged by the tapedars from the general rasai fund. For carts they compel people forcibly for carrying luggage to the camp.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ? 28. Cartmen get 2 annas muleage, but it is generally pocketed away by the peons and not paid to the cartmen.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, Public Works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. Mukhtiardar himself is the master of the rasai fund, but obligatory hospitality is shown to him even by small zamindars just to keep him well pleased.
- P. W. D. officials' rasai is made and collected by daroghas from all sluice owners of the engineering canals and from people grazing cattle within bund limits or canal banks and also from those persons whose cattle drink water from canals and sit at nights in water in the hot mosquito season. Police rasai is always made whenever police officers go out for investigations. It is a notorious fact that the whole village is oppressed, people beaten and maltreated. All sorts of food stuffs, grass, and grain for horses are immediately brought by all people of the villages and it is left to the discretion of the sub-inspector to accept the degraded hospitality of people, who feel highly favoured and honoured if able to escape their torments by these means. From that rasai, grain for horses and certain other things are carried back to thana, where they are reserved for future use.
30. Whenever my kamdar feeds a police officer, he charges him nothing. It costs according to the number of men the police officer takes with him.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
31. I do not do any thing direct and my kamdars do very little. It therefore costs me nominally. I have always been trying my utmost to stop the evil of rasai. I once collected documentary evidence against two tapedars and reported the matter to the Assistant Collector who dismissed both of them. After that instance, these people do not demand much from my kamdars.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ? 32. Rasai is generally made by the tapedars direct but where there are big zamindars they make rasai themselves.

33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?
33. Reply already given.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?
34. Zamindars and contractors are two different and opposite businesses of life, and generally respectable zamindars do not like to be called contractors. All arrangement independent of zamindars and tapedars is of course essential.
35. I think there can be no difficulty to find the contractor for every taluka if he is paid a little extra for the inconvenience he will have to incur for carrying and arranging things from one place to another.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?

36. My first objection against rasai is that all the officials draw their salaries from the Government, hence they have no right to extract rasai from people to get lot of commodities of life by these unfair means. By so doing they oppress the innocent agriculturists who are already overburdened in many ways. The whole burden of rasai falls upon moslem agriculturists, which is poor and uneducated class and fond of keeping all the officials well pleased with them.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?

An independent contractor should be appointed, who should be a Hindu or Muslim but non-agriculturist. Tapedars or zamindars should have nothing to do with the rasai. Private zaidars should be appointed to receive assessment from people, and credit it to the Sub-Treasury. A small committee of independent non-officials should be appointed every year after the completion of the recoveries to enquire how far this system is successfully carried out, and whether lapo is stopped and no rasai made.

37. Yes. It is customary and does not affect the zamindars much. It is generally heard that the P. W. D. contractors give whiskies and wines to officials in dalis but I am sure that Revenue or Police Sahibs do not receive such dalis from zamindars.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?
38. If simple fruits are accepted, the practice may be allowed to continue.

Lapo.

39. Lapo is derived from the word Lap which means handful. An annuity from a zamindar paid to hari, or a menial or officer is called lapo.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?

Almost all the subordinate officials of all the departments receive lapo from the zemindars. Lapo paid to tapedar is called anaki and it varies from one anna to three annas per jureb. Constables, beat head-constables and some Sub-Inspectors receive it in a lump sum but they do not receive it in the form of lapo. Daroghas and mucaddams receive lapo in the days of batai.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?
41. Already replied.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, abgars and daroghas sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?
42. Already replied.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?
43. Generally the zamindars make rasai as well as they pay lapo. Tapedars receive lapo which is called anaki in this country for their own gain and for giving annuities in higher offices.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?
44. Generally the annuities are paid by the tapedars from the anaki fund and they make the money presents to all the higher offices.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Already replied.
46. Subordinate officials are the right arms of the Mukhtiarkars, P.W.D. Officers and Police Officers. Zemindars suffer land revenue and in police matters they lose the control of their raj and are troubled in getting a regular supply of water from P.W.D., if they do not try to please them and pay them their demands.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. Already replied.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. Generally all the departmental subordinates avoid troubling me for lapo for the reasons already stated.
49. Anaki has, on the contrary, been on an increase every year. As necessities of life go on becoming dearer and dearer, anaki is also increasing with progressive speed but the last two camps of the Commissioner in Sind at Larkana were exemplary to stop rasai for the officials, but after 1914 circular I tried my utmost by preaching in the mufassil, the evils of rasai and Government anxiety to stop it, but I find that it is still on increase.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?
50. Mukhtiarkars are chief party to these collections and keep the general fund in sound finances.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Committees of non-officials should be formed after the recovery of assessments, and should enquire into the conduct of these officials till the evil is stopped and other suggestions have been already made.
- Chher.*
52. Chher or Begar means unpaid or free labour performed by haris or small khatedars to attend official camps, to pitch tents and carry the camp luggage from one place to another.
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the 'Ghheras'?
53. Chheras are haries or small khatedars.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Ghheras' called on to perform?
54. Already replied.
55. Do the 'Ghheras' hold their land on express of implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. It is a custom that the haris should not refuse the chher of zemindars whenever required.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. No payment is made by the officials.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
- 57 & 58. I have no personal experience but I think this is also left to the discretion of the peons, how many chheras they require.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. Nothing.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. No personal experience but the more the merrier.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. Generally officers offer to pay the beaters of shikars, but zamindars do not allow them to accept anything, simply to please the officials and as chheras are bound with the zamindars their willingness is out of question.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Some times at three days notice, a long and rough road is ordered to be put in repairs for an official's camp, and thousands of people are engaged freely by the zamindars.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Of course after the road is repaired, people give blessings to that officers for whose sake it was done.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. Nothing. Only the zamindars give them meals.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. As many as possible.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. P. W. D. officers do offer them low wages, but the zamindars do not allow them to accept anything on the hope of getting good lungi in the durbar through the Sub-Divisional Officer.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. To some extent.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is every where available.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Of course in every season.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Chheras, if engaged, should be paid to the extent of their labour. The Begar system of police and other departments should be discouraged and stopped. Constables, tapedars or kotars catch carts forcibly for their own purposes, and do not care whether the poor cartman is going for some immediate work of his. The poor man cannot help refusing them even he may be going to take his family for attending fixed ceremony among his relations. This compulsion and forced labour ought to be stopped.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SERAI SHAH MAHOMED LAHORI.

To The Chairman. -

Saldars are persons in the Punjab who still collect assessment.

I have no personal experience of cases in which wines or whiskies have been given to officers of the Public Works Department. I have not personally given dalis to the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Executive Engineer. I have heard from contractors that they sometimes pay 10% on contract work for the Public Works Department.

I never make rasi, as I live in Larkana where no rasi has to be made. I speak from what my kamdars and khatadars have told me about camps within my zamindari outside Larkana.

I have not heard of officers giving presents to the chheras employed in their camps. I don't object to the chheras if they are paid at proper rates for the work they actually do. It is customary that a great many more men are sent as chher than are really wanted.

To The Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

The rice crop is harvested from October to the middle of December. Thereafter there is rabi on rice land and also the ordinary rabi cultivation. They also plough the lands in winter. They plough the whole of January. They are generally free in February. They have to harvest rabi in March and April. The employment of chheras during the months of November and December in the camp of touring officers interferes with their work. It interferes more in November than in December.

In almost all the investigations of big cases of dacoity and murder, ill-treatment of villagers by the police occurs. It includes pulling their beards, actual beating and also insults.

To The Chairman.—

There is no objection to the Collector's touring except on account of rasai. I think it necessary for the Collector to go out to the taluka head-quarters, but not necessary to go to small villages.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

The 10% paid by the contractors of the Public Works Department is in order to please the department who are accordingly not likely to object in the matter of measurements and to refuse them general favours.

The rate of anagi has increased, as things get dearer, a higher rate of anagi is levied. The anagi levied now is 2½ as. and even a pice more per jreb. It was originally one anna, hence it is called anagi. It has been steadily increasing every year.

To the Chairman.—

The Circular of 1914 had no particular effect but endeavours were made. But it proved a failure in stopping rasai in Larkana. Rasai is the same since 1914 but anagi has increased.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The supplies provided by the zamindars are not paid for. The supplies are collected through the tapedar and supervising tapedar.

If rasai is handed over to independent contractors lapo will gradually decrease—it might cease in a year or two, if not in the first year.

If zamindars don't go to officers' camps in villages, the officer would get displeased with the zamindar. I mean if they do not attend at the camp and do rasai. Making rasai is one of the things which please the officers but it is not the only thing for which they get recommendations for honours.

Education is required more than abolition of the system of chairs to make rasai cease. I am not in favour of abolition of the system of holding chairs, not till education comes and all people become educated. Without education I find zamindars have very little self respect.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

More haris are required for kharif cultivation than rabi. So the balance would be available for other work after the kharif crop is harvested. After the kharif cultivation some haris take work under the Public Works Department contractors. They go voluntarily as they often get good wages. I have never myself taken up a contract from the Public Works Department such as canal clearance. The big zamindars generally object to taking up contracts so I have no personal experience of favours and disfavours which can be shown by the Engineering Department.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.

I am 29 years old. Larkana has been notorious for dacoities—it is next to Thar and Parkar in that respect. I have personally watched the investigations of dacoities in 2 or 3 cases. I was personally present at the investigation of a dacoity about 3 or 4 years ago and a murder in the Dokri ta'uka in which khosos were suspected about 12 years ago. I have not been present at the investigation of other offences. I did see some one's beard pulled on all the 3 occasions.

The zamindars refused to co-operate with me in the matter of the suppression of rasai through fear of the tapedar and supervising tapedar. I could not give the names of persons whose beards were pulled during the police enquiries.

To the Chairman.—

I don't think that zamindars are paid for any of the supplies. The supplies are collected by the tapedar and supervising tapedar. It is in addition to the supplies that lapo is paid by the zamindar.

I say that if rasai were stopped lapo would cease because rasai includes cash payments which are made in part from lapo. I could not say what is the proportion which such cash payments bear to the lapo. I have heard of cash payments levied from the zamindars in addition to lapo but my kamdars don't make such payments. My kamdars pay lapo. I have not been able to practice what I preach because I see that I will be troubled if I don't pay lapo.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HIRANAND JANJIMAL.

1. Name. 1. Hiranand Janjimal.
 2. Appointment. 2. Mukhtiarkar.
 3. Headquarters. 3. Larkana.
 4. Length of service. 4. 17 years.
 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. 17 years out of which 4 years as a Mukhtiarkar, and the rest from the last munshi to the Collector's Head Munshi's appointment.
- General.*
6. What is the area covered by your charge? 6. Taluka Larkana, consisting of 218. 12 square miles.
 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? 7. Mutton, milk, fuel, butter, eggs fowls, vegetables grass, sugar, potatoes, jars, cots, fish.
 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? 8. (1) 25 to 50 cots, (2) 30 to 60 jars.
 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? 9. Tapedars' deras, and private houses, and landhis, (landhis prepared at that time).
 10. These stables are prepared by the tapedars through the help of the zamindars at the camps for the horses and syces.
 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps?
 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? 11. None. The office is held in the tents and out-houses of the Bungalows.
 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? 12. Zamindari men and some times beldars and kotwars and carts, but cartmen are paid for.
 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 13. Not very satisfactory. This year the roads have been put in thorough order as special grants were sanctioned for them.
 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? 14. The Taluka Local Board is responsible and the work is carried on through the Local Fund beldars.
 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? 15. Ordinarily special repairs are not required to be done. The zamindari help is taken to put the roads in thorough order with the help of their haris when the roads are not in decent order.
 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? 16. Generally baggage camels and sometimes bullock carts and riding camels. They keep camels generally for the whole period of touring season.
 17. Generally the tapedars' kotars and sometimes zamindari people and in very urgent cases when horses are not available, tum tums are engaged for the postal arrangements.
 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?
 18. For the Assistant Collector, almost in every tappa, and for the Collector, Rashid Wagan, Dhamraha, Khalid, Bro Chandio, Kehar.
 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
 19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. Generally the zamindari chher and in rare cases the Local Fund beldars, are engaged for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds.

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 20. Almost all are within the reach of villages with bania shops or bazar.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. None.
22. Ratokote, Rashi Wagan, Kanga, Biro Chandio are provided with musafir-khanas and Khalid with a bungalow of the Public Works Department.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. One chowkidar is maintained at each musafir-khana and bungalow.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means procuring supplies for the touring officer without or on less payments.
25. Eggs half to one dozen daily, fowls 1 to 2, butter one fourth of a seer, mutton half a seer, milk one to four seers, grass 4 to 10 bundles, palal one bundle, fuel 2 maunds.

26. Milk 30 seers, mutton 15 seers at least, fire wood 30 maunds at least, eggs 2 dozen daily, fowls 2 to 5, butter 2 seers, vegetables worth 8 annas to 14 annas, excluding other things which are purchased from the shops. It may be said that much wastage is caused by menials and servants. This includes the requirements both of private and official establishments.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. The average prices are as follows:—

Grain (flour) 7 rupees per maund.
 Rice 10 " " "
 Eggs 6 annas to 9 annas per dozen.
 Fowls 6 to 10 annas each.
 Sheep 10 to 15 rupees each.
 Milk 2 annas per seer.
 Butter 3 to 5 paos per rupee.
 Firewood { (At Larkana) 12 annas per maund.
 (in mofussil) 6 annas per maund.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Yes.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. From 15 to 25 rupees per day plus Rs. 10 for other things purchased from shops.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. The requirements are met by village establishment through the assistance of zamindars and they are collected and brought to the camp by the village establishment.

31. As a practice nothing is paid for these things by servants and menials and office establishment excepting some of the officers. The articles brought direct from the shops are sometimes paid for by them direct to the bania.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 32. Since the payments on these things are not made by the menials or the office establishment, nothing is paid to actual providers; but in few cases the expenses are borne by zamindars. There is no guarantee that the payments made by the officers reach the actual providers. It may be that the amounts paid by the officers may have been repaid to their butlers or their servants.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
33. So far as the officers are concerned, the nominal bill is paid for. It is much less than the actual cost of the supplies. Others do not pay at all.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
34. Yes, the excess is borne by tapedars except in cases where the zamindars show willingness to pay.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
35. Yes. At the head quarters from the general Rasai Fund and at the mufassil from the lapo collected by the tapadars.
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
36. None at all.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
37. There are no gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds in this taluka. The vegetables are given, as a practice, without payment.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
38. Practically none. The tapedars have not ceased to collect the supplies and as a matter of fact they are provided by the zamindars.
39. The only thing my experience suggests is that it all depends on the officers and secondly, at headquarters, or in big villages, where the necessaries can be had on payment from the bazars, the village establishment or the zamindars should have absolutely no hand in the matter. It will not be possible to find an independent contractor for the purpose. From my point of view, all the eatables, say for instance, flour, ghee, rice, spices etc. should be taken by the touring establishments with themselves, as I do in my case. At any rate, I would not like to have hand of the tapedar or zamindar in the matter. *Vide* note.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
40. No intimation of their requirements but of their camps
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
41. No significant change has been made in the working of rules of 1914.
42. "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits are sometimes given to officers who accept them. In general dhalis of vegetables are often given to them. No other present of game or sheep.
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
43. If there are no Local Fund gardens in the taluka, then the vegetables and fruits are purchased from the big towns and the average cost is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 for touring officers plus Rs. 10 for the establishment.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?
44. The orders are not to offer them, but the practice prevails throughout.

Lapo.

45. The term lapo means anaki, which means, the tapedars at the time of kharif and rabi instalments recover money from the zamindars illegally on a scale varying in some districts to meet the expenses of rasai to some extent as well as to fill in their pockets.
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

46. To my knowledge, so far the Revenue Department is concerned, there is only one. Other departments have also arrangements for rasai.
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
54. Rasai and lapo generally go hand in hand. If rasai is stopped, the lapo is bound to decrease at least. The rules of 1914 have practically made no effect except in so far that it is not exacted by force as was done before.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
47. The lapo is levied by tapedars from land holders for rasai as well as for filling in their pockets.
48. The lapo varies from two pie to two annas per jireb, sometimes it goes on the amount of assessment which a land holder pays at the rate of 5 to 10% and in some districts it goes on survey numbers, 1 to 2 Rs. for each survey number.
49. $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the lapo is utilized to cover the cost of rasai and for that purpose it is converted into a rasai fund.
50. The rasai fund is managed by a supervising tapadar or a tapedar with the assistance of two or three other trustworthy tapedars. In some districts it is either managed by Head Munshi or the Mukhtiarkar.
51. $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the lapo is utilized for money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officers. Generally each munshi is given one month's pay, but Head Munshis generally get much more.
52. Tapedars take for ijazatnamas issued to khatedars and for lands and brick kilns. To me this kind of levy cannot be called a lapo but more or less it is corruption.
53. They can make a snake out of a rope, as it goes to say in Sindh, if they are not paid; otherwise they are a bit lenient in their remarks at the time of the inspection.
55. None.
56. Vide answer to question No. 63.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
57. Cher means zamindari labour procured at the time of the officers' camp and for closing breaches or repairing roads.
58. Cheras are men supplied by zamundars for the above purposes.
59. Vide answer to question Nos. 66 and 75.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. To my knowledge no such condition exists between the zamindars and haris.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
61. The cheras do not receive any remuneration but they are fed by the zamindars for the time they are on that work.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
62. Paid labour is available in my charge but in small villages the intervention of zamindars is necessary in procuring it.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government?
63. The beldars are maintained out of Local Funds for the repairs of the roads but the number is inadequate.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
64. They are not bound to supply labour but they have been providing labour when demanded by officials.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
65. Not to my knowledge. Seri grants are given in some cases.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?
66. To fetch water. To pitch and unpitch tents. To remove official and private kit. Other miscellaneous work.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?
67. 15 to 20.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?
68. 10 to 20 more.
69. Whence do they obtain them?
69. From zamindars.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
70. Nothing is paid but they are fed by the zamindars if they remain long in the camp.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor?
71. 4 to 6 annas per labourer. I do not think.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?
72. Through the zamindars.
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?
73. Some officers do pay as baksish in lump sums to the labourers. I do not think there is any difficulty.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
74. Food only.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
75. Zamindars where any special repairs to the roads are required are asked to supply their haris.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?
76. Nothing by me but they are fed by the zamindars.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
77. Zamindari labour.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindar or by Government?
78. In some cases some of the labourers are paid by the Public Works Department and others are not paid for.
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
79. Not to much extent.

80. How far does the employment of beldars interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
80. At head quarters it interferes with their ordinary work to a little extent.
81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
81. None.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
82. It should be suppressed and a sufficient number of khalasies be allowed to the touring officers' camps.

Note.

Lapo and rasai though go hand in hand as said above yet the money presents (annuities) do not seem to form part of the rasai, I think it is a form of corruption though they are paid from the general fasai fund.

The total amount of the lapp recovered per year so far as this taluka is concerned is approximately as follows —

Rs. 9,000; out of this Rs. 2,000 go to the rasai fund and Rs. 1,000 to the annuities and the rest Rs. 6,000 go to the tapadars. From my experience of other talukas it may be pointed out that the rasai expenses sometimes come to Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 per year plus 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 of annuities. There is a saying in Sindhi that oil will come out of seeds. So some of the zamindars who provide supplies for touring officers take the same from their hars who are often the victims. In some talukas there is a practice that deh kharch is recovered from land holders under the management of one big zamindar. This goes to the rasai from which the private expenses of the zamindar are also incurred.

It is an admitted fact that the Revenue Department has lost all its importance which it had before and is being attacked all round on account of rasai but the fact seems to have been lost sight of that the other departments such as Encumbered Estate, Civil Department, Sanitary and Veterinary and Army Remount, Land Records, and Agricultural, Educational Department (the latter so far as very few officers are concerned) are also sharers in the general Rasai Fund of the Revenue Department.

In one taluka, I was the Mukhtiarkar. Under the strict orders of the then Collector I resolved to put a stop to the rasai. The Sub Divisional Officer had to encamp in a village of my taluka for 3 or 4 days according to the programme. I also got my tents pitched up in the camp near my officer. I became very strict upon rasai so much so that the establishment was given a clear understanding that nothing will be given to them as gratis. Even the officer's butler could not get a single pie. The establishment became sick of me. They passed one day there but on the next day, to my surprise I was told that the Sub Divisional Officer wanted to shift the camp at once and go to other taluka. The impression conveyed to me was that he got annoyed with me on putting a stop to the rasai. I cannot say how far this was true that at any rate the office establishment went displeased with me so much so that I used to get cabnamas. On that camp for one day, so far I remember, the total expenses of the whole establishment came to about 3-12-0 instead of Rs. 20.

In my opinion the following measures should be adopted to stop the rasai and lapo.

- (1) The most important thing is that it all depends upon officers.
- (2) In large villages where necessaries can be had on payment, the camps should be held there. In those villages and at headquarters the tapadars and zamindars should have absolutely no hand in the rasai matter.
- (3) An independent contractor, if possible, be appointed on fixed pay, the expenses to be borne by Government, with conveyance allowance.
- (4) The mistakes excepting misappropriation of Government money need not be taken into consideration at the time of the inspection.
- (5) Any Mukhtiarkar who proves a success in putting a stop to the rasai and lapo should be given promotion irrespective of his seniority, as an encouragement.

(6). The number of the present tapas should be reduced so that the tapedars should have light charges of less income.

Police.

Zulum is again caused in rasai of the police. Tapedars of course will request the zamindars to supply eggs etc.; but the police instead of requesting them will at once fall upon harns and get their supplies with police zabardasti. In one taluka I was the Mukhtiarkar where I came across with one instance in which one sethia, a respectable man, had either refused to make rasai or refused to give tum tum to the Sub Inspector for the Inspector; the Sub Inspector remained silent for some time, but felt very much. After a few days there came one fictitious application in the name of that sethia's wife complaining against her husband, (that sethia) of illtreatment and intimacy with the women. The petition came to the Sub Inspector from the District Superintendent Police and the same Sub Inspector issued the summons to that sethia's wife to appear before him in the Police thana. The sethia on receipt of the summons got frightened and ran to my camp. It was said that the application was made at the instigation of the Sub Inspector. I advised the man to go and see the District Superintendent of Police. So far I remember, that sethia took one pleader, a member of the Bar association, to the District Superintendent of Police, whom the facts were explained. The application was then sent for by the District Superintendent of Police and was filed. There is saying in Sindhi that "if a man is bitten by a dog, he will get kicks with shoes in addition." That case appears to be in the police. It is an open secret that when any report about the commission of an offence is made to the police, the aggrieved man must prepare himself in advance to provide luxuries for the police who happen to visit sarzaman for an investigation. If he fails in doing so he must be prepared for the worst.

Forest.

It is an open secret that the forest guards never receive their legitimate pay. It goes to the pockets of sub rangers who make arrangements for the rasai of their superiors. The forest guards again find in maldars their best supporters.

Irrigation.

The percentage of the Public Works Department at the rate of 10% is well known. The daroga gets Rs. 2 per nar and mukadum Re. 1 as lapo. They bear the expenses of the touring season. If they do not get they generally impound the cattle passing on a bund or grazing on the banks of canals.

Rules about the Motor Vehicles along the Larkana and Kamber Road.

The rules are published in the *Sind Official Gazette* page 1395 dated 15th November 1917.

2. Some persons of the Larkana town intend plying motor vehicles along the road for hire. It is said that these persons had presented a petition to the D. M. Larkana for the license. They have not yet bought the motor car.

3. The road is not quite fit for motor drives at present. There is a proposal that the road should be metalled, but this requires a large amount of money which has not yet been made available. It is not known whether the grant will be sanctioned this year.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HIRANAND, MUKHTIARKAR.

To the Chairman :

I mean by grass, juwari stalks. The palal is required for the bedding of horses and also for putting under the carpets of tents.

The camel-men and peons in winter keep fires burning all night—hence the extravagant use of firewood. We supply wood from Larkana. We get it from the bazar and some times from the zamindars.

There are no local fund gardens but a municipal garden at Larkhana. There are private gardens at Larkana in which English vegetables can be obtained. Dhals are obtained at Larkana.

There is a regular camping ground at Larkana which is put in order by the local fund beldars before the arrival of touring officers. I have only been for 12 months in Larkana. Rasai is made for all officers who come from outside Larkana. Everything can be had at Larkana. But the tapadar would bring eggs, milk, wood, fowls and karbi for the camps of provincial officers such as the Judicial Commissioner and the Commissioner. I think such supplies as meat would be bought by their servants from the bazar. Eggs and fowls are brought to the bazar and sold in the bazar of Larkana, and karbi and fuel also can be had from the Larkana bazar; also milk. The bill is presented by the tapadar at the end of the camps.

The seri grants are free grants of lands given generally for service already rendered, but we certify every year that the holder continues to render service to Government; but there are no seri grants for definite service to be rendered in the future by the holder to Government. These grants are of 5 to 10 acres. 5-10 acres is the average grant; it might be some times more. The profits from such grants would be about Rs. 50 a year.

Some officers give the chheras a present when leaving the camp and some do not.

I do not mean that chher should not be supplied in the case of breaches of canal banks

I have no personal experience about other departments. What I say generally about the other departments viz Police, Educational and Forest and others, is derived from general talk.

This is the bill of the last Collector's camp in Larkana at the time of the visit of the Commissioner. The Collector makes his own arrangements when he is at Head quarters at all times, but rasai is made for the Collector also while the Commissioner's camp is at Larkana.

There is a good deal of traffic of tongas and bullock carts on the Larkana Kambar road. It is not a metalled road beyond half a mile from Larkana. Beldars are maintained for its repairs. This year considerable sums were sanctioned for its repairs, Rs. 9,000 for earth work and Rs. 10,000 for grass. It was under water last abkalani. Proposals are under consideration for metalling this and some other roads in the Larkana district.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai:

Rice cultivation begins in the end of June and July and ends in the middle of December. After that comes threshing. It is finished by the end of December. The rabi cultivation begins at the end of December and January. The rabi is reaped at the end of March and the beginning of April. There is also what is called dubari cultivation in kharif land which begins in the middle of October and ends about the middle of March or April. The crop is sown before the kharif crop is reaped.

I do not know of any Asst. Collector's camps near Larkana but there was one at Valhd to which he came from Biro Chandio and which is one mile and half from Larkana. He came about 4 or 5 miles distance from Biro Chandio. I believe he came there on account of remission work.

To the Chairman:

The average march of an Asst. Collector is 6 or 10 miles. I have been only 12 months in this district; I was before that in the Sukkur district. There the average march of the Asst. Collector would be about 6 to 10 miles and of the Collr. 8 to 10 miles.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai.

I believe bogus receipts are sometimes passed in favour of officers' establishments without any actual payments being made by those establishments. I believe in some cases the bills of establishments and officers' are under charged. The bills are prepared in consultation with the butlers.

To the Chairman:

The butlers generally order more than is required by their masters. Butlers don't want entries to appear in the bills for things which have not been ordered by the masters;

hence the necessity of consulting the butler. The excess is probably used by the butler and other servants. Those items would not appear in the bills.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai:

I don't think that less than what is actually consumed by the officers is entered in the bills. I don't think that fowls and eggs are dearer in villages than in towns. An egg is worth about 2 pice in the village.

I never personally saw ill treatment of tapadars and zamindars, but complaints of ill-treatment by butlers and menials have been made to me by the tapadars and zamindars.

The general impression among the mukhtiarkars is that those who make the best rasai get the best promotions.

I have made my remarks on other departments as the rules of 1914 relate to all those departments.

I heard of these departments in my talk with the Raj Mahajan on tour. They have made complaint to me.

When I spoke of 30 maunds a day being the quantity of firewood required for the establishment and camp, I referred to Sukkur. It includes the firewood supplied to camel men and other people who come to the Collector's camp. There would be about 50 to 60 persons in the cold weather to consume the amount of firewood. They would be very extravagant, knowing that they will not have to pay for it. The firewood came without payment from the zamindars.

The only motor in the district belongs to Parialsing who is under the management of the Manager, Incumbered Estates. I know of no other motor in this district. The roads are not good enough for motor cars. The Kambar road is now repaired, and is fit for motor cars; there may still be bad parts in the road. It would be possible to drive motor cars along some of the roads in this district and others may be made fit for motors. In that case some touring might be done by motor cars but district officers could not do their field inspection by motor.

The tapadars do keep accounts of rasai fund. I think they keep them on loose papers. I don't think they are made up in books. They were kept in books in the Sukkur district.

To The Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain

In rare cases the Asst. Collr. and the Dy. Collr. visit the same camps more than once. The Asst. Collr. and Dy. Collr. visit the taluka head quarters three times every year. But in other cases they visit more than once rarely—that may be due to remission or other work.

I have known of instances where Mukhtiarkars who have made good rasai have become Dy. Collrs. some of the Mukhtiarkars might benefit by the rasai fund. I was the Collector's Head Munshi in the Karachi district.

My definition of rasai refers to all districts in which I have served.

To The Chairman:

My meaning in answer 38 is that some of the officers pay for fowls, eggs and milk, and some do not.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain:

Generally the tapadars pay the expenses referred to in question 38. It is in a few cases that they are borne by the zamindars.

By nominal bills I mean that Rs. 2 are charged for supplies worth Rs. 10.

I believe it is a practice in some talukas that zamindars contribute to the rasai fund in addition to lapo.

To Mr. Sawhney:

The officers tour always in the cold weather moving from camp to camp. I do not think the use of motor cars would reduce the carriage expenses of tours unless motor lorries are provided for the baggage. The 1914 circular refers to both lapo and rasai. I consider the 10% levied from contractors to be lapo paid by the contractors. I understand the circular applies also to lapo paid by the contractors.

I had conversations with the Raj Mahajan before the appointment of the committee. When the Raj Mahajan come and call on the Mukhtiarkar and he asks them the news they tell him about their grievances in respect of each department. Some of the contractors who come with the Raj Mahajan must have told me in the course of conversation about the 10% paid on their contracts.

To The Chairman.

They don't speak of it as a grievance ; in some cases they tell it to me as a bit of news. I believe it is an old practice.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.

You might call borrowing a tum-tum from a sethia a form of rasai. It would not be lapo. My reference to the sethia and the sub inspector was in connection with question No. 47. This information was given to me by the sethias.

To The Chairman.

The Mahomedan and Hindu Raj Mahajans sometimes come together and sometime separately. Some of the Raj Mahajans are partners with contractors of the P. W. D. The last time was in 1915 and 1916 in the Pano Akil taluka when one of the Raj Mahajans who came to see me had a 2 anna share with a P.W.D. contractor.

Bill for the Collector of Larkana.

From 21st January 1918 to 4th February 1918.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Fuel 30 mds. @ 10 As. per md. | 18 | 12 | 0 |
| Charcoal 2 mds. @ Rs. 2-12-0 per md... .. | 5 | 8 | 0 |
| Palal grass 3 carts @ Rs. 2 per one | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Eggs 13 dzs. 4 eggs. @ -6- per one | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Fish | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| Flour Superior 10 seers | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| " Inferior 5 seers | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes 4 seers @ -3- per one seer | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Sugar 4 seers @ -8- per seer | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Salt 3 seers @ -1-6 per seer | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Onions 4 seers @ -2- per seer | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Milk 2 seers @ -2- per seer | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Grass (Karhi) 90 bands @ -2-6 per one band | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Big Jars 2 @ -4- per one | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| One Butcher for getting out the skin of a "Phora" | 0 | 8 | 0 |

Grand Total 61 4 9

Sixty one -4-9 only.

Received the amount with thanks.

Jaswantra,

Jaswantra,

Dated 5-2-18.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JESASING KIMATSING.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Jesasing Kimatsing. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Retired Deputy Collector. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. I pay about Rs 5 per mensem as income-tax on salary of Rs. 250 and land revenue to the extent of about Rs. 400. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Larkana. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Ma- gistrate. | 5. None. |

Rasai!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. 'Rasai' is a noun from the verb 'Rasain' (a Sindhu word) which means "To satisfy"—Hence "Rasai" means "satisfying." |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. As zamindar, I have never made 'Rasai'. |
| 8. What are the camping ground for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8 to 22. I have never made rasai as zamindar and therefore I can not answer the questions. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | |
| 11. Whence do you get those sup- plies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, ve- getables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. | |
| 13. Do you pay for them and if so, at what average rates? | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neigh- bourhood of large villages and towns? | |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the offi- cers? | |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | |

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

38. I have always taken this as an expression of regard for the officer to whom the dhal is given and I do not think it is necessary that Government should prohibit the practice.

39. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the public works, police and forest department?

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

23 to 33. I have never made rasai as zamindar and therefore I cannot answer the questions.

34 to 36. I approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars.

37 No.

Lapo.

39. -Some kind of gratification paid by one person to another.

40. I know of one form called anagi and it is levied in the Revenue Department. I do not know if it is levied in other departments.

41. Personally I do not know but my brothers with whom I hold land jointly say that they pay fixed lapo at the rate of half an anna per jreb.

42. By whom is each form of an authorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest ranger?
42. Lapo is levied by tapedars and for the ostensible purpose of rasai.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Yes. It is levied as an excuse to cover the cost of rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Yes. It is levied for the purpose of making money presents as well.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
- 45, 46 and 47. I do not know the amount of such presents. I believe it is paid to the establishment as an inducement to conceal the mistakes of the subordinates of the taluka.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactings and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactings of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I pay each year about Rs. 8 or 10 on account of lapo.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. If tapadars were not required to contribute anything towards rasai, I think payment on account of lapo would be stopped by itself to a great extent. The other measure for the prevention of lapo would be to authorise Post Offices to receive payment of land revenue without charging any money order fee.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher is understood to be unpaid labour supplied by zamindars.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are mostly the haris of zamindars.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. (i) Closing of breaches;
(ii) Repairing roads;
(iii) Working at the camps; and
(iv) at shikar.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Yes.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?
56. (i) I do not know;
(ii) No, except by certain officers when chheras are called for the purpose of shikar.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? }
 58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? } 57 and 58. About 10 to 50
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamundars? 59. No. I do not know if zamundars pay them.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. I can not say.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamundars? 61. I think they come willingly and are fed, in most cases, at the expense of the officers.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. I cannot say.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamundars or Local Boards? 64. Nothing from officers or local boards. I do not know if they get anything from zamundars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. I cannot say.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamundars or officers of Government? 66. I think they are paid by the officers of the Public Works Department.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamundars? 67. I do not think so.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. I cannot say.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamundars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes. Chher i.e. labour not paid for ought to be abolished.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. JESSASING, RETIRED DEPUTY COLLECTOR.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Harchandrai.—

I was 10 years a Mukhtiarkar and 10 years a Deputy Collector. I was a Mukhtiarkar in the Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad districts, Deputy Collector in the Upper Sind Frontier, Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad districts.

Rasai used to be made in my time both when I was Mukhtiarkar and a Deputy Collector. The expenses mostly came from the rasai fund. The rasai fund was made up by the tapadars out of their pay. Their contributions varied from Rs. 10 to a month's pay. The amounts which tapadars contributed depended upon the extent of cultivation in their tapas. The idea was that it should bear some proportion to the lapo which each collected. I think it was a very small portion of the lapo; the major part went into the pocket of the tapadar.

To the Chairman.—

I think tapadars retire very well off considering their pay. I am a poor man as compared with many of the tapadars.

The supplies were not at all paid for by the establishment i.e. the low paid establishment. The touring officers paid for their supplies and the establishment in the higher grades also paid for their supplies, such as head munshis and sherishtedars. I think the establishment of the Assistant Collector very seldom paid. I think the bills of touring officers did not include the full amount of the full rates of the articles.

My Head Munshi when I was Mukhtiarkar told me that payments were made out of the rasai fund to the head clerks and the munshis of touring officers.

I have heard of the payment called Kilo Khorani and Kilo Tokani; Kilo Khorani is never paid to the butler but to the havaladar. A gratuity is also paid to the butler. The money was paid through an imaginary fear that false complaints might be made to the officer.

The syce of Mr. Lucas once made a complaint against me that I did not supply grass for his horse. Mr. Lucas ordered me to make an enquiry into the matter. I made a report and on that report the syce was dismissed.

I have never myself seen tapadars and zamindars being ill-treated by the menials of touring officers. I can't recollect if actual complaints were made to me.

The tapadars pay the establishment through fear as the latter may otherwise trouble the tapadars in correspondence.

The lapo is paid to the tapadar partly because he can cause favour or disfavour to the zamindars and also because it is a long standing practice. The Mukhtiarkars used to connive at the levy of lapo. I think that if the Mukhtiarkars were firm about the matter lapo would considerably decrease. The tapadars have no real power to confer favour or disfavour on the zamindars. The system has been changed. They may report boundary marks out of repair or they might report waste of water. The real power to confer favour or disfavour is now with the supervising tapadar. He however accepts part of the lapo yearly from the tapadar.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

The Circular of 1914 did improve matters in the time of Mr. Beyts in the Hyderabad district. I was then in the Hyderabad district. Grass, fowls, eggs and fuel were provided by the contracting zamindar after 1914; before that by the tapadars who collected them from the zamindars.

I think the zamindars did charge for the supplies given after 1914. The zamindars did not like acting as contractors. They took payments of the bills willingly. Full payments were made to them of the articles shewn in their bills. My experience was that they supplied more than was shewn in the bills. They must therefore be working at a loss unless they get recouped by the tapadars. I think that the rasai fund stopped entirely after 1914 in the Hyderabad district but lapo did not stop. I think tapadars continued to contribute towards expenses of rasai though the rasai fund ceased to exist. I think the tapadars supplemented their supplies from the zamindars and recouped their expenses from the zamindars. It may be in some cases that the zamindars did not work at a loss; I can't say. I think Collectors might restrict their tours to head quarter towns and big villages with markets and then from there might go with one clerk to small villages like Mr. Beyts.

There must be a zamindar contractor for providing supplies to the Collector. I think those appointed in 1914 were a tolerable success. I don't think we can do without a zamindar in the matter of rasai. It will be possible to eliminate the tapadars but we could not do without the zamindar. Zamindar contractors could be found in every taluka. It was possible everywhere in the Hyderabad district. I don't know if they made the rasai of officers of departments other than the Revenue Department.

To Mr. Mahmudshah.—

The zamindars were not willing to take these contracts. I think there is no harm in compelling them to help us in their own interests. They should be persuaded. A Deputy Collector could not go to small villages with only one clerk. His duties are so multifarious that he would have to take his whole establishment even to small villages.

To The Chairman.—

It might be possible to eliminate the tapadars altogether if the matter was insisted upon by the touring officers.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GHULAM MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH KHAN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Ghulam Muhammad son of Serai Abdullah Khan Isran. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. About 5,000 acres. Land Revenue Rs. 15,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Khairpur Juso, taluka Kambar, district Larkana. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. District Local Board member and member of the Bench of Honorary Magistrates. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means the making of arrangements for the accommodation of and the supply of provisions to officers and their establishments on tour. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 10 or 12 years. |
| 8. For Khairpur Juso, taluka Kambar, Hassanabad, taluka Werah, separately and for Larkana Head-quarters, Kambar, Rashid Wagon, Rato Kot, taluka Larkana and Pakho, taluka Kambar jointly. | |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | |
| 9. The Collector, the Assistant and Deputy Collector, the Executive Engineer, the Sub-Divisional Officer, the Sub-Overseer, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, the District Superintendent of Police, the Inspector and Sub-Inspector of Police. | |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, mutton, milk, butter, firewood, pegs, grass, spices, jars, bedding, vegetables, ghee, cots, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. These articles are partly bought from shops and partly provided by myself. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. | 12. All these articles except milk are either bought by me or provided out of my own stock. I take nothing from other zamindars. I take milk alone from hars and others. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I purchase all provisions except milk, firewood, grass at market rates |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes, they have, but the values are slightly smaller than those in large towns. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I do not bring firewood from the Government jungles but get it from my own lands. I simply feed hars who cut down firewood. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. For European officer Re. 1-8-0 daily and for an Indian officer Rs. 2-0-0 daily. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. About Re. 1-0-0 per man. |

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Yes.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 20. About Rs. 1-8-0 per each munshi.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. The amount varies according to the number of men and of days as said above.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. In part from European officers and seldom from Indian officers.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hands or on you ? 24. It falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. Where there are no Government buildings, private buildings have to be provided.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ? 26. It costs nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ? 27. Sometimes I have to provide for riding conveyance and for carriage of records.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ? 28. Generally it costs nothing. No payment is made.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 30. Details of expenses have been given above. We receive no payment.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 31. From Rs. 1,500 to 2,000.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars ? 32. At two camps I make the rasai myself. At others tapadars make it. There are no contracting zamindars here.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ? 33. At the camps where I make the rasai myself bills, are prepared under the directions of the butler. The amount of the bill never reaches me. At the camps where I make rasai jointly, bills are prepared by tapadars but the money is not paid to us.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars ? 34. It will improve matters to some extent if contractors independent of tapadars and zamindars are appointed.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 35. If attempts are made a contractor could be had for each taluka for the present.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ? 36. The following are my objections :—
- (a) There is extraordinary and careless expenditure and wastage at camps
- (b) Rasai is illegal and unjust burden ;

(c) Rasai becomes an excuse for taking lapo. It is rather difficult to stop rasai all at once. But the appointment of independent contractors, the reduction of the period of tour and touring establishment and camping in larger towns, will decrease rasai considerably, as in large towns rasai contractors can get all the necessary things without the intervention of zamindars.

37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Yes. I give them occasionally of my own accord. These cost me between Rs. 5 and 20.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. This practice is dependent upon the option of both officers and zamindars. It promotes good will among them and Government should not therefore interfere in this matter.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means anything taken in cash or in kind for the ostensible purpose of rasai or as payment for the occasion, for favours and conveniences.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the Revenue Department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments? 40. Unauthorized lapo is commonly levied in the departments referred to. It is taken either in cash or in kind.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre, or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the various departments as under:—

Revenue Department.—Tapadars take it as a charge per jireb or per survey number and also as an annuity; supervising tapadars take it at a certain rate per survey number and as an annuity. Munshis take it at a certain rate per survey number and as an annuity. Private and Government menials are paid a certain sum per camp and also as an annuity.

Police Department.—At certain rate per camp and as an annuity.

Public Works Department.—Per camp, as an annuity, per karia and according to facilities made in the supply of water.

Forest.—As an annuity and according to facilities made in respect of grazing.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. All kamoras and their subordinates referred to above take lapo. They take it on the plea of rasai and for themselves.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. Tapadars take lapo on the plea of rasai. I give lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. Tapadars take lapo for making cash payments to private servants and official establishment of touring officers. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 45. They vary from 8 annas to Rs. 100 and sometimes even more. These presents are made solely in order to safeguard our respect. They are not paid in the form of a daily allowance.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. Unauthorized lapo is levied in view of favours in following matters:—

Revenue Department.—In the matter of land grants, remission of land revenue, grant of takavi and postponement of its recovery, transfer of khata, permission of digging pits, putting up kilns, village sites and building sites and wastage of water.

Police Department.—Protection of reputation and fear of the raj being set up against the zamindar.

Public Works Department.—Facilities of water-supply in rotation and facilities in connection with passing on the banks of canals and digging of kacha wells in the beds of canals, in matter relating to partnership in kanas, for water-supply to lands newly taken up and for wastage of water.

Forest.—Land grants, sanctions to village sites and facilities in grazing.

47. The subordinate officers concerned charge us according to the importance of the affair and the facilities made. The amount varies from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 100-0-0 and even more.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. From Rs. 1,000 to 1,500.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. In my zamindari no contractor has ever been appointed for making rasai, nor has the lapo decreased.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. In some cases it has decreased slightly.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. The following measures should be adopted to stop lapo :—
- Touring should be reduced *i.e.* camps should be made in large towns only.
 - Small establishment should be taken on tour.
 - Independent contractors should be appointed for making arrangements at camps.
 - Powers of tapedars and supervising tapedars should be curtailed and correspondence regarding revenue matters should be disposed of in consultation with respectable zamindars.
 - Land revenue should be remitted free of charge by post.
 - Judicial and Revenue Departments should be made separate.
 - Independent respectable men should be appointed in each taluka to watch and get information regarding the givers and takers of rasai and lapo. These should in direct connection with the Collector and the Commissioner, and honours should be bestowed on them in view of the services they render in the detection of crime.
 - The powers of the Police should be curtailed and respectable zamindars should be given powers in the matter of detection of crime.
 - In the Public Works Department a committee should be appointed for each canal consisting of zamindars who take water from that canal and it should be left to them to decide matters regarding supply of water and powers of subordinate officers should be curtailed.
 - In the Forest Department also the powers of subordinates should be curtailed and a committee of the zamindars concerned appointed to settle disputes regarding land.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means to get work done without payment or on inadequate payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. They are generally haris of zamindars, small khatedars and other men of the raj.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. They are called on in connection with work on roads, breaches and bunds.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. Haris who are made to work as chheras are taken on the condition that they will work as chheras. They are given some concessions also.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government? 56. They get only food from zamindars. Sometimes they get a remuneration from the Public Works Department which is inadequate and hardly sufficient for their food.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. From 10 to 30 according to the establishment.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. 20 to 30 for preparing the camping ground and for pitching and striking tents, otherwise from 10 to 20.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. They get food from zamindars and nothing from officials.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. The number of chheras depends upon the circumstances in each case. It varies from 10 to 100.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. Not willingly as thereby their cultivation suffers; nor under compulsion. See answer to question 55. They get food from the zamindar and shikaris alone sometimes get some cash from the officials.
62. The Local Fund roads after they are repaired are not properly looked after by the Local Fund malhis, as they are generally busy doing the private work of officers. Consequently chheras are required in urgent cases. Their number varies from 10 to 100 according to the amount of work.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Repairs by chheras are made at the time of officers' visits. The public also get some benefit from such repairs.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. They get only food from zamindars and nothing from officers or Local Boards.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. From 10 to 500 according to the magnitude of the work in connection with floods and breaches.
66. In the case of breaches they get from Public Works Department just enough either in cash or in kind for their food. In other cases they get food from zamindars and nothing from Government.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Both haris and zamindars suffer loss if chheras are employed on such work during the cultivation season. Cultivation is interfered with, causing loss to them and zamindars.
68. A large number of labourers can be had in my neighbourhood on payment of the usual wage which varies from 6 annas to 8 annas according to season and nature of work.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. 'Chher should be' abolished. 'Touring officers should get khalasis or the rasai contractor should be called upon to supply the required labour.

Note.

Besides the above abuses there is another objectionable practice which oppresses the general public and the poorer and illiterate classes. This is called 'Begar.' In big towns policemen and subordinates of other departments within their respective charges impress bullock carts against the wishes of the cartmen without payment or on inadequate payment. They also exact money from them under the threat of impressing when as a matter of fact no carts are required by them. To put a stop to this practice carts should be obtained through a contractor or other person specially appointed for the purpose.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SERAI GHULAM MAHOMED.

To the Chairman.—

I never get money on bills paid by the officers. It is kept by the butlers.

I mean by joint camps—camps where more than one zamindar jointly make rasai. In that case the bills are prepared by the tapedar in respect of the Revenue Department and by the subordinates of the other departments in the case of those departments.

The Shikar arrangement at Lang is for 4 or 5 men to go with each sahib and for 100 or 200 beaters to be scattered round the water. My uncle, K. S. Goverkhan, used to call the officers not to pay the men in order to please them.

I have known Goverkhan paying back to officers the money which was given to the beaters by the sahibs: that was because our bandobust would otherwise be disorganized as all the people would like to go with the sahibs.

Some of the casual labourers are not haris and the others are haris who have nothing to do at the time and who are willing to go on labour for wages.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai.

Eggs and fowls are cheaper in villages than in towns. Eggs sometimes can be had for one pice but generally for 1½ or 2 pice and the fowls at annas three for a small fowl and at annas 4 for a large fowl—that is to say, in villages.

To the Hon'ble Mr. Ghulam Hussain.—

I supply such things as eggs, butter, grass, but the tapedar never pay me anything for it. I also pay for the provisions taken from the banias, when the camp is not run jointly with other zamindars. I also pay money to butlers and servants. There are other zamindars like myself who do the same. The tapedar at the same time takes lapo from me.

To the Chairman.—

The lapo tends daily to increase—it is more than it used to be.

To Mr. Sawhney.—

The zamindars who give labour willingly during the breach of a canal may be interested in one year and disinterested in the next year. It all depends where the breach is.

I myself shikar. I make a special bandobust to please officers of Government. Serai Shahmahomed sometimes comes and shoots with me. Each brings two or three of his own people but we do not employ chheras.

He would not pay my men because the men would be my servants. They are no chheras.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. WADHUMAL TARACHAND.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Wadhupal Tarachand. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Mukhtiarakar. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Dadu. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 18 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 18 years. |
| <i>General.</i> | |
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 190982 Acres 3 guntas. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. Mutton, eggs, chickens, fowls, butter, milk, cereals, fish, pala, jars, cots, kerosine oil, dry fruits for cakes, ghee, fuel, grass. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. Cots and water jars for the whole establishment. No other furniture is supplied. |
| 9. Landhis are sometimes constructed. | Clerical establishment of the Assistant or Deputy Collector is put in private houses which are vacated for the occasion. They put up in musafir-khanas where they exist. Collector's and Commissioner's establishment put up in the rowties. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 10. Commissioner has got his own stable tents. For others landhis are put up. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. Officers have got their own tents in which they put up. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. They require cheras for pitching and unpitching tents, fetching water and to help their servants and menial establishments. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. Roads are good. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. Mukhtiarakar of the taluka. He employs bel-dars and also takes help from zamindars. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. Special repairs are made if officers drive in tongas or in motor cars. Zamindari labour is always engaged for the purpose. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 16. They keep their baggage camels. Sometimes camels and tongas are given and paid from rasai fund for establishment etc. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 17. Commissioner and the Collectors have their own arrangements. But Deputy or Assistant Collector's post is taken by kotars to their camps. |
| 18. Sita, Pat, Puranodero, | Dadu, Mondar, Bahawalpur, and Khudabad are the usual camping places for Collectors. Deputy and Assistant Collectors encamp at these and various other minor places. |
| 19. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | |
| 19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 19. Zamindari labour clears the camping ground. |

20. Except Khudabad where there is one shop only, the other seven places have bazars. But mutton is not usually sold at Pat, Mondar, Khudabad, and Phaka.

21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?

21. At Dadu alone the camping ground has a small vegetable garden.

22. Which of them are provided with bungalows?

22. Sita, Purandoero, and Dadu have bungalows. Bahawalpur had a bungalow.

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

23. Only a watchman is maintained at each of these bungalows. This watchman is under the P.W.D.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

24. Appeasement by service, giving supplies, and cash payments.

25. 2 fowls, 1 dozen eggs, 1

fish or palo, mutton 1½ seers, 4 to 12 seers of milk, ½ to 1 seer of butter, fuel 1 maund, grass according to requirements. But bill for much less quantity is given. The Deputy or Assistant Collector takes about half of this.

25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?

26. They take in cash. Butler 1 to 7 rupees, mistri 8 annas, mashal 6 annas, others

4 annas each; besides they get fuel. Establishment gets whatever they want, at times including liquor, aerated waters, cloth, fruit.

27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?

27. Average price would be wheat flour Rs. 8 a maund, rice Rs. 10, eggs 6 annas a doz., sheep Rs. 12, milk 2 annas a seer, butter Re. 1 a seer, grass 2 annas a bundle, firewood 8 annas a maund.

28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?

28. At all the places of camp shown above, those things are sold, but at very small places far away from towns all these things have no market value.

29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?

29. Collector Rs. 5, Daftardar 8 annas, Assistant Collector 3 rupees. Deputy Collector Re. 1-8. Private servants of Collector 5 rupees, Assistant Collector 3 rupees, Deputy Collector 1 rupee. Establishment: Collector 40 rupees, Assistant or Deputy Collector 25 rupees.

30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?

30. These requirements are supplied by tapedars.

31. How are they paid for?

31. Bill with the consultation of the butler is given to the officer who pays accordingly. The amount so paid is taken away by the butler.

32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?

32. The payments are so small in proportion to the expenses that no body cares to retain the amount for being given to the suppliers.

33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?

33. Actual payments are about 1-25th of the estimated average daily cost.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?

34. The excess expenses are borne by tapedars who are paid for this by zamindars, who again charge the haris at the time of the division of the produce.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?

35. Yes. The excess is made out of a rasai fund maintained by the tapedar.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ? 36. No.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ? 37. They get vegetables gratis from gardens and sometimes they are sent for from other places and nothing is charged for them.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedar actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ? 38. No effect has been given to the rules of 1914. The tapedar still continue to supply. Zamindar is produced only for show. In mufassil those zamindars supply meat, eggs, fuel etc. who do not pay the tapedar for rasai.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedar and zamindars ? 39. A contractor or any other modification would be a grim joke as is the circular of 1914, so long the present system of administration continues
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ? 40. Touring officers do not give intimation of their requirements they simply inform about their camps.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ? 41. No.
42. Do you give " Dhals " of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ? 42. I do not give dalis.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such " Dhals " and sheep ? And whence are they obtained ? 43. Ditto.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject ? 44. Giving of dalis is prohibited.
- Lapo.*
45. Lapo signifies something over and above the stipulated amounts. Lapo is also levied by zamindars from haris. 45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?
46. Four forms of lapo exist in Dadu taluka. a. One rupee on each survey number. b. One rupee on each survey number plus four annas for rasai. c. 1 to 1½ annas per jireb plus 1 to 2 pice for rasai. d. 1 anna per rupee of assessment plus 4 annas for rasai.
47. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? 47. Zamindar pays lapo to tapedar as usage in return for convenience and courtesy.
48. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? 48. Lapo is levied as shown in para 55. On account of Collector's camp tapedar take from some zamindars some amounts in lieu of eggs, kids, butter etc. known as 'thullahs.'
49. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ? 49. Half or over of the lapo is utilized to cover the costs of rasai. It is converted for that purpose into rasai fund.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?

50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?

50. Tapedar of the Headquarter under management of the Head Munshi and orders of the Mukhtiarkar.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?

51. Money presents are paid at jamabandi and akharsal to private and official establishments of the touring officers.

Jamabandi:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Head munshi | Rs. 150. | Second munshi | Rs. 40. |
| Head clerk | 50. | Judicial munshi | 50 |
| Junior clerk | 20. | 2 Junior clerks | 10 each. |

Akharsal:

Collector's Office,

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----|
| Head munshi | 50 | Head Munshi's munshi | 30 |
| 3 Munshis | 30 each. | Record munshi, treasury office | 10 |
| One munshi | 20 | 1 clerk of treasury | 7 |
| Naib serishtedar | 30 | | |

Collector's peons

50

Daftardar's peons

Deputy Collector's peons

54 plus 20 jamabandi.

52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for practical favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

52. Lapo as shown above is levied for convenience and courtesy, for favours in land revenue matters such as, taking up land, postponements, takavi, tips, known as *balai rakam* are charged. Other departments charge in their own way.

53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?

53. Payments as shown above are made for use of soft language for mistakes detected.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?

54. No.

55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?

55. No.

56. To me it appears that unless administrative changes are not made, it is hopeless to effect any improvements. People are not fools to impoverish themselves and pay in such enormous amounts to enrich Government servants, most of whom as a matter of fact should be poor as a church mouse but who on account of wide corruption leave property far more than the sum of all their pays put together. People must be paying such sums for some purpose. To me appear the following remedies:—

1. People should have ordinary courtesy from officials. At present only some specified persons have received chair when they visit officers. As a matter of fact ordinary courtesy should be shown to all.

2. Chapter VIII of the Cr. P. Code plays an important part in the corruption in public service.

3rd. There should be canal conference for each government canal. For this conference all the khatedars should elect members who and the officials should decide about the clearance, rotation etc. of the canal. So long the reins are in the hands of one set they will ever require to be greased to loosen the grasp.

4th Inspection of the taluka offices should be stopp'd. This system has proved a failure after nearly 80 years' trial in Sind. Central record rooms should be established for each district to which every month the decided correspondences and files and decided cases etc. should be sent. The system of filing should be changed. Applications should be entertained only by Collector which should be forwarded to various officers after reference to the central record room and should be disposed of within two or three months the latest.

5th. Going as peshwas to Deputy Collectors and Collectors should be stopped as is now been done in Thar district by Mr Moysey. The ordeal of rolling on the ground for hours together is an insult to officers and zamindars alike.

In short the old system which has given birth to so many vices and corruption and have kept them ever on the increase in public service require to be recast and new systems introduced.

57. Cher implies labour supplied free of cost but whose cause the suppliers cannot espouse, that is, chher is a body of helpless labourers.
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?
58. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
58. Muhammadans.
59. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
59. Chheras are required to pitch tents, to remove kit, to fetch water and do other menial work for all.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
60. Yes. The chheras hold their lands from zamindars to perform such labour.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?
61. Chheras get food for the time they remain at the camps, from zamindars, but nothing is paid by officials.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
62. Paid labour can be had at all places.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government ?
63. Beldars are maintained in winter season.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
64. They are not bound, but they have to do this in order to avoid displeasure.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
65. No.
66. If the servants of officers and peons would do their work, the labour would be required for pitching and unpitching tents only, but now it is required for all purposes except cooking.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour ?
67. At Collector's camp 20 labourers are required daily, but on the first day about 30 are required. At Deputy Collector's camp 5 daily and 10 on the first day.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ?
68. 30 on the day of pitching and 30 on the day of striking camp.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps ?
69. Whence do they obtain them ?
69. Tapadar supplies them who gets from zamindars
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
70. Nothing is paid to them, only they are supplied food by their respective zamindars.

71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rassi contractor? 71. Eight annas a coolie. The contractor can supply paid labour.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 72. Zamindars supply labour for shikar.
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 73. Some officers pay something and the zamindars show reluctance as non-payment does not cost them anything. It is the haris who suffer.
74. Nothing is paid to labourers by zamindars, they being their haris. The zamindars feed haris, but generally for this deduction is made at the time of the division of produce.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
75. If heavy repairs have to be carried out which might become too much for beldars, Mukhtiarkar asks zamindars to help, and zamindars draw upon their haris who work for food only which as shown above is a cost on the hari rather than the zamindar.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials? 76. Nothing is paid by officials. Further reply is contained in para 85.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 77. Chher is supplied by zamindars in case of floods and breaches.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 78. They are supplied with food by zamindars and on occasions by government.
79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. Cultivation is not allowed to suffer. If taking away a hari for purposes of chher would interfere with cultivation work the hari would prefer paying in cash to the zamindar to employ a labourer for him.
80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 80. If beldars are employed for pitching tents and other purposes, it slightly interferes with their work for the time they are so employed.
81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders? 81. No.
82. Chher can be suppressed only when the menial establishment of officers gets a little poorer when they might condescend to work with their hands. Now when a havaldar and butlers can sit on equal level with Mukhtiarkars and Deputy Collectors even—a position coveted by so many zamindars and rich merchants—they would necessarily require chheras. They forget the class from which they come. There would be no necessity for orders if peons pitch tents and other menial servants do their respective works. If it becomes the fashion that any body who happens to be in service should not do any work, then whosoever is employed will do no work and will require a chhera. What earnestness on part of officers can accomplish, volumes of orders would not.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. WADHVALMAL MUKHTIARKAR OF DADU.

To the Chairman:

In my answer to question No. 48, by the present system of administration I mean the system of chairs and such honours.

I mean in my answer to No. 53—giving of dhals by subordinate officers.

I mean in my answer to Q-40 that the actual payment is only 1-25th of the whole cost of the camp excluding cash payments.

The word thula refers to the payments taken from big zamindars.

With regard to my answer to Q-15 para 5, by peshwa I mean the system of Mukhtiarkars going to meet superior officers at the boundary of the taluka.

I mean by my answer to Q. 66—that the zamindars who supply the chheras can not look after the interests of the chheras. The chheras are always the haris of the zamindars.

I have never seen any presents given by the officials to the chheras at the close of the camp. The paid labour available would be haris not engaged on their fields. There would be other people also but mostly haris.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

The zamindars make rasai in order to smooth the path to honours and gun licenses. I don't think they make rasai in order to get lands. The zamindars have no self respect. No one can have self respect unless he gets a chair. I am in favour of chairs being continued for durbaris but not otherwise.

My remark about cases under Chapter VIII apply to the Police Department. The system of rasai without adequate payments exists in all departments. The daroghas make the rasai in the P.W.D., jamadars and Sub Divisional Officers in the Police Deptt.

To the Chairman:

I hear about other departments when I go on tour. I receive complaints from people about other departments. I had received complaints in the Johi taluka against a darogha in the P. W. D. The matter was compromised. The daroghas generally get Rs. 1 to 2 for each nar (water wheel) and also something for each kasi (water channel).

I believe that daroghas make rasai but I do not know the details of it. It must cost them something so that they levy sums of money and take them themselves.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

The daroghas have dealings with maldars and they get kids and milk from the maldars. In return they allow them to graze their cattle on canal banks. They also get milk from them. These articles are used for rasai also.

There are regular accounts kept of the rasai fund. I have brought some of the accounts with me.

To the Chairman:

I have brought loose papers of accounts of the rasai fund obtained from the tapadar of Dadu. I have also a note-book kept by the tapadar of Dadu. These papers have been preserved as payments are still to be made on them, otherwise they would not have been preserved. The payments still have to be made to the actual providers of supplies. These are from November. Some of these are paid and some remain to be paid. These payments don't contain receipts from zamindars; they only contain a memorandum of payments to be made to the suppliers by the tapadar. There is a list of moneys received from the tapadars and I also have a bundle of chits of orders given by the tapadars to the bania. The whole amount of the bills has to be paid out of the rasai fund because what is paid by the officers is really taken away by the butlers and the whole cost falls on the rasai fund. There is also a memorandum among these papers of the payments levied from the tapadar. The note book contains an account of money spent by the tapadar out of his own pocket over and above the bills received from the bania. I will endeavour to make out from these papers what was the cost of each camp at Dadu to which they refer. They refer to the camps of the Dy. Collector, Collector and the Sessions Judge.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

I have only recently been at Dadu. I have been previously Mukhtiarkar at Pithoro. I was Resident Magistrate at Mirpurkhas.

There was the same system there except that the tapadar got more there. Here the rate is Rs. 1-4 and there the rate is Rs. 2 for lapo. The system was the same but it has been somewhat restricted by Mr. Moysey.

Complaints have been made to me by the zamindars and tapadars of having been abused, illtreated and beaten by butlers and peons of the establishments of the touring officers.

The chheras are made to do all the work of menials in the camp.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain:

The cash payments are made by the tapadar to the Head Munshis and other munshis of the taluka office. The Head Munshi gets Rs. 15 per tapadar and other munshis some Rs. 5 and others Rs. 2.

It is the zamindar who provides eggs, fowls, grass, milk and butter outside the head quarters. He is not paid anything by the tapadar. At the head quarters it is the tapadar who purchases these things.

I understand that the total expenses of rasai amount to Rs. 6,000 out of which Rs. 1,500 or so would be cash payments. The half of lapo spent on rasai includes the cash payments also.

The daroghas of the P.W.D. don't systematically levy lapo like the tapadar. There may be some Mukhtiarkars who profit by the rasai fund. They mostly don't encourage the rasai fund.

I can't give instances of Mukhtiarkars having been appointed Dy. Collectors for making good rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney:

The zamindars can advise as to places in which clearance ought to be done and as to rotation of water supply. I think they would be experts in the details of these matters.

At present the zamindars represent themselves but if they were representatives at a conference they would represent the public.

I have no idea as to what the Executive Engineer has to consider in sanctioning the clearance estimate. Engineering knowledge would not be required by the zamindars. I have never seen the bills paid by the P. W. D. officers for supplies. I can't say if they are paid in full or not. I know one of the chief duties of the darogha is to see that the trees are not cut.

To the Chairman:

I don't know the details of the impounding of cattle by the P. W. D.

To Mr. Mahmudshah:

I have never tried Chapter VIII cases. I have not been empowered to do so. There has been a change in the system of working Chapter VIII cases during the last 4 years.

To the Chairman:

There is at present a deficit in the rasai fund at Dadu. I think it is about Rs. 2,000. The total rasai fund in my taluka is about Rs. 6,000 a year. The total lapo is about Rs. 22,000 to Rs. 13,000.

I had once succeeded in stopping lapo in the Johi taluka in 1914. It only lasted a short time. If Mukhtiarkars gave their minds to it they could stop lapo but they would require the support of the higher officers. I stopped both rasai and lapo in Johi taluka.

To the Chairman:

I was not in charge during the time these accounts were made. I joined at Dadu only on 13th April 1918. I was transferred from Pithoro in the Thar and Parkar district so I don't know personally about these accounts. The Mukhtiarkar relieved was Dharandas who is now Chief Officer, Larkana Municipality. My native place is Larkan

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. DHARAMDAS, CHIEF OFFICER, LARKANA MUNICIPALITY.

To the Chairman:

I have been for 10 days Chief Officer, and before that I was Mukhtiar of Dadu for about 7 months. My service is 10 years, all in Sind. I was at Dadu during the last camp of the Dy. Collector and Sessions Judge. The tapadar of Dadu at that time was Munshi Jawhermal. I have not seen any of these rasai papers and the rasai note book before. The tapadar who made the rasai of these officers was tapadar Jawhermal—the tapadar at head quarters. I can't say by whom these rasai papers were written but some of them are signed. Tapadar Bhojraj of tapa Mondar was also helping. Some of the chits are signed by Bhojraj.

I understand some of the supplies required were brought by the officers' servants direct from the bazar—the others were brought by the tapadar mostly from the bazar. It is the practice to get things from the bazar at taluka head quarters. Nothing was got from the zamindars. As far as I know even karbi and fuel were bought from the bazar, as karbi was very scarce at the time with the zamindars. I had nothing personally to do with making rasai for these officers. I believe that the head quarter tapadar did keep a rasai fund at Dadu. Every tapadar takes his own pay every month.

The list is probably of the amounts which each tapadar had to contribute towards the rasai fund. I can't say whether the actual money was paid or is to be paid.

The Dy. Collector was there for about 20 days, the Collector for 9 days and the Sessions Judge for nearly two months. There were a great many witnesses during that time. The accused was defended by Mr. Eardly Norton. As far as I know, his own clients looked after Mr. Norton. Mr. Lalchand Chuharmal was also for the defence. As far as I know these papers would not include the expenses of Mr. Norton.

To the Hon. Mr. Harchandrai:

I had no hand in the rasai fund at Dadu.

To Mr. Sawhney:

I was told by Jawhermal that there was a deficit in the rasai fund. He told me so just before I left. He did not tell me how much the deficit was.

I think the Dy. Collector's camp was there with that of the Sessions Judge—but I don't think the Collector's camp was then there.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. JAWHERMAL, TAPADAR, DADU.

To the Chairman:

I made the rasai for the camps of the Dy. Collector, Collector, and the Sessions Judge, Bhojraj, tapadar of Mondar, did not assist at Dadu. He made the bandobust at his own tapa. Mondar is 5 miles from Dadu. The Collector only had a camp at Mondar. The Collector had also a camp at Dadu.

I gave these papers to Mukhtiarkar Wadhmal. They are accounts of the rasai fund. These papers also include expenses of kotars, menials and other miscellaneous expenses besides those for the rasai of the Deputy Collector, Collector and Sessions Judge. These chits are orders on the modi for supplies for rasai. Some of the chits are signed by Bhojraj because they relate to the Collector's camp at Mondar. Mondar is a big place. These accounts include the rasai at Mondar. In fact the rasai of all the camps of the taluka is included in these papers because the rasai fund is managed by the tapadar at Head quarters.

This notebook is in my handwriting. It is a memo. of miscellaneous expenses such as milk fowls, eggs and all cash payments. All these supplies were bought in the bazar including milk. They regularly sell milk in the bazar. Eggs and fowls are not sold in the bazar but purchased from private houses.

This is a statement of the contributions by the various tapadars from their pajs and is in the handwriting of a tapadar named Pahlumal of Pat. He kept it in order to see that none of the collections was misappropriated by me. I kept the money and he kept the accounts.

The bundle of papers is in the handwriting of munshis Pahlumal and Imambux while some are in my handwriting. They include accounts of the supplies given to all camps and to all the establishments. It also contains a note of all moneys received.

Mukhi Menghraj prepared the bill of the Collector's camp. The Mukhi prepared the bill and took it to the Collector with the Supervising tapadar. I did not go. The Supervising tapadar Shamsuddin told me that the money was taken by the Collector's butler. Money was paid by the Collr., but it was taken back by the butler. That was the butler dismissed by the Collector. That butler was paid Rs. 100 according to this account. It was paid through Imambakhsh patawala at Manzal Punjodero and not at Dadu.

Pages 1-5 of these papers are in the handwriting of Pahlumal but signed by me, pages 6-16 are in my handwriting and pages 18-25 in Pahlumal's handwriting. Page 27 is in the handwriting of the tapadar Imambux and 28 and 29 in that of tapadar Doulatram. Page 33 is in the handwriting of Imambakhsh the Mukhtiarkar's patewalla. Page 65 is in the handwriting of Bhojraj tapadar and the other papers are in the handwriting of one or the other of the tapadars.

I did not show these papers to Mukhtiarkar Dharamdas. I showed them to the Mukhtiarkar, Wadhmal, because he asked me for details of the amounts to be paid from the rasai fund. He asked me because the creditors were dunning the tapadars. They must have complained direct to the Mukhtiarkar.

I belong to Arzi, taluka Sehwan. The deficit in the rasai fund is about Rs. 2,000. The tapadars did not get any lapo because this year there was no kharif. The crops were all ruined by floods.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF TAPADAR HARGUNDAS

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Hargundas. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Tapadar. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Kareja. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Between 7 and 8 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Experience of tapadars' work. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. A Tapa. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. Mutton, milk, firewood, butter, fowls, eggs, vegetables, potatoes, sugar, fish, cots, jars, grass and onions. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. Cots 30 to 60, jars 35 to 70, earthen drinking bowls 8, earthen platters 2 to 4, earthen baking pans 2 to 6. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. Tapadar's dero; where there is no dero private houses or huts. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. Huts are made with the help of the zamindar. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. They have their office in tents. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. Zamindars' men from 20 to 30, and sometimes bullock-carts are also taken, the hire for which is paid by them. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. They are not in good condition. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The Local Board. The roads are repaired by malhis. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. Ordinarily no special repairs are made but when a road leads to an officer's camp and is in bad condition then haris are taken from zamindars for repairing it. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? | 16. Horses and hired camels. The kit is carried on baggage camels. During the touring season they maintain their own animals, but sometimes require cots for which they pay. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? | 17. Ordinarily tapadars' kotars, and in special cases zamindars' men carry post. |
| 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 18. Ordinarily the Assistant Collector encamps in a tapa once; the Collector never encamps in it. |
| 19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 19. There is no camping ground there; but when an officer encamps there, a ground is prepared for the occasion, the zamindar's chher being employed for the purpose. |

20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 20. Nearly every camping ground is within reach of villages.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. }
22. Which are them of provided with bungalows? 22. } No answer.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. }

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. It means supplies to officers and their establishments at camps.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 25. Fowls 2, eggs 6 to 12, butter one pao, milk 2 seers, firewood 2 maunds grass not exceeding 12 bundles, mutton (including that for dogs) one seer, rice straw one bundle.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. Milk 15 to 30 seers, mutton 6 to 15 seers, firewood 15 to 35 maunds, fresh vegetables, eggs 2 to 6, butter half a seer to 2 seers, besides other articles which are obtained from the shop.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. Rice Rs. 8 to 12 per maund, eggs 6 to 9 annas per dozen, fowl 6 to 10 annas each, sheep 10 to 12 rupees each, milk 0-1-6 to 2 annas per seer, butter 3 to 5 paos per rupee, stalks 3 annas per bundle, rice straw 4 annas per bundle, firewood 6 annas a maund.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Yes.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. Rs. 20 to 40 including provisions.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies, and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. Tapadars with the help of the zamindars collect the supplies and bring them to camp.
31. Officers pay bills at low rates and the amount paid is taken back by the butlers. The rest pay nothing. As a safeguard they pay the money to the bania and get a receipt and the money is paid back to them by the tapadar. 31. How are they paid for?
32. Officers' servants and peons never get anything on payment; They put pressure on the tapadar to procure to them what they want, whether the tapadar or zamindar pays for it none receive payment. 32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 33. None except officers make payments.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the bania or zamindars or tapadars or mukhtarkars? 34. The loss is borne by the tapadars except at some places where it is borne by zamindars.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtarkars? 35. Tapadars meet it from lapo.

36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ? 36. No.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ? 37. There is no garden there. We get vegetables from the bazar and supply them but we receive no payment.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ? 38. No effect has been given to them for zamindars did not undertake the responsibility. Tapadars collect the supplies, getting some from zamindars.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindars ? 39. Where there are shops all supplies can be obtained from them. At such places officers should not get their supplies through tapadars and zamindars. Contractors should be appointed for camps away from villages. It will not be possible to find an independent contractor in the tapa.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ? 40. We do not get orders for providing supplies. We simply get intimation of camps and are asked to make all arrangements.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ? 41. No.
42. Do you give "Dhals" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers ? 42. No.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhals" and sheep? And whence are they obtained ? 43. No dali is given to an establishment but vegetables and liquor are given.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject ? No answer.
- Lapo.*
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ? 45. It means what is levied for the purpose of rasai.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? 46. There are two forms.
47. In the Revenue Department lapo is levied by tapadars from zamindars for the ostensible purpose of rasai. Lapo is also levied in other departments, such as the Public Works, Forest, Police etc. It is levied by the vaccinators in the Sanitary Department.
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ? 48. We levy lapo from the khatedars at the same time as the 1st instalment of assessment for kharif and rabi from 1 to 4 annas per acre. But some khatedars do not pay it.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ? 49. One third of the lapo is spent on the rasai of touring officers. It is not converted into a rasai-fund. This fund is constituted from the pay of tapadars pending receipt of lapo.
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund ? 50. Two or three tapadars.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. One third of the lapo is utilized for money presents. Approximately each tapadar spends from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 on such presents.
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
52. No favours are shown on account of lapo.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. If money presents are made the strictness of examination of records is mitigated, otherwise not.
54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. Years ago all zamindars paid lapo; now some do not pay it.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. No.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
56. Rasai should be stopped altogether; and tapadars and zamindars should have nothing to do with it.

2. The tapadars' pay should be raised to Rs. 50 and horse allowance to Rs. 25, for the expenses of a tapadar including the feed of his horse amount to Rs. 45 per month. Besides this he has to support his family.

Chher.

57. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
57. Chher means impressed labour.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
58. They are zamindars' haris.
59. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to construct land-his, to carry things, to do miscellaneous work, to fetch water, to close breaches, and in special cases to repair roads.
59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. No.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
61. On some occasions they receive bakshish from officers.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
62. Casual paid labour can be procured through zamindars.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government?
63. Beldars are not under us.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
64. They are not bound except when there are serious breaches and floods.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
65. No.

66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour. 66. This has been answered under No. 68.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 67. For the assistant Collector 5 and for the Collector 15 chheras are required.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps? 68. In the case of the Assistant Collectors 15 and in the case of the Collector 30 additional men are required.
69. Whence do they obtain them? 69. They are obtained from zamindars as chheras.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 70. They receive no payment. They get food only from the zamindars provided he is a well-to-do man.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor? 71. The cost would be 6 annas per labourer. Yes, it could be obtained by contractors on payment of good wages.
72. How do they obtain labour for shukar? 72. }
73. } No answer.
74. }
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 73. }
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 74. }
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 75. Chher is taken from zamindars for the repair of roads in special cases.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials? 76. They are given nothing except food when the zamindar is a well-to-do man.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 77. Zamindari haris.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 78. Nothing.
79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. Generally it does not interfere.
80. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 80. This does not apply to me.
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 81. No.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 82. I consider that chher should be abolished. All touring officers should have Government khalasis with them.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HARGUNDAS, TAPADAR, LARKANA.

To The Chairman.—

My tapa is in the Larkana taluka. I mean by patun earthen dishes. Nothing is paid to the haris who mend the roads. The usual march of an Assistant Collector is from 6 to 8 m'les. The haris are not paid anything for clearing camping grounds. A dumba trained to fight would cost Rs. 20—25. It would be a small dumba for Rs. 7. The liquor I referred to is country liquor. Sometimes the butler gets country liquor as well as the establishment.

Lapo is of two kinds in cash and in kind. Only the tapadar takes lapo in cash, supervising tapadars and subordinates of other departments take lapo in kind.

Both the cost of supplies and cash payments are paid out of the rasai fund. The tapadars have also to pay in addition to the rasai fund cash payments to the establishment and they also come out of lapo. If to the rasai fund are added the separate cash payments two-thirds of the lapo is expended. It costs 6 annas for grass and 8 annas for grain to feed a horse for a day. None but haris are employed as chheras.

To Mr. Sawhney:

Last year my lapo came to Rs. 300. Rs. 200 were spent in Rasai and cash payments. That was a different tapa last year.

The tapadars manage by money payments to get better tapas from the Head Munshis. Those who pay the most get the best tapas.

If the tapadar's pay is raised then lapo would stop. If rasai only is stopped, still owing to their small pay the tapadar will try to get lapo.

The tapadar has to be present when the payments of land revenue are made. Otherwise there might be confusion as to the lands for which it has been paid because the khatadars can't specify the lands for which they make payments.

If it could be arranged to pay the assessment direct at taluka head-quarters, then lapo would stop. If the tapadar has not to collect the revenues he will not be able to make exactions.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah:

Fire-wood is taken for rasai purposes from Government jungles. In those cases nothing is paid.

The Assistant Collector gives notice of his camps to the Mukhtiarkar who in turn gives me notice to make proper arrangement for the camps.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GUL MAHOMED, TAPADAR.

1. Name. 1. Gul Mahomed.
 2. Appointment. 2. Tapadar.
 3. Head-quarters. 3. Mihroda.
 4. Length of service. 4. 12 years.
 5. Length of service and special experience in Sindh. 5. 12 years' service; experience of tapadar's duties.
- General.*
6. What is the area covered by your charge? 6. A whole tapa.
 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? 7. Butter, milk, mutton, eggs, fowls, fuel, vegetables, grass, potatoes, onions, spices, fish, sugar, jar and cots.
 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? 8. For the District officer and his establishment cots, jars, earthen baking pans, earthen platters, earthen cups, earthen mutkas or big jars (mutkas).
For the divisional officer and his establishment, cots 30, jars 35, earthen baking pans 2, earthen platters 3, earthen cups 3, earthen mutkas or big jars 2.
 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? 9. Munshis and clerks are accommodated in zamindars' landhis wherever these are available or in tapadars' deras.
 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? 10. Landhis are built up with the help of zamindars for stables. Rice straw and stalks and a few pegs are also provided.
 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? 11. They hold their offices in tents.
 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? 12. From 20 to 30 zamindari men are supplied.
 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 13. The roads are in good condition.
 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? 14. The Mukhtiarkar is responsible for the repairs to roads. The work is done through the malhis.
 15. Ordinarily no special repairs are undertaken. When the condition of the roads is very bad and they lead to officers' camps the repairs are made with the help of chher supplied by zamindars.
 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps?
 16. Officers maintain horses of their own and hired camels on tour, also baggage camels for their kit. Their official establishments also maintain hired camels. Sometimes they require carts the hire for which is paid by them.
 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters?
 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 17. Ordinarily tapadar's kotars and in some cases zamindar's men are employed for the conveyance of post.

18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 18. There is no regular camping ground in my tapa. Ordinarily the Assistant Collector encamps in the tapa.
19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. There are no regular camping grounds to prepare but when an officer encamps cheras are supplied by zamindar to make one.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 20. All are within reach of bania shops.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. To none.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22 and 23. None.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
- Rasai.*
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means provisions etc. supplied to touring officers without payment.
25. For each officer the following articles and others required by the butler are provided:—
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? eggs $\frac{1}{2}$ doz., fowls 2, butter $\frac{1}{2}$ ser, milk 2 sers, firewood 2 mds., stalks 4 to 12 bundles, mutton 1 ser, rice straw one bundle.
26. For private and official establishments:—
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? milk 15-30 ser, mutton 6-15 ser, firewood 15-33 mds. eggs $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 doz., fowls 2 to 6, butter $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 sers. Besides these, other articles are brought from the bania's shop.
27. Rice Rs. 8 to 10 per maund, eggs 6 to 9 annas per dozen, fowls 6 to 10 annas each, sheep 10 to 20 rupees each, milk 0-1-6 to 2 annas per seer, butter $\frac{1}{2}$ seer to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sers per rupee, jowari stalks 10 to 20 rupees per 100 bundles, firewood 6 annas a maund.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Yes.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. The daily aggregate cost of all requirements including provisions is from Rs. 20 to 40.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. At camps away from any town, besides these articles and others obtained from the bania, fowls, eggs, butter, grass, firewood etc. are collected by the tapadar either by obtaining them from zamindars or by purchasing them in the bazar.
31. How are they paid for? 31. 1. Officers make payments at reduced rates but the money is taken back by their butlers.
2. Private servants or official establishments make no payment. With a view to be on the safe side, they make payment to the bania, obtain his receipt and then recover back the money from the tapadar.

32. Private servants and official establishments of officers never pay for anything. They simply tell the tapadar to supply them the things that they want. The tapadar provides the things either by buying them or obtaining them from the zamindars. Neither the tapadars nor the zamindars are paid for the things. The money paid on account of bills of officers is taken back by the butler.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapadars or mukhtarkars?
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapadars or mukhtarkars?
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapadars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapadars and zamindar?
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?
- 33 & 34. No payments are made except in the case of officers. In some places payments are made by the zamindars—generally the tapadars make the payments.
35. All expenses in connection with camps in villages are borne by the tapadar and met from his lapo.
36. Nothing.
37. We obtain vegetables from bama's shops but receive no payment.
38. The rules of 1914 were not given effect to because the zamindars did not undertake the responsibility. We obtain the supplies partly on payment and partly from the zamindars.
39. In large towns where there are shops selling all things officers should obtain nothing through the zamindars or tapadars. For villages, contractors should be appointed—no contractor could be found for a tapa.
40. No intimation is given of the things required—intimation is given of camps only.
41. No.
42. No.
43. No dhalis are given.
44. No answer.
- Lapo*
45. Lapo means annual payments which the tapadar or officials of other departments levy from zamindars and the general public in lieu of rasai and for their own use.
46. It is of two kinds; one is a cash payment and the other a payment in kind.

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
47. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapadars, the Registration Department, the Police, the Engineering, Vaccination and Forest Departments from zamindars and the general public and haris in lieu of rasai and for their own use.
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
48. The tapadar levies it at 0-0-6 to 2 annas per jireb.
The Registration Department levies it at 8 annas to one rupee per cent.
The Police Department levies it in both cash and kind.
The Engineering Department 10 per cent. on contracts
Rs. 3 from kurmis and naris and from haris in the manner of reaped ears of grain.
The Vaccination Department levies it from villagers in cash.
The Forest Department levies it on Panchari and Government timber.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
49. 1-3rd of the tapadar's lapo is spent on rasai, it being converted into a rasai fund for the purpose.
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
50. 2 or 3 tapadars manage it here.
51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. At jamabandi Rs. 350
At akharsal or close of the year Rs. 200
At inspection of records Rs. 500
Each tapadar besides pays to supervising tapadars and others Rs. 100
These are annual payments
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
52. In the Revenue Department no favour is shown to zamindars for the payment of lapo.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. By the payment the strictness of examination is mitigated.
54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. Before the rules of 1914 every one paid lapo. Since the rules it is taken from those who pay it willingly—no one is compelled to pay it.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. No.
56. Rasai can be stopped if zamindars and tapadars have no hand in it. The pay and horse allowance should be doubled as the personal expenses of the tapadar including the feed of the horse amount to Rs. 45 per month. The expenses of his family are apart. Rasai can't be stopped by making changes in the Land Revenue Code.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
- Chher.*
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
57. Chher means forced labour.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
58. Chheras are hari:

59. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch tents, to build landhis, to load and un-load kit, to fetch water, to do miscellaneous work and specially to repair roads and to close breaches.
59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
60. The chheras have not been given lands from Government but they are given lands by zamindars to cultivate on condition of their performing such labour
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from officials of Government ?
61. Officers sometimes pay them something in cash. Large zamindars only feed them when they are so employed.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
62. Casual paid labour can be obtained for such work through the zamindars.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Fund or Government ?
63. There are no beldars in my charge.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
64. They are not bound except in the case of serious breaches.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour ?
66. Answered under No. 68.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ?
67. 5 for divisional office, 15 for district office.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps ?
68. 15 for divisional office.
30 for district office.
69. Whence do they obtain them ?
69. They are obtained from the zamindars as chher.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
70. Neither the officers nor the zamindars pay them, only well-to-do zamindars feed them.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor ?
71. The cost will be Rs. 0-6-0 per day per man. Labour could be obtained by the contractor on payment of the fair wage.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar ?
72. The zamindars supply labour for shikar.
73. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment ?
73. No answer.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars ?
74. No.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?
75. When officers encamp beldars alone are not sufficient; additional labour is required on such occasions.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials ?
76. Nothing.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
77. Haris.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?
78. No answer.

79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. It does not cause much loss.
80. How far does the employment of 'bejars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 80. That is not the case here.
81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders? 81. No.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 82. Chher should be stopped. Khalasis should be appointed to each officer's camp.

Note on Lapo and the Revenue Department.

We do take lapo as a matter of courtesy from zamindars and khatedars in return for services rendered and for good treatment shown to them. This custom has been in existence for centuries; officers have from time to time tried to suppress it but their efforts have failed owing to willingness on the part of the giver to pay and to the special needs of the parties (the tapadar and the khatedars). These needs will be described in detail below. It will then be seen that we take lapo by the force of circumstances, otherwise we do not at all wish to live on unauthorized exactions levied in contravention of the orders of Government.

2. When khatedars come to Head-quarters we provide accommodation, bedding and food for them and look after the animals etc. Owing to these favours such friendly relations have sprung up between them and us that they willingly continue to pay lapo. This causes no loss to Government.

3. We do not gain anything by taking lapo. We on the contrary undergo great calamities. We receive lapo at stated times, i.e., in the months of February and June, but deductions from our pay are made in every month.

Until the time comes for the payment of lapo we are put to great inconvenience and privation. We are compelled to borrow money on interest from banias to defray our personal expenses on food and clothing and to maintain a house which is a disgrace for us.

4. Our pay is of course devoted to rasai. As regards lapo as soon as it is collected it is preyed upon by the establishments of superior officers. Hundreds of rupees are paid in annuities to all from the cooks and kotars of the supervising tapadars upto the establishments of superior officers. This we consider as necessary to preserve our respect and to assure our livelihood. In spite of our poor circumstances we withhold such payments there is no escape from the claws of the ferocious wolves of peons and of the lions of fierce looking inspecting munshis. Mistakes or no mistakes they will prejudice the officer against the man who has not paid them their annuities. It is therefore absolutely necessary for us to pay the annual tolls.

5. We regard lapo as a deadly poison, even as the destroyer of life. We therefore humbly pray that such an unlawful practice should be condemned, and suppressed as soon as possible to the advantage of the public and ourselves and to the glory of Government.

Unless attention is paid to the following things it is very hard to stop lapo:—

- i. Rasai should be rooted out.
- ii. The tapadar's records excepting the jamabandi should not be inspected especially at a camp in tapa by any one except the supervising tapadar and the Mukhtiarkar.
- iii. During the tour after the inspection of the field work the tapadar should not be allowed to come into the camp or the town of the camp but told to live in a neighbouring village.
- iv. Khatedars should be allowed to remit their assessments to treasuries by money order direct, or, if the tapadar must make recoveries, to pay them to the tapadar at headquarters under the strict supervision of the Mukhtiarkar during the 10 days. The tapadars should get the receipt books of khatedars countersigned by the Mukhtiarkar immediately after the payments are made.

v. The following are the monthly expenses of the tapadar :—
Daily expenses including servant's pay:

| | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-----------|
| Morning— | |
| Atta $\frac{1}{2}$ seer | 0 2 3 |
| Mutton $\frac{1}{4}$ seer | 0 1 6 |
| Ghee 1 chhatak | 0 1 6 |
| Spices, etc. | 0 0 6 |
| Evening— | |
| Rice $\frac{1}{2}$ seer | 0 2 3 |
| Ghee | 0 1 6 |
| Milk $\frac{1}{4}$ seer | 0 1 3 |
| Fire-wood and water | 0 1 3 |
| | 0 12 0 |
| At the rate of 0-12-0 a day monthly expenses will amount to | 24 4 0 |
| Pay of servant | 5 0 0 |
| House rent | 4 0 0 |
| Washing charges | 1 0 0 |
| Barber | 0 8 0 |
| Home expenses | 30 0 0 |
| | 64 12 0 |

In view of the above scale of expenses the tapadar's pay should be not less than Rs. 50 per mensem.

vi. Tapadars maintain very strong horses so as to be able to accompany European officers on tour and at the time of partial and to attend to urgent work without any delay. Rs. 10 is therefore not sufficient for the feed of the tapadar's horse. In the Police Department Rs. 25 is the sanctioned allowance for a horse. We should also be granted at least Rs. 25 as horse allowance for our horses do more work than those of the Police.

vii. The tapadar gets 8 annas for contingencies per mensem. As the tapadar uses much stationery and as the prices are very high the allowance should be increased to Rs. 2 at least.

When these requirements of tapadars, which are absolutely necessary are satisfied we shall be able to say with certainty that we have made up our minds never to take lapo, otherwise it is not possible that lapo will be stopped, our needs being what they are.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. GUL MAHOMED TAPADAR.

To the Chairman

My tapa is in taluka Larkana. The chheras receive no money for mending the roads.

At the end of the abkalam the regular camels are dismissed and tongas are engaged for the establishment, the hire of which is paid by the tapadars. The servants and the patawallas get on the bullock carts. The usual march of an Assistant Collector's camp is 2-4-6 miles, some times as far as 8. It is the custom for the tapadar to accompany the touring officer upto the limits of his tapa.

The Assistant Collector sometimes makes camps after only a 2 mile march for the purpose of crop inspection

Firewood varies from 6 to 8 annas a maund. There is no revenue jungle in my tapa fit for the production of firewood.

P. W. D.'s subordinates get lapo at the time of harvesting. The Rs. 100 for the supervising tapadar is for himself and other munshis.

To the Hon. Mr Harchandrai

Lapo is given for the civilities shewn by the tapadars.

The amount of our pay withheld depends upon the expenses of the particular month. It is quite practicable for all the Land Revenue to be paid at one treasury except that one treasurer would not be able to cope with all the work as there are so many khatedars. There is no need for the tapadar to be present at the time of payments. The khatedar gets a bill for the money due from him.

