

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT,

PART II,

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY INCLUDING SIND,

FOR THE YEAR 1903-1904.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT, PART II, OF THE
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY INCLUDING SIND, FOR 1903-04.

A. PRESIDENCY PROPER.

1. Economic Condition and Prospects.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The cultivating classes of the "cotton" area of Gujarát were exceptionally fortunate in the year 1903-1904; for the cotton crop was not only good in itself, but was put on the market at a time when owing to the situation in America prices were abnormally high. Hence in the Surat District, in the greater part of Broach and in the western talukás of Ahmedabad, the signs of a recovery from the famine and a return of prosperity were very marked. In other parts of the Northern Division, dependent on food-grains, agricultural conditions would have been favourable (except in the rice tract of Central Ahmedabad) but for a locust invasion. The ravages of these insects varied from district to district. In Thána where the crops, being almost entirely kharif, were reaped in good time, the damage was inappreciable and confined to a corner of the district. There was also little damage done in Surat, while in Broach two coast talukás were alone affected, and in Ahmedabad the insects, which entered the district in the north-east and travelled to Kaira in the south-west, harassed merely a belt of country. On the other hand, the damage was more widely distributed in the districts of Kaira and the Panch Maháls.

Beyond the general signs of recovery, except in the rice area of Ahmedabad and the tracts subjected to the locust plague, from the effects of the famine, there appears to be only one fact worth special notice in connection with the economic condition of the agricultural population: This is the scarcity of field labourers observed in the Surat and Broach Districts and in the cotton and wheat tracts of Ahmedabad. The cause assigned in Surat is the propensity of labourers for emigration, not only to Bombay but even, so Mr. Morison reports, to Burma and South Africa: and it is noticeable that in this district sundry local fund works had to be closed for want of labour, and capitalist farmers who are losing their old farm servants found it difficult to obtain even day labourers to till their fields. The cause of the scarcity of labourers in Broach is not so clear, but it is possible that, the demand for labour being abnormally large on account of the excellence of the cotton crop, the supply was not so much small in itself as small in comparison with the abnormal demand, and in this connection it may be observed that the insufficiency of local labour in the Ahmedabad District was confined to the cotton and wheat country. There was a large temporary emigration from the Kaira into the Ahmedabad District for field work during the cotton picking and wheat reaping season, and I am informed that temporary emigration for agricultural labour from the Kaira District, into other districts, is now becoming common. The reverse is reported from the adjoining district of Ahmedabad. I quote the following from the report of Mr. Jukes, Assistant Collector:—

"The impossibility of applying ordinary economic maxims to this country is once more apparent when it is stated that there are large colonies of Dhers in several big villages round Dholka who were perfectly content to remain at home and earn two annas for a day's work or even one anna for half a day when they might have received six annas had they been willing to go less than 20 miles south."

In the Thána District it is satisfactory to find that the Forests as now managed under Working Plans provide abundant labour at good wages for the poorer classes.

The Ahmedabad Mills continued to find employment for about 20,000 of the labouring classes, and to indirectly support some 40,000 others.

The scarcity of cattle is still very marked in the Ahmedabad District, especially in the poor Koli country, but it is reported that the cattle which died during the famine are being gradually replaced and that the Local Board are affording facilities for cattle-breeding: numerous cattle are also annually coming on the market from a large cattle-breeding farm established at Charodi by the Gujarát Cattle Preservation Association, with large pecuniary assistance from Lord Northcote, under the name of "The Northcote Gaoshálla."

Plague as usual visited all the districts of the division. I quote the following from the remarks of Mr. Morison, Collector of Surat:—

"Plague has become so regular a visitor that there is little new to be written about it. I may note that the present policy of non-interference with the people and of allowing them to fight the epidemic in their own way is generally approved by all. Of their own accord villagers everywhere now evacuate infected houses and even whole villages as soon as dead rats appear or plague cases occur."

The same readiness to evacuate is observed in parts of Northern Gujarát, but not, I regret to say, in the Kaira District, which suffered very severely indeed and lost 17,500 persons from plague in the year under review. While we can do a great deal to keep off plague, control it, and even stamp it out in areas which are very small in proportion to the strength of the staff employed, we must, I fear, as regards rural India generally, be content to wait until people have learnt by experience to protect themselves by resorting to evacuation, the only measure in which they can be induced to believe, and which is undoubtedly effectual if practised in good time. I have myself observed that some practical difficulties are caused by a propensity in some places for postponing evacuation to the last possible moment, and for preserving, from economical motives, the clothing and bedding of the sick.

Extracts.

(a) *Labour and Wages.*

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

I noticed when on tour that labour is very scarce in the west of the district and troops of people come in from Kaira in the wheat reaping and cotton picking season to help the cultivators and get good wages.

P. R. Mehta, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

In some places it had become difficult to find labourers, and much higher rates were earned. The condition of this class of people has greatly improved, and it is said that most of them have attained a better condition of life than they enjoyed before the famine.

BROACH DISTRICT.

J. A. G. Wales, Esq., Collector.

(Mr. Logan's Note.)

Among signs of general prosperity were a great outburst of marriages with much music and drumming, the reappearance of jewellery on female necks, arms and legs, and, I regret to say, a large increase in the consumption of liquor. The lower classes, largely the Bhils, are doing very well owing to the comparative scarcity of field labour since the famine. The Mill owners are also lamenting the lack of hands. The prosperity of the upper classes has shown itself to some extent in the building or rebuilding of houses, temples and mosques, both in towns and villages. In the latter the claims of religion were sometimes satisfied before those of Government: thus in some villages of the Broach Taluka I found mosques rebuilding at a cost of several thousand rupees a piece while heavy Government arrears were still outstanding. This procedure seemed to me very heinous at the time; but on calmer consideration I now perceive that a different point of view is possible, and was in fact likely to present itself in good faith to the pious Asiatic.

SURAT DISTRICT.

W. T. Morison, Esq., Collector.

The rate of wages remained at 3 annas a day for a field labourer and 4 annas for an ordinary labourer. But the supply of labour was everywhere short, and some Local Fund works had to be closed for want of labourers. The explanation seems to be that the people of the Surat District are not so stay-at-home as the people of Northern Gujarát, and large numbers find employment in Bombay, Burma and South Africa, while the coast villages contain a large sea-faring population. In the course of my tour I heard complaints on every side from capitalist farmers, of whom there are a large number in the district, that their old *halis* (farm servants) are leaving them and that they find it difficult to get others or even day labourers to till their fields. This assertion of their independence by the class of *halis* and the free movement of labour from the district are healthy signs, and the capitalist farmer may safely be left to accommodate himself to the changing conditions.

A. W. Varley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Labour is scarce and in Bardoli town itself it is difficult to hire workers at a reasonable wage. In many parts, especially in the south, field labour is performed by *Dublás* who are practically in the position of serfs. They and their families work in their masters' fields on condition of receiving a daily allowance of food and money for performing marriage ceremonies when occasion requires. Complaints have been made that these *Dublás* are no longer content with their lot of semi-slavery, and run away, whenever opportunity offers, to the railways or the large towns where they can earn sums which seem wealth to them. There does not appear to be any remedy for this state of things.

THANA DISTRICT.

H. B. Clayton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

It appears to me impossible to expect that there will ever be again any large number of small independent holders in villages where the *sowkár* has a firm hold. The most we can hope for is a class of sober tenants under resident landlords who can sympathise with and allow for their difficulties. The only alternative to this seems to be the bonded labour system. My attention was drawn to this by a question from Government as to the extent of service bonds of this kind. I can confidently assert that throughout my charge, save in *Mokháda*, there is hardly a *khátedár* paying as much as Rs. 50 assessment who has not five or six such servants. They are of course mostly *Kolis* and *Wárlis*. They receive Rs. 20-60 for marriage expenses. Very frequently they bind themselves for life, and prefer to stay on even if they are free to go. As a matter of fact, though in name they are almost serfs *ascripti glebæ*, they are usually treated well, as a member of the family might be, and have nothing to complain of save loss of independence, which is a thing they do not feel in the least.

B. M. Kharkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There are large reclamation undertakings in *Sálsette*. They are not successful in some instances, owing to want of requisite labour for cultivation, apart from occasional fitful encroachments of the sea. Labour is plentiful and cheap in *Dahánu* and *Umbargaon*. But the *Wárlis* sticks to the place like a leech, and will never cross the limits of his *táluka* under any inducement whatever. The *Wárlis* and *Kolis* of the hilly parts closely resemble their brethren in the *Deccan*. They are going down day by day. They are completely enveloped in ignorance, a well known fact, and the shrewd and subtle money-lender reaps the fullest benefit of their ignorance.

V. N. Khopkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There is a large demand for labour in brick manufacture, grass-cutting and forest-fellings. There is thus a constant demand for labour and carts. The peasantry consists chiefly of *Agris* and *Kunbis*. In spite of advantages of communications with the market and a high demand for labour the condition

of the people seems to be deteriorating. Lands are passing into the hands of sowkars. Cultivation is neglected, being left to women and children. This is especially so in the Agri population of the Kalyán Táluka, the adult male members of which seek other modes of earning a daily wage.

(b) *Emigration.*

BROACH DISTRICT.

Balak Ram, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Borah has another virtue. He emigrates. A considerable number go to South Africa, where they thrive and make money. Their savings are mostly remitted or brought to their homes. I have heard on good authority, but I have not attempted to verify the statement, that every year about one lách of rupees come to the district from South Africa.

SURAT DISTRICT.

A. D. Brown, Esq., Assistant Collector.

No accurate figures are available of the number of emigrants to South Africa. But it is estimated that 1,352 have gone from the Jalálpor Táluka. The number from Chorási is probably smaller, partly from the coast villages being fewer, the population of which is always less firmly rooted to the soil, and partly from the proximity of Surat where there is a large market for labour. In spite of restrictions they seem to prosper. The better educated open shops, but they are commonly employed as labourers and in hawking fruit. The greater part of their profits return to India chiefly through the Post Office, and contribute to the prosperity of the district. The village of Sisodra, for instance, which used to be heavily in debt, has nearly cleared itself in this way, Rs. 90,000 having been remitted from South Africa and paid to money-lenders in the last few years.

G. V. Bhachech, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

About 85 men from Bulsár and 305 from Chikhli are said to have gone to Africa. The majority of these are Mahomedans (being 269), and most of them have gone for service and for petty trading. There are some Hindoos, too, as Anavlás, Dhodias and Kunbis, who have gone with a similar aim, and there are a few Mochis and Dhobis, who have found their own profession more lucrative in that foreign clime.

(c) *Education of Lower Classes and Wild Tribes.*

PANCH MAHALS DISTRICT.

Syed F. A. Edroos, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Ignorance of accounts is the great stumbling block in the advancement of the Bhil cultivator, as he hardly knows the amount of produce he has raised at the sweat of his brow, and what its value is. He goes straight on to the Bania, with his cart full of grain, and is content to receive from him whatever the latter gives him, sufficient to pay the Government dues, and barely sufficient to enable him and his family to live from hand to mouth. Though after the famine he has grown a bit wiser, and now keeps some grain for his food and seeds, he does not know what his debts are. He bows down in silence to the *ex parte* decrees of the Civil Court, and endures with amazement the bailiff attaching his thatched hut and simple property. As it is, the existing schools have no attraction for him, and the need for some such special measures to be adopted by the Educational Department appears to be very pressing.

SURAT DISTRICT.

W. T. Morison, Esq., Collector.

The additional grant given by Government for education enabled 20 new village schools to be opened during the year, as well as a boarding school for *kaliparaj* boys at Rupen in Mándvi Táluka. It has been found that the ordinary Bráhma schoolmaster does little good in *kaliparaj* villages, and it was suggested that, if we could get fairly educated schoolmasters of the *kaliparaj* class,

they might be able to do better work among their own people. The Rupen school was therefore established to train *kaliparaj* boys to become schoolmasters. It was opened on 15th April with 50 boys, and so far is going on well. The boys are boarded and taught free, and the school being situated in the heart of the *kaliparaj* country there will be no difficulty in getting as many boys to join as we can accommodate.

THANA DISTRICT.

H. B. Clayton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Great efforts have been made to improve and extend education, notably so in the Mokháda Petha where 10 new schools for wild tribes have been opened this year. The children attending these schools receive annas 4 per month each if they attend regularly in order to compensate their parents for the loss of their work in the field. The instruction is absolutely rudimentary, but a lot will have been done if they are only imbued with some idea of order and discipline. In Máhim schools have been opened in one village for Máhárs and in another for the long neglected caste Mangelyas, in each case a master out of the caste being employed. Two more schools for wild tribes are to be opened shortly in Wáda.

(d) Contumacy.

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

I regret to say that there is still considerable demoralization and reluctance evinced in the matter of paying Government land revenue, while as regards tagávi the people seem to think that they can put off the tax collector as they would put off the village Bania, without the disagreeable necessity of having to pay high for the accommodation.

KAJRA DISTRICT.

C. W. M. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

The demoralization noted last year did not disappear, and the land revenue was again collected with difficulty.

BROACH DISTRICT.

J. A. G. Wales, Esq., Collector.

Most of the current year's land revenue has been collected without much difficulty. Notices under section 152, Land Revenue Code, were issued in 9,154 cases, of which 4,915 were in Jambusar. Most of the actually coercive processes were to recover the arrears of past years. There were 217 cases of attachment of property, 194 of which took place in Hansot Mahál, where, however, except in one case, no property was sold. The number of notices of forfeiture was 5,175, but only in 359 cases was forfeiture resorted to. Two warrants were issued for arrest of defaulters, one in Broach Táluka and one in Vággra. At the end of June Rs. 1,50,000 of the demand still remained uncollected, but of this Rs. 86,475 are suspended owing to the damage done by locusts and frost in Jambusar and by locusts in Vággra.

SURAT DISTRICT.

W. T. Morison, Esq., Collector.

There were on 1st August 1903 arrears of land revenue amounting to about Rs. 2,65,000 outstanding on account of previous famine years. Every endeavour was made to effect a settlement of these during the year, with the result that Rs. 1,52,149 was actually collected and Rs. 1,08,814 remitted before 31st July 1904, leaving only about Rs. 5,000 for settlement now. This final settlement has been a troublesome piece of work, both for the táluka and Village Officers, and I desire to acknowledge the tact and diligence displayed by Mr. S. S. Kadri, District Deputy Collector, and Messrs. Devdat Dhaneshwar and Lalbhai Ambaram, Mámldárs. Much opposition was experienced in the tálukás of Olpád and Mándvi from well-to-do occupants, chiefly of the non-agricultural class, who had been led by agitators to believe that if they refused payment long enough Government would be obliged to remit their arrears; and it was not

until I issued warrants for the arrest of two of the most contumacious defaulters, well-to-do Pársis, that the collection work could be completed.

THANA DISTRICT.

G. D. Madgavkar, Esq., Collector.

Kalyán and some parts of Bhiwandi are the only talukás in which any difficulty is experienced in collection. This is largely due to the recalcitrancy of the Agri cultivators, who have been for years in the habit of defrauding the landlord of his rent, and now see no reason why, even under the restricted tenure, they should not cheat Government. It is to be regretted that it has been found necessary to adopt measures such as attachment and reaping of the crops in one or two villages ; but the example, it is hoped, will not be lost on the rest.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

The monsoon was generally retarded, and the subsequent rains, although not insufficient on the whole, were not well distributed everywhere. The kharif crops were most promising in Khándesh, and an unusually excellent harvest was anticipated. But locusts did such serious damage that from half to three-fourths of the crop was lost in the Western and Northern Talukás ; while in the remaining parts of the district, which suffered less severely, the yield was not above the average. The rabi crops in this district, although not as extensively sown as usual, turned out well in spite of some damage by blight and rust. In Násik, Sátára and Sholápur the crops were fair to good, and the damage by locusts was either inconsiderable as in Sholápur, or was confined to a very small area as in the other two districts. In Násik serious damage was confined to the north of the Igatpuri Taluka, and in Sátára to the Pátan and Jávli Talukás. The crops in Ahmednagar and Poona suffered to a much greater extent from the vicissitudes of the season, and in both districts locusts did appreciable damage. Rats did some damage in parts of the Ahmednagar, Poona and Sátára Districts. Insufficiency of cattle is reported from the same districts. In Poona the proportion of fallow is reported to be abnormally high from this cause. This may be so, but the connection sought to be established by Mr. Sheppard between this high proportion of fallow and a serious diminution in the productive capacity of the land is not understood. Fallows should increase productive capacity. The late rains helped to replenish wells and tanks generally, but the level of sub-soil water still seems to be low in most places, and this fact is reported to have hindered well-irrigation in Khándesh and Ahmednagar. At the same time there was a marked expansion in the area under the more valuable crops, such as cotton and wheat, in these two districts. The prices of cotton ruled high everywhere in consequence of the deficiency of the American crop, but it is understood that generally the cultivator did not profit by the rise as he had sold his produce in advance. The prices of food-grains, on the other hand, were unusually low. This, while a source of loss to the cultivator, was a benefit to the labouring classes, and the latter profited also by good wages and an ample demand for labour. In Khándesh these classes, who some years ago were in a depressed state, are said to be now in a position to dictate their own terms. Mr. Curtis attributes this result partly to the effects of plague and famine which have thinned their ranks, and partly to the expansion of cultivation which has outstripped the normal increase in population. The condition of the cultivating classes is on the whole favourably described in Násik, Ahmednagar, Sholápur and Sátára. For the other two districts the accounts are less satisfactory. Mr. Curtis is highly pessimistic in his remarks. He thinks that the burden of agricultural indebtedness has increased, and that the transfers of land from the cultivating classes to the money-lenders have also increased. This would be the natural effect of the opening up of the district by railways, thus bringing the money-lender nearer to the land and giving the land more value as an investment. Everything which gives land higher value as an asset to borrow on hastens its eventual transfer to the money-lender. The introduc-

tion of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, which Mr. Curtis believes was brought into force in the district 10 years too late, has been followed by the usual result, by a large number of foreclosure suits or by the wholesale substitution of sale-deeds for mortgage-deeds. Unless there is a succession of good seasons he expects to find that 10 years hence the money-lender will be the registered occupant of half the best land in the district. A series of good years will, however, probably accelerate the process; while a series of bad ones would retard it by discouraging loans on the part of the sowkár. The revival of trade, of which the best evidence is furnished by the general increase in octroi receipts in Municipal towns, benefited the small artizans, of whom the weavers form the most important class. They suffered severely during the recent cycle of bad seasons, but are now said to be better off.

The revenue collections varied with the character of the season in the different districts of the division. The proportion of recoveries was highest in Khándesh where it reached 93 per cent. and lowest in Poona where it was no more than 77. Between come Sholápur, Sátára and Ahmednagar with 91, 90 and 85 per cent. respectively. Incomplete information under this, and many other heads, has been given for the Násik District by Mr. Crofton. Complete statistics relating to coercive processes have been given for the Poona District only, where 119 distraints and 12,557 notices were issued, but such particulars as have been furnished for the other districts seem to show that on the whole the pressure employed varied with the character of the harvest.

Few of the reporting officers offer any remarks on tagái operations during the year, and fewer still give statistics. But such remarks as have been made show that a reaction has set in against the heavy loans of the last few years. The rayat does not seem to be much the better for them, and shows no inclination to repay the debt. The cultivators themselves are supposed to be less anxious than before to secure loans, a fact which is ascribed to the unwillingness of money-lenders to make loans to men who have already mortgaged their land as security for considerable sums from Government. Consequently there is a large decrease in the amounts advanced as tagái in the year under report. While in 1902-1903 the sum of Rs. 14,86,677 was advanced, the advance for 1903-1904 was only Rs. 2,76,421. This is not matter for regret, since one conclusion may safely be drawn from such facts as are available, namely, the inadvisability of giving tagái on an extensive scale in the absence of any agency to enforce the right use of the loans. There is ample scope for abuse and misappropriation under a system of State loans, when the casual inquiries of over-worked Revenue Officers are the only means of discovering frauds. The joint-bond system of loans, from which indeed little was to be expected, does not seem to work well. Two of the three officers who have reported on it complain of the difficulty of recovering instalments.

The public health, as in previous years, was affected throughout the division by plague of greater or less virulence, and there was an outbreak of small-pox in Násik. Not much information is given regarding education, but the schools seem to have suffered in consequence of plague, and there are the usual complaints as to the apathy of the villagers. The Kindergarten System was partially introduced into village schools during the year. The Collector of Ahmednagar refers to the educational work that is being done in the district by various Missions, and the Commissioner has observed with pleasure the industrial training which is given by the American Mission. The work of these Missionary bodies is chiefly carried on among the depressed classes, and the Collector points out that a "side effect of it is a loosening of the bonds that connect these classes with the village community. They begin to look up to their Missionary head rather than to the Pátíl."

Extracts.

(a) *Labour and Wages.*

KHANDESH DISTRICT.

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

In Jámner the rate for unskilled labour was at one time eight annas a day. This was in some measure due to plague—now an annual visitor to this district—

which deterred labourers from outside from coming in to work and partly to the increased demand for labour due to the development of the district.