To the Chairman:

The khatedar has only one khata book for all the lands in each deh.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF DR. GUSTASP.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Dr. N. Gustasp. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Larkana Division. |
| 3. Head-quarters. | 3. Larkana. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 13 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. About six years. |
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour ? | 6. 1,15,399 acres. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour ? | 7. Seven months (November to May, both inclusive). |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour ? | 8. One butler, one cook and one sweeper. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ? | 9. One clerk and 3 peons. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ? | 10. Rice, flour and spices. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ? | 11. Ghee, milk, meat, eggs, fowls and firewood. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ? | 12. My official furniture includes chairs, tables and carpets and private furniture consists of chairs, crockery lamps, cutlery, etc. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ? | 13. Nothing additional is needed by me but water jars for office and menials. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour ? | 14. One office tent and one raoti for peons. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ? | 15. Kacha landhis are constructed where there are no bungalows. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ? | 16. None. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour ? | 17. 3 record boxes containing files, registers and maps and one type-writer. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ? | 18. Generally a tent is pitched where there is no bungalow available. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ? | 19. Labour is necessary for pitching tents and bringing water. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ? | 20. Not in good condition. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ? | 21. They are being repaired by the Revenue authorities. |

22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. None.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head-quarters? 23. Baggage and riding camels for tour in the district that I engage at Head-quarters for the whole period of my tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. Post is fetched from the Post Office to my camp by forest guards.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. There are fixed camping places, partly in P.W. D. bungalows, partly in villages near forests.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Generally maldars keep in order the camping ground where necessary.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 27. All.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. In P. W. D. bungalows.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Nasrat, Naodera, Khalid, Dokri, Gajidero, Radhan, Sita, Dadu, Bhan, Puranodero, Schwan, Doulatpur and Bilwar.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. Generally a chowkidar.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 31. This means the system of supplies provided at camps to touring officers and establishment.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. 6 eggs, 1 to 2 chickens, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer milk and ghee about 4 annas worth.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. For servants—meat occasionally, ghee 1 anna worth.
For office establishment—ghee 4 annas worth meat worth 2 annas.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajra or jowar stalks and firewood? 34. Eggs 2 pice each, fowl 4 annas each, milk free, ghee $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per Rupee.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. None.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. 11 to 15 annas, 3 annas, 6 annas respectively.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. The ranger arranges for the supply of articles of provision with the help of forest guards.

38. I pay the amount for all the supplies on receipt of a bill from the ranger and my establishment whether private or official keep account with the banua to whom it is paid.
38. How are they paid for ?
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp ?
39. I have no guarantee but have received no complaints.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments ?
40. No difference.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne ? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
41. Not greater.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasa' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars ?
42. No excess.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables ?
43. Cots and jars are returned, no material is required for stables.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds ?
44. Vegetables are occasionally purchased from villages and the amount is also included in the bill which is presented to me for payment.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service ?
45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service ?
46. No.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914 ? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars ?
47. This has no concern with the Forest Department.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914 ? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars ?
48. This has no concern with the Forest Department.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars ?
49. I arrange to get supplies as described in the answer to question N. 37.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders ?
50. None.
51. Do you receive " Dhals " of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars ?
51. None.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such " Dhals " and sheep ?
52. None.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government ?
53. Flowers and some fruit may be accepted from persons who can afford. No difficulty has been experienced.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ? 54. This is being given to tapedars in the Revenue Department by zamindars and the system is not prevalent here.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ? 55. I do not know.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? 56. Ditto.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ? 57. Ditto.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ? 58. Ditto.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund ? 59. Ditto.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ? 60. Ditto.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ? 61. No unauthorized lapo is exacted in matters of forest.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ? 62. As far as I know there is no such lapo.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ? 63. Ditto.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ? 65. No. I have nothing to say about it.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ? 66. Men employed on free labour.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 67. Generally maldars.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ? 68. They assist in pitching tent, fetching water and firewood.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 69. No.

70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government? 70. Here only maldars work as chheras, some of them have got free passes for grazing their cattle in forests.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 71. None.
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government? 72. None.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 73. I have nothing to say on this.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 74. Ditto.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour? 75. This is required for pitching tent, etc.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp? 76. 3 labourers.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp? 77. 3 more labourers.
78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. These are generally the maldars residing in the neighbourhood of camps.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. Nothing.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasar' contractor? 80. Rs. 1-2-0 per day. I can not say about this.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments? 81. This can be done.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. I do not require any labour for shikar.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. Vide reply given on question No 82.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Ditto.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. There is no such system of repairing roads here.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. Vide reply on question no 85 above.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. This is the concern of the P. W. D.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. Ditto.

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the samndars ? 89. I have nothing to say on the subject.
90. How far does the employment of "beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ? 90. Ditto
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government ? 92. In my opinion chher should be entirely suppressed and labour system on wages should be introduced.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JASHANMAL MURIJMAL.

1. Name. 1. Jashanmal Murijmal.
 2. Appointment. 2. Mukhtiarkar.
 3. Head-quarters 3. Mehar.
 4. Length of service. 4. 15 years.
 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. 15 years all in Sind. Have worked in the capacity of a clerk, head munshi, Resident Magistrate and Mukhtiarkar.
- General.*
6. What is the area covered by your charge? 6. Mehar taluka.
 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? 7. Eggs, mutton, fuel, milk and grass, palā, cots and jars. Other things are purchased from bunias shops.
 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? 8. Dy. Collector Collector. Commissioner
Cots .. 15 30 50
Jars .. 20 40 60
 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? 9. They have got tents or they are accommodated in out houses or bungalows or musafirkhanas or in deras.
 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? 10. Landlus are built if no stables are available.
 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? 11. There are office tents
 12. About 30 chheras are required for pitching and unpitching the tents and for loading and unloading the kit About 6 chheras are required daily for filling water, fuel, grass, etc.
 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps?
 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 13. Good except during floods
 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? 14. Taluka local boards. Beldars are employed.
 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency to the roads to their various camps? 15. When special repairs are needed, zamindars supply labour free of charge
 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at head-quarters? 16. They engage baggage camels for the whole period of tour.
 17. The Collector's peons take the post from Larkana to the camp by rail. If the camp is away from the railway station, he hires a tum tum and charges are defrayed by Government. At few of the camps on kachhobhar arrangements were made by mukhtiarkars for the carriage of post from taluka Head-quarters to the camp, kotars were employed for this work. The post of the Deputy Collector is carried by kotars by bullocks.
 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 17. At few of the camps on kachhobhar arrangements were made by mukhtiarkars for the carriage of post from taluka Head-quarters to the camp, kotars were employed for this work. The post of the Deputy Collector is carried by kotars by bullocks.
 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 18. (1) Radhan station, (2) Tharra Mohobat; (3) Mehar; (4) Manjan.

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. At all these places there are bungalows, Local Board malhis and some times zamindars chher prepare camping ground for the establishment.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 20. All of them.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. Radhan Station, Praujar or Mehar.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22. All.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. One.

Rasai.

24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Providing supplies to officers.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?
- | | Dy. Collector | Collector. | Commissioner |
|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Eggs | 12 | 24 | |
| Fowls | 2 | 4 | |
| Mutton | 1 seer | 2 seers. | |
| Milk | 1 seer. | 4 seers. | 8 seers. |
| Fuel | 1 maund. | 2 maunds. | 4 maunds |
| Grass | 4 bundles | 8 bundles. | 16 bundles. |

26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. It is a variable quantity depending upon the number and conduct of servants. On an average the quantity is shown as under per head :-

Sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Flour $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Ghee $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Rice $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Dal $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Milk $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, Mutton 1 pound, vegetables worth 2 pice, butter $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., spices $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, fuel $\frac{1}{2}$ maund to 1 maund, jar 1, cot 1.

7. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or, jowan stalks and firewood? 27. Two pice per egg, two annas per seer of milk, 6 to 8 annas per fowl, one rupee for 3 pounds of butter. Fuel and grass are not paid for. Remaining articles are paid for at market price.
8. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. No.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. Dy. Collector. Rs. 15. Collector. Rs. 30. Commissioner Rs. 50 including charges of things purchased from bazar.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. By tapadars and zamindars.
31. How are they paid for? 31. The bills are given and money is received by the bania and the tapedar.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of the camp? 32. There is no guarantee. They are not retained by the tapedar. They are generally repaid to the officer's butler or the munshis concerned.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 33. The actual cost as shown above is generally borne by the tapedars. But even if partial payments are made, about 20% of the actual expenses is recovered.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
34. The excess is borne by tapedars.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
35. From rasai fund maintained by tapedars.
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
36. No.
37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
37. No payments are made.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamundars?
38. The rules have been found to be unworkable. The supplies are provided by tapedars.
39. Camps should be made as far as possible either at head-quarters or in big villages. The work of distant villages should be supervised by riding from the camp if possible. The whole establishment should be asked to purchase things from bazar. In camps outside the headquarters the touring officer should be content with a small establishment. It is extremely difficult to reserve a contractor. Even if one is secured he should be a salaried servant. He should get advance from Government for incurring expenses in connection with officers' camps. The contractor should have nothing to do with the tapedar or zamindar. I would suggest an alternative. I would propose that small khatedars be given small grants of lands and made patels. They only should be made responsible for the supply of the provisions to touring officers on payment. The officers should try not to encamp at places where there are no patels.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements & of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
40. Camps are fixed several days ahead. No intimation is given of requirements as there are contractors.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
41. No.
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
42. One dalhi of fruit is presented once a year to European officers.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
43. The price of such a dalhi varies from Rs. 4 to 6. It is purchased from head-quarters.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?
44. No officer should take such things from zamindars except fruit from gardens possessed by them.
- Lapo.**
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
45. Lapo comes from the word 'Lapo' (handful) In Upper Sind it is known as anagi or fixed amount, levied at the time of assessment.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
46. One anna per cultivated jireb on an average or in very rare cases in lump sums from big zamindars

47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
47. Lapo is levied from zemindars by the tapedar for the ostensible purposes of making rasai.
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
48. See answer No. 55.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
49. A certain percentage from the realization of a tapedar from lapo is utilized to cover the cost of rasai. Yes, it is converted.
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
50. Head-quarter tapedar generally.
51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. Money is paid for jamabandi, closing of annual accounts to munshis and tips to peons and servants. This payment is made from the rasai fund.
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
52. Zemindars have to pay extra for khat and khas mokal to tapedars and munshis.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. A few rupees are paid by a tapedar, whose record is inspected, to inspecting staff in order that his record should be examined leniently.
54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. No, only that no physical violence is used.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. No.
56. 1. Rasai should be stopped. 2. Harfats should not be paid much attention except when there is a very serious mistake. 3. No money order fee should be charged for remitting land revenue. 4. The number of post offices should be increased. 5. Pay of the tapedars and munshis should be raised. 6. Kacheris should be held by Collectors, Deputy Collectors and Mukhtiar-kars very often where all important correspondence should be disposed of.
- Chher.*
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
57. Chher means labour supplied free.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
58. Zemindars' raj and haris.
59. What kinds of labours are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
59. Pitching and unpitching tents, loading and unloading camels.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. Yes in the case of new haris and by custom in case of old ones.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
61. They are fed by zemindars.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
62. Casual labour is not available except at Mehar.

63. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government? 63. About 40 beldars and malhis by Local Funds. No beldar is maintained by Government.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 64. They are not bound.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour? 66. As shewn in paragraph 68.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 67 & 68. Dy. Collector. Collector. Commissioner
2 6 10
5 24 40
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps? 68. As shewn in paragraph 68.
69. Whence do they obtain them? 69. From zemindars.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 70. They are paid by zemindars.
71. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the Rasai contractor? 71. About 8 annas per head per day. No.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 72. From zemindars.
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 73. They are generally paid bakhshish.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 74. Only food.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 75. At the time of special repairs, 15 or 20 men are required every day for about a week.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials? 76. They are fed by zemindars.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 77. Zemindari labour. Generally those supply labour who are affected by breaches; 50 to 300 men are required looking to the nature and extent of the work.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindar or by Government? 78. Food twice a day by the P. W. D. or wages if they like.
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. Depends upon the season when breach occurs.
80. How far does employment of 'beldars' interfere with the ordinary work under the Local Boards? 80. It does not interfere much as a rule.
81. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders? 81. No.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 82. Chher appears to me to be indispensable for repairing roads during floods, breaches, for clearance of canals and for pitching and unpitching tents but they should be paid adequately.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. AHMEDI SON OF ALIGOHAR KURESHI
ZAMINDAR.

1. Name. 1. Ahmedi, son of Haji Aligohar Kureshi.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindari.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. About one thousand acres of land. I pay about Rs. 2,000 land revenue.
 4. Residence. 4. Pat, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. 5. Chairman Sanitary Committee, District Local Board Member, and Honorary Magistrate.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. Through making rasai at the bungalows of officers I secured the satisfaction of officers.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. 50 years.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. Within the limits of my taluka.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? 9. From the Commissioner in Sind down to the Mukhtiarkar.
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. All kinds of supplies according to the butler's instructions
 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? 11. We get on payment grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, mutton, vegetables and firewood.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from bamas or from your own house or from other zamindars. 12. Milk and stalks if not in our stock are obtained on payment and supplied; the burden of supplying the other things lies on the chair holders. The chair is the cause of this.
 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rate ? 13. Grain and rice at market prices, eggs 6 pies each, fowls 6 annas each, sheep from Rs. 10 to 15 each, butter at prevailing rates, vegetables are obtained partly from the local fund gardens and partly on payment from bamas, firewood at 4 annas a maund.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. No answer.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. We leave the work of supplying firewood for camps to our haris for which we feed them.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? 16. According to butlers' statements it varies from Rs. 5 to 10.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? 17. Yes.
 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 18. The daily cost is 8 annas per man.
 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Yes

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. The daily cost per munshi is Re. 1 per day.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. It depends on the strength of the establishment.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. No.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. It falls on us only.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. Nothing is paid and nothing is received.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. Onerupee is the daily hire for a horse or a camel; Rs. 1-8-0 for a cart; we receive no payment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarikars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. The daily cost in the case of the Mukhtiarikar and his establishment is Rs. 10, of Public Works Department men Rs. 5, of the supervising tapadar including his kotar, and private servant Rs. 2, the Police Inspector is generally a guest of some-body, of the tapadar at the time of patal and bigoti measurement Re. 1. We receive no payment.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. Can't say.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamadars? 32. We make rasai ourselves as regards provisions. The cash payments are made by the tapadars to peons and private servants.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamandars? 33. We receive no payment. Bills for officers are prepared by the tapadar who receives the payment.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamandars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamandars? 34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
(3) the establishment on from resorting to illegal ways. 36. There is no solution except to appoint independent contractors;
(2) touring of the officials should be curtailed
tour should be curtailed and should be prevented

37. Do you present 'Dhahs' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. Yes. I can't say how much it costs. It is left to one's option.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. Lapo means a handful but it is growing from day to day.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. There are different forms of lapo, according to the status of different officials. Lapo is generally levied in the Revenue Department, it is also levied in the Public Works Department. The Police Department do not levy it.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land and revenue?
41. Lapo is levied at a rate varying from 1 to 3 annas a rupee and at some places from 2 to 4 annas per acre.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. The supervising tapadar receives a lump sum from Rs. 20 to 50 from chair holder zamindars. The tapadar levies it per rupee or per acre as also receives a fee per number on khas mokal grants.
- The darogha levies from Rs. 2 to 5 per karia, Rs. 1-4 per wheel. The canal jamadar levies a rupee per karia, 4 annas per wheel and a toya of grain and a load of reaped ears of corn per heap. The forest ranger one rupee per acre. The forest jamadar 4 annas per acre and something from maldars.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Lapo and anagi are said to be levied for the purpose of making the rasai of big officials. We pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Unauthorized lapo is paid for paying money presents to the private and official establishments of touring officials. We pay lapo as well as make money presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. We make these presents with a view to secure their good will. These payments are made in addition to the daily allowances.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. It is paid lest they make groundless reports against us and put us to trouble and expense.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. Answered under No. 42.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. No amount is fixed and therefore I can't say.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. No. On the contrary there is the money order charge to pay.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. (1) Rasai should be stopped.
(2) All kinds of correspondence should be decided by the Mukhtarkar at Pacheries in the presence of the zamirdars and tapadars concerned. Kabuhats should be written out by the zamirdars themselves on printed forms to be supplied to them.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means labour supplied for camps of officers.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are haris and other hired labourers.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To pitch tents, to bring water, firewood and grass, to repair local fund roads, to close breaches and to clear canals.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamundars?
55. Yes.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamundars? or from the officers of Government?
56. Chheras are given 3 meals a day while so employed. Labourers are paid at the rate of 8 annas per day. They do not receive even half wages from Government.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. According to the strength of establishment from 10 to 50 chheras.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. For bringing provisions, water, stalk, and firewood 10 chheras are required daily. For pitching tents and making camping grounds see answer under 57.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamundars?
59. See answer under No. 56.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shukar?
60. From 25 to 100 chheras according to the conditions of the shukar.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamundars?
61. They come leaving their work under the compulsion of zamundars who feed them.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. The chair-holder zamundars specially are responsible for the repairs to Local Board roads. The number of chheras supplied depends upon the condition of the roads.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. They are of special benefit to the officers.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamundars or Local Boards?
64. They get nothing from Government. The zamundars feed them and also pay them wages.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. The number of chheras required depends upon the circumstances of each case.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamundars or officers of Government?
66. Please see answer under 56.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamundars?
67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. Casual paid labour is available to a small extent and with difficulty because the men are mostly haris.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamundars?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SETH TOURMAL.

Preliminary

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Seth Tourmal, son of Seth Kewalram. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari and banking. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Income tax about Rs. 200 and land revenue about Rs. 4000. |
| 4. Residence | 4. Shikarpur. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Municipal member and Commissioner's darbari. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Providing provisions and preparing camping grounds and providing other supplies and chher for officers' camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 27 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Larkana, Mahiota, Gokalpur and Kahran-jogote. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar and others. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Firewood, milk, grass, mutton, butter, flour, rice etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. Grain, rice, butter, vegetables and firewood are bought. As regards milk, some is obtained from haris and the rest bought. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. A shopkeeper is directed to supply these articles and I pay for them. I take no money contribution from any body. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates? | 13. I pay according to market rates. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes, they have. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I buy firewood and do not bring it from the jungles. A maund costs 7 to 8 annas. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. It is not a fixed charge and hence I cannot say what it amounts to. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. Cannot say. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. Cannot say
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 150.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. None at all. Officers pay their bills but the money is retained by the butler. No payment is made by their private servants, official staff and clerks.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hars or on you? 24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Munshis are lodged in our otaks but when they are too many to be accommodated in them, kacha huts are erected for them.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment. 26. The mats and timber cost a little but I receive no payment for them.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. I supply horses and bullock carts.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. I supply my own horses and obtain bullock carts from hars who make up the required number between them.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for Mukhtarkars, Public Works Supervisors, Police Inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 30. Cannot give the figure as there is no uniformity of practice. No payment is made.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. The cost is not a fixed charge. No estimate can be made. It fluctuates.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I place a shop-keeper at the disposal of the tapedar and supervising tapedar. I contribute my quota to the expenses. My cousins also pay their share
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. Neither the tapedar nor the contractor makes arrangements for rasai in my deh.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars. Without the aid of the tapedar or zamindar, no contractor can make arrangements.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Cannot say with certainty.
36. Officers on tour should pay for things, where they are procurable and should not unnecessarily throw the burden on zamindars. Where articles are not procurable, arrangements should be made by a bania to supply them with articles on market rates. 36. Officers on tour should pay for things, where they are procurable and should not unnecessarily throw the burden on zamindars. Where articles are not procurable, arrangements should be made by a bania to supply them with articles on market rates.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheen to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. I give fruit, vegetables and dhals. As regards cost, I cannot give the exact figure, as it varies.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. No. It should not be stopped. Dhals should be permitted.

Lapo.

39. One anna per rupee paid to tapedars and annual payments in cash or in kind made to subordinate officers of the Public Works Department, daroghas and mukadams for khuhadas and karias.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments? 40. It is levied in all departments. Further information has been given under answer to Question No. 39.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. There is not one form but many.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. Subordinate officers levy it for their own use as a matter of custom.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. I make rasai as well as pay lapo. Subordinate officers also pay from their lapo for sundry expenses.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. Private servants of officers receive tips as well as lapo from zamindars. Tapedars also pay them from their lapo.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 45. These amounts are not fixed. They are paid for no specific purpose but as a long established custom. Sometimes they take the form of daily allowances.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. No favour is shown. They are paid in accordance with custom.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted? 47. Cannot say.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'? 48. Cannot say.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars? 49. It has not been reduced.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the Mukhtarkars? 50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? 51. Lapo could be stopped if district officers would make the endeavour and be strict. There is no other way to stop it.

Chher.

52. Chher means labour supplied for pitching and striking tents at officers' camps, preparing camping grounds, fetching water, collecting supplies, repairing roads and closing breaches in canals and bunds.
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are zamindar's hais.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. This has been answered under No. 52.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. Land is not given on condition that chher will be supplied. Chher is taken from haris in accordance with custom.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government? 56. I give chheras cooked or uncooked food. Officers pay nothing.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. From 25 to 100.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. From 5 to 25.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. This has been answered under No. 56.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shukar? 60. I have never given chheras for shukar.
61. Chheras respond to our call in accordance with custom. No force is resorted to, but they do not come willingly. They come unwillingly in obedience to custom. I think chheras for shukar get some payment from officers.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Yes, they are requisitioned but how many I cannot say.
63. Such repairs are made principally for the benefit of officers and to please them. The public also derive benefit from them for a short time.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. Chheras are given cooked or uncooked food by me. They do not get anything from officers or local boards.
65. This depends upon the amount of work involved. Where there is a big breach, a larger number of chheras is supplied. When the amount of work is small, the number of chheras supplied is small.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. I give them cooked food. Officers give nothing.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Cultivation suffers when during cultivation season chheras are called away from their work and kept on the closing of breaches.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. During cultivation season a few labourers can be had with difficulty. In winter they can be had but in small numbers.
69. During cultivation season they cannot be procured by a contractor without the help of a zamindar. In winter they can be procured independently of zamindars on payment of advances and full wages.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Chher should not be abolished so far as the closing of breaches and the repairing of roads is concerned, but Government should pay them their wages. Chher for other purposes should be abolished. If chheras are required in connection with camps and for other purposes, men should be kept on the monthly system for these purposes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SADHUSING MORUSING

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Sadhusing Morusing. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pensioner and petty land holder. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Income Tax Rs. 85-5-0 a year and Land Revenue about Rs. 700 a year jointly with 4 brothers. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Banguldero, Taluka Ratodero. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Nil. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. The supply of provisions and the like to Government officials at their camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I know about rasai for the past 32 years but have never made it personally. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. As a private person the rasai is made on my behalf as a land holder at one camp viz. Banguldero. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. Collector, Deputy Collector, Mukhtiarkar, etc. |

10 to 33.

10 to 33. As the practice differs in different places and I have remained absent on service till the 4th January last, I am unable to give accurate information as regards the practice which has prevailed at Banguldero, my residence.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars? | 34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars because generally they appear to be unwilling workers. I also do not consider it possible to find contractors independent of tapadars and zamindars as none would be available for each and every case. |
| 35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? | 35. It would not be possible to find contractors to make rasai of various officers moving at one and the same time in the same taluka or division as the business would not prove lucrative for the contractor. |
| 36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? | 36. The objections to make rasai are that it is not properly paid for and creates an inconvenient and awkward position for the person making it. The Government should impress upon officers:— |
| | 1. to make a determined effort to abolish the system, |
| | 2. to confine their camps to Taluka Head-quarters or to such other outside villages where the supplies could be purchased in local market, |
| | 3. to take as little clerical or menial establishment on tour as possible and to leave the rest at the Officer's own Head-quarter or Taluka Head-quarter. |
| 37. Do you present 'Dhahs' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? | 37. I have no personal knowledge about this. |

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. The presenting of dhalis should be prohibited by Government where the practice exists.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. The term lapo means an unauthorized annual perquisite.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. It is levied in the Revenue Department in cash either on a jireb or a survey number of cultivated area or on a rupee of land revenue. I have experience of its being levied in the Revenue Department. It is levied in other Departments also but I have no definite

knowledge of it.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Vide answer 40.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42 and 43. In the Revenue Department it is levied by the tapadar as his own perquisite as also for meeting rasai expenses and making money presents to various establishments. Sometimes rasai is also made to some extent in addition to the lapo.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Money presents to private and official establishments of touring officers are made out of lapo. Such presents are not made in addition to the lapo paid.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I have no personal knowledge about this.

46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. The unauthorised lapo is not exacted for favours in particular but in general.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?

47. I have no personal knowledge about this. It differs in different places.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?

48. Ditto ditto.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

49. In some places it has been reduced and at others not.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?

50. The amount has been reduced to some extent.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Frequent determined efforts on part of Government officers will alone prevent the payment of lapo.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. The term Chher means gratuitous labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 53. The chheras are either haris or hired labourers.
54. The chheras are called on to perform various duties, for instance helping in shikar, pitching and unpitching tents, repairing roads and rendering other camp services.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 55. The chheras do not hold lands on condition of performing such services but the most of the haris however do help the influential zamindars in rendering such services.
56. When so employed the haris do not get any remuneration from the zamindars except that they are fed by the zamindars on occasions. The Government officers sometimes remunerate the chheras at the time of shikar but not to the proportion of the services rendered.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars ? or from the officers of Government ?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ? 57. The number of chheras required at the camps of the different officers differs proportionately to the amount of services to be rendered.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ? 58. About 20 chheras are required daily for bringing water, supplies and rendering such other services and about twice the number for preparing the ground, pitching and striking camps of a Collector.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ? 59. No, except in cases of hired labourers sometimes engaged by zamindars.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ? 60. I cannot give the exact number of chheras required for shikar but they are more than the number required for camps.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ? 61. Generally they do not come forward willingly. They do get some presents from officers but not always in proportion to the amount of services rendered. I am not aware as regards payments from zamindars.
62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ? 62. The number of chheras required for road repairing depends upon the extent of work to be done.
63. Such road repairs are beneficial both to the public and to officers but they are executed only when officers are expected to walk on a road requiring repairs and the departmental labour, if any, is unequal to the work.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ? 64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 65. The number of chheras required at a breach depends upon the extent of the breach or flood.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ? 66. There is no hard and fast practice about payment which is sometimes made by Government or Raj and sometimes not at all.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ? 67. The employment of chheras does at times interfere with cultivation and causes loss both to haris and zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ? 68. Casual paid labour is available in this neighbourhood to a limited extent and at fixed times.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ? 69. It could then be provided by a contractor independently of a zamindar.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ? 70. The chher ought to be abolished except in unavoidable circumstances.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. TAHILRAM MULCHAND.

1. Name. 1. Tahilram Mulchand.
 2. Occupation. 2. Editor, Larkana Gazette, Larkana.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. Six years. No.
 4. Residence. 4. Larkana.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. 5. No.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 6. Rasai is a provision of supplies with nominal or no payment for the comforts of touring officers, their establishment, peons and private servants.
 7. I have no personal experience of making rasai as I am not a zamindar. But whatever knowledge I possess in respect of it I have gathered it in the capacity of editor during the last six years by directly coming in contact with various officials, zamindars, haris and other people having dealings with officers of almost all the departments.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? 8 and 9. I am not a zamindar therefore I cannot name what camping grounds there are and what officers frequently visit those camping grounds.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? 8 and 9. I am not a zamindar therefore I cannot name what camping grounds there are and what officers frequently visit those camping grounds.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? 8 and 9. I am not a zamindar therefore I cannot name what camping grounds there are and what officers frequently visit those camping grounds.
 10. I know that all kinds of foodstuffs, other necessaries nay articles of luxuries and comforts also, e.g. liquor, aerated waters, etc., dry fruit, which are requisitioned by the touring officers are supplied either gratis or on a nominal payment.
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? 11. I know most of the provisions are obtained from zamindars without any payment and the rest are purchased by the tapedar from a banna with whom a running account is maintained. The liquor is sent from distant places.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 11. I know most of the provisions are obtained from zamindars without any payment and the rest are purchased by the tapedar from a banna with whom a running account is maintained. The liquor is sent from distant places.
 12. I know that zamindars get from haris who are virtually the sole sufferers because the zamindar exacts money from them at the time of the touring officer's tour to cover the cost of tours or levies in kind a fixed proportion of corn at the time of batai.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from bannas or from your own house or from other zamindars? 12. I know that zamindars get from haris who are virtually the sole sufferers because the zamindar exacts money from them at the time of the touring officer's tour to cover the cost of tours or levies in kind a fixed proportion of corn at the time of batai.
 13. I know that zamindars do not pay the haris for anything that they get from them but if anything is not obtainable from the haris they even purchase it from the bazar.
 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? 13. I know that zamindars do not pay the haris for anything that they get from them but if anything is not obtainable from the haris they even purchase it from the bazar.
 14. Every commodity has now-a-days value as how-much-so-ever remote a village may be, it is connected with one or the other centre of market to which the produce of the village could be carted for sale. It therefore does not stand to reason to even think that anything specially milk and stalks for which there is so much demand in these days owing to the increase of population could have no value in the mofussil.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. Every commodity has now-a-days value as how-much-so-ever remote a village may be, it is connected with one or the other centre of market to which the produce of the village could be carted for sale. It therefore does not stand to reason to even think that anything specially milk and stalks for which there is so much demand in these days owing to the increase of population could have no value in the mofussil.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. I have heard zamundars say that often they purchase fuel to supply them to the touring officers.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. I have heard zamundars say that often they purchase fuel to supply them to the touring officers.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 16. I am told that the daily expenses generally vary with the kind of officers and their butlers.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. I know that provisions have to be supplied for the private servants and official staff of the officers.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. I am told that the average daily cost depends upon the number of men in each case.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. I know that the supplies are provided for the clerks of the officers also.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. Same as 18.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. I know that jars etc., are supplied to the touring officers.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. These things are obtained gratis from zamindars except jars which are forcibly taken from village patters.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. I know that no payments are made for these things.
24. If not does the loss fall on your harns or on you? 24. The loss undoubtedly falls on harns and poor squatters as zamindars take from them gratis.
25. I know that invariably establishments are housed in the houses of poor men and some times kucha landhies are put up for their use.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. I know that invariably establishments are housed in the houses of poor men and some times kucha landhies are put up for their use.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. No payment is received by a zamindar even if he has to spend anything on the said arrangements.
27. Generally establishments engage their own camels but at the fag end of the touring season the clerks in order to save allowance dismiss their camel men and get conveyance from zamindars.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Generally establishments engage their own camels but at the fag end of the touring season the clerks in order to save allowance dismiss their camel men and get conveyance from zamindars.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. They make no payments to zamindars for such conveyances.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes, the zamindar makes rasai for all the officers mentioned.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. The cost varies with the kind of officers and generally no payment is made.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. I am not a zamindar, therefore have no personal knowledge of this.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' your self or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I know that tapedar is in charge of rasai.
33. I know that there are no contracting zamindars. The bills are prepared by tapedar with the consultation of butlers and servants. Such bills are bogus bills and do not represent even 1/10th of what has actually been requisitioned and prices shown therein are ridiculously low. Whatever little payment that is to be made by the touring officers goes to the pockets of butlers and servants because they are too reluctant to see their master's money going to the pockets of others who, they believe, have no claim on it.

- 34, 35, 36, 37 & 38. The system of giving contracts to zamindars is as bad and unworkable as is the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars. Both the systems are fore-doomed to failure so long the present administrative machinery so far the tours are concerned is what it is. It is inconceivable to a layman as to why there should be an agency for the supply of provisions to Government servants, when commercial travellers, both Europeans and Indians, and officers of the Educational Department going to villages can get them without such agency. I firmly believe that any system that may be devised would have only transient success, so long the root cause of the evil is not effectively tackled. The root-cause is the tour itself. Most of it is unnecessary and entails financial loss on the Government on one hand and misery on the rayat on the other hand. People do not view it in the perspective in which it is viewed by the Government. It is mostly for the benefit of the touring officers and their establishment who are naturally unwilling to do without it. It is therefore firmly believed that if the stopping of the rasai is to be a reality and not to remain a pious wish, the root-cause should be
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

removed, that is, tour should be as little as possible with minimum of establishment and should be confined to big villages from which the neighbouring villages may be visited by the touring officers during the course of the day. There should be no agency whatsoever for the supply of provisions which may be purchased from the bazar by the touring officers and their establishment. I believe it would be absurd to stop rasai and the time will show that without the adoption of such a drastic policy, all talk about the stopping of rasai is nothing but moonshine. Any agency for the supply of stores would be nothing but a tinkering of the reform. It would in course of time degenerate and make the evil of rasai fall into its usual grooves to run its smooth course. The evil is too deep-rooted and therefore what is required is not a tinkering policy but a root and branch reform to eradicate it. The evil has assumed such serious proportions in all the Departments that it would be in the interest of administration that it should be stopped as early as possible. There is no excuse for the continuation of the system and it is absurd to argue that its strength lies in the hospitality of the zamindar. Such an argument is indefensible and is opposed to human nature because if rasai were hospitality to touring officers it would be extended to them at all times even after their transfer and retirement. The zamindar makes rasai sometimes out of fear and sometimes with an eye to ulterior good e.g. obtainment of chair, license of gun, grant of titles and now-a-days Bench Magistrate-shup. The Mukhtiar-kars make it for their own advancement.

Similar is the case with dhals. The present of them therefore is morally as indefensible as the making of rasai. Such a practice should therefore be prohibited with a strong hand.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars alidars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
39. Lapo means an illegal exaction levied mainly for the purpose of making rasai for the touring officers and their establishment.
40. It is levied in all the Departments in one way or the other.
41. It is levied in different forms, sometimes in lump sum, sometimes at fixed rates etc.
42. It is levied by the said Government servants for making rasai of touring officers and their establishment.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. My information is that the zamindars pay lapo in addition to the contributions towards the cost of rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
- 44 & 45. I do not know.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. The authorized lapo is paid because the zamindars feel that if they do not pay it they will be harassed in diverse ways by the Government servants of different Departments; as for an instance in the Police Department zamindar gives lapo in order to be safe from false reports and false prosecutions, immediate insults and maltreatment at the hands of the subordinate police officers.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. I have no definite information.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I know that zamindars have to pay lapo at some fixed rate.
49. No. On the contrary it has been on the increase and has always an upward tendency. In Larkana District during the last twelve months it has increased so enormously that it has assumed the form of scandal.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtar-kars?
50. No. Even in this case the same lapo has to be paid.
51. I am of opinion that even if rasai is stopped, lapo will not stop. Its levy may be slightly reduced with the stopping of rasai but it will altogether stop when its root-causes are removed. Such root-causes are inadequacy of pay, poor prospects for promotions, want of consideration for merit and education and above all want of encouragement for honesty. If such root-causes are not removed, it will be idle to believe, how much so ever stringent the watch may be, that lapo will disappear. Empty stomach, it is said, bears no argument. It is therefore futile to expect morality from most of the clerks and tapedars who are paid a starvation wage and consequently whose stomachs are empty.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means the system of enforced labour.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. They are haris, cultivators and other poor villagers.
54. They are called on to do menial work e.g. they are asked to pitch tents, etc. for the touring officers, to fetch water and to work as boy-servants to butlers, servants and peons of officers and their establishment.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. If they are haris and cultivators they perform the labour at the instance of zamindars in obedience to the duty they feel towards them as their tenants. But if they are poor villagers, I mean non-haris and non-cultivators, they go to work through the fear of being hauled up under Chapter 8 through the agency of zamindars.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
63. The roads are generally repaired and put in good order at the time of the touring season and are often neglected after the touring season is over. Thus they are of more benefit to the officers than to the public.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. I am of opinion that chher ought to be altogether abolished. I feel quite confident that P. W. D. or any other officers will see no difficulty in securing workmen at the time of any emergency provided they loosen their coffer and be ready to pay them proper wages. The system of chheras is a relic of feudalism *mediaeval* and no civilized Government should tolerate it for even a single day.
56. I have no personal knowledge of this but I am told that they receive no cash payments from either zamindars or officers. They at the most are given meals by the zamindars.
57. The number varies with the kind of officer.
58. Ditto
59. Only meals from zamindars.
60. The number varies with the kind of officer and the arrangement made by the zamindar for shikar.
61. They do not come willingly but under pressure from zamindars with whom they have got daily dealings. Only meals is given by zamindar
62. Chheras are sent by zamindars to give help in repairing the roads but the number depends upon the kind of work to be done and the length and breadth of the road to be repaired.
64. They get nominal wages sometimes from Local Boards and sometimes from zamindars.
65. It depends upon the extent of flood and breach.
66. They are nominally paid sometimes by P. W. D. and sometimes by zamindars.
67. It certainly does interfere with the cultivation business as practically during the whole touring season the cultivation work goes on.
68. Casual paid labour is everywhere available.
69. It could be procured on the payment of proper wages.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. LALCHAND NAVALRAL.

1. Name. 1. Lalchand Navalral.
2. Occupation. 2. Pleader.
3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. 25 year's practice at the Bar in old Shikarpur District and Larkana. Rs. 700 Income-tax.
4. Residence. 4. Larkana.
5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. 5. Nil.
Rasai.
6. Giving all supplies necessary or otherwise to officers of all grades, their establishment, including menial and personal, free of cost or in the case of few at a nominal cost when on tour or in the case of a few officers some supplies are given even at the head-quarters, during non-circuiting time
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? The object of making rasai is to curry favours, get honours, grant of land and to avoid the dis-pleasure of the officers and to keep the establishment pleased with a view to gain the above objects with ease.
7. I possess a very small holding of arable land. I have no personal experience of having made rasai myself, but during my extensive
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? practice, I have had to attend various camps of Revenue and Magisterial Officers in the taluka head-quarters and several out of way places. I have remained in touch with the zamindars and the haris and revenue officers and their establishments. I have seen how rasai is made and have much information about its hardship.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? 8. No answer.
9. Encamping officers for whom rasai is made are the Commissioner-in-Sind, the Collector, Revenue Sub-Divisional Officers, Mukhtjars, the Executive Engineers, their Sub-Divisional Officers including Overseers and Sub-Overseers, Educational Inspector and Inspectress, Judicial Commissioner, and District Judges; District Superintendents of Police, their Assistants and Deputies, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, Divisional Forest Officers and Rangers; the Manager, Encumbered Estates.
9. What officers frequent those camping grounds?
10. Fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass and gram for horses, sheep-meat, fire wood, maido, rice, flour, sugar, potatoes, vegetables, fish, fruits and spices.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves?
11. Maido, vegetables, fish, fruit are obtained from towns; now-a-days firewood is mostly purchased from the neighbouring large villages, from rice thrashing factories or from towns. Fruits and vegetables in the case of the camps of the Commissioner and Collector are sent for either from Sukkur or Karachi. Special kinds of liquors are sent for also from the above places.
11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood?
12. Except milk and grass the other things are purchased with money. Now-a-days sometimes even grass is purchased with money. Milk and grass are collected from haris and small khatedars.
12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars?
13. Tapedars, or zamindars pay at bazar rate, the average rates at which they are purchased are fowl, 6 to 8 annas; eggs 6 pies per each; butter one seer for a rupee; fish 8 annas; fuel 6 annas per maund when purchased from villages and 12 annas five seers a rupee; sugar 3 seers a rupee; sheep from Rs. 12 to 14 each.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates?

14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. Yes, as the haris take milk, grass and fuel for sale to big villages and towns even when they are situated at some distance.

15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. Much quantity of firewood is not obtainable from jungles, but when fuel is procured from the jungles its cost comes to 2 annas a maund for cutting and carting.

16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 16. Quantity to be supplied depends upon the officer's butler. The officer himself is indifferent to enquire about it and the supplier has to seek the pleasure of the butler. If he pays what he wants then an ordinary demand will be made, otherwise, however, enormous supplies are made, the butler will find opportunities to displease his officer by reporting that no sufficient rasai is made. The quantity ordinarily demanded for an European officer per day is as follows:—

| | Rs. | A. | P. | | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|-----|----|----|--|-----|----|----|
| Fowls 2 | 0 | 12 | 0 | Gram 4 seers each horse | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Eggs 1 dozen .. | 0 | 6 | 0 | Fish | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Butter $\frac{1}{4}$ seer .. | 0 | 8 | 0 | Vegetables and fruits average per day .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fuel 2 maunds .. | 0 | 12 | 0 | Juar karbi about 10 bundles | .. | .. | .. |
| Milk 2 seers (if the Sahib has dogs then 4 seers) | .. | .. | .. | | | | |

Usual daily cost per each such officer is Rs. 5, besides the supply of milk and grass.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes; supplies are made for the private servants and official staff of such officers.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. For every syce, sweeper, washer-man, and water-bearer, butler and bearer—Mutton $\frac{1}{2}$ seer and one fowl. Milk one seer. Fuel 10 seers. 8 annas in cash for other necessities. Camel-men each; flour one seer; ghee one chatak. Some times they are given a fowl or a seer of mutton for all camel-men.
Peons each. Meat $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, ghee 2 chataks, flour $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, rice $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, fuel 10 seers, milk one seer.

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. Each munshi or clerk gets daily—

| | Rs. | A. | P. | | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| One chatak butter | 0 | 1 | 0 | Mutton $\frac{1}{4}$ a seer | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Half a seer flour | 0 | 2 | 6 | Vegetables | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One chatak sugar | 0 | 0 | 6 | One fowl sometimes | 9 | 6 | 0 |
| Two eggs each | 0 | 1 | 0 | Milk one seer | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| One pau ghee | 0 | 5 | 0 | Spices and almonds, etc... .. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Sugar candy $\frac{1}{4}$ a pau | 0 | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| Rice one pau | 0 | 1 | 0 | Excluding fowl | 1 | 5 | 3 |

Liquors are sometimes supplied to the officers; one or two brandy bottles used to be supplied to the clerks and the munshis, but now they get country liquor.

21, 22. Jars are brought from potters without money. If no potter is available tepedar pays for them. The potters get lapo in lieu of the jars supplied at the time of harvest from zamindars and khatedars. Cots are supplied by villagers without cost. Some officers sometimes carry cots for their own use. Landhis are constructed for stables and servants of the clerks and munshis.

The materials are supplied by zamindars who collect from haris and villagers without payment. The remnant of the materials is returned to their owners after the camp is removed.

23 and 33. Full payment is never made. The bill is prepared by the tapedar at

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?

the suggestion of the butler and is often approved of by the mukhtiarkar. Many a time enquiries are made as to what the officer paid at the camps he visited in the adjoining taluka and whether he showed his willingness for payment and then the bill is made accordingly. Some of the supplies are not usually entered in the bill and the rest of the supplies are valued at low prices. The quantity actually supplied is often less.

Thus the officers pay about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the value of the articles actually supplied. The money paid by the officer for the bill is returned to the butler. The establishment including private servants never pay for the articles supplied to them.

Modi gives a receipt to them without actual payment. But if they pay ostensibly it is returned to them only a moment after.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your hands or on you?

24. The burden of the cost falls on the khatedars who pay in proportion to the area of the land they possess. The petty khatedars pay their share of cost at the time of harvest either to the modi or zamindar. When the tapedar pays it he receives either on the spot from all khatedars through the zamindar of the village or at the time of receiving land revenue in the form of lapo which varies with the amount spent on rasai.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

25. Quarters are mostly provided for the munshies and clerks of the Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors and the mukhtiarkars and their establishment.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?

26. No additional cost is incurred on this account.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

27. Some camels and horses are kept in readiness at the camps of the Commissioner and the Collector. They are also used for bringing fruit, vegetables, fish and post etc. They are sometimes used by the establishment. Carts are provided both to officers and their establishment. Sometimes carriages.

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?

28. Nothing. Horses, camels and carriages are supplied by the zamindars. Cartmen are paid $\frac{1}{2}$ of the usual charges by officers and nothing by the establishment.

29, 30. Yes. The rasai for

the mukhtiarkar is made by the tapedar or the zamindar and mostly nothing is paid. Whatever nominal is sometimes paid it is returned either to his naik or the private servant. Arrangements for supervisors, overseers and sub-overseers of the P. W. D. are made by darogas, and the supervisors through the darogas do the same for the Executive Engineer. Burden falls on the cattle owners and

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?

30. khatedars who in their daily life fear the darogas and their assistants since they can easily send their cattle to the pound and close their watercourses suddenly or even prosecute them on the pretext of cutting trees.

Zamindars make arrangements for the Police Department, the inspectors and sub-inspectors are profusely supplied and sometimes they enjoy at their cost the luxury of hearing reputed singers. When they go for investigation of the crime the cost falls on the complainant, failing him, on the zamindar of the village. The zamindars and the khatedars are mortally afraid of the Police and hence they give even without asking. Maldars and zamindars who get land within forest limits make rasai for the Forest Department through the forest guards.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?

32. Mostly tapedars and sometimes zamindars. There are no contracting zamindars.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. Contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars would be preferable. The tapedar or the zamindar should have absolutely no hand in the matter. Contractors should be independent men taken preferably from the head-quarters.

35. It will be possible to find such contractors if they get guarantee for reasonable remuneration and convenience and advances from Government. It is worth while to give this system, a trial and it is very likely to be successful if the head of the district takes care to see that they are not harassed or discouraged.

36. Rasai is at the climax in Sind. Larkana District heads the list. The zamindars hanker after the honours and vie with each other in making the rasai. Khatedars and the poor hari are the victims of it. It has absolutely a demoralising effect and the earlier it is eradicated the better.

I am confidently of opinion that the rasai cannot be stopped unless the head of the district becomes sincere, determined and persistent to stamp it out. In that case many devices are not needed for remedying it and the other officials are sure to follow suit. The mukhtiar kar takes it for granted that the paper resolutions and orders are a mere show. They go by the practical conduct of the officials. To put it in the words of a mukhtiar kar who had a talk with me on this point, mukhtiar kars have not got mad to involve themselves into this demoralising business if they are taken into confidence by the head of the district and earnestly told not to make rasai and are guarded against unnecessary fault finding by the subordinate munshis who know how to misrepresent the most ordinary error of the mukhtiar kar's office.

The next step is to curtail to a very great extent the period of circuit. The present enormous time has the effect of making the officer go twice over the same place in one season and encamping at smaller places, in the case of Assistant and Deputy Collectors at about 4 miles distance from each camp.

In the case of the Commissioner and the Collectors the circuit should be confined to the head-quarter stations and if it be not possible to go round from there in the interior of the country the camps elsewhere should be very few and in big villages and the provisions should in that case be procured from the head-quarter towns and taken along or sent for over there. If there be any practical difficulty in this, independent contractors should be secured from the district towns. The present system of daily allowance to the mukhtiar kars is tempting for them to make unnecessary camps out of the head-quarters. Stopping rasai seriously, will require the raising of the pay and allowances of the subordinate officials and servants as then the menial servants and camel-men who now go willingly with them on the present small pay owing to rasai will surely make them pay more. Every thing has gone dear, and their salaries require revision to make both ends meet and to give up the rasai temptation of receiving cash payments. In the case of purchases from independent contractors I would suggest that the officers and their subordinates should give indents on printed duplicate forms the bills thereon should be prepared and payment received from the Government Treasury and the amounts deducted from the travelling allowances or salaries of respective official or servant.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Zamindars and mukhtiar kars do present dhalis of fruit and vegetables, sometimes sheep to officers. Each dhal excluding sheep costs from 5 to 10 and including it 15 to 25.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes. At once.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? *Lapo.*
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 39, 40. It is an unauthorised payment to a tapedar, daroga, jamadar of the Police Department, sub-ranger and ranger in the Forest Department which in the case of tapedar is called ang.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41, 42. Tapedar receives it from all zamindars and khatedars at the time of recovering land assessment. It is recovered at different rates in different talukas. It is either paid one anna to 2 annas per rupee or 2 annas per jureb. A greater portion of this lapo goes to the payment of annuities to various munshis and clerks, peons of various officers in Revenue Department.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

Police : There is no fixed kind of lapo in the Department. The subordinates such as jamadars, sub-inspectors receive from zamindars or haris for not sending them under Section 110, Criminal Procedure Code or for recommending zamindars for arms, chairs, arin-namas.

Public Works Department : Darogas collect from khatedars in cash or in kind. Latter from those who have khuhadas on the canals in lieu of favour done or harm avoided in the matter of supply of water.

Forest Department : The rangers and sub-rangers receive payment in cash or kind from cattle-owners or freely grazing in the forest and from contractors percentage on bills paid and zamindars who cultivate within the forest limits.

43. Yes. Payment for rasai is separately paid to a tapedar for incurring rasai expenses out-side the head-quarter stations. But in case of head-quarter expenses zamindars never pay separately except when the Commissioner encamps. This is defrayed from a general fund subscribed to by the tapedars in consideration of receiving lapo.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Yes. No such payments are made by the zamindars. The presents are only made in the form of annuities to private and official establishment of the touring officers from the 'angi' received by tapedars and percentage from contractors received by the overseers and sub-overseers of the Public Works Department.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. The usual amount paid as annuities are as follows:—

Assistant Collector's Office : Head munshi from Rs. 100 Head Clerk from Rs. 50. Second munshi from Rs. 40 Third munshi from Rs. 30. Other munshis one month's pay and sometimes more at the time of Jamabandi.

Collector's inspection office from 100 to 300 at the time of sal-tamami.

Mukhtiarakar's Office : All munshis take annually their one month's pay.

Supervising Tapedars : One month's pay of each tapedar.

In the Engineering Department, the percentage received by the overseers and sub-overseers is divided in certain proportions and paid to the clerks and munshis of higher offices. They are paid to avoid unnecessary difficulties being raised in inspecting records and in disposing of correspondences.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Particular favours in the case of revenue tapedars are with respect to remokal cultivation or shifting and not repairing of boundary marks and such other small harrasments. As regards irrigation, police and forest I have said under question 42.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. These exactions vary according to the area cultivated in each tapa in case of Revenue Department and the value of the contracts given in the P. W. D.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
- 48, 49, 50. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenues direct to the mukhtiarakars?

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? but in that case a special rule
51. By stopping rasai as in the present system of rasai the mukhtiarkars are compelled to overlook or sometimes encourage lapo. 2. By raising the pay of the tapedar and supervising tapedar. 3. By receiving Land Revenue by money order system should be made remitting money order fees.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher is labour without payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are always cultivators.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. (1) To repair roads in touring season specially when officers drive or motor. (2) To level the ground for pitching tents. (3) To pitch and un-pitch tents. (4) Loading and un-loading touring kit of the officers and their establishment. (5) To watch camps. (6) To render menial service to butlers, peons and munshis. (7) To attend officers on shooting excursions. (8) Bund making or work at the breaches of the canals.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. No such condition to perform labour for Government officers is stipulated for.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. They get nothing from officers. The zamindars only feed them.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. About 100 at Commissioner's camp; about 50 Collector's camp; and 20 to 25 Assistant Collector's camp, and 10 mukhtiarkar's camp.
58. Commissioner's Camps: How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. For bringing water 10, and stocks and wood 10, and about 50 for preparing ground and pitching and striking the camp and 10 to help the butlers, peons and private servants of munshis and clerks. 20 watch the camp and 10 to look after and feed cattle sent by zamindars for milking.

Collector's Camp: Half of the Commissioner's.

For Assistant Collector and mukhtiarkar the work is not distributed to them as in Commissioner and Collector's camp.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. The same answer as in question 56.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shukar?
60. About 100 in the case of high officer but it depends upon the number of officers shooting and the time available for it.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. Do not come willingly. Only mirbahars at the lakes get something from officers.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. Any large number depends upon the number of roads and the condition in which the roads are, and the status of the officer touring.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Such repairs are made for the convenience of the officers. They become useful to the public as well but that is no reason for using chher.

64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. Same reply as in question Nos. 56, 59 and 61.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Depends upon the nature of the breach.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Food from zamindars and in the case of large breaches Government officers supply food.
67. The cultivation is delayed and suffers also to some extent if the chheras are required at the working seasons, specially transplantation time. The chheras suffer because they work gratis and zamindars the cost of their feeding.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68, 69. Much cannot be procured in the neighbourhood of zamindars except in the months of December and January.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. The present system ought to be abolished. They may be engaged on payment of their full wages.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JAN MUHAMMAD JUNEJO.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Jan Muhammad Junejo. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar, and barrister. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. About Rs. 3,000 per year. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Dhamra. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Ma- gistrate. | 5. Nil. |
| | <i>Rasai.</i> |
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means free supplies to touring officers and their staff. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 10 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Dhamra, Larkana. |
| 9. The Commissioner in Sind, Collector, Asstt. Collector, D. S. F., A. S. P., mukhtiarkar, police sub inspector and inspector when they come on investigation of some offence. | |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, milk, fodder, fuel, butter, vege- tables, mutton. |
| 11. Whence do you get those sup- plies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, ve- getables, bairi or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11, 12. We purchase it from banias, haris, and villagers, and give from our own house if available. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. We buy it at the market price. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neigh- bourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes, these things have market values in small villages also. |
| 15. We don't get firewood from jungles, as there is no jungle near us. We buy it from large towns and sometimes from the villages when available, and pay the market price. It does not cost us anything, as our haris bring them to camp. | |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. About Rs. 5 but if they require sheep, then more. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18, 20. Collector Rs. 50 to 75. Asstt. Collector Rs. 20 to 30, D. S. P. Rs. 30 to 40, A. S. P. Rs. 20 to 30. Mukhtiarkar Rs. 10 to 15. Police sub-inspector and inspector Rs. 20 to 35. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the offi- cers? | 19. Yes. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |

22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. Already replied in No. 18
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. No.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. Upon ourselves and our haris.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. Does not cost anything.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Sometimes.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. Does not cost anything, if we have our own, otherwise we make poor persons suffer and pay them nothing.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarikars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. Mukhtiarikar from Rs. 10 to 15. Have no experience of P. W. D. officers. About police inspectors I have already said (Vide No. 18.) Other subordinate officials, such as supervising tapedar, tapedar, darogahs cost very little.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. About three to four hundred rupees.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. Through tapedars and ourselves.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' your self or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. Receive no payment.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. Would prefer the appointment of contractors independent of tapedars and zamindars.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. Yes.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. (a) Rasai entails much labour. It comes in the way of cultivation, which suffers heavily. Hence zamindars, haris, and poor villagers suffer terribly. (b) The touring officials and their staff are already paid by the Government, there is no reason why they should resort to this unlawful practice and have another pay from zamindars. (c) Zamindars lose self-respect, feel they are born slaves, and have got to pay and please everybody. (d) It is a pecuniary loss to zamindars most of whom can not afford it. (e) It causes ill feeling among people, who are being troubled very much. They curse zamindars, who compel them to work free, disrespect them and abuse them if they don't do so. They also curse the Government for having appointed such cruel class of people.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. (a) Rasai entails much labour. It comes in the way of cultivation, which suffers heavily. Hence zamindars, haris, and poor villagers suffer terribly. (b) The touring officials and their staff are already paid by the Government, there is no reason why they should resort to this unlawful practice and have another pay from zamindars. (c) Zamindars lose self-respect, feel they are born slaves, and have got to pay and please everybody. (d) It is a pecuniary loss to zamindars most of whom can not afford it. (e) It causes ill feeling among people, who are being troubled very much. They curse zamindars, who compel them to work free, disrespect them and abuse them if they don't do so. They also curse the Government for having appointed such cruel class of people.

Recommendations: The Government must put a stop to this evil by issuing strict orders to the officials, not to have rasai at all, and curtail the touring season, and take less establishment.

By appointing independent contractors who should provide the touring officials all the necessary supplies.

Rasai is generally done for the sake of receiving certain favours, such as, chair and licence. If some way is found to do it otherwise, the rasai might stop.

37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. It is a common practice, and zamindars do so but I have not done this since last 3 years.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. The practice of rasai should certainly be prohibited by Government.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo :—Illegal exactions done mostly by the tapedars.
40. There are two forms of lapo. One is called lapo proper exacted by tapedars only. The other is called saliano exacted by daroghas, peons, supervising tapedars, sub-inspectors, inspectors, mugaddams, heldars and various munshies.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest department.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. By tapedars it is levied per acre, and by others in lump sum.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. By tapedars with a view to do rasai, and also to fill their own pockets. By others to fill in their own pockets only.
43. Sometimes we pay lapo and also make rasai. For instance, if a big zamindar makes rasai, he does not pay lapo, yet other abadgars who are smaller zamindars, pay iapo to the tapedar all the same.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Besides lapo we pay something to the peon and private servants, but we do not call these payments presents.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. A rupee or two we pay to the peons, just to tip them as they beg for it, and so we don't mind it.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. We fear if we don't please them by giving them lapo, they might create mischief and make us suffer one way or the other, as we know they can play mischief a good deal. The officials also seem to be entirely in their hands.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. Tapedars and other petty officials.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. Already replied in 31.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. No.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars? 50. Yes, somewhat.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Laps'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? 51. (a) It could be stopped by modifications of the Revenue, Police, and P.W.D. systems. (b) By the strict orders of the Government to the officials to stop it. (c) The officials can do a lot if they have a mind to do it.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? 52. Chher :—Forced and unpaid labour.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'? 53. Haris and small khatedars.
54. Pitching and striking the tents, loading and unloading goods, building stables, preparing roads, fetching water, firewood, cots, and other necessary work.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. Yes. It is an implied condition with basis that they should not refuse to do so, but of course the zamindars must not inconvenience them, when they are too busy with their cultivation work.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. Nothing in cash, but they are fed by zamindars.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government? 56. Mukhtarkar 10 to 12, Asstt. Collector 20 to 25.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. Collector 50 to 75.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. No.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. No experience.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. Do.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. According to the condition of a road.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Yes, but loss to zamindars.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Nothing.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards? 64. According to the breaches. If they are big, then 100 or even more chheras are required. If small breaches, 50 or so are enough.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Nothing.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. Nothing.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. At the time of cultivation, it does cause loss to haris and zamindars. The cultivation is delayed and suffers also, if the chheras are required at the working seasons specially transplantation time.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. From 6 annas to 10 annas.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. Chher, if obtained, must be paid; otherwise it should certainly be abolished.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SHAMSUDDIN BAHADURKHAN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Shamsuddin Bahadurkhan, Abro. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar and editor. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Mehar, district Larkana. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Taluka Local Board member and Honorary Magistrate, Taluka Mehar. |

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
6. Rasai from 'Rasanidan' means to supply provisions, etc., to touring officers under their directions.
7. As zamindar and editor I have 30 years' experience of rasai. I have been an editor now for 30 years. I have been in editorial charge of different newspapers. For many years I was editor of the Alhaq. Now I am editor of the Aftab Sind. Zamindars and correspondents from all parts of Sind furnished me with striking accounts of rasai which were sometimes published. As zamindar also I have considerable experience based upon personal observation and hearsay evidence.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ?
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ?
8. Following are the camping grounds in Mehar taluka :—
Radhan station, Tharri Mohbat, Mehar, Naogote, Shah Punjo, Baleshah, Aghamani, Kazi Jo Gote, Manjan, Faridabañ, Shah Godrio, Manwani, Girkan, Kolachi and every tapa.
9. These camping grounds are frequented by the mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector. Some of them are frequented by the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Superintending Engineer, the Executive Engineer and the Sub-Divisional Officer; Mehar alone being frequented by the District Judge, the Judicial Commissioner, the Manager Incumbered Estates, the Civil Surgeon Larkana and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. The Commissioner, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and the Manager hardly come once in 4 or 5 years. They camp either at Mehar or Radhan.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ?
10. Rasai is made not only for these officers but for their whole establishment including peons, camel men, etc. All kinds of supplies are provided for them: cots, jars, mutton, fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, grass, liquor, fruit, vegetables, etc.
11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ?
11. Zamindars provide only the following things: kids, fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass, sometimes firewood and cots. The other things are obtained from a bania on account, the money being paid by the tapadar.
12. Do you get them from your bania or from bania or from your own house or from other zamindars ?
12. The supplies which are provided by zamindars are partly obtained by them from small khatedars and partly bought by themselves.
13. The price of a fowl varies from 4 to 8 annas; of an egg is one anna or $\frac{2}{3}$ of an anna; butter which formerly sold at 5 or 6 quarters of a seer per rupee now sells at 4 or 5 quarters of a seer per rupee; stalks which formerly sold at 10 or 12 bundles a rupee now sell at 3 or 4 bundles a rupee; rice straw which formerly sold at 2 or 3 annas a bundle now sells at 8 annas a bundle; the price of a kid is a rupee or two.
13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates ?

14. The prices in big towns and villages or in their neighbourhood are now the same. Zamindars either obtain supplies from small khatedars or get them on payment. The quantity of supplies to be provided by each zamindar is fixed by the mukhtiarkar according to his ability and extent of cultivation.
14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns?
15. No firewood is now obtainable in the jungles. It is obtained on payment. Only the zamindars of the river side send firewood from the forests. These supplies are sent to camps by zamindars in the carts of their haris who receive no payment.
15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp?
16. The daily cost in the case of European officers is not more than 1½ or 2 rupees and in the case of Indian officers not more than a rupee. It is recovered from them on bills.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves?
17. The tapadars pay for the supplies to the official and private establishments of the touring officer. Zamindars make money presents to them only when they call on the officers or want them to do something for them at kacheris. They do not mind making such presents.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?
18. What is the average daily cost, of such supplies?

18. The average daily cost is:—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| In the case of the mukhtiarkar's camp | Rs. 8 0 0 |
| In the case of the European Assistant Collector's camp | 15 0 0 |
| In the case of the Native Deputy Collector's camp | 10 0 0 |
| In the case of the Executive Engineer's camp | 15 0 0 |
| In the case of the Sub-Divisional Officer's camp | 5 0 0 |

These figures are for camps outside headquarters and do not include milk. They do include liquor, provisions, tips, sugar candy, etc., etc.

- 19, 20. The expenses of the officer's munshis are paid by the tapadars. If the mukhtiarkar or Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector encamps in a tapa, the tapadar of the tapa defrays the expenses either by himself or with the assistance of a zamindar. Civil suits are filed against tapadars who do not pay the khanda owing to their inability to pay or to their transfer, or complaints are made to their superior officers. Expenses for camps at taluka headquarters in the case of all officers are borne by the tapadars jointly.
21. Cots and jars are supplied by zamindars at camps outside headquarters and by the raj and panchayat in big towns. This causes inconvenience. Sometimes cots are missing, sometimes they are damaged by the clerks and peons and sometimes get mixed up. The materials for building stables for horses are supplied by zamindars and people of the village. Chheras to build them are also supplied by zamindars.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
22. At each camp the zamindar's expenses amount to Rs. 10—15. The other expenses are borne by the tapadars. If the expenditure for the taluka is very large on account of the large number of camps made in it, zamindars are asked to make cash contributions according to their ability.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
23. When tapadars pay for rasai, zamindars have nothing to do with it. Tapadars do not receive payment for rasai. They meet the expenses from lapo.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
24. Whatever zamindars spend on rasai they often obtain from petty khatedars. Some obtain from their haris an allowance in grain for such expenses at the batai. There may be some who share the expenses: generally the whole burden falls on the poor.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25-26. At camps in villages munshis live in zamindari otaks or Government deras. Some live in their own rowtis.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?
- 27-28. Occasionally zamindars supply for officers and their munshis horses, camels and carriages to take them to the next camp only. Generally officers and their munshis engage their own camels and horses on hire. They maintain baggage camels also. If at any time they have none of their own, carts are impressed for them for which they pay at the rate of 2 anhas per mule, the Government rate. Some departments do not pay the hire. What is objectionable about this practice is that carts which are carrying passengers or load are impressed instead of empty carts or carts plying for hire.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29-30. In the case of some departments all manner of rasai is made by the subordinate officials of each department. This is specially true of the Public Works and Police Departments. In the case of the other departments rasai is generally made by the revenue subordinates. Zamindars only supply the things referred to above.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
31. Zamindars spend no money on rasai. Subordinate officials do. The latter recover it in the form of lapo from the zamindars and khatedars. The men of the Revenue Department spend 4 or 5 thousand rupees per year on rasai and annuities. Until lapo is recovered the pay of the tapadar is retained to meet the expenditure. Even the mukhtiarar's expenses apart from his kitchen expenses are paid therefrom.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself, or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32-33. Neither zamindars nor contracting zamindars make rasai. Bills too are prepared by subordinate officials who receive the payments. Zamindars have no hand in the affair.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
- 34-35. It is hard for zamindars or contractors to make rasai. Zamindars cannot provide supplies for a whole establishment. They will neither present bills nor receive payment from fear of incurring the displeasure of an officer, occasioned by the complaints of his establishment. Similarly contractors are out of the question. They will charge high rates with a view to profit. The establishments who are not used to paying anything will not pay these rates. Nor can any one be found willing to take up rasai contracts. Already prices are very high. They will be higher still if supplies are obtained from contractors, who must charge for supervision and transport.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. The following are my objections and suggestions with respect to rasai:—
The promoters of rasai are the mukhtiarars and zamindars. The former are anxious that their mistakes and irregularities should not be disclosed at the inspection of records and jamabandi. They therefore try to please officers and their establishments to save themselves from all possible harm. With a view to doing so they make elaborate rasai providing even liquors and presents and paying money annuities. They pay heavy tolls to men in superior offices. The head munshi of the superior office receives Rs. 150, the head clerk and the serishtedar Rs. 60 each and other munshis according to their grades from Rs. 15 to Rs. 40. Even the taluka office levies such tolls. The head munshi receives Rs. 11 from each tapadar. In Mehar taluka the head munshi receives an annuity of Rs. 187, there being 17 tapadars in that taluka. The sub-treasurer receives Rs. 6 from each tapadar, the second munshi Rs. 3, the supervising tapadar Rs. 40 or 45 and the divisional tapadar Rs. 11. For the private servants of officers there are also fixed

annuities varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. The annual payments to the taluka office, the supervising tapadar and the divisional tapadar are made by the tapadars individually but those made to the establishments of superior officers are met from a common fund which is in the charge of the headquarters tapadar and under the control of the mukhtiarkar or the head munshi, who can spend any amount from it without rendering account to the tapadar. Annual payments are not confined to touring establishments. Even the men in the district offices at headquarters at Larkana levy annual payments. The Huzur Deputy Collector's office is an instance in point. When this office sends for records for inspection, the tapadar or munshi who takes the records pays a fee of Rs. 250. The mukhtiarkars draw upon the common fund, referred to above, to keep themselves in comfort. The tapadars dare not complain of the mukhtiarkars' drawings, however, large they may be. They however replenish the fund from the lapo received by themselves. Similarly large zamindars gladly make rasai, etc., to please officials with a view to promote their own interests. They are ever anxious to receive honours and to get favours and they succeed in obtaining both by adopting the ways indicated above. Whatever is spent by the mukhtiarkars or zamindars on rasai ultimately falls on small zamindars and haris. Neither the mukhtiarkars nor the zamindars suffer. The sufferers are poor men. The mukhtiarkars erroneously believe that if they did not make full rasai and did not pay annual fees, their irregularities would be brought to light and the munshis in superior offices would harass them so that their reputation and appointment would be at stake. Similarly zamindars partly to save what honours they enjoy and partly to obtain further honours and other favours pay lapo, etc., to officers. This proceeds from their moral weakness. Speaking from personal knowledge, I can say that I enjoy such honours as are conferred upon large zamindars and that I am treated by officers with great respect, although I never go to receive an officer, never make dahs, never contribute to rasai and never go to see a munshi. Thus it will be seen that the way to official favour is not through rasai. There are notable instances of large zamindars such as the Hon'ble Mr Bhurgri and Hon'ble Sayad Allahandoshah, who although they condemn rasai and never make it, are treated with greater respect by officials than is shown to those who make rasai. If the other zamindars were as independent as the Hon'ble Mr. Bhurgri and the Hon'ble Sayad Allahandoshah and refused to pay lapo and other illegal gratifications, even though they suffered for it, rasai would abate a little. Things would also improve if the mukhtiarkars did their work well and did not care for their own interests and allowed their mistakes to be brought to notice. As however the mukhtiarkars do not lose but gain, they encourage rasai, which is growing from more to more. The European officers have undeservedly lost their good name. Their personal expenses are moderate and they do make some payments. Why do they not then keep a strict eye upon their establishments and extirpate the evils of lapo, etc., which have led to so much disgrace? The officers lose their good name for the misdeeds of their munshis and others. Rasai is not a feature of the revenue department only; the other departments are worse than the revenue department in this respect. It is a pity however that they are not talked of. Their exactions will be described later. Here we give the following example: In this year, the Superintending Engineer encamped with his establishment at Tharri Mohbat for a few days from 2nd April 1918. Rasai was made for the establishment on a grand scale. He then left, leaving his establishment behind. After two, three days he sent for the establishment, i.e., munshis and peons. The rest of his men, i.e., camel drivers and khalasis are still there with some kit. They are there to-day the 26th April. It is not known when they will go. These camel drivers and khalasis are daily supplied with four seers of mutton, a jar full of milk and for their camels a toya of jowar. The daily cost of such supplies is Rs. 4 and at this rate the cost for the 25 days will be Rs. 100 for the camel drivers and khalasis alone. They will possibly also ask that they should be paid for their provisions. Add to this what was spent on the rasai of the other establishment and it will be seen that this camp must have cost Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. The loss in the first instance will fall upon the daroghas and mukadams, who will reimburse themselves by making collections from zamindars and cattle owners over and above their annual lapo. It is therefore the duty of officers to suppress the evils, to keep an eye on their greedy establishments, to allow no subordinate official, tapadar or darogha to approach their camps, to instruct their establishments to get their supplies from the bazar, to check their bills and to cause payments to be made in their presence, as was done by Mr. Moysey and Mr. Mome. Butlers of officers are provided with rasai, daily allowances and annuities, because in the event of their not being so treated they complain to their masters of the bad quality of the provisions supplied, with a view to prejudicing them against the officials in charge of rasai. Similarly the peons postpone pitching tents and then complain that they did so because no chher was available with the result that the officer gets annoyed with the tapadar or the mukhtiarkar concerned. If however officers do not mind such complaints and even hold their own men responsible for the work in camp, rasai will be stopped to a

certain extent. The mukhtarkars too should dare to give true versions of things to officers who are one and all lovers of truth. Probably officers connive at the pranks of their menial establishments because they feel that they will leave their service if rasai is forbidden to them and take service where they can have an extra income. If however every officer becomes strict in this matter, there will be an end to the menials forsaking their masters, for the simple reason that they will not gain anything by a change of masters. Of course it will be necessary to make some increase in their pay. Officers should also keep an eye on their munshis' work and should not worry their subordinates for mistakes committed by them. This will make their munshis powerless, with the result that they will not insist upon rasai or annuities being made to them. Another cause of rasai is lapo. If this is stopped (I stated in clause 59 how it should be stopped) rasai will decrease of itself. All this however relates to the revenue department. In other departments there is no way to stop rasai except by keeping a strict eye.

Rasai will also decrease if the touring periods of the touring establishments are curtailed. The object of touring, viz., that officers should come in contact with the people and know their grievances is not fully served. Touring officers meet large zamindars and chair holders only, who inform them of their own grievances only. Aggrieved persons come as petitioners but as the mukhtarkar of the taluka is also on the spot, they cannot get redress. They then resort to anonymous petitions which too are disregarded. If they make petitions in their own name, the underlings and large zamindars give them threats and suppress evidence. It is therefore desirable that officers should not ask mukhtarkars to accompany them on tour or to sit by their side, when they hear petitions. They should also meet zamindars other than large zamindars. Officers' tour seems necessary because of its indirect advantages such as the improvement of roads and the check it exercises upon the subordinate officials, but its period should be reduced. For the inspection of records and jamanbandi, a week or so at the most will suffice for each taluka. Calculating at this rate the period should not exceed 3 months. The camps should be confined to large towns in talukas. The camp establishment should be as small as possible. If an officer must go to a village, he should go alone, leaving his camp behind or if necessary take a tent and private servants with him. In large towns in talukas milk, mutton, firewood, jars and every other thing is obtainable at the bazar. Every man should therefore get his supplies from the bazar. Even cots can be obtained from the bazar.

- 37-38. Zamindars present dalis of fruit to officers at their camps. Each such dali costs Rs. 5 at the most. Some zamindars do not present such dalis. I have never presented a dali to any officer. If officers refuse dalis, zamindars feel it. They think that such refusal is a slur on them. Sometimes large zamindars present sheep or big dalis at Christmas. On other occasions they do not present sheep. Zamindars present dalis with great pleasure and insist upon officer accepting them. There is no objection to this practice. Dali is a token of respect or hospitality to an official. It is similar to the present of sugar-candy made by the panchayats, thinking that it is not proper to go to an officer empty-handed. Officers do not care for dalis. They give them away to their peons and cooks.

Lapo.

39. Lapo seems to be derived from 'Lobb' (greed) or 'Labb' (gain). Lapo is the annual quantity of grain which the zamindar gives to artisans or pirs or fakirs either by way of remuneration or charity. It also means a fee paid by zamindars to Hindus for making the batai. Similarly the annual payments in cash or kind made to officials are called lapo.
40. There are various forms of unauthorized lapo. It is levied not only in the revenue department but also in other departments notably in the Public Works Department, but the pithy is that the revenue department alone has become notorious. It is levied partly for the purpose of rasai and partly as a bribe.
41. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
- 41, 42. It is levied in different departments in different forms.
- (a) In the revenue department, the tapadar levies from small zamindars, from one anna to two annas

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? per jircb, from large zamindars from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per cent as lapp, when receiving the first instalment of assessment. Where land has been leased and the lessee has to pay the assessment, lapo is also paid by him under the terms of the agreement. In other cases every occupant, small or large, pays lapo himself.

(b) In the Public Works Department, Sub-Divisional Officers levy lapo at 10 per cent. from the contractors; sub-overseers and daroghas levy from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 according to the circumstances of each case; daroghas levy from Rs. 3 to 5 on each private paka sluice, Rs. 2 on each water course sluice and Re. 1 on each khuhado. Mukadams take a heap of reaped ears of corn, or at the time of batai, grain. They also take milk and kids from the cattle owners according to their requirements, even when there are no camps. In case of camps they receive cash payments from zamindars and supplies from cattle owners.

(c) Forest Rangers take annuities of grain from the zamindars and cattle owners.

(d) In the Police Department the Sub-Inspector and the thanedar exact from zamindars on the pretext of making rasai, annual payments according to their means.

(e) In the Judicial Department, also members of superior office receive fixed annual payments. The serishtedar, nazir, execution munshi and bailiffs of every subordinate civil court, each levy 8 annas per cent. on every plaint. This charge collectively amounts to 3 or 4 rupees. The burden falls on the defendant indirectly. The rasai for the superior officers of this department is made by the tapadars and that for the establishments, by the nazir and bailiffs.

(1.) Unauthorized lapo is levied not only for the purpose of rasai but also for particular favours in all departments. In the latter case it is a form of bribery. Because of it, revenue subordinates connive at unauthorized cultivation, defective boundary marks, encroachments and wastage of water. They would otherwise cause great loss to zamindars.

(2.) The Public Works Department officials connive at contractors' faults, make them concessions in measurements, and when the waters break the dam and flow into a canal, allow them credit for clearance work, which was not done at all, according to the estimates. They can also oblige zamindars by allowing more water into their canal when they need it, they being in charge of the regulators. They can also disoblige zamindars and others by giving them an excessive supply of water, to the injury of their crops and houses. Year before last such a thing happened on the Masahr canal. Zamindars went and forcibly lowered the needles at the sluice. They were prosecuted, incurred heavy expenses and were acquitted. The case was reported in the papers, at which the engineers got angry. It is a pity however that large zamindars, who always complain, take the side of the officials when an inquiry is made. The tyranny of the Public Works Department is even greater than that of the Revenue Department but it is not much talked of.

(3.) Officials of the Forests Department allow cattle owners to graze their cattle and to cut down firewood in the forests, without payment.

(4.) Officials of the Civil Court admit plaints quickly and the bailiffs exert themselves to serve summonses. Sometimes they even make false endorsements on oath on summonses.

(5.) The Police do not resort to proceedings under section 110 nor do they complain of want of assistance on the part of the zamindars. The honour of zamindars is now-a-days at the mercy of the Police. They therefore care more for the police than for the revenue department.

49. There were some improvements in the matter of rasai in 1914 owing to the circular of that year. It has since increased owing to the reasons stated above, as the mukhtiarbars themselves encourage it, but the old compulsion has disappeared. As regards officers, their ways are not uniform. Their personal expenses are reasonable and they pay their bills. If mukhtiarbars prepare short bills it is their mistake. It is not true as officers suppose that grass, firewood and milk have no market values. These three things have market values. If zamindars provide milk, they get it from cattle-owners against their will, who will curse them. Both tapadars and zamindars obtain milk on payment also. The

system of giving contracts to zamindars was positively unprofitable for them. They therefore nominally worked it for one year under compulsion, rasai being as usual made by the tapadars from the rasai fund.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. Suggestions for prevention of lapo:

The most important suggestion is that assessments should be remitted by money order. Tapadars should have nothing to do with it; they should simply send to zamindars their bills of assessments in time. Money order fees should be reduced. This will necessitate the employment of additional clerks in post offices. It is absurd to expect that lapo will cease, if mukhtiar-kars become more vigilant, for even they are interested in its continuance: The demands of the mukhtiar-kar and the head munshi upon the tapadars are so frequent and so great that the latter are disgusted with the taking of lapo. If lapo ceases, these demands will also cease. But the pay of the tapadars must be increased so as to enable them to live decently and comfortably and not to be dependent upon officers or zamindars. If the system of payments by money order is introduced, the question will arise as to how arrears should be recovered. My suggestion is that mukhtiar-kars should proceed against zamindars who are in arrears, as labourers are proceeded against under Act No. XIII:—Bailable warrants should be issued against them and if the money is not paid or bail furnished within the time allowed, the defaulter must be sent to jail. In this way arrears can be very easily recovered and revenue officials will not, as is the case now, have to knock about or to distraint or sell movable properties. This procedure is more effective and more speedy than the procedure of distraint and sale. When lapo has thus been prevented, the fear is that tapadars will harass zamindars in connection with their boundary marks, wastage of water and encroachments. To prevent this, it is necessary that the provisions of the Land Revenue Code should be relaxed and the rule regarding wastage of water cancelled. In a rice district, waste of water is necessary and inevitable. As regards encroachments, superior officers should look into such cases personally. In rice fields boundary marks should be of stone instead of earthen mounds. As it is, subordinate officials resort to various illegal practices in connection with them. If boundary marks of a khatedar are not in a good condition, notices are issued for the boundary marks in the whole of the group, whether repaired or unrepaired. These notices do not reach the khatedars concerned, and then the contractor is brought in to repair the boundary marks in the whole group on contract. The contractor does the work in a perfunctory manner and from the cost obtained from the khatedars, gives perquisites to officers who do not supervise his work. In this way, even those zamindars of the group whose boundary marks are already repaired, are required to pay for the repairs executed by the contractor. If they complain, they are not minded by the mukhtiar-kar. In future when the mukhtiar-kar receives a list of boundary marks which are out of repair, he should issue a summons to each khatedar and ask him if the report is true. In case a zamindar's boundary marks are out of repair, the mukhtiar-kar should give him time in which to repair them. If the boundary marks are not repaired within the time allowed, he should entrust the work to a contractor. Indeed such powers should be exercised by the Assistant or Deputy Collectors, with a view to save zamindars from harassment. For a year or two there would be some trouble from subordinate officials. When they see that the new procedure has come to stay, the trouble will cease. On the prevention of lapo, annual payments and rasai will disappear of them selves. At the same time, superior officers should see that their munshis do not worry their subordinates in correspondence.

All this relates to the revenue department. There is no remedy for other departments especially the Public Works Department. It appears rather difficult to prevent undue exactions in that department, for the water supply on which depends the very existence of the zamindars, is in its charge. Cattle owners whose villages are in the neighbourhood of canals or whose cattle are watered at canals are always in the grip of that department. Approaches to canals are now closed and neither men nor cattle are allowed to pass along canals. Will not this lead to official oppression? It is suggested that all matters of water supply should be disposed of in consultation with revenue officers. Both the Police and the Public Works Departments can prove veritable curses to the people, when they exceed certain limits. Officers alone can keep them in check. There is no other remedy. The great pity is that the sacred Educational Department which until now was free from the evil of rasai, has succumbed to it. Poor masters, who have nothing but their pay to depend upon, make rasai for the establishments both official and private of the Deputy Educational Inspector and his assistants and the Educational Inspector from their legitimate pay, which is very small and an inadequate remuneration for their brain work. Even in matters of promotion and transfer, they make customary payments to the munshis of their superior officers.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ? 52. Chher means men driven like cattle with a view to their employment without remuneration.
53. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 53. The chheras are zamindars' hans.
54. They are provided to close breaches, to pitch and strike camps, to load and unload kit, to repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to fetch water and to do other work at officers' camps
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
55. When the chheras i.e. haris are given lands by zamindars to cultivate, they are required to undertake in writing on the takavi deeds or orally, to work as chheras when required to do so, They therefore come without any excuse in response to zamindars' calls.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government ? 56. When they are employed on closing breaches they get food only from the Public Works Department. When employed on other work, they are fed by the zamindars.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ? 57. From 20 to 30 chheras are required at each officer's camp for all the days of the camp.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ? 58. From 50 to 100 are obtained to repair the roads and to prepare the camping ground or each zamindar is assigned some work, which he finishes within the appointed time, employing as many chheras as necessary.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ? 59. They get nothing from Government or the Local Boards. The work lasts for 2 or 3 days.
60. Chher for the purpose of shikar is a rare occurrence. Officers do not shoot except at Christmas, the arrangements being made by a few large zamindars who shoot themselves.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?
61. The chheras are bound to come at the call of zamindars, whether they are willing or not. Some officers give money presents or food to the chheras. In any case zamindars feed them.
61. Do they come willing or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62, 63. Such repairs are also of benefit to the public. All the roads are put into repair for the sake of the camps of officers.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Chher means employment without remuneration. How can the chheras then get anything except food ? Of course the zamindars get honours and afnamas at darbars, for such help.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 65. Large zamindars supply as many as a hundred chheras at the time of floods and breaches.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ? 66. They get food from Government.

- 67 and 68. The employment of chheras in the cultivation season interferes with their cultivation, Casual paid labour is also available, but the chheras of the zamindars will be glad if they are given a money wage without food. The officials of the Public Works Department often cheat in accounts of the expenditure on the closing of breaches. The occurrence of a breach means ruin for the zamindars and a good time for the officials.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?

A committee should be appointed to look after the expenditure incurred on closing breaches and in conjunction with the officials to settle the accounts of provisions and to make purchases. This is good for Government. The revenue officials take bribes or presents but the officials of the Public Works Department sometimes even appropriate Government moneys without being called to account. There is no remedy for this state of things. The saving caused by the curtailment of the touring period and the camp establishment, should be utilized for the purpose of employing khalasis, who should pitch and strike tents at camps themselves or with the help of the local board beldars.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF R. S. MULCHAND SAKHAWATRAI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Rao Sahib Mulchand Sakhawatrai. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Zamindar, Rs. 35 income tax jointly with brothers; Government land revenue Rs. 6,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Tayab, taluka Ratodero. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Vice President Ratodero Municipality, District Local Board member and Chairman, Honorary Magistrates' Bench B, Ratodero. |
- Rasai.*
- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. I consider it as a nuisance to the public. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. About 30 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Ratodero town and Tayab-jo-gote, |
| 9. The Commissioner, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and the Educational Inspector visit Ratodero and the Deputy Collector Tayab only. | 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Manager, the Deputy Collector, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and the Educational Inspector visit Ratodero and the Deputy Collector Tayab only. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, grass and vegetables. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I have fowls, eggs, milk, butter, vegetables and grass of my own. I buy firewood only. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I bring them from my own house. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for firewood only at seven annas per maund. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Certainly they have. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I purchase firewood. It costs me nothing to bring it to camp. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. Re. 1. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. I have to provide supplies at Tayab only. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. About Rs. 8. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. I have to provide supplies at Tayab only. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. About Rs. 5. |

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. At Tayab about Rs. 2.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. Payment is made by officers on bills presented by me but at Tayab no payments are received for supplies to others.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ? 24. The loss falls on me and not on the haris.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. I provide quarters at Tayab only.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ? 26. It costs me nothing as I have houses of my own. No charge is made.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ? 27. No.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ? 28. No.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. No.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 30. No.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 31. About Rs. 150.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ? 32. I do it myself under the orders of the mukhtarkar.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ? 33. I present bills to officers who pay them. When I come out of the presence of the officer, the money is taken back by the butler.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ? 34. It will be a good thing if contractors are appointed.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 35. They can be found for sub-divisions and not for districts.
36. I particularly object to zamindars being called upon to make rasai as they find it hard to accept money from official establishments. Government should make their own arrangements through a contractor specially appointed for the purpose. Rates should be fixed and everybody should pay for his supplies at the rates so fixed.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ? 37. Such dhalis are commonly given. Fruit costs Rs. 3 or 4 and sheep Rs. 7 or 8. As regards vegetables they are brought from my own garden.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ? 38. No.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ? 39. Lapo is regarded as Government land revenue

Lapo.

40. Unauthorized lapo is levied in 5 or 6 ways. It is levied in the Revenue and Public Works Departments. In the Police Department it is levied in the form of contributions from zamundars towards the expenses of rasai at officers' camps.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the Public Works, Police and Forest Departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. It is levied in the Revenue Department at fixed rates per assessment.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghhas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. It is taken by the tapadars on the plea that they utilise it on the rasai of officers. Tapadars, daroghhas and muccadums take it.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai. They say that it is spent on rasai.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. It is true that they say that they levy it for the purpose of making money presents to private and official establishments of touring officials. I too pay tips to peons and butlers when I call on officers.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Generally Rs. 2 to peons and from Rs. 2 to 25 to the butler and other private servants. If I do not pay the tips, they do not give me a chair to sit on.
46. Yes, if I do not pay the lapo to tapadars, I am made to suffer pecuniarily on account of alleged encroachments and my boundary marks and ridges are entered as out of repair with the result that Government repairs them and recovers the charge from me. If I do not pay lapo to the police they carry false tales to the District Superintendent of Police and prejudice him against me.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. The annual amount exacted by the tapadar is Rs. 5 or 6 and by the police jamadar Rs. 60.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. About Rs. 200 on my own account.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamundars?
49. It has not been reduced. The amount is same as before.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtakars?
50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. I do not think lapo could ever be stopped. Grain must go to the grinding stone, poor zamundars therefore are helpless.
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher is like punitive police

Chher.

53. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 53. Haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. To prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to close breaches, to repair roads, etc., etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. Yes, they hold their lands on express condition to perform such labour.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government? 56. No.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. 25 chheras are required for pitching tents at Collector's camps. 5 are required for subsequent days. For other officers a smaller number is required for similar services.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. 10 chheras are required daily. 30 to 50 are required for preparing the camping ground and pitching tents.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. They get food from zamindars but nothing from Government.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. I do not help in shikar.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. Ditto.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Yes. At the time of officers' camps roads are repaired by zamindars. A zamindar of standing has to supply 30 to 50 men.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. The public also benefit from it.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Cannot give the number.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. No.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. It does interfere with cultivation as it causes delay in harvesting to the loss of zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Cannot give the number.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Certainly, he can procure.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Chher may certainly be obtained but chheras should receive the wages from Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ABDULLAH RAIS KHAN TUNIO.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Abdullah son of Rais Matal Khan Tunio, resident of village Ber, taluka Kambar. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar and Local Board Member (elected). |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Zamindari, Hissadari, about 900 acres, in all assessment Rs. 2,400. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Kambar. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Local Board Member. |

Rasai.

6. Rasai means provisions supplied at officer's camps and cash payments made to subordinates and their private servants. My village is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kambar where too I supply firewood, grass, eggs, chickens, milk, butter, at officers' camps.
7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. 30 years.
8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. In Ber and Kambar.
9. There is a shikargah near my village where all officers except those of the Forest Department encamp. The Governor of Bombay has encamped there twice. The expenses exceeded Rs. 500 on each occasion. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the supervising tapadar, the tapadar, the District Superintendent of Police, the Inspector of Police, the Sub-Inspector, the Executive Engineer, the Sub-Divisional Officer and others.
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. Fowls, eggs, sheep, kids, milk, butter, etc.
11. I cut down my own babul-trees for the fire wood required. I pay for the cutting. I buy and supply chabar grass. As regards rice straw I draw upon my own stock. Rice, ghee, sugar, molasses for camels, jowari, paddy, gram, etc., for horses are bought at a bana's shop and supplied.
12. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? 12. Fowls, eggs, sheep and kids are bought and supplied.
13. Do you get them from your harts or from banas or from your own house or from other zamindars 13. I pay for the above articles.
14. Do you pay for them and if so at what average rates ? 14. All things including milk, grass, firewood have market values.
15. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 15. A cart load of firewood costs between Rs. 2 and 3.
16. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 16. We are asked to give supplies worth Rs. 8 or 9 for the officer
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ?

These are :—

4 fowls, 6 to 10 annas each. 20 eggs, one anna each. Butter 2 seers, Re. 1 per seer. Sheep or kids, Rs. 12 each in the case of the former and Rs. 3 each in the case of the latter.

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes. Everything is supplied by us.

18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. The average daily cost is :—

| | Rs. | | Rs. |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Mukhtiarkar | 10—20 | District Superintendent of Police | 30—40 |
| Assistant or Deputy Collector | 20—30 | Deputy Inspector-General of Police | 15—20 |
| Collector | 40—50 | Sub-Overseer | 10—15 |
| Commissioner | 50—100 | Overseer | 15—25 |
| Sub-Inspector | 5—10 | Executive Engineer | 30—50 |
| Inspector | 10—15 | Superintending Engineer | 40—60 |

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes.

20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. Answers under 16 and 18 include everything

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. The daily cost of each officer's camp is shown above.

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. No.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your hars or on you? 24. I bear the loss. The more respectable zamindars bear it.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.

26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. We give our own otaks which costs us nothing

27. I provide bullock carts for the carriage of kit. If a munshi has no conveyance of his own I provide him with a horse or huggy for which no payment is made.

27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?

28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. It costs us nothing if we provide our own animals. If they are obtained on hire, the hire is paid by us.

29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes. There is the first claim, as we have many dealings with them; and for the sake of our respect, it is necessary to make rasai for them.

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. We receive no payment.

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. I spend Rs. 800 or more every year.

32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I do rasai myself. The supplies to tapadars, and subordinate police officers and darogas are also paid for by me.

33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. They get receipts from us but make no payment.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or, would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. If we were appointed contractors we would be ashamed to ask for money and if we did ask we would lose our respect.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes. Hindu contractors can be found.
36. The first consideration is since officers get their pay from Government, why should zamindars bear their expenses. Rasai means loss both to zamindars and their haris. My opinion is that tours should be curtailed, and confined in the case of high officials to taluka head quarters and to big villages, in the case of small officials. Touring officers should get their supplies from the bazar through their servants on payment. They should not buy their supplies through zamindars, tapadars, policemen or darogas, as the latter will fleece zamindars.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. Yes, I do. I do so of my own accord. If officers refuse our dhals we feel. The dhals cost us Rs. 30 to 40.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Yes, I do. I do so of my own accord. If officers refuse our dhals we feel. The dhals cost us Rs. 30 to 40.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. No.
- Lapo.*
39. Lapo is from the same stock as rasai. It was formerly levied at the rate of one anna, but is now levied at the rate of two or three annas. It is paid in cash.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 40. Unauthorized lapo is that which is described above and is levied by touring subordinates of all departments.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. Unauthorized lapo is that which is described above and is levied by touring subordinates of all departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. It is levied at a certain rate per jreb or acre.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abgars and darogas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. Yes. Tapadars, abgars, darogas, sub-inspectors, and thanedars levy it.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. We do both.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. Do.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 45. At each camp money presents are made to munshis of all departments; my total expenditure on these presents amount to Rs. 100 a year or even more.

46. Unauthorized lapo is paid by us under compulsion to prevent tapadars making false reports against us for one thing or another, and "sitting on" our correspondence relating to matters connected with our lands. P.W.D. subordinates throw obstacles in the way of our getting water supply, impound our cattle if these pass on to canal banks and harass our haris in case they are not paid their lapo. Policemen have large powers. If we refuse to pay them lapo, we lose our respect. They will get a rogue to make a false complaint against us and will investigate the case themselves and disrespect us or they will proceed against us under the badmashi provisions on false evidence or they will detain our haris for 4 or 5 days for the purpose of comparing foot prints and beat them.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasa' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
47. Subordinate officers of all departments take such presents.
48. I have replied to this above.
49. No.
50. Not at all.
51. The powers of subordinate officials should be curtailed in the case of departments in which lapo is levied.

Chher.

52. Chher means zamindar's haris employed during touring seasons on repairing roads without payment, sometimes for months together along with their bullocks, carts and donkeys. Zamindars have to feed them.
53. Chheras are Muhammadan haris.
54. They repair roads, prepare camping grounds pitch tents, load and unload kit and keep watch for officers' camps.
55. When we advance takavi to haris we make this condition that they will work as chheras at officers' camps. They work as chheras in pursuance of that condition. In return for their service, we show them consideration at the time of batai.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. No answer.
57. Chheras are required as under:—
- | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----|
| 57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? | Mukhtiarkar's Camp | 10 |
| | Dy. Collector's Camp | 20 |
| | Collector's Camp | 50 |
| | Commissioner's Camp | 100 |

These however are supplied for the purpose of pitching and striking camps and loading and un-loading kit. On other days 10 or 15 men are supplied for bringing water, firewood, and grass and for keeping watch.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. This has been answered above.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. Do.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. For shooting in dhandhs, chheras are required. These get some money as bakhshish from officers.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They come willingly in response to the zamindar's call. The zamindar gives them food only.
62. There are beldars and malhis for roads, but much of their time is spent in doing private work of the mukhtiarkar, and the head munshi. It is therefore that the zamindar's chheras are employed at officers' camps. The chheras get nothing except food which the zamindar provides.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Only such roads are repaired as lead to officer's camps and not others.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?
64. Zamindars provide food only and nothing else.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. The number of chheras depends upon the amount of work involved.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. They get nothing. The zamindar feeds them.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. During cultivation season much loss is caused.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. Labourers could be obtained on 6 to 7 annas a day in my neighbourhood.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Yes. If labourers are paid a full wage.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. If chher is employed it should be adequately paid.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF WADERO KADIR BAKSH JAN MUHAMMAD.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Wadero Kadir Baksh son of Wadero Ja Muhammad Narejo, zamindar and pattadar. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. 600 acres; Rs. 2,500 assessment. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Thariri Mohbat. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Taluka Local Board member |

Rasai.

- Rasai means the supply of provisions etc. and cash to officers and their establishments at camps. Now it means injustice.
- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 7. 20 years. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 8. (1) Thariri Mohbat, (2) Radhan Station, (3) bungalow at the mouth of Pritchard canal, (4) Mehar. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the supervising tapadar and officers of all other departments. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 10. For the Collector—2 fowls, a dozen eggs sometimes 2 dozen, butter one seer, grass eight annas worth, fuel one rupee worth, milk four seers; |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | the Deputy Collector—If European same as for Collector, if Indian half of that for the Collector; |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | Mukhtiarkar—Whatever supplies are given by the shopkeeper to the Mukhtiarkar are paid for by us. The mukhtiarkar gets the receipt. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. | Kids are given free at camps in small villages. |
| 13. We pay at the following rates:—fowls 8 annas each, eggs 12 annas a dozen, butter rupee one per seer, milk 2 annas a seer, fuel 6 annas a maund, grass Rs. 4 a cart load containing 20 bundles, kid Rs. 2 each. | 11. We supply provisions daily which we get from banias. Grass and fuel are brought to camp by chheras. Fowls, eggs, kids, butter, etc. are obtained on payment and supplied by us. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 12. This has been answered above. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates? |
| | 14. Yes, according to the above scale. |
| | 15. We purchase fuel from the depot and the cartage up to camp is one anna per maund. We get grass from haris on payment. Haris do the work unwillingly. They are made to do it from fear of the officers. |

16. For the Collector and Assistant Collector Rs. 5 daily; the Indian Deputy Collector Rs. 3 daily; the mukhtiarkar Rs. 3 daily; Supervising tapadars and tapadars take provisions at the time of field inspection.
16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 17. We have to provide provisions to officers and their establishments in small villages.
17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 18. The expenses of the Collector's establishment amount to Rs. 30 per day.
18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 19. Yes.
19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 20. I have answered this under No. 18.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 21. Yes, free of payment
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 22. Collector's establishment Rs. 35, Deputy Collector's establishment Rs. 25 and Mukhtiarkar's establishment Rs. 15.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 23. Absolutely nothing. The nominal payments made by officers on the bills presented to them are taken back by the butler and the establishments make no payments at all.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 24. The loss falls on us.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 25. Yes, free.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 26. No.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 27. Yes.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 28. It costs me from Rs. 5 to 10 but I receive no payment.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 29. Yes, for all.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 30. It costs us about Rs 30 but we receive no payment.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 31. About Rs. 500.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. We have to make the rasai as the burden of rasai is still on zamindars and then haris. If it is not made, both zamindars and their haris are put to heavy losses and zamindars are disrespected.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. This has been answered under No. 23.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars? 34. It would be better if a Hindu contractor were appointed.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes, it would be possible.
36. The powers of officers who receive rasai should be curtailed. The period of tour should be reduced substantially and the camp establishment should be reduced. Revenue officers should not have magisterial powers. Education should be made free and compulsory in villages.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
37. Do you present 'Dhalls' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Yes, a dhali of fruit costs Rs. 5, that of vegetables Rs. 2 and that of a sheep Rs. 10.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. I think it should be stopped.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. It means injustice and annoyance.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. Tapadars levy one or two annas per jireb as lapo. Other departments levy in fixed lump sums. The Police Department specially levy it with force.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. I have answered this under No. 40.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and darghas, sub-inspectors and thane-dars and forest rangers? 42. Tapadars levy it for doing rasai and subordinates of other departments levy it in lump sums.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. I do rasai as well as give lapo.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. Officers' private servants and peons are given money presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 45. These presents vary from Rs. 5 to 10. Zamindars suffer if they do not make such presents.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. No favours are shown. They levy it by force.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactations and by whom are they exacted? 47. Subordinates of all departments levy it. The amount varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactations of the nature of 'Lapo'? 48. About Rs. 500.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars? 49. It has not been reduced. On the contrary it has increased since then.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars ?
50. No, on the contrary it has increased. The system is not in vogue here.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?
51. Special legislation should be made penalizing the taking of lapo and rasai.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?
52. It means forced labour.
53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
53. They are haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
54. They do all kinds of work: prepare camping grounds, pitch tents, erect 'kacha' huts for horses, keep watch, fetch water and do miscellaneous work.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamundars ?
55. Yes, some concession has to be made to them as they are called upon to perform such labour from time to time.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamundars ? or from the officers of Government ?
56. Nothing at all. On the contrary they are ill treated and oppressed.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?
57. At least 50 at the Collector's camp, 100 at the Commissioner's camp, 30 at the Deputy Collector's camp and 5 at the Mukhtiarkar's camp. For officers of other departments chheras are supplied according to their respective requirements.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ?
58. About 50.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamundars ?
59. They do not get anything.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shukar ?
60. About 25 to 30 chheras.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamundars ?
61. They come under pressure. They do not get anything from officers but zamindars give them food.
62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?
62. When an officer like the Commissioner, the Collector or the Assistant Collector is coming then chheras are required at the rate of 10 per mile of the road to be repaired.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
63. They are generally of benefit to the officers.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamundars or Local Boards ?
64. They do not get anything.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
65. From 500 to 1,000 chheras are required.

66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They do not get anything. They only get food either from the zamindars or from the officers.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes, it does, causing great loss to zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is available to a large extent.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes, it ought to be abolished.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HOTCHAND THAKURSING.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Hotchand Thakursing. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader and Lessee. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Assessment 3,000 rupees. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Kambar. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate | 5. Nil. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term, 'Rasai' ? | 6. It has come to mean procuring supplies for the touring officers without or on getting less payments for the same. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? | 7. I have about ten years' experience of rasai though not of making it. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? | 8. No answer. |
| 9. Representatives of almost all the departments in Sind visit the shikargahs of Kambar during the touring season. Officers from other parts of India pay occasional visits to the dhands of Kambar. | 9. Representatives of almost all the departments in Sind visit the shikargahs of Kambar during the touring season. Officers from other parts of India pay occasional visits to the dhands of Kambar. |
| 10. What supplies do these officers require for themselves ? | 10. All sorts of supplies are taken by officers and their establishments |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowar stalks and firewood ? | 11. Grain and rice are supplied by the village banias. Other articles mentioned come from the hari. |
| 12. The requirements are met by village establishment through the assistance of zamindars and they are collected and brought to the camp by the village establishment. | 12. The requirements are met by village establishment through the assistance of zamindars and they are collected and brought to the camp by the village establishment. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates ? | 13. The articles had from the bania are generally paid out of the rasai fund. |
| 14. Milk, stalks and firewood are not sold beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns. Persons living in such places bring milk and firewood for sale in large villages and towns and get their prices. It could therefore very conveniently be said that everything has its price. If milk and firewood are not sold there yet they cannot be had for nothing. | 14. Milk, stalks and firewood are not sold beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns. Persons living in such places bring milk and firewood for sale in large villages and towns and get their prices. It could therefore very conveniently be said that everything has its price. If milk and firewood are not sold there yet they cannot be had for nothing. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? | 15. Firewood is procured from jungles or from trees on the banks of zamindari karias. It at any rate costs labour. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? | 16. I have no accurate idea of it. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? | 17. They are supplied. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? | 18. No answer. |

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. They are supplied.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 20. No answer.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. These articles are supplied. Cots are taken from the haris and water jars from the village potter.
22. They cost nothing when the camp is in the village of a zamindar. But if the camp is in the headquarters jars are purchased from the bazar. The cots are procured from the people there. During the Commissioner's camp no less than 100 cots are required.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ?
23. As a practice nothing is paid for these things by servants and menials. As regards clerks and munshis some of them pay only a portion of their real expenses. Some officers do not pay at all, some pay only a part of the prices of the things received and a few pay in full the bill presented for payment.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?
24. The excess is paid from the rasai fund, except in cases where the zamindars show willingness to pay. Zamindars again recover from their haris at batai time.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ?
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. Sometimes quarters are provided for the Collector's establishment.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment ? 26. It costs nothing. Camels, carts, sometimes carriages are supplied by zamindars.
27. As a rule camels and carts do not cost the zamindar anything. But he generally has to pay for the carriages supplied by him at the rate of three rupees a day. Several carriages are retained by the tapedar of the head quarter per day there. Generally no payment is received. The buggy walas are paid from rasai fund.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ? 28. Already answered.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. The zamindars have to make rasai of officials mentioned.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 30. Here too payment is rarely made.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 31. No answer.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ? 32. Rasai is made by the tapedars out of the rasai fund and partly out of contributions by zamindars. There are no contracting zamindars in the Kamar taluka.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ? 33. Payments are never made through a contracting zamindar. The rest has been already replied to.
34. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars. It will be only insulting them if they are asked to do this office. The introduction of such a system will not improve the state of affairs. It is desirable to appoint contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars to supply all the necessities of life to touring officers.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 35. Yes. Such persons are available in every taluka village.

36. Rasai is another word for bribery. The system of rasai is oppressive. The whole burden falls on the poor cultivator who is already over-burdened in many ways. Sind is an agricultural province. It is but right and proper that the agricultural community which supplies the wants of the province should be taken very good care of. Not that it should be allowed to be reduced to a state of serfdom. Both the zamindar and the peasant are sick of the affair. It hurts their self-respect. The system of rasai brings discredit on the whole administration. It is high time that the matter should be improved. The real way to eradicate this evil is to appoint contractors to do the work of rasai. At the same time introduce free and compulsory education among the people and to take such steps as would make the agricultural community like the rest of the population, free and independent. In fact this community should be made the pride of the province.

37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. No.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo is a general term for every unauthorized exaction levied from a zamindar.

40. Almost all the subordinate officials of all departments take lapo from zamindars. Lapo paid by a zamindar to his tapedar is called anegi. The tapedars at the time of first instalment, of the kharif assessment recover the whole anegi from the zamindars on a scale ranging from one anna to three annas per jirib. Zamindars paying heavy assessments pay either one anna per jirib or pay lump sum on mutual understanding. In that case the zamindar supplies the tapedar paddy sufficient to last his horse for the whole year. He also gets paddy for his own consumption. Small and petty zamindars pay 2 as. and 3 as. lapo per jireb, some even are made to pay an anna per rupee.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. Already answered.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abgars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. Revenue department anegi is received ostensibly for the purposes of rasai, but really for himself. Only a fraction of it goes to the rasai fund. It is meant to compensate him for the monthly pay that is withheld from him. Seldom a tapedar gets his pay for over two or three months in the year. His pigghars go to the rasai fund. In every taluka there is a rasai fund generally managed by the tapedar of the head quarter. When however rasai becomes heavy the zamindar is made to contribute to the rasai fund also.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. Already answered.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. Money presents to the private or official establishments of officers touring in the taluka are paid by the tapedars from the rasai fund. The private and official establishments of the touring officers' needs must be supplied at any cost.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 45. I am not in a position to answer.

46. The lapo is paid to the tapedar to prevent him from harassing the zamindar with respect to boundary marks, fines for the so-called waste of water and generally to secure his favour in many other matters in which the tapedar is always in a position to help or harass the zamindar.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

The lapo is paid to the Police Department to prevent the police from creating dissatisfaction in the raj of the zamindar. A zamindar is always anxious to be in good books with the Sub Inspector of the taluka. He is always afraid of section 110 Criminal Procedure Code. It is also meant to prevent him from making unwarranted reports against him to the District Superintendent of Police. In fact this lapo is paid to save his respect. The lapo is paid to the Public Works Department to secure regular supply of water in the rajona karias.

47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted? 47. Already answered.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'? 48. I have been paying during the last five years of my lease lapo and exactions of the nature of lapo, 120 rupees a year.

49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars? 49. No.

50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars? 50. Not to my knowledge.

51. Rasai and lapo generally go hand in hand. If rasai is stopped, lapo system will soon be a thing of the past. If rasai is stopped, tapedar for some time to come will be content with a slight yearly present from his khatedars. But as soon as the khatedars begin to realize their position the giving of presents will also disappear. Therefore steps should be taken to make the zamindar realize his position and that of the tapedar. This could effectually be done by introducing free and compulsory education among them. It is also needful that the fear of section 110 should also be removed.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? 52. Means forced and unpaid zamindari labour.

53. Chheras are persons who are forced to work at the bidding of the zamindar for Government without getting any wages.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

54. The Chheras are called on to close breaches, (2) to put roads in repairs, (3) to attend official camps, (4) to pitch and unpitch tents, (5) to carry tapals of officers and other work of like nature.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

55. The chheras hold their lands on condition that they would perform any labour demanded from them by the zamindars. It is impossible for any one to get land anywhere without such a condition.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

56. As a rule the chheras do not receive any kind of remuneration from either their zamindars or from the officers of Government. They are fed by the zamindars only on those occasions when they are engaged either in cutting new roads or repairing old roads or closing breaches.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

57. An Assistant or Deputy Collector requires about 15 labourers to pitch and unpitch his tents and about five otherwise. A Collector's camp requires about 30 chheras for pitching and unpitching tents and about 15 otherwise.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. Already answered.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. No.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. It all depends on the number of friends who form his sporting party.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. They come most unwillingly.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. I am not in a position to answer.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Naturally they must be.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers zamindars or Local Boards? 64. Nothing Only the zamundar gives them meals.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. As many as possible.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. In this case also they get meals from their zamindars.

67. The employment of the chheras during the cultivation season tells only upon the hari. By his agreement with the zamindar he is bound to respond to the call for labour made upon him in season and out of season with this reservation that if he is unable to leave the field operations he has to give a substitute who is either his partner or his son. If he can't spare even him he has to pay the zamundar the expenses incurred by him in engaging ordinary labourers in his place. The zamindar recovers that amount from the hari at the time of the batai.

68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is everywhere available.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.

70. The Chher ought to be abolished altogether. If the number of Local Board mallus is increased and they are made to do their legitimate work properly there will be no need of chher. During the cultivation season many of these mallus hire themselves as labourers and do the transplantation work with the knowledge and connivance of Local

Fund mistry. At night time they are engaged at pulling punkhas of the taluka and divisional officers. In winter they do the work of felling trees to get firewood for officials etc. This can easily be put a stop to.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. DOST MUHAMMAD BAHAWAL KHAN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name, | 1. Dost Muhammad son of Serai Bahawal Khan Jatoi. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. About Rs. 10,000 Land Revenue. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Mehrabpur, taluka Lahdarya. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate, | 5. District Local Board member, exemption under Arms Act and Commissioner's darbari. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. It means supply of provisions, etc., to officers and their establishments at their camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. About 60 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Dokri, Garele, Mato, Nasirabad, Warah. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Mukhtiarkar, the District Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the Inspector, the Sub-Inspector, their establishments and other officers. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Sheep, kids, chickens, eggs, sometimes mutton, milk, butter, firewood, stalks, rice straw, pegs, grain, rice, flour, vegetables, earthen pots, cots, beds, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get these supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. We get these supplies partly on payment from shop-keepers and others and partly from our houses. For cots and other petty things we make no payment. Chheras get food only for their work. |
| 12. Do you get them from your hans or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. Everything is obtained on payment except grass and firewood and milk (which is however obtained without payment sometimes). No hire is paid for cots. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so at what average rates? | 13. All things are bought except those which we get from our houses. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Some of these articles are dearer and others cheaper than in large towns. The difference is small. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. We get firewood from our lands or on payment from forest contractors. We get grass from our fields. Those who bring these things to camp are paid just what their food will cost. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The daily cost in connection with the camps of officers, whether Europeans or Indians is about two thousand per year. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Provisions are supplied to all. At times prepared food is also supplied by the zamindar when the camp is in his own village. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. The daily cost per man is Re. 1. |

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Provisions, etc., are supplied to all clerks, peons and private servants.
20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 20. The daily cost in the case of a munshi or peon exceeds one rupee.
21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Cots and jars are supplied at every camp. Kacha huts are erected for stables and for butlers where there are no stables or quarters for butlers.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. The cost varies with the number of men in the camp.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. We receive no payment. If anything is paid by European or Indian officers, it is paid by them to the tapadar or to their butlers and servants.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hars or on you ? 24. The loss falls on us only. Small khatedars, if at all, pay to tapadars, darogas and mukadams.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. Where there are no Government quarters we provide our own houses or kacha landhis built for the occasion.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ? 26. We supply grain from our own stock, failing it, from the market, for which we pay.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carnages ? 27. We provide carriages and carts sometimes.
28. If we obtain these from our raj it costs us nothing. If we get them from others we pay for them. We receive no payment.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment ?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarbars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. Rasai is made for all officers high and low. More is made for the latter than for the former.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 30. Details of the annual cost have been given above. We receive no payment and demand no payment.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 31. As stated above, about Rs. 2,000 per year.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars ? 32. No answer.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ? 33. We prepare no bills, as we receive no payment.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars ? 34. There is no independent contractor here. Zamindars provide and tapadars give.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ? 35. Independent contractors can be found for talukas, divisions or districts, if endeavour is made and fair rates allowed to them.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ? 36. The following are my principal objections and reasons:—
(1) There is great extravagance in camp because no payment is made. If payment were made there would be greater economy.
(2) Rasai is illegal and is made under apprehension and not from choice.

- (3) Lapo too is paid in order to obtain relief from annoyances and not for the purpose of rasai.
- (4) Rasai will be stopped if independent contractors are appointed, if camp establishments of officers are reduced, and if camps are made at taluk head-quarters only where supplies can be had from the bazar, without much difficulty.
37. Dalis do not cost us much and no force or pressure is exercised in obtaining them. They are given at one's pleasure and not in obedience to any order. Personally, I have no objection to this practice.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. I am not in favour of stopping dalis. It is a matter in which there is no compulsion.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. By lapo I understand unauthorized payments received in cash or kind by subordinate officials and servants.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. Unauthorized lapo is levied in cash or kind by subordinate officials of the departments referred to.
41. It is levied in different forms in different departments. Tapadars and supervising tapadars levy it at a certain rate per acre, munshis and peons levy it at camps according to the position of the zamindars; policemen levy it some times according to the position of the zamindar and sometimes according to the number of camps, in cash and kind; Public Works Department levy it on karias, khuhadas, cattle and camps; Forest Department levy it in cash, grain and butter according to the number of cattle or at so much per village.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. Subordinate officials of all departments who have outdoor work take lapo for their own benefit and not for rasai.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. We pay lapo to tapadars for fear of annoyances from them and not for the purpose of rasai. I now do not pay lapo personally; but my sons and kamdars pay it of which I am sure.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishment of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Sometimes tapadars take over and above the lapo, some cash from zamindars at the time of camps. My sons also pay such demands at times.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. They take occasional money presents which we make to save our respect. They also take annuities: The annuity amounts to Rs. 100 or 150.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Lapo is paid not for favours but in order to obtain security from the unjust annoyances of subordinates of all departments.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactations and by whom are they exacted?
47. Subordinate officials take it according to the facilities made. In my case these payments amount Rs. 100.

48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. My annual expenditure in respect of all is within a thousand rupees.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No. Nor was the system of contract encouraged by officers.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. It has not been reduced because the system of direct payment to mukhtarkars is not availed of generally.
51. If Government adopts the following measures lapo will be stopped.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
- (a) The period of tour should be curtailed, the camp establishment of touring officers should be decreased and camps should be made at taluka head quarters only
- (b) Independent contractors should be appointed for making rasai at camps.
- (c) The powers of supervising tapadars, muccudams and daroghas should be curtailed, policemen and others should not stay except at police chowri. No one should be allowed to harass people. The powers under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code should be transferred to magistrates.
- (d) Revenue officers should not have magisterial powers. Revenue and Judicial functions should be separated.
- (e) In each taluka there should be respectable men appointed as spies.
- (f) A responsible officer should be appointed to each district to make inquiries into matters relating to rasai, etc.
- (g) The Police Department should work under the supervision of and in consultation with zamindars subject to the control of the taluka magistrate.
- (h) The powers of the subordinate officials of the Public Works Department should be curtailed. They should work in consultation with the local zamindars under the control of the Sub-Divisional Officer. Subordinate officers should do nothing on their own initiative.
- (i) For work done for Government full wages should be paid as was the case formerly. Zamindars who assist should be rewarded according to the chher etc., provided by them.
- (j) In the Forest Department too the powers of officials should be curtailed and they should work in consultation with the zamindars concerned.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means the supply by the zamindar of haris and men of his raj for Government work.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Chheras are men supplied by the zamindar.
54. To prepare camping grounds (for Revenue, Forest and Public Works Department officers), to erect embankments, to repair roads, to close breaches, to keep in order gardens, to pitch tents, to bring firewood and grass to camp and to fetch water, etc., etc.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Chheras are zamindars' haris. They are at times called upon to do work for themselves and Government in return for which they are made concessions or given their wages.
56. They get food from zamindars and concessions are made to them at the time of bati. Zamindars forego their share of the grass and allow haris cattle to graze dubari crop. They get food only from Government, when employed on breaches. On other occasions they get from the local zamindars.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. From 10 to 40 according to the strength of the establishment.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalls and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. Sometimes hundreds of chheras are employed on preparing camping grounds. The number required for pitching tents depends upon the strength of the establishment. It varies from 10 to 50.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. Zamindars give them food but officers pay them nothing.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. For partridge shooting 5 to 10 chheras, and for duck and pig shooting 100 to 200.
61. The shikar season coincides with the harvest time. Chheras therefore come unwillingly. They get food from zamindars, but nothing from officers. Only those 5 or 6 chheras who are in personal attendance on officers get some bakshish from them if they get a good shikar.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards? 62. Malhis do not do the work of Local Fund roads properly. They do not look after them. At times zamindars are troubled to supply chher. No payment is made.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. Zamindars feed them food; Local Boards pay them nothing.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. In case of floods and breaches of canals banks, from 20 to 1,000 chheras are required.
66. At canal breaches chheras get food only; on other occasions they get nothing. Chher in the abkalan season interferes with cultivation and causes loss to the chheras themselves and their zamindars.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras,' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. In my neighbourhood a few labourers can be had on 8 annas a day during the cultivation season.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. A contractor can procure more labourers than a zamindar can.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Zamindars and haris will not prosper until chher is stopped. Chher should be abolished and supplies to touring officers should be provided by contractors entirely.

The following notes are submitted separately for consideration.

(1) Of all the departments the revenue officials of the district whose head is the Collector, try their best to stop this evil of rasai. For instance our present Collector Mr. Bolus exerted himself to stop rasai, issued strict orders to subordinates to put a stop to the usual practice of making rasai for butlers, peons, munshis and officers, gave similar orders to us zamindars personally and took an undertaking from us to stop rasai. But the evil is a long-established one and special measures should be taken to stop it. Unless this is done, the Collector's orders alone will not serve the purpose. No special measures have as yet been taken in the Public Works, Forest and Police departments.

(2) The police tyrannies and ill treatment are intolerable and to escape these, people are compelled to make rasai. There are several people who have suffered such tyrannies and they will be produced if justice will be done to them.

(3) The means of livelihood are in the hands of the engineers. Until therefore the Collector has control over the engineers it will not be possible to stop their lapo and rasai.

(4) There are villages, lands or roads leading to villages or lands in forest limits. Cattle also graze in forests. The forest officials take opportunities to give trouble to people in such matters and thus serve their objects.

(5) So long as subordinate officials can exercise such powers to harass people, the latter will fear them and consequently rasai and lapo will not cease.

(6) Even in hospitals every opportunity is taken to harass patients, if no proper rasai is made. The good object of Government is defeated.

(7) Fixed sums of lapo are levied also in civil courts from plaintiffs and defendants. It is levied in the form of a fee. This is not the case in other courts.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ALLAH BAKSH BUGHIO.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Allah Baksh Bughio, zamindar taluka Labdarya, district Larkana. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue | 3. I pay about Rs. 1,600 land revenue. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Gote Allahabad, taluka Labdarya. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Am a Khan Saheb. |
| <i>Rasai.</i> | |
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. It means to supply provisions at camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 40 to 45 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Dokri (formerly Bakrani), Hasan Wahan, the bank of the river, and my own village. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Mukhtiarkar, the Deputy Collector, the Collector, the Commissioner and other officers. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, mutton, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowan stalks and firewood? | 11. Grain, butter, etc., are obtained from Hindu shop-keepers; fowls, eggs, grass, firewood and milk are supplied by us. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. We do not get them from haris. We supply them ourselves, getting a few things from small zamindars. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rate? | 13. We pay for fowls, eggs and partly for milk. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Milk has a market value. As regards grass it is brought and supplied if it is not in our stock. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. Firewood is brought from the jungles by the haris. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I have not worked it out. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I have not worked it out. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. I have not worked it out. |

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. I have not worked it out.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. Hindu shop-keepers receive payment in part. European officers pay their bills to their butlers.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. The loss never falls on the haris. It falls on us or the tapadars.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. They live in houses or tents. No new house is built for them.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Sometimes we have to supply carts to the next camp. Generally the kit is carried on camels.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhbarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. When they encamp in my village, I must supply them with provisions.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. I have not worked it out.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. Do.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I make the rasai myself assisted by the tapadars.
33. Sometimes shop-keepers receive payment, sometimes tapadars pay them, recovering what they have paid from the zamindars. The zamindars receive no payment for milk, grass and firewood.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars? 34. If contractors are appointed, zamindars will be freed from the bother.
35. When contractors are obtainable for works varying in amount from Rs. 5 to lacs or rupees, there is no reason why they cannot be had for this purpose. Subordinate officials who are responsible for making rasai adopt rough methods.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. If a contractor is appointed for a camp, zamindars will not be responsible.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Formerly this practice was largely prevalent. A little of it remains.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. It is practically non-existent.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. We pay lapo to subordinate officials at each harvest.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. It is paid in cash.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. The Police only do not take lapo. Tapadars take it at a certain rate per acre.
42. Tapadars levy it for the ostensible purpose of making rasai for their superior officers. The Forest and Public Works Department subordinates give the same excuse. Inspectors and thanedars do not take lapo.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, abgars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Zamindars pay money to none except the tapadar.
44. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Government officials make money payments and they may be knowing about these things.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Lapo is paid from fear of harm.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. It has not been reduced.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. Since mukhtarkars themselves allow the levy of lapo, how can it be reduced?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Only the mukhtarkar and the head munshi can stop lapo.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means labour employed on certain kinds of work without payment.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. They are required for camps, repairing roads, closing breaches, repairing bunds, etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Haris whether they like it or not are bound to do whatever their zamindar tells them to do.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. They receive no payment.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. They get food only from the zamindars.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. 10 to 15.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. If they are called for a day only, they come willingly; but if they are called for a longer period they come unwillingly. European officers pay them sometimes.

62. How many "Chheras," if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards?
62. Funds of local boards are generally wasted with the result that when there is work to be done, there is no money.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. They are of benefit to all.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards?
64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. According to the amount of the work.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. They get dry bread from zamindars and occasionally some wages from the zamindars.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. During the cultivation season haris themselves employ men on 8 annas a day but get themselves hardly 4 annas a day. In this way chher interferes with cultivation.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. Yes,

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HARDASMAL UDERDINOMAL.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. Hardasmal Uderdinomal.
2. Appointment. 2. Deputy Collector, Mehar, (since 10th February 1918).
3. Head-quarters. 3. Larkana.
4. Length of service. 4. 25 years 9 months.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. All in Sind.

General.

6. In my present appointment, I have to tour in the whole of Mehar Division of which the area is 1192 square miles.
7. What is the area covered by your tour?
7. 210 Days.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour? 8. 1 cook, 1 other Hindu servant and 1 camel-man.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? 9. 4 Clerks, 3 Revenue munshis, 2 Judicial munshis and 4 Peons.
10. I carry with me in camp for myself and my two personal attendants almost all the food supplies required such as rice, flour, ghee, dry vegetables, dal, spices, sugar, etc. replenishing my stock where necessary by purchase from the bazar in big villages. My other private servant and the official establishment do not carry any supplies with them.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour?
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? 11. For myself and my personal attendants the following articles are required in camp locally: milk, butter, firewood, earthen chatties, water and cots. The other establishment is supplied with provisions as well as other necessaries (in the shape of firewood, earthen chatties, water and cots) in camp.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? 12. Official—chairs and tables. Private—folding chairs, teapoys, bath-stool and copper jars.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? 13. 3 cots and about 3 to 4 earthen jars.
14. I hill tent, one officer's tent (only one of these two is generally pitched at each camp while the other goes in advance to the next camp) one necessary tent and one rowti for servants.
14. What tents do you take on tour?
15. Two of my private servants live in rowti or when it is too hot to live in it then in a kacha landhi. The third servant lives under the shade of trees near his camel. The office establishment (superior) live in Local Fund musafir-khana, or tapedar's dera, or if there is no such building at any place then in zamindari otaks, while the peons live in a rowti provided by Government.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments?
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? 16. No stable is required, as I have no horses.
17. What records do you take on tour? 17. Current and last two years' records. English, as well as Sindhi, Revenue, Judicial and Local Fund.

18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? 18. I hold my office in my own tent, and my establishment holds office in the tent provided by Government for the purpose.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? 19. About half a dozen men for help in pitching and about as many in knocking down tents and in loading kit on camels on the night of marching.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? 20. Quite fair.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? 21. Taluka Local Board through the Chairman Works Committee who is the Mukhtiarkar of the taluka. The ordinary repairs are done by the beldar establishment, and special repairs by contract.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. No special road repairs are required or done for my marching.
23. I keep baggage camels on monthly hire up to April after which I have generally to camp at Taluka Headquarters and stay there for periods ranging from 7 to 15 days and engage carts for the march locally.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at head quarters?
24. I send for my post at Taluka Headquarters where, if I am encamped out in the taluka, it is delivered to the Mukhtiarkar who sends it to my camp with a mounted kotar. Similar arrangements are made for despatch of post unless the camp is at a place where there is a post office.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters?
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. The usual camping places in my Division are:—
- Taluka Mehar—Mehar, * Tharri Mahbat, Radhan Station, * Nao Goth, Balishah * Manjan, Mangwani and Faridabad.
- Taluka Kakar—* Khairpur Nathan Shah, * Kakar, * Sita Road Station, * Mado, Burira, Nasir Mahomed and Khanpur.
- Taluka Warah—* Warah, * Nasirabad, * Khadehri, Bothro, Dera, Wagan, Lalu Ranwak, Gaji Khuhavar and Hamal.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Camping grounds at these places are put in order either by the Local Fund Establishment or by zamindari labour.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with daria shops or bazars? 27. Every one of them.
28. The District Bungalow at Warah is in the midst of a Local Fund garden, while the camping ground at Khairpur Nathanshah and the Public Works Department Bungalows at Manjan, Sita Road Station and Khadehri have small vegetable gardens attached to them.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Those marked* in the list given under No. 25 above.
30. One chowkidar for each of the bungalows at Mehar, Warah, Nasirabad, Khairpur Nathanshah, Mado, and Kakar on Rs. 8 per mensem. The other* Bungalows are Public Works Department Inspection chowkies and I am not quite sure what establishment is attached to each.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?

Rasai.

31. Rasai in the sense in which it is so commonly understood means satisfying the requirements of a person without payment or for a low price; it also includes cash payments.
32. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. One seer milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer butter and $\frac{1}{2}$ a maund of fuel. I am a vegetarian.
33. The requirements of my two private servants whom I have to supply food are included in those mentioned in No. 32 above. Those of my third servant are:—Atta $1\frac{1}{2}$ pao, rice $1\frac{1}{2}$ pao, milk $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer and mutton 1 pao (occasionally), and of my official establishment:—

Superior Establishment.

| | | | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Atta | .. .. . | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ seer. | Butter | .. .. . | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pao. |
| Rice | .. .. . | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ seer. | Milk | .. .. . | 5 seers. |
| Ghee | .. .. . | $\frac{3}{4}$ seer. | Fuel | .. .. . | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. |
| Sugar | .. .. . | 1 pao. | Mutton | .. .. . | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers. |
| Spices | .. .. . | 5 annas. | Earthen jars | .. .. . | 1 dozen. |

Inferior.

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|----------------------|--------|---------|----------------------|
| Atta | .. .. . | 1 seer. | Spices | .. .. . | 1 anna. |
| Rice | .. .. . | 1 seer. | Sugar | .. .. . | $\frac{1}{2}$ pao. |
| Milk | .. .. . | 2 seers. | Mutton | .. .. . | 1 seer. |
| Ghee | .. .. . | $\frac{1}{2}$ a pao. | Fuel | .. .. . | $\frac{1}{2}$ maund. |

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. The average prices are as under:—

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Atta | .. .. . | 5 seers per rupee. | Milk | .. .. . | 1 anna per seer. |
| Rice | .. .. . | 4 seers per rupee. | Butter | .. .. . | 12 annas a seer. |
| Eggs | .. .. . | 3 annas a dozen. | Bajri or Juar stalks | .. .. . | 8 bundles a rupee. |
| Fowl | .. .. . | 6 annas each. | Firewood | .. .. . | 6 annas a maund. |
| Sheep | .. .. . | 4 rupees each. | | | |

35. Milk has market value almost everywhere and so fuel except in very outlying places, but I am not sure of grass, for I have known in several cases mukhtiarkars not taking into consideration the value of grass for purposes of determining remissions on the ground that it has no value and is the prerequisite of the haris.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. The average daily cost of our requirements taken in the camp is about Rs. 6.
37. Grain, provision such as rice, sugar, ghee, spices, etc., are purchased by the members of the establishment according to their requirements, from the bazar. Other articles are provided either by the zamindar or if there is no zamindar then the tapedar and sent to the camp with his kamdar or kotar.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. They are paid for on the last day on the zamindar or tapedar's bill for the things supplied by him. But no payment is demanded for fuel and jars, and sometimes the members of the establishment are allowed by the zamindar mutton, milk and butter also free. For the articles supplied by the bania he settles the account and receives payment therefor before the camp marches. When paying my own bill I make it a point to inquire if my establishment has paid for everything and generally find that it has.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. There is absolutely no guarantee.
40. Except for articles supplied free, I do not suppose there is much difference so far as I have been able to ascertain in this office, between the estimated cost of articles supplied and those paid for.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
- 41 and 42. If the payment is returned to the members of the camp, it is either the zamindar or the tapedar who has ultimately to bear the burden, or it is paid from the rasai fund. In no case is it paid by the mukhtarkar from his pocket.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No payment is demanded for the use of water jars and cots which are returned when the camp marches. No other furniture is requisitioned, nor are stables erected.
44. I occasionally do receive vegetables from Local Fund gardens. No payment is made therefor (under the Commissioner's No. _____, dated the _____ and Collector of Larkana's Circular No. 4795, dated the 18th September 1905).
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds maintained by Local Funds?
45. It is impossible to curtail my private establishment, but I believe the official establishment can be curtailed without detriment to Government work. The Serishtedar and the Head Munshi are the only two subordinates, besides say a couple of peons indispensable on tour; the remaining establishment can remain at Taluka Head-quarters to be within an easy call, if or when, required while the officer is touring in the taluka.
46. At present the Sub-Divisional Officer has to start on tour about the end of October and he is out in his division for 210 days exclusive of holidays or casual leave. This keeps him in his Division upto about the 15th June and some times even later. If the restriction of 210 days were removed, and the officer required to be out in his Division from November to May except with the permission of the Collector, Government work would not suffer thereby to any material extent.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. The orders of 1914 are not in operation in Warah taluka as no zamindar would undertake to supply provisions at different camps, nor could any contractor be found. In the other two talukas also the orders are not working well and the tapedar has not altogether been eliminated from the scene vide Collector's Circular No. 1016, dated 21st February, 1918.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. I think there should be general orders that officers should move out with camp only to some few central and important places, where everything could be had on payment, and do then inspection of outlying places from there. By this means the evil of rasai would be considerably minimized. The rest must depend upon the attitude of the officer himself. No contractor will undertake to supply provisions, etc., to touring officers, whether he is given contract for a taluka or division.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely information of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. No.

50. No special report on the working of the orders of 1914 has been submitted to or by me but I know as a matter of fact that they are not being followed and the matter is not unknown to the Collector, vide please my reply to question No. 47.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. No, not from any subordinates but I do not object to receive once and only once small fruit dalis from those respectable zamindars who I know would be hurt by refusal.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhabs" and sheep?
52. The estimated cost of such a dali is from Rs. 2 to Rs. .
53. The orders on the subject are contained in the last sentence of paragraph 2 of rule 2 of the Government Servants Conduct Rules, which runs as under:—"Any Government servant may accept a complimentary present of flowers or fruit or similar articles of trifling value. The practice of giving such presents should however be discouraged." I have tried to follow them to the best of my power.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
- Lapo.*
54. The term 'Lapo' as commonly used means the payment made by a land holder on his cultivation to a subordinate Government servant, over and above the Government dues.
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. I am not aware of more than one unauthorized form of lapo.
56. It is levied in the Revenue Department by the Tapedar on the cultivation raised by land holder and in the Forest Department by the Forester on the cultivation raised within the Forest limits. The primary object of the levy of lapo by a Government servant is to fill his own pocket, but later on he has to part with a large portion of it for making rasai.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. The rates vary at different places.
58. The general report is that the tapedar contributes his pay for as many months as is required to cover the cost of his share of rasai for touring officials. But if a tapedar does not take lapo and I know of at least one such instance though not in this district, he has not to pay the rasai.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
59. I am unable to say who manages the rasai fund, but it is either some tapedar or supervising tapedar or the taluka head munshi
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' Fund?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. I believe tips are paid to the private and official establishments of touring officers, but I am unable to give any reliable figures.
61. I am unable to say for other departments, but the tapedar who receives lapo from a zamindar no doubt connives at his shortcomings in return e. g. in regard to waste of water, unauthorized change of peech, etc., etc.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

62. The tenderness that is sometimes observed in the establishment examining the records of subordinate officers goes to show that there must be some such reason as payment for the occasion, or annuity, but I have no further reliable information on the point as to the amount so spent.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. Not very much as far as I am aware.
64. I have had no special official reports on the subject of levy of unauthorized lapo. Local orders of Government and the Commissioner in Sind there are for its stoppage, but if zamindars give it clandestinely and of their own accord (apparently because they think that the tapedar will harm them if they do not), and when questioned altogether deny having paid anything; it is difficult to see how the offending parties can be punished.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. The following measures are suggested as tending to prevent the giving of lapo by rayats.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
- (1) Education by which people should know their true rights.
- (2) Sincere and earnest desire on the part of the mukhtyarkar to come into touch with the rayats directly and not through tapedars or supervising tapedars. The best means to secure this end is to hold kacheries every month in the real spirit of the orders of 1905 and to deal with all matters promptly and as far as possible in the presence of and after hearing the rayats concerned. This would minimise the influence of tapedar and any payment that is now made to him through fear will in due course cease.
- (3) Reducing the charges of tapedars to such an extent as to leave each man what he can manage efficiently. At present some of the charges are so big that it is impossible to take a tapedar to task for any omission on his part to report a land holder's unauthorized action, which omission may have been quite intentional because of payment received or promised but for which he can safely plead over-work.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. Chher means free labour for unskilled work.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. Chheras are the persons who have to perform that work. They are generally cultivators under zamindars.
68. They do all kinds of unskilled work that is required of them e.g., repairing roads, digging water courses, repairing bunds or canal banks, pitching tents, helping in loading and unloading officers' kit, putting up hedges round forest compartments, clearing camping grounds, etc., etc.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. It is customary for cultivators to work as chheras under their zamindar occasionally when required though there is no such express condition attached to their tenancy which that is obtained under an agreement.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from officials of Government?
70. They receive only food either from zamindars or from Government officials.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. Casual paid labour is available almost everywhere in the Division at all times except when harvests are required in fields.
72. There are in all 71 Beldars maintained by the Local Boards in this Division as under:—Mehar 26, Kakar 23, and Warah 22
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

PART III.

73. There is no legal binding on zamindars to supply labour to Government except under Section 58 Irrigation Act under which on the requisition of a canal officer every able bodied person is bound to render assistance in emergent cases.
74. How far are zamindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. There is only one seri grant in the whole division comprising 8 acres of land. The holder of it is also a zamindar and gives such assistance as he can when the camp is in his village, which is very rare.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. For pitching and unpitching tents and for loading and unloading kit.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. Two men for miscellaneous work such a bringing fuel, water, etc.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
77. Half a dozen.
78. Whence do you obtain them?
78. They are generally Local Fund beldars, but sometimes they are supplied by zamindars also.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. No.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
80. About Rs. 5 each camp of about 3 days. The labour could be obtained from the rasai contractor if one could be found.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
81. The increase in establishment for the purpose would be more costly than getting labour through the rasai contractor.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
- 82 to 84. I do not do shikar.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
85. Occasionally labour is required for putting Local Fund roads in specially good order (e.g. on the occasion of the visit of a high officer like the Commissioner in Sind) when the provision in the budget is not sufficient for the purpose and then zamindari assistance is taken, the extent of which depends upon the requirements in each case.
85. What labour, if any is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?
86. I or other local officials do not pay the labourers for this work, but the zamindars sometimes give them food and sometimes cash payment.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
87. That depends upon the conditions of each case.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
88. The labourers are given only food by Government officials.
89. That depends upon the time when their services are required. If they are required after the transplantation of rice is over, there is no interference with cultivation, but if they are called earlier while cultivation or transplantation is in progress then their absence from fields means so much loss to them in the shape of shortage of cultivation. But in that case it has to be borne in mind that if the canal on which their cultivation is settled is the one which has breached, they cannot generally cultivate until the breach is closed, and no one profits more than they by the early closing of the breach.

90. There can be no doubt that the absence of beldars from their duty to attend to the camps of officers does interfere with their ordinary work ; the extent of such interference however depends in each case upon the period of absence.
90. How far does the employment of " beldars " interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?
91. Have you any special reports on Chher or local orders? 91. No.
92. Chher under Section 58 of the Irrigation Act should not be stopped. People would suffer thereby more than Government. It seems to me that if the labour is paid for as provided by the last clause of the Section there would probably be no complaint. But it often happens that zamindars do not want cash payment in the prospect of public recognition of their services by the Collector or Executive Engineer so that while they are rewarded they give nothing to the poor labourer. That however is the business between the labourer and his employer the zamindar. For Local Fund works, there is no legal binding on the zamindar to supply labour when required and he does so because he expects his services to be rewarded by the grant of some honour. For officers' camps, if chher is stopped, it will be necessary to engage casual labour for the occasion and if this is done through rasai contractor (provided one can be found) there will be no difficulty.

APPENDIX TO THE EVIDENCE OF MR. WADHUMAL TARACHAND AT PP. 78-87 ANTE.

Details of balance after settling the account of expenses incurred in the year 1916-17 for Headquarters Dadu taluka, Dadu.

| Debit. | Rs. a. p. | Credit. | Rs. a. p. |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Jethomal | 778 0 0 | Mian Sheralishah | 142 0 0 |
| " | 70 8 0 | " Imambaksh | 184 0 0 |
| Munshi Jawharmal | 91 4 9 | " Muhammad Sidik | 100 0 0 |
| " | 89 8 0 | Munshi Pahlumal | 76 0 0 |
| Mian Abdulah | 32 10 0 | | |
| " | 64 6 9 | Total | 502 0 0 |
| " | 36 0 0 | | |
| Munshi Jawharmal | 124 9 0 | Munshi Mahomed Parial | 35 0 0 |
| Buggies | 13 8 0 | Paid by Mian Abdulah for | |
| Bhojmal, Larkana | 3 0 0 | Dayaldas | 12 8 0 |
| " Papers | 3 0 0 | Paid by Mian Abdulah for | |
| Abdul Hamid | 2 12 0 | himself | 10 0 0 |
| Larkana, Jafar | 3 0 0 | Mian Muhammad Sidik | 4 0 0 |
| Fare up to Phutowah | 1 5 6 | " Ali Muhammad | 3 0 0 |
| | | Paid by Bhai Nichaldas for | |
| Total | 1,313 8 0 | Munshi Pahlumal | 36 0 0 |
| | 602 8 0 | Total | 602 8 0 |
| Balance | 711 0 0 | | |
| | 346 0 0 | | |
| | 365 0 0 | | |

Total expenses of Dadu taluka

from August 1917 to February 1918

| | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-------------|
| Bhai Jethomal Niadi | 668 10 2 |
| Nenumal and others | 22 11 9 |
| Tuljo aerated water seller | 31 9 6 |
| Tharoomal liquor-seller | 31 13 0 |
| Daryadinomal Thakur | 13 8 0 |
| Taromal Thakur | 9 10 3 |
| Khatanmal fruit-seller | 75 11 6 |
| Imambaksh peon for fowls | 46 15 0 |
| Achar butcher | 55 2 0 |
| Amount spent by Munshi Jawharmal | 206 12 6 |
| Amount spent by Munshi Jawharmal | 895 1 1 |
| Buggywalas | 63 6 0 |
| Camelmen | 10 14 0 |
| Bullock-cart drivers | 65 11 0 |
| Camp Puranodero | 249 11 0 |
| " Khudabad | 240 0 0 |
| " Mondar | 131 1 9 |
| Total | 2,818 4 6 |
| Balance of 1916-17 as per chits with the mali | 364 8 0 |
| Grand total | 3,182 12 6 |
| Spent by Munshi Jawharmal— | |
| 91 4 9 | 206 12 6 |
| 89 8 0 | 895 1 1 |
| 124 9 0 | Total |
| 13 8 0 | 1,420 11 4 |
| 318 13 9 | 1,010 0 0 |
| | 410 11 4 |

Abstract account of Modi Jethomal, from August 1917 to February 1918, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|--|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| For Flour, Rice, Ghee, Tins, Molasses, Mats, Coal, Jars, Dhaknis (lids of Jars) oil cakes, gram as per appended list | 68 5 0 | Given in cash by Munshi Jawharmal out of the pay of Tapadars | 100 0 0 |
| | | Ditto ditto | 40 0 0 |
| Miscellaneous cash expenses and Khandas as per appended list | 253 13 2 | | |
| Account of August-September made up as per balance sheet | 70 8 0 | | |
| Arrears of last year 1916-17 | 276 0 0 | | |
| Total up to February 1918 | 668 10 2 | | |
| | | Balance .. | 528 10 2 (in pencil). |

Abstract of provisions taken from Modi Jethamal, Hindu, from August 1917 to February 1918, Headquarters taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| Name of article. | Weight. | | | Price. |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Mds. | S. | P. | |
| Flour | 2 | 37 | 1 | 20 4 0 |
| Rice (sugdasi) | 0 | 35 | 2 | 8 8 0 |
| „ (sathria) | 0 | 18 | 3 | 2 13 0 |
| | | Seers | P. Ch. | |
| Ghee | 7 | 0 | 1/2 | 9 8 0 |
| Empty tins of kerosene oil | 13 | in No. | | 10 10 0 |
| | | Seers | P. Ch. | |
| Molasses | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 4 0 |
| Mats (pelsh) | 8 | in No. | | 1 14 0 |
| Coal | 24 | 0 | 0 | 1 8 0 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 1 0 |
| Jars | 123 | in No. | | 6 6 0 |
| Dhaknis (lids) | 51 | in No. | | 0 3 0 |
| Oil cake | 30 | 0 | 0 | 2 6 0 |
| Peas | 32 | 0 | 0 | 2 0 0 |
| Total | | | | 68 5 0 |

Account of Modi Jethomal, from August 1917 to July 1918 year 1917-18 Headquarters,
taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| To drum-beater for beating of drum at the time of erecting bund | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| One lock for Muridalishah | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| One broom and a rope for Muridalishah | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Two brooms and a rope for Muridalishah | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| To Malhi for Milk | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Molasses to Murid camelman | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Murid camelman for Meals | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Malhi of Johi | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Murid camelman for meals | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Pepper and coriander | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 4 earthen pots and an empty bottle to Miro | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Repairing charges for a chair and a screw to Imambaksh | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| One bottle to Thakur Taro | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Murid and Nabu camelmen for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto tobacco | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Ditto ditto mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Ismail Kotar for a rope | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Nabibaksh camelman on account of Khandha | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Tobacco, of Lar, 4 chafftanks, to Ismail Kotar | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Ismail Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One Kundo and Dakhis (earthen pots) to Teju servant | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| One dangi (earthen baking pan) for Hayat, peon | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One bottle of Kerosine oil for the Daftardar | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To Dino Kotar for anything to eat with bread or rice | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| One Tuwa (straw mat) to the servant of Munshi Abdul Khalik | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 Cigarettes and a match box to Rasulbux, peon | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 2 red fans for Munshi Abdul Khalik | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Bulu Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One Thobi (baking pan) to the camelmen of the Daftardar | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| ½ sear of salt to 3 camelmen of the Daftardar | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To 3 camelmen of the Daftardar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| One bottle of Kerosine oil for the Daftardar | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Tinning of pots for Munshi Abdul Khalik | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Tinning of pots for Hindu Munshis of the Collector | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Bags of Bafta cloth Munshis of the Collector | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| To the labourers of Seth Kodanmal, for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Dino Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Ismail Kotar for mutton | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One Pati (seer) of Paddy to Muridalishah | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One Kunari (big earthen pot) do. | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To the buggy-wala of Johi for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Jowari 6 Patis to the buggy-wala | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Fish for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Prawns ditto ditto | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ropes, cigarettes and match boxes to Basomal, servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To the Malhi of Johi for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To the postman for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Rasul peon for sugar | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To the postman for sugar | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Abdulah postman for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Ismail Kotar for mutton | 0 | 3 | 0 |

| | Rs. a. p |
|--|----------|
| Sugar candy 6 chatanks to the servant of the Munshis of the Deputy Collector | 0 3 0 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 2 0 |
| Tobacco, black, one seer for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector | 0 8 0 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| For the meals of the Secretary, Larkana | 0 6 6 |
| To one buggy wala and a camelman for mutton | 0 4 0 |
| To the camelman of Ali Murad Shah (illegible) bullock cart | 0 1 0 |
| To Haji Camelman do. | 0 0 6 |
| To Hassan Kotar do. | 0 2 0 |
| To Daya Khan Beldar for mutton | 0 0 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 2 0 |
| To Arab Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Ismail Kotar for mutton | 0 4 0 |
| One rope to Ismail Kotar | 0 1 6 |
| Alum 4 chatanks for the Collector | 0 2 0 |
| Tobacco to Dostmahomed camelman | 0 0 3 |
| Pulse (mauh and mung) for the Collector | 0 2 0 |
| To baggage camelman of the Mukhtiarkar for mutton | 0 0 6 |
| Cuminseed, cardamon, and cinnamon for the butler of the Collector | 0 0 9 |
| Vegetables, etc., for the Secretary, Larkana | 0 1 3 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| One cake soap for the sweeper of the Collector | 0 1 9 |
| Tobacco, black, Lari, to Ismail Kotar | 0 2 0 |
| Tobacco and Pulse (mung and mauh) for the butler of the Collector | 0 5 6 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 2 0 |
| To Arab Kotar for mutton | 0 1 6 |
| Spices to the butler of the Collector | 0 0 6 |
| Pulse (mung) to the butler of the Collector | 0 2 0 |
| 8 cigaretttes to the butler of the Collector | 0 2 0 |
| To the peon of the Deputy Collector for mutton | 0 2 6 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Gulam Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Pirano Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Kotar of Tapa Aktar for mutton | 0 0 6 |
| To Arab Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Arab Kotar for mutton | 0 1 6 |
| To Ismail Kotar for Pulse (mung and chana) | 0 1 9 |
| 2 new gunny-bags to Khanumal servant of the Diwan Sahib | 1 10 0 |
| To Pirano Kotar for mutton | 0 0 6 |
| Tobacco 4 chatanks for Munshi Shah Nawaz | 0 2 0 |
| 2 cubits bafta cloth for the rowties of the Collector | 0 6 0 |
| To Ismail Kotar for mutton | 0 4 0 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 2 0 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 2 0 |
| To Pirano Kotar for mutton | 0 0 6 |
| Tobacco 4 chatanks to Ismail Kotar | 0 2 0 |
| To Pirano Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Arab Kotar for mutton | 0 1 0 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 2 0 |
| Two bottles Kerosine oil for the Collector | 0 5 0 |
| One rope to the servant of the Munshis of the Daftardar | 0 1 6 |
| Pulse (mung and chana) 4 chatanks to the butler of the Collector | 0 1 9 |
| To Hassan Kotar for mutton | 0 0 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 1 3 |
| Grain for horses of Jasumal and Takhtmal buggy walas | 1 0 0 |
| To Murid camelman for tobacco and mutton | 0 2 6 |
| To Dino Kotar for tobacco and mutton | 0 2 0 |
| To Arab Kotar for tobacco and mutton | 0 1 0 |
| 12 cigarettes for the butler of the Collector | 0 3 0 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 1 6 |
| Sugar, fine flour and raisins for the butler of the Collector | 1 3 0 |
| 2 coils of rope for landis | 0 2 0 |

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Pulse (mung and chana) for the butler of the Collector | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Arab Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Pirano Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sugar 1½ seer for the butler of the Collector | 0 | 8 | 9 |
| Tobacco ¼ seer for peon | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Dino Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Jurio Kotar for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Pirano Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To the camelmen of Rajo Khan for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Piaro and Ibrahim camelmen for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sugar-candy for the Head Munshi of the Deputy Collector | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sugar-candy and tobacco for the Munshis of the Daftardar | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Onions and "Papar" (curry cakes made of dal) for the Munshis of the Daftardar | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Mutton for the camelmen of the Munshis of the Daftardar | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Gram 2 Toyas to the buggywalas of Johi | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sugar 2 chatanks to the buggywalas of Johi | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Hassan Kotar for sugar | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Dino Kotar for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To camelmen (of impressed camels) for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To the camelmen of Rajo Khan for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| One seer tobacco for Chaodi | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| To camelmen (of impressed camels) for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To the camelman of Rajo Khan for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Jowari 1 Toyo for the horse of Diwan Sahib | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 Tuwas (straw mats) for the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| One coil of rope, cigarette packet, soap for the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 8 | 6 |
| Sugar-one seer to the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Fine flour 1½ seer to the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 5 ropes to the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2 cigarettes to the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 2 balls of thread, 1 packet needles and 2 match boxes to the servant of the Daftardar | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Rope (Wan) 8 seers for the Head Munshi to the Deputy Collector | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Muslin 3 cubits for the Daftardar | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| To the camelmen of Johi for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| One cake soap to Sumar peon | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Fare to Piru Malhi | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| To Lalbux, peon for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Sugar 2 chatanks for Lalbux, peon | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Oil, sugar-candy, onions for the Munshis of the Daftardar | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Jowari 1 Toya to the Naik of Johi for his horse | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| To the Naik of Johi for tobacco and meals | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Littó ditto | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To the Malhi of Johi for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To the Syce of the Collector for mutton | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Gram 2 seers and Jowari 2 seers for the horse of the Collector | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| To the Syce of the Collector for mutton | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| To Bihari Malhi for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Sugar and cash for spices for the Munshis of the Daftardar | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| To camelmen (of impressed camels) for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Umedali Malhi (who brought a sheep) for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Sumar, peon for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Umedali Malhi for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| One rope to Achar Kotar | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| To Bhaledino Kotar of Johi, 2 patis of Jowari and mutton | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| To Allahrakho camelman for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| One new gunny bag for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Barley-one Kasa, and mutton for the butler of the Deputy Collector | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To two camelmen of the Head Munshi to the Deputy Collector for one seer salt and mutton | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| To camelmen of other 3 Munshis of the Deputy Collector for $\frac{1}{4}$ seer salt and mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2 ropes and 1 cubit of bafta cloth to Muhammad Malhi | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the guest of Diwan Sahib | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Vegetables and sugar-candy for the guest of Diwan Sahib | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| To Malhi of Johi for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Fine flour 2 chatanks to Achar Kotar | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Ditto ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To Murid camelman for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To Murid camelman 4 chatanks salt | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| To peon of the Judicial Commissioner for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Papar (curry-cakes of Dal) for the Munshis of Sessions Judge | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Spices, vegetables, etc., for the Munshi of the Sessions Judge | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| To Kishnomal, peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To the postman from Johi for mutton | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Onions 1 seer for the Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Pulse (mung) for the peons of Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Kishnomal, peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tobacco and sugar to Peroye, Jamadar | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Dino Kotar for mutton | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| One lota (earthen pot) to Achar Kotar | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| To Kishnomal, peon of the Sessions Judge for mutton | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| To peon of the Sessions Judge for fetching water | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Sugar 1 chatank to Ibrahim Naik | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Papars (curry-cakes of Dal) for Sessions Court | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| One basket for the Sessions Judge | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| One bottle Kerosine oil for the Daftardar | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To Imambaksh camelman for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Sugar, vegetables and ulse for the Syce of the Commissioner in Sind | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for vegetables | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Ditto ditto | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Grain and fodder to the syce of the Commissioner in Sind | 2 | 11 | 0 |
| Gram 10 seers to the syce of the Commissioner in Sind | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Salt and Kerosine oil to the syce of the Commissioner in Sind | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| To Achar Kotar for mutton | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Ditto ditto | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| One new gunny bag for Diwan Sahib | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Barley 6 Patis for Diwan Sahib | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| One Kunari (a large earthen pot) for the cow of the Sessions Judge | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| To Kishnomal, peon for mutton | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| | | Rs. a. p. |
|-----------------|--|-----------|
| Paddy 2 | Toyas for the peons of Khairpur | 0 10 6 |
| Milk | ditto ditto ditto | 0 1 0 |
| Milk | ditto ditto ditto | 0 1 9 |
| Barley 2 | Toyas and sugar for the peons of Khairpur | 0 6 9 |
| Salt | ditto ditto ditto ditto | 0 0 3 |
| Sugar | ditto ditto ditto ditto | 0 0 6 |
| Rope, | one cubit bafta cloth and thread to Muhammad Malhi | 0 3 9 |
| Cash | to Mohan servant | 0 10 0 |
| To Kishnomal, | peon for vegetables | 0 1 0 |
| | Ditto ditto | 0 3 0 |
| To Ghulam Rasul | camelman for mutton and salt | 0 0 9 |
| To Ismail Kotar | of the Head Munshi for milk | 0 1 6 |
| To Kishnomal, | peon for vegetables and milk | 0 3 0 |
| One new gunny | bag for Diwan Sahib | 0 13 0 |
| To Kishnomal, | peon for vegetable and milk | 0 3 0 |
| | Ditto ditto ditto | 0 3 0 |
| One bottle | Kerosine oil for the Sessions Judge | 0 3 6 |
| To Kishnomal, | peon vegetables and milk | 0 3 0 |
| | Ditto ditto ditto | 0 3 0 |
| | Ditto ditto ditto | 0 3 0 |
| | Ditto ditto ditto | 0 3 0 |
| Paddy 2 | Toyas for Diwan Sahib | 0 10 6 |
| One basket | to keep geese in | 0 4 0 |
| To the peons | of Mukhtiar of Samar for meals | 0 2 6 |
| For the meals | of the guests of Head Munshi Kimatrai | 0 8 0 |
| One bottle | Kerosine oil for Chaodi | 0 3 0 |
| For the meals | of peon of the Deputy Collector | 0 4 0 |
| Khandha | of the Munshis of the Deputy Collector from 2nd November to 9th November 1917 | 23 10 0 |
| Khandha | of the Head Munshi of the Deputy Collector from 2nd November to 9th November 1917 | 11 1 7 |
| Khandha | of the Head Munshi of the Daftardar from 2nd November to 9th November 1917 | 36 1 0 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Abdul Kadir Shah of the Daftardar from 2nd November to 9th November 1917 | 10 14 8 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Abdul Khalik of the Daftardar from 2nd November to 9th November 1917 | 6 13 3 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Jethanand and other Munshis of the Collector | 12 12 9 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Khushiram of the Collector | 13 8 0 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Chhangomal Serishtedar of the Collector | 7 8 3 |
| Khandha | of Havaldar of the Collector | 16 10 6 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Jethanand and other Munshis of the Collector | 1 13 7 |
| Khandha | of Munshi Abdul Khalik | 1 10 9 |
| Khandha | of the butler of the Collector | 51 14 3 |
| (in penci) | | |
| GRAND TOTAL .. | | 253 13 2 |

Account of Seumal Modi, from August 9 to 1918, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-----------|
| Three mats for the Deputy Collector | 1 0 0 |
| One Chilam for Chaodi to Pirano Kotar for Mian Abdullah | 0 4 0 |
| One packet Cigarettes and a match box for the Head Munshi | 0 3 3 |
| Khandha of Munshi Shah Nawaz of the Collector's Office | 8 4 0 |
| 16 Tuwas (straw mats) for Diwan Sahib | 1 8 0 |
| One Chilam with Nargol given to Khudu Machhi as per chit of Mian Abdullah | 0 9 6 |
| Black cotton thread for Khan Sahib taken from Shiwan broker | 0 12 0 |
| Barley 2 Patis for the feed of spotted geese of Diwan Sahib | 0 3 0 |
| One cot to Lalbux, Daftardar's peon given by Head Munshi | 2 8 0 |
| Total | 25 3 9 |

Account of Tuljomal Hindu, aerated water seller, from August 1917 to July 1918, for the year 1917-18, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-----------|
| Soda, lemonade, ginger and tonic water supplied on the occasion of the Camp of the Collector as per chits | 11 9 6 |
| Empty bottles missing (in pencil) | 20 0 0 |
| Total | 31 9 6 |

Account of Tharoomal, liquor-seller, from August 1917 to July 1918, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. a. p. |
|---|--------------|
| Half bottle country liquor given to Dharmu servant of the Seristedar | 0 13 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for Mr. Khushiram, Head Munshi including the empty bottle | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for Khanu servant of Diwan Sahib | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for Melhu, servant of Mr. Khushiram | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for Munshi Jethanand and other Munshis of the Collector | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for the servant of the Daftardar | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for Zamindars on 11th November 1917 | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor sent to Mukhtiarkar for the guests from Khairpur | 1 14 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for the Munshis of the Daftardar | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle country liquor for the Munshis of the Deputy Collector | 1 12 0 |
| Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto | 1 12 0 |
| Ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto | 1 12 0 |
| One bottle of brandy as per chit of the Head Munshi | 4 14 0 |
| One bottle country liquor as per chit of the Head Munshi | 1 12 0 |
| Balance from last year 1916-17 | 5 10 0 |
| Total up to February | 31 13 0 |
| | (in pencil). |

PART III

191

Account of Thakur Daryadinomal, cloth-seller, from August 1917 to
Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

1918,

| | Rs. | a. | p. | |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|----|---|
| For 6 bags, 10th November, 1918 | 12 | 0 | 0 | one piece of <i>Bafta</i> for the butler of the Collector. |
| | 1 | 8 | 0 | sweets and pakoras for Munshi Isardas, and other Munshis while going to Jobi. |
| | 13 | 8 | 0 | (in pencil). |

(Sd.) Jawharmal, Tapadar, Dadu.

Account of Thakur Taromal Haberdasher, from August 1917 to
quarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

1918, Head

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-------------|----|------|
| 2 lanterns given to the butler at the camp of the Collector | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 4 chimneys ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Rope, twisted yarn given to the butler at the camp of the Collector | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 8 packets cigarettes scissors brand at the camp of Mondar given to the butler at the camp of the Collector | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 1 glass given to the butler at the camp of the Collector | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 3 glasses and a cotton rope,—one for Mr. Mirza | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| Tracing cloth for Taluka office | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 2 locks given to the butler at the camp of the Collector | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| | (in pencil) | 9 | 10 3 |

Account of Khatanmal, fruit-seller, from August 1917 to
taluka Dadu, district Larkana, year 1917-18.

1918, Headquarters

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-------------|----|------|
| Fruit for the Collector, camp Puranodero | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Fruit for the Daftardar at Dadu | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| Fruit for the Collector, camp Puranodero | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Ditto Dadu | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Ditto Mondar from Sitalmal | 5 | 14 | 0 |
| Fruit for the Munshis of the Daftardar at Dadu | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto Collector at Dadu | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Fruit for the new Daftardar at Dadu | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Fruit for the guests of the known person | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Fruit for the Inspectress Girl's Schools | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Red plantains for the Collector at Dadu | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| | (in pencil) | 66 | 11 6 |

Abstract of account of Imambaksh, peon (for fowls and eggs), from August 1917 to 1918, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana, year 1917-18.

| | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| Outstanding balance of last year 1916-17 | 14 8 0 | Given by Munshi Jawharmal in cash out of the pay of Tapadars | 8 0 0 |
| Fare and meals from Larkana and back | 2 8 0 | Ditto ditto | 10 0 0 |
| Fowls 18 in No. for the Camp of Collector | 11 4 0 | As per accompanying statement in Munshi Daulatram's hand. | |
| Eggs 26 dozen for the Camp of Collector | 9 12 0 | | |
| Fowls 6 for the camp of the Judicial Commissioner and Sessions Judge | 3 12 0 | | |
| Eggs 13 dozen and 10 for the Camp of the Judicial Commissioner and Sessions Judge | 5 3 0 | | |
| Total up to February | 46 15 0 | (in pencil). | |

Abstract of account of Achar, butcher, from August 1917 to 1918, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana, year 1917-18.

| Srs. P. Ch. | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| 33 1 0 of mutton for the Deputy Collector and his establishment | 10 6 0 | Given by Munshi Jawharmal out of the pay of Tapadars | 36 8 0 |
| Mds. Srs. Ch. 3 0 3 of mutton camp of the Collector | 37 12 0 | Ditto ditto | 11 10 0 |
| 1 6 2 of mutton for the Judicial Commissioner, Sessions Judge and the Deputy Collector and establishments | 14 8 0 | | |

Amount spent by Munshi Jawharmal.

| | R. | a. | p. | | R. | a. | p. | |
|--|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|---|
| 5th January— | | | | 7th January—contd. | | | | |
| Milk for the Deputy Collector | 0 | 4 | 0 | One cart of Urs for Sessions Judge | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Butter 2 chattank | 0 | 2 | 0 | One cart of Dino | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Fish | 0 | 2 | 0 | One cart of Abu | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Fowl | 0 | 8 | 0 | One cart of Safar which took fuel to the bungalow | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Milk for Munshi | 0 | 7 | 6 | Milk for Sessions Judge | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Milk for Head Munshi | 0 | 1 | 0 | Fish | 0 | 2 | 6 | |
| Cart of Nawab to the bungalow | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8th January — | | | | |
| 1 cart of Lalu, for Deputy Collector's kit | 0 | 4 | 0 | Milk for the Deputy Collector | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| 1 buggy of Dino | 0 | 4 | 0 | Butter | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Sweets to Sumar sweeper | 1 | 0 | 0 | Fish | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| 6th January— | | | | Milk for Head Munshi | 0 | 2 | 3 | |
| Milk for the Deputy Collector | 0 | 4 | 0 | Milk for Munshis 9 seers | 0 | 13 | 6 | |
| Butter | 0 | 2 | 0 | One cart of Lalu for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Fish | 0 | 2 | 0 | One cart of Khodo for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Milk for Munshis | 0 | 7 | 6 | One cart of Andal for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Milk for Head Munshi | 0 | 2 | 3 | One cart of Tahir for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Milk for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 6 | 0 | One cart of Yakub for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Potatoes for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 2 | 0 | One cart of Jafar for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Fish | 0 | 4 | 0 | One cart of Faizu for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| 2 carts of Safar for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 8 | 0 | Total | | | | |
| 2 carts of Faizu for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 8 | 0 | | | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 cart of Andal for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 4 | 0 | One cart of Abu for Judicial Commissioner | | | | |
| 3 carts of Khodo for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 12 | 0 | | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Sumar Buggywala | 0 | 4 | 0 | One cart of Raban for Judicial Commissioner | | | | |
| Dino do. | 0 | 4 | 0 | | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Jasu do. | 0 | 4 | 0 | Buggy of Urs | | | | |
| Urs do. | 0 | 4 | 0 | | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 2 carts of fuel sent to bungalow | 0 | 8 | 0 | Milk for Sessions Judge | | | | |
| 7th January— | | | | | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Milk for the Deputy Collector | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 Fowls | | | | |
| Fish | 0 | 3 | 0 | | | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Eggs | 0 | 3 | 0 | Fish | | | | |
| Butter | 0 | 4 | 0 | | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| | | 9 | 8 | Milk for Judicial Commissioner | | | | |
| | | | | | | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Milk for Munshis | 0 | 7 | 6 | Milk for Havaldar | | | | |
| Milk for Head Munshi | 0 | 2 | 3 | | | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Milk for Judicial Commissioner | 0 | 6 | 0 | Fish sent by Ismail to the Camp of the Collector at Khudabad | | | | |
| Milk for the establishment of Judicial Commissioner and Sessions Judge | 1 | 1 | 6 | | | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| One cart of Khodo which brought the luggage of Sessions Judge | 0 | 4 | 0 | 9th January— | | | | |
| One cart of Abu | 0 | 4 | 0 | Milk for Munshis for tea | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| One cart of Faizu | 0 | 4 | 0 | Milk for Deputy Collector | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| | | | | Fish | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| | | | | Butter | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| | | | | Milk for Hindu Munshis | 0 | 9 | 0 | |
| | | | | Milk for Head Munshi | 0 | 2 | 3 | |
| | | | | 10th January — | | | | |
| | | | | Milk for Deputy Collector | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| | | | | Butter | 0 | 1 | 6 | |
| | | | | Fish | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| | | | | Milk for Munshis | 0 | 9 | 9 | |
| | | | | Milk for Head Munshi | 0 | 3 | 9 | |
| | | | | Milk for Hindu Munshis for tea | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | | | Fish for Munshis | 0 | 1 | 6 | |

| | Rs. a p. | | Rs. a p. |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 13th January— | | 16th February— | |
| Milk for Deputy Collector .. | 0 4 0 | Eggs 6 | 0 3 0 |
| Eggs 6 | 0 3 0 | Milk | 0 5 0 |
| Milk for Munshis 6 seers .. | 0 9 0 | Miscellaneous expenses .. | 1 0 0 |
| Milk 1½ seers, Head Munshi .. | 0 2 9 | Tips to bhangis | 1 0 0 |
| Cooly hire for luggage of | | Mian Abdulah | 5 0 0 |
| Head Munshi | 0 2 0 | Munshi Muhammad Ismail | |
| 14th January— | | as per order of Head Mun- | |
| Milk for Head Munshi | 0 2 9 | shi | 5 0 0 |
| Cart for luggage of Deputy | | To Munshi Muhammad Ba- | |
| Collector | 0 4 0 | chal cart hire for Deputy | |
| Milk for Head Munshi | 0 3 6 | Collector's soda water | |
| 15th January— | | bottles | 0 11 0 |
| Milk ½ a seer | 0 1 0 | 4 Hens for Sessions Judge .. | 2 4 0 |
| 2 Ropes for the Deputy Col- | | Fuel to the Havaldar, Ses- | |
| lector | 0 2 6 | sions Judge | 0 12 0 |
| One cart taking cots from | | Ropes, halseh, grain-bag for | |
| bungalow to the Chavdi .. | 0 4 0 | horses and horse-brush .. | 3 0 0 |
| | | Eggs for Sessions Judge .. | 0 4 0 |
| | | Butter | 0 4 0 |
| | 2 6 0 | 1st February— | |
| 10th February— | | For food to butler and peons | |
| Fuel for Sessions Judge's | | at Dadu station | 0 8 0 |
| peons | 1 9 0 | | |
| For fish to Mohan | 1 4 0 | | 59 15 0 |
| do. | 0 2 0 | Grand total | 199 4 0 |
| Buggies and carts | 2 8 0 | | |
| 4 gunnybags—Mukhtiar kar .. | 1 12 0 | 17th February— | |
| Liquor, Deputy's Munshis .. | 6 0 0 | Milk for Madam (Inspectress | |
| Sweatmeats, Deputy's Mun- | | Girl's Schools) | 0 4 0 |
| shis | 2 0 0 | Eggs 6 | 0 3 0 |
| Dakhies (pots) Mukhtiar kar .. | 0 2 6 | A chicken | 0 5 0 |
| 11th February— | | Milk for private servants .. | 0 2 6 |
| Fuel for (illegible) | 2 10 0 | 18th February— | |
| 12th February— | | Milk for Madam (Inspectress) | 0 4 0 |
| Fuel for (illegible) | 2 4 0 | Eggs 6 | 0 3 0 |
| 13th February— | | Chicken 1 | 0 5 0 |
| Fuel for (illegible) | 2 10 0 | Milk for private servants of | |
| 14th February— | | Inspectress | 0 2 6 |
| Fuel for Sessions Judge | 1 2 0 | 19th February— | |
| 15th February— | | Milk for Madam (Inspectress) | 0 4 0 |
| Jasu buggywala for Inspec- | | Eggs 6 | 0 3 0 |
| tress | 0 4 0 | A chicken | 0 5 0 |
| Dino buggywala | 0 4 0 | Milk for private servants .. | 0 2 6 |
| To Mohan for Milk | 1 0 0 | Milk for Madam (Inspectress) | 0 1 0 |
| 3 Bullock-carts for Inspec- | | | 202 0 6 |
| tress at night | 0 15 0 | 21st February— | |
| One buggy of Jasu | 0 6 0 | Fuel for Sessions Judge | 1 4 0 |
| 3 buggies of Dino | 0 12 0 | 2 Hens | 1 2 0 |
| One cart of cots and fuel .. | 0 4 0 | 12 Eggs | 0 6 0 |
| Chickens 4 | 1 4 0 | 23rd February— | |
| Hens 8 | 4 8 0 | 12 Eggs | 0 6 0 |
| | 35 14 6 | | 205 2 6 |
| 14th February— | | Paper, note papers and en- | |
| Milk for Inspectress | 0 4 0 | velopes for the Mukhtiar- | |
| Eggs | 0 3 0 | kar to Munshi Muhammad | |
| Eggs one dozen for Sessions | | Ismail | 1 10 0 |
| Judge | 0 6 0 | | |
| 2 carts for Munshi Isardas .. | 0 8 0 | Grand total | 206 12 6 |
| Hens and eggs for Sessions | | | |
| Judge, (through) Jurio | | | |
| Kotar | 2 4 0 | | |
| 15th February— | | | |
| Milk for Inspectress | 0 5 0 | | |

| | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Miscellaneous expenses | 0 11 0 | For tip and daily charges to | |
| Knife, Munshi Abdul Khalik .. | 0 1 0 | Bansi, peon | 3 9 0 |
| Hire of 3 camels to Allahdin, | | Hayat, peon for a Huqa .. | 0 5 0 |
| Mastoi for carriage of bags | | Tip for butler to Imambux, | |
| from Naulakh to Puranodero | 2 4 0 | peon | 100 0 0 |
| To Dostmahomed labourer for | | Tips to the servants of the Mun- | |
| having served the Munshi of | | shis of the Deputy Collector | 4 0 0 |
| the Deputy Collector | 1 5 0 | For daily charges to Ibrahim | |
| To Dost Mahomed, labourer | | Naik | 2 12 0 |
| for having served the Munshi | | For daily charges to Kawro, | |
| of the Collector | 1 5 0 | peon | 2 4 0 |
| Wages to Jumo Khoro from | | For daily charges to Muhammad | |
| 29th October to 1st Novem- | | Khan, peon | 2 8 0 |
| ber for looking after Musafir- | | For daily charges to Khairo .. | 2 8 0 |
| khana | 2 0 0 | Dido servant for repairs to box | 0 10 3 |
| 2 Fish sent to Puranodero on | | Tip to the servant of Munshi | |
| 8th November | 1 6 0 | Abdul Kadirshah | 2 0 0 |
| Milk on 5th | 2 4 0 | Sweets at the Camp of Collector | |
| Milk on 6th | 2 4 0 | at Mondar | 2 0 0 |
| Milk on 7th | 2 2 0 | Camel hire to Usman for taking | |
| To Mian Abdullah for fruit and | | Mr. Isardas to Nausahro in- | |
| fare to and from Hyderabad | 20 0 0 | cluding ferry toll | 3 8 0 |
| 2 Fish | 1 14 0 | To sweeper for cleaning the otak | |
| Tip to Kashi, servant | 15 0 0 | of Munshi Abdulah | 0 10 0 |
| | | To Halima for fetching water .. | 0 10 0 |
| (in pencil) <u>52 8 0</u> | | Milk for Head Munshi of the | |
| | | Collector | 0 6 0 |
| | | To Elias, peon for sweets | 0 4 0 |
| | | (in pencil) <u>127 14 3</u> | |

| | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Food to the Camelman of Ali | | To Achar, butler | 10 0 0 |
| Murad Shah | 0 4 0 | 15th November— | |
| To Bascho Mirbahar | 0 4 0 | Milk for Collector | 0 12 0 |
| To Dino, peon | 0 1 0 | Butter $\frac{1}{2}$ seer | 0 8 0 |
| To Abdulah, beldar in lieu of | | Fish | 0 5 0 |
| Ghea | 0 1 0 | Butter for Mr. Shah Nawaz .. | 0 4 0 |
| Cleaning charges of privy of the | | 14th November— | |
| Munshis of the Deputy Col- | | Milk for establishment | 1 8 0 |
| lector | 0 4 0 | 15th November— | |
| Miscellaneous | 0 4 0 | Milk for establishment | 1 12 3 |
| Camel hire of one camel to Ra- | | Paper | 0 1 0 |
| sulbux Malhi for bringing | | Milk | 0 1 0 |
| pegs from Naulakh Huri .. | 0 9 0 | Fruit for Deputy Collector .. | 0 4 0 |
| 9 loaves | 1 2 0 | To Haso for garlands for Daf- | |
| Hire of a camel to Bahawal, | | tardar | 0 8 0 |
| camelman for taking the Syce | | To Haso on account | 4 0 0 |
| of the Collector to Mondar | | To Sumar, buggywala | 1 0 0 |
| and back | 1 0 0 | Tips to the servant of the Mun- | |
| 12th November 1917— | | shis of the Daftardar | 5 0 0 |
| Chalam, complets and to- | | Fish | 0 14 0 |
| bacco | 0 9 6 | Fish sent to Mondar | 0 9 0 |
| Milk for the Butler | 0 6 0 | One fish for Havaladar | 0 9 0 |
| Milk for Mr. Shah Nawaz .. | 0 1 9 | For daily charges to butler and | |
| 14th November— | | private servants | 45 0 0 |
| Milk for Collector | 0 14 0 | To Jurio Kotar for butler .. | 2 0 0 |
| Butter for Collector | 0 4 0 | | |
| 4 loaves | 0 8 0 | (in pencil) <u>74 15 3</u> | |
| Repairing charges of a teapoy | | | |
| to carpenter | 0 6 0 | | |
| To Labori for lighting lamps .. | 1 0 0 | | |
| To butler for tips for his men .. | 45 0 0 | | |
| (in pencil) <u>53 2 3</u> | | | |

| Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Repairing charges of girth .. | 0 4 0 |
| Fish to Mohan | 0 9 6 |
| Vegetables, sweets, etc. .. | 0 8 3 |
| Tip to Jafar | 1 0 0 |
| Washing charges of clothes .. | 0 3 6 |
| To Dharmi, servant | 0 5 0 |
| Wages to Jaro, from 1st to 20th | 5 0 0 |
| Fare and freight for one box to | |
| Mian Abdulah | 1 12 0 |
| For daily charges to Hayat, | |
| peon, 8th and 9th December | 0 7 0 |
| Daily allowance to the Punjabi | |
| peon of Daftardar | 0 7 0 |
| Tips to bhangis | 2 0 0 |
| Tip to Jafar | 1 4 0 |
| Fare to postman to Johi | 1 0 0 |
| To Muhabali, camelman | 0 6 0 |
| To Khair Muhammad, Naik | |
| including (illegible) on 11th | |
| December | 1 8 0 |
| (in pencil) | <u>16 10 3</u> |
| Expenses on the meals of Diwan | |
| Lalchand | 1 0 0 |
| 16th November, Milk | 2 10 0 |
| 17th November, Milk | 2 10 0 |
| 18th November, Milk | 2 10 0 |
| 19th November, Milk | 3 12 0 |
| 20th November, Milk | 3 12 0 |
| Loaves | 3 4 0 |
| Total expenses incurred by Is- | |
| mail Kotar, from 28th Octo- | |
| ber to 21st November | 30 2 0 |
| Fuel for Collector, Deputy Col- | |
| lector and other officers from | |
| October to December | 78 14 0 |
| 2 red cots | 5 8 0 |
| Ropes for netting cots | 3 0 0 |
| Netting charges | 1 12 0 |
| Making charges of cots | 1 12 0 |
| Washing charges of clothes .. | 0 9 6 |
| Poles of cots | 4 2 0 |
| One wooden box, Mukhtiarkar, | |
| from Taro Hindi | 3 0 0 |
| (in pencil) | <u>148 5 6</u> |

| Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| To Sathi Sarhyo on account of | |
| rent for Collector's Munshis | 2 12 0 |
| Tuwas for landis from Bhagat | |
| Hiro | 3 12 0 |
| Candles 1 doz. | 0 5 0 |
| Expenses incurred by Munshi | |
| Abdul Hamid | 2 0 0 |
| To Munshi Abdulah for Rasai | |
| of Sessions Judge | 13 0 0 |
| Fruit for Judicial Commissioner | 5 8 0 |
| Garlands for Judicial Commis- | |
| sioner | 1 8 0 |
| Tips for Judicial Commissioner | 11 0 0 |
| For daily charges of— | |
| Lalbox, peon | 5 0 0 |
| Hayat, peon | 2 3 0 |
| Rasulbox, peon | 3 2 0 |
| Mosan, peon | 1 2 0 |
| Murli, peon | 2 13 0 |
| Sumar, peon | 3 9 0 |
| Abdul Rahim, peon | 2 3 0 |
| Tips— | |
| Murli | 2 0 0 |
| Rasulbox | 2 0 0 |
| Sumar | 2 0 0 |
| Servant of Abdul Khalik | 2 0 0 |
| (in pencil) | <u>67 13 0</u> |
| Havaldar | 22 0 0 |
| Melhu, servant | 8 5 0 |
| Servant of Girdharlal | 4 8 0 |
| Servant of Serishtedar | 5 0 0 |
| Lalbox | 2 0 0 |
| Hayat | 2 0 0 |
| Servant of Daftardar | 19 0 0 |
| To Head Munshi | 0 8 0 |
| To Abdul Khalik for (illegible) | 0 8 0 |
| Wages to Bakar for 12 days .. | 6 0 0 |
| Dosu labourer | 1 8 0 |
| Fakiro labourer | 0 8 0 |
| To Jasu buggywala on account | 2 0 0 |
| 26th February— | |
| 3 Pala fish for Sessions Judge | 1 14 0 |
| Fare to Imambux to | |
| Mehar & back (twice) | 2 2 0 |
| Fare upto Bubak to Abdulah | |
| for taking a letter of the | |
| Deputy Collector | 1 0 0 |
| To Rihan Kotar for grain of | |
| horse at Chana camp | 1 0 0 |
| Fowls for Sessions Judge | 2 5 0 |
| (in pencil) | <u>82 2 0</u> |

| | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fuel | 1 4 0 | Expenses incurred by Mohan | |
| Eggs 24 | 0 12 0 | on the occasion of Collector's | |
| Milk | 0 6 6 | camp | 21 9 0 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 2 5 0 | Prial tailor for tent-bags | 1 8 0 |
| 27th November— | | Samo carpenter including wages, | |
| One carriage hire for Deputy | | iron and wood | 4 2 0 |
| Collector up to station | 0 8 0 | Husain blacksmith, for repair | |
| Buggy and cart for Diwan | | of Collector's and Deputy | |
| Jessaram | 0 8 0 | Collector's things | 10 0 0 |
| List of Kandha of Modi | 40 0 0 | | |
| | <u>45 11 6</u> | Total | <u>894 9 7</u> |
| Secret expenses | 6 8 0 | To Haso for garlands for Daf- | |
| | <u>52 3 6</u> | tardar | 0 8 0 |
| Total | <u>857 6 7</u> | | |
| | | Total | <u>895 1 1</u> |

Account of buggies, from August 1917 to July 1918 for the year 1917-18 Head quarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. a. p. | | Rs. a. p. |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Takhtmal to Dadu station 11 buggies | 2 12 0 | Grain for horses given to Jasumal and Takhtmal buggies on 18th November 1917 taken from Jethomal .. | 1 0 0 |
| Takhtmal to Marakhpur bund 1 buggy | 0 6 0 | | |
| Dino Charan to Dadu station 15 buggies (for Mukhtiarkar) | 3 12 0 | | |
| Dino Charan to Dadu station 25 buggies (for Collector) .. | 6 4 0 | | |
| Dino Charan to Dadu station 7 buggies (for Deputy Collector) | 1 12 0 | | |
| Dino Charan to Dadu station 5 buggies (for miscellaneous work) | 1 4 0 | | |
| Dino Charan to Dadu station 9 buggies (at the time of constructing bund) | 2 4 0 | | |
| Dino Charan from Dadu to Son Miani and back 7 buggies (for Collector and Daftardar) | 5 4 0 | | |
| Dino Charan from Dadu to Puranodero 1 buggy | 2 4 0 | | |
| Dino Charan from Dadu to Mondar 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Dino Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy .. | 0 4 0 | | |
| Urs from Dadu to Mondar and back 1 buggy | 3 0 0 | | |
| Urs from Dadu to Khudabad 2 buggies | 3 0 0 | | |
| Alahadad from Dadu to Puranodero 1 buggy | 2 4 0 | | |
| Jassumal to Dadu station 21 buggies | 5 4 0 | | |
| Jassumal from Mondar to Dadu 2 buggies | 3 0 0 | | |
| Jassumal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Hassomal to Dadu station 20 buggies | 5 0 0 | | |
| Hassomal to Marakhpur bund and back 1 buggy | 0 12 0 | | |
| Hassomal from Puranodero to Mondar 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Hassomal from Mondar to Dadu 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Hassomal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Nenumal to Dadu station | 1 8 0 | | |
| Nenumal from Puranodero to Mondar 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Nenumal from Mondar to Dadu 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |
| Nenumal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 buggy | 1 8 0 | | |

63 6 0 (in pencil)

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Dino Charan to Dadu station 1 buggy (for Deputy Collector) on 5th January 1918 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| For Judicial Commissioner of Sind— | | | |
| Sumar to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Jasumal to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Lalu to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| For Sessions Judge— | | | |
| Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| For Judicial Commissioner— | | | |
| Urs to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Haso to Dadu station 3 buggies | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| For Inspectress Girls' Schools— | | | |
| Jasumal to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Dino and Jasumal to Dadu station 4 buggies | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Dino to Dadu station 1 buggy | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Jasumal to Dadu station for Diwan Sahib on the occasion of Inspectress Girls' Schools' Visit | 0 | 8 | 0 |

Account of camelmen, from August 1917 to 1918, Headquarters, taluka Dadu, district Larkana

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| 3rd December 1917 when the Collector's establishment came from Johi— | | | |
| Muhabali to Marakhpur bund 1 camel | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Maularakhio to Marakhpur bund 1 camel | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miral to Marakhpur bund 1 camel | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Usman to Marakhpur bund 1 camel | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Allahrakhio to Marakhpur bund 1 camel | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 11th December 1917. | | | |
| Usman to Marakhpur bund 1 camel (twice for return journey also) | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Mahabali ditto ditto ditto ditto | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Mahabali to Head Munshi Dadu for inspection for the purpose of Mafi of crops of Dadu Tapa. (Twice) | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Usman to Head Munshi Dadu for inspection for the purpose of Mafi of crops of Dadu Tapa. (Once) | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Muhabali taking the Sessions Judge as far as Son Miani for Shukar | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Muhabali taking the Deputy Collector as far as the ferry | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Usman ditto ditto ditto | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Rasulbux Pind taking the Mukhtiarkar up to the bund for fixing the compensation | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| (in pencil) | 10 | 14 | 0 |

Account of bullock-carts from August 1917 to July 1918 for the year 1917-18, Headquarters,
taluka Dadu, district Larkana.