* * * Turning from the consideration of the peasant proprietor to that of the landless labourer, further acquaintance with the district and its history leads me to the conclusion that there has been in the life-time of the present generation a very striking economic revolution. Thirty years ago the men of the labouring population of West and Central Khándesh were, it is impossible to disguise the fact, serfs of the peasant proprietors, bound down to work year in year out like mere beasts of burden, often treated even worse than beasts, in that the food necessary to maintain their health and strength was denied to them. The rayats—it will be seen from the reports of Sir Charles Pritchard and Major Probyn—forced or cajoled the ignorant labourer into signing contracts and, having done so, obtained from the Civil Court decrees enforcing these contracts which practically resulted in the labourer, his wife and family becoming the bond slaves of the peasant proprietor. Sir Charles Pritchard, who was then Assistant Collector, W. D., exerted himself to the utmost to remedy this. In a report, which has now attained the dignity of a “Classic,” he warned Government that the worm would turn, that the serf would revolt unless his lot was made an easier one; and earnestly implored them to restrict the action of the Civil Courts and place the district under the Scheduled Estates Act. Tradition has it that he went further than mere reporting: old men in the west have told me how he stood up on the hill at Nandurbár before thousands of rayats and labourers whom he had assembled at Nandurbár to settle differences and broke with his own hands the tables of the law, in other words tore up the bundles of the contracts which bound the labourers to slavery. Government, however, were unmoved and did nothing. Thirty years have elapsed since then, and we now find the tables completely turned. The labourer is the master, the peasant proprietor is the suppliant. The former demands and gets what is probably a higher rate of wages than is paid in any other upcountry district in India. To what is this change due? To plague to some extent, famine perhaps more; but this will not explain it altogether. I should ascribe it to the great development of cultivation which has outstripped the increase of the population and to the withdrawal from the labour market of the many Bhils who ought to have been labourers but whom our mistaken policy has converted into pauper cultivators. Whatever may have been the case ten years ago, the Bhil of West Khándesh is now-a-days one of the most unsatisfactory beings on earth. Too indolent to work, even when work is of a congenial nature, he has become imbued with the fixed idea that he has only to ask and he will receive—land, bullock, seed, money clothing, even liquor. He will sit still and whine that he is hungry, with forest works ready for him three miles from his door; he will rob and plunder rather than go to a village 20 miles off where he is wanted and pick cotton.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

With grain very cheap and wages at 4 annas per diem the labouring classes have been in comparative comfort though they are content to live a hand to mouth existence and do not always take the employment offered. Even after the close of the year when a bad season was in prospect the Public Works Department could not get sufficient labour for some of their road works.

J. Ghosal, Esq., Assistant Collector.

I have also noticed that the stimulus given during the period of famine to annual emigration is slightly on the increase.

SATARA DISTRICT.

K. W. Barlee, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Perhaps the most fortunate of all were the labourers. Food was cheap and wages good. The dearth of labour owing to the ravages of plague probably accounts for this.

(b) Education.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.
G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

I cannot conclude this report without a glance at the educational work that is being done by the various Missionary Societies. The district is by tacit agreement parcelled out between their main bodies, the American, the S. P. G. and the Jesuit Missions, and they have a large number of schools both in the villages and at their head-quarters. In the villages primary schools are opened, while in Ahmednagar the institutions are more elaborate. Technical branches have been added to the high schools, and in the case of the American Mission for those who have passed through the technical course employment is provided in a carpet-weaving and in a handloom factory which are run on commercial lines. The work is chiefly though by no means altogether carried on among the depressed classes, and a side effect of it which is noticeable is a loosening of the bonds that connect these classes with the village community. They begin to look up to their Missionary head rather than to the Pátíl. This effect has no doubt been intensified by the conditions prevalent during the famine, when the giving of baluta to the Máhárs and such other village servants was very irregular. The question has not become acute, but the tendency exists, though the ill-effects are counterbalanced by the advantage of having a new field opened up for a class of the population who being prolific but of a low average intelligence have not hitherto had a very bright future before them.

(c) Contumacy.

KHANDESH DISTRICT.
W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There seems a decided tendency amongst the cultivators, especially in Sháháda, to try and avoid paying Government dues. Every excuse for delaying payment is eagerly seized upon. Mr. Elliot remarked in his report for 1902-03 that the people seemed grateful for the remissions which had been given. But their gratitude appears to be of the kind which has been defined as consisting in a lively sense of favours to come.

R. W. Dashputre, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

If the Mámlatdárs and Mahálkari take the trouble of visiting villages at the right time while the cultivators have money in their hands and of enforcing discipline among the Village Officers in the matter of collection much of the troubles would be saved both on the part of officers concerned and the cultivators. The action of the Mámlatdár of Jámner fully illustrates this fact.

NASIK DISTRICT.
C. S. F. Crofton, Esq., Collector.

In the Niphád Táluka the bulk of the arrears were due from the best villages and from the richest of the inhabitants, headed more often than not by the Village Officers.

E. J. Bolus, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The arrears of land revenue proper have been bad enough, but they are not so bad as the arrears of rates levied by the Irrigation Department. As these do not come into the jamábandi, they do not receive the same attention as the permanent assessments. The rates are low, and represent payment for actual value received, so that there can be no possible plea of poverty for non-payment. No measure short of forfeiture and putting up to auction produces any effect on these defaulters, but when once an auction is held the arrears are immediately forthcoming.

S. J. Murphy, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There was considerable difficulty in collecting the revenue in the subdivision, more especially in the Násik Táluka. There was no reason why this

should be so, and I can only account for it by the inefficiency of the ordinary Násik Kulkarni and the blunting of the revenue paying conscience of the rayats by the famines.

SATARA DISTRICT.

A. W. G. Chuckerbutty, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In the most fertile parts of the Karád and Sátára Tálukas it was found that the rayats used every endeavour to escape payment of the current year's land revenue.

In seven villages in Karád where the rayats had formed a combination to resist collections, the provisions of section 148, Land Revenue Code, were freely had recourse to, with the result that the people paid up. When the people who can pay understand that they are fined when they do not pay with reasonable promptitude they view the matter in a different light.

K. J. Agashe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

(Report written by Mr. Monie.)

When the Village Officers are left to themselves they collect from the poor, while the well-to-do people laugh at them. It is an unfortunate fact that in this district it seems hopeless to expect full collections in a good year without constant and unremitting supervision on the part of the Mámílatdár.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

The rainfall in Belgaum was plentiful and seasonable. The kharif harvest was on the whole good though grasshoppers damaged the rice crops in the neighbourhood of Belgaum during July, and rats, caterpillars and grasshoppers attacked the jowári crop in the Parasgad Táluka. The jowári crop was especially abundant, the lowest price touched being about 80 lbs. per rupee in Sampgaon. The cotton crop was excellent and the rabi outturn was satisfactory except that the wheat in the south of the district suffered considerably from rust.

In Bijápúr the rainfall though plentiful was not very seasonable, especially for kharif. The cotton crop was the best the district has had for the last thirty years. The kharif crops were, however, poor, averaging from 5 to 9 annas. There was also a plague of rats, but it was confined to wheat and linseed, the area under which is comparatively small. Jowári and bájri, the staple crops of the district, escaped the ravages almost entirely.

The season in Dhárwár was everywhere favourable. Rice was decidedly good and the kharif dry crop was also good on the whole. There were instances of smut in jowári developed owing to the December rain but it was not widespread. There was danger to cotton from blight but the crop recovered, and though late both the indigenous and the American crop was good. The holding off of the spring rains until May was fortunate as it enabled the cotton crop to be gathered in, which would otherwise have been damaged. The wheat crop was, however, poor, and the Collector is unable to say whether this was due to excessive moisture from the heavy December rain.

The rainfall in Kánara was plentiful but rather unseasonable. The fall in May did harm as the lands thereby lost part of the heat that is necessary for the young seedlings to thrive. The outturn in Yellápúr was somewhat affected owing to the heavy downpour of rain after the crops had put forth ears. The yield of sugarcane, rice and ragi was normal. Of the principal garden products cardamom had a bumper outturn, but the abnormal fall in prices discounted the profits of the landowners. The deficiency in the outturn of betelnut was made up by the high prices the article fetched.

In Kolába the rainfall was on the whole sufficient and seasonable, and a curious shortage in the outturn of the rice crop in portions of the northern

tálukás appears to have been due to the damage caused to the seed grain and the manured seedling plots by untimely and heavy rain in May 1903.

Notwithstanding that the season in Ratnágiri began with an untimely cyclonic storm in May, which did much damage, it promised to be an exceptionally good one, but for various local reasons the rice did not come up to expectations, while the late harik and nágli crops were damaged in some places by locusts.

Locusts appeared in all the districts, but fortunately too late to injure the staple crops to any appreciable extent. No damage was done in Bijápur, Dhárwár, Kánara and Kolába though large numbers of trees were stripped. Locusts destroyed the Kumri and Waingan rice crops in Chándgad Mahál and parts of Khánápur. Relief in the shape of work and grant of dole had to be provided for the poor Kumri cultivators in Chándgad Mahál. In Ratnágiri locusts first attacked the mango and jack trees and subsequently the cocoanut and betel-nut trees in bágáyat lands along the coast. The greater portion of the irrigated summer crops was also destroyed.

The locusts have now left the Belgaum, Bijápur, Dhárwár and Kánara Districts, but abound in a greater portion of the districts of Ratnágiri and Kolába, where a vigorous campaign has been undertaken for their destruction and is now in progress.

In Belgaum and Bijápur prices of food-grains fell, while wages rose considerably. In Athni in particular the wages were three or four times as high as usual. The combination of low prices of food-grains and high prices of cotton and labour was almost ideal as it enabled the rayats to meet their land revenue, tagái and sowkár's demands from their cotton crop, and they were not obliged to sell their food-grains. The labourers also profited as they got good prices for their labour and got their food-grains cheap. The cotton crop was plentiful and there were not enough labourers to pick it. Three ginning factories, which had been practically lying idle for years at Athni, worked day and night, but were unable to gin all the cotton brought to them, and a good deal had to be carted away unginning to Gadag. The Collector of Dhárwár states that labour has become scarce and dear owing to depopulation of some villages by plague. Wages are generally fairly high and in some places at harvest time the wages of field labour have equalled those of skilled labour in past years. In Kánara the prices of rice and pulse were normal but that of ragi went down considerably. There was no change in the wages of labour, either skilled or unskilled, which is abundant in the coast tálukás while its want is keenly felt above the gháts. Prices of staple food-grains remained stationary in Kolába save for a slight rise about mid February, and the state of the labour market was normal. In Ratnágiri the prices were normal except in the case of salt. Owing to the cyclone of May 1903 followed soon after by the burst of the monsoon the salt boats which usually bring the monsoon stock did not arrive and consequently there was a sort of salt famine in most parts of the district from July to September. The issue of salt from the fish-curing yards to the public was allowed but there was at first a mistake about the price and the order as to the correct price was received too late to be of use. There is in Ratnágiri but a limited demand for labour, whether skilled or unskilled, and the prices show hardly any change.

A good harvest and good wages have improved the condition of agriculturists and labourers in Belgaum, but it will take a series of good years for the rayats in the eastern half of the district to get their heads fairly above water. The same remarks apply to Bijápur. A demand for its woven cloths seems to have arisen in the Central Division, and Márwádis from Sholápur and Poona are reported to have made large purchases, especially in the Hungund Táluka, which is noted for its sári and bodice cloths. This brought much-needed money to the weavers, enabling them to free themselves from their sowkár's to a certain extent. The Collector of Dhárwár observes that two circumstances have gone far to counteract the effect of good season: one is general, viz., the constant recurrence of plague; it has so much depopulated some villages that there are not enough people left to cultivate. The other is the ravage caused by pigs which are increasing.

The cause of this increase cannot be stated with certainty, but it may be partly forest conservancy and partly the killing off of the carnivora. Two measures to thin them have hitherto been tried but without much success: special licenses to selected persons and encouragement of organised beats. The same complaint also comes from Belgaum. I beg to recommend that Mr. Kennedy's proposal to authorize Collectors to recommend to Government grants of special rewards when measures for the destruction of special animals are found necessary may be tried.

The district of Kánara is in reality a combination of two distinct regions, the above-ghát and the below-ghát widely differing in external physical features and in the habits and customs of its inhabitants. The lowlands are teeming with population and busy life: the highlands are sparsely cultivated and thinly populated. The Haviks continue to be indolent and addicted to luxurious habits and are sinking down though a slight awakening is observable in those below-ghát. Mr. Panse notices as a good sign of the times that a Chámháar Shanbhog was found fit for appointment as Circle Inspector. The Kumri Maráthás are slowly getting over their predilection for kumri and are awakening to the necessity of taking to regular cultivation. The question of giving hakkal lands to the Bhatkal Maráthás is under the consideration of Government. Mr. Panse observes that a branch line from Marmagoa to Kárwár and another from Haveri to Sirsi may in the long run be remunerative but he admits that they are too short to recommend themselves and he, therefore, places his hopes on a through coast line. The Collector notices the gradual fall in the cultivated area of the district, which is particularly observable in Haliyál and Yellápur, the two talukás in which malaria is steadily eating up the agricultural population. It is to be hoped that the two travelling dispensaries recently established in the taluka of Yellápur and the Supa Petha will arrest the growth of the disease. Three large fairs were held in the district—(i) the annual Maháshivrátri fair at Gokarn, (ii) the Mari Jatra at Sirsi; and (iii) the Lingáyat fair at Ulvi. The latter two were held after an interval of eight years. The occasion of the Mari Jatra was utilized by the citizens in holding an Art and Industrial Exhibition. It was popular and 25,000 people attended. There was a large number of exhibits from the district itself and from Dhárwár and others adjoining. Among the indigenous exhibits were specimens of the decaying sandalwood carving industry, some of which showed exquisite workmanship. The economic condition of the Kolába District is somewhat remarkable. Within a few miles of one of the greatest cities of the empire the district possesses a large tract of fertile country with an assured rainfall and undoubted potentialities of development, which is nevertheless almost entirely neglected by capital and to all intents and purposes entirely cut off from the marts of Bombay for some five months of the year. Uran, Pen and Panvel, all places of considerable trade, have no opening by communication. In fact the chief need of the Kolába District is improved communication with the outer world. Land continues to pass away from the hands of the small proprietors to those of big landlords. The mortgagee landlords cultivate the soil through the medium of tenants who are nominally the holders from Government but in reality mere serfs, obtaining little beyond a living wage. No economic phenomenon short of famine which seldom occurs in the Konkan is likely to throw into the hands of Government large areas of unoccupied land, the regrant of which under the restricted tenure would allow of the agricultural profits remaining with the cultivator-occupant. For the lowest classes of the population there appears no remedy except the creation of new local industries or migration to industrial centres elsewhere.

Mr. Mirkar of Bombay submitted a scheme for the construction of a Konkan south coast railway, but Government were of opinion that it did not give such promise of success as would justify them in giving any encouragement to it, and, moreover, Government considered that the concessions asked for were not such as it would be reasonable to grant in any case.

The desirability of encouraging the construction of a narrow gauge light railway from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the neighbourhood of Mumbra Station into the Kolába District is now under the consideration of Government.

An influentially signed application from the residents of Bombay asking for the improvement of landing facilities near Alibág by the construction of a pier at Kolgaon and an application from Mr. Mirkar in the matter of the improvement of communication between Bombay and the Kolába District *via* Rewas Bandar are awaiting the orders of Government.

The most important event of the year touching the agricultural and landed classes in Ratnágiri, more especially as affecting their future progress, was the passing of the new Khoti Settlement Act. The much-needed provision enabling khoti tenants to get their rents fixed in cash will, there is little doubt, be largely availed of by tenants in the northern part of the district where complaints of extortion are particularly frequent.

The concessions given by Government to the khots of Devgad Táluka have made a most favourable impression and all the villages under attachment but 10 have been resumed by the khots. The total amount of attachment expenses remitted comes to Rs. 30,142-12-4. At the same time the khots or their tenants have received Rs. 66,996-10-9 as refunds and Rs. 7,492-5-2 as remissions of survey assessment in respect of five years. All complaints about survey rates have now practically disappeared.

The outstandings of tagái and land revenue are considerable in Athni, Gokák and Parasgad, and orders have been issued to recover them gradually. The tagái arrears in Bijápur are also very large. Instalments under both the Acts due in 1903-04 were invariably collected and one instalment of arrears and if possible two where it could be done without hardship. The Collector's remarks are not without force:—

“The progress of collection may then be briefly summarized thus. That the full demand for 1903-04 under both the Acts (about Rs. 4,09,485) have been realized and a further sum of Rs. 1,24,182 on account of arrears of previous years. It is the good cotton crop and high prices ruling which have enabled this to be done. The balance outstanding (about Rs. 18,05,609) is still very large, and it is a question if even half of it will ever be collected. If in a fairly good season such as we have had only about a lách and a quarter of the arrears can be collected, how many years of plenty will it require to collect the full amount? The popular theory is that in these parts they have one fair season in three. At this rate it will require 43 years to realize Rs. 18,05,609. If to this be added a couple of years of famine with the inevitable large advances which must be made at such times the period and amount for recoupment must be greatly increased. I am very respectfully of opinion that the sooner the large amount of outstandings under the Agriculturists' Loans Act or the greater part of it is written off the better it will be for all concerned.”

The two causes mentioned against Dhárwár account for the considerable arrears of land revenue, especially in the Dhárwár and Kalghatgi Tálukas. The overdue instalments of tagái in Dhárwár amount to Rs. 1,12,832, Navalgund Táluka alone being responsible for Rs. 41,782. The Collector does not anticipate many bad debts. The tagái transactions in Kánara, Ratnágiri and Kolába are comparatively small.

Public health. Plague was on the increase in Dhárwár and Bijápur but showed a notable decrease in Belgaum. There were no other epidemics. Public health was on the whole fair.

Condition of cattle. The condition of cattle was generally good. “Black quarter” broke out in the Bijápur Táluka and carried off 332 head of cattle out of 340 attacked. There is no Veterinary Dispensary in the district and veterinary assistance had to be called for from outside. The District Local Board has recently resolved to open a Veterinary Dispensary in Bijápur and appoint a Veterinary Graduate.

Emigration and immigration. The periodical emigration noticed in years of famine from the Athni, Gokák and Parasgad Tálukas ceased during the year under report, the harvesting of the cotton crops providing ample labour for all in need of it. In Bijápur people who had emigrated to the Mogláí in times of famine are reported to have returned. The gold mines in Dhárwár have to import some outside labour. There is no immigration in Kánara and the lower classes of people are averse even to leave their own villages. As there is no demand for labour in Ratnágiri, labourers, whether skilled or unskilled, repair to Bombay in large numbers every year after their scanty harvests have been gathered. During the year under

report this exodus appears to have been greater than usual owing to the ravages by locusts. The remarks of Mr. Mackie about the emigration of enterprising Musalmáns from his division to South Africa are interesting. The emigrants from Khed Táluka sent home remittances amounting to Rs. 1,66,687 as against Rs. 2,04,161 in the preceding year. This decrease as well as that in the number of emigrants is the result of the restrictions on immigration in South Africa after this became a portion of the British Empire.

Trade in cotton was exceptionally brisk in Belgaum, Bijápúr and Dhárwár. The Gokák Falls Mills were at work throughout the year. The Southern Marátha Railway was unable to cope with the goods traffic. The industrial institutions in Bijápúr consist of cotton factories and the handlooms of the weavers. The factories were unable to cope with all the cotton brought to them though working night and day. An interesting change is reported in Bágalkot where people have begun to cart their cotton to the towns, thus saving brokerage which they formerly paid. The Fly Shuttle class for weavers started by the District Local Board is doing some good in introducing an improved style of loom. In Dhárwár the scarcity of labour caused a good many of the spindles at the mills at Gadag to lie idle. A Gulál factory has been started in Honávar in the Kánara District. This red powder is produced from the pith of Talichekki, and Mr. Basrur has produced the best sort of *gulál*. The exhibition of articles of indigenous art held at Sirsi has been noticed in another connection.

The Collector of Kolába, as already observed, attributes the want of expansion of the trade of the district to want of good communications. There is no progress to report under this head in Ratnágiri. A Málvan merchant made some experiments in extracting cocoon fibre by machinery, but nothing further has been heard about it. Trade at the different ports shows no signs of reviving, but a large coasting trade in kerosine oil has sprung up at Vengurla and the Collector has tried to give the traders every facility in obtaining transport licenses. There were large exports of kajra seed (*nux vomica*) to Bombay during the year. It is a good sign that the Technical School at Vánkavli is thoroughly appreciated by all classes.

State of the public feeling and the public press.

The following remarks of Mr. Gibb accurately convey the state of the public feeling and the public press throughout the division :—

“The upper and middle classes are well intentioned towards Government; the cultivating class do not concern themselves with anything outside their daily lives. The few papers of the district are of little importance.”

The most important questions which occupied the public mind in Ratnágiri were the new Khoti Act and the concessions given by Government to the khots of the Devgad Táluka. Two local questions were also repeatedly brought up in the newspapers: one is the cry for gun-licenses, the other is that of the restrictions on the possession of salt earth for fish curing and agricultural purposes. In Kolába a good deal of justifiable grumbling was heard during March and April at a time when the harbour ferry steamer “Fairy Queen” was laid up for annual survey and her place taken by vessels even less adequate to the existing demand for facilities of transit to and from Bombay. This has recently been remedied by the engagement of another steamer for the harbour ferry service. There was well-founded discontent at Panvel with the administration of the late Municipal Board, and the newly elected one at Pen also appears to be in disfavour with the local populace.

Extracts.

(a) *Labour and Wages.*

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector.

Apart from the dislocation of agricultural operations caused by the tillers of the soil being actually incapacitated by illness, plague has, I believe, so much depopulated some villages that there are not enough people left to cultivate. It has also made labour both scarce and dear.

The result is that in the west much land remains fallow and in the east the expenses of cultivation are considerably increased.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

K. B. Moghe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Agricultural labour was scarce (4 to 6 annas a day) everywhere; and unskilled labour in rural parts, mostly on account of plague. In the towns of Dhárwár and Harbli the supply of labour was more than sufficient; but the rates of wages were high, 5 to 6 annas ordinarily; and in the cotton season a good cooly earns as much as 12 annas.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

R. C. Artal, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The prices of labour rose to about 3 to 4 times the ordinary rates, in the town of Athni, owing to brisk cotton trade there from March to May. Chiefly owing to the repeated plague epidemics there was a great paucity of labour throughout the charge. For this reason, coupled with a good harvest of cotton, the price of labour in other places also rose high. Agricultural labour which is generally paid in kind also rose high. The wages of skilled labour which are paid in cash have remained stationary.