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Abu Charan from Dadu to station 12 carts | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Abu Charan from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Abu charan from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Abu Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Raban, 5 carts to Dadu station | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Raban, from Mondar to Dado 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Raban from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Raban from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Nawab to Dadu station 10 carts | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Nawab from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Nawab from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Nawab from Dadu to Son Miani 1 cart | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Lalu to Dadu station 9 carts | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Lalu from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Lalu from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Lalu from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Lalu from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Andal to Dadu station 8 carts | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Andal from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Andal from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Andal from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Andal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Tahir to Dadu station 5 carts | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Tahir from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Tahir from Puranodero to Mondar 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Tahir from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Tahir from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Safar to Dadu station 3 carts | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Safar from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Safar from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Safar from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Khado to Dadu station 18 carts | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Khado from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Khado from Puranodero to Mondar 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Khado from Dadu to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Khado from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Yakub to Dadu station 2 carts | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Yakub from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Yakub from Mondar to Dadu 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Yakub from Dadu to Khudabad 2 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Shewakmal from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| (in pencil) | | | |
| Faizu Charan to Dadu station 7 carts | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Faizu Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Faizu Charan from Dadu to Puranodero 1 cart | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Faizu from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Faizu Charan from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Hashim Charan to Dadu station 20 carts | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hashim Charan from Puranodero to Mondar 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Hashim Charan from Mondar to Dadu 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Hashim Charan from Dadu to Khudabad 1 cart | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| For Sessions Judge— | | | |
| Lalu to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| For Deputy Collector— | | | |
| Nawab to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Lalu to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| For Judicial Commissioner of Sind— | | | |
| Safar to Dadu station 2 carts | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Faizu to Dadu station 2 carts | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Andal to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Khado to Dadu station 3 carts | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| For taking fuel to the bungalow 2 carts | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| For Sessions Judge of Larkana— | | | |
| Khado to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Abu to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Faizu to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Alin to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Safar for taking fuel to the bungalow 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| For Judicial Commissioner of Sind— | | | |
| Khado to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Andal to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Tahir to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Yakub to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Safar to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Faizu to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Alin to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Rand to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Khado to Dadu station 6 carts | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| For Inspectress of Girls' Schools— | | | |
| Faizu and others to Dadu station and to bungalow 7 carts | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| For Mr. Isardas— | | | |
| Khado to Dadu station 2 carts | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| For Deputy Collector's kit— | | | |
| Khado to Dadu station 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Lalu for bringing cots from the bungalow 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |

Details of payments of Tapa Mondar taluka Dadu for 1917-18.

| | Rs. | a. | p. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Balance of last year due from general account | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| From pay | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Khanda of the Collector | 131 | 1 | 9 |
| Fare to Kotar to take post of the Daftardar to Sehwan | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| A phial, fine flour, etc., to Mirza | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fruit, for Judicial Commissioner | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Fruit for Sessions Judge | 5 | 0 | 0 |

201 1 9

23rd February 1918.

(Sd.) Bhojraj, Tapedar, Mondar.

Contribution by Tapedars

| Name of Tapa. | August 1917. | September 1917. | October 1917. | November 1917. | December 1917. | Total. |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. |
| Munshi Jawharmal, Tapadar, Dadu | 20 0 0 | (Erased in pencil). | | .. | .. | .. |
| Munshi Ali Muhammad, Tapadar, Marakhpur .. | 20 0 0 | 35 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 120 |
| Munshi Punhukhan, Tapadar, Noraja | 20 0 0 | 30 0 0 | 20 0 0 | .. | .. | 70 |
| Munshi Abdul Hamid, Tapadar, Naulakh .. | 10 0 0 | 35 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 45 (all in pencil) |
| | to carpenters (pencil). | | Munshi Murijmal | Munshi Murijmal | Munshi Murijmal | |
| Munshi Muhammad Khan, Tapadar, Badani .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40 |
| Munshi Marumal Tapadar, Korpur | 10 12 0 | 30 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | .. | entries in |
| | | | Munshi Murijmal | Munshi Murijmal | (These 2 pencil) | |
| Munshi Menghraj, Tapadar, Bakhrui | 20 0 0 | 35 0 0 | .. | .. | .. | 55 |
| Munshi Daulatram, Tapadar, Sal | 10 0 0 | 30 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 15 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 100 |
| Munshi Bhojraj, Tapadar, Mondar | 20 0 0 | 30 0 0 | .. | .. | .. | 50 |
| Munshi Muhammad Farid, Tapadar, Makhdum Sahib | 20 0 0 | 35 0 0 | .. | 15 0 0 | 15 0 0 | 85 |
| Munshi Kodumal, Tapadar, Puranodero .. | 20 0 0 | 30 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 25 0 0 | .. | 75 |
| Received from Bachomal .. | 10 0 0 | (pencil). | Munshi Murijmal | (Name in pencil). | | |
| Munshi Imambakhsh, Tapadar, Rapa | .. | 30 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 25 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 95 |
| Munshi Bhojraj, Tapadar, Jong | 10 0 0 | (Erased in pencil). | | .. | 20 0 0 | 30 |
| Munshi Din Muhammad, Tapadar, Jabriji | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Munshi Pahlumal, Tapadar, Pat | .. | 35 0 0 | .. | 15 0 0 | .. | 50 |
| Munshi Hukumal, Tapadar, Sita | 10 0 0 | .. | .. | 25 0 0 | 20 0 0 | 55 |
| | Sher Alshah (pencil). | | | | | |
| | | | | | got from zamindar | 870 |
| | | | | | | 140 |
| | | | | | | 1,010 (all entries in pencil in this column). |

COPY OF LETTER NO. OF THE 672 29TH APRIL 1918

FROM

E. H. WATERFIELD, Esq., I. C. S., ACTING DISTRICT JUDGE, LARKANA, TO THE CHAIRMAN, RASAI COMMITTEE.

As requested by you, I have the honour to send you the following statement about my camp at Dadu.

2. I was at Dadu from January 7th till February 26th. I moved my Court there owing to a serious outbreak of plague in Larkana, which continued till the middle of March. It was obviously undesirable to hold Court in an infected locality, which might result in parties and witnesses carrying the infection back to their villages, Dadu was the most suitable place in the district for holding Court, as it was central, on the railway and free from plague. My long stay there was in the public interest. Plague continued in Larkana till the middle of March, and it would have caused great inconvenience to the public, as well as expense to Government, if I had moved from one place to another, especially as for about a month of my stay I was engaged in hearing a big forgery case in which the parties, witnesses, and pleaders would have found great difficulty in finding accommodation had I moved to Sehwan or Mehar, the only other places outside Larkana where I am allowed to hold Sessions. After the hearing of the forgery case I moved my camp to Mehar for the annual inspection.

3. I took six private servants, and my official establishment consisted of ten clerks and 9 patawalas. I had my two office tents, one for the Court, and the other for the office. I resided either in the District or in the P. W. D. bungalow, moving from one to the other to suit the convenience of other officers. The servants and patawalas lived in the bungalow outhouses. The clerks lived at the Musafarkhana, with the exception of the Serstedar, who was lent a private house by a friend.

4. All the members of the official establishment obtained their supplies direct from the bazaar and not through the tapedar. The clerks living at the Musafarkhana have kept accounts, which can be produced if necessary. My private servants also obtained their supplies direct from the bazaar, with the exception of certain items obtained by the butler through the tapedar, the receipt for which is attached. I slightly increased their wages to compensate them for the extra expense of living away from Larkana.

5. My own supplies were partly obtained through the tapedar for which bills are attached. As the supplies provided by him were not satisfactory, e.g., bad fish was sent my butler purchased afterwards direct from the bazaar. I purchased a certain quantity of fowls and eggs, but my requirements were lessened by my taking my own fowls with me from Larkana. Vegetables were supplied to me free from the Local Fund Garden. I paid for milk for the first twelve days. Afterwards a local zemindar lent me a cow. I paid for firewood for the first twelve days, and afterwards it was supplied free by the P. W. D.

6. It is impossible to estimate even roughly the daily cost of supplies obtained by my clerks, my servants, and myself, but I attach all the tapedar's bills which were paid by me. If it is considered necessary, I can send one of the clerks, who will be able to produce their messing accounts and answer any further questions.

SUMMARY.

Tapedar's bills.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| 7th to 18th January 1918 | 10 | 6 | 0 |
| Ditto | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| 18th January to 2nd February 1918 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| Ditto | 9 | 6 | 0 |
| Ditto | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Carts | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 50 | 3 | 9 |
| H. H.'s Bazaar expenses in cash for January 1918 | 28 | 3 | 0 |
| H. H.'s Bazaar expenses in cash for February 1918 | 27 | 4 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 55 | 7 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 103 | 10 | 9 |

Bill of the articles supplied to the Sessions Judge, Larkana from the 7th to 18th January 1918.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Fuel | 6 | 14 | 0 |
| Milk 16 seers at 2 annas a seer | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 Bullock carts from P. W. D. Bungalow to District Bungalow at 4 annas each | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 10 | 6 | 0 |

Bill of the articles supplied to the Sessions Judge, Larkana from 7th to 18th January 1918

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| Chickens 11 at annas 6 a chicken | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Chickens 5 at annas 4 a chicken.. .. . | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Eggs 90 at 6 pies each.. .. . | 2 | 13 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 8 | 3 | 0 |

From 18th January to 2nd February 1918.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Fowls 17 at 6 annas each | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Chickens 4 at 4 annas each | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 doz. eggs at 6 annas a doz. | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Total | 9 | 10 | 0 |

From 2nd to 26th February 1918.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---------------------|-------|----|----|
| 13 cocks | 4 | 14 | 0 |
| 7 chickens | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 6 doz. eggs | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| 1 Hen | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 9 | 6 | 0 |

From 2nd to 26th February 1918.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---------------------|-------|----|----|
| Sugar | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kerosine | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Rice | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Ghee | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Earthen pot | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Cocconut | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Flour | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 10 | 10 | 9 |

From 18th January to 2nd February 1918.

| | Rs. | A. | P. | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----|----|---|
| Supplied to Bullock. { | 1 tin kerosine | 3 | 14 | 0 |
| | 5 seers wheat | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| | 1 seer sugar | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| | 4 seers rice | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tinning of utensils | 0 | 6 | 0 | |
| | <hr/> | | | |
| Total | 6 | 11 | 0 | |

Bill of bullock carts.

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| 13th Feb. 5 carts | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 14th February Station to Bungalow, 1 cart | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 20th February P. W. Bungalow to District Bungalow, 2 carts | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Part IV.

Evidence recorded by the Committee at Hyderabad
for the Hyderabad District. Pages 1 to 223.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HEY.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. N. H. Hey, Esq.
2. Appointment. 2. Acting Collector, Hyderabad.
3. Headquarters. 3. Hyderabad.
4. Length of service. 4. 11 years, 5 months.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. (a) Assistant Collector in Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana districts, from December 1906 to July 1909.
(b) Assistant Collector in Larkana district from January 1910 to July 1911 inclusive.
(c) Assistant Collector in Nawabshah district, December 1916 to July 1917 inclusive; Acting Collector, Sukkur, August and part of September 1917; Assistant Collector and Settlement Officer in Sukkur, September 1917 to March 1918; then Acting Collector, Hyderabad.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? 6. Hyderabad district.
7. What is the period of your tour? 7. Roughly November to April inclusive.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour? 8. Butler, cook, chokra, dhobi, sweeper, bhisti and two syces.
9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? 9. (a) Collector's establishment: 3 clerks, 5 peons, 2 khalasis.
(b) Daftardar's establishment: 4 clerks, 3 peons.
10. What supplies do you and your servants & your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? 10. (a) I take all wines and liquors, tinned goods and dry stores, also flour and sugar are taken out and supplies of them renewed either by order from headquarters or by purchase in some market town. Grain for my horses I take round with me, fodder I buy locally.
(b) One's servants in India are paid wages to cover the cost of feeding themselves, one does not feed them as part of the contract like in England, so I do not know what supplies they take with them beyond their cooking pots and some flour and sugar. As for my official establishment it is no part of my duties to be caterer or do their marketing for them and I cannot say.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? 11. What I need are the things that go down in an ordinary bazar bill in headquarters, e.g., fish, flesh, milk, eggs and fresh vegetables when procurable, my servants want chiefly ata, milk and ghee, so too the peons; the clerks cater for themselves, but include fish, flesh, more or less, in their diet.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? 12. I take everything I want for my own use, viz, beds, tables, chairs, carpets, mirrors, bathroom fittings, etc.; office furniture consists of writing tables, chairs and bookstands.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars, or other furniture at your various camps? 13. My own requirements are nothing except occasionally a big earthen pot or matka in the hot weather to cool drinks in. Bhistis' buckets or musacks, stable buckets, basins for the servants to wash up dishes in, etc., etc., I provide myself and carry round with me.

The servants and office establishment I understand want a few water jars, which being too fragile cannot very well be carried round, and usually borrow cots; no other furniture is wanted.

14. What tents do you take on tour? 14. I take two private tents (a big living one and a small sleeping one), a cook-house tent and 5 or 6 rowtis for my servants and peons, besides which there is the big office tent for the clerks. The daftardar has his own office and sleeping tents and rowti or two for his servants and peons.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? 15. My servants and peons live in the rowtis I take round, or in the quarters attached to P. W. D. and district bungalows when camped in such. The clerks are supposed to have private rowtis and some of them actually do, but when they can manage they prefer to stay in a dera or dharamsala or in a private otak tent to them.

16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps?
16. My horses are stabled in the stalls provided at touring bungalows or in any spare stalls that can be conveniently borrowed near the camp; a kacha landhi is put up where no such accommodation is available.
17. What records do you take on tour?
17. 1 year's judicial record, stationery and typewriter, books for reference.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps?
18. It is held in the office tent provided by Government or in the office attached (if any) to a touring bungalow.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps?
19. Some 10 or 15 men to pitch my and the office tents on arrival and again the same number to strike them on departure. If the daftardar accompanies, a few more may be wanted to pitch and strike his tents, etc.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge?
20. They vary, but all are kacha and more or less bad outside Hyderabad city and cantonment.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads?
21. District local board and taluka local board roads repaired partly by contracts given out for certain lengths and partly by beldars, malis, and working parties of labourers engaged by the month or day.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps?
22. I have never required any special repairs to be made for my camps, but I have arranged such for the Commissioner's camps.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?
23. Camels, engaged by the month at headquarters, for the whole tour.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?
24. When camped on or near the railway a peon or kotar brings it out from Hyderabad, when far away it is sent to the mukhtiarkar of the taluka in which the camp is, who sends it on by a kotar or peon.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
25. The only fixed camping places are (1) taluka headquarter, and (2) places where there are touring bungalows, P. W. D. or district; elsewhere tents are pitched wherever there is a convenient piece of ground and the camps made to suit inspection work subject to the possibility of arranging supplies, etc.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
26. There are a few Government camping grounds and they are looked after by the local fund beldars and malis.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?
27. All the assigned camping grounds are, and camps elsewhere are chosen, so far as is possible, with a view to such convenience.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
28. None to the camping grounds, a few of the P. W. D. bungalows have them.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
29. Touring bungalows are at Matli, Mile No. 32 Jamrao, Tando Bago, Pangrio, Khairpur, Rajo Khanani, Pir-jo-Goth, Kario Ganwhar, Khorwa, Dadu, Tando Ghulam Haider, Bhudka Takar, Badin, Sirani, Kadhan, Talhar, Miani Forest, Tando Kaiser, Tando Allahyar, Chambar, Jhando Mari, Hala, Matiari, Khebar, Saidabad, and Uderolal railway station.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
30. A chowkidar; one or more malis, if there is a garden attached.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
31. It means purveyance.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. Roughly about Rs. 2 worth of bazaar supplies (see question 11), plus 10 annas to a rupee (according to price), fodder for 2 horses.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
33. Cannot say, see answer No. 11 above.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. They differ in different places, milk, fodder and firewood are generally cheaper than in headquarters, for other supplies I pay much the same rates
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. No.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. For myself, see question 32 above; for servants and peons, 3 or 4 annas a head; for clerks, I cannot say (see question 11 above).
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. Under the rules of 1914, nominally the rasai contractor, actually his kamdar or one of his men gets in the supplies; milk, fowls and eggs got from haris or maldars; fodder from haris or khatedars; other supplies from the local bania in the bazaar.
38. How are they paid for?
38. A bill is given me at the end of the camp for my own supplies by the rasai contractor or his kamdar, which I pay personally. I do my best to prevent my servants or peons running up accounts at all and to insist on cash payments for what they get. Over the clerks and munshis—who run their own show—I have naturally less control, but make inquiries.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. Only the personal inquiries I make from the modi wherever available and villagers as to whether they have been paid or have any complaints.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. My own daily charges being practically the same as my bazaar bill in headquarter (where obviously my servants cannot cheat anyone but their master), plus a reasonable charge for fodder, always equal or exceed the cost according to local rates so far as I can ascertain them. For my servants I inquire and am always told things have been paid for daily as ordered (reasonable quantities and rates quoted), but I cannot swear to the invariable truth of the answers I get. As for the office the modi (banias) or the rasai contractor as regards milk, etc., bear witness to payments and in some cases show me receipts or books of payment at current rates, but I cannot really tell whether those payments are genuine or have been handed back again, or whether they have had quantities in excess of those shown.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiar-kars?
41. Any excess will be ultimately borne for the most part by the haris, as zamindars collect milk, fowls, eggs, goats or fodder from their haris or from petty khatedars in their raj and it is to say the least highly doubtful whether they pay for them, or if they do they recoup themselves by a levy on all their tenantry and raj under the name of deh kharch. Banias almost always see to it that they get paid by some one, but if the some one is the zamindar, he debits it to deh kharch as above; if the tapedar, he pays it out of lapo or, if he can, out of a special local levy.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiar-kars?
42. There is, so far as I know, seldom, if ever, a rasai fund maintained by tapedars, though the latter may and do at times make local levies in the name of rasai to meet exactions of munshis and others and will always contrive, if possible, to collect 2 rupees for everyone they have to pay out.

The so-called rasai fund maintained at taluka headquarter is not primarily meant for rasai at all in the sense of supplying provisions cheap to an officer or gratis to his servants, though it may be drawn on for that purpose, if, say, the Commissioner camps in a taluka. Its real object is to meet the much more onerous and important (from the taluka office's point of view) exactions of the various inspecting offices in the shape of annuities or douceur often running into very substantial figures, besides entertaining liberally the heads and members of such inspecting offices (N. A. C. and his staff, daftardar and his staff, head munshi and his staff, etc., as the case may be) during their stay at taluka headquarter.

Mukhtiar-kars and taluka head munshis (and the corresponding officials in the departments) are, as a rule, much more afraid of these inspecting offices and of the clerical heads of them than they are of the sahib himself. The former are in the know and will unearth and bring to notice all their irregularities, if not made khush; also while they are pretty sure the sahib will do nothing unless he has proof of real default on their part, they are convinced that the sahib's office will

stick at nothing to get them into trouble justly or otherwise, if not given what they want. Also sahibs come and sahibs go (in these days of quick transfers they come and go with kaleidoscopic speed) but the lower officials are much more permanent, even if individuals change, the great brotherhood of kamoras is unbroken, and they have a long memory for their enemies or those who thwart them. And it must not be forgotten that the people, who are being plundered to-day, hope to be the plunderers themselves to-morrow, and, as a rule, have no quarrel with the system, only with an excessive abuse of it.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. Not as a rule, I pay for any damage or breakage.
44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? 44. There are no gardens to camping grounds. I very occasionally buy vegetables from a local fund garden (there are very few of these) and now and then some vegetables may be given me without payment from a garden attached to a P. W. D. bungalow, say, which also supplies the wants of the S. D. O. and other P. W. D. subordinates at or near, likewise without charge.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service? 45. (a) The only reduction I could make in my private establishment would be to dispense with the blisti and pay a man daily wages at each camp to do the work, but even then, though, of course, paid by me, he would often in practice be impressed for the job by the local zamindar.
- (b) The official touring establishment is already cut down to the minimum of 3 clerks, the only other possible reduction is not to take the daftardar and his men round with me except at taluka headquarter and the like.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service? 46. Personally I think both the Collector's and the Assistant Collector and Deputy Collector's tours might be made nearly a month shorter without any real hurt, that is taking the Collector's tour as lasting 6 to 6½ months and the Sub-divisional Officer's 7½ to 8 months including the abkalanani tour.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 47. My own opinion is that these rules are observed more in precept than practice. Zamindars nominally take up rasai contracts, actually it is usually done by their kamdais (as a class decidedly more oppressive and corrupt than the tapedars), or in some cases they get the tapedars to do it for them sub-rosa.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapédars and zamindars? 48. (a) I have no cut and dried scheme.
- (b) Not without a handsome subsidy as he would have to tour round himself and also keep 2 or 3 agents to tour round and be present at the different officers' camps when more than one—as might easily happen—were touring in the taluka or sub-division at the same time. Also if he were given any official backing, and were dishonest, he would loot as badly or worse than any tapedar and as it would all be in the names of officers, they and Government would get the bad name for a thing in the profit of which they have no share, also he would have to pay blackmail to various officers and subordinates to insure against accusations of dishonesty and other harassments.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 49. Of camps, yes, as a rule. Requirements are pretty well stereotyped once the number and composition of the touring establishments are known.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 50. There is a good report by Mr. Hayter, D. S. P., No. 872, dated 4th March 1918.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. Not from subordinates, from zamindars of a certain standing. Only really big men are allowed to give me sheep.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? 52. Dhali, Rs. 2 or 3; sheep, Rs. 3 to 6.

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. Government Servants Conduct Rules, section 2. None; as regards dhalis, sheep have to be taken from certain big Pirs, Baluch sardars, etc., in Sind; as it is a gross insult to refuse them.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. A levy, a cess. It is used for the allowances paid to reapers and watchmen, also for the dues and cesses (in addition to ordinary batai) levied by a zamindar from his tenants or from small holders living in his raj.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'?
55. Each department has its own system.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. It is levied by the village officers and corresponding ranks in all departments. Higher officials squeeze the lower subordinates who do the actual collecting of it, and do not usually collect lapo (as distinct from individual bribes) themselves. It is collected from land-holders in the Revenue Department and the Irrigation Branch of the P. W. D. from maldars and villagers living near the forest in the forest department. It is an old, deeply rooted and vicious tradition in Sind that every petty official is entitled to make what he can in this way. In fact, his pay is looked on more as a retaining fee from Government than as his real remuneration for his work. So well established is the custom that as a rule it is never disputed and no "ostensible purpose needs to be set up, it is only when trying to increase the amount that an official will make out it is for some big officers' camp or the like.
57. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. In the revenue department in Upper Sind lapo is levied by the tapedar at an anna in the rupee (or some such rate) on the assessment, in Lower Sind usually at a rupee or two per wheel or per field cultivated.

The tapedar's lapo is not levied for camps because essentially it has nothing to do with camps or camping, but touring offices often squeeze the tapedar of something while at the camp, and the latter if he sees a chance will make an extra levy (over and above regular lapo) on the neighbourhood on the pretext of providing for the big officer's camp, really to pocket it after giving a few tips to peons and servants and making the best bargain he can with the clerks who want to squeeze him.

58. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilised to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. Regular lapo is only so used in the last resort, if special levy cannot be made by taking the sahib's name in vain. The so-called rasai fund as explained above is really in the main a fund for feasting and feeding inspecting offices and their clerical heads. Mukhtiarkars will commonly deny this and, if they admit its existence at all, try to falsely make out it is maintained solely to meet the exactions of the sahib's butler, because the latter is openly acknowledged to be venal, whereas a mukhtiarkar will raise up dangerous enmity to himself, if he dares to tell aloud the venality and extortion of the various grades of subordinate officials.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. Usually the taluka head munshi in the Revenue Department, where it exists; it is not universal. In some talukas, charges for annuities and the like are met by ad hoc levies direct from the tapedar at the time.

60. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilised for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. In the Revenue Department (the essential system is the same in other departments, but the names of officials and details vary), the tapedar collects what he can according to custom and sticks to as much of it as is not squeezed out of him by the mukhtiarkar's office. The latter in turn collect what they can (a) from the tapedar, (b) from zamindar and others having business at the khardarate and willing to pay tips for getting it put through, and stick to as much as is not squeezed out of them by inspecting officers. Unfortunately it is not entirely unknown for responsible officers like mukhtiarkars and even dattardars and deputy collectors (and the corresponding ranks in other departments) to take a hand in this game for their own profit.

The power of peons now-a-days is quite broken, all they get are mere tips (as distinct from big bribes), and a little free-feeding here and there, and the same is true of private servants, even of the much-abused butler.

The amounts much vary, but Rs. 5 to 10 to the butler and the same to the naik of the peons is the ordinary tip, at a camp, and, of course, peons often get small tips at the doors from visitors to an officer.

The annuities and payments to inspecting offices are much more serious; I have heard of as much as Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 being paid when the Commissioner inspected a taluka office, and correspondingly less amounts when the Collector or Assistant Collector held the inspection, in the latter case it would not exceed a few hundred.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? Undoubtedly the tapedar or other subordinate can help to evade Government dues and break rules to their profit, and his actual power to bestow illegitimate favours of this kind is much exaggerated in popular estimation.
61. Here the universal principle in Sind is nothing for nothing. If a man wants special attention and favours, legitimate or otherwise, he must pay for them.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. This is the chief (though by no means the only) reason for the system of annuities described above.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? The latter is supported by old custom, and by the fact that there are a hundred and one little favours mostly illegitimate and at the cost of Government or his neighbour which the tapedar or Irrigation, Police or Forest subordinate can show to a zamindar in return for being kept khush.
63. Not at all, rasai has been considerably lessened and restricted, but the rules do not really touch lapo.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. None I can find in the files.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? and a decrease in the size of the charges of really responsible officers like Collectors, Executive Engineers, District Superintendents of Police and Deputy Conservators of Forests who can be trusted to be above bribery could keep it down though not entirely eliminate it. But a good deal might be done even without such a splitting up of charges if the Government of India and Provincial Government would, as suggested by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, reduce their secretariats and restrain their thirst for reports and information of varying degrees of usefulness, which chain district officers to their desks, leaving them not half enough time to keep in personal touch with the people or really look after their subordinates.
65. So long as the levy of assessment in Sind depends on whether a field is cultivated or not or whether water is used in a particular way in a given year, nothing but a change in the habits and standard of morality of the people will stop lapo. An increase in the number and a decrease in the size of the charges of really responsible officers like Collectors, Executive Engineers, District Superintendents of Police and Deputy Conservators of Forests who can be trusted to be above bribery could keep it down though not entirely eliminate it. But a good deal might be done even without such a splitting up of charges if the Government of India and Provincial Government would, as suggested by Sir Bampfylde Fuller, reduce their secretariats and restrain their thirst for reports and information of varying degrees of usefulness, which chain district officers to their desks, leaving them not half enough time to keep in personal touch with the people or really look after their subordinates.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. It is a levy of men for any public undertaking, war or labour.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. In Sind they are the baris and some small peasant holders. They are always Mahomedans, Hindus used to be included in the days of the Mirs, but under English rule they are always exempt in the parts I have served in.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. Chiefly stopping breaches in canals and bunds, or doing urgent clearance work.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? men who hold no land from them and are under no such contract.
69. Impliedly all baris hold their lands on condition of turning out for their zamindar when he wants them for such work or for his own shikar, but powerful zamindars may impress small land-holders and their
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
70. They commonly get fed but not paid by their zamindars. Where Government work is done on canals or roads, either daily wages or piece-work rates are paid.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. Only at Hyderabad and in very small and uncertain quantity in a few smaller towns, such as Hala, Mutiari and Tando Allahyar.

72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?

72. List as under; all local fund:—

| | | Beldars. | Malis. | Total. |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Taluka Local Board ... | Hyderabad ... | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| | Tando Allahyar ... | 15 | 8 | 23 |
| | Hala ... | 0 | 21 | 21 |
| | Guni ... | 24 | 14 | 38 |
| | Badin ... | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Tando Bago ... | 30 | 9 | 39 |
| | Dero Mohbat ... | 30 | 9 | 39 |

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?

73. Only under section 58, Irrigation Act.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?

74. No village service inams of any kind, but there are a few seris, holders of which are bound to give help to troops and Government officers in tour in obtaining supplies, carriage, etc., and in procuring labour for canal and road repairs under clauses (8) and (9) of their sanad.

75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?

75. For pitching and striking tents and helping in loading and unloading kit.

76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?

76. Three or four are generally kept there, as watchmen and messengers.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?

77. See answer 19 above.

78. Whence do you obtain them?

78. From the local zamindar or from local fund beldars and the like.

79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?

79. No. They are generally in regular employ as haris, and the like and are merely turned out for this job—which is an easy loaf most of the time—by their zamindars just as he calls them up for odd jobs for himself or his private guests.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?

80. Depends on the daily rates, now varying from 6 to 12 annas a day in the mofussil. No, the rasai contractor himself would have to get them from the zamindars in most places.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

81. Yes, except the actual tent-pitching—which wants a small crowd of men to put up or take down a big tent really safely—it could all be done by engaging a few khalasia for the tour. The work is wholly Government (assuming one has one's own bhiati) necessitated by handling tents and office kit, etc., and there is no reason for increasing private establishment.

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

82. For duck and snipe-shooting I hire the professional mohanās on the dhandha, paying them current daily wages.

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

83. For beating up partridge and quail one usually has to get men from the local zamindar who sometimes will, and sometimes would not, accept payment. If a big zamindar invites one to shoot with him, he would naturally be insulted, if you tried to pay him for his hospitality; but, of course, small men will usually take payment.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

84. Depends on how long they are kept out, e.g., walking up partridge usually only takes an hour or two in the morning or evening, and that too in the slack season when the men have nothing much to do. A big zamindar who runs a whole-day shoot will feed his men well, he does not pay them generally because they are in his permanent employ.

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

85. Zamindari chher is seldom needed for the roads unless a sudden visit by the Governor or Commissioner or some such very high authority takes place. When called out it is usually paid for by the district local board or taluka local board at piece-work rates.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? }
 88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? } 87 & 88. These are questions for P. W. D. officers.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? } 89. Depends entirely at what time of the year they are called up. The cold weather tour takes place chiefly when agricultural operations are very slack and there is little or any interference with such. Labour to close a breach may be wanted any time but then it is to the immediate and vital interest of the land-holders and haris themselves to get it closed.
90. How far does the employment of 'baidars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? } 90. There are but few camps (chiefly taluka headquarters) where I ever have to use them for camp labour myself. Mukhtarkars often use them as extra peons to run errands, carry post and do odd jobs for them, but I discourage this whenever it comes to my notice.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? } 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? } 92. I do not see that it can be safely dispensed with in case of irrigation works, and that is the only legal obligation existing. As for a score of men being called in to pitch tents for an hour or so that does not interfere with anything in particular and is quite in accordance with the habits and customs of the country. The constant attendance of men in camp could easily be dispensed with, if Government supplied touring-officers with a few khajalis. On the other hand these too would try to live on the country, if they could.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HEY.

To the Chairman—

I carried out the special repairs to the roads by Local Board agency, if I had time; if not, by the agency of zamindars.

Most of the kotars keep ponies.

The average number of camps made by the Assistant Collectors in each taluka would be about 5 or 6. The average distance would be between 12 or 13 miles. That is more particularly with regard to the Naushahro sub-division. It would be about 8 or 10 miles in the Shikarpur sub-division. It would be about 8 or 10 miles in the ordinary parts of the Larkana district; about 12 to 15 miles in the Kohistan and Kachho. It is the exception to have regularly maintained camping grounds in these places. There would be no practical difficulty in setting aside regular camping grounds, maintaining them and providing for the extra cost. It might be possible to maintain the camping ground by small seri grants of lands, if you can find the right kind of man. I doubt if such a small seri-holder would be able or willing to collect the necessary amount of supplies for the camp, such as eggs, fowls, milk, karbi and fuel. Probably he might be able to collect the necessary amount of karbi, but probably he would not have sufficient labour to collect the fuel.

I think it would be possible to find a small bania to set up a bania shop at the camping grounds temporarily, if the camping grounds were very near to his village. I doubt if a small bania would be willing even if he got a small subsidy of Rs. 5 or so to bring out a small shop at a distance from his village; I mean if it was over a mile from the village. I did get a bania to come out to my camp at Madeli, but that was with difficulty and by personally persuading the mukhi of the village.

I don't think that a small seri-holder, if a Mohamedan, would grow English vegetables, even if he were given seed for camping grounds. I think a Hindu might.

I think probably 4 to 5 months would be sufficient for the tour of the Collector; about 6—6½ months for the Assistant Collector. I think it would be much simpler to cease keeping account of the exact number of days spent in touring by the Collector and Assistant Collector and to specify generally the months he should be out during the touring season. That is the practice in the Deccan.

My source of information, as regards Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 paid to the inspecting staff of the Commissioner's camp, was a mukhtarkar, a retired head muushi and two or three zamindars who said that they had been asked to make special contributions to the lapo. I am not prepared to vouch for the accuracy of the figures; it probably might be exaggerated.

I am in favour of bringing the mukhtiarkars into closer and more direct relationship with the zamindars. That would tend to reduce lapo. Anything that reduces correspondence with regard to matters which interest the zamindars and tend to the personal disposal of the work by the responsible officer, such as the mukhtiarkar, would tend to reduce lapo. I think it would be quite possible to abolish supervising tapedars and in their place to appoint an extra mukhtiarkar or naib mukhtiarkar and to direct that he should do the work of supervising tapedars in relation with the zamindars. It would be necessary in big talukas to keep as many as two naib mukhtiarkars. The average number of supervising tapedars is four in each taluka. The present pay of a supervising tapedar varies from Rs. 30 to 35, but administrative sanction has been given to the raising of their pay from Rs. 40 to Rs. 75. Therefore the average cost of the supervising tapedars in a taluka would be at least Rs. 200 a month. That would sufficiently cover the cost of pay and travelling allowance of the extra mukhtiarkar.

The holding of seri-holders referred to in my answer to question 74 would be 7 to 15 acres according to whether he held one or two fields.

I have occasionally given a tip at the end of the camp, if there was any special trouble in connection with the work of chheras at the camp. Very often the difficulty about giving tips to the chheras is that the men who pitch the tents are not the same as those who strike them. It is simpler in the Degcan where the mahars work under a headman who comes for the tips at the end of the camp.

The cost of paying the chheras used in camp would be about Rs. 7-8-0 on the first and on the last day; Re. 1 or Rs. 2 on intermediate days for bringing in supplies. If the chheras of camps are paid for at the ordinary rates, it would cost the Assistant Collector, who makes on the average 9 or 10 camps in the busiest season, about Rs. 150, I mean during those 3 or 4 busy months or rather Rs. 100, allowing for the fact that he would have certain camps in bungalows. It would therefore be necessary to revise the travelling allowances in Sind.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

One essential of touring is partial, that is, the crop inspection. It is not a fact that all the work can be done at headquarters. You cannot inspect the work of the tapedars and other subordinates of the mukhtiarkar's office without going on tour. It is also necessary to go to the spot and make inspections in connection with land grants, irrigation, building sites and so forth. Gross injustice might result if these matters were decided by correspondence. It is also undoubtedly important to keep in touch with the zamindars, specially in Sind. This could not be done at all if the officers remained all the time at their headquarters. It is also important to have a reliable officer to whom complaints can be made on the spot against subordinates. There is not a great number of such complaints, but 60 to 75 % of those received on the spot proved true.

There are about 30 or 40 inspections apart from crop inspection in the course of a tour in each taluka. That would be in the case of a busy charge like the Naushahro division. It might be somewhat less in the Karachi talukas. There are certain tracts of lands which have to be toured through for local inspection and for getting into touch with the zamindars at places where there are no camping grounds. My practice is as far as possible to encamp at big villages and to ride out to small villages for inspections on the spot. The partial is mostly done by the Assistant Collector, but the Collector takes it at places where necessary and generally at places not visited by the Assistant Collector. He would not waste time in inspecting lands already inspected by the Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector, unless he wanted to check the work of the Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector. In some matters the Collector would not delegate his powers, except to an experienced Assistant Collector, and in other matters powers cannot be delegated to the Assistant Collector.

To the Chairman—

All powers conferred on the Assistant Collector can be reserved by the Collector. The matter is regulated by the Land Revenue Code and the rules thereunder. All decisions of the Assistant Collector are subject to the Collector's appeal. That work of course could not be delegated by the Collector.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

A private traveller with a retinue could not get supplies without the help of the local zamindar. I believe such a traveller, e.g., a por, gets his rasai on a much bigger scale than local officials.

I don't think private establishments could be reduced either of a European or of an Indian touring officer, the tendency of the latter is to increase them owing to the alterations in the standard of living of Indians.

I left Sind in 1911 and returned in 1916. I was only Assistant Collector before 1911 and had 5 or 6 years' experience. During that time rasai was made by the tapedars in the Revenue Department, by daroghas in the Public Works Department, sub-inspectors and head constables in the Police Department, and foresters and forest guards in the Forest Department.

No one paid for the supplies, except the responsible officers, such as Assistant Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Collectors and all superior grades of officers. My wants were just the same as they are now.

The price per fowl would be 4 to 6 annas for a small fowl and 6 annas to 8 annas for a big fowl. That was in the Larkana district. The price of eggs was 6 annas a dozen, I think, in small villages; probably more in big towns. About a dozen eggs were used a day. Nothing was paid for the fuel as a general rule, as it was brought from waste Government numbers and sometimes brought by the zamindars. Milk was charged for in my bills. I used to take grain for my horse with myself and buy from time to time at any large town where grain could be had. I used to try to pay for karbi, but the big zamindars refused to take the money. They said it was their custom to supply it to anybody, such as a private zamindar. The bills were presented at the end of the camps by the zamindar. The bills were sometimes prepared in consultation with the butlers, sometimes in consultation with the naibs and sometimes in consultation with the munshis, probably to avoid the complaints regarding the bandobast of the camp.

It would depend upon the type of servants what things they requisitioned and the control kept over them by the master. They would take the balance for themselves. They would, as a general rule, show in the bills only those supplies which were actually required by the officers and not include articles, such as ghee or flour and things which are not required by the officers. It would be the servant's object to please his master. He would generally fix the bill at a little lower rate than that at headquarters, because he knew that the officer knew that rates were cheaper for certain things in the mofussil.

My personal experience is that the butler does not show much less than what is supplied. As far as I can tell they showed in my bills what was actually supplied. I always used to pay myself to the tapedar. I have no reason to suppose that money was taken back by the butler but once or twice I had reason to suppose that money was taken by my naik and peons.

I have heard of the fee called kilokhorani, but in that case it was not a fee to the butler but paid to the havaldar and peons. It was a long time ago. I have not come across any case in my actual experience. It would not be possible in the case of my butler, as he comes with me long after the tents are pitched.

I think peons and establishment do get something, but it is only nominal; probably they pay more now than of old. The tapedar used to make a levy to pay the excess. He would make up from lapo, if he could not make a special levy from the zamindar. Sometimes the tapedars were helped by the punchayats.

Sometimes the excess is borne by lapo and sometimes by cash levy. There was a rasai fund in some of the talukas. The payment used to be paid out at the headquarters, except at small camps where the excess would be met by a local levy. The rasai fund was collected by the tapedars out of their lapo or by withholding their pay. There was no additional levy of rasai fund from the zamindars but there might be an additional levy, if the camp was in the village of a particular zamindar; then the levy would fall on the zamindar and he would collect from the raj (harris). The amount was usually kept with the head munshi. I myself did not come across any case in which it was actually kept in the treasury.

I used to warn zamindars not to bring anything and give them to my servants without payment. I used to enquire personally from the zamindars whether they received payments for the supplies.

I have heard complaints about the rasai fund and there was a general order that all officers should do their best to put it down.

All supplies came through the tapedar, but I had reasons to suppose that some supplies were brought to the officers' menials and their establishment direct from the zamindars. I knew of tips made to the peons and establishment and I suspect that money was paid to the establishment, but I have no direct detailed statement. I did in some cases suspect that the mukhtarkar did control the rasai fund, for he often came to the camp to see that the munshis were entertained. He would meet the cost of entertainment of the munshis from the rasai fund and leave the providing of supplies to the tapedars. I think the tapedars have no need to levy upon except custom. If he wants more than the usual lapo, then very probably he gives rasai as his reason.

I don't think stopping of rasai will have any effect on lapo. The fact that tapedars have said so would not make me believe them, rather it would confirm me in my statement.

I should say the zamindars pay lapo for general favours and also with a view to claiming special favours, if necessary. In some small matters for a special favour the men were paid, but at a very low rate; I think the explanation was that lapo had already been paid at the time of general assessment. The tapedars get Rs. 10 horse allowance which has been proposed to be increased. It would be enough to maintain an ordinary Sindhi pony before. It would not be enough now for an honest tapedar.

I think the pay of a tapedar was sufficient before the rise of prices to maintain himself in his position as the son of a small bania, but the difficulty was that he was made to contribute towards the rasai fund and also by custom he was supposed to maintain a higher standard of living, the moment he became an official.

I heard of the circular of 1914 on my return in 1916 to Sind. In Naushahro and in some parts of the Sukkur district the orders were a dead-letter, because the zamindars would not undertake the work, either they handed it over to the kamdars or got the work done as before by the tapedar. The original system continued except that the tapedar was kept out of sight and the bills were formally produced by the zamindars. When the kamdar did the work, no check was kept over him by the zamindar. I know that in some cases the zamindars were paid, because peons and establishments complained of their having been looted by the zamindar, I don't see that the new system would make much difference to the kamdars beyond causing them extra trouble.

I don't know of the state of rasai in other departments.

I generally agree with the letter of Mr. Hayter. I think his ideas are somewhat utopian in respect of the Police Department. I think the haris would be oppressed as much by the zamindars as by the tapedars. The haris are even more in the hands of the zamindars. Some portion of rasai falls on haris ultimately. The smaller portions would fall on the zamindars and sometimes on the panchayat. It would be in the interest of haris to remove the hand of tapedar and zamindar. I think it would be good for the haris to remove the hand of the zamindar, if it were practicable; the same would apply to the tapedar. I can't think of any practical way to do it.

To the Chairman—

It might gradually be done by the system of seri grants.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The zamindars who complained to me did not complain so much of rasai as of the increase of lapo. The zamindars bitterly complained of lapo, for all of them said to me that rasai is merely a feather in the scale as compared with lapo. Most of them say that stopping rasai would not stop lapo. They think if the superior officers did not come on tour to check the work, there would be more lapo than ever.

The tapedars have great powers of delay but they have no real power over the zamindars; but the zamindars think they have. The powers of delay are exercised very heavily. I have endeavoured to get over this evil by diminishing correspondence and trying as far as possible to adopt the kacheri system of land grants. I think the kacheri system is successful as far as it goes. Some obstacles were thrown in its way by munshis and zamindars who were interested in the correspondence system.

I am in favour of the system of paying the assessment direct into the treasury and also by remittances of money orders. Some small khatedars will still have to pay to the tapedars unless postal services were also extended and the small khatedars were educated enough to use postal money orders. Ultimately it would be possible to remove the hand of the tapedars from the collections of land revenue. That will materially reduce the levy of lapo from the zamindars.

I have no definite scheme prepared for stopping rasai and lapo.

It takes about 10 men or 12 men to pitch one of my 16 foot double pole Swiss cottage tent, including the chheras and my own peons. 10 or 15 chheras are required to pitch the tent in addition to the peons. I think it would be better if they are paid. The chheras are also used, as far as I know, by the menials.

I think the daftardars and deputy collectors probably don't want to take the trouble to stop rasai. I am referring to one or two exceptional cases of daftardars and deputy collectors. The Assistant Collector and Collector would not mind the trouble and worry, if they only find some substitute, to put a stop to the rasai. I should be personally delighted, if some system could be devised by this Committee.

I only speak of one instance of the Commissioner's camp referred to in my written statements.

To Mr. Sawhney—

It is very important to go on tour in order to see that the work is properly done. The Collectors, particularly Mr. Monie, tried very hard to stop rasai in the Nawabshah district. All officers that I have encamped with did their best to stop rasai. They have failed because this problem is so very difficult,

The chheras are required simply for raising the tent and lowering it when being struck, the rest of the work is done by the peons. They are also required for a short time only for pitching the tents, for the rest of the work is done by the peons.

I think it would be sufficient if an increase of 50 % touring allowances were granted to all district officers to stop lapo. It would also improve the administration generally if the additional expenditure could be afforded. I think the spread of education, particularly by means of co-operative societies, will improve matters.

I am not in favour of deputy collectors being appointed from people of the lower ranks. I don't think it would be workable for tapedars to be promoted to mukhtiar-kars, as it would be difficult to get the right class of men, as the number of mukhtiar-kars is limited.

The length of the tour does not include the abkalani tour of the Assistant Collector.

I think a bania with a subsidy of Rs. 100 would be able to employ sub-agents to give supplies on payment according to scheduled rates, but there would be exceptional cases also, e.g., in the Police Department. He would have no official power and if necessary it would have to be made clear that no assistance would be given to him by the tapedar or mukhtiar-kar or any other official.

The consultation with the butler and tapedar does not now exist. My answers referred to the old state of things.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I only mentioned the possibility of employment of naib mukhtiar-kar; as a matter of finance he would have to be on the regular grade with prospects of promotion to mukhtiar-karship.

To the Chairman—

I think the appointment of a deputy collector to do the inspection of offices independently might have an effect in stopping lapo of those offices, but the Assistant Collector and Collector would then be more out of touch with offices.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. LOWSLEY.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. C. O. Lowsley, Esq. |
| 2. Appointment, | 2. Executive Engineer, Fuleli Canals. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 13½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 13½ years. |
| <i>General.</i> | |
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. 3,500 square miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. 7 months a year. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Eight. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. 3 clerks, 8 peons and 14 camelmen. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take from headquarters everything except chicken, eggs, ghee, milk, butter and fuel. My establishment take about a fortnight's supply of flour, rice and spices. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require the articles mentioned above and fish if available. Establishment require ghee, milk, meat, sugar, spices, flour and rice when their supply is consumed. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Tents, chairs, tables and ordinary camp furniture. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Cots are required for the establishment. A few water jars at each camp; no furniture. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Four tents for myself and clerks; seven rowtis for servants. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Servants' quarters at bungalows and rowtis at other camps. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Stables at bungalows and kacha landhis at camps. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current and other records equivalent to four camel loads. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. Clerks' quarters at most bungalows, otherwise tents. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. An average of 12 additional men on arrival and departure, about 4 of which are mucedams or beldars in Government service. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Bad. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. District local board and taluka local board. Contractors, local fund beldars and I believe zamindari help. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. Very occasionally. Local fund beldars, cannot establishment with help of zamindars' haris. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters? | 23. Ponies, riding camels and; very occasionally tonga. Transport engaged for the whole period of tour. |

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? 24. Two tapali camel sowars paid by Government who bring post from nearest post office.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. Towns and villages all over the district.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Canal establishment prepare temporary sites where no fixed camping ground exists.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? 27. All of them.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. Seven.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. There are 24 bungalows in the district.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. One chowkidar and a mali where there is a garden.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term "Rasai"? 31. General arrangements for the provision of supplies on tour.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. One to two chickens, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ghee or country butter, 1 fish if available, 3 to 4 seers of milk for consumption and butter-making, 1 maund of fuel.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. Private establishment: 4 seers milk, 4 lbs. meat, 10 lbs. flour or rice, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ghee, 1 maund fuel, spices.

Official establishment: 10 seers milk, 10 lbs. meat, 30 lbs. flour or rice, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. ghee, 2 maunds fuel, spices.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jawari stalks and firewood? 34. Wheat Rs. 6 per maund, rice Rs. 7-8-0 per maund, eggs $\frac{1}{2}$ anna each, fowls 4 to 6 annas. Sheep—have only accepted one in 7 years and I bought one for Rs. 3-8-0, milk 2 annas per seer, bajri and juari stalks grown to a large extent in bungalow compounds and supplied free at other camps. Firewood obtained from dead canal trees.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. I believe not.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. Rs. 14 including cost of fuel and grass for horses.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. Provided by darogha who purchases ghee, spices, butter, etc., from the bania and chickens, eggs, etc., from the nearest villages. I have reason to believe that some chickens, eggs, meat for establishment, are obtained by daroghas and mucedams from haris on the give and take system.
38. How are they paid for? 38. I personally pay the darogha for my own supplies and personally pay the man who brings cows to my camp for milk. I enquire occasionally if supplies are paid for by my establishment.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? 39. None.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 40. My own bills amount to about Rs. 2 per day and I cannot state the actual payments by my establishment. I believe they get milk and meat free, but pay for other articles received.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mustafikars? 41. Some minor expenses are borne by daroghas and mucedams. Zamindars and haris supply mucedams and daroghas with milk, chickens, eggs, free, to obtain the good-will of the establishment.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. There is no rasai fund in P. W. D. Certainly any cost of P. W. D. camps is not met by mukhtarkar's rasai fund.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No. Daroghas keep a set of jars and they are used for several camps at the same place, no other furniture beyond cots is requisitioned. Stables where necessary are usually constructed from Government materials, which are nearly always available.
44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. I obtain vegetables from P. W. D. gardens and pay for them.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. No. The official establishment has already been reduced to a minimum, and it is impossible to reduce one's private establishment.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. Certainly not.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. To a very small degree. Contractors appointed were seldom present and even when they were, the zamindar contractor preferred to get the local Government official to provide supplies with his help.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars.
48. None. I think not.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. A copy of my tour is forwarded to all officials concerned. Zamindar contractors have practically ceased to exist.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. None.
51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. I occasionally receive dhalis of vegetables and fruit—never sheep—from contractors and a few respectable zamindars.
I do not accept from subordinates.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. Rs. 3 to Rs. 8. Sheep not accepted.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. Orders are that such petty dhalis may be accepted. I have had no difficulty in restricting such dhalis to fruit and vegetables.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. A cash payment by zamindars to Government officials to obtain their good-will.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. I don't know.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. By petty officials of most departments from the zamindar as hush-money.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. I believe in the case of the Revenue Department at an anna in the rupee on assessment or Re. 1 per survey number. Daroghas about Re. 1 per karia.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. I believe lapo is only indirectly connected with a rasai fund as regards subordinates. In the case of zamindars contributing to a rasai fund it is a direct contribution.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. I believe only the Revenue Department have a rasai fund managed by the head munshi or headquarters' tapedar.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. I don't know.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
61. (1) For the Revenue Department I believe lapo is exacted to obtain favours in connection with assessment, fines and offences against land revenue code.
- (2) Irrigation.—To obtain favours in connection with the use of unauthorized water courses, increase in size of kacha sluices, grazing on canal banks, cutting canal trees.
- (3) Police.—Favours in connection with all offences against the law.
- (4) Forest.—Favours in connection with grazing rights and damage to forest property.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. I don't know.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. I think not.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. None.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
65. No suggestions to offer.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. Supply of labour, either paid or unpaid, by zamindars when required.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. Zamindari men and other villagers.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. Helping in moving camp of officials, making up roads, closing canal breaches and help when urgently required for Government purposes which in nearly every case is for the benefit of the public.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. Not that I know of.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government?
70. I believe zamindars sometimes give them food. For canal work they are practically always paid.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. Depends on the time of year and season.
72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?
72. A small staff of beldars and mucedams are maintained by Government for canal and bund maintenance. Some local fund beldars are employed.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. Under section 58 of the Irrigation Act.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. I don't know.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. For help in moving camp.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. None.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?
77. About 12.
78. Whence do you obtain them?
78. From the neighbouring village.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. They are not paid and I do not think the zamindar pays them. They regard it as an old custom and their duty.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the rassi contractor?
80. I should think about Rs. 6 per camp. Probably.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase, while on tour, of your own private and official establishments?
81. Yes. I think additional help could be obtained on daily wages.
82. How do you obtain labour for shukar?
82. By engaging coolies whom I pay. For a big shoot, even when arranged by a zamindar, mohanas are paid in full and the zamindars' men given bakhshish and generally some of the bag.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
83. Coolies and mohanas at prevailing daily rates. Zamindars' men a lump sum. Zamindars occasionally protest at their men receiving payment but agree when informed that it is bakhshish and not wages.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
84. I believe zamindars feed them when employed on a big shoot.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
85. Since the employment of road beldars, I believe demands on zamindars have greatly decreased. If a road is required in a hurry, zamindars help and consider it their duty to repair the road in their mohag.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?
86. Not that I am aware of.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
87. It depends on the nature of the breach.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
88. In nearly every case they are paid full rates. Zamindars sometimes submit written statements that they will not accept payment.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
89. No interference or loss.
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?
90. No information to offer.
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
91. None.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
92. Chher should continue. In 99 cases out of 100 it is for the direct or indirect benefit of the zamindars or the public in general. The very few occasions on which chher is employed by petty officials for private work could be resisted by the zamindar and could be stopped by higher officials.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. LOWSLEY.

To the Chairman—

My tour roughly covers the whole of the Tando sub-division and the whole of the Hyderabad taluka.

The rest of the labour required on tour is provided by zamindari chher.

Special repairs are required when the roads are bad and I have to go over the ground.

My camps are mostly in bungalows.

I don't make use of mutton on tour, but I use fowls and game. It is my experience that zamindars generally provide a greater number of men than are usually required for shooting purposes. I think a good number are boys, who merely come to look on at the shooting.

Mohag means the frontage of zamindari land.

I think that when there are many partners in a karia nothing is paid. I believe a very small fee is paid for khuhadas. I believe fees are paid by the contractors on contracts, but the money is divided between the subordinate officers in charge of the work and the clerks of the offices concerned, such as Sub-divisional Officer, Executive Engineer and Superintending Engineer. But I know that it is resisted by some of the subordinates. I don't believe this is a systematic practice. The rates vary. I have been informed by reliable authorities about it. It is probably about 1% for the Executive Engineer's office. I should think the whole would be covered by 7 or 8% on the contracts. I am not aware of any other form of lapo in the Public Works Department.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I pay the owners of the cow when the cow is brought to camp, unless the owner is a big zamindar, who nearly always refuses payment. I nearly always have a cow in my camp. I don't pay for fuel, as it is collected on canal banks by the Government men. My Rs. 2 bill is made up as follows:—8 annas for 2 chickens, 2 or 3 annas ghee, 6 annas for eggs, milk when paid for which is frequent 8 annas, miscellaneous items the rest. The rate of chicken has gone up, it used to be 3 to 5 annas some years ago, now it is 4 to 6 annas. I still pay $\frac{1}{2}$ anna per egg. I grow fodder in the compounds of touring bungalows and so I do not pay for it, otherwise I get it from zamindars. They would not take payment.

I believe that mucedums get fees for allowing maldars to graze their cattle on canal banks, not fees but chickens and provisions for touring officers and their establishments, that is to say for rasai. They are supplied gratis to the establishment. It is in the interest of daroghas and mucedums to propitiate the establishments. The darogha gets Rs. 30 to Rs. 45 pay. They have to keep a horse but they don't get any horse allowance. The minimum Rs. 30 is rather low to maintain himself and a horse, i.e., if he pays for everything he gets. A mucedum gets Rs. 10 to 11 which has recently been raised to Rs. 12. It is sufficient pay for the work they do. I think it is enough to maintain himself with one or two dependents.

The daroghas have opportunities of favouring or harassing the zamindars I think it is probable that they levy a special fee for special jobs, but I have no special information. There were a few contractors for a short time in the P. W. D., but the system of rasai has not changed since 1914. An attempt was made to carry out the circular. I always send out a copy of the programme of all my camps one week before to the mukhtiarkas. I find it did not work, for the contractors never turned up. For many camps no contractors were appointed. No contractors were procurable. I think, as a rule, zamindars don't like to be contractors. They don't like to take the trouble and also think it below their dignity to do the work.

I don't favour the system of entrusting contract to the zamindars. I don't think that contractors could be found who would be independent of all the departments concerned. No contractor would deal in all the articles required.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The additional men are seldom required, as I live in bungalows. A few men are required to help even in the bungalows and there is nearly always an office tent, but less men are required when I am in bungalows.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KUNDANSING K. LAHORI.

1. Name. 1. Kundansing K. Lahori.
2. Appointment. 2. District Deputy Collector, Hala division.
3. Headquarters. 3. Hyderabad, Sind.
4. Length of service. 4. 27 years.
5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. 5. I have served as a mukhtiarkar for about a year-and-a-half in 3 talukas of Upper Sind districts; as a Deputy Manager, Encumbered Estates in Sind, for 3 years in charge of Lower Sind districts; as the Assistant and the Deputy Colonisation Officer, Jamrao Canal, for 7 years; and as a district deputy collector for 6 years.

I have toured through the Karachi, Hyderabad, Thar and Parkar, Sukkur and the Nawabshah districts in different capacities.

General.

6. What is the area covered by your tour? 6. Hala division comprised of Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar and Hala talukas; area 1,500 square miles.
7. What is the period of your tour? 7. 7 months in a year.
8. What private servants accompany you on tour? 8. 2 servants (a cook and a bearer), one horse and a syce form my permanent private establishment, besides one riding camel and 4 baggage ones in charge of 2 camelmen engaged for touring season only.
9. What official establishment accompany you on tour? 9. 3 clerks and 5 munshis with one riding camel for each, 4 peons and 8 camelmen in charge of 15 baggage camels is my official establishment.
10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? 10. I take all unperishable articles, as flour, rice, sugar, ghee, spices, pulses, potatoes, in quantities large enough to last till replenished at a camp in a big and important village, where these things are procurable in the bazaars. My establishments I believe take nothing with them, except their utensils, bedding and clothes.
11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? 11. I require only perishable articles, as I cannot carry with me from headquarters, such as meat, butter, eggs, fowl, green vegetable, milk, fuel, grass and grain for the horse to be supplied to me fresh in every camp. My establishments require all kinds of food provisions (perishable as well as unperishable articles) to be supplied to them in the camp.
12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? 12. I take with me as private furniture 2 easy chairs (folding), 1 camp table, 1 lamp, 3 carpets, 2 teapots, 1 bathing tub and a gendi and its stand. My office furniture is:—1 dozen chairs, 8 pieces camp table, 6 cotton carpets, 8 woollen carpets, 10 despatch boxes.
13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? 13. From 15 to 20 cots are required for my camp, both for my use as well as for the use of my establishments and menials. This is a minimum number; when on occasions camelmen and some of the menials must sleep on floor owing to unovercomable difficulty to get cots one for each. From 20 to 30 water jars are required for our camp. No other furniture is locally supplied.
14. What tents do you take on tour? 14. I carry 3 tents (2 miniature Swiss cottage tents for my personal use and a rowti for servants). For office one hill tent and 2 rowtis.
15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? 15. My private establishments live in the servants' pal pitched in the camping ground. My peons also live there in rowtis supplied to them by Government. My office establishments find sometimes a *tapedar's* dero, and sometimes a musafirkhana, when there is no dero, and sometimes, when both are not available, an otak of a zamindar, where they live.
16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? 16. A landhi is built on every camp for my horse where enough karbi (juari or bajri stalks) is supplied already for the use of my horse during the time of the camp, which is ordinarily 3 days.

17. What records do you take on tour ? 17. 3 years' records, revenue, judicial and English, are carried in the districts.
18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ? 18. My office is conducted in a Government supplied tent pitched in the camping ground where my private personal office tent is pitched within a few yards of it.
19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ? 19. From 15 to 20 chheras are required to help the peons to pitch tents and for clearing up the camping grounds of jungle and other rubbish. These chheras go away after tents are pitched and are again called when unpitching of tents is done. Sometimes a village bania is supplied to help the cook in bringing water and cleaning utensils. He is fed by the servants.
20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ? 20. Most of the roads are alright for traffic. In this country we don't require very good roads, because the cart and carriage traffic is an unusual sight, and all kind-conveyance is done on camelback. From 2 to 5 thousand rupees are every year spent by a taluka local board to keep these roads in a state of repairs.
21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ? 21. Mukhtiarkar is held responsible for the repair of the roads and the agency he uses is usually beldars, sometimes contractors and sometimes the zamindar chheras.
22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ? 22. I don't expect any special repairs to be made to roads which I would use to reach my camps, but mukhtiarkars and zamindars do usually arrange to give them a touch of repairs; but in only such parts, as they feel, would cause inconvenience to me during riding or to my camp camels.
23. What are your means of transport ? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters ? 23. We carry our kit on camels engaged for the whole touring season before starting on tour at the headquarters.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters ? 24. My post is received at the headquarters of the talukas in which there are post offices located. It is sent to me by the mukhtiarkar of the taluka to my camps in it either with a kotar or a private man supplied by a zamindar and our post, both official and private, is sent to the headquarters of the talukas from our camps in them for being posted through a kotar or a zamindar's man. He may be the same man who brought it or a new man, if the same man is unable to proceed at once on account of fatigue to him or to his riding animal.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge ? 25. Two or 3 camps are usually made by me at the headquarters of the talukas during the whole touring season for holding land-grant kutcheries, doing jamabandis and for inspecting the taluka offices and we have to encamp in tapas also, but in which places it all depends upon the convenience of the work to be done from the several camps. So in a tapa no place is fixed for a camp. It may change every year.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds ? 26. At the headquarter stations of the talukas the camping grounds kept fit for use of touring officers are provided. In villages they have to be selected every year and cleared of jungle and levelled in about one-and-a-half acre of land.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars ? 27. Besides the taluka headquarter station camping grounds which are within practical reach of villages of banias' shops and bazaars. We have in this division 2 or 3 other places within a convenient distance of the bazaars.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens ? 28. In this division only Hala has a garden near its camping ground. In villages where we encamp if there is P. W. D. bungalow there is always a vegetable garden attached to it.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows ? 29. In my division bungalows are provided at about dozen places, of which 8 are district bungalows and the rest P. W. D. ones. During the touring season camps are made in places where these bungalows are situated, but not in all.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows ? 30. In some bungalows a watchman and a mali are maintained and in some only a watchman.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. Rasai originally a reception organized by contributions and subscriptions to meet distinguished visitors and guests, has since the commencement of the present Government meant an arrangement to provide touring officers with necessary comforts during their visits in camp to the talukas. It includes supply of provision, service and labour free at inadequate or at full prices.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. I require 2 eggs and fish about half a lb., if procurable within 4 miles of my camp, a pound of meat or a fowl, one seer of milk, a quarter lb. of butter, 4 seers of bajri grain for the horse, 2 bundles of grass and fuel, the quantity of which depends upon the season. In winter when it is, very cold a maund of fuel may not suffice, and 10 seers a day is the minimum quantity.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
33. Private servants' requirements:—
My cook and the boy do not require anything special as I have to feed them. The syce requires one seer of rice and flour and one chattak of ghee and 1½ lbs. of meat when he can get it free and milk about a lb., that too when he gets it free.
- ¶ The official establishments require each member one pound of both rice and flour, 2 chattaks of ghee, half a pound of meat, fish if they can get free away from the taluka headquarters, quarter of a pound of dal and vegetables. Some of them eggs and fowl also, the latter only as a substitute of vegetables in the case of Mahomedan munshis.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jawari stalks and firewood?
34. Wheat flour 5 seers a rupee, rice from 5 to 3½ seers a rupee, eggs 2 pice an egg, fowl 4 to 6 annas for full fowl, sheep never in demand by any in the camp, milk usually gratis, butter 1½ seers a rupee, bajri 3½ rupees to 6½ rupees a maund, jawari no consumption, bajri and jawari stalks no price in villages. At headquarters it ranges between 2 to 4 annas a bundle, firewood no value in villages. At headquarters between 5 to 10 annas a maund.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. There is no market value of milk, stalks and firewood, excepting at taluka headquarter stations and Nasarpur, Matiari and Tando Jam.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. About Rs. 10 a day for all.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. Almost all the perishable things, as meat, eggs, fowls, milk, etc., are supplied by zamindars or on their behalf by their agents or tapedar to establishments free of cost. Where in the villages of the camp there is a big zamindar he supplies them, but in villages where there is no big zamindar the tapedar goes into several neighbouring villages and collects these things from petty landholders and procures them for the camp. The other articles, as flour, rice, ghee, etc., are supplied by the village modi on payment.
38. How are they paid for?
38. On bills presented by the banias, the zamindar or the tapedar.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. Absolutely no guarantee that the money reaches the sources supplying them. The zamindar usually does not bring these things from his own house. He also collects them from several haris of his and from neighbouring petty zamindars. I do not think he must be distributing the money amongst so many men. My idea is that the zamindars also do not get the money in several cases. Probably they return the money paid to them. In this division and I have also seen in Tando division in two taluks of which I have served this year that at several camps the establishments including peons get cash payment from the tapedar from 1 rupee to 4 annas a day each member according to his importance for defraying these expenses and banias' and zamindars' bills were paid from these amounts.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. I pay for all the supplies for which there is a market at the market rates, but I cannot guarantee whether the supplies shown in my bills are truly shown. They may be underdrawn in quantity and in quality of articles. The prices may also be inadequate.

41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. By the zamindar of course if it is greater and sometimes by the tapedar.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. Rasai fund is only maintained at the headquarters of the talukas for expenses incurred there. The excess in village camps is not met from this rasai fund. No rasai fund is maintained by tapedars in villages for expenses on camps there. At headquarters rasai fund is maintained to which all tapedars and sometimes zamindars also contribute in proportion to the prosperity of their tapas and holdings. The controlling authority is the mukhtarkar. The accounts are kept usually by headquarter station tapedar and in some places by a committee of 2 or 3 tapedars.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. I pay nothing for water jars or cots, no other furniture is supplied to me or to my establishments. I pay nothing for materials supplied to build stables.
44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
44. I use very few of vegetables grown in gardens attached to the several bungalows, P. W. D. or district ones, and pay nothing when I use any vegetables grown there.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. I maintain irreducible minimum establishment for my private use. Official:—The number of peons cannot be reduced. In tour, inspection staff, i.e., head munshi, judicial munshi must accompany me to village camps besides the typist. The rest can stay at the headquarter stations.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. The period of touring of a divisional officer cannot be curtailed, but it should be left to him to do as much touring in a year as he considers necessary, not that when he finds it unnecessary to move out he should be called upon to explain why he was not able to pass full seven months out.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. In the Sukkur district where I had received this circular every one had found it impracticable. The things could not but be left to go on in much the same way as before. In the first year of the circular tapedars procured things from several villages and to keep up the show allowed a zamindar to produce them.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. My modification is that it should be cancelled, as its working is not likely to relieve the zamindar but put him in additional trouble and expenses. We cannot get contractors and cannot get zamindars whom we can hold responsible for procuring supplies in villages. For towns all things are possible, but in villages things, as eggs, milk, fowls, meat, &c., must require to be collected from several different places and men. The zamindar cannot collect them because everybody wont obey him, therefore he must have a tapedar to help him in this work. No contractor can undertake to procure these supplies some of which he must have to send for from long distances as from the headquarters of the districts on account of his ignorance of several villages and sort of the people living near the camps where he can collect them, and no officer is prepared to pay to him the prices that he would have to charge for several things supplied on account of his having spent so much in sending for them from the headquarters.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. It is not possible to find a contractor for each taluka or a division in place of tapedars and zamindars because the requirements will not be so many as to keep him engaged or pay his costs. I have had no contractor to give him the regular and timely intimation of my requirements. It is not possible in the case of a divisional officer on whom calls are sometimes too diverse and sudden to make him to keep his programme of tour in which several camps might have to be abandoned altogether.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. We had local orders in the Sukkur district issued by the Collector, but zamindars could not help the mukhtarkars to give effect to them. I had tried to act up to them with the result that menial establishment threatened to leave service.
51. Do you receive 'Dhalia' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any officers of zamindars?
51. I used to receive several dhalis but I have brought them down now to one or two a year by making all my donors to take an oath never to repeat bringing them to me, drawing their attention to the orders of

Government against the continuance of this practice. I do sometimes receive shot game not procurable in the bazaar. I never receive any sheep nor any kind of other present, excepting only some vegetables from my subordinates.

51. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such 'Dhals' and sheep?
52. The average cost of dhali varies with the dignity of the officers and the donors. It varies from 5 to 20 rupees. Sheep also cost from 8 to 12 rupees.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
54. The orders of Government are to refuse these dhals and I have tried to do so. The two or three dhals in a year which I have allowed to be received are from people whom I could not send away disappointed on account of their first offence or on account of the trouble; they would have been put to take them back to their homes at a considerable distance.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. Lapo is derived from lap meaning a handful of grain or any other produce of a field recovered by a zamindar at the time of batai and separated from the whole heap before effecting division of it between himself and his haris, for expenses expected to be incurred by him in providing rasai for Government officials encamping in his village and paying anagi to village officers and to measurers. Rasai is an institution of very olden times in Sind pending for its existence on the lapo receipts. All expenses connected with entertainment of Government touring officers during their stays in deras or kharas (harvest floors) for the purpose of recovering Government share of produce when the land tax was levied in kind used to be defrayed from it. When the British Government came land revenue commenced to be recovered in cash. The deh kharch lap the zamindars recover up to this day, from which they pay anagi to their tapedars and contribute towards providing comforts of officers encamping in their villages.

The anagi to tapedars and free supply of labour to officers by the zamindars appear to have been acquiesced in by present Government is evident from the fact that the tapedars and their kotars were started in service on Rs. 15 and Rs. 4 a month, though both were required to keep powers and that the divisional officers were given only three peons, though it must have been apparent that they could neither pitch tents by themselves, nor put camping grounds right without the help of chheras, and their pays were fixed at Rs. 7 a month, and which could not at any time be a living wage for any intelligent man. The anagi has gone on increasing on account of the increases in calls on tapedars and inability of zamindars to provide the above such things, as meat, fowls, eggs, milk, etc., which now in several places the tapedars could only collect from petty zamindars. The rate of anagi now varies from 4 annas an acre to 6 annas an acre, as the tapedars provide all cash payments at considerably increased rates from it and also because the value of a rupee has so much depreciated. Up to now in most places milk, meat, etc., are supplied gratis by zamindars who, like the practice of the old, collect these things from neighbouring petty peasants and haris and spend nothing on them from their pockets. The cry is that they should not pay the higher rates of anagi in addition to stuffs which tapedars used to pay for from their anagis before. In some places I have seen the tapedars spend very little on rasai, but pocket the whole of the anagi receipts amount which they recover at higher rates, paying from it only a fraction which they spend in corrupting the head office establishment and keeping pleased their mukhtiarkars.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. Anagi, nuhrano and rasai.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. By the tapedars with the help or connivance of mukhtiarkars from the zamindars for pocketing most of the amount and spending a part in bribing the inspection staff, menials and peons, though it is recovered on the pretext that it will be spent in making rasai of officers.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. Anagi at collection time per assessment, nuhrano at the time of delivering ijazatnama per acre and rasai at the time of camp of officers up to one rupee a number cultivated.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. Tapedar from his receipts of lapo, anagi and nuhrano contributes only a share and that to meet the expenses incurred at the taluka headquarters under the direction of mukhtiarkar for making up the deficiency in the amount of bills which oftentimes contain prices of stuff supplied to establishment and menial servants and in paying tips to the private servants of officers.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. The mukhtiarkar is the director of rasai fund, accounts of which are kept by tapedar or committees of tapedars.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasa' fund?
60. About 10 per cent.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? impossibility in the Irrigation, Police and Forest Departments, in which only an extortion must succeed.
61. None of three kinds of lapo that are mentioned above is levied for particular favours in the matter of land revenue, but such an unauthorized exaction is an impossibility in the Irrigation, Police and Forest Departments, in which only an extortion must succeed.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. The mukhtiarkars and tapedars are concerned to send away inspection staff pleased who have in their power to make things uncomfortable for them, making too much exaggeration of small mistakes they find in their work.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. When zamindars make arrangements for provision, they deduct the amounts spent by them from tapedar's anagis. This is what I learnt at Mirpur and that circular of 1914.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. I have not seen them.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
65. It can be prevented by mukhtiarkars if they seriously take to doing it but they must have to cease to depend for all their expenses of living and luxuries and those incurred by them for doing khushamad with the members of head officers on tapedars.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
66. Labour secured free of payment on adequate payment or on full payment through a zamindar.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. Mostly their baris and other vagabonds infesting their village, whom they can secure by threat of sending them as badmashes.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. All kinds of labour with hand or with spades and axes.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. Those who do hold lands are bound to obey such calls made on them by their zamindars.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
70. Some of the zamindars feed the chheras; others do not do so, but officials only pay them when they can get their wages from Government.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. No labourer can be secured in villages without the hand of zamindar, because understanding has been established in the minds of people of chher class that they would not get any return for their labour.
72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?
72. No.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. Moral bindings for supplying to revenue officers. I do not know of any law under which we can compel them to supply labour.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. Seris to some zamindars but they have ceased to be an inducement to make zamindars help us on account of them.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. For pitching and unpitching tents and clearing camping ground of jungle and levelling it and for bringing water and fuel and grass and during night keep a watch over camp.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. About 5.

77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps? 77. 15 more.
78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. From the village through the tapedar or zamindar.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. We do not pay them anything and zamindars only feed those who live at a great distance from camp.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Basai' contractor? 80. Eight annas a labourer. Tents could be pitched by paying two annas each to 20 labourers, this would be repeated when striking tents. The total cost about 6 rupees a camp. No. The zamindars alone can produce the labourers.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase, while on tour, of your own private and official establishment? 81. They will be a further drag on the rasai.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. I do not do any shikar.
83. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 83. Nothing speculative can be said. The repairs depend on for what officers' roads have to be fitted and the damage done to them unexpectedly.
84. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 84. The zamindars feed some of them who cannot go to their houses on account of long distance.
85. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 85. The zamindars' men with spades and baskets.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 86. Zamindars, if they do not get any payment from Government, feed them.
87. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 87. No interference.
88. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards? 88. Not much interference. We do not employ any beldar but zamindars' local village haris.
89. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders? 89. I do not know this.
90. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 90. I do not consider the chher system should be suppressed, but we should pay the chheras at four annas a day from contingent expenditure.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. KUNDANSING LAHORI.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

Lapo is collected for the express object of rasai. The mukhtiarkars therefore consider it legitimate to call on the tapedar to pay a part of their lapo towards rasai. A part of lapo is pooled in each taluka and formed into a rasai fund. The head munshi acts as a referee in the absence of the mukhtiarkar. Not more than 10% of lapo would be paid into the rasai fund. The tapedar makes a separate levy for rasai away from headquarters. The big zamindar will undertake to pay all the expenses. If there is no big zamindar, then the money is levied in cash according to the cultivation of the respective zamindars.

The expenses of a Commissioner's camp are very much increased, when he is away from headquarters owing to the carriage of things to his camp. It might be Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 for one camp lasting for 15 days, for sending out supplies, telegrams, post, etc.

To the Chairman—

I was asked to contribute towards the expenses and was told that 13 carriages were kept in attendance every day. It might have been exaggerated by the mukhtiarkar, but I paid the contribution as requested, as a zamindar. That would make up the expenses of Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 for one camp. I did not see the 13 carriages, but I believed the mukhtiarkar.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I have no idea of the total expenses of the Commissioner's camp when I made rasai for the Commissioner's camp. I was fortunate enough to have a big zamindar who attended to all the things.

I made rasai for the Collector's camp 15 years ago, I can't remember what the total cost was.

I have heard of kilokhorani, but it has been exaggerated. As far as I know it is taken by the jamadar of tent-pitchers. I don't believe that it is levied by the butlers. The fee paid for kilokhorani would be about Rs. 15 in my time. I have not heard of payments of Rs. 100.

The mukhtiarars believe that they will get better promotions, if they make better rasai. They also think that if they don't make rasai, they will get it hot from the establishments.

I have known of many instances in which tapedars and zamindars in charge of rasai have been ill-treated for not properly attending to the rasai. I have not heard of any case of insults to mukhtiarars. The ill-treatment has been administered by the menials. A small chhera might get his beard pulled, but not a zamindar. They are also beaten.

An attempt was made to introduce the new system in 1914, but it proved impracticable. Mr. Moysey issued a circular that a contracting zamindar should be found to carry out the orders. I was at that time serving in the Sukkur district under Mr. Moysey. The attempt was not successful, as the zamindars were not willing. The zamindars thought that they would not be able to collect the necessary supplies of eggs, etc., as the tapedar could. They refused because they thought that they would not get paid and because they were not able to procure the supplies and also they thought that it was below their dignity to do the work. The payment for the supplies did not matter much with them, as they would be able to get it from the tapedar's anagi. They would deduct from the anagi that they would pay to the tapedar.

I have not actually seen the accounts of the rasai fund, but I suppose they must be kept at the headquarters.

The chheras called for pitching tents are different from those called for helping in camps.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HATTEB.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. O. C. G. Hayter, Esq. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Superintendent, Police. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 21 years, 5 months. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. December 1896 to March 1901; September 1914 to April 1918. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Hyderabad district. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. November 1st to March, April, May (ad lib.). |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Alone, one; with family, half a dozen. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Reader (rank, sub-inspector, police), 2 clerks, one office orderly; (alone), 3 orderlies; with family, 6 orderlies. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take a cow (milk and butter), flour (maida), potatoes, Europe stores, kerosene oil, groceries—others none that I know. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require fowls, eggs, vegetables if possible, cow's food, rice, a few groceries, fuel and fodder; they require ordinary food, fuel—2 sowars require fodder. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. A quantity of ordinary camp furniture of all kinds. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of coats, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Water jars only. Orderlies and servants get cots. I don't say they need them. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Government tents (two large ones, office tent, 3 rowtis). |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Rowtis, musafir khanas—spare room in police thanas. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. If no bungalow stables, matting landhis. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Crime records (current), service sheets, registers, a few miscellaneous files. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. Office building at bungalows, musafir khanas, police thanas or office tents. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. At bungalows, none except carrying supplies. At other camps tent-pitching, etc., clearing according to ground. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Fit for horses and camels only. A bar to efficient control of police. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local boards I believe or zamindars' agency. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters? | 23. I have in 1917-18 made only a very intermittent tour to a few talukas, hence engaged locally; but ordinarily would engage for season. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 24. By police sowars. |

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. Police stations and sometimes outposts.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Zamindars send men to prepare when necessary.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazars? 27. All, to the best of my belief.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. A few.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Most, vide information in Collector's and Executive Engineer's offices.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. Chowkidar only and a mali where there is a garden.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 31. The provision of cash or supplies either direct or through zamindars by subordinate officials to their superiors, superiors' staff, clerks, servants, etc.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. Daily bazaar in Hyderabad Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0, this gives some idea.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. I cannot work this out—no time—say, 10—15 men, their appetites differ.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajra or jowar stalks and firewood? 34. Grain and rice, I cannot say exactly, but my bills show about gazetted bazaar rates. Eggs 2—3 annas a dozen as a rule, fowls 2—4 annas, and rest unknown. Fuel free at some places, at others 4 annas a day; fodder free as a rule.
- NOTE.—Provided camels permanently engaged, fuel and fodder can be brought from where it has no market value even to the largest towns. No reason why one should not do this even to headquarters for personal use.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. I should say obviously none, on account of bad communications. Proof:—In Hala taluka large areas full of fuel allowed free. In Hyderabad an important police force literally losing its physical strength on account of dear fuel and less money to spend on food.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. I cannot even make a guess, but it could be paid out of the rasai of big inspecting officials without feeling the difference.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. Actually various people on the land; or wandering low tribes with poultry; or banias. Collected and sent to camp by sub-inspector.
38. How are they paid for? 38. I pay for my own requirements. The establishment actually hands over money. Where it all goes eventually is like the problem of another life. It may come back part of the way, or be returned.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? 39. None. I am perfectly convinced that it is retained, except banias' bills, or repaid.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 40. I consider I pay fairly but what does it matter if it does not end up in the right place? I apologize for asking a question myself.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the banias or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 41. By the poor producers every time; zamindars rob them as much as any one.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. No rasai fund. Police don't need funds; zamindars give freely to them, wanting to be in their good books; others think it best not to refuse. I have no dealings with tapedars or mukhtarkars.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. No.
44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. Yes, occasionally. No payment. The malis understand they should give them to officials. They sell to the public.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. No, mine is very small. If bungalows are everywhere, I need not take so many orderlies.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. Not without improved communications. That is the whole crux of this question.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. I started by trying to work with contractors. I found them to be such dummies and I was so ridiculously fooled (temporarily) on two or three occasions that I got disgusted and gave it up. I found 'em out later on.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapeda's and zamindars?
48. I think if regular traders were appointed for all camps in certain areas, they might co-operate and succeed; but the fight against the army of free-fooders would be very hard and will last more than 3 years, anyway. These men or their employers must be substantial and be given every access to, help, and protection by higher officers.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. Practically never. D. S. P.'s programme never holds good for more than a week or so.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. I think one. Will enquire when office opens.
51. Do you receive 'Dhais' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. Subordinate officers—rigorously never. From zamindars who are really county families—yes.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such 'Dhais' and sheep?
52. I cannot estimate an average. A few rupees, I suppose. Dead game have no value away from market.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. I cannot remember exactly. I don't think I have departed from them much. Subordinates of a certain type worry very hard for acceptance, and one has to be brusque before they stop it.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. A regular levy of fixed illegal fees or percentages.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. Strictly none in police. Illegal gratification is fortuitous.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Never, as I understand the term.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rassi' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rassi' fund?
59. If so, who manages the 'Rassi' fund?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rassi' fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
- 57 to 61. I don't understand the term unauthorized lapo. I did not know that any lapo is authorized. There is no regular levy, collection of fees, or rates fixed in police affairs, except it may be in certain offices which act as revenue collecting agencies in large cities (licence fees, etc., etc.), or in summons, warrants, fine-recovery duties. Even so, speaking generally, the taking of illegal gratification depends on the individual character of policemen or those with whom they deal, and largely on supervision. There is no system managed and taken part in by the subordinate agency collectively, in which all must join or the system be thrown out. It is less hopeless of cure and far more healthy than the regular lapo. It does not discredit Government so much, although there is open scandal, which is suppressed in case of levies. People know that it is the fault of individual policemen. The other they take to be part of sarkari bandobast. They see that a policeman need not extort, but the other thing is departmental extortion, inevitable.
62. Again all is individual; sub-inspectors gratify inspecting clerks, etc., on their own.
63. I should say, increased.
64. None.
65. I am pessimistic about it. I don't believe any laws or regulations can prevent it (with reference to regular levies). However, better pay and stern discipline may effect good. If the expectation of resulting increased revenue is high, it will not only be equitable but profitable to improve position of staff and increase control.
- Chher.*
66. Compulsory labour.
67. They are tenants of landowners, or failing that, any one who can be roped in without any danger of a row.
68. As regards police, carrying baggage, making landhis, pitching tents. Shikar—I generally find at shikar places a number of men obviously well accustomed to and keen on shikar. Absurd to say forced in their case.
69. I believe so.
70. Officials usually pay for shikar beaters, and often tip for other services. I believe no one else ever pays.
71. I should say there was plenty. Men loafing in every small town or village in large numbers; obviously working men.
72. I have never met any. Possibly hard to recognize them.
73. I say that they are, absolutely. Otherwise irrigation, the only support of life in Sind, cannot, when breaches occur, be carried on.

74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Doocan on condition of rendering services to the community or to Government? 74. Only in a few places; it amounts to nothing. I regard this as the greatest police reform required, apart from any question of Chher. It will level up Sind with the Deccan.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour? 75. Vide 19. Apart from that, occasionally a few beaters for shikar.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp? 76. No whole-time men.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp? 77. About half a dozen. None, if a police working party is available.
78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. The sub-inspector sends them.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. I do occasionally, not regularly; usually I don't see them. If I do, I tip them at times.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Basai' contractor? 80. I shouldn't do it. I should make orderlies and a few local off-duty men do the work. Merely a light fatigues. This answers 81.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. Subordinates get men for me from zamindars or zamindars bring them direct.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. Two to four annas a shoot according to time and labour. I do not usually pay men when big zamindars invite me to shoot. This is only rarely.
- Addendum.—By a shoot I mean 2—4 hours in morning or evening. I did tip a big zamindar's tenants recently. He was so indignant that I doubt if I did the men a benefit.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Never.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85—86. None, vide 22.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87—88. I cannot say.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. In individual cases, I quite believe it causes hardship. Loafers are left, while others are called away from work.
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards? 90. I have no information.
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher', or local orders? 91. None.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. It cannot be done; the danger in case of breaches is far too great. The Engineer must be able to get labour promptly, and not spend days while the country gets submerged. But it ought to be paid for fairly. It is very valuable labour to Sind. With roads too, I think that compulsory work by available casuals is good for all, but pay them well.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. HAYTER.

To the Chairman—

I think that on the whole, cots are desirable for menials and orderly establishment on tour.

I think better communication is advantageous for the police. I suppose that none of the roads are really fit for motor cars. It would be an enormous assistance to the police, if they were fit, and they were maintained for police motor cars.

My daily expenses in the district would be less than those in Hyderabad. The charges are less for ordinary supplies in the district.

I do sometimes use my camel, when not otherwise engaged, in fetching fodder and fuel. Firewood I think at one time ran up to Rs. 1-6-0 a maund. It has generally been understood that the price was improperly run up by the forest contractors. We have karbi for police horses in Hyderabad. The price of karbi has also run high. The karbi is brought in by anyone. There is no regular contractor. The difficulties are those of transport and communication which prevent an ample supply of karbi coming into Hyderabad from the surrounding district.

My establishment is a very small one and the aggregate expenses would not be very large. It would not make much difference generally to the rasai of touring officers. If the zamindars have to make rasai, they take things from the haris, and they don't pay the haris.

The malis sell the vegetables to the public, but they retain the money for themselves.

I have to go at once to visit the scenes of important cases.

I referred to the fee probably levied by the subordinate staff on the licenses of hackney carriages and sometimes in warrant and summons cases.

I imagine the policemen engaged on investigation usually get their supplies free, I should say, not as a matter of force, but as a matter of custom.

I think lapo has increased owing to the strict supervision of rasai in kind. The subordinate staff want to make up in money what they don't get in kind. I think there has been a great decrease in rasai due partly to the rules of 1914 and partly to the general efforts made to suppress it.

I couldn't say if men loafing about the towns were actually haris or not. There is sometimes a very heavy influx of people from Rajputana when times are bad in Rajputana. There is a certain number of settled tribes generally of a criminal disposition, who are available for labour. Recently, there have been crimes in the Tando division by a people called Bhils, which would indicate want of employment. I have served for 4 years in the Ahmednagar district where there are regular mahars and patel watahs for the service of Government and the community.

It requires about 10 or a dozen men to pitch one big tent. It would take a couple of hours to pitch a big tent with the help of chheras.

The zamindars sometimes give chher for shikar.

It is the practice in the district to have police modis at police stations, and possibly also at outposts. They supply the police regularly with food, grain and groceries on payment. These modis advance the police money sometimes for private and official purposes, for instance when the police run out of their permanent advance. The modi will also pay the police for travelling expenses of men sent up by railway. Now that has been stopped by the introduction of travelling warrants. They are signed by the officer in charge of the police station. I should consider it worth trying to find banias, the bigger the better, to undertake to provide supplies for the camps of all the touring officers. They should be entirely independent of the subordinates of any department. The Police modi who provides the supplies makes a substantial profit. It is not, therefore, necessary to give him any annual subsidy for the work.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I refer to the gazetted rates as market rates outside Hyderabad. The sub-inspector prepares my bills. The gazetted rates are drawn up by the mukhtarkars. I can't say how far they agree with the actual rates. There have been complaints about the gazetted rates of grain being low and thus affecting the grain compensation allowance. If that is so, my bills will be undercharged. I have served in the Sukkur and the Upper Sind Frontier districts. I believe there is some regular levy for hackney carriages in big places by the carriage clerk or any one who has control over the hackney carriages. I couldn't say the exact rate.

To the Chairman—

The carriage clerk is paid out of the conveyance fund. He is not a regularly enrolled policeman.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I think the policemen who go on investigation are fed out of fear, it is really more a matter of custom. I think they are generally fed by the local wadero—not necessarily by the complainant. There are generally a number of zamindars called for the purpose of investigation. There are complaints that the investigating party is living on the complainant. Some investigations take many days. The substance of the complaints is that it is a tax on the complainant.

To the Chairman—

I don't think an increase of allowance would stop it; it is really a matter of discipline and supervision.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The policemen get no special allowance for investigation within their own jurisdiction. It might be possible to reduce the number of policemen who go on an investigation. The persons of the party run up to 5 or 6, or even sometimes a dozen. Pagis and witnesses, I think, also have to be fed by the zamindar. The total might run up to 2 dozen. If the investigation is successful, there is less possibility of any complaint. If it is not successful, they are more likely to make complaints. There have been such complaints

It would be necessary to have permanent metalled roads and proper bridges to extend the motor traffic to the districts. Temporary repairs to roads for motor cars would not last long; they would not be of any particular use to the District Superintendent of Police.

I have come to know of a certain amount of rasai for the Revenue Department in the course of my duties as head of the police, but I have not heard before of regular fees for driving in the first peg of the tent. I have heard that butlers do very well. I have not heard that bills were prepared any way differently from other departments.

I was on the railway in 1914. I have only tried the contract system since my coming here a year ago in November last. I don't think that the rules of 1914 have really made any difference. I don't think the contractors under the system are really contractors. I have nothing to do with the tapedars. I deal with the sub-inspectors as regards the rasai.

My servant was a Chhatri of the North and at one camp told me that the contractor brought back the amount of the bill.

I don't think that the contracting zamindar system will work.

I think serious attempts have been made to put down rasai, but there is much other work to be done. Serious steps are necessary, such as punishment and dismissal of those who are proved to be extortionate. You will have to make other arrangements for providing supplies before you can remove the hand of both tapedar and sub-inspector from this matter.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I think it would be possible to find a bania with a subsidy of Rs. 200 a month to provide supplies to all officers in the talukas. Exceptions will have to be made in emergent cases.

The gazetted rates are only for the grains. There are no gazetted rates for fowls and eggs.

I can't specifically say about the Public Works Department malis, how far they sell the produce. Probably the control is better in the Public Works Department.

I think unmetalled roads would be sufficiently good, if they could be properly preserved. I have seen parts of Hala roads. It would be quite possible to use them for motor cars. There are some such roads here and there.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

It is generally in serious cases like those of dacoities that the party would be one dozen or so. A great many men are required for carrying messages and for calling witnesses and so forth. If the dacoits are arrested, a number of men are required to guard them. I said 4 or 6 men are required in the ordinary cattle thefts. The general crime is cattle-lifting; dacoities are rare. The police party has to move from place to

place as it finds a clue and at times it has to remain at one place. The element of fear in the matter of rasai is less in the Revenue Department and among respectable zamindars.

I think 99 per cent. of the people would vote for the retention of the outposts for the purposes of hue and cry and the suppression of cattle-lifting and crime generally. It is essential that they should be inspected by the District Superintendent of Police in the interests of discipline and administration.

To the Chairman—

I believe that the Collector of Sukkur used to motor to Shikarpur. The road is bad. Mr. Murlidhar used to come and go from Shikarpur to Sukkur on his motor car. I have ridden in his motor car on that road and it is bad. The Commissioner used to use his motor car in the Hyderabad district. I can't say personally about the state of the roads. I couldn't say whether there were any special repairs to the roads for the Commissioner's car. He motored from Tando Mahomed Khan to Sujawal in the Karachi district. I only know the roads in this district. The roads are decidedly bad for motor cars. It is a very considerable risk to take motor cars now along the ordinary roads.

Copy of letter No. 872, dated 4th March 1918, from O. C. G. Hayter, Esq., District Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad, to the District Magistrate, Hyderabad.

I have the honour to address you on the question of rasai, etc., as I see it and its bearing on the efficiency and public reputation of the
Rasai, etc. Police Department.

2. To begin with I would say that the present efforts to cope with the situation for the most part fail, because the very persons on which all reliance must be placed for its success, the contractors (where these exist), not only do not like the system, but positively detest it, and there is no reason to suppose that they will like it any more as time goes on. There is no reality or natural play of supply and demand in the arrangement.

3. The difficulty is really not so much with officers themselves as with their servants, clerks, orderlies and subordinates. The ideal system is that all these people should be able to go and buy from purveyors without having inspectors, sub-inspectors, etc., leaving police work aside in order to run about and feed them. It is, in short, a question of improving supply, and of lessening demand by having as few hungry mouths as possible wandering round the district.

4. The demoralising effect is very obvious when one sees a responsible officer of good family spoken to about supplies in a harsh, patronising or over-familiar manner by a domestic servant or orderly of no merit or position. There is no question but that this must embitter some subordinate officers and deter some people from taking up Government service. Again the effect of the present system on party men is very bad. Apart from tent-pitching and luggage handling at intervals and a little message work, they laze about and wait with their mouths open to be fed by the local police. They become helpless and without interest in the district, mere peons. A senior armed constable, a Panjabi, who had done 9 touring seasons in this district and was highly commended by officers, asked to be made a sowar for district work. I found that he could not speak Sindhi intelligibly and really knew nothing of the places among which he had travelled. Yet this man is supposed to be a police constable and is paid a salary as such.

5. I consider that Indian subordinates of all classes ought to be able, at all moderately large centres, to fend for themselves. It would do them all a great deal of good. The requirement for officers may be roughly divided into—

- (1) Bania's shop stuff, including horses' grain.
- (2) Fowls and eggs.
- (3) Milk.
- (4) Fodder and fuel.

What I suggest for (1) is that there should be for certain areas (as small as possible) a regularly licensed shopkeeper who would undertake to supply requirements actually in the camps of officers in the area. A shopkeeper in such a position would be continually in touch with officers: he would be always having opportunities, if officers treated him properly as an ally and helper, to represent difficulties and requirements, not only his own, but those of all the traders in the locality. He would thus acquire

influence at court and a position. I believe this consideration would attract banias, if people endeavouring to ride them off (as many would) were carefully watched and dealt with.

(2) The proper supply of fowls and eggs at fair local rates paid to the actual sellers would involve measures securing at the same time a second useful result to the people; namely, an improvement in the poultry-raising industry in rural tracts. I suggest here again something like a license for supplying camps in a small area. I suggest free grant of plots of land, and as far as possible timber and other material for something as near as possible to civilized poultry-runs; also pecuniary advances, advice and instruction. The fact that an average good English hen lays about 200 large eggs in a year to the jungly moorghies' 32 small ones, is not altogether a trivial fact, nor one incapable of being applied to the welfare of villagers in this country. There again, small land owners taking up this sort of supply would naturally receive special attention and protection, and this would encourage others.

(3) Milk is sometimes only obtainable from people who can only sell it by transgressing what is equivalent to religion in their minds. As a rule however the best and safest plan is either to keep milch cattle permanently or to hire them and feed them in the camp.

(4) Fuel and fodder where it is obtainable from Government forest or waste land should be allowed to officers' camps free, the officer retaining his own cutter. Where these are valuable products raised on private land, there is the best opportunity for establishing real local contractors for these products only, either together or separately. The Collector should sanction rates for each taluka monthly as for transport.

(5) I do not say that all these things can be done at once. They would, especially as regards the poultry, take a long time to develop. Poultry however need not concern clerks, orderlies, etc, they can exist without them. Some beginning is advisable. The goal should be an absolute rigid prohibition to local subordinates from taking any action whatever in connection with supplies to clerks, orderlies, servants, etc., except for merely instructing licensees and contractors to attend camp and receive orders for supply. Before this can be done a willing class of licensed purveyors must be created.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MONTGOMERY.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name: | 1. H. Montgomery, Esq. |
| 2. Appointment, | 2. Manager, Encumbered Estates. |
| 3. Headquarters, | 3. Hyderabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 9½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 9½ years, Assistant Collector in Tatta, Hala, Sehwan, Shikarpur and Tando. Manager for last 14 months. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour ? | 6. The whole of Sind. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour ? | 7. 1st November to 30th May. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour ? | 8. Butler, chokra, syce, cook, bhangi, dhobi. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour ? | 9. 4 munshis, 5 peons and khalasis. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour ? | 10. I cannot answer for the establishment without inquiry. I think none. Myself :—Tinned goods, flour, potatoes, sodawater and spirits, &c., European groceries (including sugar), sometimes butter and horse's food except karbi. My servants :—None of their own. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps ? | 11. Myself :—Milk, chickens, karbi, sometimes butter, firewood, a little straw, ghi, spices, eggs. I cannot answer for the establishment without inquiry. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour ? | 12. I can give a complete list upon inquiry at my camp. The kinds are :—Chairs, carpets, tables, baths, a bed, cooking utensils, 3 tents, official records, bath-room furniture. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps ? | 13. Cots for the peons and munshis, I cannot say how many are generally obtained without inquiry. A few chatties. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour ? | 14. 1, 16 x 16 regulation ; 2 minimum Swiss cottages 12 x 12 ; a large peons' rowti, and 3 small servants' rowtis and a rowti of my own. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments ? | 15. Most district and engineering bungalows have servants' quarters. Otherwise, rowtis for the servants and peons. Establishment :—Some bungalows have quarters, otherwise, generally musafirhanas or tapedar's dero. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps ? | 16. When I camp in tents, a landhi of straw. Bungalows have stables. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour ? | 17. (1) Claims branch statistical records and claim records of proceedings and attached correspondence (if any) for perhaps 3 years without inquiry. |
| (2) Current correspondence. | |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps ? | 18. Many bungalows have an office room. Otherwise, a tent. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps ? | 19. Six or 8 men to pitch and strike tents, if I camp in tents. Otherwise, a man or 2 men to fetch water, when water supply is at a distance. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge ? | 20. The same as the condition of the roads in Sind : moderate to unspeakable. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads ? | 21. This answer will not be required from me. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps ? | 22. No. |

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?
23. Bullock-carts locally engaged for the march. Camels, when carts cannot be had.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?
24. The ordinary post as far as taluka headquarters (where I most generally am); from there a man sent by the mukhtiar-kar.
- Rasai.*
25. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
25. The means by which local supplies are caused to arrive at the camp.
26. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
26. My own:—1 chicken, 1 to 1½ seers milk, 6 eggs, ¼ lb. butter, 1 bundle firewood, karbi (quantity not ascertained), petty bazaar groceries.
27. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
27. I cannot answer without inquiry.
28. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
28. They vary greatly through Sind, in my experience. Firewood may be as much as 10 annas a bundle. Fowls may be 8 annas. Bajri and jowari vary immensely according to character of season. Milk may be 2½ annas, a seer. Eggs vary from 6 annas to 12 annas per dozen.
29. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
29. Until quite recently there was no value for stalks; but I suspect that there is now. For wood of any kind there certainly must be now; but until this now there was practically none. Milk has little or no market value away from large villages, except in regions where ghi is manufactured and largely bought in by banias.
30. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
30. I cannot say concerning my establishment. My servants and myself, perhaps Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2. But my tour includes both district headquarters and remote villages, and it is hard to strike an average.
31. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
31. Brought to camp by the local zamindar's agent (kamdar or am-mukhtiar) where a local zamindar has accepted the duty; elsewhere, by the contractor's man. Where there is no zamindar and no contractor, by the tapedar—by haris, he commands.
- In large villages and small towns, most of the supplies are bought in the bazaar by these agencies. In other places, they are collected from among the haris round about.
32. How are they paid for?
32. Ordinarily in my presence, to the kamdar or the contractor's man, on a bill presented in detail.
33. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
33. None. But where there is a contractor, it is highly improbable.
34. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
34. My actual payments are on the average nearly up to my estimate of Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2. Perhaps they may be Re. 1-8-0 to 1-12-0. But where I camp with a zamindar of standing, the bills tend to be between Re. 1 and Rs. 1-8-0. On the other hand, I have had to pay over Rs. 3 in a headquarter town.
35. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtiar-kars?
35. I think the excess, where any, is borne by the haris. They get paid for what they contribute at low rates. But where it is a basar bania, I think what I pay is what he asks.
36. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiar-kars?
36. I have not lately heard of the survival of any rasai fund, but I am now out of touch.
37. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
37. No.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. Yes. I ordered payment to be made. There is a fixed charge of 4 annas in some districts, in P. W. D. gardens. No doubt vegetables are often obtained from local fund gardens without payment. The taluka establishments regard these gardens as an annuity provided for them by Government.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. No. I can hardly get round as it is.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedar actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. I think the tapedar are now absolutely out of it except:—
(a) Where no zamindar has volunteered and no contractor has come forward.
(b) In remote tracts, such as the Kohistan.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedar and zamindars?
48. There are contractors for many groups of villages. It would probably not be possible to find any more; it is an unattractive job. The desirable modification is to increase the number of volunteer zamindars; but it cannot be done. The relation between zamindars and haris has become less confident now-a-days.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. I ordinarily notify my camps in each taluka to the mukhtiar at least 3 weeks in advance.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. No.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. Yes; vegetables, fruit and shikar from big zamindars. I have received one sheep during my service.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. Perhaps a rupee for dhalis, when they are big.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. To receive nothing but home-grown fruit and vegetables. The orders are impracticable, because fruit is not grown in most zamindaris in Sind. Even vegetables are only grown where there are wells or wangis.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. A forced levy by subordinate officials from the cultivator for service rendered, real or imaginary.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. (i) Tapedar's lapo on:—(a) Serial number taken up; (b) serial number cultivated; (c) karios sanctioned work in general; (d) on land revenue assessment credited; (f) on preparation of papers for mutation of occupancy entries.
(ii) Munshis' lapo on land grants, and every kind of revenue business.
(iii) Patewallas' lapo on petitions presented.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. See 55 above. From the zamindar or petitioner. On consideration of:—(1) aiding him; (2) not oppressing him; (3) giving access to the sahib; (4) and in order to keep the body and soul of the tapedar, munshi or patewalla together.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. I can give some instances:—
A rupee per number taken up to the tapedar.
An anna per acre (jarib) on area cultivated, to the tapedar.

But tapedars vary greatly in their demands, and some ask much more.

I have no knowledge of rates of lapo levied per camp.

Munshis have no fixed rates. I have known of a head munshi taking a half share in khas mokal land granted by his office.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. I do not know; but I think not now.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. I do not know.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue irrigation, police and forests?
61. Vide answer to 55. I have come to know (as Manager) of heavy sums paid to P. W. D. subordinates for new karios—several hundreds of rupees in one case.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. I do not know; but revenue jamabandi scrutiny is done under the Assistant Commissioner's head munshi by almost the whole taluka and village staff, one munshi or tapedar scrutinizing the work of another, so there cannot be much leverage.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. I should say, not the levy of moderate lapo; the levy of excessive lapo, perhaps. But it has certainly been affected by the increasing scarcity of money.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
65. I do not think that any kind of legislation can affect the matter. It rests entirely with the rayat.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. Forced labour for Government emergencies.
67. Who are the "Chheras"?
67. Haris, generally.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. Pitch tents, mend roads, stop breaches.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. No. But the haris are given numbers under the implied relationship of a feudal tradition, which is dying out.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
70. Not that I know of. I have never heard such an item mentioned in batai.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. For urgent P. W. D. works; for measurement of their own lands; in the investigation of crime.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
74. Some police patallies, of recent origin—some seris.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. Pitching tents; carrying water.
76. How many labourers do your require daily in camp?
76. One or two, if water supply is distant.
77. How many mure do your require when pitching or striking camp?
77. Six or eight.

78. Whence do you obtain them? 78. The tapedar, or my overseer, obtains them.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars? 79. No.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor? 80. Pitching or striking tents only takes about an hour. Perhaps a rupee. The contractor could not supply them.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments? 81. The work is very small in amount, and comes on only at intervals. Such an arrangement would be impracticable.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar? 82. Where a zamindar makes the bandobast, his haris. Elsewhere, any local haris; in duck-shooting, the mohanas.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced any difficulty in making them accept payment? 83. I do not pay when the zamindar supplies; it is an insult to the zamindar. Otherwise, about 4 annas a piece for 1½ or 2 hours' shooting. Mohanas are paid in lump, and according to the length of the shoot and the number of shikaris, it may vary from Rs. 5 to Rs 10.
- Zamindars' men will not accept payment.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Not that I know of.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. A question for the revenue officer.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials. 86. Not that I know of.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Zamindars' haris.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. I believe big zamindars sometimes pay them well. The P. W. D. pay at certain rates, I understand, when they make the requisition.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. To a very slight extent, if at all. Only constantly recurrent chher could cause much loss.
90. How far does the employment of 'beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards? 90. I have no knowledge of the use of local fund beldars in closing of breaches. But a breach may mean the destruction of a road, and in such cases one would say there was no interference.
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders? 91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government. 92. I think they should be paid by the local board as they are by the P. W. D. in cases of requisition. There is no other available agency.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MONTGOMERY.

To the Chairman—

I can't have camels for the whole tour, because I have to tour from one part of the province to the other from time to time by railway.

The haris are sometimes fed by the zamindar after a whole day's shoot and also the mohanas.

I can't ascertain as Manager what rates are paid by the zamindars as lapo, as no accounts are kept by them. It would only appear in the banias' books in lump sums, but payments of that kind are generally concealed. On the other hand, payments for the mukhtiar-kars' camps and officers' staff are entered openly in the banias' books. These entries are generally Rs. 5, 10, 15 for a mukhtiar-kar's camp, and the bania when questioned explains that it was for the time that the mukhtiar-kar made his camp there. The assessments are generally paid by the bania, but I have found separate entries of

tapedar, so much. Large payments for new karias appear in the books, but in a concealed form and the cause of payment only came out in the enquiry into the claim of the banias against the estate.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I make up my daily expenses as follows:—Eggs 3 to 6 annas, chickens 4 to 8 annas, milk 2 to 4 annas, wood 4 to 10 annas, and the rest are miscellaneous items. I also include my servants' expenses. It is only a rough estimate. The groceries bought from the bazaar might be 2 or 3 annas a day. I only get ice when I am near the railway. I have given the recent prices as Manager. They are considerably higher than the prices when I was Assistant Collector. The rates have gone up considerably. Previously there used to be no value for milk, fowls and grass. My expenses came to from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 a day when I was Assistant Collector and the rates were lower.

The tapedar used to prepare the bills, I think probably in consultation with my butler.

To the Chairman—

The butler is consulted, because he manages the funds of a bachelor, and he makes it a point of honour to see that the expenses are not excessive.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The butler would know what his sahib has been paying in the other camps and the tapedar would have only a vague idea of the prices. The bills now presented to me sometimes represent more than the true cost, that is my opinion. When I was Assistant Collector the bills used to vary greatly. I think the payments charged in my bills when brought by the big zamindars probably had no relation to the prices, but in the case of small zamindars they had. I have no knowledge of any repayments to the butlers. I have heard of this allegation. I have heard it alleged that it was generally done. I have no knowledge of fees alleged to be exacted by the butlers under the name of kilokhorani. I don't think that the mukhtiar-kars in Sind believe that they will get promotions for furnishing supplies to the sahibs at less than the actual price.

I was Assistant Collector when the orders of 1914 were issued. In the Nawabshah district the rules were introduced in full and also in Hyderabad district. In the Sukkur district they were not attempted and in the Larkana district they were left vague. There are now many independent contractors in Naushahro, which shows that it was not possible to get zamindars to volunteer. The independent contractors are banias. I don't think the old system continues at all in Naushahro. I don't know any details about it. I have not toured in the whole of Nawabshah.

To the Chairman—

The Collector of Sukkur knew that zamindars were unwilling to take up the contracts, so a circular letter was addressed to the zamindars in each taluka, asking them if they were willing to take up the contracts. They generally replied that they did not want to have anything to do with it. In the Garhi Yasin taluka, Khan Sahib Shah Nawaz Khan replied that he had been always ready and willing to provide supplies and everything else for the comforts of the officers and he would continue to do so, but that he was not prepared to take up the work of a bania for the Government. That was the effect of his reply. The other zamindars apparently consulted Khan Sahib Shah Nawaz Khan who sent them a copy of his letter which they merely copied. It is altogether against the avowal of zamindars of the Upper Sind Frontier district to undertake to provide supplies on payment; they consider that that is not the business of a zamindar and that touring officers should be their guests.

To the Chairman—

I was at that time Assistant Collector in the Shikarpur division. There were no orders of the Collector introducing the rules up to the time I left in 1916.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I think it was generally the work of the zamindar's kamdar to bring the supplies in the case of big zamindars. There was no change in the system while I was in the Sukkur district. The tapedar was not really concerned when the supplies were made by the big zamindars, that was the same before and after 1914 in the Sukkur district. I know nothing as to the 10 per cent. paid by the contractors of the Public Works Department. The case I referred to was of a sum of Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 paid to the subordinates of the Public Works Department by partners in land.

I have found entries in banias' books of amounts paid for the rasai of touring officers' camps. The item was debited to the zamindar concerned. I remember only one entry of the mukhtiar's camp. I don't remember any other particular entries in detail. I can't exactly remember, I think there was mention of the names of other officers. I can't give the exact figure but my impression is that they were from Rs. 5 to 15. They may have been for other matters than the actual camps.

The tapedar is now out of it, from my own experience in some cases in the Nawabshah district. The kamdar did not appear in one case and the tapedar refused to help, and in the other case a tapedar ran away when I called upon him to produce the bills personally.

To the Chairman—

I have toured in the Kohistan in the Karachi district as Assistant Collector; there, touring is distinctly a difficult matter. Rasai was made there by the tapedar. It is difficult to get supplies at all in the Kohistan.

I mean by my answer to question 65 that the raiyat is much too yielding: it is a matter of education. The tapedar represents that he has powers which he does not really possess.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I referred to one case in which Rs. 300 were paid for one karia. Both the bania and zamindars told me that it was a payment for the karia to the daroghas. It is a case of simple bribery. I think it can come under the head of lapo, for such charges are usually taken by the daroghas. I don't say such high charges but some charges.

The contractors in Nawabshah are not of the zamindari class, they are traders. That is my impression.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I don't think any scheme will stop lapo, except the education of the people.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HARPER.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. D. S. Harper, Esq. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Missionary clergyman. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. No land. Income tax Rs. 90 only. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. None. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. Own supplies. |
| 12. Do you get them from your harns or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. Are purchased in each place I visit. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. Market rates. |

ORAL EVIDENCE OF THE REVEREND D. S. HARPER.

To the Chairman—

I tour in the Hyderabad, Nawabshah and Thar and Parker districts and some parts of the Karachi district. Sometimes I take no servant and sometimes one or two servants. I generally encamp in Government bungalows—otherwise in musafir-khanas or in small rowtis. I take most of the provisions with myself. All I need to buy are firewood and milk; I have not had any difficulty in getting them. I sometimes get eggs and fowls; I send my man to buy them. Sometimes there is difficulty in getting them, as they are not always available. Sometimes I am out for 3 months at a time; now I simply go out between Sundays. My wants are not large on tour. I have not actually seen how the supplies are collected for touring officers; I have no actual experience of rasai.

To Mr. Sawhney—

There are some Christians wherever I go and they help me to get supplies. They often invite me. They generally get the supplies from their own resources.

PART IV

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. RUPCHAND TEUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mr. Rupchand Teumal. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Mukhtiarkar, 3rd grade. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Ghotki. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4 & 5. Twenty-four years. All in Sind. Four years in the Public Works Department, 17 years in the Encumbered Estate Department and 3 years (2 years and 9 months) in proper Revenue Department. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | |

N.B.—To the present taluka I am only recently transferred (on the 1st April) and therefore my replies should be taken as relating to the Ghotki taluka where I had remained for 2½ years.

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. About 345 square miles (I mean Ghotki taluka). |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. Fowls, eggs, milk, butter, meat, grass and fuel, besides flour, rice, sugar, which are rarely required locally by European officers. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. European officers for their own use usually take their own cots. Establishments and attendants require one cot for each individual. Jars are required at the average rate of about one for two men. The total number depends upon the men in the camp. Sometimes a deg (big kettle) is required for warming water. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. They take their tents and if there are bungalows they live in them. Their establishment also live in tents, but on occasions tapedars' deras and musafir-khanas are occupied. In the case of establishments living in the tents, kacha tents are put up for their servants as cookroom. Zamindars' houses are also used but rarely. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. Kacha sheds are put up wherever there are no bungalows. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. Tents and bungalows are used for officers. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. Unskilled labour. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. Fair on the whole. They are made nice at the time of repairs, specially when grassed, but after some three or four months they get bad in many cases. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. Vice-president, taluka local board (who was the mukhtiarkar in the Ghotki taluka), was responsible. Partly by contract and partly by departmental management. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. No. Not unless an officer, Collector or Commissioner, has to drive by any road, in which case zamindars do help. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? | 16. Camels. Engaged for the whole period of their tour at headquarters. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 17. Ordinarily post is sent for by the Collector through his own peon as far as railway station wherefrom the kotar helps in bringing it to the camp. Assistant Collector's post also goes similarly, to which place it is redirected; but on occasions if the kotar is not available, a zamindar's man has to take the post. |
| 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 18. For big officers like Collector, Ghotki, Mahesro and Sarhad. Assistant Collector usually encamps at almost all tapas and also in big villages out of tapa headquarter. |

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. At Ghotki and Mahesro there are regular camping grounds with trees. They are looked after by malis and beldars, though last year some zamindari labour had also been employed in addition for the Mahesro camping ground. At other camps where there are no regular camping grounds, zamindars have to prepare a ground or a field temporarily for that purpose.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? 20. All of them.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. To Ghotki and Mahesro, but Mahesro is not worth the name.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22. Ghotki, Mahesro and Sarhad.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. Only one chowkidar.
- Rasai.*
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Supply of provisions and looking after all other necessary arrangements—may be taken with or without payment.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 25. Roughly—Fowl 1, eggs 6, milk 2 seers (unless the officer has his own cow), butter $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., fuel 1 maund, karbi (juari stalk) 2 bundles, palal (rice straw) 2 bundles, meat 1 lb.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. Depends upon the number of men. Each man requires milk about 1 lb., meat $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. Fowls 4 annas each, eggs 6 annas dozen, butter Re. 1 per seer, milk 1 anna and 6 pies per seer, jowari stalks 2 annas a bundle, previously not charged at all. Firewood not charged at all. Other bazaar things at the rates prevailing in the bazaar at the time. Sheep not available. Nor ever required.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. No, except this year for jowari stalk.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. Cannot say. Depends on the quantity of requirements.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. They are provided by zamindars, except those that are bazaar things. They are collected by the tapedar and his kotars and brought to the camp by them.
31. How are they paid for? 31. Seldom paid for by munshis, peons and servants. Officers do pay, but not to the full extent of the quantity supplied, as the butler curtails the bill and says the excess things were used by him, unless the officer himself gives notice of the requirements in advance. In case of establishment and servants and peons if cash allowance is paid by the tapedar, they do pay for the shop things direct to the bania.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 32. Money for things obtained from the bania's shop is either paid immediately or debited against the tapedar's name, whereas that for the things obtained from the zamindars is appropriated by the tapedar as a set-off against the expenses incurred by him. On occasions he has to purchase things in advance at his own cost, if the zamindar is unable to meet with the wants.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 33. Cannot say exactly. But the tapedar used to say that the Assistant Collector's camp cost them on an average Rs. 20 a day and the Collector's about Rs. 40 a day. This includes the feeding of the tapedar, the supervising tapedar and other tapedar if called to the camp and also any guest to the munshis. It also includes cash payments made for examination of the tapedar's dafter.

34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the harns or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? } 34-35. In Ghotki taluka it was customary for the tapedar to bear the expenses himself of the Assistant Collector's camp out of taluka headquarters except in the case of one or two big zamindars who used to pay lapo in lump sum to small extent and bear the rasai expenses themselves. Such expenses at the taluka headquarters except for the first occasion which is the tapedar's concern and the expenses of the Collector's camp in and out of the taluka headquarters used to be borne from the rasai fund.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? }
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 36. No.
37. Do they obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? 37. No such local fund garden in the Ghotki taluka.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 38. The zamindars refuse to deal with this matter direct, and the tapedars have not therefore ceased to collect their supplies.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? 39. Can suggest no effective modification at present without the consultation of the zamindars. Not possible to have such a contractor.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 40. For camps timely intimation is received in most cases but seldom any intimation of requirements.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? departments will have to keep 41. I made a report in 1915 that the rules were not practicable, as the work had only been thrust upon the zamindars, and therefore the subordinates of the various the usual arrangements for their respective officers.
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers? 42. No fruit dhalis except in the year 1915. Game very occasionally, if brought by any zamindars. Vegetables frequently supplied on camps from the municipal garden.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained? 43. Fruit dhali may have cost Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 and vegetable dhalis may be worth only a few annas.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject? 44. I could not lay hands on these orders but understand they purport to direct that no rich dhali should be given. No difficulty is experienced in carrying out these orders.
- Lapo.*
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 45. Some sort of nazrano due to a superior as is payable in the Rohr Division to the zamindar of the deh by the other land-holders, and is recognised even in the record of rights. In the olden times before British Government it seems to be customary among the landholders to pay such a nazrano to somebody on behalf of the then Government, who came to collect a share on account of the land revenue. This custom seems to have been acquiesced after the British conquest by the very fact of low pay sanctioned for the village establishment. Now it is however considered as an illegal tax upon the land, levied by the tapedar.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? 46. Two to my knowledge. One in cash payable at the time of collections of land revenue and the other in kind payable at the time of partial. The latter is not however levied against all landholders and is paid in lump quantity of the raw grain for the horse.
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 47. Cash lapo is levied by the tapedar from the zamindar direct, though indirectly in some cases harns also pay a share in the form of dch kharch at the time of bhatai—for the ostensible benefit of the tapedar himself.

48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
48. In the Ghotki taluka the usual charge is one anna per jereb of cultivated survey number—anaki as they call it—but the rate varies according to the circumstances. Some docile zamindars pay even up to 2 annas per jereb, whereas others pay less. Some big zamindars pay in lump sum which may come to much less than one anna even.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
49. About half of it, the tapedars used to say, goes after rasai and annuities. Yes.
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
50. It used to be managed by the head munshi for the first year of my service as mukhtiarkar, then by the tapedars themselves with one as their mukhi, but ultimately by the beginning of the January last it was stopped altogether, so that at the time of the last horse show at Ghotki and last office inspection no rasai or payment was made at all. In Guni taluka also I am told there is no such fund as it had already been stopped by Mr. Vastiram before I joined.
51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. Exact details I am not aware of, but it is utilized partly for such purposes.
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue irrigation, pohoe and forests?
52. Exactions are rare. Generally it is free contribution by the zamindars because of time-honoured custom as far as the Revenue Department is concerned.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. Serious mistakes in inspections are not concealed by the inspecting office. Lapo is considered to be a general booty which is claimed to be divided amongst those who have to deal with the tapedar and the taluka office. Inspection is taken as an excuse and an instrument of threat, because it is not a difficult matter for those who are on the spot with the officers to prejudice an officer against his subordinate by magnifying trivial mistakes. To avoid such an unpleasantness, therefore, the taluka officials do not mind the inspecting staff getting their customary share of the general booty.
54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. I do not think—though after that there is less of exaction.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. None.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the land revenue code?
56. I think much depends upon the zamindars themselves, they should form an association in which they should discuss these matters and combine to stop this evil in which some may be themselves indulging because of their unauthorized actions. It may be due to their weakness to give in individually, but combined they can muster strong to refuse the payment of this illegal charge. The tapedar gives a reason to them that he has to take the lapo because over him lies the burden of rasai expenses. But this is sham, impressed on the people to benefit himself, because the lion's share is kept by the tapedar for himself. I know of one tapedar (Chimandas) in the Ghotki taluka who abstained from taking lapo and nobody ever demanded any rasai or cash from him. Those that are even sharers in the lapo do not compel the tapedar to take the lapo. But before this question is settled due consideration has to be given to the tapedars' present style of living in comparison to which his pay is too small and his travelling allowance quite inadequate. He is required to keep pace with the Assistant Collector and the mukhtiarkar and must therefore have a decent animal under him. His social position requires him also to maintain a servant. All this the tapedar cannot meet with from his present pay. At the same time the pay of the menial establishment also demands consideration.
- Chher.*
57. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
57. A collection of unskilled labourers.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
58. Such a collection of haris sent up as labourers are called chheras.

69. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
 respond to any other such calls
59. To pitch and unpitch tents, to load and unload kit of touring officers and to do all other menial work for them. Also to help in closing breaches and of accidents and urgent needs.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. Not to my knowledge. It is a time-honoured custom which, if they refuse it at the call of the zamindar, is penalized at the time of batai.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
61. They get their food for that period from zamindar who is paid by Government if the chher is called for any Government purpose. If called to do any private service for the touring officer they are paid in cash though in rare cases by the officer concerned.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
62. Very rarely available.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by local fund or Government?
63. In the Ghotki taluka there were 37 beldars sanctioned by local boards but the number actually maintained was much less.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
64. Because there is no other labour available on immediate demand and in some cases, for instance breaches, the demand for such chher is to the advantage of the cultivating class.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
65. None to my knowledge.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?
66. Already answered on question 63.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp?
67. Assistant Collector about 10 and Collector about 20.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps?
68. Assistant Collector about 15 and Collector about 40.
69. Whence do they obtain them?
69. Locally from the zamindar through the tape-dar.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
70. Already answered on question 61.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar?
72. Through the zamindar.
73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment?
73. Yes. No difficulty.
74. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
74. I do not think.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
75. Zamindari labour.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials?
 This year such labour was required for the horse show ground when regular muster rolls had been maintained and the money was paid to the zamindars at a fixed daily rate.
76. They are given food by the zamindar. Such expenses, I mean wangar, as actually incurred by the zamindars had been given last year from local funds.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
- 77 to 79. No case in my days.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
79. How far, if it all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?
80. Beldars were engaged only this year and there was no interference. They were called to prepare the horse-show grounds at Ghotki, which was also a local board concern.
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
81. None.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
82. As there is no other labour at hand, zamindars are bound to give help, provided they are paid fully.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. RUPCHAND TEUMAL

To the Chairman—

I have made enquiries in the Guni taluka and I find that there is no rasai fund now. There used to be one which was stopped by Mr. Vastiram. I am at present the mukhtiarkar of Guni and have only come there since the 1st March 1918, so I have very little personal experience of Guni.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NANIKRAM JETHMAL.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mr. Nanikram Jethmal. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Mukhtiarkar, Hala. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hala. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 20 years, 3 months. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Entire service has been in Sind. |
| | <i>General.</i> |
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 508½ square miles. |
| 11. What supplies have to be provided locally at your various camps for various officers? | 11. Except grains, spices, &c., which are taken from the local bania, milk, butter, fuel, eggs, fowl, mutton, grass, earthen jars, cots. |
| 13. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Between 20 to 30 of each at each camp. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 15. They live in rowtis at places where there are no P. W. D. bungalows and out-houses or tapedar's dera or dharamsala. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 16. Where no stables are attached to bungalows, kacha landhis are made. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 18. Tents are pitched. |
| 19. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 19. About half a dozen men. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Good. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Taluka local board. Beldars are employed for repairing roads. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 22. Not as a rule. Road repair work commences after rainy season is over, i.e., from October. This coincides with the touring season. Main roads are done first naturally as they are much frequented by touring officers. Then other roads are taken up. |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? | 23. One or two horses for each touring officer and riding and baggage camels for private and official establishments. This transport is as a rule engaged at headquarters for the whole touring season. |
| 24. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 24. By post offices. Where there are no such offices, post is sent at their camps through kotars. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Matiari, Khebar, Hala, Saidabad, Uderolal villages and Shatian, Allahdino Sand, Tajpur, Sekhat, Jiandal Kot, Baukhan Pathan, Bhitshah, Bhanot, Kandhari, Zahirpir, Sirachuin. |
| 26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 26. At Hala by the municipality, elsewhere by men of the local zamindar or wadero. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? | 27. All. |
| 28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 28. Hala, Khebar and Uderolal stations. |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 29. Matiari, Khebar, Hala, Saidabad, Uderolal station and Tajpur. |
| 30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? | 30. A care-taker. |

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ?
31. Rasai, strictly speaking, means the system of furnishing supplies to touring officers and their establishments, but in the ordinary acceptance of the term it includes tips to the official and private retinue of touring officers.
32. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. 1 or 2 chickens or fowl, 6 eggs, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of butter, 1 to 2 seers of milk, 4 or 5 bundles of grass, about 10 seers of faggot.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?
33. Except the things taken from the bania, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of mutton, $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of milk, 5 to 10 seers fuel, 1 jar, 1 cot per each.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. Prices of grain of various kinds and of rice this year have been very high, varying from 5 to 8 rupees per maund. Eggs 2 to 3 pice per one; fowls 6 to 8 annas per one; sheep 5 to 7 rupees each; milk $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per seer, in inundation season 2 annas per seer; butter Rs. 1-4-0 per seer; bajri and jowari stalks Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per 100 bundles of 20 seers each; firewood 4 annas per maund.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. Yes.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?
36. Rs. 10 except the cost of articles bought from the bania's shop.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. At places like Hala, Uderolal and Khebar these things are provided by the local zamindar, at other places where there are small zamindars tapedar provides the supplies collecting them from more than one zamindar.
38. How are they paid for?
38. Officers pay their bills. Establishments generally do not pay for these things.
39. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
39. Zamindars take payments, they or their kamdars take payments, but sometimes return the money to butlers or peons by way of bakhshish. It does not reach haris from whom things are collected.
40. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. In the rates of 3:1 including the cost of clerical and menial establishments.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. By zamindars who collect things from their haris.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. No rasai fund is maintained in Hala taluka.
43. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. Nothing.
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. There are only 3 such gardens in the taluka. Vegetables from local fund garden in Hala are given to officers free and I am not sure but think the same practice prevails in P. W. D. gardens also.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. Except in a few cases it has not been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914. The tapedars have not actually ceased to collect the supplies. Before 1914 the burden fell on many. After these orders it fell on one selected for a particular camp and he had to respond to the call of officers of all departments encamping there. The only way to get out of it for him was to do things indifferently with the result that tapedars and officials of corresponding ranks of other departments had to work first behind the scene and afterwards openly, because supplies must be procured and provided for touring officers and their establishments.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?

48. With a view to eradicate rasai and lapo the following are my suggestions. In view of these the rules of 1914 may be modified. Mukhtarkar, tapedar and zamindar should have absolutely no hand in procuring or providing supplies. It would be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka but his charges for supplies will certainly be more than the headquarter bazaar rates in view of the labour and trouble involved in collecting and supplying them from camp to camp. As no one will like to pay more than the ordinary bazar rates, either the travelling allowances of touring officers and their establishments will have to be increased proportionately or a fixed sum of money will have to be granted by Government to the contractor to compensate him for selling supplies to them at headquarter rates and in return for his labour and cost of collecting and supplying them at each camp with a margin of profit to himself. This additional expenditure can be met from the saving in travelling allowances and expenses of carriage of record if the touring period is curtailed and the number of members of touring establishments reduced to the lowest possible minimum. In my opinion there will not be much difficulty in doing this because on account of facilities of communication with district headquarter and the spread of education people now-a-days, as a rule, do not quietly submit to the decisions of taluka officials. In every contested matter, judicial, revenue, etc., etc., there is invariably an appeal and records of these are sent for and scrutinized by superior officers. Besides there are the pleaders, the press and the communication of almost every one of some importance in the taluka with them. Zamindars frequently visit district headquarters and meet superior officers and talk without reserve on various matters. Therefore the curtailment of tour or the reduction of the frequency of inspections, will not, I venture to think, conduce to any bad result. That taluka official is simply living in a fool's paradise who still thinks that his doings will not be known to his superiors. Such being the position the inspections of the mukhtarkars' offices should not be more frequent and rigid than those of the offices of sub-judges.

When this is done and if the establishments of touring officers still expect to have a share of the tapedars' lapo because of inspections of tapedars' records and taluka offices, etc., etc., for sometime if no notice is taken of the ordinary errors and the mukhtarkars are taken into confidence and from time to time freely consulted as to the ways and means to be adopted to eradicate the evil, some of them if not all will certainly co-operate loyally with superior officers to put it down. I am confident that a great many of the mukhtarkars will act vigorously under such altered conditions to put a stop to lapo. Tapedars then could no longer take shelter in the now partly acceptable defence that they have to contribute for rasai, and before long it must end. Unless improvement is effected on some such lines as are indicated above, it is impossible for any mukhtarkar, however sincere he be, to stop these evils. He may however succeed to reduce them slightly or temporarily. The same reasons apply with equal force to other departments. Education of the masses will certainly do some good, but this or the increase of the pay of tapedars and similarly situated officials in Government service are matters which will take time. I got these questions only yesterday. I am therefore unable to give any useful opinion regarding modifications of the rules of land revenue code, as I have had no timely notice.

49. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?

49. Of their camps, but not of their requirements.

50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?

50. No.

51. Do you give 'Dhals' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep.

51. Never except dhals of vegetables and flowers of the local fund garden which fact I clearly state at the time of giving.

52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such 'Dhals' and sheep?

52. An average dhali must cost 4 to 6 rupees. So also an average sheep.

53. What are the orders on the subject, and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?

53. So far as I can recollect the orders are that dhals once in a way of the garden of the giver may be accepted. I have experienced no difficulty in carrying out these orders.

Lapo.

54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

54. Illegal cash gratification taken by tapedars, abdars, daroghas, etc., is called lapo.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ?
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund ?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code ?
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
68. What kind of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government ?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
72. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?
55. I don't know, there are more forms of lapo than one.
56. Lapo is levied by these subordinates from zamindars for the purpose of supplementing their income.
57. In the Hala taluka at annas 8 per cultivated survey number, i.e., at the rate of about $\frac{1}{4}$ an anna per rupee of assessment.
58. To the extent of about 10 per cent. Not in the Hala taluka.
59. None.
60. Five to 8 per cent., I think. So far as I know each tapedar gives about 25 or 30 rupees in the whole year in his own way. Exactions are not large here, because the tapedars get less and the taluka is unpopular from the tapedar's point of view.
61. Zamindars of this taluka are pirs, sayeds, jagirdars, a great many of whom are educated and influential people and to them tapedar is nobody. In days gone by lapo was extortion, since the orders of 1914 it is nothing short of begging here. Only the very illiterate and petty khatedar believes that the tapedar can favour and disfavour him. Here people appeal frequently even on decisions of Deputy Collectors and the Collector, so they don't fear the tapedar.
62. Vide answer 60.
63. Yes, I think it has been reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ in the Hala taluka.
64. None.
65. Yes. Vide answer to question 48.
- Chher.*
66. Chher means labour supplied by zamindars on the requisition of Government officers.
67. Generally haris of zamindars requisitioned to supply labour.
68. Menial work.
69. Not express but implied in some cases.
70. I don't think they get it except food for the time they work.
71. Plenty of it.
72. Yes.

73. How far are the zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 73. I think in floods and breaches in canals and bunds only.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 74. No.
75. For what purposes do they require labour on tour? 75. For assisting patawallas in loading and unloading kit, pitching tents, &c.
76. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 76. About 6.
77. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp? 77. About 4 more.
78. Whence do they obtain them? 78 & 79. I generally engage beldars and malis for this work.
79. Is anything paid for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars? }
82. How do they obtain labour for shikar? }
83. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? }
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? }
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? }
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? }
- 82—84. None has been requisitioned in this taluka for shikar during my tenure of office.
- 85 & 86. I don't know.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. A large number of unskilled labourers and some carpenters and other artisans.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. P. W. D. officers give food only to unskilled labourers supplied by zamindars and daily wages to carpenters and other artisans.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. To some extent it does. For instance in last October on account of sudden and heavy rise in the Indus, heads of Sangro, Redah and Aliganj had to be closed to save the country down. It was the harvesting season and employment of a large number of haris for several days meant much loss to them.
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards? 90. Not much but I consider this as a lesser evil than the other.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. None.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. Yes. I should recommend that each touring officer should have a number of khalasis engaged only for touring season and that on no account should chher be taken except only in very emergent cases like floods, breaches, etc., when labour cannot otherwise be had on full payment.

In such cases full daily wages according to prevailing rates be given.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. NANIKRAM.

To the Chairman—

Malis are kept where there are gardens.

My answer to question 40 refers only to the supplies. It does not include the cash payments.

I believe that the rasai fund was stopped in Hala since 1914, on account of the strictness of Mr. Beyts, the then Collector.

I think 3 months' tour would be enough for the Assistant Collector and Deputy Collector and 2 or 3 months for the Collector. I think it would be enough to enable him to do the crop inspection. The Assistant Collector might tour from 20th

November up to Christmas and again from 15th March to 15th May for jamabandi—November to December for kharif inspection—March to May for rabi crop inspection, jamabandi and inspection of offices.

I think one inspection a year would be enough for the mukhtiarkar's office. It is now inspected twice, once by the Collector and once by the Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector. It would be enough if there was only one inspection of all the offices.

The orders are that mistakes found at the time of inspection should be corrected at that time but those orders are not strictly observed.

I have four supervising tapedars on Rs. 30 to 35 with Rs. 10 horse allowance. It has been proposed to raise their pay to Rs. 75. The cost of the new scale would be about Rs. 300. I think it would be better to abolish the supervising tapedars and appoint in their place one or two naib mukhtiarkars in each taluka. I think the appointment of such men would tend to decrease lapo, because they would be better paid and better educated and would not contract the bad habits of the lower grades.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The rasai fund has ceased to exist but rasai still goes on. The amounts come out of the pockets of the poor rayat. Cash payments to the menials still continue, but not to the inspecting staff. The supplies of provisions also continue, not to the same extent.

The ratio given 3 to 1 applies to the state of affairs since 1914. The ratio of the actual cost of supplies to the cash payments was much greater before, viz., 4 to 1. The tapedar's hand is used to make payments. The tapedar recoups himself from the haris. One of the reasons assigned by the tapedar for levying lapo is rasai. If rasai were abolished lapo would be greatly or completely abolished—completely in the course of time with the spread of education.

The tapedar's contribution from lapo was pooled for the rasai fund before 1914. It was used for rasai at all places, and not only at headquarters. The tapedar or the supervising tapedar at headquarters used to keep the fund. I was not in touch with the fund. The tapedar never asked me to enforce the payment of lapo. I am confident that the system of independent contractors would work successfully.

To the Chairman—

It would be possible to fix regular camping grounds in my taluka. I don't think it would work to give a small seri grant of land on condition of the holder keeping up the camping ground. I don't think it would work, because he would be under the influence of the subordinate officers of all departments.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

A grant of 10 to 20 acres would suffice for the purpose, if the land was good and there was water supply. I was mukhtiarkar of Mirpurkhas for 3 years. The rasai fund ceased to exist after the orders of 1914. I was transferred in 1916. I was for 3 years acting mukhtiarkar of Jamesabad. I don't know if there was any rasai fund there. I was the Collector's head munshi and serishtedar before that.

I think the mukhtiarkar's tour might be curtailed by 2 or 3 months in the hot season.

To Mr. Sawhney—

It would be necessary to have a seridar for each taluka. There would be about 5 or 6 camps in each taluka. I think it would cost Rs. 1,000 in subsidies to the contractor in each taluka, on condition that he sold the things at the bazar rates. If the subsidy were sufficiently large, it would be possible to get a contractor from the beginning.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

The Collector's tour should not be curtailed.

I think that lapo now is begging pure and simple, and not a tip for general favours.

To the Chairman—

There is no hard and fast rule about the tour of the mukhtiarkar. In some districts I understand 15 days a month has been prescribed. As a matter of fact, 15 days a month is the maximum. I personally tour about 20 days in the winter when there is crop inspection and about 10 days in the summer. The mukhtiarkar's tour as it is, is enough; it covers about 5 or 6 months altogether, away from headquarters. I don't think it could be curtailed on further consideration.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHANDUMAL HUKUMATRAI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mr. Chandumal Hukumatrai. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Prosecuting sub-inspector, police, Dadu. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| | <i>Rasai.</i> |
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai is supply of provisions to officials and their camps to avoid displeasure or to get their favour. |
| It is either given free of charges or for nominal charge and it also includes cash payments to the establishment. | |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. Sixteen years as sub-inspector. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. There are no fixed camping places. Camps are fixed according to the choice of officers. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. Inspector, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, District Superintendent and sometimes Deputy Inspector-General, Sind. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. European officers require fowls, eggs, milk, mutton, sheep, palas, fish, vegetables, fruit, butter, potatoes, ice, fuel, ghee, grass, rice, flour and other sundries. Indians require mutton, milk, fowls, eggs, ghee, rice, flour, fuel, &c. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. Baniyas, zamindars and badmashes. |
| 12. Do you get them from your harns or from baniyas or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. Do. do. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. Full bazaar rate to bania, and usually nothing to zamindars and badmashes, as regards prices they vary from year to year. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes, of course. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. We get them from zamindars and badmashes and sometimes pay as much as we get from officers. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. That depends upon the individuals concerned, generally speaking the cost is from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes, free. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 8. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes, free. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. From Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. It is done by begar. Sometimes we pay for it and get nothing. Officers generally pay a small portion his private establishment. Servants and establishment subordinate establishment who realize from badmashes |
| which is again returned to pay nothing. It falls on the and other improper sources. | |
| 25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? | 25. Sometimes. |
| 26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? | 26. Sometimes it costs, but we get no payment. |
| 27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? | 27. Yes. |

28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 28. We receive small portion of the cost.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Police inspector and their superior officers including their establishments.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. Already answered.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. From Rs. 300 to 500 and even more on special occasions.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. By subordinate police.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. The sub-inspector gives the bill.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. None of these suggestions, if carried out, is likely to stop the rasai.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Contractors can be found but the margin of their profit would be an additional charge for rasai.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. Rasai blunts the sense of self-respect among zamindars and subordinate officials, besides involving much waste of money and energy. This can be stopped only if the officers are wholly determined to stop it, because no body can force rasai on them if they are unwilling to have it. Their strong will to put a stop to their establishment can do what orders on paper can not.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetable or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Yes, others have been giving and it costs Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 and sometimes even more.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39 to 48. Lapo exists in the revenue department; in the police department, instead of lapo the system of tips prevails, realizations from it are appropriated to rasai purposes. Tips are taken in connection with—
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? (1) Proceedings under chapter VIII.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? (2) Services of summonses and warrants.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darogas, sub inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? (3) Execution of warrants of fine.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? (4) Petitions for enquiry.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? (5) Cases under sections 325 and 147, I. P. C., which are reduced to those under section 323, I. P. C.
- (6) Compromising in cases.
- (7) Bail-bonds.
- (8) Cases in which evidence is weak or evidence is decreased.
- (9) Challan fees.
- (10) Inquiries under section 523, C. P. C.
- (11) Cruelty to animals.
- (12) Summaries of classes A, B, and C.
- (13) Reports received and privately disposed of.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
- (14) Inquests.
- (15) Cases relating to disputes over property.
- (16) Gambling, &c., &c.
- (17) Grant or revocation of licences for arms.
- Besides, after the camp is removed the head constable goes round in his beat and makes collections from zamindars, badmashes, absconders' relations, pathariwallas and released offenders and suspects.
2. Engineering department by percentage from contractors, and income at the time of floods. Also from exactions from zamindars per khudas, kasees, &c., &c.
- (3) Forest department from panchori and from contractors. Also from zamindars for the free removal of wood.]
- (4) No question has been put about excise department, hence no reply is given.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Basai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No. Subordinate staff recover amounts which exceed the expenses, the excess is divided amongst various subordinates of police.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Tips will not stop in the police department as long as rasai does not stop and officers do not keep strict eye on favourites' subordinates who make good rasai. Improvement can be brought about by strong will on the part of officers and their mixing freely with the people and making investigation for themselves, e.g., in undetected and badmash cases and complaints not recorded and privately disposed of, &c., &c.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means gratuitous labour supplied at times of camp for the pitching of tents, helping menials, servants of officers and other establishment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. Badmashes, ex-convicts and others who happen to meet policemen and who are forced to work, village pagis, and sometimes we get men from favourite zamindars.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. Replied in para. 52.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Practice not uniform, chheras don't receive anything in cash from zamindars, but they get free food. Zamindars take some portion of the produce at the time of division.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?
56. Very rarely an officer gives to chheras, but usually nothing is given by zamindars and officers.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. From 10 to 15 chheras as necessity requires.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. From 5 to 10 and 10 to 20 chheras.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. No.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. From 10 to 50 and sometimes even more as circumstances permit.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
61. Chheras do not enjoy shikar as they have to go in ice-cold water in the morning and suffer in health. Sometimes few are paid.
62. Never counted, but seen hundreds at times according to the necessity.
63. For some time roads are blocked and traffic is stopped prior to the passing of motor car which causes great inconvenience to the public. After that benefit the public to a large extent.
64. Cash for hired labour and food for haris from zamindar and local fund.
65. Any number according to the necessity.
66. They get food and rarely cash.
67. Yes. Sometimes.
68. It is always available and people are always willing to work if they are sure to be paid and treated kindly, there is no reason why people should not prefer working on wages to working merely on food.
69. Yes.
70. It ought to be abolished completely and cash payment always to be made by officers.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHANDUMAL.

To the Chairman—

I have been police prosecuting inspector from 20th February 1918. My experience dates only from 20th of last February. I was once before prosecuting sub-inspector for 3 or 4 months in 1914. I was 16½ years sub-inspector in the Thar and Parkar, Hyderabad and Nawabshah districts.

My native place is Hyderabad, Sind.

I don't pay anything towards the rasai. Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 is the amount of the modi's bill in the first instance. The head constable of the taluka headquarters pays the amount to the modi. They recover the amount from the badmashes, sometimes from the zamindars and from other sources. It does not cost the police anything. On the contrary there is a saving which is divided amongst the subordinates of the police department.

The casual labour referred to consists partly of haris and partly of other people who are not haris.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The badmashes are made to pay in the usual way, i.e., by being threatened with proceedings under chapter VIII. If they pay, they are not sent up under the chapter. Ex-convicts avoid being rearrested on suspicion by making payments. I referred to camps of the inspector and also the District Superintendent of Police, sometimes one, sometimes two, sometimes three and the total cost would be about Rs. 300—500. I have myself made rasai, not by myself but my subordinates and with my connivance. I myself am against rasai. I do not make it myself but I get it done by the jamadar and head constable. They showed me the accounts of the rasai. I did not tell them; they went with my knowledge and collected amounts from badmashes, etc. If there was a Christmas camp, the rasai expenses would amount to Rs. 1,000. I have made the rasai of Christmas camps twice at Sakrand. I made the rasai myself. The head constable and the munshis kept the accounts. I did not see the accounts but they only told me about it. I did not tell them to collect the money. They had already been collecting it during the year, certainly with my connivance because there was no other source. That was the fixed custom. The whole account is kept by the police head munshi at the police headquarters. The munshis have to contribute to the expenses sometimes out of their pay, generally out of their exactions.

To the Chairman—

After 1914 I was in charge of the Hur settlements, so I had no opportunities of putting down the rasai. There is no rasai in the settlements.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The expenses of the Christmas camp also include the expenses of the chheras who have to be called for carrying boats from one dhand (lake) to the other. We entered nominal charges in the bills. The charges were 25 to 30 % of the real cost. The officers used to pay the amounts of the bills but the sums were returned to the officers' menials. We used to repay them to the menials to prevent false information being given to the officers; otherwise we would be harassed by them and they would make false complaints to the officers. Cash payments from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 are also made to the police orderlies; nothing to the camelmen. Sometimes Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 are given to the butler.

To the Chairman—

I never saw actually the sums being given but as the butler came to salam me I knew that he had got it. The jamadar also told me that he got it.

I have made several attempts to stop rasai. I also personally explained the matter to the District Superintendent of Police. I told him that it ought to be stopped by increasing the pay of the head constables and constables. I did not suggest that the pay of the sub-inspectors should be increased. Of course there was need for the increase of the pay of the sub-inspector.

I was assaulted by the District Superintendent of Police, and all the munshis made mourning for me. I was not really dead. The mourning was false; they actually made fun of me; they were really laughing at me.

I tried my utmost to suppress rasai but I never succeeded.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I was a contractor in the Public Works Department before I became a sub-inspector. I think I used to pay 15% commission on contracts, 10 % to the sub-divisional office and 5% to the establishment of the Executive Engineer.

To the Chairman—

I had correspondence with the then Executive Engineer and said that I would not be any more a contractor; so I gave it up and went into the police.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The payments were made to get excess measurements. I got many excess measurements and by that means I got about Rs. 4,000 cash. An established contractor can get off by paying only about 7%, the new contractors have to pay 10%.

The complainants have to support the investigating police party. The expenses might come to Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 a day in the case of big zamindars, in the case of ordinary zamindars about Rs. 2. The policemen are fed, sometimes by the complainant and sometimes by the zamindar. It costs them nothing when there are away from headquarters. I myself took nothing when away from headquarters. Several complaints have been made by the complainants to the superior officers about the expenses of investigating establishments.

To the Chairman—

I am 39 years old.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I was a zamindar before I was in the Police Department. My zamindari is in the Tando Mahomedkhan division. It is now looked after by my cousin. He does not live there. He lives in Hyderabad. My grand-father got the zamindari. My great-grand-father's cousin was mir munshi to the Talpurs. I did not like to carry on my zamindari, because I did not like the rasai system. I looked after the lands about 4 years. I was only for 2 years a Public Works Department contractor and also for one year a contractor to the Railway Department. The rates and sources are different in the Railway Department. My father was a contractor for about 25 years. I took the contracts in my father's name.

Rs. 4,000 profit was made in the name of my father with whom I was joint. It was a Rs. 16,000 contract, out of which I made Rs. 3,000 to 4,000. We gave the contract to sub-contractors. We made 25% by giving out the contract to the sub-contractors. Out of that profit we paid 10% to the establishment of the Public Works

Department and 5 % to the sub-divisional officer. We did not pay anything further, as my father was an established contractor. The net profit was Rs. 4,000 out of the contract of Rs. 16,000.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I was transferred to the Excise Department in 1905 from the Police Department. I was transferred to the Police Department after 4 years. I was getting Rs. 100 plus Rs. 25 allowance in the Excise Department, I was an excise inspector there. I reverted as sub-inspector on Rs. 80. I am now 1st grade sub-inspector on Rs. 100. I didn't revert to the Police Department in the hope of becoming an inspector. I left the Excise Department in 1909. I have been superseded by a number of my juniors on account of rasai. I don't know how many. I have not kept the account. Of course I am against rasai but on several occasions I have made rasai under compulsion when I was assaulted, I joined the settlement in October 1915. Since 1915 I had nothing to do with chapter VIII.

I applied for sanction to prosecute the railway traffic inspector for interfering with my duties. I have not quarrelled with anybody in the last 3 years. It is not a fact that I have quarrelled with three mukhtarkars. My reputation is that of a strictly honest man, which has damaged my prospects. I have not quarrelled with my officers.

I gave over charge of my appointment in the Nawabshah district on the 18th of February 1918. I have not been transferred on the complaint of insubordination but at my personal request to the Deputy Inspector-General and the District Superintendent of Police.

I did not give out 3 weeks before what evidence I was to give, as I did not expect to be called as a witness.

I was not assaulted by the District Superintendent of Police for being insubordinate.

To the Chairman—

I was reverted to the Police Department on my own request. I told the Commissioner in Sind that I did not like the work of the Abkar Department.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. JAGATSING AILMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name | 1. Mr. Jagatsing Ailmal. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Superintendent, Land Records in Sind. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 17 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 17 years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. The whole province. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Six months. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. As Superintendent, Land Records, I have not yet done any touring, having taken charge of the appointment only on the 1st instant. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Usually I have two private servants to accompany me on tour; just at present I have only one. Four clerks, five peons and six khalasis accompany the Superintendent on tour. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. My servant usually takes with him potatoes, dals, red rice, spices, tea and sometimes ghee for me and himself on tour. (Note.—I am a vegetarian and abstain from taking flesh foods). |
| | The official establishment take nothing with them on tour. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require for daily consumption flour, any fresh vegetable available, milk (<i>one seer a day</i>), and some quantity of firewood every day for myself. My office people require meat, milk, firewood, rice and flour at every camp. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Private furniture—An easy chair, a teapoy and a piece of table only as a rule. |
| | Official furniture—9 pieces of camp tables and 10 chairs, one teapoy and one stool. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jaks or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. One cot and 2 or 3 jars for water—nothing else. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. One hill tent and one miniature Swiss cottage. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. My private servant lived (before I became Superintendent) in a landhi built for my kitchen. I have now a rowti for him. My peons live in a rowti: deras or musafir khanas generally. |
| The clerks live in tapedars' | |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. I have no need to take a horse with me on tour as Superintendent. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Record of the current year and the past one year contained in six camel trunks. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. The office is held in a tent or in the office rooms attached to Public Works Department or district bungalows. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. I have no personal information on the point as Superintendent, Land Records, but I am told that about 10 men are collected to assist the peons and khalasis to pitch and unpitch tents, and some two men remain constantly in attendance at each camp to render small services, such as fetching water, etc. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. I have no roads in my charge. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. District and taluka local boards are responsible for repairs of roads. Their road establishments are employed for repairs. Zamindars are also asked from time to time to supply chher for repairing roads, particularly when the arrival of higher officials is expected. |

22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? 22. I do not require special repairs made to the roads to my camps.
23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters? 23. Camels are engaged for transport. Transport is engaged for the whole period of tour at headquarters.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? 24. The khalasis take and bring post from the post office at camps situated away from post offices.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. All taluka headquarters and important villages.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. Except at some places, there are no fixed camping grounds. Ground is, as a rule, cleaned and levelled for tents, with the help of zamindars' men.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? 27. Almost all camps are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. As a rule, only to camps in taluka headquarters.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. Bungalows are available at all taluka headquarters and several other places.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. A chowkidar, as a rule.

Rasai.

31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 31. Rasai originally means assisting in procuring supplies; it has now come to mean procuring supplies free or at less cost than they are actually worth.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. Just the things mentioned in para. 11 above.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. My private servant has no separate daily requirements. He takes food at my kitchen. My official establishment requires daily on tour per head (figures given by my head clerk) :—

Flour 1½ pau, rice ½ pau, ghee ½ pau, meat ½ pau, vegetable 1 pice worth, milk ½ seer and firewood.

34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 34. Prices of grain and rice vary in different seasons, I get no eggs, fowls, sheep or butter. Milk is sold in taluka headquarter towns at 2 annas a seer. Bajri and jowari stalks have no value in ordinary seasons, except at bigger places. Firewood has market value only at taluka headquarters; it is sold for 6 annas to 8 annas per maund.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. Not ordinarily sold, I think; but that does not mean that these articles have no value and that every body can get them free of charge.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. The daily average cost of supplies for me and my private servant is about Rs. 1-4-0, i.e., about Rs. 40 per month. That for each clerk is about Rs. 16 per month.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. My servant is required to buy them directly from the bania in the village and I myself pay the latter personally on his bill on the last evening of my camp. My office establishments are also required to buy from the bania and pay in my presence.
- Milk is supplied by zamindars through the tapedar; the same about firewood. The establishment get meat through the bania from a butcher. The bania is paid for it along with the bill for other supplies, in my presence.
- (NOTE.—This is what happened at my camps when I was Deputy Collector).
38. How are they paid for? 38. Vide please answer to 37.

39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds?
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. There is no guarantee.
40. My average daily cost is equal to actual payment, except that I have not been able to pay for milk and firewood at camps beyond taluka headquarters.
41. Zamindars and haris would be chiefly the sufferers in case of excess cost at camps beyond taluka headquarters and tapedars at taluka headquarter camps.
42. Yes, I suppose so.
43. No, not for water jars and a cot that I get.
44. Very seldom; not on payment.
45. No.
46. No.
47. No practical effect given to the rules of 1914. Tapedars have not ceased to collect supplies.
48. I have no modifications to recommend. All that is required is earnestness on the part of all officials to put a stop to the evil of rasai. Without this all remedies will fail. Compulsory education of masses would be another effective remedy.
I have no faith in the contract system.
49. Yes, as a rule, as Deputy Collector.
50. No.
51. I have had, though seldom, dhalis of vegetables and fruit from big zamindars only. I do not approve of the dhali system and discourage it as far as possible.
I have had no dhali for the last several months.
52. Rs. 3 to 4 per dhali.
53. There are no specific orders on the subject that I know of. I have found it difficult to refuse dhalis from most respectable zamindars when once they have brought them to me. Mostly I distribute dhalis among village children.
- Lapo.*
54. Lapo in the revenue department is what the tapedar levies unauthorizedly from each khateder over and above the authorized Government assessment on land.

55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo' ?
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ?
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied ? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp ?
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials ? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund ?
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund ?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials ? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund ?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials ?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914 ?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders ?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914 ? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the land revenue code ?
66. Chher.
67. Chheras are either haris under zamindars or men residing or making a living in their villages or near their lands.
68. Chheras are required for various kinds of labour, such as repairing roads, closing breaches in canals, pitching and unpitching tents and doing several small services.
69. Custom makes it an implied condition of holding land that the haris will perform such labour when asked by zamindars.
70. No, except that they get food, twice a day, when they work only in connection with closing breaches.
55. One form only that I know of in the revenue department.
56. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedar from the zamindars for his own personal gain and on the pretence of doing rasai.
57. At an anna and over per rupee of land revenue. In some places, lapo is levied per acre.
58. The whole lapo goes into the pocket of the tapedar. In view of that he gives some months' pay towards the general rasai of the taluka in the rasai fund.
59. Generally the headquarters' tapedar is in charge of the rasai fund under the supervision of the taluka head munshi or the mukhtiarkar.
60. Money presents are paid to the private and official establishments of touring officials from the amounts contributed by tapedars. The amounts vary with the position of the respective subordinates. The presents are made out of the rasai fund.
61. Exactions for particular favours do not go by the name of lapo. Such exactions are common in each of the departments mentioned.
62. From the rasai fund to which each tapedar contributes, money presents are made to establishments of touring officials, partly with a view to mitigating the strictness of examination of official records and mainly to win their good-will to stop their harassing propensities.
63. No.
64. No. From time to time circulars have been issued by district officers to stop the practice of the levy of lapo.
65. The stopping of rasai, as the term is now taken to mean, will greatly prevent the levy of lapo. At present mukhtiarkars, instead of exercising supervision to prevent the levy of lapo, even indirectly help the levy, because tapedars contribute to the rasai fund. If rasai did not exist, mukhtiarkars would be able to exercise proper control over the tapedars and prevent their mal-practices.
- No modification of the rules under the land revenue code is necessary to prevent the levy of lapo.
66. Chher is the term applied to a body of men supplied by zamindars for working without wages.
67. Chheras are either haris under zamindars or men residing or making a living in their villages or near their lands.
68. Chheras are required for various kinds of labour, such as repairing roads, closing breaches in canals, pitching and unpitching tents and doing several small services.
69. Custom makes it an implied condition of holding land that the haris will perform such labour when asked by zamindars.
70. No, except that they get food, twice a day, when they work only in connection with closing breaches.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?
78. Whence do you obtain them?
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual and labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
73. Not bound by any express orders or provision of law.
74. Seris are an instance of such grants.
75. Principally for pitching and unpitching tents and for helping in loading and unloading camels.
76. None daily.
77. Some 10 or 15 men.
78. The tapedar collects them through the zamindars.
79. No.
80. Rs. 5 per camp.
81. Yes.
82. I do not get labour for shikar. I do not indulge in that pastime.
85. Any amount sometimes.
86. No.
87. 500 men sometimes per day for a number of days.
88. No, except food.
89. I cannot be definite on this point. No glaring instances have come to my notice.
90. To some extent no doubt.
91. No.
92. It should wholly be suppressed. Paid labour should be employed as a rule.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. JAGATSING AILMAL.

To the Chairman—

I have no touring as Superintendent, Land Records, but I have been Deputy Collector for about 6 years and I have toured as Deputy Collector mostly in the Larkana district. I have worked as mukhtiarakar for 5 years, partly in the Hyderabad district, but mostly in the Larkana district.

My answers about touring refer generally to my tour as Deputy Collector. I used to keep a horse as Deputy Collector.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

I have never personally made rasai for the Commissioner. The Commissioner did come to my taluka but I had no concern with his rasai. The head munshi told me that one year at Kambar it came to Rs. 500. He told me that in the previous years it came to Rs. 3,000. I was in Kambar in 1910. Most of the money must have gone into the pockets of subordinates and the munshis in cash payments. I could not give any figure as to the Collector's camp. The rasai would be considerable. I can't give any figure for the Assistant or Deputy Collector's camps. I found when I first inspected the bills of my establishment that it came to Rs. 2 per head for a day which led me to suppose that the supplies were gratis: they then fell to 2 annas a day per head. I believe they got annuities but I can't say anything as to the amount. There would be some difference, no doubt, between the expenses of the Deputy Collector and Assistant Collector's camps and a considerable amount of difference between the Deputy Collector and Collector's camps. I have never made rasai myself. Sometimes wines and liquors are indented for: The mukhtiar-kars are asked to send for them from the district headquarters. The mukhtiar-kar supplies the bills and sometimes I have heard that it is not paid. I could not specify any definite instance when the bill was not paid. It would be got from the regular dealers at headquarters. It could not be bought at the taluka headquarters. It would be bought from district headquarters. If a district officer ran short of wine he might send for the mukhtiar-kar and ask him to replenish it for him. I have only heard it said that it is not paid for; mostly I think it is paid for.

I believe that bills are prepared in consultation with the butlers. The butler has probably had more than what his master needed, therefore he wants to restrict the bill to what his master actually had. The bill so drawn up is fully paid by the touring officers as a rule. My idea is that the money in many cases is taken by the butler; it might even be kept by the tapedars. I don't know of my personal knowledge whether it is so or not. There are various ways in which harassment can be caused by inspecting officers, such as calling for unnecessary returns of cases and making unpleasant remarks. The mukhtiar-kars therefore consider it necessary to continue the rasai system including the cash payments. I don't say that the mukhtiar-kar directly helps in the levy of lapo but he is in favour of it. I think lapo is intended for the tapedar, but in consideration of what he gets for lapo, it is expected that he should pay something towards the rasai. I believe he specifies rasai as a reason for the levy of lapo and particularly for raising the rate of lapo. I think the rate has been raised from one anna to one anna three pies or one anna six pies per rupee of assessment. If the rasai is stopped it would affect lapo, if the mukhtiar-kars can keep proper supervision over the tapedars. The tapedar has substantial means for harassing the zamindars. The zamindars pay partly from timidity and partly from the belief that the tapedar has really the means of harassing. If a zamindar was not timid he might go and get some remedy from a high official. He would not get it from the mukhtiar-kars. Many officials have not been in earnest in the matter of stopping rasai. By not being earnest I mean that they do not make any special efforts to stop it but they would be glad if it is stopped. In referring to superior officers I include the Deputy Collector, Assistant Collector and Collector. The mukhtiar-kars are of course never in earnest. I certainly believe that Collectors would be glad to see that rasai is stopped. I think some Collectors have the reputation of having made special efforts to stop the rasai. I am not in a position to say what particular efforts they made to stop rasai. I hear that Messrs. Monie, Moysey and Beyts made special efforts. I don't know personally of the special efforts of those officers. I remember one instance in which Mr. Baker dismissed his butler on my complaint to him that he was troubling me. I was then mukhtiar-kar in Ratodero and had stopped rasai there and given strict orders to the tapedars and supervising tapedars. It came to my notice that the butler omitted to give milk to the Collector until he was paid by a diwan who was a zamindar of the village. That was at the second camp of the taluka. At the third camp he did the same and Mr. Baker mentioned it to me. The butler did this, as it was the last camp of my taluka, and he tried to make a supreme effort. I told Mr. Baker that I had kept 4 goats for milk and there was no reason why the butler should not supply the milk. The butler was sent for and he could not give a satisfactory explanation and was then and there dismissed.

I personally supervised the roads from Naodero to the Ford Wah on the occasion of the visit of the Governor. It was made with the help of the zamindars. About 200 men were engaged. The road was about 2 or 3 miles in length and was made ready in 4 or 5 days. Six annas per chhera would be enough in those days. That was, I think, in 1913. I have known many instances in which roads were repaired by the chheras without payment. The zamindars raised no objection to repairing these roads. They don't object to the several forms of rasai. The chheras would of course like to get their daily wages. Special repairs are partly made for the Collector's tour. When zamindari chheras are employed they are not paid. The mukhtiar-kars get the roads specially repaired before the arrival of the Collector in order to show him that they have been doing good work.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I don't think that a subsidied bania contractor would improve matters. It would not prevent the levy of lapo. It would be an advantage that anyone wanting supplies should obtain them on payment directly from the bania.

The tapedar has power to help the zamindar or otherwise, in the matter of grant of lands, because he is the only man in attendance on the Deputy Collector at the time of the kutcheri for the grant of lands. I have never personally done the kutcheri work but I have heard about it. There the zamindar sees the tapedar and thinks that he really has powers to help or harm him. The mukhtiarkar is not present at the time of kutcheries.

To the Chairman—

I don't believe in supervising tapedars as they exist now. It would be much better to substitute deputy mukhtiarkars. Now the tapedar and supervising tapedar are practically on the same level. The deputy mukhtiarkars would be more honest. As a class the deputy mukhtiarkars would be independent, whereas the supervising tapedars now combine with the tapedars to make as much as they can. There would have to be at least two deputy mukhtiarkars for each taluka. That would require time to consider. They would be in the head munshi's grade or a little better than head munshis and expect to rise to be mukhtiarkars and deputy collectors.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I would not be prepared to say without further consideration that it would be possible to subdivide a taluka into 2 or 3 talukas.

To the Chairman—

I think the cost would be prohibitive to split the taluka into 3 talukas.

Lapo would really be stopped when the mukhtiarkars are in earnest to stop it. They would only be earnest when the rasai is stopped.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I rose to my present position without making rasai.

To the Chairman—

The mukhtiarkars think they might cause displeasure if they did not make rasai.

24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. The loss falls on me, and not on my haris.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? 26. I spend nothing and receive nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. No.
28. Do you have to make 'Basai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 28. Yes.
29. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 29. The cost varies with the number of men. I receive no payment.
30. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Basai'? 30. Rs. 300 per year.
31. Do you make the 'Basai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 31. I have made rasai myself since the year 1914, but the tapedar and the mukhtarkar had something to do with it.
32. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 32. Answered under No. 23. I prepare bills.
33. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 33. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of tapedars and zamindars.
34. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 34. Contractors can be found, provided they are allowed some increase in the rates of articles.
35. What are your special objections to rasai and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Basai' by Government? 35. We suffer pecuniary and other losses. Independent contractors should be appointed, and officers should watch carefully. Camp establishments should be curtailed, and criminal cases should not be tried in camp.
36. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 36. I present dhalis and vegetables. It costs me nothing if things are from my own garden. If the things are bought I spend from 5 to 8 rupees.
37. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 37. The practice should not be prohibited by Government.
- Lapo.*
38. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 38. Lapo means a fixed charge.
39. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 39. It is levied in the form of cash, grain and grass. It is levied in the Revenue, Police and the Public Works Departments.
40. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? Is lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 40. In some places it is levied in the form of a percentage, in others in lump sum, and in others at a certain rate per survey number.
41. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, sardars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and theedars and forest rangers? 41. It is levied by tapedars, supervising tapedars, daroghas, sub-divisional officers and sub-inspectors who seem determined to harass and disrespect people in the event of their refusing to pay it.

The zamindars, haris and maldars pay it, with a view to save themselves from harassment.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of rasai for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
- whether the bills were received in time or not; and the tapedar should be held responsible for delay. Boundary marks should be of stone instead of earthen mounds. The expenses should be incurred by Government in the first instance and then recovered by the zamindars in instalments. The darogas should not impound cattle which go about on a canal for drinking water or grazing or which cross a canal, as Government canals have no fence or wall to them. The police officials are very ill-behaved. Their own and revenue officers should keep a strict eye on them. The revenue and judicial functions should be separated.
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?
43. I make rasai as well as pay lapo.
44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.
45. I make money presents to peons, butlers, cooks and servants of officers so that they may not prejudice their masters against me. To others I pay annuities.
46. It is paid, not for particular favours, but to save oneself from loss of respect and other losses.
47. Answered under No. 42. Muccadums on canals and the peons of tapedars and supervising tapadars also levy it.
48. From 700 to 800 rupees
49. No.
50. It has not been reduced but the trouble involved in the payment of assessment has decreased.
51. The powers of lapo-takers should be curtailed. Land revenue should be made payable by money order free of commission. The tapedars should be held responsible for any difference in the bills of assessment given by them. These bills should be furnished before 15th December. The Deputy Collector should find out whether the bills were received in time or not; and the tapedar should be held responsible for delay. Boundary marks should be of stone instead of earthen mounds. The expenses should be incurred by Government in the first instance and then recovered by the zamindars in instalments. The darogas should not impound cattle which go about on a canal for drinking water or grazing or which cross a canal, as Government canals have no fence or wall to them. The police officials are very ill-behaved. Their own and revenue officers should keep a strict eye on them. The revenue and judicial functions should be separated.
- Chher.
52. Chher means labour employed without remuneration.
53. They are mostly haris.
54. They are called on to close breaches on canals and the river; to clear canals; to repair roads and to attend the camps of officers.
55. No such condition is imposed except for the benefit of cultivation.
56. They are only fed by the zamindars.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
62. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
64. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and zamindars?
67. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
57. For the mukhtiarkar 5; for the Assistant Collector 20; for the Collector 30; for the Commissioner 100; for the Superintendent of Police 15; for the Engineer 15.
59. They get nothing from officers. They get food only from the zamindars.
60. For snipe-shooting 3 and for partridge, quail and duck shooting from 5 to 10 chheras are required.
61. They come willingly as they get money presents from the officers.
62. The number depends on the quantity of work.
63. They are of some benefit to the public also.
64. They get nothing either from the officers or local boards, but they get food only from the zamindars.
65. The number depends on the amount of work.
66. They get food from the zamindars; also wages (though not full) from the subordinate officials, for the days the Executive Engineer is there. When the Executive Engineer is not there they get no wages.
67. Yes
68. It is available.
69. It could be procured by a contractor on payment of proper wages.
70. Chher should be abolished except for the purpose of closing breaches on canals and the river when chheras from the immediate neighbourhood alone may be employed for a short time only.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. MAHOMED KAMILSHAH.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

If we did not make rasai we should suffer in reputation by being harassed in correspondence, by difficulty in getting gun licenses and chairs and so forth. The police would trouble us by troubling our haris and by making reports against us in connection with chairs and complaining that we are not assisting the police.

Once or twice I have paid to the Collector's butler Rs. 5 or 10, but never to the Commissioner's butler. They are paid through the mukhtiarkar. I have given Rs. 5 to the Assistant Collector's butler. I have also made rasai for Indian Deputy Collectors. The rasai for European Assistant Collectors would cost me somewhat more than that of the Indians. The Indians live less expensively than the Europeans. The establishments pay nothing for their supplies. Sometimes the bills of the officers are prepared in consultation with the butlers. The bills are prepared properly, both as regards the quantities and the rates. Sometimes some things are shown at lower rates, but on the average the full rates would be shown. The money received on the bills is sometimes kept, sometimes paid back to the butler. If supplies are not given to the munshis, the cash is paid to them instead. I only give cash presents to the servants and the pattawallas and not to the munshis.

The only effect of the circular of 1914 is that rasai is made by the big zamindar and the small zamindars get off free. The officers pay but sometimes the money is returned back to the butlers. The establishments don't pay.

There is neither loss nor profit on the rules of 1914. Before 1914 the tapedar bought supplies at the taluka headquarters. Assistance was given by the zamindars outside headquarter towns.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I should be able to find an independent contractor for the taluka. The rasai falls now on the zamindar who has been fixed as contractor. It would be possible to get a contractor with a subsidy of Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 to provide supplies for all camps. It would depend upon the number of camps in each taluka. He would be able to get the supplies without the interference of the tapedar and the zamindar. He can then be bound down to the scheduled rates.

To Mr. Mahmudshah—

The judicial powers assist the tapedar, that is to say, the mukhtiarkars, head munshis, because criminal cases could be brought before these officers. I can't remember any case in which a criminal complaint was brought against the zamindar for not paying towards rasai and lapo. One of my kamdars had been fined for allowing water to over-flow on the roads.

To the Chairman—

If he had made the rasai properly then his offence would have been unnoticed.

To Mr. Mahmudshah—

I assist the police in Government work. I was once reported for not helping the police, that was 10 or 12 years ago. I don't remember any report since then against me, at least it is without my knowledge.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHAINRAI BULCHAND.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Chainrai Bulchand. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Assistant Manager, Sind Encumbered Estates. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 14 years. |
| 6. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 14 years; 3 years as mukhtiarkar, mostly in Larkana and Kandhkote talukas, and nearly 4 years a deputy collector in Upper Sind Frontier district. |

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Nil, assistant manager is not a touring officer. If occasionally he has to go to watch any case in any of the district courts, he has to be guest of a private friend of his. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 7 and 8. Nil. 9. Only one peon. 10—18. Nil. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. None. |

20—30. I presume this does not require to be answered by me, as I have been in my present office for about 2 years, and I have had not to tour.

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 31. Rasai, I understand, is an arrangement for supply of provisions for an officer's camp; for part of which payment is made, though for most of it it is not. |
| 32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? | 32. None at present; though as mukhtiarkar and deputy collector, grass and grain for 2 horses, fuel and meat (while I used to take it). I took no milk either. A few jars and a cot or two were wanted besides. |

33—42. I presume these are not to be answered by me.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? | 43. I presume this is not to be replied to by me, though I never made any payment for these things. |
| 44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds? | 44. None at present; though as deputy collector or as mukhtiarkar, I used to have them from gardens maintained by local funds. |
| 47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies, or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? | 45 and 46. I presume this is not to be replied to by me. 47. I saw the working of the rules of 1914 for nearly 2 years. Tapedars all the same had to assist the zamindar otherwise responsible under settlement with him, in collecting provisions and other necessary materials from other neighbouring zamindars and the local haris. |
| 48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? | 48. I was of opinion that a contractor would be difficult to secure and the camp establishment could easily defeat the system of having contractors by refusing to have anything from them, except meat, grass, vegetables and milk, as they could, if they choose to, carry at least a fortnight's supply with them. The contractor would usually be able to supply such things at a higher rate than they could have them at in a headquarter bazaar. Since I thought a weekly bazaar running through taluka villages was not possible in Sind, and since supply of provisions, etc., was necessary, I considered that it might be worth while trying to give small serigants to some zamindars (not large land-holders who could not and would not complain of non-payments to them, but such land-holders who could not afford to keep quiet under non-payments) and make them bound to supply them. |

contractor would usually be able to supply such things at a higher rate than they could have them at in a headquarter bazaar. Since I thought a weekly bazaar running through taluka villages was not possible in Sind, and since supply of provisions, etc., was necessary, I considered that it might be worth while trying to give small serigants to some zamindars (not large land-holders who could not and would not complain of non-payments to them, but such land-holders who could not afford to keep quiet under non-payments) and make them bound to supply them.

49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. I used to find that very difficult.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. I understand this is not to be answered by me.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. I understand this is not to be answered by me, though I used to have none.
- 52 and 53. Not to be answered by me, I think.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. I understand lapo to be customary cash payments received by revenue tapedars.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. I know of only one form of lapo described in answer to question 54, though there are dasturis paid to subordinates of other departments besides other kinds of illegal gratifications.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Lapo is an old customary due levied by tapedars from zamindars. It at present serves chiefly the purpose of hush-money. Tapedars who are paid lapo in full would not care to report the faults of those who pay them, e.g., for bad boundary marks, unauthorized occupation of land, or unauthorized water supply.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. Sometimes it is levied per jireb, sometimes per survey number, and at times in lump, and sometimes per cent. of cash assessed as land revenue.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. I would not say that lapo money is directly used as rasai fund, though tapedars had to leave some months' pay, according to need, to be collected into a fund for payment of illegal gratification to inspecting officers' establishments.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. This fund used to be managed by the taluka head munshi or by some supervising tapedar under direct supervision of taluka head munshi.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. First part is already answered. As to the second, I could not give the exact amounts.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
61. Please find answer under question 56, so far as matters of land revenue were concerned. I cannot say much about the other departments.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. My own opinion is that the strictness of examination of official records is not affected by the payment of illegal gratifications, though since the inspecting officer generally has not time enough to wade through the whole of the list of mistakes, usually a volume in itself, special mistakes brought to notice by the establishment according to payment received.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. I do not think so, though it was levied under some fear after those rules.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the land-revenue code?
65. I do not think it could be prevented, except by zamindars refusing to pay it, and bearing the usual consequences of such refusal for some time until the system is weakened. These consequences must happen so long as our revenue system has its complications. It will be too large a question to discuss, if these complications can be removed or how.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ?
66. I understand chher is a call on the local baris to do some menial services, generally without payment, or only on promise of a little food given them by their zamindars, except when the call is made by Public Works Department, when some cash payment is made.
67. Who are the "Chheras" ?
67. Local baris.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. To make roads, pitch tents, build temporary landhus, to help in excavation of canals, &c.
69. Do the "Chheras" hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
69. The conditions are implied, though resented in several cases now-a-days.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government ?
70. No, except for a little food occasionally provided by their zamindars.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
71. I do not think it is to be answered by me. But it was very often not available at all.
72. Is any considerable staff of "Meldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ?
72. Used to be, but that maintained by local funds.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
73. They are not bound, but they usually felt bound and not unoften to their interest. Since that gave them influence over their baris (raj) and even neighbouring zamindars. This idea however was found by me to be gradually, though very slowly, dying out.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
74. Small seri grants or mamul grants, but only for helping in prevention or discovery of offences.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour ?
75. Used to be for pitching tents and fetching water and keeping guard.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?
76. Used to be about 5 or 6 daily, though twice the number in days of pitching and unpitching camp.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp ?
77. Answered under question 76.
78. Whence do you obtain them ?
78. Used to be through zamindars.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
79. They were not paid by me. 2nd part is answered under question 70.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Bassai' contractor ?
80. I think about 2 to 3 rupees a day for a deputy collector's camp. I do not think it could be provided by a contractor, except in district headquarters and very few taluka headquarters.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ?
81. I think so, at least mostly, but it would, in these days of high prices, be charged at higher rates than what ordinary establishment costs, and would entail increase in the pay of permanent menial establishment as well.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar ?
82. None.
- 83 and 84. Not necessary for me to answer.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?
85. Zamindars' baris are usually called upon to repair roads when the Commissioner or the Collector has to pass along them.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials ?
86. No, except for a little food.

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
87. The local haris are called up through their zamindars.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?
88. They are paid by Government, but not enough for the daily wage, though enough for the reluctant work they do, zamindars sometimes feed them.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?
89. Not very much, though in some rare cases much from a particular zamindar's interest.
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?
90. It is only a few beldars, one or two, who are employed in carrying officers' post with a basket of vegetables. It does not interfere quite so much with their ordinary work.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?
91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.
92. I think chher should not be suppressed altogether, i.e., impressing of labour for Government or irrigation urgent work, but it must be paid for at 25% more than the usual daily wage, and it should be paid daily.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. CHAINRAI BULCHAND.

To the Chairman—

It is the deputy manager who goes on tour to look after the estates. The assistant manager always stays in Hyderabad.

I think the chher ought to be paid 25% more on account of the compulsion exercised.

I can't give any information as to lupo from my experience as assistant manager.

The zamindars don't keep any accounts and the only entries are in the banias' books. I have found on 2 or 3 occasions entries in the banias' books of kharach kate which means illegal gratifications. The entries did not show to whom they were paid; they were only vague entries.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

We generally disallow the items without going into detail. This work is generally done by the Manager. When I discovered these instances I was acting manager.

In the Upper Sind Frontier the rasai for the Deputy Commissioner and also the Deputy Collector is generally made by the zamindars. I was there from 1912-1915. Rasai was done to a very small extent by the tapedar. It was mostly done by zamindars before 1914. It was not found possible to carry out the circular of 1914 wholly into effect. We fixed certain zamindars for certain camps, but the officers could not always keep to their programme and send timely information of their camps, so the zamindars complained of the new orders. Nevertheless the zamindars continued to work, but always complained that it was an unnecessary burden, specially as regards the other departments, e.g., the Public Works Department, the Police and the Forest, for which they had never done rasai before. I can think of 4 or 5 zamindars who made rasai out of hospitality, not the others who did it very unwillingly. But even those who did it willingly would not wish to do it away from their villages, e.g., bungalows. The zamindars only paid cash tips to the menials; the establishments got their cash payment at the taluka headquarters out of the special collections made by the tapedars from the zamindars.

The bania used to come and report that he got all the money for the provisions supplied to the menials and establishment, but I could not always believe that he did. The bania generally kept the accounts, as he had dealings with the zamindars. He generally charged the zamindars. At least one instance of that kind came to my notice. If there was no zamindar available to do the rasai, then the bania looked to the tapedar for payment.

I understand that zamindari supplies were collected from the haris. We got money from the officers, but I couldn't say whether the money reached the actual providers. It either went to the tapedar or perhaps was given to the small zamindar who kept it to himself, and in some cases it went to the butler. The tapedars used to tell me that they prepared the bills in consultation with the butler. This was to ensure that the amounts in the bills were not very heavy. My own opinion was that most of

the articles taken for the officers were really taken by the menials and the establishment, and so they took care that the bills should be as low as possible. I only remember one instance in which the tapedar complained that the butler wanted the bills to be prepared with rates reduced.

The fund at the taluka headquarters was made up from the tapedar's pay supplemented by some contributions from the zamindars. I learnt from the head munshi that there were certain annuities for the taluka munshis. I am speaking now of Larkana where I was mukhtiar kar for nearly 2 years. In 1908 the tindal's fee was Rs. 25 for pitching the Commissioner's camp. The supervising tapedar came to me and told me that the tindal had raised his demand to Rs. 35, and he wouldn't pitch the tents without it. I went and looked at the tindal and I asked him if the camping ground had been prepared; he said, yes, and I then told the supervising tapedar to pay the usual fee only; there was then no further trouble; that is the fee called kilokhorani. The fee to the butler is not kilokhorani; it is a kind of customary payment. If he did not get it, he would probably create trouble by making complaints to his master. I came across one instance in Larkana where the butler took in tea without milk to the Collector, while my man was actually standing outside ready with the milk; he called out that he had got the milk ready; the Collector came outside and said that he did not mind taking tea without milk. My man came and reported this to me.

I have not personally seen any ill-treatment by menials or peons, but I have heard pattewallas talking in an insulting way to the zamindars who were present, while I was waiting to see the Collector. I think the zamindars feel that they must do *rasai* lest they suffer, but I don't think that they do it in the hope of getting chairs or licenses. I don't think that the zamindars ought to mind whether they get chairs or not on ordinary occasions, but I think the chair system ought to be returned for the durbars. The Collector is accessible to even small zamindars if he has the time; he may shew particular displeasure towards a zamindar by refusing to see him.

I have noticed that a few mukhtiar kars think that they would get promotions, if they made good *rasai*; but I don't think they are justified in that idea.

I had to attend to two camps only of the Commissioner in Sind, one at Mirpur Mathelo for 3 days and the other at Shikarpur for 6 days as mukhtiar kar. The cost of the Mirpur Mathelo camp including the cost of repairing the roads came to about Rs. 700. The Commissioner went from Larkana to Kambar for the X'mas camp for 8 days. From there he went to the river to his steamer and the total expenses for all that time were about Rs. 1,000. That would include the expenses of bringing the post from Larkana to Kambar. My rupees 1,000 include expenses of the Larkana mukhtiar kar only, but not those of the Kambar mukhtiar kar. I had to keep 5 or 6 tongas for the purpose of sending out telegrams and supplies received from time to time from Karachi. The special charges for tongas would be about Rs. 20. I only paid for the tongas for the days they were actually used. I can't say how many tongas the mukhtiar kar of Kambar kept. Some of the tongas came to Larkana from Kambar. There are some local tongas at Kambar, but there are more tongas at Larkana.

I think about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of road to the river was made by the zamindars' *chheras*. It was an easy road through wheat land. It was after the crop was reaped. There was no crop then.

To the Chauhan—

There is a telegraph line from Larkana to Kambar. The tongas were mostly used for sending supplies.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

My supervising tapedar at Larkana reported that the Commissioner's butler wanted Rs. 75. The supervising tapedar enquired from the mukhtiar kars of other talukas and ascertained that it was the usual charge, plus some presents in kind, worth Rs. 20 to Rs. 25.

I think the zamindars would be harassed if they stopped paying *lapo* sometimes, but I don't think without their own fault, that is to say without committing irregularities which would give opportunities of harassment by the tapedar. I enquired into complaints against the zamindars and found that they were generally true; very few cases were untrue. But the cases would not have been reported if the tapedar had been paid something by the zamindar. It was in my capacity, both as mukhtiar kar and deputy collector.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I had managed to stop the *rasai* fund in Kandhkot taluka, even before the rules of 1914. It was with the help of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Martin. I don't mean *rasai* but the fund collected at the headquarters by the establishment. I presume that it did not revive after 1914. After 1914 the establishments of the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Collector were not paid their annuities. *Rasai* meaning free supplies was not stopped after 1914. Even after 1914 the tapedar had to assist the zamindar in getting supplies. *Lapo* continued after the rules of 1914. I think *lapo* will continue, even if *rasai* ceases.