(b) *Emigration.*

RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

A. W. W. Mackie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

South Africa had become a recognised field for the energies of the enterprising Musalmáns of the division, but it has been partly closed by the recent restrictions on immigration. These men as a rule go to the large towns, such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Kimberley, and serve in shops or carry on a retail trade in miscellaneous articles on their own account. A few work as tailors or barbers. They do not settle abroad permanently. After four or five years they come home, and though they may make another trip after a year or so it is always with the intention of returning. How lucrative this employment is, how it is appreciated and how it adds to the wealth of the district may be judged by the fact that from the taluka of Khed alone there were 450 men in South Africa last year, who remitted home Rs. 2,04,161-12-0. Owing to the restrictions referred to above the number decreased to 350 for the year under report, and the remittances (as ascertained from the Sub-Postmaster) to Rs. 1,66,687-3-0. Similar remittances to Chiplun and Mandangad during the year are estimated by the Mámlatdárs at Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 30,000 respectively. I do not have figures for Guhágar and Dápoli by me. It is calculated that from this division alone 1,500 emigrants, almost all Musalmáns, have gone to South Africa during the past three or four years. The money remitted by these men is usually employed in discharging their debts, in improving or buying land, and in building houses.

2. *Inspection.*

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

All the Collectors and their Sub-Divisional Officers performed a reasonable amount of routine inspection, but the value of the inspection done by many Sub-Divisional Officers is discounted by the fact that numerous charges changed hands in the course of the season. Mr. Doderet, Collector of Ahmedabad, has remarked that changes in the *personnel* of his Sub-Divisional Offices have been too frequent to admit of that continuity which is desirable in Supervising Officers. I agree with him. An officer, more especially in the early years of his service, must remain a long time in a district before his opinions of or control over his subordinates can be worth much. As regards changes in Collectors the Northern Division has been exceptionally fortunate. There has been continuity of administration by Collectors for a long time in Ahmedabad, Kaira and Broach, though Mr. Logan did not remain to write the administration report of the last named district. Mr. Orr, who also was away at the time of the preparation of the report for his district, has been in Thána for many years, and though

Mr. Morison did not join at Surat till after the commencement of the travelling season he is an officer with long experience of Gujarát administration.

Some cases have been noticed in which the destruction of useless records has not been kept up to date. I am dealing with them separately.

Remarks on the results of the inspection and supervision performed by Supervising Officers will appear in paragraph 4 below, which may be regarded as a continuation of this paragraph.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

The Collector of Sholápur visited all the talukás of his district, the Collector of Sátára all the talukás and 2 out of three Mahákaris' stations in his district. The other Collectors visited roughly two-thirds of their charges, and the accounts and records of almost all the talukás visited were inspected. The sub-registry offices were also examined. A fair number of villages were visited and rayats' receipt books scrutinized. The inspection of the Sub-Divisional Officers was here and there interfered with by changes in *personnel*, by locust work or by the record of rights, but was on the whole adequate so far as it is reported. With the exception, however, of Mr. Ghosal none of the officers give any information as to the amount of crop and boundary mark inspection carried out. Mr. Ghosal inspected the crops in 170 survey numbers and the boundary marks in 176 survey numbers in 30 and 34 villages respectively out of a total of 192 villages visited. Boundary mark inspection by high Supervising Officers should be chiefly directed to the numbers nearest the villages where the maintenance of marks or correctly aligned hedges is of real importance and is habitually neglected: the enforcement of repairs in half a dozen such numbers is worth more than the inspection of ten times that number in outlying fields where no encroachments on roads or Government lands are possible. Useless records for a great many years were destroyed, but the point of most importance, whether the work of destruction was up to date, is not brought out in any of the reports. Under standing orders records relating to different branches of work are to be kept for varying periods, and the mere enumeration of years does not show whether records have been destroyed up to the latest years prescribed in the rules. The matter being one of much practical importance in view of the rapid accumulation of useless papers and the amount of valuable space they take up, it would be useful to know in future to what extent the work of destruction has remained in arrears in each district.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

The table given on the next page exhibits the amount of inspection work performed by the District Officers.

Number.	Nature of inspection.		In how many																	
			Mámlatdár's Station.					Mahálkari's Station.					Villages.							
	Nature.	Charge.*	Belgaum.	Bijapur.	Dhárwár.	Kárwár.	Kolába.	Ratnágiri.	Belgaum.	Bijapur.	Dhárwár.	Kánara.	Kolába.	Ratnágiri.	Belgaum.	Bijapur.	Dhárwár.	Kánara.	Kolába.	Ratnágiri.
	Total of Táluka, etc. ...	.....	7	8	11	8	7	9	8	1	2	3	3	2	1,185	1,173	1,661	1,417	1,632	1,340½
1	Visited for inspection ...	Collector ...	7	7	10	8	7	9	8	1	1	3	3	2	298	77	...	248	104	118
		I.	2	4	4	4	3	4	3	...	...	1	3	...	197	291	300	198	206	...
		II.	2	4	4	4	4	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	71	235	82	168	161	...
		III.	3	...	3	...	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	2	211	...	65	...	...	214
2	Accounts examined ...	Collector ...	7	7	10	8	7	9	8	1	1	8	3	2	62	70	...	223	528	363
		I.	2	4	4	4	3	4	2	...	...	1	3	...	198	99	93	...	240	71
		II.	2	4	4	3	4	2	...	1	...	2	...	...	40	235	92	390	161	85
		III.	3	...	3	...	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	2	64	...	102	...	...	143
3	Records examined ...	Collector ...	7	7	10	8	7	9	8	1	1	3	3	2	62	76	...	58	...	207
		I.	2	4	4	4	3	4	2	...	...	1	3	...	5	291	93	...	...	71
		II.	2	4	4	3	4	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	40	...	92	78	...	180
		III.	3	...	3	...	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	2	64	...	83	...	...	...
4	Rayats' Receipt Books examined.	Collector ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71	...	...	...	55	77
		I.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	261	131	188	206	104
		II.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	48	84	161	202
		III.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
5	Sub-Registrar's Office examined.	Collector ...	7	7	10	8	7	9	8	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
		I.	2	4	4	4	3	4	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		II.	2	4	4	2	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		III.	...	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

Number.	Nature of inspection.		Number of Rayats' Receipt Books examined.					Remarks.	
	Nature.	Charge.*	Belgaum.	Bijapur.	Dhárwár.	Kánara.	Kolába.		Ratnágiri.
	Total of Táluka, etc. ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	* In Belgaum District—
1	Visited for inspection ...	Collector ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I. Belgaum and Chikodi. II. Athni and Gokák. III. Parasgad, Sampgaon and Khanápur.
		I.	...	...	...	...	...	...	In Bijapur—
		II.	...	...	...	...	...	...	I. Bijapur, Indi, Sindgi and Bágevádi.
		III.	...	...	...	...	...	...	II. Bádáni, Bágalkot, Hungund and Muddebihal.
2	Accounts examined ...	Collector ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	In Dhárwár—
		I.	...	...	...	...	...	...	I. Dhárwár, Hubli, Bankápur and Kálgatgi.
		II.	...	...	...	...	...	...	II. Karjgi, Hanganl, Kod and Kánehennur.
		III.	...	...	...	...	...	...	III. Gadag, Navalgund and Ron.
3	Records examined ...	Collector ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	In Kánara—
		I.	...	...	...	...	...	...	I. Kumta, Sidápur, Sirsi and Honávar.
		II.	...	...	...	...	...	...	II. Kárwár, Ankola, Yellápur and Haljál.
		III.	...	...	...	...	...	...	In Kolába—
4	Rayats' Receipt Books examined.	Collector ...	655	728	...	1,359	365	760	I. Pen, Panvel and Karjat. II. Aihbá, Roba, Mángaon and Mahád.
		I.	940	2,081	1,171	308	1,363	1,006	In Ratnágiri—
		II.	437	2,532	463	742	844	963	I. Vengurla, Málvan, Devgad and Hájápur.
		III.	1,698	...	563	...	...	1,698	II. Ratnágiri and Sangameshwar. III. Chiplun, Dápoli and Khed.
5	Sub-Registrar's Office examined.	Collector ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		I.	...	...	...	...	...	...
		II.	...	...	...	...	...	...
		III.	...	...	...	...	...	...

All the táluka and mahál kacheris except Parasgad, Sampgaon, Athni and Murgod were inspected twice. The touring and inspection work in the Athni-Gokák Sub-Division was small as Mr. Baitmangalkar remained at head-quarters owing to ill-health,

and the charge was afterwards with the Huzur Deputy Collector for more than a month. The amount of village inspection was fair and 3,275 rayats' receipt books were examined. The Collector visited all the táluka and mahál stations, examined 655 rayats' receipt books in 71 villages and inspected 30 tagái works in 15 villages. The Sub-Divisional Officers also inspected 27 tagái works.

All the táluka stations were inspected twice as also the mahál. The amount of inspection work done by Mr. Cama was very satisfactory. He had to arrange his tour so as to inspect in connection with revision survey proposals as many villages as possible in which there were fields irrigated by páts. 4,643 rayats' receipt books were examined. No tagái works were, however, inspected. The Collector visited all the tálukás except Bágevádi. He made a long stay at Jath as he had to discuss several matters with the Administrator. He examined the Huzur Account Office at Bijápur and inspected 728 rayats' receipt books.

All the táluka kacheris except at Gadag and Navalgund were inspected twice, as also the two mahál kacheris. The inspection work in the first and third sub-divisions was sufficient. Mr. J. Monteath had to stay at head-quarters in charge of the Treasury and hence his inspection work was small. Five tagái works were inspected in the 1st sub-division. 2,139 rayats' receipt books were examined. Mr. G. Monteath visited a larger number of villages than is shown in the statement in connection with settlement enquiries. He did not, however, visit villages in Gadag as an extended tour will be made this year for revision settlement proposals.

The Collector examined all the táluka kacheris and one mahál and also the Huzur account office. He made no regular examination of village accounts except at jamábandi, nor did he examine any receipt books. The reason is given as follows :—

“Proper examination of village accounts can only be done by my office, and the examination of táluka kacheris, jamábandi and examination of accounts or records in special cases where wanted coupled with the ordinary office work which is heavy leaves the office no time for routine inspection of accounts.”

The amount of inspection is small as the time of the Sub-Divisional Officers was taken up by betta assignments and record of rights work. Some tálukás and maháls were not inspected by the Sub-Divisional Officers, but the Collector inspected all. 1,050 rayats' receipt books were examined by the Sub-Divisional Officers and 1,359 by the Collector. Mr. Haigh selected receipt books for inspection without previous intimation and he inspected them personally; a good many in the houses of the rayats. The account office was examined by the Collector.

It does not appear that all the táluka and mahál offices were examined twice. The amount of inspection work done was fair. 2,107 receipt books were examined by the Sub-Divisional Officers and 365 by the Collector. The Collector was unable to visit a larger number of villages as he did not enjoy good health. The Huzur Account Office was inspected, as also all the táluka and mahál offices.

All the tálukás and maháls were inspected twice, except Rájápur, Devgad, Málvan and Vengurla, about which information has not been given by the District Deputy Collector. The Collector observes that Mr. Patwardhan's tour was ill arranged and disjointed. The number of villages inspected by him was small. The inspection done by Messrs. Mackie and Patankar was sufficient. 3,667 receipt books were examined by the Sub-Divisional Officers and 760 by the Collector. The Collector examined all the tálukás and maháls.

The inspection of the various account, táluka and mahál offices did not disclose any serious irregularities.

Besides the work shown in the statement other inspection work was also done by Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers, viz., inspection of schools, opium, gánja, toddy and liquor shops, Chief Constables' offices, etc.

3. Revenue Buildings and Record Rooms.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

With the exception of the Mámílatdárs' kacheris at Jalálpor and Mándvi in the Surat District the Revenue buildings in all the tálukás and maháls of the division are generally in good order. Plans and estimates are under preparation for a new kacheri in Jalálpor, and the present building in Mándvi will be vacated on the death of the Ráni of Mándvi to whose palace the office will be transferred. The building of a new kacheri is in progress in Bhiwndi. The record room of the new kacheri of the Mámílatdár of Daskroi in the city of Ahmedabad, being found inadequate, is being extended. The Mehmabad record room needs extension to accommodate the village records and the kacheris at Godhra and Jhálod in the Panch Maháls, Vágra in Broach, and Bassein, Sháhápúr, Umbergaon and Mokháda in Thána require additional accommodation. Plans and estimates are under preparation.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

In the great majority of cases the existing buildings for the accommodation of Revenue Officers and records are sufficiently commodious and in a satisfactory condition. New Mámílatdárs' offices are under construction at Párner and Shevgaon in the Amednagar District and new head-quarter offices at Násik. The old building vacated by the Poona branch of the Bank of Bombay on the construction of new offices for the Bank is being altered and improved for the accommodation of the Collector's English records and for his stamp office. Plans and estimates for a new record room for the Huzúr offices in Ahmednagar have just been sanctioned. Steps are being taken for the improvement and enlargement of the Kopargaon Mámílatdár's office in the same district. The question of transferring the head-quarter Revenue offices at Sátára to the building known as the New Palace is awaiting settlement pending disposal of the buildings vacated by the military authorities on the recent withdrawal of British troops from the station. New offices are reported as urgently required for the Maháلكaris of Edlabad and Parola in the Khándesh District, for the Mámílatdárs of Dindori and Báglan in Násik, for the Mámílatdár of Khed and the Maháلكari of Mulshi in Poona and for the Mámílatdárs of Pátan and Khatáv in Sátára. Provision for all these works has already been made in the Commissioner's list of major works submitted to Government in July last.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

A new kacheri for the Mámílatdár of Sampgaon is being built at Bail Hongal. Proposals for increased accommodation required in the Belgaum, Khánápúr and Parasgad Táluka kacheris, in the Huzur Treasury room and in the Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture's office have been made. All other offices in the Belgaum District are located in good and suitable buildings. All the táluka kacheris in the Bijápúr District are built on the standard plan, except those at Bijápúr and Bádámi; a new one is under construction at the latter place. Some of the kacheris have, however, become less commodious owing to want of accommodation for the increased number of Circle Inspectors and for keeping attached and confiscated articles. Both the Assistant Collector's bungalows—one at Hippargi in the Sindgi Táluka and the other at Bágalkot—are old buildings. The former is in a tolerably good condition, but that at Bágalkot stands in need of repairs. The Ánand Mahál in Bijápúr forms the residence of the two Assistant Collectors, and all the district offices are located in the Chini Mahál. Additions and alterations to both have been found to be necessary, and I shall personally settle the matter when I visit Bijápúr in the next month. The existing buildings in Dhárwár are in good order, but new táluka kacheris are wanted at Navalgund, Hirekerur and Dhárwár. New kacheris have been proposed at Hirekerur and Navalgund and included in the statement of major works for 1905-06. In the Kánara District the Mámílatdár's office at Honávar and the Maháلكari's office at Mungod are old buildings and are not in a proper state. Proposals for their reconstruction have been submitted and the plan and estimate for the latter have been sanctioned. When funds permit a new

building for the Assistant Collector's office seems necessary as the present building is on a very low level and the accommodation is also insufficient. Proposals for constructing a separate building for the survey record for extending the present account office and for reconstructing the witness shed are under consideration. The residential quarters of all the officers in Kárwár are in a bad state with the exception of the Collector's and the First Assistant Collector's bungalows. Negotiations for purchasing the old bungalow on the hill for the residence of the District Judge have been made and are awaiting Government sanction. The Collector of Kolába reports that the Revenue buildings in his district are not in a satisfactory state: additional accommodation for Circle Inspectors is required in almost all the kacheris; most of the kacheris are of antiquated design and should be altogether rebuilt: defects are observable in every taluka office and the Huzúr Treasury Strong Room is a gloomy dungeon in which it is impossible to see anything without the aid of a lantern. The main building of the Collector's office and the subsidiary offices at the headquarters at Ratnágiri are crowded to an objectionable extent and the question of providing additional accommodation is under the consideration of Government. The Mámlatdár's office at Khed is too small and requires extensions. Mr. Kabraji brings to notice the want of district bungalows, especially at Khed, Devgad and Rájápur where there are no camping grounds. Camping at these places became most trying owing to locusts having destroyed what little shade there was. Similarly in the current year's monsoon officers were put to great inconvenience when they had to go out on locust duty.

Besides the buildings mentioned above there is a large number of village chávdís in the three Karnátak Districts constructed from provincial grants aided by popular subscriptions and cattle pounds.

The Huzur record rooms are generally separate buildings and are in good condition. The taluka record rooms generally form part of the main kacheri buildings and are strong and safe. Some improvements are needed at Indi and Sindgi in the Bijápur District and the matter is under the Collector's consideration. At Panvel in the Kolába District more room for records is necessary. The present room for the Collector's English records at Ratnágiri is small and dark and the question of constructing a new room forms part of the general question of provision of accommodation for the several offices under the Collector. The taluka record rooms at Devgad, Rájápur, Ratnágiri and Khed also need extensions, as also that at Mandangad. Government have sanctioned the taking up of the old Sub-Judge's Court at Dápoli for keeping the Mámlatdár's records, but the necessary additions and alterations have not yet been made for want of funds.

The work of destruction of B records is generally up to date and the Collectors are taking measures to bring it up to date in individual offices where it has lagged behind.

4. Revenue Establishments.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATRINS, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The work of Mámlatdárs must be regarded as generally satisfactory, for though Mr. Hudson describes it as merely "on the whole tolerable," Messrs. Doderet and Logan (who left a note for his successor's report) praise it without hesitation, and the Collector of Surat mentions only two instances and the Collector of Thána one instance in which it was found unsatisfactory. The reports on the work of the staff of Circle Inspectors are on the whole good, but their ordinary work was interrupted by special "Record of Rights" work and by Survey Classes. The most unsatisfactory feature of the administration is the work of the Village Accountants. These in all districts of my division are "Talátis," *i. e.*, "stipendiary" Government servants, and differ largely from the "hereditary" accountants of the Deccan, known as Kulkarnis, whose work, as Government are aware, has similarly been found unsatisfactory. So many new duties are, under modern methods of administration, being heaped on this class of officials, whose standard and emoluments were fixed at a time when the prompt collection of the revenue was almost their sole duty, that it is permissible to suspect that the strain may be getting too severe, and the suspicion seems to

be confirmed by our finding, as we do, that in the year under report in one taluka of the Kaira District over 40 per cent. of the Talátis were punished, and that in the Thána District, though the work "shows signs of improvement," 83 out of 272 were fined. In connection with the Talátis' work (formerly as I have said, the principal if not the sole work) of collecting the land revenue the late Collector of Broach, Mr. Logan, has left the following note:—

"I fear too that village officers are now serving Government very unfaithfully, especially the Talátis. They have under the existing circumstances an opportunity, and a strong temptation, to make bargains with the villagers, and, as the Mámílatdár cannot be everywhere, they often do so with success. And in any case the penalties for remissness in collection are necessarily relaxed as compared with the days when the Taláti was expected to account for every rupee of the jamábandi, and both Taláti and ryot knew that excuses would not be accepted. One case of gross misconduct on the part of a Taláti (who was dismissed for it) came to my notice. This man had actually collected certain arrears but was keeping them back in the hope that they would be written off as irrecrecoverable. He was caught owing to a sudden inspection of his daftar by the Mámílatdár (Vágra). Doubtless, other frauds of a like kind have occurred elsewhere. With a series of good years, which we may hope has begun, a better discipline will be established, and it will be good for the ryots also if anything like the old rigidity can be reimposed."

Mr. Clayton, an Assistant Collector of Thána, who was most active in inspection and visited over 300 villages, has remarked on the difficulty of getting hold of cultivators for *kul rujvat*, *i. e.*, the examination of their receipt books. I find that he examined 580 books in 77 villages, *i. e.*, an average of about 7 books in a village, a kind of inspection which is of little real use. There are two theories about examining receipt books. One is that it is expedient to make sudden visits to villages and make a check inspection of books without any notice, and the other is that a rather long notice should be given to the Village Officers, who should then be compelled to produce *all* the receipt books in their village with their owners. Considerable experience has taught me that the latter course, which can rarely be adopted except in a village where a Supervising Officer is camping, is alone of any real use. The adoption of the former results in the intentional keeping back of all persons whose accounts are known to be not fit for inspection. The latter course does not indeed result in the discovery of whether the books have or have not been punctually written up (probably nothing will secure this), but it results in the production for inspection of books which would under no other system be inspected at all, and an inspection whereof sometimes leads to curious and useful discoveries.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

The work of Mámílatdárs is on the whole well spoken of. A fair number of them are above the average: very few are described as distinctly bad. During the year one Mámílatdár was reduced for inefficiency, another for abuse of his official position to forward the construction of a Hindu temple in his charge, and a third for winking at the ill-treatment of certain suspected Bhils which ended in the death of one of them. The principle of selection both in respect of first appointments to Mámílatas as well as promotion from grade to grade is being steadily observed. As regards the subordinate establishments, there is not the same chorus of condemnation of the work of Circle Inspectors that used to form the burden of past reports. There are not a few officers who are still dissatisfied, but many are able to say a good word for them. It is probable that the improvement recorded is in some measure due to the new rules which provide for effectual supervision on the part of Mámílatdárs and Sub-Divisional Officers in place of the nominal control of the Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture. Further, it may be hoped that their utility will greatly increase when under the system of training now adopted they acquire the technical knowledge essential to the proper discharge of their duties. It remains to be seen, however, what will be the effect of frequent changes of Inspectors due to the office being made an indispensable rung in the ladder of promotion to Mámílatas. The Collector of Násik has given statistics which show that the preparation of circle books has on the whole made considerable progress in the district. None of the other Collectors give this information, and the Collector of Sátára is the only officer who reports on his District Agricultural Inspector's work. The District Inspector may, however, be considered a suffi-

ciently important member of the agricultural staff to require some notice. There are complaints in general terms from some of the Sub-Divisional Officers that the Circle Inspectors neglected their crop, waste and boundary mark inspection. Locust work, the record of rights and survey training may each in turn have interfered with this duty. If there were other not excusable causes the Sub-Divisional Officers should have probed them and applied a remedy. There are the usual complaints about the inefficiency of Village Officers. The record of rights, wherever it has been introduced, has of course put a new burden on the Kulkarnis' shoulders, but in his administration report Mr. McIver speaks well of them on the whole, and in the few records which the Commissioner has had the opportunity of examining on his present tour their work does not compare unfavourably with that of the Gujarát Talátis. Absence from their charges, however, seems as common as ever. On a rough calculation the record of punishments for the various districts gives a percentage of 10 per cent. fined, suspended or dismissed during the year. The Collector of Khándesh, the district in which the number of punishments greatly exceeded the previous year's total, remarks that they were thoroughly well deserved. There is scarcely a doubt that punishments would be far more numerous but for the forbearance usually exercised. Most officers are properly averse to inflicting fines on lowly-paid subordinates who are now called on to fulfil tasks undreamt of when their *watans* were established.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

The *táluka* establishments were first organized in 1868 and since then there has been considerable increase of work. Several new departments of Government have developed, and there is scarcely any other department with which the Revenue Department has no concern. The increase of work is particularly noticeable in connection with *tagái*, the execution of Court's decrees and the preparation of the record of rights in land. The general complaint seems to be that the revenue establishments are insufficient for the increased amount of work which has to be done anyhow at the sacrifice of promptness and efficiency. Three temporary *Tagái Kárkúns* sanctioned for the Belgaum District are working in the Athni, Gokák and Parasgad *Tálukas* where the *tagái* work is very heavy, and the Collector observes that the additional establishment lately sanctioned in the reorganization scheme is expected to afford relief where it is most needed. The Collector of Bijápúr states that the four more appointments of Head *Kárkúns* recently sanctioned will give relief to the *Mámlatdárs* concerned, but that the clerical staff of the *táluka* offices has had no increase. The Collector points out that the subject of *tagái* is one of great importance—economic as regards the people and financial as regards the State: yet the establishment entertained for it is *nil*. It may be noted that the question of the entertainment of permanent *tagái* establishment was considered by the Commissioners in Committee, but it was decided to take it up with the question as to the working of the new *takávi* forms on which a report is due next year. A serious evil in Mr. Bomanji's opinion is the extent to which the district establishment is interrelated. Out of a total strength of 198 men, 138 have relatives, 16 men have more than 5 and 2 have over 10. I confess that I do not share his anxiety. I do not see why a man should be less efficient *Kárkún* because he has a brother in the same line. The Collector of Kolába observes that, though the establishment is adequate to the performance of the normal work of the district, there is no margin for accidents or emergencies, *e. g.*, the completion of the record of rights work has been delayed because Circle Inspectors and the Talátis are at present obliged to remain within their charges and devote themselves to the work of locust destruction. There is also one branch of work which always tends to fall into arrear, *viz.*, the sorting and indexing of records. Owing to an exceptionally large number of partitions of land in the Ratnágiri District a mass of work regarding correction of *botkhats* and other survey papers has accumulated in every *táluka* and *mahál*. The Circle Inspectors, who are now being posted to permanent circles, will do the current correction work, and the question of disposal of the arrears is under consideration. Mr. Kabraji points out that, owing to the increase of work in all directions, the *Mámlatdárs* had got into the habit of employing a number of unpaid candidates to assist the ordinary establishments, and though

this has been stopped complaints are being received. On the whole, and considering the difficulties above enumerated, the efficiency of the establishments is generally fair and their conduct good. The work of the Mámlatdárs and Maháلكarís has been good. It may be noted that the clerical establishment of Sub-Divisional Officers has not increased with the increase of work put upon these officers.