I think the cost of actual necessary supplies of the Commissioner's camp at Mirpur Mathelo would be about Rs. 100 for the Commissioner and his establishment.

I think I sent for fruit, worth Rs. 100, for the various zamindars, and asked them how much they would take; some took Rs. 20, some took Rs. 5 or Rs. 2, otherwise the zamindars would not have been able to get the fruit. The zamindars at Larkana did not get dhals through me as mukhtiarkar of Larkana. The dhals can be had there in the bazaar. I think I had to spend Rs. 50 to get flowers from various places, as they were scarce in January. The rest would be cash payments and the cost of the chheras.

I found the graduate mukhtiarkars generally against the rasai fund. That is why we were able to stop the rasai fund in the Upper Sind Frontier district, because all 5 mukhtiarkars were graduates and I got Mr. Martin's permission to write demiofficially about the matter to other mukhtiarkars. I think the officers could reduce rasai to a very great extent but it would be very difficult to stop lapo. I used to try surprise visits to the tapedars to count the money in their hand and found it was correct; but I generally found the money correct, because they expected my visit; but I believe that they did take lapo. I had one case in which the tapedar assaulted a zamindar, in order to get lapo, and I had the tapedar punished. That was in Kindhokot, where I was mukhtiarkar. In course of time lapo will stop when better educated people are appointed as tapedars.

To the Chairman—

There are 5 or 6 supervising tapedars in each taluka. I don't think the work could be done, even by two additional mukhtiarkars in the taluka, unless the inspection work was reduced. I don't think that with the appointment of two deputy mukhtiarkars in the taluka, the mukhtiarkar would be able to get through all the work of inspection and correspondence direct with the zamindars.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I think the contract system might succeed, if the contractors were subsidised to sell at ordinary rates; even then it would be difficult as far as the Sub-divisional Officer and the mukhtiarkars are concerned, because they have to pay surprise visits.

I think the seri grants should be about 20 to 40 acres according to the soil. The grantee would be bound to provide zamindari supplies and also labour on payment. He might be harassed by the establishments, but he could complain to the officers, and it would be alright, if punishments were inflicted. He would be a zamindar of such a position that he would not aspire to get any special favours from the officers. I think the seri-grant system would have a better chance of success than the contract system.

To the Chairman—

The practice is for the mukhtiarkar to meet the superior officers at the boundary of his taluka and remain with them at the various camps till they leave the taluka. A great part of the time of the mukhtiarkar is so taken up during the busy season, which might be usefully employed in inspection. I think it would be sufficient if the mukhtiarkar met his superior officer at the first camp and there settled the camps at which the mukhtiarkar would have to attend on him during the tour of his taluka. The mukhtiarkars do not generally attend the camps of the Deputy Collector and the Assistant Collector after the first camp.

I am doubtful if the stopping of rasai will even partially decrease lapo, unless the pay of the tapedars is increased.

To Mr. Sawhney—

The zamindars paid for the fruit they took for the Commissioner's camp. That Rs. 100 might therefore be deducted from the total cost of the Commissioner's camp. On that occasion we fed the chheras from the rasai fund, as the zamindars were not willing to feed them. The supervising tapedars have on several occasions pointed out the errors of the tapedars. There would be less chance of such mistakes being found by the mukhtiarkars. The supervising tapedars make their own exactions. They don't get anything out of the tapedar's lapo.

I think it would be a good idea to reduce the size of the talukas. It would enable the mukhtiarkars to pay better attention to the complaints that are received, but I don't think it would reduce lapo. The mukhtiarkars would have greater opportunities of seeing whether the complaints of tapedars were correct.

I am doubtful whether the subsidised contractor or the bania would be able to get the local supplies, it would be better to give grants of lands. I have not particularly thought over the subsidy question, but prefer the seri-holder to an independent contractor. I think the seri-holder will serve all the departments; for the first year he might prefer the Revenue Department. I have been against rasai but I made it at Mirpur Mathelo for the first time and was much disgusted at the experience.

I have been fortunate in my officers and have risen in spite of not making rasai. I hope to rise by doing good work.

To Mr. Mahmud Shah—

I think, excluding these chheras, more goes in cash payments, generally to Collectors' and Assistant Collectors' camps, than actual supplies.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. VASTIRAM DIALMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Vastiram Dialmal. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Resident Magistrate. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Tando Adam. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 19 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 19 years; 9 years' experience as mukhtiarkar. |
| <i>General.</i> | |
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. No touring to do in my present appointment. |

7—30. I am not in a touring appointment, hence these paras. and other like paras. have been left blank.

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 31. Rasai nominally is understood to mean making arrangements for the supply of provisions at camps, but includes annuities paid to inspecting establishments and menials (private and official) attached to such establishments and to inspecting officers; and also covers various sorts of expenses incurred in connection with camps of touring officers. |
| 35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? | 35. Milk, stalks and firewood are certainly not on sale in small villages, as every inhabitant in these villages provides himself with firewood by his own labour, keeps his own cows, goats and buffaloes and has a stock of stalks. |
| 47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedar actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? | 47. The rules have failed in general to put a stop to annuities paid to inspecting establishments and to menials of inspecting officers and establishments. They have however in some places secured freedom from the tapedar's interference in the collection of supplies, the zamindar doing that duty, though in a few places not quite willingly. |
| 48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedar and zamindars? | 48. I do not think it will be possible to find a contractor to supply provisions; but some of the present hardships might be mitigated, if all the inspecting officers would be as earnest as some are; if invariably intimation was given to the zamindar concerned of the quantities required for the whole camp; if payments to the whole camp were made personally by the head of the establishment. At present intimation is sent, if at all, only in respect of the requirements of the head of the establishment, but it is necessary that it should cover the requirements of the whole camp. |

The pay of the peons who have to do hard work on tour must be raised. Government would not get any peons on the present pay, if the unauthorised dues did not go with it.

Lapo.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? | 54. Lapo is the amount given by the zamindar to the tapedar in proportion to the extent of the cultivation in the year, calculated at so much per jireb or per survey number. |
| 55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? | 55. There is only one form of lapo that I know of. |
| 56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? | 56. The zamindar pays this lapo and the tapedar receives it. The supervising tapedar also receives his lapo from the zamindars and the tapedars in his charge. This is more properly called sahano. Coming to sahano the taluka head munshi, the mukhtiarkar's private and official servants, the taluka office munshis, the divisional and district office and menial establishments are paid it by the tapedar. The tapedar besides contributes towards the payments of the sahano by the taluka offices to the district and divisional offices who, in addition to annuities paid by individual tapedar whose records are inspected by them, are in receipt |

of consolidated sums from the taluka offices. The ostensible purpose in each case of the levy and payment of each lapo is immunity from the vindictive oppressiveness which seeks to harm, in order to compel payment of lapo and saliano.

57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. It is levied in each case in cash; presents of articles, such as ghee, etc., in addition, are not uncommon. The tapedar levies his lapo at so much per survey number or per jireb for the total cultivation in the year. The supervising tapedar gets his saliano from the zamindars and the tapedars in his charge at fixed amounts per year. The district and divisional office and menial establishments get their salianos from the taluka office and their inspecting fees and annuities from individual tapedars and supervising tapedars at fixed amounts per year.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. My idea is that the tapedar levies a separate amount for rasai from the zamindar but has to pay from his lapo also for the rasai. The rasai at the headquarters is attended to from the rasai fund; but in the villages by each tapedar individually. The lapo is quite independent of the rasai fund.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. In some places the head munshi of the taluka office manages the rasai fund but mostly the tapedar at headquarters manages it.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. About two-thirds of the lapo may be going towards the payment of the annuities to private and official establishment of touring officers on his own account and towards the account of the rasai fund. The amounts of annuities, varying in different places from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per year, are paid to each of the divisional and district offices on the account of the inspection of the taluka office; Rs. 12 to Rs. 21 by each tapedar on his own account as inspection fee of his record. Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 mukhtiar's private servant for the year; Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 by each tapedar per year to taluka head munshi (there are some head munsis who do not take annuities and in some places the practice does not prevail). Divisional and district menial establishments, private and official, are paid by the tapedar from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per year, besides food at varying rates or at actual cost which is given to the office establishment alike.
- The rasai fund is utilised for expenses on camps at headquarters and by taluka offices. The expenses of the camps in villages are met by the tapedars concerned. Sometimes 2 or 3 tapedars are joined to meet the expenses of the same camp when it is a heavy camp and too frequently visited.
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
61. Particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, etc., carry their own price according to the kind of favour sought.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. To a great extent default in payment of annuities to divisional offices particularly entails transfer from a good taps, i.e., where earnings from lapo are greater, to a bad taps where these earnings are less.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. To a slight extent only. Lapo is not now demanded as a matter of right and openly exacted. Some of the zamindars have even ceased paying lapo, but their numbers are fast decreasing, as they are made to feel the pressure of the tapedar's ill-will.
64. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
64. (1) Raise the tapedar's pay. It requires very great raising. It is now too inadequate, considering both the amount and the nature of work he has to do. The work of the tapedar requires also to be very greatly curtailed. It is now too much beyond his power. With work curtailed he would deserve as much as 100 per cent. He is the man who is turned to for everything.
- (2) Raise the status of the supervising tapedar. He supervises and checks the work of the tapedar, which is of a responsible kind. His status must be raised ever so far above that of the tapedar. They are now on equal status and are easily participants in acts of wrong-doing and oppression against zamindars, instead of one being a check on the other.

The cost of administration would be considerably increased; but it would be necessary, if Government would stop lapo.

If there were no lapo, I do not think Government would get the men; it has now on Rs. 20—25 per mensem. That means the pay (which must include lapo; for that is in fact the thing which attracts the man to the place) of the present tapedar is being borne by the zamindars and the Government together.

There is a misconception that by stopping rasai, lapo would discontinue; the converse proposition may be true. If there were no lapo, there would be no rasai. But I do not think it is true that lapo has its genesis in rasai. It is true that rasai has set its seal of sanction on lapo system. But lapo has its origin in the small pay of the tapedar wholly inadequate, entirely incommensurate with the responsibility of the work, and will continue so long as the present cheap tapedar of low pay is in being. Stopping rasai will reduce the dimensions of the lapo system, just even as it has confirmed it, but the lapo will never be abolished under the present system of cheap subordinate service.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term "Chher" ? 66. Chher means a collection of haris for the doing of labour without cash payments or such minimum payment as the employer is pleased to make without regard to the value of the work done.
67. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 67. Chheras are haris of zamindars doing labour without expectation of any payment. It is a term of contempt implying great want of self-respect in the class of persons of whom spoken.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ? 68. Chheras are called on to perform the following kinds of work on behalf of Government through zamindars :—Making repairs to roads, dressing camp-grounds, pitching tents of touring officers, fetching water, grass, wood, cleaning stables, sitting-up at night to keep watch at camps of touring officers (in some places), repairs of breaches in canals, clearing up extensive grounds in local fund gardens once a year for show-up at the time of inspection of touring officers.
- On behalf of zamindars.—Cultivation of seri land for the zamindar, wet-clearance of karias, fetching grass, firewood for zamindars, and even building landhis for them when not requiring skilled labour.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ? 69. There is an implied condition that a chhera would do such labour when called upon by the zamindars for food given to him by the zamindar during the time he is engaged in the work. Conditions are however fast changing and instances are multiplying in which the haris refuse to do the work or require payment for the work done for the zamindars. A class of serero haris, who do personal labour, but do not own plough cattle, is rising; the cattle being supplied either by the zamindars or by the haris. It is the hari who ploughs the field with his own cattle who gives trouble to the zamindar.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government ? 70. No remuneration is paid in cash, but food only is given to them at the cost of the zamindar.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ? 71. Casual labour would generally be available at all places.
72. Is any considerable staff of "B-idars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government ? 72. Some taluka local boards may maintain beldars about 30 a month for the year, but they are often not obtainable or obtainable only in small numbers after the harvesting of the crops when the roads must have been already touched up by the zamindars owing to the visits of touring officers.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ? 73. No legal obligation but the fear of official displeasure is great. Very often the service is cheerfully offered and rendered under the prompting of an expectation of a reward which may also meet with disappointment.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ? 74. None that I know of.
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour ? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor ? 80. Would vary according to the size of the camp and the amount of labour required. Rasai contractor, if obtainable, could manage to get casual paid labour.
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments ? 81. Yes.

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars? 84. Zamindars give them food.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 85. Thorough repairs to roads by local board agency are often not done either for want of beldars or for want of funds. They have to be hurried through at the time of visits of officers. The zamindars are then pressed to do the work of repairs. New roads are sometimes improvized for inspecting officers, with zamindari labour.
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 86. Nothing. I remember having paid at one time out of local funds a very inadequate sum for repairs done by the zamindars which however never reached the haris, and I believe that the zamindars had a right to keep it, as the cost of food charges incurred by them for the labour employed was much greater.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 87. Depends on the extent of breaches and the amount of floods.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 88. The zamindars give them food. Government sometimes pay to the zamindars for the earth excavated.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 89. Very much.
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards? 90. One of the beldars is appropriated by the mistri who has now given place to local fund sub-overseer who will doubtless alike appropriate one, and one even two are appropriated by the mukhtiarkar, one by the head munshi and a batch for work at the camps of touring officers and their establishment. The ordinary work of beldars under the local board is therefore necessarily interfered with on account of the above practice.
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 91. None.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 92. Should be wholly suppressed, work being done by contract; section 58 of the Irrigation Act being sufficient safeguard for emergency occasions.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. VASTREAM.

To the Chairman—

I have been 10 years in revenue offices, i.e., those of the mukhtiarkars, Assistant Collectors and Collectors; 9 years a mukhtiarkar and two months resident magistrate. I would raise the supervising tapedar to the status of deputy mukhtiarkar. I don't think you could decrease the number of supervising tapedars, even if it were possible to employ graduates.

The casual labour available would be haris, either not then employed or taken away for the purpose from cultivation.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The preparations for the camp of touring officers consist in clearing the ground and stocking provisions, such as grass, fuel, fowls, eggs, butter, cots and jars. The roads are specially repaired when places are visited by the Collector. Last time I left the roads out of order, as I got the intimation of the visit of the Collector very late. It is the duty of the mukhtiarkar to keep roads in order as vice-president of the taluka local board. The roads require a good deal of money. The grants of the local boards are not sufficient. That is why we employ the zamindari chher. The special repairs to the roads are made on the visits of the Collector and the Commissioner. There may be some 30 or 40 miles to be so repaired. The maximum number of chheras employed might be 20 to 25 per mile. The roads are not blocked for other traffic when the Collector is coming, but they are blocked when the Commissioner is coming. I have known instances of road diversions through the fields. They are more convenient than the repairs to old roads.

The supplies are generally paid for by the officers; milk and butter is paid for, but generally wood and grass are not paid for. Generally the butler interferes in the preparation of the bills. I remember an instance in which a zamindar asked me to prepare the bill. I told him to prepare it in full and I heard that the bill was afterwards reduced by the butler from Rs. 38 to Rs. 13. The butler perhaps appropriated to himself most of the things. The bill is paid by the officers concerned, but in

some cases the amount is taken back by the menials, except if the zamindar is strong enough and is able to resist the bullying of the butler. I have heard complaints of tapedars and zamindars being insulted by the butlers and pattewallas. They complained that they had been abused. Sometimes the zamindars' people would be beaten. I have heard of the haris' beards being pulled.

The establishments don't pay for their provisions. They also get cash payments, but not at that time but afterwards. It is only the menial establishment which gets payments on tour. The establishments get the tips when the inspection and tour is over. There are regular fixed annuities for the establishments of the mukhtiarkars, Assistant Collector and the Collector. I had experience on one occasion of payment of Rs. 116 to the whole peon and menial establishment of the Commissioner. That was before the rules of 1914. A large amount, about Rs. 100, would be appropriated by the butlers. The Collector's butler would get Rs. 10 cash and Rs. 1-4-0 either in cash for liquor or liquor itself at each camp. The Assistant Collector's butler would get sometimes but rarely Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 and also a bottle of the country liquor. I never had to pay kilokhorani. The supervising tapedar complained to me at one camp that the butler refused to have the tents pitched, unless he was paid a fee. The case occurred when the Commissioner's camp was at Dhoro Naro on the way to Umerkot. The Assistant Commissioner wired to know if the camp tents were pitched. The supervising tapedar reported to me that the tents were not pitched, as the butler demanded a fee. The chutnis of the Collector was also there and intervened and told the butler that it was his fault if he did not get the tents pitched and the camp was then pitched without payment of any fee. Such payment might be called kilokhorani. Some butlers have even claimed to sit on chairs with mukhtiarkars.

I know the expenses of the Commissioner's camp on one occasion came to Rs. 100 a day, 12 days Rs. 1,200. I should think the Collector's camp costs Rs. 30 a day. The Assistant Collector's camp costs perhaps Rs. 20 a day or less.

There was a rasai fund at Umerkot for the first year when I went there, but I stopped it. The butler interferes in the preparation of the bills by reducing the quantity and rates and eliminating certain articles. I would have the hand of the tapedar and the zamindar removed from rasai, if there was a way. A private man would find it very hard to get supplies when visiting particular villages and would have some difficulty even at the taluka headquarters for some things. When pleaders go out they are either provided with supplies by their own clients or they are the guests of the tapedars or mukhtiarkars' munshis or the Deputy Collector's munshis.

Water has been let into dhands (lakes) to fill them, so as to attract shikar. It was probably waste water. It was not a diversion from cultivation. The only experience I had was in Umerkot taluka, where rabi cultivation is prohibited, and the zamindars had no cause for complaint.

The roads are generally repaired by chheras; sand would have to be removed and earth put in to make the roads fit for motor cars. I refer to the Chhor road which is sandy in places. The sandy portions of the Chhor road are about 2 or 3 miles. I could not say what the expenses were, the zamindars had only to feed the haris. About 20 to 25 men per mile for about a month were employed. The sand had to be removed and earth to be put in, and the roads had to be watered.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I think the kilokhorani only applies to the Commissioner's camp. I have no clear idea about it. The zamindars acted very unwillingly as contractors under the rules of 1914. One zamindar actually refused. Since 1914 the tapedar is not allowed much interference in providing the supplies, he has merely to see that the things are actually supplied. Before 1914 they had to see that the things were collected. It was in their own hands and they collected more than was needed. Lapo continued since 1914, but in reduced proportion. I was three-and-a-half years mukhtiarkar in Umerkot. I stopped the rasai fund, but I can't say if the tapedars did not make rasai in some of the villages. I think the tapedars must have made rasai in some villages. A rasai fund is used only for cash payments and expenses of supplies at the headquarters of the taluka. Both rasai and lapo continue since the rules of 1914.

To Mr. Squhney—

I think it would be better to appoint deputy or naib mukhtiarkars in place of the supervising tapedars. They would ensure better check. The check by the supervising tapedars is merely nominal. Every graduate who wants to rise to be mukhtiarkar must do the work of the tapedar, in order to learn the work, but it is not very much observed in practice according to the rules.

Social reforms among the class of Hindu tapedars might effect some reduction of lapo. It is necessary in addition to raise the pay of the tapedars. It would be worth trying the system of subsidised contractors. I am not sanguine of success. I think the contract system might succeed, if the subsidy were high enough. I don't think it would stop the exactions. The subsidy would have to be raised according to the demand.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. POHUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Pohumal Khushiram Mirchandani. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. 1,070 acres; land revenue from Rs. 1,700 to Rs. 2,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. 47th deh, talukas Sinjhora and Hyderabad. |
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to provide supplies at officers' camps free of payment. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 15 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Bobi, Talashah, Mungriari, 10th-Mile Dalore, Nauabad. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Engineer, the Collector, the Police Superintendent, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiar, the Sub-divisional Officer and the Inspector. |

10—28.—I do not make rasai. If by chance an official sends for a thing from me, I supply it free of payment, if I have got it. I however find my neighbouring zamindars greatly worrying themselves about rasai, and I have heard much of rasai from them which I can repeat.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiar, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? | 29. Yes. |
| 30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? | 30. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 15. |
| 31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? | 31. 40 rupees. |
| 32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? | 32. It is still made by the tapedars. |
| 33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars? | 33. Contractors are appointed nominally, but the bills are prepared by the tapedars. |
| 34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? | 34. Zamindars hate to take up contracts for making rasai, as it does not befit their dignity. Moreover European officers do not hesitate to insult respectable zamindars on the reports of their servants. Such incidents are communicated to me by the zamindars. It would be better if independent contractors were appointed. Their bills should be paid by the treasury, and eventually deducted from the pay of the officers concerned. |
| 35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? | 35. Yes. |
| 36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? | 36. Rasai involves blackmailing of the poor, harassment of the haris and wastage. |
| 37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? | 37. Yes. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15. Dhalis in the past were looked upon as tokens of hospitality, and were accepted by European officers once a year from select persons of known respectability. Now they are accepted as often as they are presented and from all sorts of persons. He, who calls on an officer with a dhali, is at once called in. The practice therefore has become more common than it was. It has gone to such a length that people ridicule and jeer at it. Zamindars make costly presents to officers, placing them in their dhalis. I saw a dhali intended for a European officer. It contained silverware. Sometimes bottles of liquor are passed on in dhalis by subordinates. |

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes. It ought to be prohibited altogether.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo, originally a handful, now means the charge levied by force from zamindars by subordinate officials.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are two forms of unauthorized lapo: (1) Payment in cash. (2) Payment in kind. It is levied in the Public Works and Revenue Departments. There is no lapo in the Police Department. I have no experience of the Forest Department.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. Lapo is levied per survey number and in lump sum.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the Sub-divisional Officer, the sub-overseer, the canal assistant, the abdar, the darogha, the muccadam, the police inspector, the police sub-inspector, the supervising tapedar, and the tapedar.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I pay lapo as well as contribute a sum to the rasai fund calculated at a certain rate per survey number. In some cases I have to make rasai. In some cases a deficit in the rasai fund is made good by cash contributions from chair-holders, holders of gun licenses, aspirants to the privileges of a chair and license and durbaris.

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. The tapedar and the abdar make money presents from the rasai fund and lapo respectively. The zamindar makes money payments to the peons of an officer visited by him.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?

45. I have not made such presents myself. They are made by the tapedars. Such payments are recorded in a bandi kept by the tapedar of the taluka headquarters.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?

46. It is paid with a view to save oneself from oppression, and not for particular favours.

The muccadam on the Jamrao exacts a fixed annuity from the zamindar, cash from some haris, and milch goats, milk, butter, ghee, grain, etc., from others. If he is not given these things, he impounds cattle watering at authorized places on Government canals. There are roads alongside canals on the Jamrao system, and if a goat or other animal strays from a passing herd on to the embankment, the muccadam impounds the whole herd.

INSTANCES.

On the 6th of last month, the cattle of my haris were passing along the public bridge over the outlet of 47th deh. A she-goat strayed from the herd and drank water at the minor. The muccadam drove the whole herd to the pound. When he had driven the herd 2 miles, he released the cattle on payment of Rs. 2. He permits cattle-owners to allow their cattle to graze on grass growing on the fore-shores of canals, in return for which he takes ghee from them every month.

If a zamindar does not pay his annuity, the muccadam forces a plug of grass into the mouth of the outlet at night, with the result that the supply of water is cut off for a whole night.

The muccadams are always busy making rasai for officers. They seldom do their legitimate work. Their work is performed by the chher of zamindars.

Lapo is exacted by him at the rate of 8 annas to 1 rupee per cultivated number. He also knocks out from each hari cash, kids, grass, grain, etc., at the time of the harvest. If a hari fails to comply with his demands, he complains of him to the zamindar. When it is ordered to put up weirs at the mouths of the karias, the abdar levies large sums. Such a thing happened in August in the kharif season, 1914-15.

When water is to be supplied by turns in accordance with a system of rotation approved by the authorities, he reaps a rich harvest. If the abdar is not paid his lapo, he gets people fined frequently. He reports either that water has been allowed to run to waste or used unauthorizedly in a certain zamindar's deh, or that the bunds of the nalis (however strong they may be) are weak and likely to break down under the pressure of water. Then notices are issued. No matter what reasons you give and what evidence you produce, you are out of court. Fining is inevitably the result. On the Jamrao they follow no rules and regulations, except their own.

The abdar puts a zamindar to a heavy loss, especially in the latter case. If he gets his fee, he will report that the bunds have been repaired; if he is refused his fee, he will report that the bunds have not yet been repaired (however strong they may be), and will ask that he may be permitted to carry out the work departmentally. On receiving orders to carry out the work departmentally he will engage a number of men for half a day to get the work done, no matter how indifferently, and then report that so many men were employed for a few days or even a week. The zamindar will then be asked to pay the bill. Zamindars have paid hundreds of rupees in this way. I also paid Rs. 12 in this way in the kharif of 1913-14. If a zamindar still persists not to pay lapo, the abdar gets a brick removed from his outlet, with the result that he is fined Rs. 3 per acre on the whole cultivation by the Executive Engineer.

In the kharif of 1914-15, the Jamrao officials broke the outlet of deh No. 45. It was proved to have been so broken and the official concerned was dismissed. Notwithstanding that, in order to keep up the prestige, a fine was imposed on the zamindars at a light rate per acre on the whole cultivation.

He is paid a lump sum by each zamindar per year, which is in proportion to his means. If he is not paid his lapo, he supports the false reports made by the abdars. If on account of deficiency of water the outlet is allowed to be enlarged, the zamindar is asked to pay him a fee. Zamindars make such payments to him, because they feel that his reports are minded by the officers.

The Jamrao Darogha.

He is paid in lump sum per year to prevent him from making any mischief with the regulators.

The Jamrao Signaller.

Wherever there are signallers in charge of regulators, they are paid annuities to prevent them from making mischief.

The Jamrao Sub-Overseer.

Measurements of water are taken in the cultivation season. On the Jamrao one cannot get more water than one is entitled to. If the sub-overseer is not paid his annuities, he makes out by measurements that the zamindar has more water than he has a right to. He reports accordingly and reduces the section of the outlet. This levy has been made for the last three years. When in the year 1915-16 profiles were put up, the sub-overseers had a good time. They first put up profiles of a depth larger than the sanctioned depth. The result was that there was deficiency of water for the zamindars. On being paid heavy sums, the sub-overseers reduced the profiles to the sanctioned depth. The sub-overseer also exacts a large sum of money when an outlet is put up or enlarged.

He demands a fee when putting up an outlet or a profile or reducing or enlarging the same. In case of refusal he contravenes the orders, does not care for his superiors, and makes mischief.

The Jamrao Mason.

In deh No. 46 on Dalor minor in the kharif of 1915-16, profiles were constructed of mud instead of chunum masonry, with the result that the whole masonry was washed off by water. The P. W. D. imposed a fine of Rs. 3 per acre on the zamindars on their entire cultivation. An appeal was made and a sample of the mud (which was said to be chunum) was forwarded to the Collector of Nawabshah. An appeal was made to the Commissioner also, but to no purpose. Since the date of appeal I have had enemies and incurred the displeasure of the Executive Engineer. When I visited the Executive Engineer there was some talk between us as if I had committed a great offence in appealing against the order of the Executive Engineer and of the Collector, and I was advised not to make any appeals in the future.

(2) In the last kharif season, orders were issued to reduce the outlet of deh 47th. The original dimensions of the outlet were 9×1.0 . They were to be reduced to 0.61×1.0 . The mason however reduced the dimensions to $9'' \times 9''$. This he did in the presence of my agent and that of another zamindar.

(3) In the present rabi season of 1917-18 orders were issued to raise the sill of the profile of deh No. 47 by 8 inches. The mason on the 9th of January 1918 raised it by 6 inches instead of 8 inches. The reason was that he was not given the sum demanded by him. Application was made to the Executive Engineer, informing him of the disobedience of orders. A reply came after 2½ months, saying that it was a matter in which the Executive Engineer was not concerned, and warning that no such frivolous applications should be made in future. Meantime the cultivation season had come to an end.

Some of the big zamindars give the Sub-divisional Officer an entertainment fee, and others present him with a horse, camel or gram. He can, if he chooses to, ruin a zamindar owing to his unlimited powers. He is moreover the right-hand man of the Executive Engineer and his prime minister. He can even have the orders of the Executive Engineer changed. He is the ma bap of his subordinates and always connives at their mistakes.

(1) In the last kharif season on 28th July 1917, orders were issued to narrow the outlet of deh No. 47. The original dimensions were 9' x 1'0". These were to be reduced to 0'61" x 1'0". The mistri however reduced the dimensions to 9" x 9". A written complaint was made of deficiency of water on 31st July 1917. I made another application on 2nd September 1917, after personally inspecting the site. I also saw the Executive Engineer at Mirpurkhas on 17th September 1917, having known that the applications were not disposed of. The Executive Engineer sent a telegram to the Sub-divisional Officer, asking him to keep the outlet of deh No. 47 at the original section. The Sub-divisional Officer instead of carrying out the orders reported that more water was still going through the outlet than the zamindar was entitled to. The Executive Engineer cancelled his order. Then private pressure was brought to bear on the Sub-divisional Officer. He saw the Executive Engineer and got him to re-issue the cancelled order on 3rd October 1917. The outlet was then kept at its original section.

(2) On 11th May 1915, the outlet of deh No. 48 was washed off owing to a breach. It was hoped that it would be rebuilt within a week. Owing however to slackness on the part of the officials it was not rebuilt until after a month. In the meanwhile no water was allowed, though a kacha outlet could have been put up by the Sub-divisional Officer. The Sub-divisional Officer was told that an application would be made to the Executive Engineer, and actually an application was drafted and shown to him. He did not mind it. The application however was not sent. For about 3 weeks together chher was provided without payment of wages. Even camels were provided to bring chunum. Then alone the outlet was rebuilt.

The mucedam levies 4 annas per water wheel put up on Government land; and a toya of grain at the time of harvest. The darogha levies from 8 annas to rupees 2 per water wheel.

The tapedar.—His lapo is from 8 annas to Rs. 1-8-0 per survey number, in addition to a rasai fund charge of 8 annas per survey number. Rs. 5 per survey number is exacted from small khatadars.

When new lands are taken up the tapedar is paid Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 for filling in kacha parwanas, tailing which he makes false and misleading statements in the kacha parwanas, with the result that the land is refused. If the tapedar is not paid his lapo, the mukhtiarkar occasionally sends for the zamindar who has refused to pay it and tells him to pay it. I know of a case in which a zamindar increased the tapedar's lapo from 8 annas to 12 annas at the request of the mukhtiarkar. My tapedar once asked me to increase the lapo of 8 annas per survey number in the presence of the head munshi in open court, and at his instance, apart from lapo, the tapedar gets an entertainment fee from the zamindars. A zamindar complained to a mukhtiarkar of a tapedar asking Rs. 5 instead of Rs. 2 per survey number as his lapo. The mukhtiarkar replied that the increased lapo should be paid to enable the tapedar to meet the increased cost of rasai. This shut the mouths of other zamindars who had similar complaints to make.

The Supervising tapedar.—Lapo to the supervising tapedar is a new custom of six years' growth. It is paid at the rate of 8 annas per survey number. Apart from this, cash payments are also made by zamindars in lieu of entertainment. As I have not paid lapo to the supervising tapedar, he, in his turn, has not missed any opportunity to put me to a loss.

(1) Year before last, i.e., at the end of kharif of 1916-17, he made me incur expenses of boundary marks, although the boundary marks were in order; and I had not been served with a notice.

(2) On 26th April 1913, I applied to the mukhtiarkar of Sinjhora for three trees, which I required for the purpose of constructing a building. The matter was not disposed of until 6 months ago, i.e., until after 5 years.

(3) On 10th March 1916, I applied for a new village site for the benefit of cultivation, so as to get my haris in one place. The application has not yet been disposed of, in spite of orders to the effect that applications which are made for the benefit of cultivation should be disposed of promptly.

(4) On 29th November 1916, I applied to the Deputy Collector that the site of the village in block No. 39 might be given me for cultivation, as the village had been nearly depopulated. Thereupon the supervising tapedar sent for my haris, threatened them and got an application from them, objecting to the conversion of the village site into cultivated land. The reply was that the land could not be given out until the village was entirely depopulated.

Police Department.

The zamindars pay fixed annuities to the Police inspectors and sub-inspectors to prevent them harassing their men.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and excisions of the nature of 'Lapo'? | 48. I pay about Rs. 100 each year on account of lapo and annuities. Other zamindars of my standing have to pay Rs. 500 each year. |
| 49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Basai' contracts to zamindars? | 49. Lapo and rasai have on the contrary increased. |
| 50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars? | 50. No. |
| 51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? | 51. (1) Introduction of free and compulsory education. (2) Curtailment of tours and restriction of camps to large villages. |

(3) Revision of the pay of all Indian subordinate officials, and of tapedars, peons, munshis and clerks in particular.

(4) Establishment of closer relations between European officers and Indians, and greater wakefulness on the part of the former in the matter of prevention of lapo.

(5) Separation of revenue and judicial functions.

(6) Curtailment of the powers of tapedars. Substitution of stones for earthen mounds and ridges for the purpose of boundary marks.

(7) Non-interference of Government in the matter of trees standing on private karias.

(8) Abolition of the appointments of abdars and canal assistants.

(9) Liberal supply of water on the Jamrao and no frequent interference with the sections of outlets.

(10) Remittance of assessment by money order free of commission.

Chher.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? | 52. Chher means labour employed by force and without remuneration. |
| 53. Who are the 'Chheras'? | 53. They are haris. |
| 54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? | 54. On the Jamrao.—They are called upon to clear canals, to repair inspection paths, to put in order and clear the foreshores of the minors, to prepare roads, to repair roads, to close breaches, to help the private servants of the officers in their work; as for instance to fetch water and to bring firewood from the jungles. Chher is also employed in connection with masonry work. At the time of renewing the outlet of deh 48, chher was employed without wages for a month. This was in the kharif season of 1915-16. |

In the Revenue Department.—To prepare and repair roads, to construct landhis and to put in order camping grounds, to pitch tents, etc.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? | 55. No. |
|--|---------|

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government? 56. No. The zamindars only feed them and that too, if the place of work is very far from their homes. If they work near their homes, they have their own food.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. From 20 to 100.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. For bringing provisions, etc., 5 to 25; for preparing camping grounds and pitching tents, 20 to 40; for bringing firewood and stalks, 5 to 30.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. The zamindars only feed them; but the officers give them nothing. They sometimes are fed at the expense of Government when they are employed on closing breaches, and breaches are generally far off from the chheras' villages.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60—61. I have no idea of the requirements of shikar.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. I have no idea of the requirements of shikar.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards? 62. From 50 to 500.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. To some extent.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards? 64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. From 50 to 500.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They get nothing.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Casual paid labour is available at a daily wage of annas 8 to annas 10.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes.

NOTE.—When the mouth of the Jamrao was cleared, zamindars were called upon to provide chher for the purpose. They drafted their haris as well as ordinary labourers whom they paid heavy wages. The men were employed in groups on the piece-work system. They earned thereby 8 annas a day. The zamindars paid them at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 a day and thus suffered a great loss. The police also under instructions from revenue officials forced men to go. The result was that not a single male could be seen within two miles round. Females were left behind with none to protect them. There were several outrages on them which were suppressed owing to shame and modesty. A Khan Sahib informed me of all this and asked me to publish it in newspapers. There is a road, 55 miles long, from Mirpur to Khadro, alongside the bank of the Jamrao. In last Christmas this road was repaired for the Commissioner's motor car to pass along it. The chheras were quite unwilling to work, as they were all down with fever. They got no wages for their labour. On the 8th of April breaches occurred on the Dalor. They were closed without payment. A breach occurred on the Janwah in the last abkalani season. Zamindari chher was called in for the purpose. The chheras got food only. They were unwilling to work, as the season was malarial. This interfered with cultivation and caused a great loss to the zamindars, as the crops were damaged by birds. The chheras worked for about 15 days. Chher was sent for from Sinjoro, Shahdadpur, and even from Nawabshah. Railway fare, both ways, was paid by the zamindars. About 400 chheras were called.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. PORUMAL KRUSHIRAM.

To the Chairman—

My expense of Rs. 40 a year is for making rasai for the subordinates.

I am a Lohana Khatri. I have had zamindari for 15 years. The zamindari has been in our hands for 40 years. We purchased it at an auction of fallow forfeited lands. My father was a mukhtiarkar. My zamindari is in Sanghar. I live here in Hyderabad, Sind, and also on my fields. I remain 5 months on my fields and the rest of the time at Hyderabad, Sind; I saw a silver tea set in a dhali, 8 or 9 months ago. I saw it prepared in Hyderabad, the man was going to take it by railway. The man was my relative. He was going to take it to the Executive Engineer, Jamrae Canal. My information is that the Engineer accepted it. I decline to give the name of my relative through fear, lest he might get into trouble. I decline to give the name of the Engineer, for I might get into trouble.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

If rasai is stopped, then lapo to a great extent would stop. Rasai and lapo are independent of one another. Rasai is the foundation of lapo.

To Mr. Sawhney—

I decline to say in which district the Engineer was working, as I might suffer loss. I have no zamindari in the southern district, only in the northern district. My profile was reduced in the northern district. Enquiries were made, before it was reduced, by the Sub-divisional Officer and the Executive Engineer personally. My land is in the upper portion of the canal, not in the tail. By reducing the profile there would be some deficiency of water and more would go down to others. I have no grudge on account of the reduction of my profile.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SAYED ABDUL HAKIMSHAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. Sayed Abdulhakimshah, son of Sayed Allahbuxshah.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindar.
 3. Extent of business or zamindar. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. 3. Land revenue Rs. 3,000.
 4. Residence. 4. Resident of village Vasi Malukshah, taluka Guni, district Hyderabad.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. 5. District local board member, Hyderabad.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. The word rasai means to supply articles free of payment at camps.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. 30 years'.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. Mulla Katiar, Vasi Malukshah.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? 9. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Collector, the Commissioner, the District Superintendent of Police, the Conservator, the Sanitary Commissioner.
- Divisional Forest Officer, the
10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. All provisions, grass, firewood, etc.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood ? 11. I mostly buy them. I get some from my own house.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars ? 12. I do not get them from my haris. I purchase them. The big zamindars, who are asked to help, contribute their quotas.
 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates ? 13. I pay for them at the market rates.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. Every article has a market value everywhere.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. I get firewood from the jungles. It costs me nothing. But I feed those who bring it to camp. This works out at 2 annas per load.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? 16. From Rs. 5 to Rs. 6.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? 17. Yes.
 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 18. The daily cost for each servant is from 8 to 10 annas.
 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Yes.
 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 20. The average daily cost is Rs. 1-8-0 per muushi.
 21. Do you have to provide water jars, coats or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Yes.

22. What does that cost you for each camp ?
22. The cost per camp is Rs. 15 to Rs. 20.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ?
23. I receive no payment from the officers, their clerks, their private servants and official staff. But the European officers pay at the reduced prices, the money being taken back by the butler.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hars or on you ?
24. The loss falls on us, zamindars.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ?
25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment ?
26. It does not cost me anything, as there are pucca houses at the camping places at which I make rasai.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ?
27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
28. The cost depends upon the distance travelled. The charge per mile is 2 annas in the case of a camel and horse, and 4 annas in that of a cart.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiaraks, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ?
29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ?
30. The annual cost is for the supervising tapedar and the tapedar with his kotar, Rs. 80, 6 camps a year; the mukhtiarak and his establishment, Rs. 100, 6 camps a year; the Assistant Collector and his establishment, Rs. 120, 2 camps a year; the Collector, Rs. 80, 1 camp a year; the District Superintendent of Police and other police, Rs. 50, 1 camp a year; the Forest Department, Rs. 200, 2 camps a year (both zamindars and our hars contributing); the Commissioner, Rs. 400, cost for 1 camp, which occurs every two or three years; money presents to peons of mukhtiaraks, Rs. 7; money presents to the butler and peons of the Assistant Collector, Rs. 13; money presents to peons and butler of the Collector, Rs. 13; money presents to peons of Engineer, Rs. 4; money presents to the tapedar's kotar, Rs. 4.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ?
31. I make rasai myself. The cost to me per year is Rs. 600.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars ?
32. I make rasai at my own expense, consequently the burden of rasai has been imposed on me, and not on the tapedar. The tapedar and the mukhtiarak are present at the camps.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars ? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars ?
33. At their instance my agent receives payment for supplies provided for the European officers. The bill is prepared by the tapedar in consultation with the butler. The money is taken back by the butler.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars ?
34. I do not approve of rasai being entrusted to zamindars or tapedars. Nor is there any use of appointing a contractor. Everything can be had in large towns and should be taken out on tour. This is quite possible. If, however, it is not possible, an independent contractor should be allowed an increase in the market rates.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district ?
35. Yes.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government ?
36. Zamindars should not be asked to make rasai. Tours should be curtailed; camp establishments should be curtailed. Camps should be confined to large towns. Should it be necessary to camp in the jungles, supplies should previously be obtained in large towns, and taken out.
- Controlling officers should keep a strict eye on things and make secret and open inquiries. The mukhtiarak and the head munshi should be held responsible for seeing that no rasai is made.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers ? If so, what does it cost you ?
37. I present dhalis of fruit and vegetables to high officers as tokens of hospitality. It costs me from 8 to 10 rupees.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government ?
38. The practice should be prohibited.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo' ?
39. I understand by lapo an exaction.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo' ? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments ?
40. There are various forms of lapo. It is levied in all departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied ? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue ?
41. It is levied in lump sum or at a certain rate per survey number or a certain percentage on the numbers.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes ? By tapedars, ahdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers ?
42. It is levied by the supervising tapedar and darogha in lump sum, or at a certain rate per number or per assessment. It is levied in the police and the other departments in lump sum.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai' ?
43. The subordinate officials make money presents to the touring establishments from their lapo. I pay lapo as well as make such presents.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?
- 44—45. I make money presents to the servants of touring officers to prevent them from prejudicing their masters against me.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?
46. Lapo is paid with a view to save one's respect and also to save oneself from undue harm.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?
47. Lapo is exacted by tapedars, supervising tapedars, daroghas, police thanedars and officials of the Forest Department.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?
48. From Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?
49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars ?
50. No. It cannot be reduced, because the mukhtarkar and the head munshi support the lapo-takers.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?
51. The following are my suggestions for the suppression of lapo :—
- (1) Lapo will not stop, unless revenue and judicial functions are separated.
- (2) The mukhtarkar and the head munshi should be held responsible for the prevention of lapo.
- (3) Heads of offices should take severe notice of cases of lapo. They should also make secret and open inquiries.
- (4) There should be a committee of respectable zamindars appointed to look into matters in which subordinate officials get lapo by causing indirect losses. The committee should inquire into cases of lapo and submit reports, and lapo-takers should be punished on its reports. Unless this is done, lapo will continue.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means to work without wages as impressed labour.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. The chheras are haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To prepare roads and camping grounds, to bring supplies to camp, to pitch and strike tents, to load and unload kit, to fetch water, to carry post and to help at shikar.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. No.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?
56. No.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. For the mukhtiarkar, 10; for the Assistant Collector, 20; for the Collector, 40; for the Superintendent of Police, 20; for the Executive Engineer, 20; for the Forest Department officer, 15; for the Commissioner, 200 chheras are required.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. The chheras remain in attendance daily till the camp breaks up.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. They get nothing but food from the zamindars.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. For bird-shooting 10 chheras, for pig-shooting 50 to 100 chheras, are required.
61. Do they come willingly or not, and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They do not come willingly. They get nothing but food from the zamindars. Shikaris alone get something from the officers. This year the Collector of Hyderabad paid 4 annas to each man.
62. How many 'Chheras', if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
62. Every zamindar repairs the roads within his limits, when an officer is about to camp.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. They are of benefit also to the public after the officer has passed along the roads.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. In the case of breaches on canals 40 to 50, and in the case of breaches of river embankments 500 to 1,000, chheras are required.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. They get food only from Government.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. The absence of chheras from their fields interferes with cultivation.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. It is available to a large extent in my neighbourhood.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. Chher ought to be abolished, and ordinary labour should be engaged.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF SAYED ABDUL HAKIMSHAH.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrao—

In 1913, the tapedar would not take the usual 6 annas, but wanted rupee 1; in consequence the tapedar informed me that only 3 of my numbers would be fallow forfeited, if not cultivated; whereas there were 23 such numbers. Consequently 20 of my numbers were fallow forfeited and I had to pay Rs. 300 to get my numbers back. My appeal to the Collector was dismissed. I have the tapedar's notice to me that there were only 3 numbers likely to be fallow forfeited.

Another instance was that my servant was prosecuted for cutting a branch of a tree, because I refused to pay lapo, relying upon the orders of 1914. The case was transferred from the mukhtarkar to the sub-divisional magistrate who acquitted my man. It has been recorded in that judgment that it was a false case and was made on account of lapo. It was in the year 1915 or 1916.

The third instance was when there was rain water in my fields in the Mirpur Bathoro taluka. In the month of May I got a notice for waste of water. I was fined for it and my appeal was dismissed. The rain fell about October or November. I have the notice with me.

To the Honourable Mr Ghulam Hussain—

I am a member of the taluka local board. The local fund money is spent on the roads, but the special repairs are required when the officers come. I had to pay also lapo in spite of supplying provisions.

The Assistant Collector, Mr. Bayley, made an enquiry into rasan, and it came out that the mukhtarkar took away the supplies which were not used by the Commissioner, as the Commissioner had encamped on his steamer. This was when Mr. Lucas was the Commissioner-in-Sind,

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. NABIBUXSHAH.

1. Name. 1. Nabibuxshah walad Alibuxshah, zamindar, Sayed.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindari.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. 3. Zamindari area about 2,500 acres. Land revenue about 5 or 6 thousand rupees.
 4. Residence. 4. My own village, taluka Badin.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. 5. Local board member, and elected vice-president, taluka local board, Badin.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. Rasai means zamindars' indebtedness caused by the payment of unlawful impositions.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. 25 or 26 years'.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. Tamarhun, Nindoshahir, and special camping grounds.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds ? 9. All officers including the Commissioner.
 10. What supplies do these officers require for themselves ? 10. Eggs, fowls, fish, mutton, milk, firewood, grass, etc.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowar stalks and firewood ? 11. I get them from wherever they can be had.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars ? 12. Every zamindar is to supply a certain quantity of supplies fixed by the mukhtiarakar or other officials of the taluka. If he fails in this, proceedings under section 110, C. P. C., and adverse reports calculated to cause him loss are the result; his visits to the officers are stopped, he is made to suffer several other losses and undergo heavy expenses and none hears him. The position of a zamindar who refuses to make rasai is similar to that of a man who is bitten by a dog and gets shoe-strokes into the bargain.
 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates ? 13. I pay at the prevalent rates.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns ? 14. Yes.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles ? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp ? 15. I purchase firewood as well as get my servants to collect it.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves ? 16. It is not a fixed charge. Whatever is required is supplied.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers ? 17. Yes.
 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 18. It is not a fixed charge.
 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers ? 19. Yes.
 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies ? 20. It is not a fixed charge. It varies according to requirements.
 21. Do you have to provide water, jars, seats or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Yes.
 22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. It is not a fixed charge.
 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. The officers pay what they are charged in the bills. Others pay nothing, because of the desire of the taluka officials to please them, with a view to their own benefit and because of their relationships with them.
 24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you ? 24. The loss falls on the zamindars, and not on the haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? 26. No.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 28. I pay the hire but receive no payment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiar-kars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. The daily cost of rasai in the case of mukhtiar-kars and Public Works Department supervisors varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. In the case of inspectors and others the amount is not fixed. No payment is made.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. Before the year 1912, it cost me Rs. 400 or 500. Since then I have spent nothing. In the year 1913, we, zamindars, with a view to suppress the evil of rasai, made a firm resolve on oath not to make rasai and published a letter to that effect in the "Sind Gazette" for the information of the officers (which I submit herewith), and if we had carried out our resolve up to this time, Government would not have found it necessary to appoint a committee at such a time as the present. But, alas! owing to the oppression of the subordinate officials who found their free supplies stopped, we could not make further progress with our work. The oppression has continued till now, and they exact from us all the supplies except money. Consequently, the expenditure is small and varies from year to year.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. It is actually made by the tapedars, the contracting zamindar being the nominal person.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. No payment is received.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. The appointment of independent contractors might result in some improvement; but it is unlikely that this system will prove successful. Rasai is made in order to please the establishments of superior officers. The officers are like hawks in their hands. The taluka officials, who make rasai with a view to their own ends and to secure connivance at their irregularities, will certainly help the contractors. Possibly the zamindars might have to pay more in cash than they did before.

I quote below a recent instance, showing how rasai is the means of making the reputation of taluka officials :—

The doctor of Badin cut without permission a few live shed-giving babul trees on a local fund road at the village of Rabimдино Sumro near the town of Badin. I reported the matter to the mukhtiar-kar on 21st March 1918, and forwarded a copy of the report to the president, taluka local board, and to the president, district local board. After a long time the mukhtiar-kar made a reply which I submit herewith. I then wrote to the president, taluka local board, asking that as he was encamped at Badin, he might visit the spot and hold a local inquiry into the case and secure the timber which was Government property. But the president was so much under the magic influence of rasai-takers that he took no steps. I am still ready to prove the matter. How then can we expect that the appointment of independent contractors will improve matters? The officials are wholly in the hands of rasai-takers, and do whatever the latter want them to do.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. My objections are :—
(1) They should take nothing from us, as we are not merchants.
(2) They can get anything on payment wherever they may be.

My recommendations are:—

(1) A committee, consisting of zamindars, should be appointed to each taluka to look over rasai matters. The members to be elected by the zamindars themselves.

(2) The touring officers should take out small establishment with them. They should not, as at present, sit with their doors closed, but should come in contact with zamindars and know what they have to say.

(3) The parwanas of chairs and arms should be given by them on their personal inquiry, and not on the recommendations of the taluka officials, bearing in mind the social status, respectability and fitness of each applicant.

(4) Early orders should be passed on the reports made by the Revenue and Public Works Department officials against zamindars, after hearing the latter.

(5) Unoccupied, unassessed or fallow numbers lying interspersed among zamindars' occupied survey numbers should be given to them on permanent tenure.

(6) The special circular No. 76 should be modified or permanent settlement should be introduced.

(7) The restriction of the P. W. D. officials on zamindari karias should be removed. The zamindars use as much water as they want. They have no use for more water.

(8) The revenue and judicial functions in talukas should be separated.

(9) Free and compulsory education should be introduced so far as local fund schools are concerned.

(10) No action should be taken against zamindars under section 110, C. P. C.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. No.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. Yes.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means what is exacted from zamindars under compulsion, threats or force.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. Unauthorised lapo is levied in all departments. It is levied by all subordinate officials including the tapedar and kotar.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per comp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The subordinates in the head offices levy it in lump sum and for particular favours. The taluka officials levy it as under:—

(1) The supervising tapedar levies Rs. 2 per Rs. 100 of assessment and takavi, and 4 annas per boundary mark, and a lump sum on other matters.

(2) The tapedar levies a rupee or more per number, along with the assessment; a rupee per each number, regarding which information from the records is wanted; a rupee per number on the transfer of khata and on the entry of a name in the record of rights; and a rupee per acre for finding out, at the time of katcheries, the average assessment paid by a zamindar.

(3) The settlement munshi levies rupee one per number on khatebadal and the taking of a kabuliat, and a lump sum on other matters.

(4) The second munshi and the treasurer levy 2% on takavi and 5% on local fund contracts, etc., etc.

(5) The head munshi levies from big zamindars an annuity varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50.

(6) The personal munshi of a magistrate levies Rs. 2 on taking bail from the accused, and a lapo equal to the copying fee when copies are given.

(7) The sub-registrar levies 2% when registering documents.

(8) The postmaster levies, on registered letters, money-orders, ordinary and value-payable parcels and telegrams, a lapo equal to the postal charge.

(9) The doctor levies as his lapo as much as his fee.

(10) The supervisor levies a lump sum from big zamindars; ghee, rice from small zamindars and 5% from small contractors.

(11) Sub-overseer's exactions are similar, though smaller.

(12) The darogha charges a rupee per foot for opening the mouth of a karia.

(13) The mukhtiar kar levies from big zamindars an annuity varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200, in addition to horses and camels, and from small zamindars grain for horses and ghee. But some do not accept these things.

Couplet.—“Not every woman is a woman and not every man is a man. God did not make all the five fingers of uniform size.”

(14) The charge of a naik, pattewala, kotar and mucedum vary from Re. 1 to Rs. 10.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar kar?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
42. This has been answered under No. 41. The thanedars also take grain for their horses from zamindars, but if they want something more, they get it by means of section 110, C. P. C.
43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai. Lapo is not utilised to cover the cost of rasai. It is levied by the tapedars to make payments to the subordinates of head offices, with a view to their conniving at mistakes in the records during the tour.
44. I have to pay lapo as well as make money presents.
45. The butler from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20. The naik and peons from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10; private servants, Re. 1 each. The private servants are paid with a view to prevent them from displeasing their masters who do not mix with the people. The peons are paid so that they may offer chairs to zamindars when they come as witnesses and on other occasions and announce visitors to their masters without delay. The munshis are paid to save one's respect. If the munshis are displeased, their sahib is already displeased, and no matter how respectable a man may be, his respect is gone.
46. Lapo is paid, not for particular favours, but to save oneself from harm.
47. This has been answered under No. 41.
48. I have not paid it since the year 1913.
49. No.
50. No.
51. No action under form 8 should be taken against agriculturists who have built themselves kacha houses on unassessed and unoccupied land, with a view to being near to their fields. For the rest, see reply to 41.
- Chher.*
52. I consider it as impressed labour.
53. They are zamindars' haris.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
54. To prepare camping grounds, to put in order local fund and P. W. D. roads, gardens and water wheels, to close breaches of canal banks and embankments and to attend on officers and help them at shikar. They are also asked to do the work of paid local fund malhis who do the private work of the mukhtiarkar, the head munshik and the second munshi.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
55. No.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government ?
56. No.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?
57. According to requirements.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ?
58. Do.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?
59. They get nothing. Only the zamindars feed them.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?
60. The number varies from 5 to 100 or more.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?
61. They come unwillingly. Some of the officers pay them something and the zamindars feed them.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ?
62. According to requirements.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ?
64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
65. The number varies from 50 to 300.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?
66. The zamindars only feed them.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?
67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?
68. It is available to some extent.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?
70. It ought to be modified.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. NABIBUKSHAH.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

I have suffered a good deal of loss for refusing to pay lupo since 1913. I have even suffered at the hands of the Assistant Collectors, because they have been instigated by their subordinates.

ORAL EVIDENCE OF MR. P. T. KIRKPATRICK RECALLED.

To the Chairman—

I have just been transferred from Sukkur to Hyderabad. I remember the incident in which the police were alleged to have forced the banias of Garhi Yasin taluka to make rasai. An inquiry was first made into the matter by Mr. Hiranand, inspector. The zamindar, Madhavdas, was not satisfied that the inquiry was impartial, so I subsequently made a second inquiry myself. I learnt that the police party, consisting of a sub-inspector, a sowar, a foot constable and a pagi, had gone to the village of Variyasing and stayed there for three days. On the second day there was a fight between the constable Jan Mahomed and one of the banias. The banias complained to the sub-inspector, and the sub-inspector, presumably to keep up the abru of the police, spoke roughly to them and turned them out of his otak. But he beat the constable. The banias afterwards left the village, so did the police. At the end of the month the sepoy was discharged from the service. The fight occurred on the second day. Nothing occurred on the third day, and on the 4th day, many of the banias shut up their shops and left. They sent a telegram to me, complaining of police oppression, and I then ordered the enquiry with the result stated. The main point of their complaint was that they were forced to leave their shops, because they were forced to make rasai. There were three shops and each produced the list of articles taken by the sub-inspector. The account was in the name of the sub-inspector. At the time of the enquiry all said that nothing was supplied beyond what was shewn in these lists, and that they had been fully paid for. Madhavdas told me that he did not know whether any action was taken by the police, but when he heard that the policemen were dismissed, he said he was satisfied.

Sub-inspector Chandumal was under me in 1913-14. I certainly did not knock Chandumal down. It is not my habit to knock down policemen. Chandumal has the reputation of being very honest. He certainly takes no bribes. But his honesty rests on the fact that he always paid a fixed fee of annas 4 for each meal whenever supplies are given to him, no matter how rich the supplies. He is against making rasai in any form. He was sub-inspector of Nawabshah so he had to make no rasai, because Nawabshah is a headquarter town. I think he is too guileless to make a good police officer. He believes everything that is told him. I had to reduce him once for unnecessary travelling, with a view to making travelling allowance. I went to Nawabshah in December 1912. I was there as District Superintendent of Police till the end of August 1914, and stayed there on special duty till January 1915. Chandumal went on leave in the summer of 1914.

To the Honourable Mr. Harchandrai—

The Garhi Yasin inquiry was in writing and is a matter of record. The banias told me that the origin of the fight between the police constable and the bania was that the constable wanted tamarind for the sub-inspector and the bania did not produce a good kind of tamarind. The constable told him to get it for him from another village. The bania refused and after that they abused each other and came to blows. The blows were mutual, the fight was seen by Wadero Khairshah. Mr. Murlidhar made no reference on the matter. Mr. Madhavdas complained that the inspector was shielding the police and preventing the people from giving evidence, so I subsequently came and made the inquiry, and allowed Madhavdas to lead all the evidence. The sub-inspector made an allegation against Madhavdas that he was trying to make up a case of rasai, as he was a friend of Mr. Bhurgri. This is what Mr. Madhavdas stated in his petition. Mr. Chandumal is a vegetarian.

To the Honourable Mr. Ghulam Hussain—

Mr. Holman was District Superintendent of Police of Hyderabad in 1910.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HASOMAL VILAITRAI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Hasomal Vilaitrai. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar, taluka Tando Bago. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Rs. 6,000 land revenue. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Taluka local board member. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to meet the camp requirements of officers. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 7 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Dadah and Kamaroh. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Executive Engineer and the Deputy Collector camp at the sub-divisional officer camp at Kamaroh. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Milk, butter, eggs, fowls, kids, vegetables, spices, grass, firewood, etc., etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I keep grass, the produce of my fields, in stock. As regards milk and butter, I get these, sometimes from my own house, and sometimes from my haris. I get firewood from the jungles, and send it to camp in my own carts. All other articles I get on payment. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I get nothing from other zamindars. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for the articles purchased by me at the ordinary rates, i.e., the rates prevalent at the time. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. They have market values, but slightly lower than in towns. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from the jungles, and send it to camp in my carts. I get my paid men to bring it from the jungles. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The average daily cost in the case of high officers, such as the Collector, the Engineer and others, is about Rs. 2-8-0. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. About 8 annas. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. About 12 annas. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, coats or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. At Kamaroh, where I live, no big officer camps. The mukhtiarar alone camps there. As for the total expenses incurred in connection with the camping place at Dadah, Sayed Mahomed Ali Shah can give the figure, as he makes rasai there. |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | 23. I receive no payment for the rasai I make. |

24. If not, does the loss fall on your harns or on you? 24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? 26. They generally live in pucca houses. In case a temporary landhi is to be erected, I receive no payment for it.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 28. I have my own animals and carts. I receive no payment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiar-kars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. It costs me about Rs. 40 per camp. I receive no payment.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. About Rs. 250.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I make rasai myself at Kamaroh, while at Dadah, Sayed Mahomed Alimshah makes it.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. Sayed Mahomed Alimshah prepares and presents bills for camps at Dadah. I too make rasai there, but I get nothing.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and the zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. The only objection that I have is that the present system should be discontinued. Independent contractors should be appointed for making rasai. They should be paid by Government for their labour. Every officer should keep a strict eye on his establishment and see that they pay for what they get. Those who do not pay fully should be punished to set an example to others.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Yes. It costs me about Rs. 25 annually.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. As the zamindar presents a dhali to an officer of his own free-will and as a token of courtesy, the practice should not be prohibited. Dhalis have no connection with rasai.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means to give a handful of corn from the batai. Now it means to give a handful, not of corn, but of money.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. Unauthorized lapo is levied in all departments except the Police. There are two forms of unauthorized lapo. One is levied on cultivation and the other at the time of making recommendations for grants of land in the course of correspondence and at katcheries.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. Unauthorised lapo is generally paid in the form of annuities.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedar, the darogha, the abdar and the canal assistant. It is levied for no particular purpose. It is a sort of blackmail which if it is not paid leads to subordinate officials creating trouble for the zamindar.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasaa' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasaa'?
43. Unauthorized lapo is levied, not for the purpose of making rasai for touring officers, but to fill the pockets of the tapedars, the daroghas, and the abdars themselves. I have to pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. I have to pay lapo as well as make such presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. These presents are made as annuities with a view to no particular favour. The men come and sit at the door. One is therefore forced to pay them.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. No particular favour is shown on account of unauthorized lapo.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. Unauthorized lapo is generally exacted by the tapedars, daroghas, abdars, kotars, beldars and supervising tapedars. I pay about Rs. 100.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. Answered above.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No. It continues as before.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiarkars?
50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Lapo will stop, if the following measures are adopted:—
- (1) The powers of the tapedars and the daroghas should be curtailed.
- (2) Reports regarding the pending matters of zamindars, large or small, should be called for not from the tapedars, but from zamindars of standing.
- (3) The salaries of the tapedars and the daroghas should be increased.
- (4) Proper inquiry should be made into the complaints of zamindars, whether large or small.
- (5) The mukhtiarkar should personally inquire from the zamindars, if they are harassed by the tapedars for not paying lapo to them and, if he finds that they are, punish the wrong-doer severely so as to set an example to others.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means men provided for the performance of Government work.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. The chheras are zamindars' haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To repair roads, to clear the banks of canals, to close breaches, to pitch and strike tents, to fetch water and to help at shikar.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. Yes.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?
56. The chheras are paid, though not fully, by the officers in some cases. The zamindars only feed them.

67. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
are counted in, then the number will be 50—60 from beginning to end.
57. About 20 chheras are required at the camp of each officer. They work during the time of the camp and also for 6 or 7 days in advance of it. If all are counted in, then the number will be 50—60 from beginning to end.
68. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. About a dozen are required daily to bring supplies to camp, and about 20 more are required to pitch and strike camps.
69. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. They get nothing from the officers. They get food only from the zamindars.
70. How many 'Chheras' are required for shkar?
60. From 20 to 100.
71. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They do not come willingly. They do not get anything for their labour from the officers. The zamindars only feed them.
72. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
62. The number depends upon the amount of work to be done.
73. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Not to the extent to which they are of benefit to the officers.
74. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
64. They get nothing for such labour from the officers. But the zamindars feed them.
75. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. From 10 to 100 are required in case of floods.
76. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. They sometimes get something from the officers. They get nothing generally.
77. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. Yes.
78. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. It is available to any extent.
79. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. It could be procured on payment of full wages.
80. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. I consider that chher should not be taken from zamindars, except in emergencies. It should not be taken for work at camps. It should be demanded in the case of breaches only. For the repair of roads, free labour should be engaged and paid at the ordinary rates.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF KHAN SAHIB SAYED HASSANALI SHAH.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. Khan Sahib Sayed Hassanali Shah, resident of Matiari.
 2. Occupation. 2. Zamindari.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. 3. I pay an annual assessment of about 15 or 20 thousand rupees.
 4. Residence. 4. Matiari.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. 5. I am second-class magistrate of Matiari municipality, chairman and member of the district local board.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai' ? 6. It means an unlawful gratification.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai' ? 7. About 20 or 25 years'.
 8. What are the camping ground for which you have to make 'Rasai' ? 8. Matiari, Jiandalkote, Ghotana, taluka Hala.
 9. What officers frequent these camping grounds? 9. Almost all touring officers.
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves ? 10. Flour, rice, butter, ghee, chickens, eggs, kids, milk, stalks, firewood, etc.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 11. I get from my own house whatever I can get from there; the rest I get from banias.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars ? 12. I get on payment whatever I cannot get from my own house. I do not get them from my haris. Every zamindar makes his own arrangements.
 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? rates:—chickens from 4 to 10 13. I pay for them, excepting firewood and grass which I have in my zamindari. The following are the annas each, eggs 9 annas a dozen and so on.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. They certainly have market values; but as they are available in my zamindari, they are given.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. I get firewood from my zamindari. It costs me at each camp 5 to 10 rupees to bring it to camp.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 16. Four or five rupees is the daily cost.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes.
 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. Six or seven rupees is the daily cost.
 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes.
 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. Six or seven rupees daily.
 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? 21. Yes.
 22. What does that cost you for each camp? 22. About 4 or 5 rupees are spent on feeding the chheras; 150 rupees is the total cost for each camp.
 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. The officers make payment in part only, but the money is paid to the tapedars.
 24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. The loss falls on me, and not on my haris.

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? 26. I spend nothing and receive nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Generally, I do not have to. I provide horses, etc., occasionally.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. As I provide my own animals it costs me nothing. If, however, it costs me something occasionally, no payment is made.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. I spend nothing and receive nothing. I get supplies from my own stock. I get them on payment, if they are not available in my stock.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. Rs. 500 or Rs. 600.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I make the rasai myself.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. I do not receive payment. The tapedars prepare bills and appropriate the money.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars. It should also be possible for every officer to take out his supplies with him. Again, there are shops in every village at which supplies are obtainable.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub divisions of the district? 35. No.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. The system of appointing contractors is a good system and will lead to the suppression of rasai.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. I presented dhalis before 1914. It cost me Rs. 5—10.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means what is paid as a gratification over and above Government charges.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. There are various forms. It is levied in all departments, excepting the Police Department. There is no uniform practice. Every zamindar pays something in his own way.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. It is levied in lump sum or at a certain rate per survey number or per assessment.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. It is levied by tapedars, abdars, daroghas and forest rangers as a present for themselves. If they do not get it, they give us trouble. It is not levied by the police.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Unauthorized lapo is paid under compulsion. I have to pay both.
45. There are no fixed amounts. They do not take the form of daily allowances. They are paid when they are asked for. If they are not paid, the men will look at us with contempt and trouble and disrespect us.
46. It is not levied in the Police Department, it is paid in matters of land revenue, irrigation and forest, in order to avoid trouble in respect of boundary marks, etc., from tapedars, and in respect of cattle cases there may or may not be any favour.
47. Tapedars, daroghas, and abdars levy it once a year.
48. I have to pay about Rs. 500 or Rs. 600.
49. No.
50. No.
51. It is not possible to prevent lapo, unless the zamindars are asked to pay an assessment which is fixed for 5 or 10 years. This will enable them to remit their assessment in instalments direct to the treasury without having to go to the tapedar for the number-shumari entries which will not be wanted. The zamindars should not pay the money-order commission.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their samindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the samindars, or from officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the samindars?
52. Chher means labour employed without wages at the request of the officers and at the instance of the zamindars.
53. They are zamindars' haris.
54. To load and unload kit, etc.
55. No.
56. They get food only from the zamindars, they get nothing else.
57. Twenty-five or 30 chheras.
58. 10 or 15 chheras are required for bringing supplies, and 10 or 15 for pitching camps, etc.
59. They get food only from the zamindars, they get nothing else.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
from the officers. They get food only from the zamindars.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
61. They are brought by the zamindars. They get no wages. Some come willingly out of their regard for zamindars and others by force. They get nothing for zamindars and others by force. They get nothing from the officers. They get food only from the zamindars.
62. The number depends upon the actual requirements. About a hundred are required. They are furnished by the local zamindar.
63. They are of benefit to the public for a short time.
64. No.
65. The number required varies from 100 to 1,000. They are supplied by the zamindars.
66. They get nothing, but food from Government.
67. Yes.
68. It is available to a great extent on payment of a daily wage of 8 or 10 annas.
69. Certainly.
70. I consider chher ought to be abolished and ordinary paid labour engaged in its place.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. GOPALDAS JETHANAND.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Gopaldas Jethanand Shivdasani. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Manager of my father's lands. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Paying land revenue about Rs. 4000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 5. Public employment, if any such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. No. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to supply provisions and other necessary articles to touring officers. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 4 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Deh No. 43, in Nasrat taluka, deh Maksud Rind, Deh Lundoo; taluka Shahdadpur. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, the mukhtiar-kar, the D. S. P., the inspector, the sub-inspector, and others. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Flour, rice, mutton, hens, eggs, milk, butter, jars, firewood, vegetables, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. In Nasrat taluka those supplies are provided by the shop-keepers in my deh. They get in the supplies two days in advance of the camp. At the camps in Shahdadpur taluka the neighbouring zamindars make rasai jointly. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I get provisions from banias on payment. I pay for what I get from the haris. Such is the practice on the Nasrat. In Shahdadpur there is a different practice. The tapedars get provisions from the modi and other supplies from the zamindars. Sometimes he takes cash also. Some of the zamindars in their turn get supplies from their haris and others get them on payment. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for them at the following rates :— Fowls 6 to 8 annas each; eggs from 6 to 9 pies each; goats from 2 to 3 rupees each; butter from annas 12 to Re. 1 a seer. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from my own haris who get it from the jungles and bring it to camp. Firewood costs me nothing. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The servants of the officers always demand a larger quantity of provisions for their masters than is necessary. A part of the provisions is appropriated by themselves. Hence I cannot estimate the daily cost of supplies in the case of the officer. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. The total khanda in connection with a camp is paid. No separate accounts are kept for individuals. But I can say that the average daily cost in the case of the mukhtiar-kar's camp is Rs. 10 and in the case of the Deputy Collector's camp Rs. 20. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. Answered under No. 18. |

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? and 10 mats are required for the camp of the Deputy Collector; about 20 jars, 25 cots, and 2 mats are required for the camp of mukhtiar kar.
21. I have to provide water jars, cots, stabling materials and other supplies. These articles in Shahdadpur are supplied by small zamindars. About 70 jars, 60 cots, are supplied by the camp of Collector; about 50 jars, 40 cots, and 5 mats are required for the camp of the Deputy Collector; about 20 jars, 25 cots, and 2 mats are required for the camp of mukhtiar kar.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
22. The amount varies from Rs. 30 to Re. 75.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
23. I do not receive payment.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?
24. I have to bear the whole of the expenses.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
25. At the Nasrat they put up in my house.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?
26. It cost me nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?
28. It costs me nothing. The haris have to bear this impressment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiar kar, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
30. The daily cost of the rasai of the mukhtiar kar is Rs. 10. As regards the rasai of other officials it has never cost me more than Rs. 8 or 9.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
31. About Rs. 250.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it actually made by the tapadars or by the contracting zamindars?
32. I do not make rasai myself; my munshi makes it.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapadars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
33. The tapadars and butler prepare the bills, charging 4th of the actual cost. I do not receive payment. The money is given to the butler.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapadars and zamindars?
34. Zamindars and tapadars should in no way interfere with rasai.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. It would be possible to find contractors.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. Rasai is a sort of robbery leading to zamindars' destitution. They always borrow money when they make rasai, with the result that they gradually lose their lands. If they fail to make rasai, they suffer abuses, insults, and threats, also false complaints are filed against them by the tapadars. The poor men have to undergo various troubles. Police officials practice high-handedness.

Some big zamindars obtain favours from Government by making rasai. The officers are sometimes partial to them. This is natural. When the mouth eats the eyes must feel ashamed. There are persons who even though not connected with land, supply bags of corn and ghee to officials and obtain favours from them. The officers grant lands to such men without any hesitation to the great dissatisfaction of hereditary zamindars. Rasai work should be immediately taken out of the hands of the zamindars and tapadars and the touring periods should be greatly curtailed. The officers should take the necessary articles with them. Such articles as cannot be carried by them should be supplied by the local fund beldars who should be informed of their requirements beforehand. They should be given money in advance for the purchase of these articles as they would not get anything on credit. The powers of the tapadars should be curtailed especially in respect to proceedings under Form No. 8. The tapadars immediately after doing the numbershuzari should give a list of numbers to each zamindar or his man. This will afford convenience to zamindars. Thirdly the tapadars wield great influence at the kacheries and lands are granted on their

recommendations. This should stop. It is suggested that the Deputy Collectors should have the mukhtiar-kars by their side at the kacheris. The mukhtiar-kars are after all officers and they must have regard for their position. The tapadars generally deceive. Particulars regarding government survey numbers should be made available to enable the Deputy Collector to dispose of lands according to rights. These particulars should also show whether there are any trees on the lands. The tapadars are particularly cruel in this matter. They take bribes when issuing kacha parwanas. The Mukhtiar-kars should deal with reference from the tapadars very carefully. This is not possible until the present burden of work of the mukhtiar-kars is made lighter by the separation of the revenue and judicial functions. The judicial work of the officers occupies most of their time so that they cannot pay sufficient attention to the complaints of the people. The mukhtiar-kars should themselves make personal inquiries, not rely upon the tapadars while assessing income-tax and granting takavi.

37. Do you present 'Dalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. Dalis of fruit and vegetables are to be presented to officers in camp. It costs from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. It will be all the better if the practice of giving dalis is abolished.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means an unlawful impost imposed by the tapadars on the zamindars.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are many forms of lapo. The tapadars levy lapo from big zamindars at the rate of rupee 1 per number. From small zamindars they levy rupees 2 or 3 per number. If a zamindar applies for a fallow number at a kacheri the tapadar takes Rs. 4 from

him per number. The tapadar takes even Rs. 10 per number if Government numbers are taken up at a kacheri. If a dispute exists among zamindars regarding a mohag land, the tapadar recommends him who pays him more than others. Apart from lapo in cash the tapadar gets corn, grass and other produce such as tobacco, tilseeds etc. Such lapo is also levied by the Public Works Department officials. They also levy certain rate per wheel on canals. The police officials take baskets of ears of corn, grass and toyas of grain per waterwheel. But there is no cash payment fixed for each waterwheel.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. On my side lapo is levied per survey number.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapadars, admins and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. It is levied by the tapadars, daroghas, and police officials. The lapo levied by the tapadars, is levied ostensibly for the purpose of making rasai. But rasai out of taluka headquarters is made by the zamindars. The ghari-hire and camel-hire to the mun-

shis is paid by the tapadars from their lapo. The lapo levied by the daroghas and muddadums is levied by them for the purpose of making rasai for their own offices. There is no fixed lapo for the police officials. They have various ways of robbing people and securing money. If a theft is reported, the police have a good time. If the complainant does not bribe them, then woe be to him. The police official will forthwith mount his horse and go to the scene of offence. He will then kick the complainant and ask him to bring cots and grass, to kill a kid and prepare his meals, to cut firewood and make a fire. In short the complainant will have his life squeezed out of him. Now it will be difficult for him to get himself out of the hands of the police let alone the property stolen. Either his wife's honour will be questioned, or his information to the police will be found fault with. There will be no footprints and no trace of the property. The complainant will be asked to report a case not of the theft but of house-breaking. If he is not agreeable he gets a thrashing. Sometimes the complainant brings round the police by paying them some money. Then others are harassed and the pockets of the police are filled.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

43. I have to pay lapo as well as make rasai.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. Money presents are made to the servants by the zamindars. The tapadars too make money presents to them. The fee for driving the first peg is paid by the tapadar out of his lapo.

45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowance?
45. I do not make money presents with my own hands. The peons and servants of the Deputy Collector and the servants of the munshis are paid Rs. 10. The peons and the servants of the mukhtiar kar are paid Rs. 5.
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Lapo is paid to the tapedars not with a view to particular favours but to prevent them from creating troubles for the zamindars. For instance, if a zamindar refuses to pay lapo and if a tree is found to have been cut in his neighbourhood he will be charged with having cut the tree even though he was not the real offender. If storm water flows through a hole in a channel into a barani cultivation, the whole cultivation will be entered as moki instead of barani cultivation. Trouble is also given in connection with boundary marks and ridges. Wheel cultivation will be entered as moki cultivation. Even the Commissioner cannot undo the tapedars' entries. This is possible because the tapedars have wide powers.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. They are exacted by the tapedars in the Revenue Department, by the darogas and mucedums in the Public Works Department, and by the subordinate officials in the police.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I do not pay lapo but a lump sum. This amounts to Rs. 100 a year.
49. Has the amount been reduced 'by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. Lapo has not been reduced by the rules of 1914. It has on the contrary increased. I can say for myself that I have reduced it.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar kars?
50. Lapo has not been reduced by making payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar kars. The tapedars calculate and levy lapo at the end of the year.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Lapo will stop if the powers of the tapedars are curtailed as I have suggested in the answer to No. 36. The pay of the mukhtiar kars and the tapedars should be increased. Applications for brick kilns should not be made. Rights over trees growing on zamindari karias should be conceded to the owners of the karias.
- If high officials make an earnest effort to suppress rasai and lapo considering it as their duty to do so, it is possible that the evils will disappear shortly. Their keenness in revenue matters always results in success. Compulsory education is necessary. Uneducated zamindars get less respect from the officers.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means to work without payment for the officers.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. The chheras are zamindars' haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. They are required to prepare roads, to sweep camping grounds, to pitch tents, to fetch water, &c., &c. The officials of the P. W. D., send for them to cut wood for embankments and to close breaches.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. They hold their lands on express condition to assist in the execution of Government work.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?
56. They receive no remuneration.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. At the camp of the Commissioner at taluka headquarters more than a hundred chheras is required. At the camps of the officers in my deh 20 chheras are required on the first day and 8 or 9 on the subsequent days.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. Answered under No. 56.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?
59. They get nothing in cash from the zamindars or officials. The zamindars only feed them.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?
60. I do not know this.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?
61. They do not come willingly. They work unwillingly.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?
62. Whenever any officer is about to arrive the chheras prepare the Local Fund roads.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
63. Such repairs are of benefit to all. But they should be carried out by those who are in charge of the roads.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Board ?
64. They get nothing.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
65. The number depends upon the magnitude of the breaches. In some cases from 10 to 20 men are required. In others from 50 to 100 men are required or even more.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?
66. The zamindars feed them; but in some places the officials of the P. W. D. also feed them.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?
67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?
68. Casual paid labour can be had to a large extent in my neighbourhood.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of zamindars ?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?
70. I consider chher should be abolished altogether by Government. Government must pay for it if it needs it in emergencies.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF PIR BACHAL SHAH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Pir Bachal Shah son of Pir Sakhi Usman Shah, Kureshi. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Rs. 2,000 |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Village of Pir Sakhi Usman Shah, Kureshi. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. No. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to make arrangements at officer's camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 20-25 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Village of Pir Sakhi Usman Shah, Sabanvasti, Moorhadi. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Assistant Collector, and other officers. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Fowls, eggs, butter, bran, milk, stalks, firewood, mutton, vegetables, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowar stalks and firewood? | 11. I get provisions from the bazaar, and milk, grass and firewood from my own house. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars. | 12. I get provisions from the bazar on payment. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for them at the rates ruling at the time. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from the jungles on payment. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The cost varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. The cost varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. The cost varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water-jars, cuts or other furniture or materials for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. It costs me from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60. |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | 23. I receive half payment from the officers but the money goes into the pocket of the butler. |
| 24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? | 24. The loss falls on me. |

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. I have houses of my own.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. About Rs. 400 or Rs. 500.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I make rasai myself.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. They have no bills prepared by me and make no payment to me.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes, with a little effort.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. I recommend that Government should appoint contractors.
37. Do you present 'Dhala' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. Yes. It costs me from to Rs. 2 to Rs. 5.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? *Lapo.*
39. Lapo is an unauthorized imposition.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. There are various forms of lapo. Re. 1 a number, Rs. 2 a number, Rs. 5 a number. It is levied in the revenue, public works and police departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. The tapedar levies it at a certain rate per survey number; in other departments it is levied in lump sum.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. It is levied by officials of the above-mentioned departments.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Rasai is apart from lapo which is intended as pocket money.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. I have to pay lapo as well as make money presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purpose are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. The amount varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30.
46. In unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. No. It is paid with a view to save one's respect.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. It is exacted by all except forest subordinates.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I have to pay Rs. 200 or 300.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the systems of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkar?
- 49 & 50. No. On the contrary it has increased.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. What recommendations can we poor zamindars make? Government may do what it likes.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means labour employed free of payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. They are our haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To prepare roads at the time of camps, to pitch and strike tents, to prepare camping grounds, to carry post.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. No.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?
56. They get nothing from the officers of Government but they get food only from the zamindars.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. From 10 to 50.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, staks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. From 5 to 10.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. They get nothing from the officers, but get food only from the zamindars.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?
61. They must come whether they are willing or not.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ?
62. Chheras are required for the purpose when officers camp.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
63. They are of benefit first to the officers then to the public.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards ?
64. Nothing.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
65. As there has never been any breach in my locality, I have never supplied chher for the purpose.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?
66. I have no idea, as I have never supplied chher for such a purpose.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?
67. Yes, it causes considerable loss.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?
68. Casual paid labour is available to any extent on payment of wages.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?
70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MIR GHULAM MAHOMED.

Preliminary.

1. Name. 1. Mir Ghulam Mahomed, son of Mir Mahomed Khan Talpur.
 2. Occupation. 2. Jagirdar, Zamindar and Lessee.
 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. 3. Pay Rs. 10,000 as hakabo and jagir cess and Rs. 12,000 as assessment on my occupied land.
 4. Residence. 4. Tando Bago.
 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. 5. Vice President, taluka local board.
- Rasai.*
6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 6. Rasai means to supply, free of payment, provisions, etc., to touring officers and their establishments.
 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? 7. 20 years'.
 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? 8. Tando Bago, Kak Jagir, Machori Jagir and Khadro Jagir.
 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? 9. The mukhtiarkar, the Assistant Collector, the Deputy Collector, the District Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer, and the overseer.
 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? 10. The European officers require for themselves fowls, eggs, butter, milk, firewood, grass and coals. The native officials are supplied with all provisions which are handed over to their servants and cooks who take twice as much as they actually want.
 11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 11. I provide most of the supplies.
 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? 12. I get them from my own house; I do not get them from my haris and small zamindars. On some occasions when two or three Europeans come together I get fowls, eggs, butter etc., from the haris also.
 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? 13. I pay for the supplies at the following rates:— eggs 1 anna each; fowls 8 annas each; butter Re. 1 a seer; milk 2 annas and 6 pies a seer; mutton 4 annas a seer; firewood 5 annas a maund.
 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? 14. Yes, the market values being, milk 2 annas and 6 pies a seer, firewood 3 annas a maund, bajri or jowari stalks at 2 annas 6 pies a bundle.
 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? 15. I pay for firewood at the time of rasai.
 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? 16. The average daily cost in the case of European officers varies from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 3-0-0.
 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? 17. Yes. If they do not take supplies, I make the daily allowances in cash.
 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 18. The average daily cost of such supplies is 8 annas.
 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? 19. Yes, I have to. But it is difficult to do so. Food stuffs (butter, eggs and fowls) provided for European officers are generally required by Hindu and Mahomedan munshis also, so that it is difficult to meet the requirements of European officers. In some places the munshis are given a rupee daily apart from mutton, firewood and butter.
 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? 20. The average daily cost for each munshi is Re. 1 and for peons annas 6, and for private servants 6 to 8 annas.

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables?
21. I have to provide water jars, etc., etc. I also provide labour for constructing stables and preparing camping grounds.
22. What does that cost you for each camp?
22. Each camp costs me Rs. 60 daily.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
23. I receive payment from the European officers according to the bills I prefer. Their private servants, peons and munshis do not pay for provisions.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you?
24. Some kindly jagirdars and zamindars bear the loss themselves. Others, both Hindus and Mahomedans recover the loss from their haris at the batai.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
25. Yes. At times they have rowties of their own. In any case I have to put up landhis for bath rooms and kitchens for them.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?
26. The haris have to put up the landhis. No payment is received from the munshis.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
27. If camels are required for cooks or peons I get them from my haris. Generally they impress camels.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
28. It costs me nothing.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
29. Yes I have to, but I receive no payment. The camp of the mukhtiarkar including his establishment costs me Rs. 15 daily, that of the public works supervisor Rs. 8. I have to make rasai for other subordinate officials also.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
30. I receive no payment from the above-mentioned officials.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
31. The cost to me is from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting samindars?
32. Rasai is made by my men under my supervision.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting samindars?
33. The European officer and the Indian officer on the European list alone pay their bills. The bills are prepared by the tapedar, or darogha and presented through the butler. The payment is made by the officer taken back by the butler.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to samindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and samindars?
34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. Yes, provided facilities are afforded them.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai,' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. I do not mind making rasai for a single European officer, but I do not like to make rasai for his establishment (who more or less eat like Europeans) at the instance of the subordinate officials who rule over us and who are subject to them in the matter of inspection of records.

My suggestions for the supervision of rasai are as follows :—

- (1) Each of the European officers should exercise strict supervision like Mr. Monie, Mr. Beyts, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Moysey.
- (2) Land revenue should be recovered otherwise than through the tapedars.
- (3) The tapedars and supervising tapedars should have nothing to do with the grant of takavi.
- (4) Government should be lenient in the matter of grazing and irrigation for the benefit of haris' cattle; also the tapedars should be deprived of their powers in the matter of records of rights.

- (5) The tapedars and supervising tapedars should have nothing to do with Form 8.
- (6) Cattle belonging to old haris' villages in the neighbourhood of Government canal should not be impounded for drinking water at those canals or for resting under the shade of trees thereon.
- (7) Proceedings under Section 110 should not be initiated except by the District Superintendent of Police, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the mukhtarkar.
- (8) The extorting of confessions by the police should be strongly objected to. The Police behave themselves very irregularly in villages. They sometimes detain in their possession the wives of offenders. They commit various other atrocities and act in such a way as to interfere in one's religion. In this country not even 5 out of every thousand women are educated and the percentage of literacy among men is hardly one. It is therefore all the more necessary for Government to educate half the population, as Hyderabad Amils are educated. If the people are educated, they will not be subjected to malpractices.

37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?

37. I present dalis of vegetables to officers. It cost me Rs. 50—60 a year including railway charge.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?

38. The practice does no good to us, nor does it do any harm to us. It rests with Government to continue or discontinue it.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?

39. Lapo means an illegal gratification received by a Government servant.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. There are various forms of unauthorized lapo:—

(1) The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, and the settlement munshi jointly levy lapo on ijazatnamas and kabuliyats, for ekskali and permanent grants. If the repairs to boundary marks are carried out by the zamindar himself, even then he pays a lapo of 15 per cent to the tapedar and supervising tapedar.

(2) 10 per cent is levied on the grants of takavi paddy, rice and ghee are also given to the tapedar and supervising tapedar.

(3) The munshies of the magistrates receive illegal gratifications from complainants and accused when bail bonds are taken from them.

(4) The police munshi gets money from the complainant when the accused is challaned.

(5) The tapedars get lapo on cultivated areas in various forms, such as cash, rice, ghee, paddy, molasses, sugarcane, mangoes etc., etc.

(6) The darogha levies 1-2 rupees per karia. He also gets rice etc., from the zamindars. He gets butter and milk from the haris residing in old villages in the neighbourhood of Government canals for allowing their cattle to water at such canals or to rest under the shade there. The haris are greatly under his control.

(7) The subregistrar also charges 8 annas or Re. 1 per cent, and the licensee (vendor of stamps) Re. 1 per cent.

(8) The case of the police is exceptional and so are their ways of oppressing people.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. From big zamindars lapo is levied at 5 or 6 per cent. From zamindars whose holding consists of less than 50 numbers it is levied at the rate of Re. 1 per number. The charge is Rs. 2 per number in the case of zamindars who own 5 to 10 numbers. If two or three zamindars are the joint occupants, the tapedar levies Rs. 2 per number from each of them. Rice or paddy and grass for the horse are also taken by him. If a zamindar has to mortgage or lease his numbers or to apply for remission on them, he cannot get the required particulars unless he pays something to the tapedar.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purpose? By tapedars, sildars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the settlement munshi and the darogha.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Unauthorized lapo is levied not to cover the cost of rasai but for the personal use of the taker.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Unauthorized lapo is not levied for making money presents to the private and official establishments of touring officials. Zamindars have to make such presents from their own pockets.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. At every camp there are customary payments to be made to the officer's servants, peons, sweeper, dhobi, syce, blusti, masal, butler and mistri. These amount to Rs. 20 or Rs 25. They are paid so that the men may make no fuss and find no fault with the supplies, and the officers may go in peace as they came.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. Unauthorized lapo is paid to prevent the tapedar from entering uncultivated numbers as cultivated, and complete failures of crops as partial failures, from assessing the grass grown by the haris for their farm cattle, from creating trouble in respect of bridges and karias which though of a long standing are not on the records, and lastly from making dishonest changes in the entries of rights and enjoyment. It is paid to the darogha with a view to prevent him from impounding the cattle of haris living in villages in the neighbourhood of Government canals for watering at such canals; and from reporting cases of karias not having masonry mouths from Government canals with a view to their closure. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar and the settlement munshi are in the same category.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I pay about Rs. 1,200 or 1,300 annually.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar-kars?
50. The mukhtiar-kars can do much; but just as the circular of 1914 has failed, so will the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar-kars fail of its purpose.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. Europeans who are the rulers of the country should know how best to stop lapo. The ruler of the country can make all sorts of conveniences for his subjects. No improvement can however be looked for unless strict measures are adopted. The Land Revenue and Irrigation Acts should also be modified.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Chher means a number of men employed without payment of wages.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. The chheras are poor haris having nothing which they can call their own. They are illiterate and ignorant and ever ready to obey orders.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. As soon as the programme of a touring officer is communicated they are asked to prepare the local fund roads. If there is much labour involved in putting temporary path is made which is sometimes four or five miles long.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. The chheras do not hold lands on such conditions. They are haris under the batai system and perform such labour at the instance of their zamindars.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?
56. They get no remuneration from the zamindars or from the officers of Government. The zamindars feed them unwillingly. Sometimes the chheras do their work without any food at all.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. About 25 chheras are required for the Collector, the Executive Engineer and others. They prepare the camping grounds, build stables and landhis, pitch and unpitch tents, load and unload kit, and place it in proper order.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. Answered under No. 57.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
59. No. They get nothing from the officers or from the zamindars. Where there are frequent camps of officers there the chheras are anxious to migrate to other places. It is difficult however to leave one's own native place.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
60. 8 chheras are required for partridge and snipe shooting and 25 for water fowl shooting.
61. Do they come willingly or not, and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
61. They do not come willingly. They come under pressure from the zamindars. They get 4 or 5 annas on an average from the officers for the time they are detained.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
62. No chheras are required to supplement repairs to the roads by the local board as the kalar roads here need no such supplementary repairs.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Such repairs are of greater benefit to the officers than to the public as the former travel by carriage and the latter on horse back or on foot.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
64. They get nothing, as stated in my note which I forwarded to Mr. Thomas when he was Collector of this district.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. Breaches of canal banks are very sudden and dangerous. About 300 men are employed on the more serious breaches. These are zamindars' haris.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. The zamindars feed the chheras for labour on breaches. The officers of Government pay 4 or 5 annas per head to the zamindars on account of the food of the chheras. The time is so critical and the work so hard and dangerous that every chhera ought to be paid a rupee per day.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. Breaches and heavy rainfall coincide. The haris who have vacated their villages and temporarily settled at a distance of 20 or 25 miles are sent for by the zamindars to close breaches. When so employed the chhera haris are all the while anxious about their cattle and children lest the former may be stolen and the latter die of hunger.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. Casual paid labour is available in my neighbourhood. If such labourers are employed for closing breaches, they will demand not less than a rupee a day.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. It could be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindar, as it is procured for railway works and new canals. The contractor must pay adequate wages.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. Chher is indispensable for closing breaches. The work of closing breaches is a very hard one, and is performed under very hard conditions. The chheras get no sleep at night owing to mosquitos or rain fall. Their wages therefore should be Re. 1 per day. My prayer to God is that Government may put an end to these troubles of the chheras so that they may pay for Government.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MIR MAHOMED BUX.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mir Mahomed Buxkhan Talpur son of Mir Imambuxkhan, Jagirdar, Tando Ghulamali. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Jagirdar and zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or samindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Land revenue about Rs. 5000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Tando Ghulamali, Taluka Dero Mohbat. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Honorary Bench Magistrate. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai is derived from rasad which means to provide supplies at camps of officers. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 17 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Tando Ghulamali, Dumbalo, Goth Chakarlund. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Executive Engineer and the Superintendent of Police. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. They require provisions for themselves, their camp establishments, and their riding animals. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I get those supplies from the bazar except firewood, grass and milk which I get from my jagir. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other samindars? | 12. I get them from banias on payment. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for them at the ruling rates. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. They have no market value, because I get grass from my own lands and milk from the haris. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from my jagir. I pay nothing for it. It cost me nothing to bring it to camp as the haris of my jagir bring it to camp free of charge. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The average daily cost is not less than Rs. 2. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. From Rs. 10 to 100. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes, one rupee is paid for each munshi daily. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. From Rs. 5 to 30. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, carts or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. From Rs. 100 to 500. |

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. No.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your harns or on you? 24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerk? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. It cost me nothing because I have my own bungalows and otaks.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. I have to provide camels and carts.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 50. I receive no payment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. It costs me from Rs. 5 to 15. I receive no payment.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. It costs me over Rs. 2,000.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I make rasai myself.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars, or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. Payment is made by officers only at half rates on bills, the money being taken back by the butler.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and the zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. I cannot say.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai', and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. I am of opinion that independent contractors should be appointed to whom payments should be made at the huzur treasury.
37. Do you present 'Dhalia' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. I present dalis. It costs me from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means an unlawful impost.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. There are various forms of lapo: from 1 rupee to 2 Rs. per No., also 5%, also a lump sum from Rs. 50 to 100. There are fixed annuities for the Police, P. W. and revenue departments which vary from Rs. 10 to Rs. 100.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number, or per assessment of land revenue? 41. It is levied in the form of 1 rupee per number, 2 rupees per number, 5% or a lump sum from Rs. 50 to 100.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amount of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
52. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?
56. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
57. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
42. It is levied in the Revenue, Public Works and Police Departments.
43. No, I pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.
45. I make money presents in addition to daily allowances.
46. It is not a charge for particular favours. It is a compulsory payment. If it is not paid, false reports are made.
47. It is levied in all the departments mentioned above.
48. From Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000.
49. No. It has on the contrary increased.
50. No.
- Chher.*
52. Chher means labour employed without remuneration.
53. They are my haris.
54. To repair roads, to pitch and strike tents, to bring the post, to load and unload kit, to construct landhies, etc.
55. No. They have no lands of their own. They work as chheras because I ask them to do so at the instance of subordinate officials who require their services in connection with officers' camps.
56. They receive nothing from the officers of Government; they are only fed by the zamindars.
57. From 25 to 200 men are required at the camps of the European officers including the Deputy Collector.
58. From 10 to 25 men.
59. They receive nothing from the officers but they are only fed by the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. There is no shikar here; no chher is therefore provided.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. They come at my call though unwillingly.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards? 62. I provide chher every year as the public roads within my limits are repaired by my chheras.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Yes.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Boards? 64. They get nothing from the local board or Government officers but they are only fed by the zamindars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. No breaches occur in my part of the country because of the great deficiency of water supply there.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. I cannot say as there are no breaches in my locality.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. It does interfere and causes very great loss.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. I cannot give the number. I think labourers can be had on wages.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MIR HUSSAIN BUX.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mir Hussain bux Khan Talpur son of Mir Ghulam Allah Khan Talpur Shahwani. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Jagirdar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. My jagirs measure about 40,000 acres. They are in Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, and Thar and Parkar Districts. I pay about Rs. 6,000 as Hakabo. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Tando Mahomed Khan. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Vice President of the district local board, Hyderabad. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai is derived from the word rasad which means to supply, i.e., to supply provisions etc., at officers' camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 15 years'. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Jagir Noorai in taluka Hyderabad, jagir Marah in taluka Tando Mahomedkhan, Bulakhan in taluka Jaji and at other jagirs. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Commissioner, the Collector, the Assistant Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Executive Engineer and the District Superintendent of Police camp in Tando Mahomedkhan; while at other jagirs subordinate officials camp. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. Milk, butter, fowls, eggs, sugar, ghee, etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, hair or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I get some of those supplies from the adjoining villages and others from towns on payment. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I get some of the articles from my haris, some from the bania shop-keepers on payment and some from my own house. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for the articles I get from my haris. Some zamindars do not pay. I get grass and firewood. Sometimes I pay for things at the ruling rates. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. In the neighbourhood of large villages and towns zamindars buy stalks, get firewood collected by their haris and obtain milk free of payment from the country round. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. The haris are asked to bring firewood from the jungles and in return they are only fed in some cases. Camels and carts are hired to bring it to camp. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. About Rs. 3 or 4. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. It depends upon the number of the men and varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50. The cost per head is from 12 annas to a rupee. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. It depends upon the number of the men. It varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50. The cost is Rs. 2 per head. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |

22. What does that cost you for each camp? Rs. 30 is the daily cost for the Deputy Collector's camp.
22. Rs. 100 is the daily cost for the Commissioner's camp; Rs. 50 is the daily cost for the Collector's camp; Rs. 30 is the daily cost for the Deputy Collector's camp.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? payments. The butlers sometimes take the money back from me.
23. I receive payment from European officers. I receive nothing from their official staff, private servants, and munshis. These obtain receipts without making payments. The butlers sometimes take the money back from me.
24. If not, does the loss fall on our haris or on you?
24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? are available. Sometimes landhus are constructed for the munshis.
25. I have to provide quarters for the clerks in places where neither Government buildings nor tents are available. Sometimes landhus are constructed for the munshis.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? cost me something. I receive no payment.
26. It does not cost me anything to provide houses for them; but the construction of landhus does cost me something. I receive no payment.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
27. No.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
28. No.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
29. I have to make rasai for subordinate officials also at places other than taluka headquarters.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
30. The cost varies with the status of the officer. No payment is received.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
31. I have kept no annual statements giving the information.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? Every one of them had to subscribe a certain sum fixed with reference to his status and respect. Apart from this they handed over fowls, eggs, kids, firewood, milk, butter, cows and buffaloes to the tapedars and supervising tapedars, according to the status of the officer. Since the year 1914, the Mukhtarkar selects one man from amongst the zamindars and jagirdars to make rasai. The man so selected makes the whole rasai.
32. Before the issue of the Circular of 1914, every Mukhtarkar used to draw up a list of all zamindars and jagirdars some time in advance of an officer's camp. Every one of them had to subscribe a certain sum fixed with reference to his status and respect. Apart from this they handed over fowls, eggs, kids, firewood, milk, butter, cows and buffaloes to the tapedars and supervising tapedars, according to the status of the officer. Since the year 1914, the Mukhtarkar selects one man from amongst the zamindars and jagirdars to make rasai. The man so selected makes the whole rasai.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
33. I prepare the bill and receive payment from the officers direct.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? will be a better arrangement, presented by the bania or the bills might be endorsed for payment from the officers' pay at the Huzur Treasury.
35. I think that it would be possible to find contractors for whole talukas or sub divisions. I suggest that camping places should be fixed and local banias should be appointed rasai contractors. I think that this Payment for the supplies might be made on the bills presented by the bania or the bills might be endorsed for payment from the officers' pay at the Huzur Treasury.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? pockets, and partly at the expense of their haris. They get by force fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass, firewood, etc., etc., from their haris Hence the poor haris are much oppressed. I do not think that any zamindar is willing to make rasai with his own hands. Apart from the cost he has to bear the trouble involved in making proper arrangements for rasai.
36. Since rasai has been taken out of the hands of the officials and entrusted to the zamindars, the burden of the smaller zamindars has decreased but the whole burden has fallen on the larger zamindars. The larger zamindars make rasai partly from their own pockets, and partly at the expense of their haris. They get by force fowls, eggs, milk, butter, grass, firewood, etc., etc., from their haris Hence the poor haris are much oppressed. I do not think that any zamindar is willing to make rasai with his own hands. Apart from the cost he has to bear the trouble involved in making proper arrangements for rasai.
- To suppress rasai, the touring period should be reduced from 7 to 4 months and the camping places should be fixed.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. In some cases I present dhalis of fruit and vegetables of my own free will. It costs about Rs. 80 a year.

38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. I consider that rasai should be prohibited but that the practice of presenting dais and of offering hospitality should continue as zamindars do so of their own free will.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. I suppose lapo is derived from the word labh which means an inducement. It is paid in advance to keep the officials from causing trouble.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. I do not think that lapo of any kind is lawful. There may be many forms of lapo. It is levied not only in the Revenue Department but in the Public Works and Forest Departments. The police officials do not get lapo; but when they go to a scene of offence, the burden of their rasai falls on the zamindars, patels and haris.
41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. It is levied from 3 to 5 per cent. from big zamindars and from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per number from small zamindars and in lump sum from jagirdars. There are fixed annuities to be paid to supervising tapedars, sub-divisional officers and daroghas. These annuities are fixed with reference to the assessment and hakabo of each holder. The taluka head munshis are given corn and ghee.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, adars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and theadars and forest rangers?
42. Unauthorized lapo is levied by the tapedars, daroghas, and forest subordinates for the ostensible purpose of making rasai for their respective officers.
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. I have to pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. I have to pay lapo to the subordinate officials as well as make money presents to the official staff and private servants of the officers.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Rs. 2 or 3. These money presents are in addition to daily allowances.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. It is paid to save oneself from proceedings in connection with boundary marks, to obtain facilities in the payment of assessment, to save cattle from getting impounded for straying into reserved parts of forests, from fear of proceedings under from 8 for irrigation of unassessed numbers interspersed in flow lands, from fear of the magisterial powers of the taluka head-munshis, and from fear of changes in the water supply.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. These amounts are exacted by the tapedars, supervising tapedars, sub-divisional officers, daroghas, beldars, kotars, range forest officers, rangers, etc.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. I have to pay from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1000 as lapo on account of my jagirs.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. The powers of the tapedars should be curtailed and the mukhtarkars should first inquire into matters and then pass orders on their reports.
- (3) Land revenue should not be recovered through the tapedars. It should be paid direct into the treasury by money order free of commission. Or as in the Punjab, a patel should be appointed for each deh who should

recover the land revenue and pay it into the treasury. The subordinate officials of the public works department should be deprived of the power to make reports recommending the cutting of the water supply of kasis and the making of changes therein.

Chher.

52. Who are the 'Chheras' ? 53. They are mostly haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. They are required to prepare camping grounds, to pitch and strike tents, to prepare roads, to bring water, firewood, grass, etc., to camp, to put up embankments and to close breaches on canals.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. They are forced to work by the zamindars and jagirdars in return for which they get nothing. If they do not obey their orders, either they are proceeded against under section 110, or something is deducted on account of their refusal to work, from their share of the produce.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government? 56. They get nothing. But the zamindars or jagirdars feed them. These chheras have to bear the hardships of cold during the cold season.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. The number depends upon the status of the officer. It varies from 10 to 80.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. From 5 to 20 chheras are required to bring provisions, grass, firewood, jars, etc. From 20 to 40 chheras are required to prepare camping grounds, to make pegs and to pitch tents.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. No.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. The number varies from 5 to 7.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. Some of them come willingly as some officers make them money presents.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards? 62. Every zamindar supplements repairs to the local board roads within his limits, when officers are about to visit the locality.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Such repairs are of benefit to the public as well as to the officers, but they are carried out at the time of officers' visits.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards? 64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. Each zamindar has to provide from 200 to 300 chheras.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They get food only from the zamindars; but they get nothing from the officers. This year however the zamindars and jagirdars were paid something on account of their expenses in connection with the construction of the Alipur regulator bund.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and zamindars? 67. Certainly.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Labour can be had in my neighbourhood to a large extent except in the cultivation season.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Labourers can be procured except in the cultivation season. Prisoners can also work as labourers.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. I consider chher ought to be abolished. If it is required in emergent cases, the men should be paid at the ruling rates.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF SETH HUSSANALI.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Seth Hassanali Sheikh Alibhoy. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar and contractor. |
| 3. Extent of business of zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Land revenue Rs. 700. Income-tax Rs. 100. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind, Sadar Bazar. |
| <i>Rasai.</i> | |
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means the supply of provisions to touring officers free of charge. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 15 years' experience. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Kachhelo and Jamesabad, which are near my land. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. Almost all touring officers. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. I am not required to supply provisions. I pay in cash. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, baji or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I do not provide those supplies. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I get them from none. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. This does not concern me. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. If I get firewood for my own use, I pay for it. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I do not know. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. I have replied to this above. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I do not know. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. No. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. I do not know. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables? | 21. I do not provide. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. The charge is levied per year and not per camp. It varies from Rs. 25 to 50. |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | 23. This does not concern me. |
| 24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? | 24. I have replied to this above. |

25. Do you have to provide quarters 25. No.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. I have replied to this above.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. No.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. Nothing.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiaraks, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. I make rasai for the Mukhtiarak, the supervising tapedar, and the tapader. If a police sowar comes, I make rasai for him also.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. It costs me about Rs. 20 in the case of the Mukhtiarak; Rs. 3 or 4 in the case of the supervising tapedar; Rs. 3 in the case of the tapedar; Rs. 1 or 1-4 in the case of the police sowar.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. About Rs. 75.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. As I have said above I do not make rasai for officers; as regards subordinate officials, I make rasai for them if I am present; otherwise my servants make it.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. This does not concern me so far as rasai for officers is concerned.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. I think all supplies can be obtained on payment independently of contractors.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. Rasai should be stopped.
37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. I present dals of fruit. It costs me from Rs. 5 to 7.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means annuities levied from zamindars by officials of different departments.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. I understand that lapo is levied in all departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. It is levied per survey number on my side.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darogas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. It is levied by the tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the abdar, the darogha and the canal-assistant ostensibly for the purpose of making rasai.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Basai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Basai' ?
43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents ?
44. I pay lapo as well as rasai charge.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid ? Do they take the form of daily allowances ?
45. This does not concern me.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?
46. It is paid to save oneself from harassments.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?
47. Answered above.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?
48. About Rs. 100 on account of lapo.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Basai' contracts to zamindars ?
49. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars ?
50. No.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?
51. If rasai were taken out of the hands of the mukhtarkars and tapedars lapo might decrease. It might also decrease if the revenue and judicial functions were separated.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?
52. Chher means labour employed at the officers' camps without remuneration.
53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
53. They are Mahomedan haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
54. To repair roads, to pitch tents, to prepare camping grounds, to carry water, grass, and firewood, to attend peons etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
55. Yes, the condition is made with them at the time of giving out lands to them. In return for such services some concession is made to them at the batal.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government ?
56. The zamindars only feed them.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?
57. I do not know as the camping grounds are at some distance from my land.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, staks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ?
58. I cannot say.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?
59. They are fed by the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ? 60. I cannot say.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ? 61. They come unwillingly.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ? 62. I employ 16 chheras for a day or two to repair the roads within my limits.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ? 63. The roads are closed to public traffic until the officer has passed along them. When he has passed, the roads are used by the public.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ? 64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 65. I supply 10 or 12 chheras when there is a breach in the canal bank on my side.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ? 66. They get food from the zamindars. They get nothing from Government.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ? 67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ? 68. It is available.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ? 70. I consider that chher should be abolished.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KISOOMAL TIRITHDAS.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Kisoomal Tirithdas. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindari and trade. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Assessment Rs. 7,000. Assessment on lease of Ali Akbar Khan's land Rs. 23,000. Total assessment Rs. 30,000. Income-tax Rs. 1,603. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Tando Jam, District Hyderabad. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. | 5. Taluka Local Board member. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to provide supplies to officers without payment. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 32 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Tando Jam. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The <i>tapedar</i> , the supervising <i>tapedar</i> , the <i>mukhtiar</i> kar, the Assistant Collector, the <i>Dattardar</i> , the Collector, the Police Superintendent. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. All provisions. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I get them on payment. |
| 12. Do you get them from your <i>hata</i> or from <i>banias</i> or from your own house or from other <i>samindars</i> ? | 12. I get them at my expense. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for them at the prevailing rates. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from the bazar at annas 4 to annas 8 a maund. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The daily cost is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. The average daily cost is annas 8 to annas 12 per man. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. The average daily cost is from Re. 1-0-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 per man. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. The daily cost is for the <i>Mukhtiar</i> kar Rs. 10 to Rs. 12; the Assistant Collector Rs. 20 to Rs. 25; the Collector Rs. 35 to Rs. 40. |

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. No. European officers alone pay Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 on bills for their entire stay. The money however is taken back by their butlers.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hands or on you? 24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? 26. I have pucca houses, hence I spend nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. I provide camels and carts.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 28. For a camel 2 annas per mile, for a cart 4 annas per mile.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarikars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. I make rasai for mukhtiarikars and all others except police officials of the lower grades and forest officials.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. I provide lodging, boarding and a riding horse to the tapedar. As regards other officials I have given particulars above.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. About Rs. 600 to Rs. 700.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. I am the contracting zamindar for rasai; therefore I make rasai myself under the guidance of the tapedar.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. A bill for Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 is prepared but the money does not reach me.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the zamindars and the tapedars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes provided they are allowed to charge increased rates.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. I object to rasai because it entails an unnecessary burden on the zamindar. In order to put an end to it the tours of officers should be reduced, their camp establishments curtailed and their camps confined to large towns.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. No.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Lapo means a charge levied yearly by the darogha and tapedar on the land revenue.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. It is levied in cash by the tapedar only.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. It is levied in the Hyderabad taluka at one rupee per number and in Lar at 5 per cent. on land revenue. In Lar the darogha receives from Rs. 1 to Rs. 5 per karia.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
42. It is levied by tapedars and daroghas for themselves.
43. No. I pay lapo as well as make rasai.
44. I make money presents as well as pay lapo.
45. They are paid to the munshis, private and official servants of the officers with a view to prevent them discrediting my rasai.
46. It is paid not for favours but to save oneself from unnecessary losses and penalties.
- 47 & 48. The tapedars take about Rs. 1,500 from me.
49. No.
50. No.
51. A committee of zamindars should be appointed for each taluka. It should be empowered to make inquiries into cases of lapo and the lapo-takers should be punished on its reports. The revenue and judicial functions should be separated. The powers of tapedars and supervising tapedars should be curtailed.
- Chher.*
52. Chher means labour employed without remuneration.
53. They are hariis and ordinary labourers engaged to make up the required number.
54. To repair roads, to pitch and strike tents, and to do work at camps.
55. They hold their lands on condition of working as chheras for the benefit of cultivation and not for the purpose of begar.
56. No. They are only fed by the zamindars.
57. At the Mukhtarkar's camp 5 and 6, at the Deputy Collector's 10 to 15, and at the Collector's 25 to 30 chheras are required.
58. These men are required daily as stated under reply No. 57.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?
61. Do they come willingly or not, and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
59. The zamindars only feed them.
60. There is no game here.
61. They come unwilling if they are not paid. Those whom I pay from my pocket come willingly.
62. The number required depends upon the quantity of work to be done.
63. Yes.
64. The zamindars alone pay them from their pockets.
65. As many as are wanted.
66. They get nothing from the officers of Government. The zamindars only feed them.
67. It causes great loss to haris.
68. To any extent.
69. Yes.
70. Chher should be resorted to for closing breaches, but not for making rasai at the camps of officers.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MIRKHAŃ MITHOKHAŃ:

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mirkhan Mithokhan Nizamani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Supervising tapedar. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Guni. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 23 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 19 years experience as tapedar and 4 years' experience as supervising tapedar. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge. | 6. 2 lac acres is the area of my tapas. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers and their servants and their various camps? | 7. Cots, jars, grass, milk, mutton, fowls, eggs, butter, bajri, rice, flour, ghee, molasses, sugar, pulse, potatoes and other provisions are required by touring official establishments. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars, or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. 15 to 40 cots, and 20 to 50 jars are the further requirements of touring officers. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. Officers take their tents with them. Landhis are constructed for the servants and kitchens and pucca houses are provided for the munshis. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. Where there are P. W. D. bungalows, there are stables attached to them. In other places landhis are constructed for officers' horses. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. There is a tent for office. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. 2 to 6 labourers are required by officers daily on days other than those on which tents are pitched and unpitched. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. Fair. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The local fund establishment is responsible as it is employed for the repair of the roads. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. If there is no pucca road available, a new path is improvised to facilitate the transport of kit. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? | 16. They engage hired camels for riding as well as conveyance of baggage. In case of sudden need however such as the falling ill of a camel, one or two camels are provided. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 17. Their post is carried by the kotars. Sometimes in places other than headquarter towns their post is carried by zamindar's men. |
| 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 18. Pir Kadirbux, karia Ganwhar, and Tarai. |
| 19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? | 19. There is P. W. D. bungalow, both at Pir Kadirbux and Karia Ganwhar in charge of a keeper maintained by the P. W. D. There is no regular camping ground at Tarai. |
| 20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? | 20. There are bania shops at Karia, Ganwhar and Tarai. |
| 21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? | 21. Only to Pir Kadirbux jo Goth. |
| 22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 22. Pir Kadirbux and Karia Ganwhar are provided with P. W. D. Bungalows. |

23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
23. Keepers are maintained therein by the P. W. D.
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
24. Rasai is a gratification and is made with a view to the preservation and enhancement of one's respect.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies?
25. At present on account of high prices an officer's daily requirements cost from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment?
26. The average daily requirements of an officer's private establishments etc. vary from 4 annas to 1 rupee.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
27. Rice, 4 annas a seer; eggs, 9 pies each; fowls, 8 annas each; milk 2 annas a seer; butter 12 annas a seer, stalks of jowari and bajri Rs. 10-20.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
28. Yes.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment?
29. The average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers and their establishments is about Rs. 20, according to the strength of the establishment.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
30. All supplies except provisions are provided by the zamindars through the tapedars. The latter also buy some of the supplies.
31. How are they paid for?
31. As regards the supplies collected by the tapedar, the servants get what they want and pay what they want on bills prepared in consultation with them. No payment however is received as the money is taken back by the butler except when the bill is paid by the officer at the time of starting.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers, or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
32. Some of the supplies are bought by the tapedar, and the rest are provided by the zamindars. The money received is paid back to the providers.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
33. The estimated average daily cost of officers is greater than the actual payments.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
34. The excess is borne by the tapedars. In rare cases it is borne by the zamindars.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
35. The excess is paid out of the funds for making rasai.
36. Is anything paid for water jars, coats or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
36. They receive nothing for water jars etc.
37. Do they obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
37. There are no such gardens in my charge.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
38. There is no change for the better in respect to rasai. At very few places zamindars make rasai. Elsewhere the tapedars collect the supplies while the zamindars sign the bills nominally.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
39. Modifications are necessary. There should be independent contractors. It is difficult however to find such a contractor.

40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
40. The programmes of officers' camps are received. These are communicated to the tapedars and zamindars with instructions to make proper arrangements. Sometimes officers give lists of their requirements when they have arrived at the camping place.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
41. No.
42. Do you give "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
- 42 & 43. We give no such dalis to touring officers.
43. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? And whence are they obtained?
44. The orders prohibit dalis.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?
- Lapo.*
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
45. Lapo means what is paid over and above the Government demand.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'?
46. It is levied as an entertainment fee at a certain rate per number. Or at a percentage on the assessment.
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
47. It is levied by the tapedars and subordinate officials of other departments from zamindars who have dealings with them.
48. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
48. There is a different practice for each taluka and for each zamindar. Some zamindars pay 4 annas to 1 rupee per No. Some 2 to 4 per cent on the assessment, and some in lump sum for the year.
49. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
49. A half of it is utilized to cover the cost of rasai, the remainder is appropriated by the lapo takers themselves. There is no regular fund now. The account is settled on the spot by those who had to make rasai and contributions made accordingly; the papers are then destroyed.
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
50. There is no rasai fund now as stated above.
51. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilised for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. The average annual expenditure on account of money presents and daily allowances is Rs. 2,500. This is defrayed by the tapedars from their lapo.
52. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
52. It is paid as a matter of custom. No favours are shown.
53. How far is unauthorised 'Lapo' utilised to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. About Rs. 400.
54. Has the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. Lapo has been reduced to some extent by the system of payments of land revenue by money-order and direct at the taluka office.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorised 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. None.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorised 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
56. Lapo can be stopped if the pay of subordinate officials is increased, rasai is stopped and the officers become vigilant. Other suggestions are that the assessments should be fixed and tours curtailed.
- Chher.*
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
57. Chher means labour obtained from zamindars for officers' camps, etc.
58. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
58. To pitch and strike tents, to prepare camping grounds, etc., etc.

60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
60. No. They are haris and as such they are bound at all times to do what they are told by their zamindars to do.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government ?
61. They receive no remuneration. They get food only from the zamindars.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge ?
62. Government officials cannot obtain casual paid labour independently of zamindars.
63. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government ?
63. There is a small staff who look after the trees.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government ?
64. Zamindars provide labour with a view to please Government officials.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government ?
65. No.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour ?
66. Apart from the men required for pitching tents, the officers require 3 to 6 men to fetch water, and to bring supplies to camp.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp ?
67. Answered above.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camps ?
68. The officers require 25 to 40 chheras.
69. Whence do they obtain them ?
69. The zamindars provide them.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
70. They are only fed by the zamindars.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar ?
72. The officers obtain 4 to 10 men for shikar through the zamindars and tapedars. Sometimes they obtain more men.
73. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment ?
73. If the officers are pleased with their shikar they pay the men at 4 annas or even more per head. The men readily accept the payment.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?
75. It is not required now except occasionally.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials.
76. When labourers are required they are fed by the zamindars whose haris they generally are.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
77. Haris, carpenters, drivers, etc.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?
78. The haris get food only. The artisans receive some wages.
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?
79. The employment of chheras for closing breaches does not cause general loss.
80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards ?
80. This must interfere with their ordinary work.
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders ?
81. None.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.
82. Chher should be abolished ; but the officers should keep 10 or 12 additional khalasis.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. DOST MAHOMED HUSSAINBUX.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Dost Mahomed Hussainbux. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Supervising tapedar. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Matli. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 33 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 33 years. I was munshi, then a tapedar and then a supervising tapedar in the Hyderabad district only. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 47 dehs, approximate area 1,47,500 acres. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. The touring officers require flour, rice, ghee, spices, onions, grass, firewood, fowls, eggs, bajri, potatoes, vegetables, grain, mutton, milk, molasses, cots, jars and pegs. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. Their further requirements are about 50 cots, 30 jars, 4 mutkas and other supplies in proportion to the strength of the camp. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. First of all the camping ground is prepared, then landhis and stables are constructed for private servants and horses respectively and then pegs, cots, jars, grass, firewood are provided. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. At camps outside headquarters landhis are constructed, while at headquarters there are already bungalows with stables attached to them. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their various camps? | 11. There are tents provided for their office. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. They require 25 to 30 men at their arrival, 25 to 30 men at their departure and 10 for the intervening period. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. They are in fairly good condition. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The mukhtiarkar who is the vice-president of the taluka local board. The repairs are carried out by beldars under the local fund mistri. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. Special repairs are made occasionally when officers come before or after the ordinary repairs. Such repairs are executed by zamindars' men obtained by the naik, the tapedars and supervising tapedars, at the instance of the mukhtiarkar. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? | 16. They provide themselves with horses, riding and baggage camels for their tour. In case an animal of theirs gets unwell, they get one from a zamindar, or the punchayat of the place at the next camps free of hire. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 17. The post is carried by the kotars by turns. Sometimes it is sent with a paid special messenger, or zamindars' men from and to the taluka headquarters. The messenger is paid by the tapedar. |
| 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 18. Sheikh Birkhia, Ghulam Laghari, Tando Ghulamali, Pharkara, Dunbala, Morewadi, Haji Sanwan, Budho Pherhni. |

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. At Matli alone there is a regular camping ground. It is kept in repair from the local fund.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? 20. All except Morewhadi.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. The camping ground at Matli has a garden near it.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22. The camping ground at Matli alone has a bungalow.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. A keeper is maintained at the bungalow by the P. W. D. There is also another bungalow which is on the way to Tando Ghulamali. It is a P.W.D. bungalow.
- Rasai.*
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means trouble and expense. If one makes rasai successfully one will receive honour and also prosper.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 25. Ordinary Rs. 20 is the daily cost of officers' requirements. It depends on the strength of the establishment.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. The average daily requirements for an officer cost Re. 1, for a munshi 0-8-0, and for a peon or private servant annas 0-4-0
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. Rice 4 annas a seer, eggs 9 annas a dozen, fowls 6 to 8 annas each, butter one rupee a seer, milk 2 annas a seer, bajri stocks 100 bundles at 15 rupees, firewood at 8 annas a maund at Matli, and outside Matli 4 annas a maund.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Yes, at some places.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. Rs. 15 to 20. This is exceeded in the case of big officers or of large establishments.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. Some of the articles are obtained from the bania, a shop being opened where none already exists. The remaining supplies are provided by large zamindars. Where there is no large zamindar the tapedar collects the required supplies from the zamindars.
31. How are they paid for? - 31 & 32. Every one pays for the things he obtains from the modi. As regards fire wood, grass, milk and mutton these are obtained free. Eggs and fowls and butter are paid for at reduced rates. The part payment made for the officer is handed over to the tapedar or zamindar (as the case may be) who has made the rasai. The money is utilized by him to cover the cost of rasai. No payment is made for milk; grass, firewood is obtained from outside villages.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 33. The estimated average daily cost is greater than the actual payment.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 34. The excess is borne by the tapedars or zamindars who make the rasai. In fact the burden falls on poor haris while others simply knock out things and give orders.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 35. The excess is met by the tapedars out of their own contributions. When they meet at headquarters they settle the account.
35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 36. The officers pay nothing, see answers Nos. 37 and 38.
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?

37. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
37. There are no such gardens.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
38. The rules are in name only. The whole burden of rasai falls on the tapedar. Where there are big zamindars and jagirdars they do the rasai themselves e.g. Mir Mahomedbux Khan in Tando Ghulamali, Mir Bachalshah in Morehadi, Sheikh Sidik Mahomed in Sheikh Bhirkhia.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
39. I recommend that tapedars should have no hand in rasai. It would not be possible to find an independent contractor in the taluka. Every officer can, if he chooses to, lay down rational rules for his camp out of sympathy for the people.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
40. Programmes are communicated.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
- 41 & 43.—No.
42. Do you give 'Dhals' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers?
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject?
44. Dalis are prohibited.
- Lapo.*
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
45. Lapo means what is recovered over and above the Government demand.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
46. Entertainment charge and contribution to rasai.
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
47. It is paid by the zamindars to the officials concerned as a matter of custom and for making rasai.
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
48. There is no uniformity of practice. Every zamindar pays in his own way. Some do not pay.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
49. About Rs. 2,000 or even more is spent annually. No fund is maintained at the taluka. The expenses are defrayed in the first instance by the tapedars in charge of the camp. When the tapedars meet together they settle the account and contribute their shares accordingly.
50. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. The above said amount includes payments on account of money presents and daily allowances. There are no fixed amounts of such presents. Some take small presents by persuasion, while others take large presents by force. The establishments of the wakeful officer are satisfied with a little. The contrary is the case when the officer does not keep an eye on his establishments.
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? Do you not pay it finds his respect tarnished, as is the case in respect to rasai?
52. It is exacted in all departments. No favours are shown because of it in official matters. At the same time the zamindar who pays it is respected; he who does not pay it finds his respect tarnished, as is the case in respect to rasai.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. About Rs. 425 is paid for the purpose in Matli taluka. The more the tapedars, the more the money paid.

54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 54. No.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders? 55. No.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? 56. There should be fixed assessments on lands based on the averages of last five years. The camp establishments and tours should be curtailed. Pay should be increased. The forms showing kinds of crops should be abolished.
- Chher.*
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"? 57. Chher is forced labour pure and simple. Some zamindars supply chher with a view to the enhancement of their respect though the chheras come unwillingly.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'? 58. They are haris. Some zamindars provide paid labourers such as Bhils and Kolhis.
59. What kind of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 59. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to construct landhis, to load and unload kit, and occasionally to help at shikar.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 60. No.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from officials of Government? 61. They are only fed by the tapedars or zamindars. They get nothing else.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? 62. Government officials cannot obtain labour. They can, if at all, get 5 to 10 men.
63. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government? 63. The staff consists of 30 men entertained for 6 months to look after the roads and 10 men maintained permanently to look after the local board trees.
64. How far are the zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government? 64. They are not bound. They sometimes provide labour out of courtesy. Generally, they bring their haris to work at camps. The smaller zamindars come and work themselves.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government? 65. No.
66. For what purposes do they require labour on tour? 66. They require labour for making paths through the jungle, for preparing camping grounds, for constructing landhis, for loading and unloading kit, for fetching water, for bringing grass, firewood, and other things to camp.
67. How many labourers do they require daily in camp? 67. They require 20 to 25 men at the beginning and an equal number at the end of their camp. For the intervening days, they require 10 men.
68. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp? 68. Answered under No. 76.
69. Whence do they obtain them? 69. They obtain them from the zamindars.
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are the labourers given anything by the zamindars? 70. The officers pay something to those men only who help them at shikar. For other work nothing is paid.
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar? 72. They get labour from zamindars.

73. What do they pay the men? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment? 73. The officers give some bakhshish to the chheras accompanying them on shikar. The latter accept it readily.
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities? 75. It is required occasionally. See 22.
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials? 76. They are given nothing. They are only fed by the zamindars. In some cases they have their own food.
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 77. Labourers, carpenters and drivers.
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government? 78. The labourers, who are haris, are given nothing but food by the zamindars or the local officials. The carpenters and drivers are paid wages by the P. W. D.
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars? 79. It does cause some loss. But they willingly bear this to prevent the loss from floods and breaches.
80. How far does the employment of "Beldars" interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards? 80. It certainly does interfere.
81. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders? 81. No.
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government? 82. Every officer should have 10 khalasis. Travelling by carriage on kacha roads should be stopped. Travelling to camp through the jungles instead of along the public roads should also be stopped.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAJI FAZULLALLAH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Haji Fazullallah Kazi Haji Ahmed. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Supervising tapedar, Taluka Tando Allahyar. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Tando Allahyar. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 28 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. When I was a tapedar, I had personal experience but since 1911 when I was made a supervising tapedar, I have known less of rasai because I did not make it myself. |

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your charge? | 6. 127,708-17 acres. |
| 7. What supplies have to be provided locally for touring officers at their various camps? | 7. Cots, jars, grass, firewood, milk, mutton, fowls, eggs, butter, rice, flour, ghee, molasses, bajri, sugar, pulses, potatoes, vegetables etc. |
| 8. What are their requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at their various camps? | 8. The requirements depend on the officers' establishment; 10 to 50 cots and 10 to 50 jars and provisions. |
| 9. What arrangements are made for accommodating their private and official establishments? | 9. The officers have their tents with them. One or two landhis are erected for their private servants and kitchen. The clerks and munshis are accommodated in pucca houses. |
| 10. What arrangements are made for stables at their various camps? | 10. Kacha landhis are constructed for stables except when Local Fund or P. W. D. bungalows have pucca stables attached to them. |
| 11. What arrangements are made for their office at their, various camps? | 11. Generally they take tents for the purpose. |
| 12. What labour do they require to be provided locally at their various camps? | 12. Apart from the number of chheras required for pitching and striking tents, 2 to 6 chheras are required daily. 50 Chheras are required daily at the Commissioner's Camp. |
| 13. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 13. Fairly good. |
| 14. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 14. The local fund establishment is responsible, and is employed for the repair of the roads. |
| 15. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 15. If there are no regular roads to camps, foot-paths are generally marked off to facilitate the transport of kit at night. This work is done by the village establishment in the case of touring revenue officers and by the police establishment in the case of touring police officers with a view to their convenience. It is generally not done in the case of officers of other departments. The P. W. D. and the forest officers already have paths of their own for their tour. In some places such temporary roads are prepared by the local fund establishment. |
| 16. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at headquarters? | 16. All officers engage transport on the monthly system for the whole period of their tour at headquarters. They never engage transport locally except in emergencies. |
| 17. What are their postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 17. Where there is no post office the kotars bring their post from the head quarters of the taluka to the camping ground. If the kotars are not mounted or if the distance is great, zamindars' mounted men bring their post. Their post from and to their own head-quarters is similarly carried. Perhaps the men are paid railway fares from the funds at the disposal of the touring officer. |
| 18. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 18. The Assistant Collector camps at one village or another in each tupa, and the collector camps at 3 or 4 or even 5 places in each taluka. The Commissioner camps at one or two places in each taluka every three or four years. There is no regular camping ground everywhere. A camping ground is prepared for the occasion with due regard to the weather occasionally by the local fund establishment and generally by the zamindars' chheras. |

19. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 19. There are no regular camping grounds and no man to look after them.
20. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars? 20. The camping places are generally near villages and bazars where everything is not obtainable at all times unless previous intimation is given to the bania. In some places the banias undertake to provide supplies on payment of advances to them. Sometimes it becomes necessary to have new shops opened.
21. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 21. There are no vegetable gardens attached to camping grounds which can supply vegetables etc. to the required extent except at a certain season.
22. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 22. Tando Allahyar, Chambur, Jhando Mari.
23. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 23. Departmental chowkidars.
- Rasai.*
24. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 24. Rasai means any gratification made to save and enhance one's respect and at times even to save one's appointment.
25. What are the average daily requirements of officers on tour in the matter of supplies? 25. The average daily cost varies from 5 to 15 Rs. according to the strength of the establishment.
26. What are the average daily requirements respectively of their private servants and of their official establishment? 26. The average daily cost is one rupee in the case of an officer, 8 annas in the case of a munshi and 4 annas in the case of a private servant and others getting small pay.
27. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? 27. The present ruling rates are the following:— rice 4 annas a seer; eggs 9 pies each; fowls 8 annas each; milk 2 annas a seer; butter one rupee a seer; bajri stalks 100 bundles at Rs. 15; firewood at 10 annas a maund; jwari stalks not available.
28. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 28. Milk, stalks and firewood have market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns. In some rare villages with no bania shop however these have no market values.
29. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of officers, their private servants and of their official establishment? 29. It depends on the number of the establishment and does not exceed Rs. 20.
30. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 30. All supplies except provisions are obtained by tapedars from zamindars. There is no zamindar who can meet all requirements. Provisions etc. are stocked by banias at their shops. Every one gets his provisions from the bania on payment.
31. How are they paid for? 31. As regards the supplies collected by the tapedar the servants take more than they want and allow less than they have taken in the bills. They also very often take back the money paid on the bills except when the payment is made by the officer when starting for the next camp which is very rare. As a rule the butler takes the receipt which is nominally signed by one zamindar or another. There are a few officers who give written orders for their daily supplies. Even in such cases the servants take more supplies than they are authorized by their masters to take.
32. Do the payments reach the actual providers or are they retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp? 32. The tapedar pays for some of the articles collected by him. As a rule the zamindars provide the supplies for which they generally receive no payment. The payments are seldom handed over to the actual providers. They are as a rule utilized towards the expenses of rasai.
33. How does their estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 33. The daily cost is greater than the estimated cost.
34. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the bania or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 34. The excess is borne by the tapedars, or the rasai-making zamindar.

35. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 35. It is met from the source from which rasai is met.
36. Is anything paid for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 36. No payment is made for water jars etc.
37. Do they obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds? 37. No vegetables are obtainable at camping grounds and none are obtained.
38. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 38. The rules of 1914 exist in name only; no effect has been given to them in the matter of rasai which has on the contrary increased from time to time. At a few places only the zamindar provides the supplies. Otherwise the tapedars collect the supplies and the zamindars are the nominal providers.
39. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? 39. Modifications in the rules of 1914 are very necessary. Camps should be confined to large towns. The camp establishments should be curtailed. Should it be necessary to encamp at a village, all supplies should be taken out. In large towns all supplies should be obtained from the bazar independently or an independent contractor should be appointed for the purpose. It is difficult however to find a contractor who can provide all supplies. What is of the utmost importance is that the touring officer should be vigilant.
40. Have touring officers been able to give regular and timely intimation of their requirements and of their camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 40. Touring officers issue their programmes of tour in advance. The dates however are changed occasionally. They never give previous intimation of their requirements.
41. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders? 41. The rules of 1914 have not been followed except at a few places in the matter of rasai. There are no special orders.
42. Do you give 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep to touring officers? 42. I present no dalis.
44. What are the orders of Government on the subject? 44. The giving of dalis which are obtained on payment is prohibited by Government orders.
- Lapo.*
45. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 45. Lapo means what is levied from the zamindars over and above the lawful dues of Government.
46. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? 46. Unauthorized lapo is levied in cash whether it be for entertainment or as anagi.
47. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 47. It is levied from zamindars not only by the tapedars but by the subordinate officials of all departments. It is levied for the ostensible purpose of making rasai. It is mostly utilized for rasai.
48. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 48. There is no uniform practice. At some places it is levied at 3 to 5 % on the assessment, at some at 4 annas to a rupee per cultivated survey number, and at others in lump sum. Zamindars pay it voluntarily either by money order, or in the presence of the officers making recoveries. Educated zamindars do not pay lapo. Compulsory lapo is generally not recovered.
49. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund? 49. The major portion of unauthorized lapo recovered is utilized to cover the cost of rasai. It is not converted for that purpose into a rasai fund. At each camp items are recorded on slips of paper. After the departure of the camp the total expenditure is arrived at when the men concerned make their contributions and the slips are destroyed. No regular accounts are kept.
50. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund? 50. There is no rasai fund and hence there is no one to manage it.

51. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilised for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
51. The annual cost for the whole taluka is from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 according to the number of camps. The amounts of presents and of daily allowances made from it are not fixed. These vary with the greed of the men concerned. The figure mentioned above is greatly exceeded in the year in which the Commissioner visits the taluka.
52. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
52. Unauthorized lapo is exacted by the low-paid subordinates of every department. No favours are shown on that account to those who pay it. Indeed people pay it as a matter of course so that the subordinate officials may treat them with respect and speak well of them before their officers.
53. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
53. About Rs. 400 or 450 is paid every year to the establishments of the inspecting officers to mitigate the strictness of their inspection.
54. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
54. The rules of 1914 have to some extent affected the levy of unauthorized lapo. One-fourth or one-third of the land revenue is now paid by postal money order office in the presence of the taluka officer and on these collections the tapedar levy no lapo.
55. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
55. None.
56. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
56. First, pay and allowances must be increased. The present pay and allowances of subordinate officials are hardly sufficient for their personal requirements.
(2) There should be permanent settlement.
(3) Suitable measures should be adopted for stopping rasai. The officers should exercise great vigilance in the matter.
57. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
57. It means labour obtained free of charge from zamindars for work at officers' camps or for temporary jobs.
58. Who are the 'Chheras'?
58. They are generally harij, occasionally they are peasant proprietors.
59. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
59. To pitch tents, to do miscellaneous work, to collect cots, jars, etc. and to bring them to camp, to clear roads, to keep night watch at officers' camps.
60. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
60. They hold no lands on such conditions, nor are they made concessions. They however regard themselves as bound at all times to respond to the calls of their zamindars.
61. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
61. They get nothing but food. The food is provided occasionally by the zamindars, but generally by the tapedar in charge of the camp. They receive nothing in cash. In some places all or most of the chheras engaged are paid their wages by the tapedar in charge of the camp.
62. How far is casual paid labour available in your chheras?
62. In some places 10 to 15 men can be obtained through the zamindars. In most places none can be obtained even on payment of wages. If wages were given in the shape of a reward, men would come willingly.
63. Is any considerable staff of "Beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
63. In the cold or touring season the staff of beldars consists of 40-50 men.
64. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
64. Zamindars consider themselves as bound and try their utmost to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government with a view to please them.
65. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
65. None in this taluka.
66. For what purposes do touring officers require labour?
66. For pitching tents, helping at shikar, fetching water and taking things to and from camp.

47. How many labourers do you require daily in camp ?
48. How many more do they require when pitching or striking camp ?
49. Whence do they obtain them ?
70. Are they paid anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars ?
72. How do they obtain labour for shikar ?
73. What do they pay the men ? Is there difficulty in making them accept payment ?
75. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities ?
76. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or the local officials ?
77. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
78. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government ?
79. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars ?
80. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards ?
82. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government ?
67. The number depends upon the strength of the establishment. Except at the time of pitching and unpitching tents 4 or 5 men are required.
68. 25 or 30 men are required for pitching and striking tents.
69. They obtain either from zamindars.
70. The men receive no money.
72. 4 to 10 zamindari chheras are obtained through the tapedars and zamindars.
73. Sometimes when the officers are in high spirits they give them something by way of a gift which is readily accepted.
75. Generally none.
76. If they are at all employed in emergencies, they are given food only.
77. Divers, carpenters, casual paid labourers such as dalharias (who carry baskets of earth) and kodaris (who work with spades) are required.
78. The artisans, divers and carpenters get some wages also. Others get food only.
79. At times chheras are employed on a work which saves cultivation and villages from floods. They regard such a work as important as cultivation itself. But they must get not less than annas 8 per head per day
80. According to the period of their employment.
82. Chher should be suppressed entirely which can only be done by curtailing tours and camp establishments.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MUKHI JETHANAND PRITAMDAS.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mukhi Jethanand Pritamdass. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar and merchant. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. I pay both; income-tax about Rs. 4000 and Land revenue about Rs. 8000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of municipality, local board or honorary magistrate. | 5. Honorary Magistrate. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai originally means supplies provided on payment. It now means supplies provided free of payment. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I personally do not make rasai, my agents make it and submit their rasai accounts to me. This has been the practice for years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Pritamahad, Goth Mukhi Siramal, Rahwari etc. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Collector, the Deputy Collector, the Mukhtiarakar. |
| 10. What supplies do these officers require for themselves? | 10. They require cots, grass, firewood, fowls, kids, eggs, milk, butter etc. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. We get those supplies on payment except firewood, grass and milk which are obtained from our zamindari or from our haris. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. We get them from our own stock, failing which we provide them in the manner indicated above. |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. We pay for fowls, eggs, rice and flour at the following rates. From 4 to 6 annas per fowl, from half anna to one anna per egg. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes, formerly firewood, grass and milk had no market value; but now everything has. Only the rates are lower in the country than in the towns. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? hire; otherwise we pay hire according to the distance. | 15. We get firewood from our kabuli land and bring it to camp on carts or camel-back. If we have our own camels available we spend nothing in the way of |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The average daily cost for a European officer is Rs. 5; and for a native officer from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. In the case of the Collector's establishment it is from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30; and for the Deputy Collector's establishment from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. Vide reply to No. 18. There is a slight difference in cash payments only. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. It costs on an average from Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 for the camp of the Collector if he stays for 3 days. For the Deputy Collector's camp the cost varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75. |

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?
23. Some payment is made by the officers but the money does not reach us. From the establishment we receive nothing.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hands or on you?
24. The loss falls on us, so far as cash payments are concerned.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
25. Generally they live in their rowties; sometimes we construct kacha landhis.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment?
26. We pay for labour alone which costs us from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per landhi. We receive no payment.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
27. We have to provide camels etc. when they are wanted. Generally officers and their establishments take out with them camels or carts for riding and the carriage of kit.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
28. If we provide camels or carts at the time of need we pay the hire from our pockets. We receive no payment.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
30. It costs us two or three hundred rupees per year. Some of the officials pay for their supplies. Their establishments pay nothing.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
31. Rs. 500 on an average.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?
32. Rasai is made by my agent independently of any officials.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
33. The officers make payments on bills which are prepared in consultation with the tapedars and butlers.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
34. I prefer the appointment of a contractor independent of the tapedars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. Probably not without effort.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. I suggest that rasai should be stopped altogether. Under the present system the zamindars who make rasai are favourites of officers, while those who do not make rasai find officers offended with them. There are several instances in which men of no standing have become respectable men because of their making rasai. If rasai is stopped no one will suffer in respect. The officers should sympathise with the zamindars.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. Yes. A dali of fruit or vegetables costs from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25, while that of sheep from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. Yes.
- Lapo.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. It means an unauthorised charge which is levied by the tapedars and the supervising tapedars in subordinate officials in other departments.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. There are three forms of lapo:—(1) That levied per number or block. (2) Anagi and (3) Lump sum. It is levied in all departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. At 8 annas to a rupee per number, at one rupee to 3 rupees per block. (2.) Anagi at one anna a rupee, like the local fund cess and lump sum according to the zamindar's status and pecuniary circumstances.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedar, abdar and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
- Judicial Commissioner should
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the Chheras'?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their samindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the samindars, or from the officers of Government?
42. It is levied by the tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the daroga, the police subordinates, and the forest tapedars. It is levied for the ostensible purpose of making rasai.
43. I pay lapo as well as make rasai. The lapo paid to the tapedar is partly utilized for making rasai and partly appropriated by him.
44. I pay lapo as well as make money presents.
45. From Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 is paid to the private servants and official staff of officers in the shape of daily allowances with a view to prevent the former from prejudicing the latter against the zamindars or detaining them unnecessarily when they call on the officers.
46. Yes. It is paid to the tapedar so that he may not enter uncultivated numbers as cultivated and be unduly strict in the matter of boundary marks and give no trouble in the recovery of assessment. It is paid to subordinates in other departments also with a view to keep them from giving trouble.
- 47 & 48. Such amounts are exacted by subordinate officials of all departments and as stated above. I pay on an average Rs. 500 a year.
49. No, very slightly.
50. No.
51. There should be no supervising tapedars and in their places assistant mukhtarkars should be appointed. Tapedars should have no hand in land matters. The powers of the Police in regard to Badmashi cases should be withdrawn from them. The Commissioner in Sind, the Chief Engineer, and the not tour at all. The tour of the Collector and the Deputy Collector should be restricted to taluka headquarters towns and big villages. If they cannot get an article without difficulty they must do without it. The tour of the Collector and the Deputy Collector should be for a short time. The pay of the subordinate officials should be increased and the rasai makers and the lapo takers should be proceeded against according to law.
- Chher.
52. Chher means zamindars' haris and labourers employed without remunerations.
53. They are zamindars' haris and labourers.
54. To pitch and strike tents, to fetch water, to repair roads, and to clear canals.
55. Yes.
56. Generally not. In rare cases the zamindars feed the chheras.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers? 57. The number depends on the status of the officer. The greater the status of the officer, the larger the number of men.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stails and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps? 58. From 20 to 40 or sometimes 50 for all manner of work.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. In rare cases they get a little money from officers while they get food only from the zamindars.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar? 60. The number depends on the status of the officer.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars? 61. They do not come willingly. But the zamindars bring them with a view to their own honour.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards? 62. The number depends on whether the officer is touring by motor car or horse carriage.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. No.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards? 64. They get a little in some cases.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. From 20 to 500 or 1000 in case of breaches in main canals or the river.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. On such occasions the P. W. D. pay them their wages; but the subordinate officials pocket some of the money.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Yes, if chher is required at the time of cultivation or harvest. The loss so caused is one or two annas in the rupee.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. It is available to the extent required.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. No.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MUSHTAKSING.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mushtaksing son of Diwan Parsram. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Rs. 10,000 Land revenue in the Karachi and Hyderabad Districts. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Resident of Hyderabad; now at Dhandhi, taluka Hyderabad. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. Member of Taluka Local Board, Guni, and Assessor, District Hyderabad. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai means to provide supplies without payment at officers' camps. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. 45 years experience. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8. Formerly Dhandhi only, now both Dhandhi and Dadu. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The tapedar, the supervising tapedar, the Mukhtiar, the Assistant Collector, the Collector, the Commissioner, the District Superintendent Police, the Executive Engineer, the Superintending Engineer, the Inspector of Police, the Sub-Inspector of Police, the sub-divisional officer of the P. W. D. and daroghas. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. All provisions, grass, firewood etc. Formerly from 1877 to 1883, when there were fixed assessments, all officers used to take out with them all articles except grass, firewood, milk, butter, jars, and mutton of which they took very small quantities on full payment. Grass and firewood alone were not paid for by them. After the introduction of the Irrigation Settlement in 1884, tapas for the purpose of village cess were created. This change was made about the year 1887. Then came the fallow rules. Since these reforms were introduced, rasai has increased and is increasing from year to year. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. I get them mostly by purchase and partly from my own house. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12. I do not get them from the haris. I get them from banias on payment. I make all rasai at Dhandhi without the help of other zamindars. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and, if so, at what average rates? | 13. I pay for them at the market rates. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Every article has a market value. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from the jungles. I pay nothing for it except 2 annas per load for its carriage. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. From Rs. 5 to 6 in the case of a European officer. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. From 8 to 9 annas per head. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. The daily charge per munahi amounts to Re. 1-4-0. |

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables ? 21. Yes.
22. What does that cost you for each camp ? 22. From Rs. 12 to 20.
23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks ? 23. I receive no payment from the officers' munshis, private servants and peons. European officers generally do not pay. When they pay, they pay at reduced rate, the money being taken back by the butler. To illustrate what I have said :—If they take 6 fowls (price 6 to 8 annas each) they pay at the rate of 2 annas each. All other articles which they obtain are paid for at $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the actual price.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your hars or on you ? 24. The loss falls on me.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks ? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment ? 26. I have pucca houses. It therefore costs me nothing.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages ? 27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 28. It costs me 2 annas per mile for a camel or horse.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials ? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment ? 30. The statement of yearly expenses :—

| | Cost per occasion. | | | Total. | | |
|--|--------------------|-----|-----|--------|----|----|
| | Rs. | A. | P. | Rs. | A. | P. |
| Tapedar and kotar, 12 times ... | ... | 2 | 0 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Supervising tapedar and kotar, 6 times ... | ... | 2 | 0 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Mukhtiarkar, 4 times ... | ... | 10 | 0 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Assistant collector once ... | ... | 40 | 0 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Collector once in every alternate year ... | ... | 50 | 0 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Engineer, 4 times ... | ... | 20 | 0 0 | 80 | 0 | 0 |
| I have no connection with the forest department. | | | | | | |
| Commissioner once in every 5 or 6 years ... | ... | 300 | 0 0 | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to mukhtiarkar's peons and cook ... | ... | 10 | 0 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to Assistant Collector's peons, butler and other private servants ... | ... | 15 | 0 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to Collector's peons, butler and other private servants ... | ... | 15 | 0 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to the cook of supervisor ... | ... | 4 | 0 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to peons of Engineer ... | ... | 2 | 0 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to private servants of tapedar ... | ... | 3 | 0 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Money presents to kotar and private servants of tapedar ... | ... | 2 | 0 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| District Superintendent Police twice ... | ... | 15 | 0 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 |

The beldars, mucedadums and darogas of the P. W. D. must get their food on their way through my village and back,

31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai' ? 31. Rs. 400 in cash.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapers or by the contracting zamindars ? 32. I, but not the tapedar, make the rasai. I make it under the instructions of the mukhtiarkar if he is present, as he sometimes is.
33. How do you receive payment ? Do you prepare bills or do the tapers, or are payments made through contracting zamindars ? 33. No payment is made to me or to my agents.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars, or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapers and zamindars?
34. I do not approve of the system of rasai being made by contracting zamindars or tapers. All supplies can be obtained independently of a contractor. They should be bought in large towns and taken out on tour. At all events contractors should be men who are not zamindars. They should be allowed higher rates than the market rates as the officers and their establishments get decent travelling allowances.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
35. Yes.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
36. Rasai should not be taken from the zamindars. The tour should be curtailed. Camp should be confined to large towns where everything can be had. Should it become necessary to camp in a small village or in the jungle, all supplies should be obtained from large towns and taken out except grass and firewood which can be had everywhere. Strict orders should be given to mukhtarkars and other officials at whose instance rasai is made. Mukhtarkars, head munshis and officials of other departments should be held responsible for seeing that zamindars who do not make rasai are not molested. If one does not make rasai, one suffers in respect and property. I quote the following instances:—
1. In the year 1908, the Assistant Engineer's camp in connection with the improvement of Hassanali Canal, lasted for 3 months. Rasai was made at first but subsequently it was represented that no supplies would be given except on payment. The result was that my garden land in Deh Nukirji was entered upon, and the garden trees thereon cut down, without payment of compensation without any notification being issued by the Commissioner. I filed a suit in the District Court of Hyderabad which was decided in my favour so that the expenses incurred by Government were in vain.
 2. Towards the end of the same year a complaint was filed against me in the court of the first class Magistrate, Guni, in connection with my water course Belo which always got its supplies from the Hassanali. The complaint was that I had opened a closed water course. The complaint was dismissed.
 3. In the year 1909, the police got less rasai than they had expected. The District Superintendent of Police on the reports of his subordinates recommended to the District Magistrate, Hyderabad, that I should be deprived of the privilege of a chair. The District Magistrate after making inquiries did not accept his recommendation.
 4. In the year 1910-11, a European officer encamped at Dbaudhi in my absence. My agents and kamdars were there. As however they did not make money presents to the butler and peons on their arrival, the butler made false complaints to their officer. The officer sent for my agent, reproached him, made him stand in the sun for a short time and then let him off. An order was also issued to me to present myself at his camp. I was told that no good rasai had been made and was asked the reason of my absence. I replied that I could not be present owing to my cases and that my agent and kamdar had made good rasai. The result was that a note was made against me to the effect that my fallow numbers which were forfeited owing to the breaches at Budhaha Takar and Bharam Shah should not be restored to me even on payment of the fallow assessment.
 5. In the year 1912, again that officer encamped and a good rasai was made; the peons and butlers however were not satisfied with the rasai. A case was therefore filed against me in the court of the 2nd class Magistrate, Guni, in connection with trees on my lease land which I had cut down for the purpose of cultivation. I went and explained the matter to the District Magistrate who withdrew the complaint.
37. Do you present 'Dhalie' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
37. Yes. It costs me from Rs. 30 to 40.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
38. Yes.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
39. I regard lapo as a blackmail.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
40. There are various forms of it. It is levied in all departments.

41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
41. It is levied in lump sum, at 1 to 2 rupees per No. and at 3 to 5 per cent. on the assessment.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
42. It is levied by the supervising tapedar, the tapedar, the darogha, the police, the sub-divisional officer. It is paid to save oneself from the loss of respect which is caused by them in unlawful exercise of their powers.

Instances:—The tapedars entered as cultivated 22 numbers of mine which were uncultivated and charged me assessment on them in my bill. I made a complaint stating that the proceeding was the result of delay on my part in the payment of lapo. Thereupon the numbers were omitted from the bill and I was informed of it by the Mukhtiar in his orders dated 30th March 1914 and 15th July 1914, copies of which are enclosed.

2. In the year 1916, there was delay in payment of lapo to the darogha on Hassenali canal. The result was that he asked his muccadam to take out some bricks from the sluice of my karia Kharo which takes off from the Khairwah. He then pointed out the injury to the Sub-Divisional officer and obtaining permission from the Executive Engineer, Fuleli Canals, filed a complaint in the court of the 3rd class Magistrate Guni which was decided in my favour.

3. After I got possession of Deh Khudo Dino in Taluka Mirpur Bathoro, the darogha of Sayedwah on account of not receiving lapo in time made a report to the Sub-Divisional officer on which the Engineer issued an order to the effect that no karia should be opened which has no masonry sluice. I had made my arrangements for cultivation before the receipt of this order. However I ordered my kamdars to take water from the other three karias which were open and from the neighbouring zamindars. But the darogha filed a case against me in the Court of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Shah Bunder, which was decided in my favour in June 1917.

4. The darogha of Mahamoodwah in Taluka Mirpur Bathoro District Karachi, filed a complaint against me in the court of the second class Magistrate Mirpur for unauthorized use of water because of delay in payment of lapo. The complaint was dismissed in December last.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. Since the issue of the circular of 1914, rasai and lapo have increased and are paid separately.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. Tapedars make money presents to the servants of touring officers from their lapo. I also make such presents besides paying lapo.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Replied under No. 30.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. It is paid to save oneself from loss of respect and injuries.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. It is exacted by tapedars, supervising tapedars, daroghas and sub-divisional officers.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. From Rs. 200 to Rs. 250.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
49. Neither lapo nor rasai has been reduced by the rules of 1914. They have on the contrary increased.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtiar? master which is equal to the money order commission. How can lapo be reduced, when immediate officers lend their support to those who take lapo. For instance, in the year 1915—16, I received bills late. I did not pay full lapo. I sent my assessment

amounting to Rs. 2,000 with my agent to the taluka office. The mukhtiarkar refused to take the money and ordered that it should be paid to the tapedars concerned. The tapedars received the money after recovering the remaining lapo.

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenues or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. The following are my recommendations for stopping lapo:—

1. Rasai, lapo and chher will not stop unless revenue and judicial functions are separated.

2. Strict orders should be issued to the mukhtiarkars, head munshis, and corresponding officers of other departments who should be held responsible.

3. A committee of educated zamindars should be appointed to keep watch over the subordinate officials of all departments who take lapo, rasai and chher by undue exercise of their powers.

4. Superior officers should carefully and earnestly make open and secret inquiries at camps.

5. Compulsory education should be introduced so that the sons of zamindars and haris may be educated.

6. All members of local boards should be elected.

7. The honour of a chair should be bestowed upon zamindars who pay more than Rs. 500 assessment and the old practice abolished:

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. Chher means forced labour employed for Government without payment of wages.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53. They are generally haris and labourers.

54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?

54. To repair roads, to prepare camping grounds, to carry kit, to pitch and strike tents, to load kit, to fetch water, to carry post, to help at shikar.

55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. They hold no special lands on condition to work as forced labour.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government?

56. They receive nothing from the officers or zamindars. The zamindars only feed them.

57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?

57. 10 chheras are required at each camp for the Mukhtiarkar; 20 for the Assistant Collector; 150-200 for the Commissioner; and 20-30 for the District Superintendent of Police.

58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?

58. All of them are required daily until the removal of the camp.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars?

59. They get nothing from the officers, while they get food from the zamindars.

60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar?

60. 10-15 chheras are required for bird-shooting and 100-200 for pig-shooting.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. They come unwillingly; they get nothing.

62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards?

62. Every zamindar repairs the roads in connection with a camp. Formerly this work was done at the expense of the Local Boards. A larger chher is required because of high officers travelling by motor cars. Last year in 1917 the Commissioner-in-Sind had to travel by motor car from Tando Mahomedkhan to Sujawal. I received an order from the Mukhtiarkar to get the road repaired nicely for the motor car. I was entrusted with 2 miles of the road. I employed 150 men on the work. I submitted a bill of wages for Rs. 75, but no payment has yet been made.

63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers?
63. Until the officers have passed along such roads, they are fenced and closed to public traffic to the inconvenience of the travellers. Watchmen are placed at short intervals at night to prevent travellers passing along and spoiling them. Such repairs are not undertaken with a view to public convenience.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards?
64. They get nothing except food from the zamindars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
65. 40 to 50 chheras are required for canal breaches and 200 for river breaches.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government?
66. The chheras get food in case of river breaches, but not in case of canal breaches.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. Yes.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. Yes.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. Chher should be stopped and labour obtained on payment.

(1)

Copy of letters, dated 30th March 1919, from the Mukhtiarkar of Gunt, to Diwan Mushtasing Zamindar of Gunt.

With reference to your petition stating that survey numbers 58, 75 and 77 in Deh Pakhiarki which are uncultivated have been entered by the tapedar as cultivated, you are informed that the numbers in question are uncultivated and have been entered as such.

(2)

With reference to your petitions stating that certain uncultivated survey numbers of yours in Dehs Nukerji, Samijani and Khersar have been entered by the tapedar as cultivated, I have already informed you of the result of my personal inspection of the survey numbers. As however you have again made petitions on the subject, I again inform you that entries have been made in conformity with the result of my inspection. Nothing more can be done.

| Deh. | Cultivated. | Uncultivated. |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Nukerji ... | 579, 578, 605 | ... |
| Samijani ... | { 30, 250, 251 255, 257 ... } | 235, 252, 253, 254, 255, 260, 262, 156 |
| Khairsar ... | 98, 72, 71 | ... |

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. THAKURDAS DHARAMDAS.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Thakurdas Dharamdas. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar and contractor of Public Works Department. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Extent of zamindari 1030 acres. I pay about Rs. 1,000 Land Revenue. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad. |
| 5. Public employment, if any, such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. I was District Local Board member 5 years ago. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. It means to supply things to Government officers and their establishments without payment. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have seen rasai made for the last 17 years, but I have not made rasai personally. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8 and 9. On account of bad drinking water no camps are made in my zamindari. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10 to 13.—On account of bad drinking water no camps are made in my zamindari. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies; namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | |
| 12. Do you get them from your barns or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | |
| 13. Do you pay for them and, if so, at what average rates? | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. Vide reply to No. 9. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. The average daily cost of supplies provided to officers amount to 5 or 6 rupees. The details are:— 2 fowls Re one; a dozen eggs 6 annas; butter half a seer 8 annas; mutton and fish 8 annas; rice and flour 6 annas; ghee $\frac{1}{4}$ of a seer 4 annas; spices 2 annas; grain for horses 9 annas and 6 pies; grass 6 bundles 12 annas; palia for horses' beds 2 annas; milk 4 seers 6 annas; mutton for dogs 5 annas. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. Yes. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. From 8 annas to 10 annas per servant. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. Yes. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. Rs. 1-8-0 per munshi. Cash payment Re 1-0-0; mutton, milk, eggs and fowls Re. 0-8-0. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. Yes. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. Zamindars spend about Rs. 10 for landhis. |

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? 23. European officers pay at half rates, the money being taken back by the butler, while the establishments pay nothing.
24. If not, does the loss fall on your haris or on you? 24. The loss falls on the zamindars.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? 25. Yes.
26. If so, does it cost you anything, and do you receive payment? 26. No payment is received.
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? 27. Yes.
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? 28. 2 annas per mile for a camel and 3 or 4 annas per mile for a cart. No payment is received.
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? 29. Yes.
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. It costs from 10 to 15 rupees in the case of the Police Inspector, the Sub-Inspector, the Mukhtiar-kar, and the Overseer. No payment is received.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' your self or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 31-33. I pay nothing.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. I prefer the appointment of independent contractors.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub divisions of the district? 35. Yes.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. Rasai sucks the blood of zamindars. It entails loss of money and respect. The officers' tours and their camp establishments should be curtailed and their camps restricted to large towns only.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. I have given dalis once or twice. It cost me about Rs. 10.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Yes.
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? Lapo. 39. Lapo means an annual impost levied by tapedars and daroghas.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 40. It is levied in cash generally. The subordinates of the Revenue and Public Works Departments are notorious lapo-takers. The Police also levy it by entrapping people.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, ahdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 41. It is levied at 3 to 6 per cent on the assessment or at Re. 1 to 2 per acre or in lump sum or at a certain rate per survey number.
42. By the tapedar Rs. 5; supervising tapedar 1; darogha 1; sub-overseer 2; sub-divisional officer 7 and sub-inspector in lump sum.

43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
43. It is levied apart from rasai.
44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
44. It is levied apart from money presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
45. Money presents are made to the munshis, private servants and peons of officers so that they may not prejudice their masters.
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
46. It is paid not for particular favours but with a view to save oneself from harassments, such as proceedings for waste of water, entry of uncultivated numbers as cultivated, treatment of boundary marks in repair as out of repair.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
47. It is exacted by the Police under threats of proceedings under Section 110; by the darogha under threats of narrowing the mouths of water courses and of making adverse reports to the Executive Engineer and Sub-Divisional Officer.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
48. The amount depends on the assessment and the number of particular favours.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
- 49 and 50. No.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
51. (1) An elected committee of zamindars should be appointed for each taluka to look into cases of bribery, lapo and rasai and to get the offenders convicted. (2) Revenue and judicial functions should be separated.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
52. It means forced labour or labour free of payment.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
53. They are zamindars' haris.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
54. To prepare roads, and camping grounds, to do all manner of work at camps, to help at shikar etc, etc.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
55. They hold their lands on the condition of working as chheras for the benefit of cultivation but not as forced labour.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from the officers of Government?
56. The zamindars only feed them.
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camp of the different officers?
57. About 10 chheras are required for a native officer. In the case of a European officer the number required depends on his establishment and is sometimes 200.
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stails and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
58. All the men are kept until the camp breaks up.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?
59. They get food only from the zamindars.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar.
60. I have no idea.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?
61. They come unwillingly. They get nothing.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ?
62. The number depends on the quantity of work to be done.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
63. Yes, but for a short time only.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ?
64. No.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
65. From 50 to 500 according to the amount of work involved.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?
66. The zamindars only feed them.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ?
67. It does interfere with the cultivation and causes loss both to themselves and the zamindars.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ?
68. It is available to any extent.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars ?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ?
70. Chher should be stopped. Ordinary labour should be employed. It should be obtained through the contractors.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. ABDULHUK ABDULLAH.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Abdulhuk Abdulla Sheikh. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Deputy Educational Inspector, Mulla Schools, Hyderabad. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad Sind. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 13 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 22 years. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. The districts of Nawabshah and Hyderabad and other towns on the railway line in Sind. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. About 9 months. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Cook and a boy servant. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. 2 clerks and 2 peons. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. Grain, spices, ghee, pulse, potatoes, tea and sugar. The clerks and servants do not. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Milk, eggs, mutton and fuel and fresh vegetables. They require all. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Official:—3 camp tables, carpets 3 or 4, 5 chairs, 5 boxes and 1 teapoy. Private:—folding chair, 2 trunks, 1 box. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. 5 cots, 4 or 5 water jars. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. None. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. They occupy out houses in case of P. W. D. and district bungalows and private house where none is available, or tapelar's dero or musafarkhanas. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. None required. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current year's as well as of one previous year. About 3 boxes. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. Office is held in one of the rooms of the bungalow I occupy. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. No labour required. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. Does not concern me. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Am not definite. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads at your various camps? | 22. Does not concern me. |

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?
23. Camels and carts permanently in winter and sometimes in summer also, otherwise locally.
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?
24. I generally encamp where postal facilities exist, otherwise one of the peons brings it.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
25. Taluka headquarter stations and small towns and very occasionally very small villages.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
26. None required.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?
27. I encamp where there are bania shops or otherwise my main requirements are with me.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
28. I do not avail myself of any vegetables from local board gardens.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
- 29 & 30. I can't answer.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. Acceptance of necessities of life without payment or with a nominal payment.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. 2 pao mutton, 2 pounds milk, 2 eggs in winter, 8 seers fuel, 1 pound ghee, 4 pice vegetables.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
33. Private servants are fed by me; clerks and peons purchase from the bazar, 1½ seer rice, 1½ seer flour, 1 pound ghee, 1 seer milk, 1 pound mutton. One clerk is vegetarian.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. 4 seers per rupee flour, 4 seers per rupee rice, eggs 2 pice each, 2 annas a seer milk, firewood by load 4 to 8 annas, ghee 14 chataks per rupee.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. Yes, where I encamp.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. About rupee 1 annas 8 for self including supplies which I take with me. Rupees 2 of clerks and servants.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. From pocket, my servants do it.
38. How are they paid for?
38. On the spot to the dealers.
39. What guarantees have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. My personal care in the matter.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Both are the same.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne, by the haris or samundars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. It is not.

42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasa' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtiarbars?
42. No. It does not concern me.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
43. Cots and jars are supplied free of cost and sometimes I carry or buy my own jars. No one has to incur anything for the supply of cots, whereas jars are returned and used for school boys.
44. Do you obtain vegetables and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
- 44 to 46. No.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. In my case 1914 rules are immaterial.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. Independent contractors for big officials would be preferable and for other officers their own servants may do like educational officers.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. Not necessary.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. No, except the Commissioner's circular.
51. Do you receive "Dhaha" of vegetables and fruits and presents of gamp or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
- 51 to 53. No.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhahis" and sheep?
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. Tapedar's exactions from zamindars in cash' (the greatest scandal).
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. Not in a position to detail them.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Not in a position to detail them.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. Can't say definitely.

58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenues, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
73. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
74. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?
75. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
76. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
58. I do not know much, but it is known that a substantial portion thereof is converted into rasai fund.
- 59 and 60. I am ignorant of it.
- 61 to 64.—Can't say.
65. My general view is that such powers of subordinate officials be curtailed as render the zamindar dependent on them and land revenue be paid into a post office without money order commission.
- Other.*
66. Forced labour without payment or with only raticans.
67. Ordinary villagers and haris (all Mussalmans).
68. Repairs of roads and breaches in canals. All sort of work in the camp of an officer.
69. I do not know.
70. I have heard that sometimes they are fed for the day or the days by zamindars.
71. I think on payment labour can be available any where.
72. I am not definite.
- 73 and 74.—I do not know.
75. No.
76. Chher is occasionally very necessary but the men employed should invariably be paid in money.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KHUSHALDAS SAHIJRAM.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name | 1. Khushaldas Sahijram. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Special Deputy Collector, Indus Barrage Survey- |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 18½ years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 18½ years, 8 years as Mukhtiarkar in the Larkana, Upper Sind Frontier, and Thar and Parkar districts, 2½ years as Chitnis in the last district, 3 months as special Deputy Collector and the remaining period in the ministerial appointments mostly in the Larkana district. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Hyderabad, Hala, Tando Allahyar, Dero Mohbat talukas and a portion of Digri taluka. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Nearly 2½ months. This is a special temporary appointment. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One cook and one syce. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One clerk, three peons and two khalasis. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take all the necessaries except firewood, grass, eggs, meat, bajri, grain for horses. My establishment take nothing. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require ordinarily ½ a maund of firewood, 4 bundles of karbi, 4 eggs and pound or pound and a half of meat, 7 seers of bajri and sometimes little butter. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? Besides 2 or 3 small boxes tables, 3 chairs, 2 despatch boxes and 2 other small boxes containing office record and miscellaneous articles and 1 rowti for peons. | 12. Private kit—(1) couple of deck chairs, (2), small folding chairs, (3), teapoys, and (4), camel trunks. or khokhas for lamps, etc. Office kit—4 pieces camp |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. One dozen cots and 7 or 8 jars including my establishment and a landhi for kitchen. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Two swiss cottage tents 12' x 10' each. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Peons use the rowti given them. Private servants use the kitchen landhi. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. A landhi is sometimes erected. Usually the horses are tethered under trees. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Almost nil. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. The clerk holds his office in the peons' rowti. He removes his materials at night when the same rowti is used for sleeping. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Three or four men on the first day to help in loading and unloading and pitching tents and then couple of men to fetch firewood, grass, water, etc. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20—22. In answering questions I have confined myself to the appointment I at present hold. I therefore presume this question is not required to be answered by me as I have nothing to do with the roads. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | |

23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters?
24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters?
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bazaar shops or bizzars?
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
23. Buggage camels engaged for the whole period of tour.
24. The taluka mukhtarkars are required to send post every alternate day to camp and the same man takes the outgoing post for posting.
- 25—30. Same reply as to question 20.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. The term rasai is commonly understood to mean supply of provisions and other articles at an officer's camp, some of which are not paid for at all and some only in part.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. I have answered this in the answer to question 11.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
33. About 6 seers of flour and as much meat and milk as they can get gratis; whenever they have to eat at their own cost they hardly purchase anything except flour. My clerk messes with peons or tapedar if they are present in camps.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. Bajri 7 seers per rupee, eggs 6 pies each, milk 1½ anna per seer, butter 1 rupee a seer, bajri stalks 5 bundles per rupee, firewood 8 annas a maund; other articles are not required in my camp.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. Generally not. But this year owing to dearth of grass, stalks have a market value in many places.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. About five rupees if firewood is included.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. Usually a tapedar with the assistance of his kotar. Tapedar generally explains that zamindars do not come forward.
38. How are they paid for?
38. To the tapedar if he brings the supplies or else to the zamindar or his man as the case may be.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
39. My inquires are the only guarantee. I feel certain for this further reason that my appointment carries no influence whatever.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Payments equal about half the cost.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. By haris or zamindars.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. Not in my case I think.

43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. No.
44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by Local Funds? 44. Vegetables have not been supplied to me from such gardens. But as mukhtiyarkar I have generally paid at the rate of rupee one per month.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by consulting either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service? 45. No.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service? 46. My appointment is a special one and is about to terminate.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars? 47. Rules of 1914 were impossible to work as no zamindar was prepared to take responsibility for all supplies individually. Tapedar continues to work behind the scene. He has not actually ceased to collect the supplies.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars? 48. A contractor is bound to fail even if found, which, however, I do not think is possible. The only possible experiment under the existing conditions appears to be that of inducing suitable banias—shopkeepers or others—who hold little or no land to take upon themselves the duty of arranging for supplies. These men should be remunerated by grants of land as seris of about 40 acres each. But even in that case cots and jars will still be outside the province of these men to supply, specially for large camps like those of a Collector or Commissioner. I think these may continue to be collected as now for those present.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars? 49. In my present appointment I have usually been. But that is not always possible.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? 51. No.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep? 52 & 53. This I believe, is not the question for me to answer.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out these orders of Government?
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 54. Lapo is cash payment received by revenue tapedars for themselves and I believe, in some cases for also by abdars and canal assistants on the Jamrao.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? 55. Lapo as commonly understood has been described above. I know of no other form.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? 56. It is levied from zamindars by the persons mentioned in answer to question 54 for the purpose of conniving at their illegal acts or saving them as far as possible from the consequences of such acts, e.g., boundary marks and on the Jamrao bannas out of repair, unauthorised occupation of Government land, unauthorised water supply or waste of water.
57. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp? 57. In large majority of cases per survey number and sometimes per jireb. Large landholders generally pay in lump sum and some pay at a certain percentage on the total of land revenue demand.

68. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund? understanding that they will be due to them.
58. I do not think lapo or any part thereof is converted into rasai fund, but it is on account of the existence of lapo that rasai fund may be said to exist. The fund is now formed from tapedars' pay on the more than make good what they pay from lapo that
69. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund? head munshj under the general
59. Generally by a taluka head quarter tapedar or supervising tapedar under the direct supervision of orders of the mukhtiarkar.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund? Deputy Collector respectively, but I know that payments are made to several persons, Government and private servants per camp, for jamabandi and for examination of records.
60. As said above rasai fund is not formed directly from lapo. I do not now clearly remember the amounts paid out of the rasai fund to private and official establishments of touring officers. Last time when I was Mukhtiarkar of Pano Akil all such payments were completely stopped under the strict orders of Messrs. Rothfeld and Isani then my Collector and
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 61. I do not think I am concerned with Police or Forest departments. Irrigation and Revenue favours have been shown in my answer to question 56.
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials? 62. Serious mistakes may not be brought to light or corrected where possible without bringing to notice.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914? 63. They had slightly though temporarily checked it. Some terror was then created in the minds of tapedars who quietly accepted what was given to them. But that fear wore off after a year or two.
64. Have you any special reports on the subjects of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders? 64. No.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code? 65. Government can really do little I think. It can be reduced to some extent if we are really serious. But much depends upon zamindars themselves who must learn to present a bold front and refuse to make payments. They will no doubt be subjected to petty harrasments, difficulty or losses for some time until matters settle down. I have no modification of rules to suggest.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? little feed by their zamindars. all together and generally do so when used for shikar.
66. Chher is labour supplied for the camps of touring officers free of charge and generally paid by a Some officers pay a little bakhshish in lump sum for
67. Who are the 'Chheras'? 67. Local haris.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 68. To prepare roads and camping grounds, pitch and unpitch tents, build temporary landhis and help in loading and unloading camels and to do other menial services.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 69. These conditions are implied.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government? 70. I have answered this in my answer to question 66.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? difficult to procure at a short
71. I hold no charge at present. But it is not easily available at many places or I should say positively notice. In some places it is not available at all.
72. Is any considerable staff of 'beldars' maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government? 72. Beldar system obtains in some districts and in others it does not.

73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?
78. Whence do you obtain them?
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
90. How far does the employment of 'Baldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
73. They are not bound at all. Some men refuse to comply with the demand. But they come forward in the hope of getting abru or gaining influence or from fear of losing honours that they may have possessed.
74. Seri and some mamul grants are held but the service expected of these grantees do not include cher I think.
75. Pitching tents, loading camels and fetching water, etc.
76. Two.
77. Two.
78. From zamindars if present or through tapedars.
79. I do not pay them. I am not sure if zamindars give them anything.
80. Mine was a small camp made particularly light so as to enable me to move fast. But ordinarily 2 to 3 rupees would be sufficient. It will, I think, be difficult for rasai contractors to supply at all places.
81. Yes. But they will require to be paid at high rates.
82. I do not shikar.
- 83 & 84. Not for me to answer.
85. Chheras the number of which depends upon the length of the roads to be repaired.
86. As mukhtiarkar I generally did not pay them but I avoided such help as far as possible.
87. Chheras, that is, local haris the number of which depends upon the extent of the damage and the holding possessed by each zamindar.
88. On many occasions Government pay them but on some zamindars pay by feed.
89. Little or none mostly.
90. Not much.
91. No.
92. Need not be wholly suppressed. But chheras may be paid for at the rate of 8 annas a day.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HIRANAND KHEMSING.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Hiranand Khemsing. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader and zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. About 1,500 acres. Land revenue about 4,000 a year, income tax of the firm of which I am a member about Rs. 400 and personally Rs. 120. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Free supply of necessaries, comforts and luxuries of life. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have never made rasai myself directly or through my agents. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make 'Rasai'? | 8—9. None. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajra or jowari stalks and firewood? | 10—13. In view of the answer to questions 8 and 9 this does not arise. |
| 12. Do you get them from your harns or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. I get firewood from the jungle. The man who cuts it is in my pay. I never cart to camp. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I do not know. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. I have never made rasai. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. I do not know. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19—28. This does not arise in view of the above. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables? | |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | |
| 24. If not, does the loss fall on your harns or on you? | |
| 25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks? | |
| 26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment? | |
| 27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages? | |
| 28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment? | |
| 29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtarkars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials? |  | 29. For Mukhtyarkar when he comes to inspect remission. |

30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment? 30. About Rs. 25.
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'? 31. About Rs. 25.
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars? 32. Myself.
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills or do the tapedars or are payments made through contracting zamindars? 33. No payment. No bills.
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? 34. Contractors independent of tapedars and zamindars.
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? 35. Yes, for talukas or sub-divisions.
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? 36. No special objections. Rasai corrupts the giver and the receiver. It breeds servility in zamindars and an undue sense of superiority in the officers. Government should visit the receipt of rasai with condign punishment and should make it obligatory upon the officers to give contracts for supplies to officers and their establishments on tour.
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? 37. No, I don't.
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? 38. Certainly.
- Lapo.*
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? 39. Payment to tapedar of money for desisting from molesting zamindars.
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? 40. To my knowledge there is only one at the time of payment of assessment or whenever tapedar does any work e.g., measuring land granted or remeasuring Nos. or inspecting boundary marks or such like. I know of it only in the revenue department. I don't know of other departments.
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? 41. It is levied either per assessment or per survey No.
42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purpose? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? 42. By tapedars and for not making true or false reports against zamindars. I don't know about abdars and others.
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? 43. In my experience lapo is taken by tapedar as hush money. Rasai is given by zamindars in addition, partially.
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? 44. I never make presents.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? 45. I do not know.

46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests ?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted ?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo' ?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914, and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars ?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars ?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo' ? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government ?
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher' ?
53. Who are the 'Chheras' ?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform ?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars ?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government ?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers ?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood ? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps ?
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ?
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ?
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ?
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards ?
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers ?
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards ?
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ?
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ?
46. It is exacted by tapedar for not troubling zamindars in a variety of ways.
47. Amounts vary. They are exacted by tapedars.
48. About Rs. 100 a year.
49. No.
50. The revenue is mostly paid to tapedars and very seldom to mukhtarkars.
51. Payment of lapo to tapedar can only be stopped by curtailing the power of tapedar to report against zamindars.
- Chher.*
- 52—54. By chher I understand free labour for various purposes such as repairing roads, closing breaches of canals, pitching tents and doing menial services for officers and their establishment.
55. They obey the zamindars because they and their forefathers have done it and they have not been taught to insist upon their rights. There is no express or implied condition.
56. No remuneration in cash or kind.
57. I can't tell.
58. I can not supply these details.
59. Not to my knowledge.
60. I have never supplied any for shikar.
61. I don't think they get anything worth mentioning.
62. Whenever an officer has to pass over a road each zamindar is called upon to repair his mohag.
63. Yes.
64. Nothing whatever from anybody.
65. According to requirements. There is no fixed number.
66. They are generally fed by the zamindar.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chharas' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars? 67. Of course.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood? 68. Casual labour is available always except in May, June, and July and again in October and November.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars? 69. Certainly.
70. Do you consider 'Chhar' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government? 70. Yes, except when breaches to canals take place and then fair wages should be paid to the men.

Copy of a letter from Hiranand Khemsing, Pleader, Hyderabad, to the Chairman of the Rasai Committee, Karachi, dated 27th April 1918.

I wish to submit the following note in addition to the answers to questions sent to me, for it appears to me that the questions are very limited, and imperfect and do not cover the whole ground.

2. The extent and intent of the rasai differ as the officer is highly placed or not. The rasai at the Commissioner's camp is far heavier than in the case of Collector's camp, and similarly the rasai at the Collector's camp is heavier than that at the Assistant or Deputy Collector's camp. I have been a witness twice to the rasai in the Commissioner's camp, once in 1898 or 1899 when Sir Henry Evans James was the Commissioner in Sind and again in 1913 when Mr. Lucas was encamped at Badin.

3. On the first occasion it was at Shadipalli, and rasai was in the most sumptuous style. The Mukhtyarkars of Khipro and Umerkote were in special attendance. The Commissioner's establishment had everything they could possibly want. Wines, brandies and whiskies, dishes of meat in great variety, eggs, pudding, pulao, fruit fresh and dry, milk to waste and flowers and nosegays and vegetables, English and Indian, were all supplied and supplied in plenty, gratis. It was a feast run riot. I inquired what the cost of such rasai was, for it extended to nearly 10 days and I was told the cost would exceed Rs. 10,000.

4. In 1913, a special contribution was levied from the zamindars of Badin Taluka to defray the cost of Mr. Lucas's camp. I myself paid my share and my lessee also paid. I was told that the fund amounted to Rs. 1,700 but the mukhtyarkar was soon transferred from Badin and left unpaid bills to the tune of Rs. 700 for which another contribution was made from the zamindars by his successor. I was however not troubled to pay towards the second contribution.

5. Personally or through my agents, I have not been called upon to make any rasai, for my lands happen to be situate where no camp of any officer has been held, but I know that rasai either to the officers or to their establishment is made not on a modest but lavish scale. The clerks and peons exact rasai as if they had been honored guests whom it would be a pleasure to feed and serve. The zamindars who make the rasai are instructed by the tapedars who are invariably present at the rasai to make their bills merely nominal, and the zamindars either through illiteracy or weak-mindedness have to comply. I speak to this from the statements which the zamindars making rasai have made to me. The officers who receive the bill and make payments, could easily if they wished to pay adequately, find out what quantities have been received by their butlers, and whether the rates charged are real or nominal, but with rare exceptions they seldom care. The clerks never pay, and if there is any payment, it is either returned on the sly or is pocketed by the tapedar.

6. It is said that since 1914 there is an improvement in the rasai system. I should think it has made matters worse. Formerly the tapedar was responsible for rasai and he had to humour the zamindar and to some extent be under his obligation for the good things he supplied. After the Commissioner's circular, the onus has been shifted on to the zamindar, and he has to make the rasai without even the show of an obligation to the tapedar.

7. There is a dispute as to whether the payment of lapo is inter-linked with rasai or not. In one way it is, in another it is not. The tapedar levies his lapo upon almost every landholder big or small. Even if a man has only one survey No. the tapedar exacts his one rupee from him. Such a man is neither listed as a rasai maker, nor is he expected to make rasai. From him therefore the lapo is exacted without reference to rasai, but as the tapedar has to tip the establishment and to defray a part of the cost of rasai, he can never do so without levying his lapo, for his pay is not sufficient to maintain him and his horse, leaving alone his family which is probably large in many cases. In that way alone it is connected with rasai.

8. The only way to stop rasai is to make it obligatory upon all officers to take their commissariat with themselves. Of course it will be costly, but those who call for the tune must pay the piper. Instead of giving clerks miserable salaries and petty travelling allowances, if Government will see that they get enough to live on both at head-quarters and in the camps and provide contractors, the evil will disappear. I know it for a fact, and I can assure you that I have had it from several mukhtyarkars themselves, (whose names it is unnecessary to disclose) that payment to tapedar of a liberal lapo, is encouraged by the Mukhtyarkars, for rasai to officers and their establishments being an accepted thing, what the Mukhtyarkars want is work and smooth work, and smooth work is only possible when the wheels are well greased.

9. The abolition of rasai will lead to the reduction of lapo, to some extent, but the surest way of reducing if not altogether abolishing lapo is to deprive the tapedar of the power of receiving assessment from khatedars. The assessment should be paid directly into the hands of the mukhtyarkar and he should be at the head-quarters for all the ten days reserved for payment of assessment.

10. Another way of stopping the payment of lapo is to curtail the tapedar's power to report remindars for petty revenue offences. The Mukhtyarkars are usually burdened with too much work. They can not look into everything themselves. They have therefore to take on trust many things from the tapedars. Either they should have their work lightened or the number of the petty offences should be diminished. To root out corruption is not easy but the opportunities to earn it should be minimized. To cut jungle from wasteland, to cut trees from the zamindari karias, to dig for bricks in the occupied land, to let out superfluous water, which is called waste, should not be reported against. In graver matters, the mukhtyarkars should not take things on trust, but investigate on site personally. In that way alone, will lapo die out quickly.