Mr. Panse does not see why the Registration Department should not keep pace with others in the matter of improvement; he states that improvement in the staff of Sub-Registrars has become a hackneyed question. The recent prescription of a monthly inspection report by Mámlatdárs of the offices of Sub-Registrars will, it is hoped, exercise a salutary check on the work of Sub-Registrars.

The work of the Village Officers has also considerably increased. Mr. Hatch considers that the exceptional call made upon them by the introduction of the record of rights has been answered satisfactorily by the great majority of Kulkarnís. The numbers of Village Officers are sufficient in Bijápúr, but there is a general want of efficiency for which the hereditary system is mainly responsible. The remuneration of these officers is also incommensurate with the responsible duties they are called upon to perform. This question is now receiving the consideration of Government. The above remarks against Bijápúr seem to apply equally to the districts of Belgaum and Dhárwár. In the majority of cases in Kánara a village accountant has more than 5 or 6 villages. His inspection work is, therefore, cursory and the disposal of cases is not prompt. The majority of villages in Ratnágiri are held on the khoti tenure and the number of Vatandár Kulkarnís and Talátís is small. The staff of Talátís and Japtidárs is generally intelligent and efficient and their conduct good. The Police Pátíls are very poorly paid. They have neither dignity, position nor influence in their villages. They are mostly illiterate as their present pays are quite inadequate to attract good men. The possibility of improving the Village Police is under the consideration of Government. The subjoined table exhibits the punishments inflicted on Pátíls and Kulkarnís. Of course one would expect many Talátís and Kulkarnís to be fined, but the large number of Pátíls fined in nearly every district and sub-division is worth notice in connection with the recent enquiries as to means for improving their position and prestige :—

No.	Details of punishments.		BELGAUM.		BIJAPUR.		DHARWAR.		KANARA.*		KOLABA.		RATNAGIRI.		Remarks.
			Pátíls.	Kulkarnís.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnís.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnís.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnís.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnís.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnís.	
	Total No. of employes.		1,100	813	1,251	811	1,358	1,027	904	307	1,717	227	1,316	339	
1	Dis- missed.	No.	4	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	2	* The percentages given by the Collector of Kánara on pages 38 and 39 of his report are incorrect. Correct percentages have been given in this statement.
		Percentage	·3	·01	·23	·24	·07	·19	·11	·32	·05	...	...	·6	
2	Res- pended.	No.	15	18	31	60	18	7	18	9	8	4	4	1	
		Percentage	1·4	2·3	2·4	7·4	1·32	·68	2	·29	·46	1·76	·3	·3	
3	Fined.	No.	45	104	66	140	68	114	83	52	31	43	27	27	
		Percentage	4·1	12·9	5·2	17·2	4·63	11·1	6	17	1·8	18·94	2·05	7·96	

5. Special Matters.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The communications of the Panch Maháls were improved by the opening of the Chord Railway from Baroda to Godhra during the year under review. In the Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts important irrigation projects were under preparation. In Thána the Acting Collector mentions that the woodland survey has been completed and fair progress was made during the year by the officer employed on special duty in connection with Sálsette building sites.

The preparation of a record of rights was pushed on with varying success in the year under review in the districts of the Northern Division. The difficulties were found considerable in Thána, the Acting Collector whereof, Mr. Madgavkar, remarks :—

"The small holdings still existing in this district, the almost universal sub-divisions as numerous as they are small, the mixture of varkas and phalni numbers of irregular outline make the work here probably more difficult than in most other districts and necessitate a larger staff."

Mr. Morison, Collector of Surat, in three talukás whereof the record was under preparation, makes the following remarks amongst others:—

"The work was new to both Talátis and Circle Inspectors, and many doubtful points had to be decided in the course of the season, sometimes necessitating the revision of work already done. The indifference of those interested in the lands was also a serious drag on the work, and it was often difficult to secure the presence at the fields of sub-sharers and others to point out boundaries. The Talátis too had heavy extra work in recovering the famine arrears of land revenue, my order being that a final settlement of all famine arrears, either by collection or remission, must be made by the end of July 1904. Taking all these circumstances into consideration I am inclined to regard the work done as satisfactory."

It was not in Surat alone, however, that the necessity for making a final clearance of land revenue arrears existing since the famine impeded the record of rights work. In a note left by him for his successor's report the late Collector of Broach, Mr. Logan, has observed as follows:—

"In the two talukás, Broach and Vágra, in which the record of rights is being introduced, a conflict of interests occurred in the instalment season: the Director of Land Records wanting me to keep the Talátis' noses to the record, while it was obviously necessary to keep them on the trail of the revenue defaulters before the latter could make away with their money or be stripped by their sowkárs. I declined to issue orders which might endanger the collections; and it is possible that in consequence of this the record may not be completed quite as rapidly as in other districts with less revenue to collect. If this gives rise to unfavourable comment my reply is that I judged it more expedient to secure revenue which if not secured now would be lost for ever in preference to hurrying on work which if not completed now can be completed a little later; it was going on swimmingly when I inspected the registers on my tour in January and February. There, however, comes a time in the record when all the information available in the village has been written in, and the non-resident sowkárs have to be made to produce their bonds and title-deeds. Some delay is unavoidable at this stage even if the Talátis are punctual in issuing the notices, for our sowkár class are adepts at avoiding and disregarding notices which it does not suit them to attend to."

The only other "special matter" which may be regarded as of sufficient importance in the Northern Division to deserve comment in this report is the grant of land on the new untransferable tenure (Bombay Act VI of 1901).

The Collector of Ahmedabad, Mr. Doderet, reports that the taking up of land on the new tenure is making steady progress except in the centre of his district (where the old tenure is more popular and more suitable to the pátidár peasantry) and in the two sub-divisions, Dhandhuka and Gogo, where the villages are mainly talukdári. In Prántij no land is given out except on the new tenure, while in Modása, Viramgám and Dholka the areas given out on new tenure in the year under review were 4,441, 2,687 and 1,763 acres respectively. In connection with the forfeiture of land and its re-grant on the new tenure, which has given an immense amount of work in the Kaira District, I venture to quote the following from the report of its Collector, Mr. Hudson:—

"The disposal of petitions for the restoration of forfeited lands has given considerable work during the past 2½ years to Mámlatdárs' offices, the Collector and the Commissioner. Large areas of lands were forfeited for the arrears of 1900-1901 and 1901-1902. In 1900-1901 forfeitures were resorted to chiefly to break contumacy among the cultivators who withheld payment of land revenue settled for collection after taking into consideration the outturn of crops and ability to pay. These forfeitures were made before the passing of Bombay Act VI of 1901. The lands forfeited for the arrears of this year amounted to 14,865 acres assessed at Rs. 44,821 of Government lands in 2,100 cases and 7,625 acres assessed at Rs. 27,669 and bearing a quit-rent of Rs. 14,332 of inám lands in 1,296 cases. The revenue settled for collection in 1901-1902 was based on the outturn of crops and forfeiture was the measure chiefly adopted, under instructions in the cases of those who failed to pay the demands so settled. For the arrears of this year 28,632 acres of Government land assessed at Rs. 95,638 in 7,243 cases and 16,629 acres of inám lands assessed at Rs. 68,310 and bearing a quit-rent of Rs. 38,297 were forfeited. For the arrears of 1902-1903 the areas of Government and inám lands forfeited were very small, viz., 92 acres in 28 cases and 175 acres in 52 cases respectively.

"The total area thus forfeited for the arrears of 1900-1901 to 1902-1903 amounted to 43,590 acres of Government land assessed at Rs. 1,40,717 in 9,371 cases and 24,430 acres of inám lands assessed at Rs. 96,723 and bearing a quit-rent of Rs. 52,938 in 6,958 cases.

"In view of the hardness of the times and of the very summary way in which forfeitures had been made in 1900-1901 (in many instances they were ordered on the spot at the inspection of villages by the Collector and the Sub-Divisional Officers, in those glaring cases in which notices of demand had been given and payment was supposed to be withheld notwithstanding there being means to pay) every facility to get back their lands was afforded to the people by from time to time extending the period of appeal; and cases of unencumbered inám lands held by Dharalas and such poor ignorant classes were taken up *suo motu* for revision. Notwithstanding all these measures only 25,582 acres or 37.6 per cent. of the forfeited lands came under appeal or revision in 7,210 cases. The percentage of appeals made in respect of Government lands was only 16, whereas in the case of inám lands under appeal or revision it was 75.4 per cent. The fact, that so very few appeals comparatively speaking were made notwithstanding the facilities afforded, shows that those who really cared to get back their lands did so, while no appeals were made where payment of arrears was considered a bad bargain or where there was a want of cultivators or of means to cultivate. Of the lands that came under appeal or revision 22,124 acres (4,858 acres Government and 17,226 acres inám) or 83.4 per cent. were restored, the orders of forfeiture were confirmed in 10 per cent., and in 3.6 per cent. the results of appeal and revision were not ready for incorporation in this report.

"Out of the total areas of 86,539 acres of Government lands and 5,999 acres of inám lands in respect of which no steps for the cancellation of forfeiture orders were taken, 22,302 acres of Government land and 1,978 acres of inám have been settled on the untransferable tenure while the rest are still lying as Government waste.

"At present 25,333 acres of forfeited land are held on the untransferable tenure and some genuine waste survey numbers have also been given out on this tenure. Where the people are not under the thumb of the sowkars lands are freely accepted under the untransferable tenure, which shows that the people understand its advantages. A further area of 1,000 acres came under the untransferable tenure voluntarily by the dissolution of the Narva tenure in the large village of Chaklasi in the Nadiál Taluka, which was referred to in my last report. In concluding these remarks I have only to say to give a clearer idea of the amount of work involved that I disposed of 2,590 appeals, many of them involving several survey numbers, during the year, and this does not take into account the 7,405 acres of unencumbered inám lands in 3,307 cases already referred to."

The Assistant Collector of the Panch Mahals, Mr. Vernon, reports that the new tenure is unpopular, as the holders under it experience difficulty in getting advances from money-lenders: but, as observed by the Acting Collector, this was of course to be expected. In the Panch Mahals no less than 13,700 acres assessed at Rs. 1,198 were voluntarily forfeited (in 1,324 cases) and resettled on the new tenure with the original occupants. The figures indicate that the average holding affected was exceedingly small. The Acting Collector, Mr. Pratt, observes as follows:—

"In a large number of cases in which lands had been resettled on the new tenure it was found that the rights of Baniás and sowkars to whom the lands had been sold or mortgaged with possession had been unduly overlooked and their appeals had to be upheld, with the result that the new tenure agreements had to be cancelled by the Commissioner and the lands had to be restored to them on their agreeing to pay up the Government dues in respect of these holdings."

In the Surat District more than half the area (only 4,031 acres) given out on new tenure was in the Mándvi and Olpád Talukás. Mr. Morison mentions that this tenure is specially suited to the Kaliparaj cultivators. Similarly, the Acting Collector of Thana, Mr. Madgavkar, points out its greater applicability to wild tribes such as Wárlis and Kolis than to A'gris and other cultivators who are really capable of coping with money-lenders and landlords. In the Broach District the new tenure is not regarded with favour, and a notice of forfeiture is usually followed by payment of the arrears,

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

Fair progress was made with the record of rights. It was started in 4 talukás in Khándesh, 3 in Násik, Ahmednagar and Sátára, and 2 in Poona and Sholápur: the work was completed in the fair season in Khándesh, Ahmednagar and Sholápur; elsewhere it remained incomplete. The Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture states that the quality of the work done was distinctly encouraging, and the Collector of Khándesh, writing of his own district, also regards it as satisfactory. None of the other Collectors express an opinion, but Mr. Sheppard in a separate report points out that the work carried out last year in the Khed and Sirur Talukás by the ordinary staff of Circle Inspectors is so bad that it must be done over again. Mr. McIver's remarks

must be read with this qualification. A special staff of Circle Inspectors has been sanctioned for these two talukás. Few of the officers report on the attitude of the people or their views or feelings in the matter of the record, but the Collector of Ahmednagar remarks it is difficult to make them understand the importance of the record to them, while Mr. Campbell, Assistant Collector, Khándesh, found that it was connected in their minds with the non-transferable tenure as a design on the part of Government to get hold of the land. This must have been suggested by the money-lending class. Mr. Thakar from Sholápur is able to state that the scheme has encouraged the cultivators to have their rights defined and recorded. Mr. Wachba's experience in the Central Sub-Division of the Khándesh District is that no difficulty was felt in securing the required information, but Mr. Namjoshi complains in respect of at least one of the Northern talukás of the same district—Sindkheda—that the way was not quite smooth. The circumstances of the different districts, and occasionally even of the different parts of one and the same district, are not alike, and the diversity of opinions recorded is doubtless due to this fact. It is to be hoped that next year the Collectors will express their views as to the accuracy of the record.

No revenue is reported as having been received by money orders in Khándesh and Sátára, but Rs. 12,394 were received in Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona and Sholápur. This mode of remittance was principally resorted to by persons living beyond the limits of the taluka in which the payments were due.

No special grants or assignments of land were made in Ahmednagar, Sátára or Sholápur. In Khándesh Risaldár-Major Lalkhan was granted an assignment of land revenue to the amount of Rs. 600 per annum for his own life, with a moiety continuable for two more lives. In Násik land measuring 475 acres and assessed at Rs. 400, situated in the Nandgaon Taluka, was granted in perpetuity, subject to the payment of assessment, to Subhedár-Major Shaikh Mahbub of the 23rd Bombay Rifles. In Poona Sardár B. M. Potnis was granted, on the occasion of the coronation, lands of the assessed value of Rs. 3,000, and pending selection of the lands an assignment of land revenue to this amount is being paid to him.

Lands for various public purposes were taken up in most districts, but in Poona and Násik alone were there any important acquisitions. In the former district lands with the buildings standing thereon were acquired by private negotiations in connection with the head-quarters police lines, and in the latter 600 acres of land was obtained for the Chankápur irrigation work in exchange for other land. Additional land of equal extent remains to be secured for the same work on payment of compensation in cash.

The new restricted tenure has not proved acceptable in the same degree everywhere in the division. In Poona and Sátára small areas forfeited for arrears of land revenue were regranted to the original holders on this tenure. In Sholápur the same course was followed in respect of land measuring about 300 acres. In the other 3 districts there was independent demand for land on the non-transferable occupancies. It was smallest in Ahmednagar, where 478 acres of Government waste was granted, mostly to Bhils, Kolis and other cultivators in humble circumstances. The grants in Násik amounted to 4,276 acres. As regards Khándesh, the area is not specified, but, judging from the amount of the assessment Rs. 7,515, it must have been considerable. There was keen competition among would-be holders, and the right of occupancy was generally sold by auction. The Collector states that care was taken to dispose of the land to *boná fide* agriculturists. Attention is invited to Mr. Curtis' remark that mortgages to money-lenders of lands held on the special tenure are common, and that in several instances the Civil Courts have disregarded the essential character of the tenure. It is presumed that the Collector has taken steps to prevent compliance with any illegal orders of such Courts, and that he will call further attention to the subject if they continue to disregard the law.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

Remittance of land revenue by money order is not generally in vogue. It is principally resorted to by people who live in a different taluka or district from that in which the revenue becomes due and in a very few cases by

Remittance of revenue by money order.

persons who want to secure evidence tending to prove title or possession of lands about ownership of which there is dispute. The concession by which fractions of annas can be sent by money order in remitting Government revenue affords convenience. About Rs. 4,000 were thus remitted in Dhárwár and Rs. 1,800 in Kánara. The Collector of Kolába states that he did not make special enquiry into this matter but that it appears to be a very usual practice.

No special grants or assignments of land were made in Belgaum and Ratnágiri. In Bijápur the provisions of Regulation XII of 1827 have been applied to the Chapparbands living in the Bágévádi and Muddebihál Tálukas with a view to induce them to settle down and take to cultivation. Special instructions were issued for granting assistance to the Chapparbands in the selection of the lands and 29 persons have in all been given land so far. A special grant of some 3,000 acres in West Dhárwár was sometime ago sanctioned by Government in favour of one Ráo Bahádur Subapatty Moodliar for the purpose (chiefly) of an aloe plantation. Mr. Moodliar died last winter and his heirs did not take up the land.

The Forest Settlement Officer in Kánara assigned additional betta in 19 villages of Supa while doing his forest settlement work. The work of additional betta assignments in the Yellápur Táluka and Mundgod Petha has been finished. Betta assignments have been made in the Sirsi Táluka and only provisional assignments have been made in Siddápur. The Divisional Forest Officer was not able to approve of the assignments made by the Sub-Divisional Officers with the result that though the extra bettas were sanctioned by Government about two years ago the gardeners have not yet got them. The Conservator is being requested to ask the Divisional Forest Officer to give his earliest attention to this subject.

Mr. MacGregor, Forest Settlement Officer, Kánara, was able to give out 537 acres 20 gunthás of hakkal to 123 families of the Kumriwallas of Supa. Hakkal cultivation as opposed to kumri cultivation is said not to have made any progress whatever.

In Kolába there have been no special grants or assignments during the year under report. There have been dalhi assignments, *viz.*, the areas assigned within the actual forest area for cultivation by the wild tribes of Kátkaris and Thákurs. Mr. Bonus states that he has received and refused a number of applications for fresh assignments and hopes that natural reproduction will afford sufficient material to allow of cultivation proceeding unchecked, but time alone can show if this hope will be realised.

Work in this connection is generally small and consists in acquiring land for works constructed from Local Funds. In Dhárwár the work is not inconsiderable and is mostly connected with the Southern Marátha Railway.

Act VI of 1901.—Only two survey numbers in Gokák Táluka and one in Belgaum were sold during the year on the restricted tenure. Almost all the forfeited occupancies were offered to the parties and the public on the restricted tenure, but they were not accepted. This need not be considered as an indication of the unwillingness of the people to accept the new tenure as the lands were lying waste for years.

Only in one case in the Hungund Táluka forfeited land measuring 25 acres 22 gunthás and assessed at Rs. 19 was resettled with another person instead of with the original occupant on the restricted tenure.

In 63 cases waste lands (1,398 acres assessed at Rs. 233-12-0) were given out for cultivation on the same tenure. These include the grants of land to Chapparbands.

The new Act is never likely to have much effect in this district. There is practically no taking up of waste land and those whose land is forfeited for arrears are generally in arrears because, for causes already stated, *viz.*, depopulation of some villages by

plague and the ravages of pig, the land cannot be cultivated at all. The Collector is of opinion that the circumstances of the cultivator in Dhárwár make the ordinary survey tenure much more suitable than is the case in many other parts, and it is at least doubtful if it would be in existing circumstances worth making any special effort to extend the restricted tenure, even were it possible to do so. The cultivators and money-lenders belong to the same class. Mr. Monteath's enquiries in Hubli have shown that alienation of land to non-cultivators does not take place to any very large extent and that there appears to be no excessive indebtedness.

961 acres of land assessed at Rs. 1,319-13-6 were given out on the restricted tenure during the year under report. Mr. Kánara. Panse points out that the securing of the highest price was the principal aim under the ordinary system, and the cases in which an agriculturist could compete with a sowkár and get the land for himself were rare. Under the present system the rayats are free to choose any waste land they like and obtain it without fail with a further guarantee that they will never be dispossessed of the land by any money-lender. The agricultural classes do not think that the new tenure is disadvantageous to them.

Kolába. Only one case occurred in which land was forfeited and regranting on the restricted tenure.

Till now there has not arisen in this district any occasion to put into force the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code Amendment Act regarding the regranting of forfeited lands on the restricted tenure. Ratnágiri.

Extracts.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector.

Record of Rights is approaching completion. On the whole the people have been very willing to come forward to make claims, though the smallness of the number of disputed cases has surprised me. That the work has not been completed by the dates fixed is due to late receipt of final orders on the subject from Government and late receipt of forms. The Circle Inspectors have on the whole done good work and that of the Village Officers has also been fairly satisfactory.

G. Monteath, Esq., Assistant Collector.

With a few exceptions the Village Officers have been energetic in the preparation of the Record, and the Circle Inspectors with one exception have been industrious both in testing the work done and in instructing Village Officers in regard to doubtful cases.

J. Monteath, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Record of Rights has been completed (in the previous year) in Ranebenur, and is being framed in Karajgi. For the latter a separate report will be sent subsequently; the first copies of the record are now nearly completed and the people appear to attach much importance to a correct entry being made—or an incorrect one—if it is to their advantage. In Ranebenur, in the villages visited by me, the mutation registers were being regularly written up, as far as I could gather; the Village Officers appeared to understand their duty in this respect fully, and the people to feel the necessity of having their new claims recorded.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. W. Hatch, Esq., Collector.

The work of the Village Officers too has increased considerably for the reasons mentioned above. The exceptional call upon them made by the introduction of Record of Rights has been answered satisfactorily by the great majority of Kulkarnis. In testing the record I was often surprised at the care and neatness with which the work had been done.

KANARA DISTRICT.

P. B. Haigh, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Record of Rights.—The preparation of the kachha record was completed by the end of May and the inspection work prescribed by Government in the 2nd week in June. The fair copy is now being prepared and it is proposed to publish the record in October next. There was a good deal of difficulty in getting the record completed before the rains, chiefly owing to the intricate nature of the tenures and reluctance of the people to produce their claims. *

* * * On the whole the work of the Village Officers in this taluka with a few exceptions was satisfactory, in some cases very good indeed. The Circle Inspectors' work was more uneven, but the majority did well, and in one or two cases which have been brought to your notice the work was excellent.

RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

A. W. W. Mackie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The great bulk of the rayats regard the Record of Rights with characteristic indifference. They regard it as unsatisfactory that the entries, when made, are not conclusive evidence. They see that its preparation stirs up disputes which would otherwise have slumbered, and therefore naturally regard it as opening up a new field for litigation. For various reasons the progress so far has not been satisfactory.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

R. S. Baitmangalkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Record of Rights was in progress in the Karjat Taluka and the Khálápur Mahál. Out of 254 villages wherein the record had to be prepared work of writing up the rough copies of Village Form No. 1-C was completed in 107 villages.

The Talátis did not find much difficulty in getting the necessary information from the rayats. The latter did not appear to have entertained any suspicion regarding the object of Government in the preparation of the said record. It was only with respect to the production of documents that there was either delay or non-compliance on the spot on the part of the persons interested.

6. Assistance to Inamdars and other Superior Holders.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The cases in which the assistance of Revenue Officers was sought by inámdárs and other superior holders for the purpose of recovering rents from inferior holders under the Land Revenue Code were few and unimportant in the Northern Division. A single Mámlatdár in the Sátára District, which I have recently left, gets almost as much work of this kind as all the Mámlatdárs of all the districts of the Northern Division. I think, therefore, that it is unnecessary to quote or comment on the statistics with which I have been furnished by my Collectors. I may mention, however, that, though assistance has been granted to more than 200 tenants of an inám village in the Surat District, no recoveries have been made. The explanation offered is that "the cultivators are protesting against the high rates of assessment charged by the inámdár and the latter has brought suits against the cultivators in the Civil Court. Pending the result of the Civil suits the cultivators refuse to pay the rates demanded, and the Mámlatdár has been unable to collect them, and it seems better to await the result of the Civil suits before making further attempts to recover." I am of opinion that this explanation is insufficient. If cultivators had chosen to appeal against the Mámlatdár's decree "giving assistance," the argument that the cases were complicated on their merits might perhaps have been treated as a justification for admitting the appeals, for Revenue Officers are not bound to give assistance in any but obvious cases. As, however, assistance decrees were actually issued and were not apparently appealed against with success, it was obligatory on the Revenue Officers to execute them and to sell, if necessary, the right, title and interest of the defaulters in the lands to which the decrees related,

Extracts.

KAIRA DISTRICT.

C. W. M. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

There are 27 inámdárs. They all collect their dues direct and keep their own accounts.

SURAT DISTRICT.

W. T. Morison, Esq., Collector.

The reason why the recoveries of inámdárs' revenue are so few is that of the 411 cases in which assistance was granted more than half belong to the inámi village of Chasa in Chikhli. There the cultivators are protesting against the high rates of assessment charged by the inámdár, and the latter has brought suits against the cultivators in the Civil Court.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

The old complaint that inámdárs are not in all cases willing to grant remissions is made by the Collector of Ahmednagar, who states that after the irrecoverable arrears in inám villages had been ascertained some of the holders were found reluctant to give up their claims. This reluctance is reflected in the accumulation of arrears of past years. On the other hand the tenants in many cases are contumacious. With remissions of irrecoverable balances where they could not be recovered, and forfeiture of the holdings of the contumacious, substantial reductions in outstandings were effected in some villages, but on the whole collections are reported to have been backward in this district. In Poona decrees in assistance cases were granted to the value of Rs. 98,000, against which recoveries to the amount of Rs. 32,016 were effected during the year. In Sholápur and Násik the amounts collected on behalf of inámdárs were respectively Rs. 64,000 and Rs. 15,126. No statistics are given for Khándesh or Sátára. There are few inámdárs in the former district, and the omission is not material. In Sátára, however, there is a large body of inámdárs, whose demand amounts to a considerable sum, and information as to the state of the collections was desirable. It would be well if the Collectors of other districts could find time to do what has been done in Ahmednagar, *viz.*, to settle in the case of each inámdár what portion of the existing arrears are hopelessly irrecoverable and to cease taking any future measures in respect of such amounts, directing all their energies to the recovery of the remainder. It is waste of time and labour to pass orders in assistance cases for amounts, such for instance as those pertaining to famine year, which it is inequitable to recover and which cannot be recovered.

During the year a seven-anna share in the Saranjam village of Rasin in the Ahmednagar District lapsed to Government in consequence of the death of the last holder without heirs. In the Poona District one-half of the Saranjam village of Nazra Supe has temporarily lapsed to Government, pending recognition of an heir.

Extracts.

POONA DISTRICT.

W. D. Sheppard, Esq., Collector.

No instances were noticed of improper and irregular recoveries of land revenue except in Karanjgaon in Táluka Máwal where certain inámdárs recovered land revenue direct from the tenants. Proceedings were taken against the offending inámdárs and they were fined under section 85, Land Revenue Code.

SATARA DISTRICT.

A. W. G. Chuckerbutty, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Some inámdárs have made compromises with the rayats, agreeing to remit one or two years' old arrears of revenue in consideration for money down. I have interviewed a good many during the year and given them advice. They are generally grateful to Government for the special measures taken on their behalf. The most hopeless cases are where there are disputes among co-sharers.

In these cases they have only themselves to blame if they find it difficult to recover their revenue.

Many of them do not play fair, and avoid giving receipts to their tenants for sums paid.

A. W. G. Chuckerbutty, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Until we can see our way more clearly ahead regarding the collection of current year's revenue and arrears of revenue and takávi under Land Improvement I am humbly of opinion that though there is undoubtedly much truth in the theory that it should be a point of honour with Government to insist upon the proper execution of old decrees passed in assistance cases, still we must not overlook the very important fact that in a good many cases the number of superior holders have, since the passing of the decrees, recovered their dues privately, but without informing the táluka authorities.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

There are 220 inám villages in the Belgaum District. The arrears on account of previous years amounted to Rs. 4,59,533, out of which only Rs. 47,160 were collected. The current year's demand was Rs. 2,73,243, out of which Rs. 1,61,204 were collected. The arrears of previous years swell to a large amount as irrecoverable balances are kept on in the accounts instead of being written off. As regards the current demand much remains uncollected owing to disputes among sharers.

In Bijápúr complaints were received in two cases about the remissness of the hereditary Village Officers in collecting inámdárs' dues and they are under enquiry. In some cases there are large arrears and they are reported to be due to the accumulations owing to famine. Some instances have come to notice in the Bágalkot Táluka in which the inámdárs received payments direct from their tenants and the matter is under enquiry.

Mr. Gibb states that there are not the same difficulties in this matter as in the Deccan. At all events, such as there are do not come to the notice of Revenue Officers. No inámdárs of whole villages have accepted the survey tenure; all settle the rents by agreement. Mr. Moghe appears to think that inámdárs are in the habit of unduly raising rents. On the other hand Mr. Monteath gives instances in two villages where rents have remained the same for a century. There are no alienated villages in Kánara. Mr. Bonus has no reason to suppose that the relations between inámdárs and their tenants are strained except in a few villages of the Northern Sub-Division. In Ratnágiri the inámdárs recover their revenue direct, and it is generally recovered without much difficulty.

The number of assistance cases is generally small, except in Ratnágiri where the number was 500.

There were no lapses of inám villages during the year. There was only one case of succession, viz., that of the appointment of a successor to the Shri Raghavendra Swámi Matha of Mantralaya. The inám villages of this matha are situated in Bágalkot, Bádámi, Hungund and Sindgi Tálukás of the Bijápúr District, and orders have been passed to recover the usual nazarána in four annual instalments.

Extracts.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

G. Monteath, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The practice of holders of alienated villages varies. In the villages of Shanwad and Javur, for example, the rent taken by the inámdárs varies from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per acre. The term of lease is 30 years, and the rental has not been raised, I am informed, for the last 100 years. The average rates of course vary according to the prevailing quality of lands in different villages; in inám villages in Gadag where there is a good deal of red soil land the average rate is as low as Re. 1-8. Nor do all inámdárs give their tenants reasonably long terms of lease. Holdings in many inám villages change hands much too frequently, with the result that the cultivation therein is not as good as it should be.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

K. B. Moghe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

In the inám villages in the plains, to which the survey settlements have not been applied, rents are levied at mamul and special rates. These are higher than the rates in Government villages. Here the old kadim (pre-inám) rayat is virtually turned into a tenant-at-will. The relations of such tenants with the inámdárs can scarcely be cordial in each village. Though there are exceptions few inámdárs live in their villages. Agents are deputed. There are sub-sharers too. All aim at increasing rents. If these are not agreed to the lands are given away to others. Mirási rights are not respected. Remissions or suspensions in bad seasons are scarcely given. It is true there are not many applications for assistance to recover rents. But the Revenue Courts generally decline to grant it, as the tenant denies his liability to pay anything more than the assessment; and the inámdár wants more and has to go to the Civil Courts. Where the tenant agrees to abide by the inámdár's wishes the arrears become debts: these increase by high interest, and then culminate in the tenant's complete subjugation to the inámdár's will. The inámdárs in the Malnad are losing their tenants.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. W. Hatch, Esq., Collector.

Much of the inámdárs' revenue remains uncollected owing to disputes among sharers, and irrecoverable balances are not written off; hence large amounts appear in the inámdárs' accounts as balances outstanding.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. H. Cowan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The inámdárs levy rent in excess of the survey assessments. In most cases the excess amount has remained unpaid while in others the whole or part of the amount due remained in arrears owing to the inability of the tenants to pay the same. The scarcity which recently prevailed in Parasgad Táluka is in a great measure responsible for the swelling of the figures of outstanding balances. The inámdárs retain their balances in the accounts of the respective tenants without taking steps to write off the amounts which are really irrecoverable.

As regards the current year's demands, the balance outstanding in Sampgaon and Khánápur Tálukas is trifling and calls for no remarks. The balance in Parasgad is heavy. Of the 23 villages in this táluka 9 are in Murgod Mahál and 14 in táluka proper. Of the latter 14, ten form part of the estate belonging to the Sir Desai of Shirsangi. There is a long-standing dispute between the desai and his tenants as to the former's right to enhance rents, and this to a certain extent accounts for the tenants withholding their dues.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

A. R. Bonus, Esq., Collector.

These* matters have not come prominently to notice during the year under report, and I have no reason to suppose that the relations between inámdárs and their tenants are strained except in a few villages of the Northern Sub-Division. In one of these (an unsurveyed village) the tenants sent in a long statement of iniquities which were for the most part found unproved, except as regards the arbitrary enhancement of rents (the landlord being here within his legal rights) and the failure to give receipts (the tenants being in this matter informed of the action they should take). In the case of another village the tenants complained of the landlord interfering with vested rights (*e. g.*, the use of the village cemetery), and were informed of the remedy they have in the Mámlatdárs' Courts Act.

* Inámdár's recovery of revenue, assistance cases, successions, lapses, etc.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

R. S. Baitnangalkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There were complaints only from the villages of Nandanapáda, Pimpalgaon and Vahal to the effect that the inámdárs treated the rayats as their tenants-at-will while they were really mirásdárs.

7. Revenue and Rent-paying Classes, Transfers, Rents, Sub-letting, Relations between Landlords and Tenants.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

Under this heading the information supplied by my Collectors is varied in amount and varied in interest; and, as my own local knowledge of even the two districts of this division in which I have served is not recent, I can do little more than submit extracts from the Collectors' reports. The point of chief interest seems to be the changes, owing to the series of unfavourable seasons, in the rent system and in agricultural credit in Kaira—a district in which the credit of *pátidár* agriculturists was in my time, nine years ago, extraordinarily good. Another matter worth noting is the large extent to which land has passed and is passing into the hands of non-agricultural classes in the Thána District, and the small extent to which, except in the remote forest sub-divisions of Wáda and Mokháda, agriculturists are found to be in possession of land which is their own. I have put in italics a few of the more noteworthy sentences of the extracts which I quote.

The remarks of the Collector of Ahmedabad, Mr. Doderet, are as follows:—

“The great bulk of the revenue and rent-paying classes are cultivators of the Kunbi (*pátidár*) and Koli class. There are numerous *tálukdári*, *inámi* and *mewási* estates of varying importance. The holders of estates are mostly Rájputs, Kolis, Bráhmans and Musalmáns. The relations between the landlords and tenants remain satisfactory.”

The following extracts are taken from the remarks of the Collector of Kaira, Mr. Hudson:—

“Revenue-paying classes are mostly *Pátidárs*, *Baniás*, *Bráhmans* and *Rájputs* and a sprinkling of *Dharalas* and *Mahomedans*. The *Baniás* and *Pátidárs* (*Leva*) and *Bráhmans* do not generally cultivate their lands. The *Baniás* mostly hold the lands as mortgagees in possession. Before the recent famine years *rents were generally paid in cash and varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per acre, the assessment being paid by the tenants. But owing to the succession of bad years they have decreased by 10 to 50 per cent.* The rent-paying classes are *Pátidárs* (*Kunbis*, *Kadvas* and *Leva*), *Dharalas* and *Musalmáns*. They have not been able to pay in full, owing to unfavourable seasons, and *have lost their credit.* The result is that *the cash rent system is going out of vogue, and the system of half the gross produce in kind is obtaining largely in the district.* If the cultivators are helped by the landlords in any way, half the assessment is paid by the former; otherwise the landlords pay the full assessment. During the year under report 10,910 acres against 7,797 acres in the previous year changed hands, chiefly by mortgages without possession given by agriculturists to non-agriculturists. No special reasons can be given for the increase of such mortgages, except that the *Baniás* and *sowkárs* have, owing to bad times, curtailed their money-lending transactions and *such mortgages may only be paper transactions bringing to book outstanding debts given on personal security.*”

The Collector of the Panch Maháls has made the following observations among others:—

“Revenue and rent-paying classes in this district consist very largely of half civilized and illiterate classes, such as *Bhils*, *Kolis*, *Náikdás*, *Patelias*, *Lavánas*. *Ráváls* and *Rájputs* also form part of these classes. Among these classes contumacy is almost unknown. They pay up the revenue if they have the means, or if the *Bania* will advance. In *Kálol Pátidárs*—a well-known class of agriculturists—and in *Godhra Ghanchis* are found. The former are given to complaint, and request remission on insufficient grounds; the latter will evade payment if they can. Both these classes have a considerably higher standard of living than the *Bhils*, *Kolis* and *Náikdás*. There are numerous *tálukdári* and *inámi* estates of varying importance in the district. The holders of the former are mostly *Rájputs*, and of the latter *Bráhman* and *Bania Desais* and *Musalmáns*. Some 21 villages are also held on *mewási* tenure by *Baria Kolis*. Of the 14 *tálukdári* estates 11 are under attachment, due to a variety of causes, such as minority, debts, etc. As a class the *tálukdárs* are improvident and unbusinesslike. *Limbdi* in *Jhálol* is a notable exception. Transfers by free contract are comparatively rare. As a rule it is simply a case of foreclosure or threat of foreclosure on the part of the usurer. *This he does not as a rule in order to obtain physical possession of the land but to put his interest on a legal footing, with a view to the future.* Sub-letting does not take place on a large scale in this district. Relations between landlords and tenants are on the whole cordial in almost all cases, and the former find no difficulty in recovering their dues from the latter.”

In the Broach District the *balance of mortgage sales and redemption transactions appears to have been rather in favour of the agriculturist classes.* As regards the landholders and the relations between landlord and tenant the Acting Collector, Mr. Wales, remarks as follows:—

"The largest landholders of the Broach District are the so-called "Thákors," who possess about 7 per cent. of the arable area; the chief of these is the Thákór of Ámod. Most of the Thákors are heavily in debt, and with the exception of Ámod and Kerwáda the estates are under the management of the Tálukdári Settlement Officer. There are also 15 inámi villages in the district. The rest of the land is held either by khátedárs holding direct from Government or by tenants of such khátedárs or other persons holding rights over the land. Under the circumstances the question of the relation between landlords and tenants is not one of much importance in this district. The superior holders recover their dues without any great difficulty, and the rent cases in the Mámlatdárs' Courts are not very numerous. The cultivators are mostly Bohrahs, Pátidárs, Rájputs and Kolis. The Bohrahs and Pátidárs are as a rule good husbandmen; the former are particularly strong in Broach Táluka, the latter are found chiefly in the eastern part of the district north of the Narbada. The Kolis and Rájputs here as elsewhere are slovenly and careless cultivators. The landlord class are mostly Bráhmans, Pársis or Baniás. *Rents are commonly from one and half times to twice the assessment; sometimes, however, they are as high as three times the assessment.* Lands are also rented on the share system; the tenant pays the Government assessment, and after allowing for the price of seed pays half the balance to the landlord as rent."

The Collector of Surat, Mr. Morison, has made the following remarks :—

"The chief cultivators in this district are Anavla Bráhmans, Kunbis, Rájputs, Kolis, Mahomedans and the *Kaliparaj* classes in the east of the district. These cultivate their holdings themselves with the assistance where necessary of *halis*. There are besides a number of capitalist farmers, chiefly Pársis, Vániás and Anavlás, who have large holdings, and get them cultivated by their *halis*. The relations between the landowners and their servants are good, but the *former complain that they find it difficult nowadays to procure a sufficient number of halis.*

"There are 40 inám villages in this district. The relations between the inámdárs and their tenants during the year were satisfactory, except in the village of Chasa, Táluka Chikhli.

"During the year 2,004 transfers of occupancies were recorded in the village records as follows :—

	Number of Cases.	Area of Land affected.	Assessment.
		Acres.	Rs.
By agriculturists to agriculturists	1,275	6,376	21,725
By agriculturists to non-agriculturists	486	2,944	10,312
By non-agriculturists to agriculturists	243	1,371	3,763
Total	2,004	10,691	35,800

"It will be seen from these figures that *not much land is passing from the hands of agriculturists to non-agriculturists.* The high prices obtained for cotton during the year generally enhance the value of land which had fallen much during the famine years and few agriculturists care to part with their land. As a rule it may be said that *lands let throughout the district at a rental equal to twice the assessment, i. e., the tenant pays the assessment and gives the superior holder a net sum equal to the assessment.* In the case of *garden lands, especially those producing sugarcane, three times the assessment is ordinarily paid by the tenant.*"

The following observations have been made by the Acting Collector of Thána, Mr. Madgavkar :—

"The process of land passing into the hands of non-agriculturist sowkár landlords—Pársis, Bráhmans, Baniás and Márwádis—from the actual cultivators of the soil continues. Some of the former take considerable interest in agriculture, notably the Pársi landholders in Dáhánu, Umbergaon and parts of Máhim, some of whom have become cultivating agriculturists. Many more, however, only supervise the *agricultural operations which are carried out mostly by the original owners who have now been reduced to the condition of permanent servants or a kind of serfs.* Out of the total cultivated area of the district between 60 and 70 per cent. is estimated to be held by the sowkár landlords. *Bond fide* agriculturists still holding their own exist fairly generally in Mokháda and parts of Wáda; elsewhere they are few and scattered about.

"In Mokháda efforts are being made to prevent the ryots from getting further into debt with the sowkárs by large advances of takávi advances and by opening grain stores. Grain stores have also been established in few selected places in other tálukás. The work of woodland settlement is almost complete, and a *considerable area of Government waste land has been given out on annual lease to Thákors, Wárlis, Kolis, Kádkaris and other bond fide cultivators on easy terms.* The grant of land on restricted tenure under recent legislation is also expected to improve the condition of these people whose *thriftlessness and drinking propensities are mainly responsible for their present miserable condition.* The rents charged by the larger landholders are generally reasonable; those demanded by the smaller ones are, however, often excessive, and a tendency to reaction against these was noted last year in an organized

attempt by the Agris and Khár Pátils in the Máhim Táluka, who decided in a meeting held for the purpose to pay no more than 8 maunds per acre as makta. On the whole, however, the relations between the sowkár landlords and their tenants and the Sálsette khots, leaseholders and inámdárs and their tenants are reported to have been peaceful and satisfactory. In the case of the four inám villages in Wáda alone they are said to be strained. There has been no appreciable increase in rent suits."