11. So far chher is concerned, it would be necessary to employ it to close breaches in canals, in which case it should be paid for, for 9/10th of the revenue is credited to irrigation but for every other purpose it ought not to be resorted to. To repair roads, to spread the grass, to pitch tents, to beat the shikar and to do other menial work at the officer's camp, is not the duty of any free man. Why these relics of the days of slavery should survive in Sind under British Government is extremely inexplicable. In the Presidency proper such a thing as free labour and free supplies are not known. Yet with the same revenue, police and other laws as in the Presidency, Sind should be the nursery of these barbaric customs, is a matter of considerable deploration. I have often wondered why Englishmen with free ideas and liberal instincts should fall victims to those repugnant ways, and I think the British Officers owe it to their own good name to put down with a strong hand the use of free labour and free supplies. I have no wish to preach a sermon to this committee. I only mention it, because I have actually found it laid down in circulars issued from responsible quarters that Sind people are very hospitable and they feel it keenly if their hospitality is refused. Those responsible for this statement either are utterly ignorant of the feelings of the people, in spite of their long stay in the country, or they want some kind of excuse to defend the indefensible. In any case, a genuine and an earnest effort is necessary to put a stop to evils which smack more of slavery than of hospitality. The age of contract has replaced the age of status everywhere else. Let it be so in Sind too.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. SANTDAS.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Santdas Mangharam. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. Rs. 216 income tax. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad. |

Rasai.

6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?

6 In common parlance the word rasai has come to mean supplying provisions to touring officials with or without cost.

7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'?

7. I have no personal experience of rasai making. I have however heard a good deal from friends and clients during the 16 years of my practice as a pleader.

I have also seen something of the system of rasai making that prevails in Sind, while visiting the camps of touring officials both English and Indian.

10. What supplies do these officers require for themselves?

17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers?

19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers?

21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or materials for building stables?

23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks?

25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?

10, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25.—The provisions and other articles that officials require and get at their camps are:—(1) grass; (2) fuel; (3) milk; (4) eggs; (5) butter; (6) fowls; (7) meat, often goat's meat; (8) grains; (9) ice; (10) dry fruit and fresh fruit which often takes the shape of dals; (11) cots; (12) fodder; (13) earthen jars for subordinates and menials; (14) vegetables. Besides these all camp arrangements have to be made viz., pitching of tents, making stables, setting up temporary landhis for menials, and subordinate staff also, if houses not available.

The above articles are mostly required for the superior officials. Their staff also gets a share of the above supplies but besides that ghee is provided for the subordinate officials; as a rule the head clerk and head munshi to the touring officer is given a bottle of brandy or whisky for each manzal and one bottle is supplied for the other subordinates. Their cooks and servants as well as the menials of the officer get a bottle of Sindhi liquor.

On one camp in Jati taluka, the zamindar on my arrival brought an extra bottle of brandy, which I returned being a total abstainer, and it was quietly appropriated by the head munshi who was supposed to be my host, though all the provisions were being supplied by the zamindar.

If on these camps any guests arrive, whether for the mukhtiar kar or for the higher officials, the zamindar or tapedar in charge of the rasai arrangements is expected to supply all provisions on the same lavish scale and in most cases he gets no money extra for the same while the bill is settled.

So far as my knowledge goes the menials and staff pay nothing for their provisions and supplies. On the contrary the menials get bakshis which varies with the degree of influence which a particular menial especially the butler is supposed to have on his master. In many cases the butler is paid special bakshis, solely with the object of securing his good will so that he may not spoil his master's dinner or delay his meals and then throw the blame on the rasai maker and thus mar his prospects or his good name as a capable subordinate.

The staff also get cash payments per each camp or from individual zamindar or tapedar which are given in the form of tips to save them from petty annoyance of the office clerks as well as to secure their good will in white washing their mistakes of commission and omission.

34. Do you approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?

34. I am distinctly against any zamindar or tapedar being required to make rasai. An independent contractor should be appointed to supply provisions.

35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?

35. Contractors could be had for supplying provisions on a fair remuneration.

36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?

36. My objections to rasai are these —

(1) The English officials in whose name large quantities are taken very often never require these supplies and the menials get an opportunity to extort money.

(2) The zamindars and haris are fleeced most mercilessly.

(3) It serves as a pretence to the lower subordinates to get bribes. My opinion is that each touring officer should keep a special servant who should go one day in advance and make purchases of the necessary articles. If he has to camp in a small village he should take provisions for a week or so from a large village.

In short every official should feel that he must manage to make his own arrangements and should not expect Government to arrange for his food, &c. Cots should be supplied for the camp by the tapedar as they can not be had easily. Everything else should be purchased by the officer through his own servant or khahasi.

Lapo.

39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? to signify the illegal exaction

39. The word lapo ordinarily means cash rent levied by a land owner from his tenant but it has come of tapedars from the zamindars in his tapa.

40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?

40. I have heard the word lapo used only in connection with the unauthorized dues levied by tapedars. I have not heard of lapo being levied in the public works, police and forest departments, though the subordinate officials in each department have a more or less systematized form of unauthorized dues.

41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?

41. The usual form of levying lapo by the tapedar is so much per each cultivated number, often Re. 1 per survey number.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abgars and Jaroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?

42 and 43. The tapedar takes lapo ostensibly because he has to make rasai.

43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?

Mukhtarakar and head munshi

As a rule his pay is never handed over to him. It is kept in the taluka office for what they call head quarter rasai fund. This fund is utilized when the Commissioner, Collector or Assistant Collector or other superior officers of the judicial and other departments happens to visit the taluka head quarters. This fund is also used for supplying luxuries and comforts to the which they can ill-afford to indulge in otherwise.

The tapedar finding his pay confiscated falls back on the zamindar for his lapo. He levies a separate exaction which is generally annas 8 per each cultivated number for rasai in his beat.

The abgars and daroghas also levy some dues which I have not heard styled as lapo but they levy them regularly and make rasai therefrom. The same is true of the forest department. I have not heard of a systematic levy of exactions by the police. They have simply to ask what they want for rasai and it is supplied forthwith irrespective of the cost by the local zamindars. I have however heard of police officers being regularly tipped to earn their good will in running in inconvenient neighbours as badmashes or getting chairs, lungis and perwanas. But that has as a rule nothing to do with rasai.

44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?

44. The lapo compensates the tapedar for his loss of pay as stated above and also serves as a bribe to him to show undue favours. The zamindar pays separate dues for rasai and often when that does not suffice he pays in lump sums. Besides that he pays bakahis from the office clerks down to the lowest menial.

61. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. So long as the tapedar and the lower subordinates in the forest and police departments enjoy the wide powers that they now enjoy, the system of lapo will prevail though it may change its name and form. If however rasai is abolished then lapo will not be levied as a matter of right and then selfish and dishonest people alone will give tips, but honest people will be saved and lapo as lapo will disappear. It will also be necessary in that case to increase the scale of tapedar's pay. That might entail extra expense on the Government, but it is an open secret that in some cases tapedars for the purpose of earning their lapo show favours to zamindars at the cost of Government revenue.

Chher.

52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?

52. The word chher means unpaid labour.

53. Who are the 'Chheras'?

53* This labour is requisitioned for the following purposes :—

(1) To prepare camps for touring officials, pitch their tents, cut the jungle and wild growth round about camping grounds and do all kind of menial work in the camps of touring officials.

(2) To repair the roads along which touring officials are likely to travel.

(3) To repair breaches to canal and build bunds in heavy inundation seasons.

(4) To help in shikars as beaters, &c.

54. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied condition to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?

55. I have not heard of any special concession being made to a hari because he is expected to make chher.

56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? or from the officers of Government?

56. The chheras get no pay or wages. They usually get meals. In some cases individual official has given them bakshis which however is not adequate.

61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars?

61. The chheras do this work out of fear. It is only in heavy floods that they work willingly to save their fields from ruin. Otherwise they are simply pressed in service.

70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?

70. In my opinion labour in the mofusil can mostly be supplied from the haris and gangs should be regularly supplied by zamindars and the scale of their

pay should be fixed by Government.

Finally I want to bring the facts of a case in the Jamesabad Taluka to the notice of the Commissioners. After the circular of 1914, some zamindars refused to make rasai according to the old system. The revenue authorities had appointed individual zamindars to make rasai for each local area, but it seems the engineering department had made no such arrangements. The zamindars when called upon to make rasai refused to do so, relying upon the Commissioner's Circular.

The sub-divisional officer made a report officially that the zamindars of that deh were very bad as they refused to make camping arrangements for superior officers of the engineering department. Soon after one of his subordinates filed two cases against about 6 zamindars. The cases were :—

Kamal khan Vs. Meer khan and others.

Kamal khan Vs. Ahmedkhan and others.

My client's instructions were that the cases were the outcome of their refusal to make rasai and they apprehended that the Magistrate at Jamesabad might be influenced by the sub-divisional officer so they applied for transfer of the cases to the District Magistrate. The latter however assured them personally that justice would be done and they need have no apprehensions. After trial the accused were discharged. My clients told me on more occasions than one that if they had followed the old practice they would have hardly spent Rs. 20 or 25 for their share of the rasai but now they had spent about Rs. 300, were only too anxious to save their skins and for the future they would prefer to make rasai than be dragged in criminal courts.

These cases were completed, I believe, in October 1915, and were instituted after the circular of 1914. The letter of the sub-divisional officer above referred to is exhibited in the case. The records of the above cases might be sent for from the courts of the first class magistrate Jamesabad.

After writing the above, I was taking instructions from a client in a case fixed for 30th before the first class Sub Judges Hyderabad. My client Mr. Kundanmal had worked as an agent of Mir Sher Mahomed and he had paid some monies as lapo to tapedars, abgars, &c. The same are entered in a memo signed by the agent Kundanmal and the Mir's Munshi Shafi Mahomed. The moneys were paid for 1917-1918. For convenience sake I translate the same and also attach a copy. The original is in my possession which if necessary I am ready to produce before the Commissioner.

TRANSLATION OF THE MEMO.

| | | | | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Canal (i.e. canal assistant) for kharif | ... | ... | ... | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Darogha kharif | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Abdar Digri | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tapedar Digri | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tapedar Pubun | ... | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Supervising tapedar | ... | ... | ... | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Abdar Pubun kharif '90, last year 10 | ... | ... | ... | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Kotar and servants of tapedar and supervising tapedar | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. CHIMANDAS.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mr. Chimandas. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Inspector of Police, Hala Circle. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 11 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. Whole service in Sind, (Sukkur, Thar and Parkar and Hyderabad Districts and Sind Railway Police). |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. Whole Hala Division. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. All the year round. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One servant. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One munshi and one orderly. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10 & 11. All unperishable articles—rice, flour, dal, potatoes, spices etc., vegetables, meat, milk, fish, butter, fire-wood and grass. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Bedding, utensils and clothes. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Four cots, half a dozen jars. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. Police stations and outposts accommodate us. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Stables are also attached to the Police buildings. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Current correspondence papers and registers. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. No extra arrangements are made. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. None in my charge. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local board authority is responsible. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made and, if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters? | 23. I have got my two horses, munshi and orderly use shutur sowar camel. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 24. Police sowars are used for the conveyance of post. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. All police stations and outposts. |
| 27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaras? | 27. All in villages. |
| 29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? | 29. There are District and Public Works Department bungalows in certain places which are very seldom used. |

30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
30. I do not know.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. Making arrangements for the superior officers' camp.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment?
- 32 & 33. 1 lb meat, 2 seers milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb vegetable, grass and firewood.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajra or jowara stalks and firewood?
34. Present prices are: wheat 6 seers, rice 4 seers, milk one to 2 annas per seer, butter 12 annas per seer, bajra $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers, fire wood 5 annas per maund out of Hyderabad.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. Practically nil.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. Daily cost of the requirements of myself is 12 annas, and of the servants and others is 5 annas each.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. From shopkeepers the articles are purchased but nothing is paid for milk, grass, fire-wood and mutton.
38. How are they paid for?
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp?
- 38—39. Paid personally to the banias.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
40. Actual expenses come always under the estimated cost.
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the harn or samundars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. No remark.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. There is no such fund in the Police Department.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
- 43 to 46.—No.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the samundars?
47. I know nothing about this circular as I was in those days in Sind Railways and Sind C. I. D.

48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and samindars?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of samindars?
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
48. No. I cannot say.
49. No, as my tour is not regular.
50. I do not remember.
51. No.
52. I cannot say.
53. I have experienced no difficulty.

Lapo.

54—65. I know nothing about this, as this does not concern the Police Department and there is no Lapo in Police Department.

Chher.

66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their samindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the samindars or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of 'Baldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?
73. How far are samindars, if at all bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering services to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
78. Whence do you obtain them?
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the samindars?
66. Certain number of men supplied for pitching tents etc.
67. Villagers.
68. Pitching tents etc.
69. Cannot say.
70. No.
- 71—74. I cannot say.
75. I do not require.
- 76 to 79. None.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasa' contractor?
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase, while on tour, of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
- 80 & 81. Not concerned.
82. I do not shoot, hence I do not require labour.
- 83 & 84. No.
85. Not concerned.
- 86—91. Cannot say.
92. Cannot suggest as this does not concern with the Police Department.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. RAMCHAND BIJASING.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name. | 1. Ramchand Bijasing Kirpalani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Sub-engineer and sub-divisional officer. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Badin. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 21 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 21 years experience in irrigation of Sind P. W. D. |

General.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. About a thousand square miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. Almost all the year round. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. One cook. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanied you on tour? | 9. One clerk, one peon, two khalasis and one post runner. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take all my supplies with me except fuel; my cook eats from my food; my clerk also takes his supplies while my peon and khalasis buy flour and rice from the bazar at each camp. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require fuel at each camp always and $\frac{1}{2}$ a pound of milk for tea in winter only while my establishment require both milk and fuel daily. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Private furniture—1 table, 1 chair, 1 teapoy and 2 camel trunks. Official furniture—2 tables, 3 chairs, 2 stools, 2 carpets and 3 record boxes. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. One cot and 2 jars—nothing else. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. One tent and 2 rowties. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. They have got Government quarters at usual camps. When they have none such, rowties are pitched or existing huts of zamindars are used. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. Government stables exist at most of my camps; where no such exist, existing kacha stables of zamindars are used. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Generally current record of the year. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. There are official quarters built by Government at the usual camps. Where none such exist, the tent and rowties are used. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. Not more than two men. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. No roads in my charge. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local board; for annual repairs paid labour is employed but for occasional repairs zamindari cher. |
| 22. Do you require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camp? | 22. No. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do you engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters? | 23. Camels for 6 months from November to June. |

24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with head-quarters? 24. I have got 1 tapali—very often this one man is is not sufficient and canal establishment is employed.
25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? 25. Talhar, Suani, Lunwari, Khodhan, Triple Sluice and Tando Bago.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? 26. The chowkidars do this.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with banta shops or bazaars? 27. All of them.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens? 28. To none at present.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows? 29. All of them.
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows? 30. One chowkidar.
Rasai.
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? 31. Compliance with wants.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies? 32. 10 seers of fuel and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. milk (in winter only).
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? 33. The average daily requirement of my private establishment is 1 lb. of milk and of official establishment is 6 lbs. of milk and 10 seers of fuel.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajra or jowar stalks and firewood? 34. Eggs sell for $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 anna each, fowls for 4 to 6 annas, sheep (dumba) 8 rupees to 15 rupees, milk for 1 to 2 annas per seer, butter for 1 rupee a seer, bajri for 6 rupees a maund, rice for 6 rupees a maund and fuel for 2 annas a load. There is no rate for fuel outside towns nor is milk sold in most of the small villages.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns? 35. Yes, for milk only if it is available for sale.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment? 36. About 6 annas if milk is paid for, otherwise nil.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp? 37. Usually no expenditure is incurred; the canal muccadams bring milk from maldars and the fuel from canal trees.
38. How are they paid for? 38. If perchance money is paid for milk the daroga and muccadams pay it.
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of your camp? 39. Only milk is required for my camp and nothing is paid for it.
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments? 40. I require nothing from the daroga or the muccadam and therefore pay them nothing.
41. If it is greater, by whom the excess borne? by the hars or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars? 41. Hars or zamindars have nothing to do with us.
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars? 42. There is no rasai fund with the P. W. D. men.
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables? 43. No. Every bungalow has got cots; the jars also are generally present. If however any new ones are required they are not paid for.

44. Do you obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
51. Do you receive 'Dhalis' of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
52. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilised to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilised for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
- 44-46. No.
47. The rules of 1914 are practically a dead letter. No zamindar provides the supplies required by touring officers of the P. W. D. The darogas and muccadams have to do it.
48. Yes. The zamindars should have no hand in the rasai at all. Yes it would be possible to find an independent contractor for large villages provided the rates are sufficiently remunerative to them and the supplies for all officers' camps are obtained from them; perhaps Government help would be necessary to compensate them.
49. No, I do not give intimation as there is no contractor or zamindar who is deputed to provide supplies to me.
50. The rules of 1914 are impracticable.
51. No.
52. I know the orders on the subject and I have experienced no difficulty in carrying them out.
- Lapo.*
53. By lapo I understand a tax; but in Sindh, it is meant to be an illegal tax of certain officials.
54. I know of one and that is in cash.
55. It is levied on zamindars by tapedars and some where by darogas in order to overlook their small omissions and irregularities.
56. It is levied in cash annually at an average of 1 rupee per each survey number by tapedars and about same rate for each karia by darogas. The lapo of darogas is however not common everywhere or with every daroga.
57. About the whole lapo of darogas is utilized in rasai. Some times they have to spend more.
58. There is no rasai fund with the P. W. D. men, each daroga manages his own hut.
59. There is no rasai fund. Nobody knows what a daroga earns. There is no fixed lapo. He meets the money presents of the private and official establishments of touring officers from his pocket. He makes the canal muccadams share the cost of all rasai with him. The average expenditure of each daroga and his muccadams in a year is about rupees 100.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
66. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
72. Is any considerable staff of "beldars" maintained in your charge either by local funds or Government?
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering service to the community or to Government?
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
78. Whence do you obtain them?
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Basai contractor'?
61. There is no lapo for particular favours for which separate bribes are received.
62. There is no such examination of official records nor is there such lapo in P. W. D.
63. Not at all.
64. The lapo in P. W. D. is more or less a quiet harmless affairs. Even I did not know of it until only a few years ago. It is absent in many places and no complaints whatsoever are received on account of it.
65. This seems to refer to the lapo of tapadars.
- Chher.*
66. Chher means a number of men supplied for a certain work for a short time.
67. Mostly haris.
68. They are required for irrigational works and also for help in the officers' camps and their shikar.
69. No, but they are under the thumb of their zamindars.
70. P. W. D. pay their zamindars for the irrigational work done by their chheras at very fair and reasonable rates but they get nothing for work in camps. Officers sometimes give them bakhsish for shikar help.
71. Could be had on previous intimation and payment in advance mostly.
72. There are a few beldars to look after the canals.
73. I do not know how they are bound at all.
74. No.
75. I do not require any labour on tour personally.
- 76 & 77. None.
78. If I want more men than my personal establishment, my canal mucedams and beldars are called.
79. No.
80. Each labourer would want not less than 6 to 7 annas a day; yes, if he is paid 8 annas for each.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
81. Yes certainly.
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
82. I do not shoot but for Executive and Superintending Engineers darogas obtain chher.
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
83. The officers pay them a few rupees. No, not at all. They are on the contrary glad.
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
84. No, perhaps sometimes food only once.
85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
85. No roads are in my charge.
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
87. That depends on the nature and importance of the breach or flood. Sometimes even 500 men are necessary.
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
88. Yes, by Government.
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
89. The employment of chheras on floods and breaches may at times be interfering with cultivation but if the area or flood is not timely stopped the whole crop would be lost.
90. How far does the employment of 'Buldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?
90. That is for the local board.
91. Have you any special reports on 'Chher' or local orders?
91. No.
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government?
92. It might be suppressed for help obtained from them in the officers' camp and for their shikar but should not be stopped for help required for irrigational works.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. METHARAM.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Metharam D. J. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Divisional Forest Officer, Hyderabad. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. 30 years. |
| 5. Length of service and special experience in Sind. | 5. 25 years in Sind out of which 14 years as Range Forest Officer and 11 years as Divisional Forest Officer. |

General.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. 232 square miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. 7 months from November to the end of May. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Two. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. Two clerks and three peons. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take all my supplies such as wheat, rice, spices, whisky, soda, etc., with me, and clerks and peons take all the supplies from the village bama. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. I require butter, mutton, firewood and jars and they require all the things. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. 11 private boxes including small ones, 1 camp table, 2 easy chairs, 1 cot, 2 chairs and 1 teapoy. |
| Office furniture—4 camp tables, 6 chairs, 7 boxes and 1 typewriter. | |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. Only 4 water jars. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. 3 tents, 2 servant pals and 1 necessary tent. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments in the bungalow; where are no | 15. My private servants stop in the pal and office peons in the other pal provided by Government. As regards office establishment they stop in the out-houses such bungalows they stop in the forest guards' landhis. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. I keep no horse. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. One year's general correspondence record and few other important files from past year's records. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. I have got my office tent in which office work is done. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. On the first day when the tents are to be pitched, about 10 maldars for few hours; then only 2 maldars for bringing water and fuel. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. I have got no roads in my charge, I travel along the public roads. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Revenue Department. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to your various camps? | 22. None. |
| 23. What are your means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of your tour at headquarters? | 23. I engage camels for the whole season. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with headquarters? | 24. Post from Hyderabad headquarters comes to local post offices and then it is brought by forest guards. |

25. What are the usual camping places in your charge?
25. Miani, Matiari, Khebrani, Khanote, Nurketi, Mad, Mari, Kot Dhigano, Laki, Manjhand, Gopang, Unarpur, Railo Bada and Petaro.
26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds? for the time being. There are no permanent camping grounds.
26. There are bungalows at all the camps except Nurketi, Kot Dhigano, Gopang and Railo Bada. Maldars help the forest guards, in clearing the camping grounds.
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages, with bania shops or bazaars?
27. Almost all are in practical reach of the village with bania shop.
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
28. Miani.
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
29. Miani, Matiari, Khanote, Khebrani, Mari, Laki, Manjhand, Unarpur and Petaro.
30. What permanent establishment, is maintained at such bungalows?
30. Public Works Department and Local Board maintain the permanent establishment for their bungalows. The forest bungalows are in charge of the forest guards of the beat.
- Rasai.*
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
31. The term rasai means making arrangements for officers and their establishment at camps on payment.
32. What are your average daily requirements on tour in the matter of supplies?
32. Half a seer of mutton, half a seer of milk, half a seer butter, firewood and jars.
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment? mutton, milk and firewood. Milk for the establishment about 10 seers, mutton 2 seers and firewood about 2 camel loads.
33. My cook takes meals from my kitchen and camelmen makes his own arrangements. Office establishment sends for everything from bania except mutton, milk and firewood. Milk for the establishment about 10 seers, mutton 2 seers and firewood about 2 camel loads.
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
34. Wheat 8 seers per rupee, rice 6 seers per rupee, bajri 10 seers per rupee, eggs 3 pies per egg, fowl 4 to 6 annas per each, sheep from Rs. 3 to 4, milk from 1 anna to 1 anna 3 pies per seer, firewood from 2 annas to 4 annas per maund.
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
35. In the forests there is no market value for milk and firewood.
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
36. When all requirements are purchased from bania direct and paid for, the average cost for feeding the maldars who help the forest guards will be about Rs. 2 per day.
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
37. They are collected by forest guards and the sub-ranger supplies at the camps.
38. How are they paid for?
38. For butter, meat, fowls, eggs, the bill is prepared by the sub-ranger which is duly paid.
39. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
39. The actual payments made by the officers are fair. The cost of feeding the maldars, &c., is an extra charge on the subordinates.
40. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? by the harris or samundars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
40. This department has nothing to do with the zamindars and tapedars.
- The cost of feeding the maldars is again taken in some form or the other.
41. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
41. There is no rasai fund.
42. Do you pay anything for water jars, coats or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
42. When jars are returned back nothing is paid for them. Besides that, potters have got certain concessions in the forests.

44. Do you obtain vegetables and, if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
44. Vegetables required by me can be had from any garden in the mofussil.
45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by engaging either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
- 45 and 46. Impracticable.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. Zamindars have nothing to do with this department.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. In accordance with the rules of 1914, zamindars refuse to supply the articles to the officers of this department as they have nothing to do with the officers of the forest department.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. I have been giving timely notices but none comes at the camp as the camps of the officers of this department are mostly near the forests and are not at those places where officers of revenue department and other departments stop.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. Zamindars refuse to arrange forest officers' camps.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars?
51. Yes, but not from zamindars.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. From Rs. 5 to 10.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out those orders of Government?
53. If I refuse to take dali from the man who brings it he thinks himself insulted.
- Lapo.*
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. There is no lapo system in this department. There are other ways of exactions, but as no complaint comes to officers in the authority they are helpless.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. I do not know anything of lapo.
56. By whom and from whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Same as above.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. There is no cultivation in forests except few acres given on agriculture-cum-forestry system for reboising the blanks.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. There is no lapo system in this department.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. There is no regular rasai fund in this department.

60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modifications of the rules of the land-revenue code?
60. No lapo is taken.
- 61—64. There is no lapo system.
65. None.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. Free labour which is supplied to this department in return for the concessions given to the maldars in the way of collecting honey, gum, kinro, bones, firewood, timber for constructing cattle sheds, permission for stopping in the forests as a temporary measure. Besides that 20 per cent. of cattle is allowed free grazing in the forests to those who give help.
67. Who are the "Chheras"?
67. Maldars.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. Clearing of compartment lines, repairing boundary lines, boundary pillars, extinguishing fires, cutting fire lines, putting up new fences, repairing old ones and helping the forest subordinates in other minor works.
69. Do the "Chheras" hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their samindars?
69. Maldars are given concession with clear understanding that they are to help the department.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the samindars, or from officials of Government?
70. They get in kind from Government.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge?
71. Paid labour is available in the forests but the maldars are unwilling to receive payment and to forego so many concessions enjoyed by them in the forests.
72. How far are samindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
72. They are not bound with this department.
73. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
73. For pitching tents, bringing water and firewood.
74. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
74. Two.
75. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camp?
75. About 8 more.
76. Whence do you obtain them?
76. From maldars.
77. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the samindars?
77. They are given certain concessions in the forests.
78. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Rasai' contractor?
78. The labour which is required for pitching tents is only for 2 or 3 hours and 2 labourers required for bringing firewood can be had from the contractor and the probable cost of these men will be about Rs. 100 in the season.

81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?

82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?

83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?

84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?

85. What labour, if any, is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?

86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officials?

87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?

88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?

89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the "Chheras" interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?

90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the Local Boards?

91. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.

81. Yes except tent pitching.

82-84. I do not shikar at all.

85. Cannot say anything.

86. Do not know anything.

87. Cannot say anything.

88-90. Do not know anything.

92. If the maldars are paid for the works they do and deprived of concessions they will not agree.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAROOMAL RAMCHAND.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. R. B. Harumal Ramchand Jhangiani. |
| 2. Appointment. | 2. Temporary Engineer. |
| 3. Headquarters. | 3. Hyderabad. |
| 4. Length of service. | 4. Forty-one years and three months. |
| 5. Length of service and special experiences in Sind. | 5. Forty-one years and whole time in Sind. |

General.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What is the area covered by your tour? | 6. About 500 square miles. |
| 7. What is the period of your tour? | 7. All the year. |
| 8. What private servants accompany you on tour? | 8. Two servants and two camelmen. |
| 9. What official establishment accompanies you on tour? | 9. One clerk, three pattawallas and two camelmen. |
| 10. What supplies do you and your servants and your official establishment respectively take with you and them on tour? | 10. I take all supplies for me, and office establishment purchase in the district. |
| 11. What supplies do you and they respectively require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 11. Milk, mutton, fish, vegetables, &c., which can be obtained at each camp. No eggs and fowls. |
| 12. What private and official furniture do you take on tour? | 12. Private—1 cot, 3 teapoys, 2 boxes, 3 deck chairs. Official—6 pieces camp tables, 2 trunks, 1 type box, 1 teapoy, 4 chairs. |
| 13. What are your further requirements in the way of cots, water jars, or other furniture at your various camps? | 13. One cot for clerk; other establishment use cots if available. I use copper vessels and some jars are purchased as necessary; they are carried from camp to camp. |
| 14. What tents do you take on tour? | 14. Two tents and two rowties. |
| 15. What arrangements are made for accommodating your private and official establishments? | 15. All in tents and rowties. |
| 16. What arrangements are made for stables at your various camps? | 16. At present I have no horse. |
| 17. What records do you take on tour? | 17. Two camel trunks. |
| 18. What arrangements are made for your office at your various camps? | 18. In tents. |
| 19. What labour do you require to be provided locally at your various camps? | 19. No labour required, canal establishment assisting. |
| 20. What is the condition of the roads in your charge? | 20. No roads are in my charge. |
| 21. What authority is responsible and what agency is employed for the repair of the roads? | 21. Local Boards. |
| 22. Do they require to have special repairs made, and if so, by what agency, to the roads to their various camps? | 22. None. |
| 23. What are their means of transport? Do they engage transport locally or for the whole period of their tour at Headquarters? | 23. Two riding camels and seven baggage camels. Camels during 8 months of fair season. A horse, a riding camel and a cart during monsoon are necessary. |
| 24. What are your postal arrangements and means of communication with Headquarters? | 24. Post-runner and the canal establishment are absolutely necessary. |
| 25. What are the usual camping places in your charge? | 25. Bulhani, Hatri, Khatian Station, Tando Jam, Tando Kuisar, Ghotana, Sheikh Bhirki, Tando Fazul, Khatar and Husri. |

26. What arrangements are made for preparing or keeping in order the camping grounds?
27. Which of them are within practical reach of villages with bania shops or bazaars?
28. To which of them are attached vegetable gardens?
29. Which of them are provided with bungalows?
30. What permanent establishment is maintained at such bungalows?
31. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'?
32. What are the average daily requirements on four in the matter of supplies?
33. What are the average daily requirements respectively of your private servants and of your official establishment of flour or rice, mutton a pao, if obtainable per each member of establishments?
34. What are the average prices of the various supplies required, such as grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood?
35. Is there any market value for milk, stalks and firewood beyond the neighbourhood of large villages or towns?
36. What do you estimate to be the average daily aggregate cost of the requirements of yourself, your private servants and of your official establishment?
37. How are these requirements met? That is to say, who actually provides the various supplies and by whom are they collected and brought to camp?
38. How are they paid for?
39. What guarantee have you that the payments reach the actual providers, and are not either retained by the collecting agency or repaid to members of their camp?
40. How does your estimated average daily cost compare with the actual payments?
41. If it is greater, by whom is the excess borne? By the haris or zamindars or tapedars or mukhtarkars?
42. Is the excess met out of a 'Rasai' fund maintained by the tapedars or mukhtarkars?
43. Do you pay anything for water jars, cots or other furniture requisitioned or for materials used to build stables?
44. Do they obtain vegetables, and if so, on payment, from gardens attached to camping grounds or maintained by local funds?
26. Levelled grounds are generally met with; if not my establishment assisted by canal establishment prepare them.
27. All of the above places.
28. Hatri, Tando Jam, Tando Kaiser, Kathar and Husri.
29. Forest bungalow at Miani near Hatri and inspection bungalow at Tando Kaiser.
30. Garden mali and his assistants.
- Rasai.*
31. I understand rasai means providing provisions, other without payment or nominal payment.
32. A seer of milk; grass if I had a horse and fuel.
33. Flour, rice, tea, sugar, potatoes, spices I carry about, others my tapali brings from Hyderabad; mostly mutton and fish I purchase wherever available. A seer of flour or rice, mutton a pao, a chatak of ghee, some spices, fish in small quantity of establishments.
34. Wheat, flour and rice at 5 seers a rupee, ghee at 3 pao a rupee, eggs and fowls I do not require, milk at about 2 annas a seer, bajri and jowari stalks at 2 to 3 annas a bundle, firewood free from canal banks. Eggs at 2 pice each, fowls 10 to 12 annas each.
35. Yes, but at cheaper rates.
36. Average requirements under Rs. 2,
37. Directly my private and official establishments arrange for them.
38. By cash in advance.
39. I see that money is paid and articles obtained.
40. Actual payment is made and no estimated cost which varies day by day.
41. Haris, tapedars, mukhtarkars have nothing to do with my supplies.
42. There is no rasai fund at all, and maintained by none of my establishment.
43. I pay for water jars if required. I carry my own cot and other furniture and thus requisition none and order for building no stables.
44. I pay for vegetables wherever available, mostly I get from headquarters station. There are no local fund gardens except at headquarters where market is the place for purchase.

45. Would it be possible substantially to reduce your requirements by curtailing either your private or official establishment without detriment to the public service?
45. I do not see.
46. Would it be possible to curtail or modify the periods of your tour without detriment to the public service?
46. My duties are such that I cannot suggest.
47. How far has it been possible to give practical effect to the rules of 1914? Have tapedars actually ceased to collect the supplies or are they only nominally provided by the zamindars?
47. The rules of 1914 are attended to so far as practicable. Tapedars and zamindars have nothing to do with any arrangement concerning me.
48. Have you any modifications to recommend or substitutes for the rules of 1914? Would it be possible to find an independent contractor for each taluka or division in place of the tapedars and zamindars?
48. No independent contractors can conduct our business as shifting is made suddenly and no programme of movements could be settled.
49. Have you been able to give regular and timely intimation of your requirements and of your camps for the information of contractors and zamindars?
49. I have no contractors or zamindars to whom any instructions have to be given.
50. Have you any special reports on the working of the rules of 1914 or any special local orders?
50. None.
51. Do you receive "Dhalis" of vegetables and fruits and presents of game or sheep from any subordinate officials or from any class of zamindars? occasionally sends some game
51. Dhals of vegetables and fruits I discourage, but occasionally I receive such from owners of gardens who urge me to accept them. Subordinate officials do not supply them, but the zamindar Mir Yar Mahomed which is given away to those who require.
52. What do you estimate to be the average cost of such "Dhalis" and sheep?
52. Rs. 3 to 4 throughout the year round.
53. What are the orders on the subject and have you experienced any difficulty in carrying out these orders of Government?
53. Orders of Government are to accept complimentary flowers, vegetables in small quantities which however are discouraged and I have no difficulty in carrying out these orders.
- Lapo.
54. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
54. Lapo I take as a collection for some connivance on some wrong doings and for systematic collections for rasai, etc.
55. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'?
55. Per survey numbers or per wheel working.
56. By whom and from whom is such form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes?
56. Revenue tapedars and canal establishment for filling their pockets and for occasionally spending on rasai.
57. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? At fixed rates per year or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue or per camp?
57. Systematic lapo is levied by revenue subordinates and the canal establishment must be getting per wheel, karia etc., most irregularly at sweet wish of the cultivators.
58. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials? Is it converted for that purpose into a 'Rasai' fund?
58. There is no rasai fund.
59. If so, who manages the 'Rasai' fund?
59. There is no manager.
60. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized for money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials? What are the usual amounts of such presents and to what extent are they made out of the 'Rasai' fund?
60. Lapo system is heard of with the Revenue tapedars and there is no regular systematic lapo in the canal department. It has no bearing with the rasai fund. Tip money is given to office establishment averaging Rs. 5-0-0 in a beat of a darogah covering about 100 Sq. Miles and not at each camp.

61. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? karias and kluadas there and then in canal limits and for increasing and decreasing kacha mouths of karias.
61. It is exacted for particular favours in other departments. In the Irrigation Department for convenience at heaping up of the cleared earth of mouths of then in canal limits and for increasing and decreasing
62. How far is unauthorized 'Lapo' utilized to mitigate the strictness of examinations of official records by the establishments of touring officials?
62. That is for the revenue, police and forest departments. There is nothing such in the Irrigation Department.
63. Has the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' been affected by the rules of 1914?
63. I am afraid not.
64. Have you any special reports on the subject of unauthorized 'Lapo' or any local orders?
64. I have none.
65. Can you suggest any more effectual means for preventing the levy of unauthorized 'Lapo' than the rules of 1914? Could it be prevented by modification of the rules of the Land Revenue Code?
65. The powers of tapedars to be curtailed as there are instances of survey Nos irrigated by charkhi chased as aided by flow; the entries are made in records by themselves. A fraction of ghunta of land ploughed and possibly seeds planted is recorded as cultivated number, and many such others which the hard worked mukhtiarakar can not possibly enquire into.
- Chher.*
66. What do you understand by the term "Chher"?
66. Collection of labour for work.
67. Who are the 'Chheras'?
67. Mostly haris.
68. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
68. Mostly for closing breaches in canal banks in Irrigation Department and for repairing roads and camps in the Revenue Department.
69. Do the 'Chheras' hold their lands on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
69. Yes as far as I understand.
70. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars, or from officials of Government?
70. When employed they receive victuals for food and even cash at times from zamindars or from officials of Government.
71. How far is casual paid labour available in your charge? June to October it is scantily available at high wages and practically not generally.
71. About seven months in a year from November to May paid labour is available and in the period available at high wages and practically not generally.
72. Is any considerable staff of 'Beldars' maintained in your charge either by Local Funds or Government?
72. Not considerable staff of beldars but a few are maintained temporarily by Government. Local Boards have their own.
73. How far are zamindars, if at all, bound to provide labour on the demand of officials of Government?
73. In their own interest zamindars have to supply labour in closing breaches.
74. Are any lands held like those of the village servants of the Deccan on condition of rendering services to the community or to Government?
74. I do not know of the Dekhan and I do not see any village servant rendering any service to Government here in Sind.
75. For what purposes do you require labour on tour?
75. I require no labour on tour except for works which I get on payment.
76. How many labourers do you require daily in camp?
76. I require no labourers in camp.
77. How many more do you require when pitching or striking camps?
77. I do not require any, my canal establishment assisting my private and official establishments.
78. Whence do you obtain them?
78. I do not require them.
79. Do you pay them anything for their labour or are they given anything by the zamindars?
79. If I call them I pay them; zamindars have nothing to do.

80. What would be the probable cost of substituting casual paid labour? Could this be obtained from the 'Basai' contractor?
81. Would it not be possible to get all the work done by a temporary increase while on tour of your own private and official establishments?
82. How do you obtain labour for shikar?
83. What do you pay the men? Have you experienced difficulty in making them accept payment?
84. Are they given anything by the zamindars?
85. What labour if any is required to supplement the repair of the roads by the local authorities?
86. Are the labourers given anything for this work by you or the zamindars or the local officers?
87. What labour is required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks?
88. Are the labourers given anything for this work by the zamindars or by Government?
89. How far, if at all, does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves or the zamindars?
90. How far does the employment of 'Beldars' interfere with their ordinary work under the local boards?
91. Have you any special reports on "Chher" or local orders?
92. Do you consider 'Chher' should wholly or partly be suppressed, and, if so, what orders would you recommend to be passed by Government.
80. I have no reliance on the rasai contractors. If at all they are employed their demands will be extraordinary.
81. I think so.
82. I do not shikar.
83. I have no experience.
84. I do not know.
85. Regular establishment employed by local boards with annual or special repairs are to keep roads in fair conditions.
86. I think they are given either in cash or in kind so far I have known.
87. Mohanas and workmen if obtained quickly in large number will lead to closing breaches in canal banks quickly enough to prevent damage to cultivated lands and villages in the interest of all concerned.
88. Government pay daily wages for regular work, or supplies food for work irregularly done in lieu of wages for regular labour.
89. Only temporarily; usually all baris do not come as chheras to work; the work of cultivation goes on.
90. Local Boards beldars employed by the Revenue Department only; their employment elsewhere must be interfering with their duties.
91. No, I have none.
92. I am afraid it can not be suppressed wholly or even partly in an emergency of closing breaches and the like when no free labour can be readily got.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. MATHRADAS RAMCHAND.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Mathradas Ramchand. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Pleader and zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. About 600 acres, land revenue about Rs. 800 a year according to the quantity of land cultivated. Income-tax of the firm of which I am a member about Rs. 3,000 and personally Rs. 65. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |
| 5. Public employment, if any such as member of Municipality, Local Board or Honorary Magistrate. | 5. A member of the District Local Board, Hyderabad. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Free supply of necessaries, comforts and luxuries of life or on payment of very inadequate consideration. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have never made rasai myself, but I have heard and seen much of it during the last 30 years. |
| 8. What are the camping grounds for which you have to make rasai. | 8. None. |
| 9. What officers frequent those camping grounds? | 9. The Commissioner-in-Sind. The Collector of Hyderabad. The Deputy Collectors or the Assistant Collectors of the Hyderabad District. |
| 10. What supplies do those officers require for themselves? | 10. They require, milk, eggs, butter, fuel, mutton, cots, fruit, vegetables, and provisions of all kinds. |
| 11. Whence do you get those supplies, namely, grain, rice, eggs, fowls, sheep, milk, butter, vegetables, bajri or jowari stalks and firewood? | 11. The tapedar supplies with the help of the zemindars of the deh in which officers are encamped all the articles mentioned in this question. |
| 12. Do you get them from your haris or from banias or from your own house or from other zamindars? | 12 & 13.—No personal knowledge. |
| 13. Do you pay for them, and if so, at what average rates? | |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 15. Do you get firewood from the jungles? Do you pay anything for it and what does it cost you to bring it to camp? | 15. No personal knowledge. |
| 16. What is the average daily cost of the supplies required by the officers themselves? | 16. I don't know. |
| 17. Do you have to provide supplies also for the private servants and official staff of the officers? | 17. They are all supplied by the same agency. |
| 18. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 18. The tapedar keeps the rasai book in which the daily cost of all supplies is entered. |
| 19. Do you have to provide supplies also for the clerks of the officers? | 19. The same answer as to question 17. |
| 20. What is the average daily cost of such supplies? | 20. I can't say. |
| 21. Do you have to provide water jars, cots or other furniture or material for building stables? | 21. The tapedar has to provide all the articles in question No. 21. |
| 22. What does that cost you for each camp? | 22. I can't say. |
| 23. Do you receive payment in full or in part from the officers and from their private servants, official staff and clerks? | 23. I can't say. |

24. If not, does the loss fall on your basis or on you?
 ever any officer camps in the each time.
25. Do you have to provide quarters for the clerks?
26. If so, does it cost you anything and do you receive payment?
27. Do you have to provide camels, horses, carts or carriages?
28. If so, what does it cost you and do you receive payment?
29. Do you have to make 'Rasai' for mukhtiar-kars, public works supervisors, police inspectors and any other subordinate officials?
30. If so, what does it cost you, and do you receive payment?
31. What is the aggregate cost to you each year of making 'Rasai'?
32. Do you make the 'Rasai' yourself or is it still actually made by the tapedars or by the contracting zamindars?
33. How do you receive payment? Do you prepare bills, or do the tapedars? Or are payments made through contracting zamindars?
34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars?
35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district?
36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government?
37. Do you present 'Dhalis' of fruit, vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you?
38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government?
39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'?
40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments?
- Revenue Department. In the
41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? Is a lump sum or fixed rates per camp or per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue?
24. Although I don't make rasai myself I have to give a share of the rasai expenses to the tapedar when-
 deh in which I have got lands, from Rs. 15 to 30
25. If the clerk have got no tents and routees of their own, landhis are provided for them.
26. Tapedars make the landhis.
27. I don't know.
28. I can't say.
29. Only for the mukhtiar-kars and that too is made by the tapedars.
30. As said above I make a contribution to the tapedar.
31. On the average from Rs. 20 to 25.
32. I don't make it myself but is done by the tapedar.
33. No payment.
34. Contractors independent of tapedars and zamindars.
35. Yes for talukas or sub-divisions.
36. Rasai corrupts the tapedars who harass the zemindars and knock out from them more than they spend and share their receipts with the head munshis of Collectors, Assistant Collectors, Mukhtiar-kars to ingratiate themselves with them. The receipt of rasai should be met with condign punishment. It should be made obligatory upon the officers to give contracts for supplies to officers and their establishment on tour.
37. I don't present any dhalis.
38. Yes, must be done.
- Lapo.*
39. Payment by zamindars to tapedars of money for saving oneself from molestation at his hands.
40. There is only form which I know, and that is to make payments to the tapedar at the time of paying assessment or whenever tapedar does any work, i.e., when endorsing any transfer application or inspecting boundary marks or dividing any S. No. This is in the Public Works Department the darogha charges something to each owner of a water wheel.
41. Tapedar charges Re. 1 per each cultivated No. and since 1914 he has doubled his fee in the case of poor landholders.

42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedar, raddais and darughas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers?
43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'?
44. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents?
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances?
46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours, and if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests?
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted?
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'?
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasai' contracts to zamindars?
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the muhtarkars?
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'?
53. Who are the 'Chheras'?
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform?
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars?
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars? Or from the officers of Government?
57. How many 'Chheras' are required at the camps of the different officers?
58. How many are required daily for bringing supplies, water, stalks and wood? How many more for preparing the ground and pitching and striking the camps?
42. Tapedar charges lapo to zamindars who want to save themselves from heavier loss caused to them by his false reports.
43. Lapo is taken by tapedar for causing no loss to zamindar and rasai is given by zamindar in addition.
44. I make no presents to private or official establishment of any office.
45. I don't know.
46. People don't pay lapo for getting any favours from tapedar, but as said above to save their skin from his undue harassment.
47. In this part of the country the practice is to pay it per cultivated No.
48. About Rs. 50 a year.
49. No.
50. No, the assessment is mostly paid to tapedar.
51. Payment of lapo to tapedars can only be stopped by curtailing powers of tapedars and introducing uniformity of assessment on various kinds of cultivation.

Chher.

52. I understand by the term *chher*, unpaid and compulsory labour for various purposes as repairing roads, pitching tents and doing menial work for officers and their establishment and closing breaches of canals as well.
53. Poor haris.
54. As shown in reply to question No. 52.
55. No, they pay their rent or *batai* to zamindars and in addition they obey the zamindars whenever required by them and for whatever purposes.
56. No remuneration is paid to them.
57. I can't say as I have never engaged myself in this work.
58. I can't say.

59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars ? 59. Probably not.
60. How many 'Chheras' are required for shikar ? 60. I can't say.
61. Do they come willingly or not and do they get anything from the officers or from the zamindars ? 61. They come unwillingly.
62. How many 'Chheras' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the Local Boards ? 62. I can't say.
63. Are such repairs of benefits to the public as well as to the officers ? 63. Public derive no benefit.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or Local Board ? 64. Nothing to my knowledge.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks ? 65. There is no fixed number.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government ? 66. I can't say.
67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars ? 67. Of course. Often the fields are waiting reaping for the absence of reapers engaged in chher work.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood ? 68. Casual paid labour is always available excepting inundation season.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of zamindars ? 69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government ? 70. Yes, except when sudden breaches of canals occurs.

Copy of a letter from Mathradas Bamehand, Pleader, Hyderabad, to the Secretary, Rasai, Lapo and Chher, Karachi, dated 30th April 1918.

As I am going out for the next 3 days, I will not be available for the personal examination. I therefore submit the following notes in amplification and illustration of my answers already submitted on the 27th April.

1. In continuation of my answer to question No. 38, I beg to submit that the evil of rasai could only be prohibited with the co-operation of the superior officers. If they did not require it, the lower staff would hardly demand it, nor would any body care to make rasai for them. If the superior officers are sincere to put down the rasai, it could be easily done, otherwise not.

2. In answer to question No. 46, I submit that lapo is paid as a lesser evil than the greater loss which would otherwise accrue to the zamindars from non-payment of it. I have been paying it since 1894 under the following circumstances. Prior to that date, I did not pay any lapo. I owned 15 huri Nos. in Deh Ghangra Taluka Hyderabad. The huri lands are generally low. In the beginning of the flood season, my kamdar unnecessarily artificially introduced water in one of those Nos. The tapedar having observed that fact and with intention of having his revenge upon me, noted that fact and took the head munshi of the taluka to make a similar note. Subsequently the flood rose very high and all the 15 Nos. were wholly submerged, so that the water mark could be seen on the trees about 5 feet above the ground. All of a sudden I received a bill from him to the extent of Rs. 250, on the ground that I had wasted Government water by submerging all the 15 Nos. I protested against that bill and pointed out to the mukhtiarkar that the inundation of that year was abnormally high and the surrounding villages could only be saved with great difficulty and that if water was artificially introduced in one number I should be compelled to pay assessment of that one No. only. But all my protest was of no use. I appealed to the Deputy Collector with the same result. Under these circumstances, I found that it was cheaper to pay tapedar's lapo than to incur his displeasure.

Another fact to which I would invite the committee's attention is the difficulty with which copies are secured from the records of rights. Law has made it necessary that in land suits, copies of entries from the record of rights should accompany the plaint. The power to give copies is given to tapedars and they take full advantage of it. In the first place excessive delay is caused in furnishing the copies and that obliges the public to grease tapedar's hands and he charges for that service at one Rupee for each No. Protests have been sent to the Collectors but with no result. It is high time that the public should be relieved against this exaction.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. KANWALSING POHUMAL.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Name. | 1. Kanwalsing Pohumal, B. Sc. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income tax or land revenue. | 3. Land Revenue about Rs. 4,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Hyderabad, Sind. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. By rasai I understand the supply of provisions to touring officers and their establishment. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have no experience of rasai; only once I have made rasai for Assistant Collector and twice when the Mukhtiarkar came to see my remission. |
| 34. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? | 34. No. I do not approve of the system of giving contracts to zamindars. I prefer appointment of independent contractors. It would be possible to find contractors for talukas if they are adequately remunerated. |
| 37. Do you present 'Dhals' of fruit vegetables or sheep to any officers? If so, what does it cost you? | 37. No. |

Lapo.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? | 39. Lapo is unauthorised levy which the tapedars, darogas and corresponding officers in other departments make. |
| 40. How many forms are there of unauthorised 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? | 40. Lapo is levied in the revenue and P. W. D. |
| 41. How is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per camp, per acre or per survey, number or per assessment of land revenue? | 41. Tapedars charge rupee one to two for each survey number in the case of small landholders and As. 8 to Re. 1 in the case of large landholders. |
| 42. By whom is each form of unauthorised 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and darogas, sub inspectors and thavedars and forest rangers? | 42. Darogas get lapo per each wheel and they also levy lapo for khuhadas, &c. |
| 43. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? | 43. The tapedars say that they have to make rasai and therefore they claim lapo. |
| 46. Is unauthorised 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? | 46. If lapo is not paid, the tapedars harass zamindars, as they have done in my case. I have to pay about 2 or 3 hundred rupees more every year when I do not pay lapo. Besides I have paid repairing charges of boundary marks although my boundary marks had been put in order by my men in my presence. |
| 50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars? | 50. I make payment of land revenue in the Huzur Treasury and yet the tapedars want their lapo. I am served with a notice twice almost every year, although I have always paid land revenue on due dates. Once or twice warrants have been issued against me in spite of payment on due dates. |

51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government?

51. In the case of darogas the lapo is paid by the haris for each wheel at the rate of Rs. 2; for each new khuhada the zamindar has to pay Rs. 2 to 5 to the daroga. Lapo is paid by the zamindars when they take up clearance contract of Government canals in their own area. I was myself troubled by the darogas and since then I have given up taking up clearance of Government canals in my area. The darogas have troubled me and my haris on several occasions. They burn hedges alleging that they are kept in P. W. D. limits. They make false reports that water has been wasted and mok has been used, &c. Lapo could only be stopped by simplifying the revenue administration by doing away with the present irrigational settlement system and by adopting diffused fallow system with certain reservations. This system was in vogue in 1878, and was not properly tried and was given up, because the zamindar was allowed to relinquish land. The proper remedy is that the zamindars should be asked to pay 1/3 the full assessment of the entire holding in the case of lift cultivation, 1/2 in the case of flow lands; fallow rules which also press heavily on the zamindars will disappear (vide my note attached).

Copy of a letter from Kanwatsingh Pohumal, Zamindar, Hyderabad, to the Secretary, Rasai Committee, Hyderabad.

Sir,—With regard to the prevalence of rasai, lapo and chher and remedies necessary to eradicate these evils, we associate ourselves generally with what is contained in the three articles that appeared in the Daily Gazette and with the substance of evidence of Mr. Rothfeld, Mr. Isani, Mr. Mangharam Parumal, Moonshi Choithram, tapedar, and Mr. Wadhupal, Mukhtyarkar, Dadu and several others. But while the remedies suggested will go only a short way to reduce the evils, we consider that larger and more drastic remedies are required to bring about an appreciable improvement. The root of these evils is much deeper than is generally supposed. It lies in the complicated system of revenue and other administration, a system that puts very large powers in the hands of tapedars and other petty subordinates. It also lies in the lack of self-respect and independence among zamindars. It would be impossible to discuss the various systems of the various departments, but we would illustrate our meaning by referring to the revenue system which affects people more intimately and more widely than the administration of other departments. Under the present irrigation settlement system with rules and regulations to meet all imaginable contingencies and with remission rules and fallow rules to boot, the zamindar is very much at the mercy of the tapedar and other subordinates. The tapedar can favour and he can also harass at his sweet will, and however just the zamindars, cause may be, he stands but little chance of getting justice once the tapedar has said his say. Even when it is a question not of opinion or inference but of patent fact capable of verification by the dullest and the laziest and even when the zamindar uses a loud trumpet to challenge the veracity of a tapedar and takes upon himself all the penal consequences of any false statements on his own part, even then I say the man on the spot generally, I might almost say always, carries the day against the zamindar. For, by the time a responsible officer can come on the spot, all trace of the actual state of things is gone. Yes, the tapedar can favour as well as harm the zamindar and tapedars have been known to do the boldest things without fear of punishment. The tapedar can show an uncultivated number as cultivated and vice versa; he can shew a lift number as lift cum flow or a real flow number as purely lift. He can report the best boundary marks as rotten and requiring repairs by the Government contractor who charges heavy fees or he can overlook bad boundary marks and he can do many other things besides, all which are weapons in his hands to fleece the zamindar. We confess the zamindars themselves with rather real exceptions are too human to resist the temptation of obtaining favours and avoiding disfavours by greasing the palm of the tapedar.

We would therefore suggest the substitution of a simple system like the fallow diffused system of revenue which was not given a fair trial with proper safeguards. Under that system the zamindar had to pay every year a certain proportion of the full assessment whether he cultivated the land or not, the proportion depending upon the number of fallows necessary for a particular crop and a particular mode of cultivation. This system was abandoned because the zamindar contrived to cultivate the whole or a very great part in one year and then relinquished the whole for a year or two in order to escape the payment of the fixed demand, for that year or two. The remedy for this lay in placing an embargo on such relinquishment. We submit that with this safeguard and one or two others in the interests alike of Government and of the zamindar the fallow diffused system should work quite satisfactorily. For one thing it will do away with so many opportunities of favoritism and harrassment. Remission rules which by themselves give rise to some of the rasai would disappear; similarly fallow rules which are a weapon in the tapedar's hands for exacting his lapo would disappear too. Nay the necessity for maintaining the present army of tapedars would no longer exist; the assessment being fixed in the case of each holding for the period of

settlement could be easily paid into the treasury direct. The tapedar not being in existence the *lapo* would automatically go and the limited *rasai* that might perhaps be deemed necessary here and there, would be looked after by men who will not be a terror like the tapedar.

Still we are not prepared to dogmatise here about the absolute efficacy or suitability of the fallow diffused system. All we want is that the present system should be replaced by a simple one working automatically and a conference of revenue officers and zamindars' representatives would be necessary to find out what system should take the place of the present one. The demonstration of other departments will have to be similarly simplified.

The other root of the evils in question lies, as we said, in the want of back bone among our people specially the *mofussilites*. And the only efficacious remedy for that drawback consists in a very wide or we should rather say, a universal diffusion of knowledge. Many have shrugged their shoulders at the idea of free and compulsory education being adopted in a *mofussil*. But it is just these *mofussilites* who stand in supreme need of enlightenment on a large scale. This is too obvious to need elaboration. As regards the objection that the *mofussil* man, conditioned as he is, will feel it as a tyranny and an oppression to have to forego the assistance of his children in his avocation we suggest that the village schools could be held for 2 or 3 hours a day only by making the curriculum very simple and that they should be closed for vacation during the seasons of special activity such as sowing and harvesting.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MR. HAJI KAMALDIN.

Preliminary.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name. | 1. Haji Kamaldin son of Mian Lal Muhammad Mundhro. |
| 2. Occupation. | 2. Zamindar. |
| 3. Extent of business or zamindari. Give amount of income-tax or land revenue. | 3. 700 acres of land and dwelling houses, Income-tax Rs. 28, Land Revenue about Rs. 2,000. |
| 4. Residence. | 4. Badin, taluka Badin. |

Rasai.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. What do you understand by the term 'Rasai'? | 6. Rasai is a pretext to officials for robbing people. |
| 7. How many years' experience have you had in making 'Rasai'? | 7. I have never made rasai as a zamindar. I had experience of it when I was in service. I watch it now also. |
| 14. Have milk, stalks and firewood market values beyond the neighbourhood of large villages and towns? | 14. Yes. |
| 24. Do you approve of the system of giving the contracts to zamindars or would you prefer the appointments of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars? | 24. I prefer the appointment of contractors independent of the tapedars and zamindars. |
| 35. Would it be possible to find such contractors for whole talukas or sub-divisions of the district? | 35. It would be possible to find contractors both for talukas and sub-divisions. |
| 36. What are your special objections to 'Rasai,' and have you any special recommendations to make, as to the arrangements to be made for 'Rasai' by Government? | 36. Subordinate officials rob people on the pretext of making rasai and it is perhaps owing to their rasai that higher officials do not inquire into their irregularities. Fuller information on this point is given in my note which accompanies this statement. |
| 38. Do you consider the practice should be prohibited by Government? | 38. Yes. |

Lapo.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 39. What do you understand by the term 'Lapo'? | 39. Lapo is a bribe. But it is restricted in its use to fixed payments levied in connection with certain matters described in detail in the accompanying note. |
| 40. How many forms are there of unauthorized 'Lapo'? Is it levied only in the revenue department or also in the public works, police and forest departments? | 40. This cursed lapo is levied in all departments including the Judicial, Registration, Vaccination, Salt, Local Boards and others which are not mentioned in the question. |
| 41. How is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied? In lump sum or fixed rates per coup, per acre or per survey number or per assessment of land revenue? | } 41 & 42. This is fully described in the accompanying note. |
| 42. By whom is each form of unauthorized 'Lapo' levied and for what ostensible purposes? By tapedars, abdars and daroghas, sub-inspectors and thanedars and forest rangers? | |
| 43. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied to cover the cost of 'Rasai' for touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make 'Rasai'? | 43. In the Revenue Department charges for rasai are levied separately. In the Engineering Department the cost of rasai is partly paid by the contractors and partly by the daroghas out of their lapo. In other departments the cost of rasai is met out of the lapo or bribes exacted therein except for grass, firewood, milk, butter, fowls and kids. |

44. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' levied for making money presents to the private or official establishments of touring officials, or do you have to pay 'Lapo' as well as make such presents? } 44 & 45. This is fully answered in the accompanying note.
45. What are the usual amounts of such presents and for what purposes are they paid? Do they take the form of daily allowances? }
46. Is unauthorized 'Lapo' exacted for particular favours and, if so, what, in matters of land revenue, irrigation, police and forests? 46. Certainly not. It is levied by force. The man who does not pay it is ruined by the subordinate officials. The higher officials are misled by the latter.
47. What are the usual amounts of such exactions and by whom are they exacted? 47. This is fully answered in the accompanying note.
48. What do you have to pay each year in the aggregate on account of 'Lapo' and exactions of the nature of 'Lapo'? 48. I pay nothing, in consequence of which I have been suffering losses and troubles.
49. Has the amount been reduced by the rules of 1914 and the system of giving 'Rasat' contracts to zamindars? 49. Certainly not. On the contrary it has increased as there is none to prevent it.
50. Has the amount been reduced by the system of payments of land revenue direct to the mukhtarkars? 50. Certainly not. The Mukhtarkars rather get annoyed at the refusal to pay lapo.
51. Have you any special recommendations for the prevention of 'Lapo'? Could it be stopped by modifications of the revenue or police system or any other special orders of Government? 51. I have made my humble recommendation in the accompanying note.
- Chher.*
52. What do you understand by the term 'Chher'? 52. Chher means men employed without remuneration.
53. Who are the 'Chheras'? 53. They are haris and other poor men.
54. What kinds of labour are the 'Chheras' called on to perform? 54. They are called on to perform work in connection with the camps of officers, to prepare roads, and to close breaches. For further particulars see the accompanying note.
55. Do the 'Chheras' hold their land on express or implied conditions to perform such labour when demanded by their zamindars? 55. Zamindars are compelled to supply men to perform such labour and they in their turn compel chheras to perform it, no matter whether these hold their lands on such conditions or not.
56. When so employed, do they receive any remuneration in cash or kind from the zamindars or from the officers of Government? 56. They receive nothing from the officers of Government, but get food only from the zamindars.
59. Do they get anything for these services from the officers or from the zamindars? 59. They get nothing from the officers but get food only from the zamindars.
62. How many 'Chheras,' if any, are required for supplementing repairs to the roads by the local boards? 62. With a view to the greater convenience of touring officers the taluka officials in order to make a name for themselves in the matter of rasai employ the chheras to supplement or to execute repairs to the Local Board roads.
63. Are such repairs of benefit to the public as well as to the officers? 63. Such supplementary repairs are not carried out with a view to public convenience. For the public ordinary repairs are sufficient.
64. Do they get anything for such labour from the officers, zamindars or local boards? 64. They get food only from the zamindars.
65. How many 'Chheras' are required in case of floods and breaches of canal banks? 65. The number is in proportion to the work required to be done.
66. Do they get anything for such labour from the zamindars or officers of Government? 66. They get food from the zamindars. Government officials misappropriate the bulk of the wages paid by Government.

67. Does the employment of the 'Chheras' interfere with cultivation and cause loss to themselves and the zamindars?
67. If their employment prevents them from ploughing their lands or collecting manure, etc.
68. How far is casual paid labour available in your neighbourhood?
68. It is available to any extent on payment of wages.
69. Could it be procured by a contractor independently of the zamindars?
69. Yes.
70. Do you consider 'Chher' ought to be abolished or modified in any way by Government?
70. I consider that chher and begar ought to be abolished.

NOTE.—In the accompanying note I have given full descriptions, with illustrations, of the evils of chher, begar, rasai and bribery, suggested measures for their suppression, and shown what troubles are created for the man who does not comply with the demands of the officials.

I an educated zamindar have suffered a great deal on account of my refusal in the matter of lapo, rasai, chher and begar. The committee is aware of what lapo and rasai mean; and chher is that which the zamindars supply. Chher is none the less begar though it is supplied by the zamindars. The worst form of begar is this: in connection with the camps of officers, the peons and the police impress, leaving aside respectable men, every Mahomedan, Kolhi, etc., whom they come across, no matter whether he is a wayfarer or has a family with him.

* * * * *

Rasai and lapo.

The butlers and other private servants of European officers are a veritable nuisance. They obtain their supplies including liquor at every camp. They are pampered because they can, by spoiling the supplies for their masters, enrage them against a zamindar, tapadar or taluka official to the latter's ruin. The cost of rasai in respect of the rest of the establishment such as munshis, peons, etc., is much greater. Before 1900 these got their supplies from the modi whose bill was paid in the first instance by the tapadar and eventually by the zamindars. Since 1900 the system of daily allowances has come into vogue, so that there might be no evidence of the modi's khanda. The daily allowance for the clerk or munshi is a rupee a day and for the peon and private servant 8 annas a day. These allowances are paid by the tapadar daily. Apart from these allowances, they are supplied with mutton, milk, fowls, eggs, butter, grass, firewood and vegetables free of payment. This system is all the better for them. When taluka officials invite them to dinner parties the cost of which is met from the rasai collection, they get their allowances all the same. Moreover peons, cooks etc. take money presents from zamindars calling on their masters and from tapedars. All the payments made by the tapadar are charged to rasai account and eventually recovered from zamindars. The mukhtiar kar is nearly always out on tour. The daily cost of rasai for him and his establishment amounts to Rs. 20 or even more. This is met by the zamindars and is apart from grass, firewood, fowls, eggs, butter, etc. and money presents to peons and cooks. The cook gets Rs. 5, the naik Rs. 2 and the peons Re. 1 each from each zamindar in addition to provisions. Cart hire for the records is paid by the zamindars at each camp and conveyance for the cook and the munshi is also provided, by the zamindars, although Government pays for the carriage of records and allows travelling allowance to the munshi and peons as also to the mukhtiar kar; zamindars have also to provide quarters for the mukhtiar kar at each camp. Woe be to a zamindar who fails to make the necessary arrangements. The sub-divisional officer (P. W. D.) also tours for the most part of the year. At headquarters also rasai is made for him. The rasai for these taluka officials presses more heavily than does the rasai for European officers. Apart from this rasai fixed annual payments are made to the munshis and peons of taluka and other offices from the rasai funds provided by zamindars. Although all these payments are defrayed by zamindars, the latter cannot get any favour from the officials until he pays for them. Even the peon at the door will not let him in until he gets a tip from him.

Suggestions for suppressing rasai, etc.

1. Rasai for taluka officials is a great nuisance. Their tours therefore should be stopped. As for partial, etc., that which lies within a radius of 10 miles from the headquarters should be done by them making short journeys out of the headquarters and returning there on the same day. Only for partial which lies outside that radius should they leave their head-quarters, care being taken to see that they do not stay at any place for more than a day. They should also abstain from obtaining conveyance and quarters from zamindars. Moreover, committees should be appointed to watch rasai. The tours of Divisional, District and Sind officers should be limited, their

camps confined to large towns and their camp establishments reduced. These officers should be in touch with members of the committees referred to above and acquaint themselves with the needs and grievances of the people. They can get their supplies either direct or through contractors in large towns. Notwithstanding that, taluka officials and tapedaras will have to make rasai for their munshis on the following considerations :

1. They get help from them when any body complains against them.
2. They must have their support when they make reports calculated to injure zamindars and others who refuse to make rasai or to give bribes.
3. Their records are inspected by them.
4. They need their help in matters of leave, transfer, etc.

The tapedar's exactions.

1. Lapo at the rate of 5 to 20% ; one rupee is the minimum lapo on a survey number, whatever its assessment may be. Even fallow assessments are not free from the payment of lapo at the rate of one rupee per number. Tapedaras also obtain butter, etc., and even money on land flooded by haris for the purpose of grass for their farm cattle.

3. At the number shumari the tapedar levies on account of his own rasai 4 annas per number from the smaller zamindars and a larger amount from the larger zamindars.

4. He also obtains a bag or two of grain for his horse from each zamindar at the batai. Apart from this he gets firewood, grass, butter, kids, fowls, etc., etc.

5. One rupee per number when information regarding any number is supplied.

6. From Re. 1 to Rs. 5 per number for change of entry in the record of rights.

7. Rs. 3 to 5 per number on regrants of fallow numbers and Rs. 1 to 2 per acre on grants of Government land.

8. While the price of a ryot's receipt book is one anna, the tapedar's charge for the same is 4 to 8 annas.

9. As regards the usufruct of trees, the tapedar and supervising tapedar obtain as much for themselves as is paid to Government. They create troubles for those who refuse to pay them on this scale.

10. On takavi grants 5% is paid to the tapedar and supervising tapedar in addition to sums of money paid to the head munshi, the subtreasurer and sometimes the mukhtiarkar.

11. Tapedaras and supervising tapedaras levy a charge for boundary marks which are to be put in order under the group system.

12. The tapedar does not dispose of any application which goes to him for report until he is bribed.

13. The tapedar gets a rupee per acre on flooded lands given out for cultivation on a year's lease. He also gets lapo on the cultivation of such lands.

14. The tapedar pays Rs. 200 to 300 towards rasai and exacts double the amount from zamindars. He also has a large quantity of supplies which remains over, which lasts him for a year.

15. If the tapedar does not get a fixed sum from an income-tax assessee he will mislead the mukhtiarkar to his prejudice.

16. The tapedar recovers from each zamindar one or two rupees each for his cook and kotar. Some mukhtiarkars also levy an annual sum of Rs. 100 to 500 from each zamindar in addition to presents etc.

18. The tapedar issues assessment bills to zamindars for larger amounts than are due from them. He then pockets the excess money by giving no receipt or by giving a fraudulent receipt. This has been done in the case of a man like me. I submit the bill in question. The entry relates to No. 344, area 12 acres and 27 ghuntas. Assessment Rs. 23-8-0. When I discovered the error, the tapedar gave me a fresh statement which too is submitted. In the case of some people the tapedar recovers the assessment twice over.

The supervising tapedar.

1. He gets an annuity from each zamindar.
2. He gets some money on each application which comes to him for report.
3. He is given a fixed sum from each tapedar's lapo.
4. All payments made to the tapedar, excepting the lapo, are divided between him and the tapedar in equal shares.
5. He also gets a bag or two of grain from each zamindar at the batai, besides firewood, grass, etc.
6. He levies from each zamindar a rupee or two each for his cook and kotar.
7. Zamindars who make these money presents get no favour from the supervising tapedar or the tapedar. They make them to avoid the troubles which are otherwise created for them.

Unless the following suggestions are adopted matters will not improve. Out of their exactions the tapedar, the supervising tapedar and the darogha make presents to munshis of their immediate superiors and higher officers so that if they are displeased with any zamindar, their immediate superiors are displeased with him. The displeasure of the taluka official also means the displeasure of the higher officials. The taluka official will first start the game by complaining of a particular zamindar to the divisional officer. The personal munshi of a divisional officer will support the taluka official so that the divisional officer will be convinced of the truth of the taluka officials' complaint. This means the ruin of the zamindar concerned. The displeasure of the divisional officer means the displeasure of the Commissioner, of the Chief Engineer or of the Deputy Inspector General of Police. It is suggested that in such cases the divisional officer should inquire into matters through a committee such as has been referred to above, and that a complaint filed by an official against a zamindar or hari should be heard by a European magistrate and if the committee is satisfied that the complaint is false the accused should be defended by the Public Prosecutor.

How to prevent rasni, lapo, etc.

In each taluka there should be a committee of zamindars. This committee should be empowered by Government to take evidence on oath and to perform the following duties:

1. To inquire into all cases of official oppression, bribery, etc., which may come to its notice whether on complaint or otherwise and to report the erring official to the officer who can appoint and dismiss him.

The official should then be suspended and the matter inquired into departmentally. His superior officer may sit as a member or chairman on the taluka committee when the inquiry is proceeding before it. He should be punished severely if after hearing the defence the committee considers that he is guilty.

2. Bills of assessment should be furnished to zamindars on completion of the number shumari in December and the receipts taken from them should be forwarded to the committee. If thereafter any tapedar makes mischief the committee should inquire into the matter and report the result to the Mukhtiarkar. If the Mukhtiarkar's verdict is different from that of the committee the matter should be inquired into by the Assistant Collector in conjunction with the committee.

3. Tapedars should, before the cultivation season, give intimation to zamindars of their survey numbers liable to fallow assessment in the next year and the receipts taken from them should be forwarded to the committee. The committee should after inquiries draw up a list of those numbers for the non-cultivation of which the zamindar, was not responsible. This list should be approved by the Assistant Collector after careful investigation.

4. Lists of all numbers of doubtful mode of irrigation should be forwarded to the committee by the mukhtiarkar immediately on their receipt. The committee will examine the cases and record the results of its examination in the lists. In cases in which the mukhtiarkar does not agree with the conclusions of the committee the decision will lie with the Assistant Collector.

5. Tapedars should inform the committee in the month of January of the boundary marks on each deh which are out of repair and which must be repaired under the group system. The marks which appear to the committee to be in repair or which are repaired at the instance of the committee should be let alone, while the repairs to the remaining ones should be carried out by a contractor under the orders of the committee and not by a contractor under the orders of the officials.

6. Extracts from registered deeds are no doubt forwarded for entry in the record of rights; but the tapedars do not make the necessary entries in the record until they get their fees. Such extracts should in future be forwarded to the committee through the mukhtiarkar. The committee will then write to the tapedars concerned through the mukhtiarkar to make the changes. All changes in the record must be made after due inquiry and such an important work as the writing of the record should not be entrusted to the tapedars.

7. The usufruct of trees and grazing in unoccupied numbers is under the circulars leased to the holder of adjacent lands at fixed rates. This needs no change. If however there is no usufruct or grazing in any year on account of want of rain, the payment should be assessed on the recommendations of the committee. In the event of the mukhtiarkar disagreeing with the committee the matter should be decided by the Assistant Collector.

8. All applications for land grants should in the first instance be made to the committee. The committee will register these applications and then pass them on to the mukhtiarkar. The mukhtiarkar will get particulars from the tapedars and return the applications together with the particulars to the committee. The committee will then submit the applications to the officer concerned who will dispose of them in consultation with the committee at a kacheri. In matters of land grant zamindars need to go to the P. W. D. in connection with the supply of water. This should be done away with and a condition inserted in the kabulyat that the land will be liable to payment even if it did not receive water-supply. The kabulyats and malkano should be taken from the zamindars in the presence of the committee to spare them the fees which they otherwise will pay to the settlement munshi and the munshis of the divisional officer.

9. Tapedars should recover assessments on fixed dates, in the presence of the committee at headquarters and the receipt books of the zamindars should be countersigned by the chairman or other member of the committee.

10. Lists of voters for local board and council elections prepared by the tapedars should be verified by the committee before they are submitted to the mukhtiarkar as in the preparation of these lists underhand methods are resorted to.

11. Tapedars and darogas every now and then trouble zamindars in connection with waste of water. Zamindars have suffered great losses thereby. It is absolutely necessary for zamindars and haris to grow some grass to be cut when green for the feed of their plough animals. This they grow either on their own lands or on the adjacent Government waste. Government should therefore charge nothing or not more than 4 annas per acre on such cultivation. Tapedars should furnish to the committee not later than June all particulars regarding land in which grass is grown for draught animals. No such reports should be made after June when there have been rains and pancho water of fields has been let off. If no such cultivation is allowed except under permission to be obtained previously, this will give rise to corruption and delay. What should be done therefore is that every zamindar should have a certain area fixed for the cultivation of grass, having regard to the number of animals he has. A zamindar who has 100 acres under cultivation will require about 20 acres for grass. If he exceeds this latter figure he will pay regular assessment.

12. Zamindars pay tapedars a rupee per number when they want particulars regarding any numbers. To save zamindars this impost it is suggested that all survey maps and particulars regarding the area held by each occupant should be kept by the committee.

13. There is no justice in the grant of remissions. The mukhtiarkars are very strict in recommending remissions owing to fear. They refuse remissions even in deserving cases. Again a zamindar who is not a time-server gets no justice. The assessors dare not give their independent opinion regarding danabandi. It is suggested that the assessors should be from among the members of the committee, and should the Mukhtiarkar act unfairly in the matter of danabandi etc. the case should be decided by the Assistant Collector in consultation with the committee.

14. The committee should be informed of the amount of takavi sanctioned for the taluka. The committee will receive applications for takavi up to the amount sanctioned and forward them to the mukhtiarkar. The tapedars will furnish to the committee whatever particulars it may want. The mukhtiarkar will then sanction applications in conjunction with the committee on a day to be fixed by him with reference to the convenience of the committee. Until this procedure is adopted the percentages paid on the takavi will not cease. Repayments of takavi should be made to the tapedar in the presence of the committee when recoveries of land revenue are made.

15. The income tax officer should sit with the committee when assessing zamindars to the income-tax, cases in which they differ being referred to the Assistant Collector.

16. When an unassessed number has been granted to any man the tapedar does not readily break it into small numbers until he is paid a fee equal to half the malkano. Care should therefore be taken to see that the tapedar sub-divides the land and takes the kabulyat and malkano from the person concerned before the cultivation season begins. Until the work is completed, weekly statements of measurement work done should be submitted to the committee with an explanation of the delay.

17. Haris should freely be permitted to build huts for themselves near their lands in the interest of their cultivation.

18. Applications for the grant of barani and itfaq sailab lands should be received by the committee. The committee should note on the application whether the request is genuine or not. The information required from the records of the village should be supplied to the committee by the tapedar. All such applications should then be disposed of by the mukhtiarkar in the presence of the committee on the dates previously fixed by him in consultation with the committee.

19. Applications by zamindars and haris should be made through the committee and those that are recommended by the committee should be sanctioned.

20. A report made by a tapedar or other official against a zamindar or hari should be referred to the committee for inquiry. If the mukhtiarkar's conclusions differ from those of the committee, the matter should be decided by the Assistant Collector.

21. To the possible objection of Government that no one will be found to serve as tapedar etc., on such conditions the reply is that the committee will undertake to make proper arrangements.

The increase of pay will not lead to the stoppage of lapo, rasai, etc. The last revision, which raised the pay of the tapedar from Rs. 15—20 to Rs. 20—25 and that of the supervising tapedar from Rs. 20—25 to Rs. 30—35 plus an allowance of Rs. 10 was intended to enable these officials to live on their pay without taking lapo etc. It has failed of its purpose. Lapo, rasai etc., have increased rather than decreased.

Similarly the revisions of the pay of the munshis, daroghas etc., have produced no effect. Habits die hard; unless committees of zamindars watch the officials no improvement can be expected.

It might be argued that committees of zamindars cannot safely be entrusted with so many duties. It must be taken for granted that those who are oppressed can have no protection from oppression until they are given some control over their oppressors. Nothing short of this will produce the desired result. I remember Government passing orders at the instance of the late Sirdar Mahomed Yakub Khan that the mukhtiarkar in whose charge there were complaints of lapo and rasai would be dismissed. Nothing came out of these orders in spite of their admitted stringency. Mr. Lucas' circular of 1914 has on the contrary made matters worse. Such efforts are bound to prove abortive. I submit the representation dated 29th November 1914 which I made to the Collector of this district on the circular of Mr. Lucas. It will be seen that my suggestion was that until some effective remedy was found out in consultation with the zamindars the circular in question would produce no effect. I made a similar representation to Mr. Thomas, Collector of Hyderabad, when he was holding a durbar for discussion of matters of public interest; but nothing came out of it. Indeed complaints have been made from time to time but in vain and the evils have taken deeper roots than before. The reason is that in Sind all subordinate officials including taluka officers are generally of the type indicated above. The munshis of the higher officers are in no way better.

Moreover officials in Sind are closely connected with one another by ties of relationship, etc. Several tapedars and other subordinates are near relations of Deputy Collectors and Engineers etc. Besides this, subordinate officials take great care to please their superiors. The head of the taluka, even if he is an impartial officer, which is a rare occurrence, supports his subordinates either because of relationships or because of recommendations from friends or because of the exertions made by the subordinates to please him. The great majority of mukhtiarkars and others who are of the type indicated above naturally stand by their subordinates. No one dare complain against an official to the displeasure of the mukhtiarkar. The trouble is accentuated by the fact that the higher officers simply echo what the taluka officers say. If a man is likely to expose the misdeeds of subordinate officials to their superiors, he is already reported to the latter as a very troublesome man so that he will not have any access to them. How then can officers acquaint themselves with the grievances of the people? We have cried in vain in newspapers and otherwise that officers should get into close touch with us. They never inquire into our condition even when we of our own accord call on them. Such being the case subordinate officials, as is only natural, fearlessly harass us. I can say that subordinate officials including mukhtiarkars sometimes commit extremely cruel deeds. European officers seem to think that undue severity towards

subordinates will re-act unfavourably on the administration. It is a pity that European officers should entertain this idea. The foundations of British rule are too deep-laid to receive injury from the course suggested above. On the contrary British rule will receive an accession of strength by the removal of the blot which the misdeeds of the subordinates constitute on the otherwise good Government of the country. It is certainly a matter for regret that there is nobody to hold subordinate officials accountable for their misdeeds and that they ply their nefarious trade without check.

* * * * *

No one dare complain against any subordinate official. If he did he would incur the displeasure of all including the dattardar and his munshis. This has practically made us, zamindars, slaves of officials. Zamindars who are disposed to expose subordinate officials do not get the support of their less independent brethren. Under these circumstances, no matter what rules Government make and to what extent the pay and allowances of subordinates are revised, there will be no improvement. Are the pay and allowances of the mukhtiarkar small? Why does he then resort to ways to which his subordinates resort. The fact is all officials in concert with one another fearlessly rob people as though there was nobody to take them to task. They even go so far as to misappropriate Government moneys. On clearance and other contracts on an average 50% goes to waste. Is that not Government property? The local board revenue they regard as their legacy. Half the money realised at fairs is pocketed by them. Local Board gardens being in their keeping are as it were a legitimate source of revenue to them. Malhis kept for looking after roads get their pay from the local boards but do the private work of officials. Similar frauds are committed in respect of receipts from pounds. Unless therefore zamindars are appointed to keep watch on them, matters will not improve. At present zamindars are helpless. They are at the mercy of officials. When they have been given control over them they will have the courage to root out evils. This arrangement has the additional advantage of protecting Government property as it is not possible for both zamindars and officials to combine and defraud Government. Zamindars' committees are therefore the best agency for eradicating the evils complained of. What is of special importance, however, is that care should be taken to have on the committees independent men and not men recommended by the mukhtiarkars. This can be done by election. Each tapa should have the right of electing not more than two members or one member at least to the committee. The elections should be conducted on the same lines as the local board elections. Or the members elected to the local board should be recognised as members of the zamindars' committees. There should be no nominated members on zamindars' committees. The system of nomination will lead to the appointment of men of the type of which Bench Magistrates are, men who will do more harm than good. If you want good Magistrates for Benches of Magistrates, selections should be made on the recommendations of zamindars' committees. Moreover these Benches should not be under the control of the head munshi or the mukhtiarkar. They should first be invested with the powers of the 3rd class Magistrate. The conferment of further powers should be dependent upon the efficiency of each Bench. Each zamindar's committee should be allowed a munshi and two peons, to be appointed by it. Their service will be pensionable and they will be eligible for transfer to the revenue department. The committee will also be given a fixed allowance for contingencies and stamps. The scheme will no doubt entail some expenditure; but as it will curtail the work of the tapedars, the supervising tapedars and the taluka office, the latter establishments can safely be reduced. In fact no inconvenience will be felt by taking off one supervising tapedar, one tapedar and one taluka office munshi. The zamindars' committee for each taluka can select men to serve on the dispensary committee, the sanitary committee, and the school board committee, superseding the present system under which men who are appointed to serve on these committees are men who act as the agents of subordinate officials, who do not perform their legitimate duties and who never bother themselves about official corruption.

The Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department contracts involve some waste of public money. The larger contractors sublet their contracts to the smaller contractors on a profit of 25 per cent on the contract. Of the remaining 75% payments are made to the Public Works Departments' officials as follows:—

The daroga 1 per cent; the sub overseer and overseer 2 per cent; the sub-divisional officers' munshi 1 per cent; the sub-divisional officer 5 per cent; presents and rasai 1 per cent. The Executive Engineer's office 5%.

When these payments have been made 60% will remain over. Of this 50% is paid to the jamadar of excavators and 5% is spent in the pay of the establishment. The contractor will have 50% left for carrying out the work in such a way as to make a profit for himself. Under these circumstances zamindars are unwilling to take up clearance contracts.

2. Breaches are generally closed by zamindars. No P. W. D. official attends to them. The bills of cost, submitted by zamindars, are either not paid with a view to save the reputation of the official who repaired the bunds or are paid in part only, the remaining money being misappropriated by the officials themselves. Zamindars acquiesce in these proceedings because they know that they are at the mercy of the officials.

3. The daroghas levy 1 to 5 rupees as lapo on each karia. They also get money presents from cattle owners for allowing their cattle to graze on canal banks, to water at canals and to go along canal banks. These money presents are apart from presents of butter, milk, etc etc. The muccudums will take cattle to the pound no matter where he finds them. They will get a fee of one anna per head of cattle from the pound munshi. The pound munshi will pocket the fine and the feeding charge in the case of animals released by their owners; and the feeding charge only in the case of those that are not so released. The payment of an anna on every animal brought to the pound makes a muccadam more enthusiastic than he should be in the interest of the cattle owners in looking after canal banks. The muccadam has other sources of income too. He levies a lapo of 4 annas per karia besides some perquisites from cattle owners. Over and above these exactions zamindars have to give to the P. W. D. officials quantities of ears of corn at the harvest and grain at the batai. The displeasure of the darogha means the displeasure of the Executive Engineer with all its evil consequences. The legitimate work of the muccadam and beldar viz., the conservancy of canals and their banks is looked after by zamindars. They are engaged in making rasai, in collecting their dues from cattle owners and in taking to the pound the cattle of those who do not accommodate them.

Suggestions for the removal of the above evils.

1. The committee referred to above, should be empowered to inquire into the misdeeds of subordinate officials and make their reports. The officials concerned should be suspended on these reports, and the matter disposed of in the manner indicated above.

2. Clearance contracts should be given out by the above said committees. Payments thereon should also be made by them. Clearance measurements should be taken by an overseer from another sub-division, a member of the committee being associated with him. In case of disagreement, the committee should report the matter to the Executive Engineer who should go into the case jointly with the committee. In the case of buildings and bridges also the completion certificate should be signed by the sub-divisional officer and a member of the committee. In case of disagreement, the matter should be decided by the Executive Engineer assisted by the committee.

3. The daroghas, muccadums, and beldars who are on the temporary establishment should be appointed in consultation with the committee. They should be liable to suspensions on the reports of the committee.

4. All matters relating to the construction of masonry bridges over karias, to the narrowing or closing of the mouth of a karia, to the opening of new karias etc., should be disposed of by the Executive Engineer in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

5. The closing of breaches and the claiming of money therefor should be left in the charge of the committee.

6. Estimates for clearance and other works should be submitted by the overseer to the committee. The committee will forward these to the Executive Engineer, making therein such modifications (if any) as seem to it proper. In case the Executive Engineer differs from the recommendations of the committee, he should decide the matter on the spot in conjunction with the committee.

7. There is a good deal of corruption in the matter of regulating the flood-gates of Government canals. Should the committee report any matter to the Executive Engineer by wire, immediate action should be taken. For this purpose the canal wire should be placed at the disposal of the committee.

8. There is corruption also in regulating rotation of water supply. All arrangements relating to rotation should be made by the committee.

9. Contracts for the fruit of trees on canal banks should be given by the committee.

10. The committee should every year be invited to make its suggestions for improving canals and water supply and steps should be taken to give effect to its recommendation.

* * * * *

Lastly I must state the circumstances of my dismissal to avoid an unfavourable impression being created by my evidence.

I could not meet the rasai, etc., in the revenue department. I got myself transferred on the same pay to the police department where by my industry I rose to be a second grade sub-inspector in a short time. I was recommended for the post of Inspector. I was also recommended at my request for the post of mukhtiarkar by the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate. As however my ill luck would have it while I was eagerly looking forward to my appointment as a mukhtiarkar, Mr. Ommanney who had been appointed District Superintendent of Police to my district got annoyed with me over rasai and shikar and reduced me from the 80 rupee grade of sub-inspector to the 30 rupee grade of head constable on the ground that I had delayed the execution of warrants issued against some pattern brick layers on the complaint of Udharan zamindar, although he was aware that I had accompanied him to Katiar to make arrangements for his shikar. I went and told Mr. Mules, the District Magistrate, all about Mr. Ommanney's displeasure over shikar. The District Magistrate sent for him and took down his statement and mine, made inquiries and finding that I was free from blame upset the order of reduction. Being afraid of Mr. Ommanney however I proceeded on furlough. On the expiry of my leave, Mr. Ommanney being in the Hyderabad District still, I got myself transferred to the Thar and Parkar District. There a second class magistrate was reduced on my report. I was then transferred to Sanghar, where the mukhtiarkar was Mr. Mouzaldin and the head munshi a brother-in-law of the second class magistrate referred to above. The head munshi took opportunity to prejudice the mukhtiarkar against me. They both got complaints made against me. One of these complaints was tried by Mr. Beyts who acquitted me. The other complaints were forwarded by the District Magistrate to Mr. Priestly the District Superintendent of Police who reported that they were all false. About that time to my misfortune I told Mr. Mahmud Shah, the Deputy Superintendent, in confidence that the rasai for Mr. Priestly's camp at Sanghar had cost Rs. 1,200. Mr. Mahmud Shah went and reported the matter to Mr. Priestly. Mr. Priestly's attitude towards me was now so completely changed that he dismissed me on the complaints which he had reported to the District Magistrate to be groundless. Thus was gone my service of 23 years.

I show certificates testifying to the good work done by me in the Revenue and Police Departments. Since my dismissal from the service, I have been selected as joint secretary to the Zamindars' Association, Tando. Official oppression has been pressing heavily on us. It is hoped that the Rasai Committee will suggest ways for the removal of our grievances.

* * * * *

APPENDIX TO MR. HEY'S EVIDENCE AT PAGES 1-12 ANTE.

Copy of letter No 4749 of the 6th July 1918 from the Collector of Hyderabad.

With reference to your letter No 53, dated the 6th May 1918, I have the honour to give below the aggregate numbers of Amils, other Hindus and Mahomedans in the Subordinate Revenue Establishment of the Hyderabad district.—

| Amils. | Other Hindus | Musalmans. | Total |
|--------|--------------|------------|-------|
| 82 | 3 | 40 | 125 |

2. A statement showing the number of zamindars paying assessment according to the prescribed classes is attached.

Statement showing the number of zamindars paying assessment under and above Rs. 1,000, etc.

| Name of taluka. | NO OF ZAMINDARS PAYING ASSESSMENT | | | | Approximate proportion of Hindu and Mahomedan zamindars |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| | Under Rs 1,000. | Over Rs 1,000 and under Rs 5,000. | Over Rs 5,000 and under Rs 10,000 | Over Rs 10,000. | |
| Guni ... | 1,456 | 69 | 3 | ... | 1 : 4 |
| Badin ... | 3,913 | 51 | ... | ... | 1 : 6 |
| Tando Bago ... | 1,930 | 43 | 4 | 1* | 1 : 5 |
| Dero Mohbat ... | 2,495 | 9 | ... | ... | 1 : 37 |
| Hyderabad ... | 4,470 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 : 3 |
| Hala ... | 1,244 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 1 : 7 |
| Tando Allahyar ... | 4,168 | 12 | ... | ... | 1 : 4 |

* Refers to Mr Ghulam Mahomed Khan, jagirdar, taluka Tando Bago, assessable value of whose jagir is Rs. 21,011.