8. General Remarks.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

Having only recently come to the Northern Division after 9 years' absence I think it unnecessary to offer any general remarks except that I am much surprised at the change for the worse in the Kaira District which used to be so extraordinarily flourishing.

Extracts.

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

Cattle which died in the famine are gradually being replaced, but the shortages are still marked, particularly in the Koli villages. In order to keep up the breed I have arranged with the Local Board to supply half a dozen full grown Kankrej bulls and locate them at convenient centres, where the village elders will take care of them. At present in several places the cows are being served by young, undersized bulls and the breed is in danger of deteriorating.

THANA DISTRICT.

V. N. Khopkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The Wangani people hold a fund of Rs. 200 in cash and 1,000 maunds in rice from which they advance money and grain at 25 per cent. interest per annum to their needy castemen in the village. Minor stores of rice worked on the same principle have been started in about 11 villages of the táluka. These institutions are said to be about 15 years old.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

Among experiments by non-officials for the improvement of the lower classes may be mentioned an Agricultural Association started in the Sátára District, with the support of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, for the education of agriculturists in their profession with the aid of simple machinery, and a Co-operative Grain Credit Society started in a village of the Ahmednagar District. Local pleaders are said to have taken the leading part in both movements. The members of the latter society deposit quantities of grain in proportion to the assessment of the land owned by each. The accumulated stock is given out to needy members for maintenance or for seed, to be returned at harvest with interest. The operations of the society are said to have been carried on smoothly so far, and a desire for the establishment of similar societies elsewhere has been evinced.

Mr. Brander, Assistant Collector, Poona, refers to the establishment of famine grain stores in two villages in his charge in the Sirur and Bhimthadi Tálukás. The contributions to the stores are to be voluntary, and the management is to rest with the villagers through a panch. The stocks are intended as reserve against famine, but in the interval may be lent to the needy. In this way they may serve the purposes of a grain bank, such as has been established in Ahmednagar, but it is not clear how they can be of any help in a famine, because the borrowers would presumably be unable to return in a famine year what they had borrowed in years of plenty.

Some of the provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, that is, sections 2 and 20 and Chapters V and VI—and Chapter VII so far as it relates to Village Munsiffs and Conciliators—were applied to the Khándesh District in 1903, and came into actual operation in the year under report. The Collector considers that this partial extension of the Act will do more harm than good.

"The largest landholders of the Broach District are the so-called "Thákors," who possess about 7 per cent. of the arable area; the chief of these is the Thákor of Ámod. Most of the Thákors are heavily in debt, and with the exception of Ámod and Kerwáda the estates are under the management of the Tálukdári Settlement Officer. There are also 15 inámi villages in the district. The rest of the land is held either by khátedárs holding direct from Government or by tenants of such khátedárs or other persons holding rights over the land. Under the circumstances the question of the relation between landlords and tenants is not one of much importance in this district. The superior holders recover their dues without any great difficulty, and the rent cases in the Mámlatdárs' Courts are not very numerous. The cultivators are mostly Bohrahs, Pátidárs, Rájputs and Kolis. The Bohrahs and Pátidárs are as a rule good husbandmen; the former are particularly strong in Broach Táluka, the latter are found chiefly in the eastern part of the district north of the Narbada. The Kolis and Rájputs here as elsewhere are slovenly and careless cultivators. The landlord class are mostly Bráhmans, Pársis or Baniás. *Rents are commonly from one and half times to twice the assessment; sometimes, however, they are as high as three times the assessment.* Lands are also rented on the share system; the tenant pays the Government assessment, and after allowing for the price of seed pays half the balance to the landlord as rent."

The Collector of Surat, Mr. Morison, has made the following remarks :—

"The chief cultivators in this district are Anavla Bráhmans, Kunbis, Rájputs, Kolis, Mahomedans and the *Kaliparaj* classes in the east of the district. These cultivate their holdings themselves with the assistance where necessary of *halis*. There are besides a number of capitalist farmers, chiefly Pársis, Vániás and Anavlás, who have large holdings, and get them cultivated by their *halis*. The relations between the landowners and their servants are good, but the *former complain that they find it difficult nowadays to procure a sufficient number of halis.*

"There are 40 inám villages in this district. The relations between the inámdárs and their tenants during the year were satisfactory, except in the village of Chasa, Táluka Chikhli.

"During the year 2,004 transfers of occupancies were recorded in the village records as follows :—

	Number of Cases.	Area of Land affected.	Assessment.
		Acres.	Rs.
By agriculturists to agriculturists	1,275	6,376	21,725
By agriculturists to non-agriculturists	486	2,944	10,312
By non-agriculturists to agriculturists	243	1,371	3,763
Total	2,004	10,691	35,800

"It will be seen from these figures that *not much land is passing from the hands of agriculturists to non-agriculturists.* The high prices obtained for cotton during the year generally enhance the value of land which had fallen much during the famine years and few agriculturists care to part with their land. As a rule it may be said that *lands let throughout the district at a rental equal to twice the assessment, i. e., the tenant pays the assessment and gives the superior holder a net sum equal to the assessment.* In the case of *garden lands, especially those producing sugarcane, three times the assessment is ordinarily paid by the tenant.*"

The following observations have been made by the Acting Collector of Thána, Mr. Madgavkar :—

"The process of land passing into the hands of non-agriculturist sowkár landlords—Pársis, Bráhmans, Baniás and Márwádis—from the actual cultivators of the soil continues. Some of the former take considerable interest in agriculture, notably the Pársi landholders in Dáhánu, Umbergaon and parts of Máhim, some of whom have become cultivating agriculturists. Many more, however, only supervise the *agricultural operations which are carried out mostly by the original owners who have now been reduced to the condition of permanent servants or a kind of serfs.* Out of the total cultivated area of the district between 60 and 70 per cent. is estimated to be held by the sowkár landlords. *Bond fide* agriculturists still holding their own exist fairly generally in Mokháda and parts of Wáda; elsewhere they are few and scattered about.

"In Mokháda efforts are being made to prevent the ryots from getting further into debt with the sowkárs by large advances of takávi advances and by opening grain stores. Grain stores have also been established in few selected places in other tálukás. The work of woodland settlement is almost complete, and a *considerable area of Government waste land has been given out on annual lease to Thákors, Wárlis, Kolis, Kálkaris and other bond fide cultivators on easy terms.* The grant of land on restricted tenure under recent legislation is also expected to improve the condition of these people whose *thriftlessness and drinking propensities are mainly responsible for their present miserable condition.* The rents charged by the larger landholders are generally reasonable; those demanded by the smaller ones are, however, often excessive, and a tendency to reaction against these was noted last year in an organized

attempt by the *Ágris* and *Khár Pátils* in the *Máhim Táluka*, who decided in a meeting held for the purpose to pay no more than 8 maunds per acre as *makta*. On the whole, however, the relations between the *sowkár* landlords and their tenants and the *Sálsette khots*, leaseholders and *inámdárs* and their tenants are reported to have been peaceful and satisfactory. In the case of the four *ináms* villages in *Wáda* alone they are said to be strained. There has been no appreciable increase in rent suits."

8. General Remarks.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DEC. ATKINS, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

Having only recently come to the Northern Division after 9 years' absence I think it unnecessary to offer any general remarks except that I am much surprised at the change for the worse in the *Kaira* District which used to be so extraordinarily flourishing.

Extracts.

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderot, Esq., Collector.

Cattle which died in the famine are gradually being replaced, but the shortages are still marked, particularly in the *Koli* villages. In order to keep up the breed I have arranged with the Local Board to supply half a dozen full grown *Kankrej* bulls and locate them at convenient centres, where the village elders will take care of them. At present in several places the cows are being served by young, undersized bulls and the breed is in danger of deteriorating.

THANA DISTRICT.

V. N. Khopkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The *Wangani* people hold a fund of Rs. 200 in cash and 1,000 maunds in rice from which they advance money and grain at 25 per cent. interest per annum to their needy castemen in the village. Minor stores of rice worked on the same principle have been started in about 11 villages of the *táluka*. These institutions are said to be about 15 years old.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

A. C. LOGAN, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

Among experiments by non-officials for the improvement of the lower classes may be mentioned an Agricultural Association started in the *Sátára* District, with the support of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, for the education of agriculturists in their profession with the aid of simple machinery, and a Co-operative Grain Credit Society started in a village of the *Ahmednagar* District. Local pleaders are said to have taken the leading part in both movements. The members of the latter society deposit quantities of grain in proportion to the assessment of the land owned by each. The accumulated stock is given out to needy members for maintenance or for seed, to be returned at harvest with interest. The operations of the society are said to have been carried on smoothly so far, and a desire for the establishment of similar societies elsewhere has been evinced.

Mr. Brander, Assistant Collector, *Poona*, refers to the establishment of famine grain stores in two villages in his charge in the *Sirur* and *Bhimthadi Tálukás*. The contributions to the stores are to be voluntary, and the management is to rest with the villagers through a *panch*. The stocks are intended as reserve against famine, but in the interval may be lent to the needy. In this way they may serve the purposes of a grain bank, such as has been established in *Ahmednagar*, but it is not clear how they can be of any help in a famine, because the borrowers would presumably be unable to return in a famine year what they had borrowed in years of plenty.

Some of the provisions of the *Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act*, that is, sections 2 and 20 and Chapters V and VI—and Chapter VII so far as it relates to Village Munsiffs and Conciliators—were applied to the *Khándesh* District in 1903, and came into actual operation in the year under report. The Collector considers that this partial extension of the Act will do more harm than good.

He gives it as his own opinion and the opinion of all Revenue and Judicial Officers that at least section 15 (c), which gives the Courts the power to allow instalments on decrees on mortgaged lands, should be applied in addition. This is a matter, however, which should form the subject of a special report, if the Collector desires to press it.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

There were 87 cases of forfeitures amounting in all to 1,357 acres assessed at Rs. 756-8-0 in Belgaum, Khánápur and Sampgaon. In all these cases the lands had been lying uncultivated for several years in succession. Plague has decimated many villages and there are not enough adult cultivators left to till the village lands. Wild pig are also causing great destruction. Mr. Jackson granted a number of gun licenses for the protection of crops against destruction by pig, but Mr. Hatch considers that with a people who used guns to frighten off animals instead of to kill them the granting of gun licenses is not likely to keep them in check.

241 persons were dealt with under Regulation XII of 1827 and the Collector reports that its working has undoubtedly been productive of good. The dacoities that now occur are reported to be the work of Kaikádis from other districts.

The remarks of Messrs. Tudor-Owen and Brown concurred in by Mr. Soman as to litigation in Chikodi and poverty and quiet in Chandgad are unfortunately true. As regards civil litigation in Chikodi the only remedy is the education of the people. As regards increased criminal cases the remedy to a certain extent lies, I think, in the Magistrates' freely awarding compensation to the accused in cases of frivolous and vexatious complaints.

Mr. Bomanji calls attention to the practice of Mámlatdárs and Chief Constables impressing carts for the purpose of carrying Government kit without paying for them. Now as Collector of Bijápur I myself in July 1902 directed that this practice, which I had only then learned of, should be stopped, and asked the Commissioner for funds for the payment of the cartmen. In March 1903 Mr. Kennedy replied that the question had been recently disposed of and could not be re-opened, and said that heavy records should not be carried about at all. There is, therefore, no excuse for the continuance of the practice complained of, which is a distinct breach of recent orders, and the Mámlatdárs and Chief Constables concerned should be required to pay for the carts impressed since July 1902 at the rates authorized for Government officials.

Mr. Cama brings to notice the highly unsatisfactory way in which the work of heirship enquiries has been carried on. Not only have mutations been delayed for years, but people are needlessly dragged up to the táluka even when there are successors in the direct line. Mr. Bomanji is afraid it is a fruitful source of levying blackmail both for táluka and village establishments and that the whole matter is being thoroughly overhauled.

New applications for prospecting for gold are constantly made and very large areas have now been taken up in Gadag. The Alnavar land in Dhárwár is again being and Chimulgund in the Kod Táluka is now to be exploited. Several of the prospecting licenses in Gadag have been followed by mining leases. There has been a very rich find in the Kabligatti blocks of the Dhárwár Gold Mines Company and the shares are already at a high premium. The question of whether a line of rail should be constructed to the mines in Gadag is, Mr. Gibb believes, now under the consideration of the Southern Marátha Railway Company in London, though the Agent of the Dhárwár Gold Mines has stated that to construct a line at present would be premature. Should a considerable number of the blocks prove remunerative the field will be as large as or larger than Kolhar and ultimately it may be found necessary to have a European Sub-Divisional Officer and an Assistant District Superintendent of Police at or near the mines.

The Dhangar Gowlis, who lived in the petha of Mungod, have removed or are removing to places marked out for them. Those living in the Supa Petha got their settlements marked

out only lately and they will be expelled from the teak forests within the course of this calendar year. The Collector has raised the question as to whether the people at large will experience any difficulty in procuring the cattle necessary for domestic and agricultural purposes owing to the expulsion of these Gowlis from their present abodes, but as rightly observed by him the matter should form the subject of a special report when the facts have been ascertained.

The Kumri Maráthás of the Honávar Táluka require the pith of the tree called Talipot as a supplement to corn for food. During the year under report the Maráthás were able to exploit it without any payment. The quantity removed was small, only 186 trees, but this was on account of the Forest Officers having insisted on the permit system through some misunderstanding of the rules and the Revenue Officers not having found out the mistake. Clear instructions have now been issued and it is hoped that the Maráthás will avail themselves freely of the concession granted to them.

In connection with the execution by Collectors of Civil Court decrees Mr. Panse points out that the Collector being bound by law to accept the bid for land irrespective of its adequacy he has been deprived of a very important safeguard to watch the interests of the agriculturists. This matter is under the consideration of Government. The Collector suggests that the Civil Procedure Code should be amended to bring it in conformity with section 179 of the Land Revenue Code, which gives full power to the Collector to confirm a sale or not. This power appears necessary.

The one matter which has attracted general attention throughout the district has been the combined attempt of the forest and revenue authorities to enforce some measure of adequate protection for Government property in the forests. Though the practice of wood-ash manuring is not, as is sometimes supposed, absolutely essential to the existence of agriculture in the Konkan (in Ratnágiri though the forests have been long since destroyed land has not gone out of cultivation), yet it will undoubtedly continue so long as the material is available. It has been the object of Government to preserve the sources of tahal supply by prohibiting the destruction of leading shoots of certain species of shrubs utilized for wood-ash; the enforcement of the previously neglected prohibition at first caused no small stir among the people. Gradually the majority of them were brought to see that the conservation of tahal was a matter which concerned their own welfare at least as much as it did the interests of Government; but Mr. Bonus notes the significant and unfortunate fact that in many areas it is not the actual cultivator but the unseen well-to-do landlord who is the mover and abetter in forest crime.

The present year in Ratnágiri is one of anxious watching. Even if the campaign against hoppers succeeds there is danger of locusts arriving from surrounding Native State territory. A considerable area of land has remained uncultivated owing to the seedlings and early sowings having been destroyed by locusts. Moreover, the cocoanut and other bágáyat and fruit trees do not seem to have recovered from the last season's ravages of locusts.

I may be allowed to remark that changes in the Sub-Divisional Officers of districts have rather been frequent during the year and before and after. Out of 15 Sub-Divisional Officers only one held continuous charge of a sub-division. There were five changes in each three sub-divisional offices and 4 in four. Frequent changes, especially during the touring season, interferes with work at least to some extent. I see with regret that the number of Sub-Divisional Officers in Bijápur has been reduced to two, which in my opinion is not sufficient, considering how the ordinary work of a district must be thrown back and to a certain extent disorganized by three years' continuous famine. From 1878 to 1896 it had for it quite a number of good seasons, and yet I believe I am right in saying that there were usually two Assistants and one Deputy Collector.

The year on the whole was one of plenty and showed signs of material progress and prosperity though the famine-affected tracts have not yet fully recovered. The year's administration may also be considered satisfactory.

The holding off of the September rains caused anxiety for some time as to the prospects of the current season, but rain has at last fallen and the prospects have considerably improved. The locusts in Kolába and Ratnágiri are, however, causing anxiety, but whatever is possible is being done to destroy them.

B. SIND.

1. Economic Condition and Prospects.

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The year proved to be an excellent one almost throughout the Province. The river rose early, and although its temporary subsidence in July gave cause for apprehension it recovered itself in time and maintained, almost without interruption, a high level right up to the end of September, so that not only did the kharif crops receive the requisite waterings but water was available for extensive soakings for rabi cultivation. The rainfall, although insufficient for montane or submontane tracts, proved beneficial almost everywhere else, the hot weather rains helping the kharif crops during the time the river remained low early in the season, and the spring showers proving of great value to the rabi crops. The cultivated area increased by nearly 40 per cent., and the revenue demand by more than 19½ lákhs or 23 per cent. Remissions, which last year amounted to Rs. 6,75,000 on a revenue demand of Rs. 83 lákhs, decreased this year to a little over 3 lákhs. More than half of this amount was given in the Upper Sind Frontier District alone, where locusts and caterpillars did considerable damage to the crops. Elsewhere, also, the remissions were chiefly due to the damage done by locusts. In the Kohistan tract of the Karáchi District, where cultivation was already sparse on account of the insufficiency of rainfall, the destruction caused was so complete that it was found necessary to remit the entire demand.

Almost all the canals, including the Western Nára, which had for some time past been working extremely badly and which was provided with a new mouth during the year of report, showed satisfactory results. The general condition of the canals in the Karáchi District is, however, far from satisfactory, and cultivation there remains precarious. In spite of the good inundation Mr. Mules, the most experienced officer of the Province, whose knowledge, however, was almost confined to other districts, expressed in one of his reports his astonishment at the miserable appearance of parts of the country through which he toured. The improvement of the Baghiar and Kalri Canals and a much larger expenditure for clearance are things for which Revenue Officers of the Karáchi District have pressed for years. The concentration of attention on the more attractive and remunerative projects in other parts of Sind and the insufficiency of the Public Works Department establishment to prepare more projects simultaneously have prevented improvement of the canals. But I have failed to discover why larger allotments have not been made for silt clearance in canals. It may or may not be worthwhile to incur heavy expenditure in order to develop the interior of Karáchi, but when the various new projects which are being introduced elsewhere, and particularly one which has recently been mooted for a large canal in the Guni Táluka of Hyderabad and Jati in the extreme south-east of Karáchi, are completed, land might conceivably be found with an assured irrigational supply for the poverty-stricken zamindárs of the delta. For the labouring population there will always be scope in other parts of Sind and in the rapidly rising port of Karáchi. It may not be expedient, still less necessary, to bolster up this, after all, thankless tract of country. Possibly, no great benefit would result to the people—certainly no great profit to Government. But there can be no question that, while things are allowed to go on as they are, revenue will fall, and its collection will be precarious, and the zamindárs will bewail, especially in years of low inundation, the bad working of the canals and the precariousness of their supply.

The Collector of Sukkur draws special attention to the irrigational deficiencies of his charge. Those of the Shikárpur Division are being remedied.

But the delay in disposing of the Begari scheme blocks improvement elsewhere. This scheme would greatly benefit the Shahdadpur Taluka of the Upper Sind Frontier District, which is the only taluka in that district which suffered from deficiency of water.

The lands on the Jamrao Canal are administered by the Colonisation Officer, whose annual report was forwarded with my remarks with this office No. 3007, dated the 7th October 1904. The Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar, refers to the desertion of some of the Panjáb Colonists. The matter is fully commented on in paragraph 53 of Mr. Chatfield's report, and I agree with him that the circumstance is not to be taken as indicating a weak point in the scheme of peasant colonies.

Little change worth noticing appears to have taken place in the prices of labour. Wages are, however, almost always good in Sind, and the work provided in the clearance of old canals and the construction of new ones is *inter alia* generally sufficient for the labouring classes when agricultural operations are over. Indeed, more abundant labour is a necessity for the Province. The increased provision of it, resulting in part at any rate from the facilities of communication afforded by the Jodhpur-Bikanir Railway, is a matter for congratulation. The extension of the Hyderabad-Badin Railway to Viramgam will doubtless have similar results.

The prices of grain were low throughout the Province, a result natural in a year of abundant harvest. This circumstance and the comparatively high wages contributed greatly to the well-being of the labouring classes. The zamindárs are, however, said to have been embarrassed by the low prices. But, in view of the large increase in cultivation, this can hardly be the case. Wheat, too, was magnificent, and fetched a good price. In any case, a thrifty class of landholders would have held over their grain for a rise, whereas in fact it would appear that the grain stocks are with the dealers. One of the best things which a District Officer can do in Sind will be to teach the zamindár how to get in closer touch with the central market and to arrange to hold over his surplus grain till he can dispose of it to the best practicable advantage.

The recovery of land revenue was effected with practically little use of the compulsory process; but an appreciable amount of revenue, both of the year of report and of former years, appears to have been postponed. Mr. Ferrers' remarks regarding the possibility of leniency in the matter of postponements being carried too far in a good year have my general concurrence. In the absence of very special circumstances ready attention ought certainly not to be paid to claims for postponement in a year of record inundation like 1903-04. If postponed revenue is ever to be recovered it should be in a good year. Prices of course are lower in such a year than in a year of scarcity. But they are probably not any, or very little, lower than the prices on a consideration of which the assessment was fixed. If zamindárs are allowed to believe that they need not pay up in a first rate year they will lose all idea of necessity of punctual payment of the public dues and will shirk payment in any and every year. If any further change in dates of instalments is required it can be made. But once these dates have been properly fixed only very special circumstances can justify postponement, except in a bad year.

The Karachi District, the cultivation in which is far more precarious than in any other part of Sind, is an example of these special circumstances. There can be no question it requires lenient treatment, and I see at present no objection to urge against the Collector's proposal to wipe off arrears of land revenue. But takávi stands on a different footing, and the matter requires further investigation.

One of the circumstances largely contributing to the zamindár's embarrassment referred to above is reported by several officers to be the restriction of credit consequent on the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. But this restriction cannot affect appreciably the prices which the zamindár should obtain for the portion of the produce of his field that is required to pay the Government dues.

Interesting remarks are contained in some of the reports regarding the effect of this Act. It has tended to increase the demand for takávi. But the amount actually given out is not nearly enough to fill the gulf which would be created by anything like an entire cessation of business on the part of money-lenders. Evidently, either the zamindárs are far more independent than is commonly supposed or they continue to get advances notwithstanding the Act. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Barrow in believing the latter to be the case. As regards the educative effect of the Act on the agriculturists, I am disposed to think over sanguine Mr. Brendon's opinion (see paragraph 3 of his report) that, in the short space of time which has elapsed since the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, the zamindár has learnt to manage his affairs with less expenditure and more prudence. If credit has been as severely curtailed as the figures of sales and mortgages given by Mr. Brendon and the considerable diminution in registration fees referred to by Mr. Cadell would indicate, there has doubtless been a large decrease of borrowing, and probably some curtailment of expenditure has been forced upon the zamindár. But at best this signifies no more than that he has been compelled to live within his income, or comparatively little outside it. But before he can be credited with prudence it must be shown that he saves. That the Act has already done good and is generally useful I have little doubt. The fact that the Baniás are so loud in objecting to it shows this. But much besides the Act will be required to teach zamindárs thrift.

I make no comments on the subject of takávi, as it has been deliberately excluded from treatment by Government orders. But I am strongly of opinion that the matter is one which should be freely commented on in the Annual Administration Report. It is true that it is to be treated in Part I (Revenue Settlement) of the Land Revenue Administration Report, but in that report there is no scope for recording or reviewing the work of individual officers in this most important branch of their duties; and the extent to which works were inspected, promptitude in disposal of applications and other important matters escape attention altogether.

Another matter closely connected with the well-being of the agricultural classes is their education. On this important subject the amount of comment in the reports varies greatly. In my opinion it should be dealt with fully. In Sind, I regard it as of vital importance that the Revenue Officers should maintain a close and keen interest in the education of the people. A movement, to which my immediate predecessor, Mr. Cumine, attached great importance, has been started to provide boarding houses for the sons of zamindárs at divisional and district head-quarters to be attached to existing schools or to separate schools of their own. In Lárkána the Zamindárs' Boarding School, started by Mr. Tupper and subsequently pushed and organised by Mr. Mountford, is established on a safe foundation, and is in point of discipline and tone a success. Measures have been and are being taken to improve the education given there. When this has been accomplished the institution will be of great and permanent value. In Jacobabad we are going to have a boarding house attached to the Municipal School; in Hyderabad and Thar and Párkar there will be boarding schools. In Sukkur, there will be shortly a boarding house attached to one of the large schools. The idea is that the better class of zamindárs should send their sons to these boarding houses and boarding schools, where education will be obtainable up to a certain standard, not higher than the third or fourth Anglo-Vernacular, and thence the boys who are desirous of a higher education should go to the Central Madressah in Karáchi, to which these up-country schools will act as special feeders. How far the system can be extended must depend on the funds available. But there can be no doubt that in several districts the matter excites interest both among the more enlightened zamindárs and the District Boards. The scheme will have to be developed with caution. But, well guided, it should prove of considerable value. For the poorer zamindárs and haris, inducements to undertake a thorough education are being provided to some extent by means of scholarships to the Karáchi Madressah, and I trust that a good deal more will be done in this direction also.

As regards primary education I gather that most officers inspected a large number of schools.

Doubts have been raised as to the success of the rural standards recently introduced. Dissatisfaction has been expressed apparently by a class who consider that their chances of obtaining Government employment have been diminished by the restriction of education given in these schools to the simpler subjects prescribed in these rural standards. But it is doubtful if this is the class which deserves sympathy. They are probably not agriculturists, but people, generally fairly well-to-do, who can afford to go the necessary distance to schools which will give the education they want. There is an increase in school attendance which would hardly have occurred if strong objections were really entertained against the rural standards. Mr. Barrow differs from the generality of the officers, who seem only anxious to get them abolished. I concur with Mr. Barrow in thinking that the experiment ought not to be abandoned without a proper trial, and I trust that the Commissioner and Revenue Officers will be freely consulted before anything is done.

Mr. Cadell showed most commendable activity in inspecting all the schools of his charge, and his remarks on education are interesting. He complains of the poverty of his District Board, which he says is crippled by contribution to the central educational institutions of the Province. To these contributions he attributes its inability to spend sufficiently both on primary schools, roads and bridges. I hardly agree in this view. The central institutions, such as the D. J. Sind College and Madressah-tul-Islam at Karáchi, are exceedingly valuable to the Province, and the delay caused by the contributions mentioned in providing for purely local wants is not dearly purchased.

I should like to have written more on this subject of education, which I regard as, next possibly to irrigation, the most important question of the moment. But I fear I have already strayed beyond the limits of discussion appropriate to this report.

There was no immigration on any large scale beyond the usual influx of Kachis and Kathiáwáris into Lower Sind, of Márwáris into the Thar and Párkar District, and of some nomadic tribes from over the border into the Upper Sind District. These immigrants are generally speaking a useful addition to the population of the country in that they supply cheap labour during the harvesting season.

The trade of the country developed correspondingly with the large outturn of the agricultural produce, the exports of wheat, rapeseed and some other grains from Karáchi being unusually large on account of the good crops of Sind and of the adjoining Province of the Panjáb.

Industrial enterprise shows itself usually in the erection of cotton-ginning factories and rice-husking machines. There were 24 of the former in the Hyderabad and Thar and Párkar Districts and 36 of the latter in the Lárkána and Thar and Párkar Districts.

The public feeling has been one of satisfaction and contentment, and the tone of the Native press altogether free from disloyalty and girding at the general policy of Government. There are plenty of complaints on smaller matters, but I scrutinise it in vain for really helpful criticism.

Extracts.

(a) *Working of the Canals.*

KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

With a few exceptions the canals worked fairly satisfactorily. As is usual the Baghar, the Kalri and the Ochito, all in the Tatta Division, where the Commissioner has sanctioned the suspension of the fallow rules till the water-supply is improved, failed to give satisfaction. A survey in connection with the improvement of the first named is, I understand, now being made, and the sooner a commencement is made with the actual work of improvement the better; complaints are so constant about this canal that it is certain that the

Sakro zamindárs will have no chance of recovering from their difficulties until something is done for it. For the Kalri the Executive Engineer admits that thorough clearance of the main canal and its branches is required. The Ochito is an old source of trouble, and apparently little can be done to improve it, but the matter is still under consideration, I believe. In the Shahbandar Division there has not been much cause for complaint except in the case of a few of the less important canals, and the improvements to the Sattah Wah which I mentioned in my last report have now been effected. No progress has, as yet, been made in the restoration of the bund at Virah in the Kotri Táluká (the delay is rendered of less consequence by the total absence of rainfall in the Koistan this season), while the question of the reconstruction of the Shal Bunds is still under consideration.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

In spite of the somewhat late rise of the river the area brought under cultivation (947,412 acres) was the largest on record, and was more than the double of that sown in 1881, when the district was considerably larger than it is today. Twenty-three years ago the area of the district was 9,030 square miles and the population 754,624; the present area is 7,921 square miles and the population close on a million. In other words, where there used to be a half acre of cultivation per head of population today there is practically one acre. These facts point to remarkable increase of wealth.

L. G. Deshmukh, Esq., Assistant Collector, Naushahro.

Lands in several villages in Sakrand were deluged by the overflow of the Ren Canal. The improvement of the Ren in its upper reaches may be said to be the crying want of the division. It is one of the best canals in the division with excellent mouth and excellent flow along its length. For want of branches in its upper reaches the waters rush back from the tail, overflow both sides and deluge the country laterally for miles upwards. Before the improved Dad was allowed to appropriate a part of the length of the Ren, there was no complaint about it. The question has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Executive Engineer, Central Hyderabad Canals. It is understood that he has submitted the project to Government and it awaits its sanction. The improved Nasrat flowed for the first time during the year under report, and has revolutionised the condition of the eastern part of the Division. Fortunately for it the year's inundation too, though disheartening at first, attained and preserved a high level afterwards for the whole of August and September. Where formerly there was scarcity of water for drinking, there now crops get flow water. It has (1) caused a diminution of supply at the head, and (2) cut off supply where the old tail of the Nasrat used to pour its unused water. Both these evils have been brought to the notice of the Executive Engineer, Northern Hyderabad Canals, through the Collector of Hyderabad, and the former officer has already recognised the second evil. He intends providing two short branches to remove it, but whether a regulator will be required or not to remove the first complaint can be decided when the effects of a bad year are seen. When these improvements will be made the Nasrat will probably be the first canal in the division. It flowed till February during the year.

The Dad which, in popular opinion, is the worst canal, and certainly has, at present, the worst mouth and unnecessary velocity, was provided with two more regulators during the year, and will now be in a better condition to distribute its supply where required.

The Nowlákhi has always been a good canal. During the year it flowed a month more than usually, as the inundation in the latter part of the season was exceptionally good.

E. L. Moysey, Esq., Assistant Collector, Hala.

The canals in the Tando Allahyar, Hala, and Shahdadpur Tálukás all worked satisfactorily, but better in the two latter tálukás than in the first named, which is dependent on their tails. I have heard a very general satisfaction expressed with the canals in these tálukás. Apart from the care of the Public

Works Department one reason for this appears to be that, with the laborious and costly method of raising water by wheel, cultivators are not tempted to flood their fields with excessive water, and while the crop is all the better for it there is consequently water enough for all. When he can get flow, however, the Sindhi hari believes that "there is nothing like leather," and is perfectly reckless in wasting water even over sweet land that does not require the constant washing that kalar does.

The Hyderabad Táluka is not so fortunate in its supply as the other three. It depends mostly on the Old Fuleli, which gave a very scanty supply in the beginning of the season till the Narejani regulator was closed on the 17th July. Rain assisted it to some extent, but it was not till the middle of August that the zamindárs at the tails of the small canals received a sufficient supply. The Old Fuleli, which used to take off direct from the river, now issues from a dhand formed by the recession of the Indus, and is badly silted and in need of thorough clearance. In consequence the Public Works Department has imposed restriction on all its branches, and no more land can be given out on them—an enactment that the Sindhi always regards as the greatest "zulum." He usually disregards it too, heavy fines having little effect in stopping unauthorised cultivation when the zamindár sees water flowing past to others and his haris are threatening to desert without paying their debts.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

P. R. Cadell, Esq., Collector.

An excellent year, however, only accentuates the deficiencies of the district. The Shikárpur Sub-Division is admirably adapted for irrigation; yet large areas lie waste because the new scheme of the Begari Canal cannot be decided upon. So far as this district is concerned a simple subsidiary scheme would serve its wants without injuring the interests of other districts in any way. Yet we have to wait indefinitely; and similarly when the Begari is running full as at present all extension of cultivation is forbidden upon it. The Sukkur Canal is in a precisely similar condition. There is no perennial canal in the sub-division. The serious wants of the Rohri side are best shown by the fact that, notwithstanding the excellent inundation, the area cultivated did not equal the cultivation in the old days of floods. These floods were not an ideal source of water-supply. They led to spasmodic and too simple cultivation and prevented the establishment of settled villages. Their cessation nevertheless entailed the impoverishment of the zamindárs and the depopulation of the country. A complete system of canals is now under discussion, and its execution has been begun: it will, I hope, prove amply sufficient if the difficulty of finding suitable heads for the canals can be overcome, but celerity in execution is also extremely necessary. Further experience of our canals compels me to repeat the apprehension I ventured to express last year as to the possible effect of the Panjáb Canals upon our water-supply, particularly in the cold weather, and our present state of ignorance concerning them.

LARKANA DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

The inundation, though tardy, reached a height only surpassed by the record year of 1897, and was sustained at irrigation level to an unusually late date. It is this prolongation of the river rise that makes the difference between an average good year and an exceptional one, for on it largely depends the extent to which land can be brought under rabi crops. When the last kharíf waterings have been given the critical question always arises whether the river will hold up long enough to allow of copious rabi waterings or not. This year that question was answered in the most positive and satisfactory manner. The inundation was not, however, without its drawbacks, and its early stages when it remained ominously low gave rise to considerable anxiety. This was specially the case on the Nára, which has of late fallen on evil days and is working far from satisfactorily. On the 1st July a new cut giving the canal a mouth higher up the river was opened, and for a time some relief was afforded, though strict rotation had to be enforced on all the branches and distributaries in order to husband the scanty supply and ensure its equitable distribution. Still, the

river refused to rise, and the supply was becoming seriously deficient. The crops were just beginning to wither, when a most opportune fall of rain in late July saved the situation in the nick of time. The rain enabled the crops to tide over the short period of delay that intervened before the advent of the rapid rise in August. From then on the Nára worked well, and the high level maintained during September enabled the zamindárs, who, remembering the disastrous experiences of last year, had taken alarm at the tardiness of the inundation and had hung back from sowing kharif crops, to retrieve their lost opportunities by extensive rabi sowings.

The Ghar in contrast to the Nára is now enjoying a cycle of good years. Indeed, it is almost an axiom that when the Ghar works well the Nára works badly, and *vice versa*. The mouths of the two important canals are just at that distance apart which ensures that if the set of the river is favourable to the one it will almost inevitably be unfavourable to the other. Whether the provision of a new mouth for the Nára will do away with this state of things it is as yet impossible to predict, especially as that mouth has not yet been cut to its full intended width and is not therefore commensurate with the capacity of the main body of the canal. Confident in the efficiency of the canal which had not failed them in a record bad year like the previous one, the zamindárs on the Ghar cultivated all the kharif they could undeterred by the low river and the short supply in June. The canal eventually reached a height of 16 feet, a record it is believed, and continued flowing all through October until it was finally closed. During the present inundation season it has fully maintained its high standard of efficiency, and has given an excellent supply so far, but there are certain ominous indications that a change in the set of the river at the mouth may be imminent, in which case there may be a reversion to the unsatisfactory conditions that ruled some years ago when I was Assistant Collector of Lárkána and when I saw the mouth so silted up that from the river it was hardly distinguishable from the ordinary bank.

The Sukkur Canal is reported to have worked unusually well, and gave a good supply during the rabi season. It is a pity that the present restrictions on that canal prevented full advantage being taken of its excellent working.

J. Crerar, Esq., Assistant Collector.

On the whole the working of the canals was highly satisfactory. The new cut to the Western Nára did not completely fulfil the perhaps extravagant expectations based on it, but its aid at a critical time was invaluable. The general results on this system, in view of the deplorable record of last year, must be regarded as gratifying. The Ghar Canal worked almost from the first with conspicuous success. The Sukkur and Nasrat Canals also worked uniformly well, so well indeed that the restriction on kharif cultivation on the former was the cause of loud complaint. Some check on the indiscriminate extension of rice cultivation is doubtless necessary, but the somewhat arbitrary classification into kharif and rabi lands does not work satisfactorily. The invidious distinctions created are the cause of much discontent, and if the efficiency of the canal continues to be maintained the reconsideration of the question at an early date will be desirable.

Despite the plentiful supply of water the damage from floods and breaches, except in the area watered by the Kado Hira and Shah Hamir Canals, was insignificant.

THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

M. D. Mackenzie Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

The predictions of the last year that the drain made by the Jamrao on the Eastern Nára affects Nára Dhoró, I regret to observe, were early realised, and the Mithrao suffered, but to a very much less extent.

The Khipro shared the same fate as its feeder did in the beginning. There is a chronic deficiency of water in this canal, and flow irrigation has been reduced to nearly half of what it was in the previous years, and has been replaced by expensive lift contrivance. And even this, at the time of this report, is in serious deficiency. The Hiral Wah seems to have worked satisfactorily, no complaints being heard from cultivators on it. The deficiency in the Jamrao

perceived in the beginning in the Singjhoro Táluka was subsequently overcome. Though the Colonists cultivated more than the fixed proportion for which the supply was available from the canal the rainfall so supplemented its waters that the year was characterised as a satisfactory one.

S. M. Bharucha, Esq., Deputy Collector, Nára Valley.

Almost all the canals worked very well throughout the year, specially the Mithrau and the Jamrao. The same cannot be said of the Dhoro Náro and the Khipro Wah. There is a complaint that since the opening of the Jamrao the Nára has suffered. I am not yet in a position to say how far the complaint is true, but my inquiries so far have elicited that on the Khipro Wah the area under flow irrigation has fallen by nearly 50 per cent. and that owing to the low level of the water some land which used to be "flow" had to be turned into "lift." Owing to the unsatisfactory working of the Khipro Wah rotation had to be resorted to at its tail with the result that the crop outturn fell below the average of the season. This canal has not been working well for years together as appears from previous reports and zamindárs' complaints. The Executive Engineer, Mr. DeWinton, had pointed out that the canal will not improve unless a weir be placed in the Nára below Khipro town (*vide* his Inundation Report No. 86, dated 28th January 1901). If that was the position then, the difficulty has perhaps been accentuated since the opening of the Jamrao. There is also a complaint by the zamindárs on the Tharwah that the cutting off of the cold weather supply has stopped almost all rabi cultivation. The object of closing this canal in the rabi season for the last 4 years is twofold, as appears from the Deputy Commissioner's letter No. 1060, dated 13th August 1901, to the address of the Commissioner in Sind, *viz.*, the improvement of the water-logged condition of the lands, and to allow the water to reach the lower reaches of the Nára so as to produce rabi and adhawa cultivation. But it appears that the Kalar in the soil is as great as ever, it being said to be impossible to render culturable areas turned salt, except by giving plenty of water to them, and I find that the hopes entertained of extended cultivation on the lower reaches of the Nára are not realised, the rabi grown there being only 1,272 acres in 1903-1904 as against 18,721 acres of rabi in 1899-1900 now ceased to be cultivated on the Tharwah.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. M. Baker, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

The season in itself was excellent, the inundation being a very high and long continued one. Even the few lands which depend on rain (or rather on hill floods) were well watered, as there was heavy rain in July.

That even in such a year as this some villages suffered from drought shows that our irrigation system is not perfect. The reason is that the designs of our canals were based on certain false hypotheses, namely:—

(a) That there would be no rice.

But zamindárs naturally want to grow rice, and there is no legal means of preventing them from doing so. It increases yearly.

(b) That land would be cultivated only once in three years, being fallow the other two.

This fallow system never was universal, and is rapidly becoming less so as the use of manure and rotation of crops spread. Good alluvial soils and 'Kalar' soils can grow even *juari* continuously without fallow. There are not many of the former here, but plenty of the latter. I say nothing of the rice, but *bájri* and *til* are largely replacing the more exhausting *juari*. Gram is a very common crop in this district, and it does not impoverish the soil. *Juari* and gram can be grown alternately without fallow, and this rotation is becoming more common. If there were enough water fallows would be much fewer than they are.

(c) That all soils require the same amount of water.

But in this district two kinds of soil are common which require an exceptionally large amount, namely, 'Kalar' and the hard red soil

of the submontane tracts. Besides this, ordinary soils, if distant from the river, do not hold up the sub-soil water like the more freshly-silted lands of Central Sind.

The last reason accounts largely for the *bād* state of Shahdadpur Táluka. It is explained in almost every Administration Report that this táluka as usual suffered from deficiency of water, because it depends on the tails of three great canal systems. It gets plenty of water at the beginning of the inundation season. Then as the river rises and the rice fields in the upper parts of the canals are flooded the water falls in Shahdadpur, only to rise again in the autumn, when the rice lands have had enough. At first sight there seems to be an obvious remedy, namely, that only *rabi* crops should be grown. But the soil is such that '*bosi*' cultivation is no use, and *rabi* crops do not do well unless they are irrigated until at least the middle of the cold weather. The Sukkur Canal is a perennial one, though it sometimes fails; but the Begari and Ghar seldom flow properly after the end of November. If the Begari remodelling scheme gives this táluka a permanent supply its conditions will be very greatly improved.

(b) *Agricultural Credit.*

KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

It is commonly stated that the Baniás still refuse to make any advances to zamindárs on account of the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, but I do not altogether believe this; I notice that it is an argument usually brought forward when a zamindár applies for *takávi* or for a postponement of payment of land revenue or *takávi*, while on the other hand the rapacity of the Bania who has made advances on crops is dwelt on by the zamindár who wishes to avoid having precautionary measures taken against him. But be that as it may, it would appear that the demand for *takávi* is as brisk as ever, and this year as many as 786 applications were received; 359 were refused, chiefly because the applicants were already in arrears in the matter of repaying instalments of previous loans. Altogether Rs. 28,333 were advanced as against Rs. 98,865 in the preceding year, Rs. 7,100 being granted under the Land Improvement Act and Rs. 21,233 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, and of the total allotment for the district over Rs. 98,000 lapsed because it could not be used.

Naraindas Motaram, Esq., Deputy Collector, Kotri.

The passing of the Encumbered Estates and the application of certain provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, while they have given a deal of relief to the agriculturists, have led to the ruin of the Bania in many cases. The object no doubt is to keep the balance equal and to bring about a state of things under which monetary transactions may be carried on between the money-lender and the agriculturist, and there can be no doubt whatever that in course of time the desired object will be attained. But till the arrival of that age the present is a period of transition. And this period is an instructive one. It has taught useful lessons to both the Hindus and the Mahomedans. The latter has lost a good portion of its credit in the market. But in return he has learnt to reduce his wants and to be parsimonious. Cases of lavish waste of money on the maintenance of concubines, on polygamy, and on sport which were common in former times are now few and far between, and the Mahomedan is gradually training himself to lead an honest, moral and economical life. The Hindu on the other hand having lost his lucrative occupation of a usurer has learnt to be moderate in his demand of the rate of interest and to resort to other means of earning a livelihood. The present situation is a satisfactory one. The pecuniary transactions between the Bania and the agriculturist have not been brought to a close, but to a standard of moderation.

Remarks by R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

The statement that the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has "led to the ruin of the Bania in many cases" is not, so far as the Collector is aware, borne out by facts; it may be that the Bania money-lender

does not now find it so easy to make money, but that is a different thing to his being ruined. The remark that "the pecuniary transactions between the Bania and the agriculturist have not been brought to a close, but to a standard of moderation" bears out the Collector's own theory.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

There can be little doubt that the effect of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has been beneficial. Not only has the number of mortgages between agriculturists and money-lenders declined by over 70 per cent. since the application of the Act, but sales have also fallen off by more than 17 per cent. These are facts which afford no confirmation to the sinister predictions of those who, when the application of the Act was under consideration, foretold disaster and visioned the plight of the unfortunate zamindár, exclaiming "save me from my friends." I believe the zamindár now manages his affairs with less expenditure and with more prudence, and that given a few more good harvests he will be a free man once again. The amount of money distributed as takávi was Rs. 1,01,465 or about Rs. 21,000 more than in the previous year, and it is idle to suppose that this sum can have supplied all the wants that were formerly created and met by the money-lender. The conclusion appears irresistible in view of the diminished number of sales and mortgages that the zamindár's necessities have been met in other ways, and it is fair to assume, since no other means are apparent, that they have been curtailed and met from his own resources.

E. L. Moysey, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The question of how to deal with defaulting haris is rapidly becoming acute, though not, I think, to such an extent here as in my late division, Shahbandar. I have heard instances of haris who, having been engaged by a zamindár and having received an advance from him of, say, Rs. 50, have then deserted in the most shameless manner, and without a thought of repaying the loan, to another zamindár owing land which promised a better crop, a fixed share of which the hari receives as payment. To bring a suit against them is a useless expense, for a decree can never be executed. Zamindárs are very anxious that the provisions of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act (XIII of 1859) should be made definitely applicable to such cases, to which it has been ruled that it is not. These zamindárs who do not cultivate their fields themselves but give them out on "lapo" (rent) are saved from this vexation and loss, but there is no doubt that the proximity of the Jamrao and the newly opened Nasrat with their virgin soils irrigated by "flow" is, in spite of all regulations to the contrary, depriving the zamindárs of this division of labour and remains a constant temptation to the indebted hari with a sandy soil to cultivate, 3 yoke of wheel-bullocks to maintain, and constant watching by his wheel.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

P. R. Cadell, Esq., Collector.

The outcry against the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has died down: the mildness of the Act and the ignorance of the cultivators regarding even its feeble assistance could not but be realised by the Bania on reflection. Nevertheless there has been a real restriction of borrowing. This is best evidenced by the enormous decrease in the fees received at the Sub-Registrars' offices: and this restriction is almost wholly beneficial.

LARKANA DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

The restriction in credit consequent on the recent protective legislation already operated a considerable change in the attitude of the zamindár. It yet remains to be seen whether that change will be of a permanent character and will have any lasting effect in rendering him comparatively independent of the money-lender. The tendency is one which must be encouraged by liberal grants of takávi and by a discreet latitude in the matter of the recovery of the Government demand. The zamindár has to face many obstacles in the disposal of his produce, first the delays in obtaining his share and then the difficulty in selling

it at a fair price, and too great insistence on punctuality of payment necessarily drives him to the money-lender who is not now disposed to accommodate him except on terms which are well nigh prohibitive. Eventually, it is to be hoped, the zamindár with better education and greater experience will become more expert in the business of selling, but during the present transition stage delays are inevitable, and must be viewed indulgently.

THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

S. M. Bharucha, Esq., Deputy Collector, Nara Valley.

The relations between the money-lender and the zamindár have reached an interesting phase since the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act in the district. The money-lenders on the one hand are getting chary of advancing loans to zamindárs, being not sure of speedy recovery of the debt under the too favourable (to the agriculturist) terms of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, while the zamindárs on the other hand do not seem to be anxious to meet old obligations. The result is increase of Civil suits (the number of suits having gone up in my Court to 58 from 8 in 1899-1900) on one hand and the popularisation of takávi demands on the other. This disturbance in the relations between the Bania and the zamindár appears to be slight and temporary however, and things will no doubt find their true level by and by as the Bania is absolutely indispensable in the present stage of Indian society, it being impossible for Government to take his place.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. M. Baker, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Nearly all land in this district is cultivated by tenants on the 'batai' system. The commonest rent in kind is 50 per cent. Cash rents are commoner than in other parts of Sind and are increasing. Many of the tenants in this district are immigrants or sons of immigrants from Baluchistan who have no ancestral home, and therefore have little hesitation in deserting their landlords if things are not going well, without repaying their takávi advances. The behaviour of this class is a grievance of the landlords, but it is dormant in years when water is plentiful.

(c) *Education.*

KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

The Educational Inspector in Sind has lately raised the question once more and has pointed out that in his opinion the rural standards were adopted much too freely, and has suggested a reversion to the old curriculum in many instances. The matter is still under the consideration of the various Taluka Boards concerned, and I can only hope they will not too readily abandon an experiment to which a sufficient trial cannot yet have been given.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

Signs are not wanting that the desire for education is spreading amongst the Mahomedans, and it has been my endeavour to take advantage of and feed that desire by the institution of a boarding school for the sons of zamindárs whose position unfits them for the village school, and who at present receive little instruction and less discipline. Financial difficulties have so far obstructed the founding of an institution which, I feel confident, has a brilliant prospect before it, and in which useful recruits for the public service; who are now lost to it, will be trained.

The most noticeable feature in primary schools is the great preponderance of children in the infants' class and first and second standards, and it is to be feared that the schools are utilised to a considerable extent merely as nurseries in which young boys can be kept out of harm's way.

E. L. Moysey, Esq., Assistant Collector, Hala.

The most noticeable point in regard to education has been the attempt to bring it down to the level and needs of the cultivators by the introduction of

the rural standard. I was careful to watch the experiment in the Shahbandar Division, and what I have seen in this division agrees with my experience there, and that is that where the rural standard is not unpopular and disliked, as it often is, it is regarded with indifference. Intelligent Musalmáns freely say that they do not send their sons to school in order that they may become zamindárs, but that they, as well as the Hindus, may enjoy the sweets of office, and at present all they see in this course is that it only goes up to the 4th standard in the Urban School, and includes a course of Bania-Sindhi writing. It is of course a very vicious idea that education is only a means to Government service, but until a system of teaching with an obviously different object, such as that in force in the rural schools of the Central Provinces, so admirably described by Mr. Sharp, is introduced here, no one is to be blamed for holding it.

Ten new schools were opened and one was closed in this division during the year. Of these three new schools were opened in the settlements of that criminal class the Hurs, at Charao, Kangpati, and Biro Mulo. It is too early to speak of their success, all the boys being as yet in the infants' class or in the 1st standard, but they are fairly well attended, and may do much to reclaim this people.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

P. R. Cadell, Esq., Collector.

I visited nearly all the schools in the district. The increasing desire for education is most marked. Something was done with the increased grant from Government for the provision of new schools. But the Local Board is entirely unable to establish all that are asked for. It is undoubtedly a reproach that people who pay local cess and ask for education cannot be given it. The remedy lies either in increased assistance from Government, or in the removal from the Local Board of the burden of heavy contributions towards central institutions, indispensable in themselves, but more properly a charge for the central Government than for humble agriculturists.

The problem of the education of zamindárs' sons has received much attention, but we can proceed very slowly. The question of rural standards has not yet been settled; theoretically sound, they must not be allowed to prevent the thorough education of clever boys.

After seeing many Mullahs' schools, I am glad to note their real usefulness and the great improvement from the make believe that I remember previously. The only method of improving these, and indeed primary rural schools generally, is by the closer association of the local officials and leading men with the management of the schools and the grant of scholarships, and not by centralisation in the Educational authorities. Rewards were for the first time given in the Commissioner's Darbár to zamindárs and Mullahs who had rendered assistance with schools. The desire for education in the towns is as keen as ever, and is on the whole very well catered for by the Municipalities. It is in fact almost regrettable that the sons of the trading classes should seek English education and Government service as they tend to do. The physique of the elder boys is also poor, and there is much fear of their being overworked.

The girls' schools make no real progress.

LARKANA DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

Education has also made appreciable progress during the year. The number of primary day schools at work rose from 79 to 108, while 15 additional night schools were opened and two girls' schools. The average daily attendance in all schools, primary and middle, is now 3,570. The Educational Inspector, who last year advocated the introduction of rural standards in the Local Board schools, is now of opinion that the measure has been too generally applied, and has suggested the reconsideration of the question. It is under contemplation therefore to revert in the case of a certain number of schools situated in the larger villages to the superior standards originally in force, and in others to retain the rural standards supplemented by the higher superior standards, while the remaining schools which will be those in the more remote and backward

tracts will retain their present form of curriculum. The general adoption of rural standards seems to have given rise to some dissatisfaction among the inhabitants of more important villages who have gradually realised that the change involves the closure of the ordinary educational avenue to the public service.

2. Inspection.

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The subjoined table gives, in the form prescribed for the Collector's report, information as to the total amount of inspection work done in the Province:—

No.	Nature of Inspection.	In how many			Number of Rayats' Receipt Books examined.
		Mámlatdárs' Stations. 55	Mahálkaris' Stations. 5	Villages. 4,997	
	Total of Province.				
1	Visited for inspection	47	3	1,283	...
2	Accounts examined	45	4	1,150	...
3	Records examined	48	4	824	...
4	Rayats' Receipt Books examined ... ..	...	...	...	3,232
5	Sub-Registry Offices examined	40	2	...	...

The work has on the whole been satisfactorily done. Almost every Mukhtiárkar's and Mahálkari's office came under examination by the Collector or Deputy Commissioner concerned. I regret to notice the unfavourable remarks of the Collector of Hyderabad on the standard of work in the tálukás. Mr. Brendon will be asked to report what action he has taken regarding the notoriously inefficient Head Munshis mentioned. The question of the examination of the receipt books to which attention is drawn by both Mr. Deshmukh and Mr. Ferrers is, as Mr. Brendon believes, under consideration. The problem is difficult. On the one hand, the examination of the books is considered useless in the absence of the zamindár, who takes no interest whatever in the matter and whose attendance it is almost impossible to secure. On the other, when attendance is insisted on, the number of receipt books examined falls to one or two per-village, which, as a test, is often well nigh farcical. The existing practice will very probably have to be modified. Such modification as is decided on will be tested during the coming season, and the result will be noted in next year's report.

The work of destruction of records is up to date in most of the offices. The Collectors and Deputy Commissioners concerned will be asked to have it brought up to date in offices in which it is in arrears.

3. Revenue Buildings and Record Rooms.

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The Collectors and Deputy Commissioners have noticed in detail the requirements of their districts under this head. The extreme urgency of providing Kardarate buildings for Pithoro, Sinjhoró and Nasrat Tálukás has been separately represented to Government.

4. Revenue Establishments.

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The revenue establishments, especially in the táluka offices, are notoriously overworked and underpaid, but, in spite of these disadvantages, the work of the Province has, generally speaking, been performed with fair efficiency. Proposals for strengthening the establishments and improving their pay, involving an extra cost of Rs. 81,252 per annum, are already under the consideration of Government.

Two Mukhtiárkars were dismissed for misconduct in connection with remission work, and one officer of the grade of Mukhtiárkar, serving in the Commissioner's office, was dismissed for inefficiency.

The village establishments, considering their strength, which is probably insufficient, on the whole worked satisfactorily, but this can hardly be said of their survey work, a great deal of which is said to be in arrears in the Sukkur District. This is partly due to the still large number of untrained hands. The special examination which is now to be held of the men who received only a 2-months' training between the years 1894 and 1898, but have had practice since, will, I believe, show that many more are qualified than has been supposed. The Tapadárs themselves have an intense dislike of the work. The superior Revenue Officers seem to hold generally the opinion that even a fully qualified Tapadár has at present too many other things to do to attend properly to his survey work, and that it would be better to have all survey work done by a special department. But this last method has been deliberately and, in my opinion, quite rightly abandoned. The remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of things can be found only (1) in an increase in the number of Tapadárs or providing assistants for those who have heavy charges, so that no qualified Tapadár may have an excuse on the score of the onerousness of his other duties for neglecting his survey work, and (2) in accelerating the rate of progress made hitherto in training the men who are not yet qualified. Some measures for the attainment of these objects have already been arranged and others are being concerted with the Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture and the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners.

The total number of Tapadárs and Supervising Tapadárs in the Province is 799 and 156 respectively, of whom 8 Tapadárs were dismissed, 4 reduced and 2 suspended. The number fined was 114, including 4 Supervising Tapadárs. This is rather a large number, and I entirely agree with what Mr. Rieu has said regarding the fining of Tapadárs. But I differ from him regarding the expediency of penal transfer, the result of which is that a bad tapa hardly ever gets a good man. There should rarely, if ever, be a fine. Strong warnings should be given at the outside three times; then should follow degradation, and then dismissal.

A scheme for revision of the emoluments of the village establishments in the Province has just been received from Mr. Sadik Ali, Deputy Collector, and is under consideration.

5. Special Matters.

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The practice of making payments of land revenue by money order is making headway, but the amount so paid is still small. The system of direct payment at the Táluka Treasury, which Mr. Giles looked to as likely to strike an effective blow at the Tapadár's power to exact a percentage on collections, is also gradually finding favour among the zamindárs. In the Thar and Párkar District, Mr. Mackenzie has succeeded so far in inducing the zamindárs to adopt this as the general practice. It would probably be most beneficial if the practice could be extended elsewhere. But it is not certain that zamindárs would in all districts respond to the suggestion of the authorities as readily as in the Thar and Párkar District. The results there were largely due to the personal efforts of Mr. Mackenzie himself and of Sardár Muhammad Yakub. Mr. Mackenzie deserves credit for the energy shown by him in the matter. This system naturally facilitates the examination of receipt books which are produced at the táluka head-quarters.

Information as to special grants or assignments and land acquisition work is given in the District Officers' reports, and I have no remarks to offer.

The restricted tenure introduced by Act VI of 1901 is freely resorted to in giving lands to Muhammadan zamindárs, who do not show any objection to take up land on this tenure.

In the course of the year most important investigations were set on foot by the Agricultural Department into the possibility of growing Egyptian cotton in Sind. An experimental area was planted in April and May at Dhoro Naro in Thar and Párkar, and the results are so far of great promise. Further extensive experiments are being made, and until their results are known it would be premature to speculate on the success which may be ultimately attained. Should that success be even moderate, the result on perennially irrigable lands will be enormous. I think it is due to Mr. Mackenzie, Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Párkar, to mention here that he started in his district experiments with the Egyptian and other varieties before the matter was taken up by the Agricultural Department, whose aid of course was indispensable for the prosecution of the inquiry on a scientific fashion. But while, for the attainment of solid success and specially for the illuminating idea of altering the closure of the canals in order to give the Egyptian cotton plant the same season of nine months as in Egypt, we owe everything to the Agricultural Department and its talented Deputy Director, Mr. Fletcher, for initial suggestion and venture, a great deal is due to Mr. Mackenzie.

Extracts.

Restricted Tenure.

KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

During the year 23,822 acres were taken up for cultivation, chiefly because of the good inundation; 6,969 acres were thrown up, so that the net increase of the occupied area was 16,853 acres. This included 2,660 acres of fallow-forfeited land restored to the original occupants or their representatives on the restricted tenure.

The grant of land on the restricted tenure under which the owner of land cannot sell or dispose of it without the Collector's previous sanction is proving fairly popular, more especially as a considerable area of fallow-forfeited land has been restored to the original occupants or their representatives without any demand for the payment of fallow assessment. In the Tatta Division 2,219 acres (assessment Rs. 5,345) and in Shahbandar 312 acres have, during the year, been restored free on this tenure.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

The area granted on the restricted tenure under the provisions of Bombay Act VI of 1901 is as follows:—

Táluka.	Area in acres.
Kandiaro	2,890
Naushahro	564
Moro	1,475
Sakrand	1,014
Nasrat	66,893 (Act III of 1899).
Shahdádpur	1,093
Hala	3,825 "
Hyderabad	768
Tando Allahyar	5,479
Dero Mahbat	1,902
Guni	1,549
Badin	500
Tando Bago	360
Digri Mahál	19,313 (Act III of 1899).
Total	1,07,625

With very few exceptions all grants to Mahomedans have been made on the restricted tenure, a nominal occupancy fee generally equal to one year's assessment being charged for new land and survey numbers forfeited under the fallow rules being restored free of charge. Hindus get the full survey tenure.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

P. R. Cadell, Esq., Collector.

Closely connected with the subject of takāvi and borrowing is that of the restriction of land alienation. Practically all grants of land given to Mahomedans now issue on that tenure, and I have heard no complaints of the cultivator being thereby hampered, while the protection is very real.

* * * * *

In all 6,020 acres of land were given out on restricted tenure under Bombay Act VI of 1901 during the year of report. This land was entirely given to Mahomedans (consisting of 472 occupants), and they took it very readily. I have not heard of any practical inconvenience being caused by the restriction. One year's assessment is usually taken as occupancy price when the restricted tenure is enforced. When land is given to Hindus there is no need for the restricted tenure, and there is no reason why Government should forego the occupancy price, and three assessments are usually taken.

LARKANA DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

Subjoined is a return of the land compulsorily and voluntarily forfeited and regranted on the restricted tenure, under the provisions of Bombay Act VI of 1901. All forfeitures were made under the fallow rules :—

Compulsory forfeitures.				Voluntary forfeitures.				Remarks.
Number of cases.	Area.	Assessment.	Arrears.	Number of cases.	Area.	Assessment.	Arrears.	
	A. g.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		A. g.	Rs.	Rs.	
57	481 11	1,284 9 0	1,441 0 0	...	...	...	...	All fallow forfeitures.

THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

M. D. Mackenzie, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Restricted tenure has not prevented people from applying for fresh lands. In one case only 2 survey numbers, granted under this tenure and transferred by the occupant, had to be forfeited to Government.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. M. Baker, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

In this district land in many cases is given out on restricted tenure. The following are the details showing the total area given out and the area out of it given on restricted tenure :—

Permanent Tenure.		Yearly Tenure.	
Total area given out.	Area given on restricted tenure.	Total area given out.	Area given on restricted tenure.
A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.
17,980 35	9,845 14	22,939 38	1,920 15

6. Inamdars' recovery of Revenue; Assistance in cases; Successions, Lapses, etc.

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The inamdars generally recover their dues in kind, the share of the crop to which they are entitled being fixed by the local custom. Only two

cases are reported in which assistance was given to inámdárs for the recovery of their share of the produce from the tenants. The particulars as to succession and lapses are as under :—

		<i>Succession.</i>			
1st Class Jágirs	3 cases.		
2nd do.	1 case.		
3rd do.	5 cases.		
Garden Grants	1 case.		
Patadári Grants	1 case.		
		<i>Lapses.</i>			
Perpetual Grants	3 cases.	Area.	29,225 acres.
Life Grants	10 „		1,310 „

No. 5075.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 21st June 1905.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 3200, dated 25th October 1904.	} Submitting the Land Revenue Administration Reports, Part II, of their respective divisions, for the year 1903-04, together with the Collectors' and Sub-Divisional Officers' Administration Reports for that year.
Letter from the Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 4890, dated 28th October 1904.	
Letter from the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 4589, dated 19th November 1904.	
Letter from the Commissioner, Central Division, No. T. R.— 254, dated 7th February 1905.	

RESOLUTION.—The year under report was distinctly favourable, and, coming as it did after a series of bad or indifferent seasons, afforded a welcome relief to the cultivating and labouring classes. In the Northern Division the crops were good, with the exception of the rice in the Ahmedabad District, which suffered severely from a deficiency in the late rains. Locusts, however, caused considerable damage, especially in Kaira and the Panch Maháls. The rainfall in the Central Division was on the whole satisfactory, though Poona and Ahmednagar were less fortunate than other districts and showed small signs of recuperation from the effects of famine. Conditions in Khándesh were most favourable, but the prosperous outlook was marred to some extent by the destruction caused by the swarms of locusts which visited the west of the district towards harvest time. Most of the Southern Division fared extremely well, especially the Dhárwár and Belgaum Districts, but in Ratnágiri the gardens suffered considerably from the attacks of locusts. In Sind the inundation was excellent and the cultivated area increased by nearly 40 per cent. The principal feature of the year was an excellent cotton crop combined with abnormally high prices for cotton due to the condition of the American market. This combination was most beneficial to the cultivators concerned and has tended to popularise cotton cultivation in several localities.

It was not found practicable to take measures producing any appreciable effect towards the destruction of the flying swarms of adult locusts; but an organized system was adopted for dealing with the eggs and young, and immense quantities of these were destroyed in the rainy season covering the end of the year of report and the commencement of the current year. The Presidency has been spared a recurrence of the pest during the latter year, whether as a result of the measures taken or of natural causes only or of a combination of both it is impossible to say.

2. In the tracts which suffered from the ravages of locusts some suspensions and remissions of land revenue were necessary, but elsewhere it was found possible to make headway in collecting outstandings of revenue and takávi in addition to the current year's demand. There is, however, strong evidence from all parts of the Presidency proper to the effect that revenue is not now paid as willingly or as punctually as formerly, and it has been remarked in several districts that it is in the more favoured tracts and with the more prosperous landholders that the greatest difficulty is experienced. The fact that of late it has been necessary to suspend the collection of revenue for several years in succession and eventually to remit a large part of the outstandings is no doubt responsible for this changed attitude on the part of the cultivators, which considerably increases the work of the Revenue Officers. Government are pleased to acknowledge the efforts to meet this difficulty which were made in many districts and particularly in Surat, where the opposition to the payment of land-revenue organised by some well-to-do landholders was conducted with the greatest obstinacy and with the least justification. So long as this spirit of contumacy lasts it will be necessary for Mámlatdárs to be active and alert at the times fixed for the payments of the instalments and for the Sub-Divisional Officers and Collectors to make a free but discriminating use of the provisions of section 148, Land Revenue Code; but Government are of opinion that with the exercise by Revenue Officers of a little firmness the landholders will soon revert to their former attitude. The new rules regulating the suspension and remission of revenue in years of scarcity, which are now in force and regarding which

detailed instructions will shortly be issued, provide a systematic code under which action can be taken with little difficulty whenever occasion demands, and which can be understood by all. Orders too have recently been issued prescribing the method for announcing suspension and remission of land-revenue, takávi and other Government dues, and laying emphasis on the necessity for giving early and clear intimation to revenue payers in the event of any concessions being contemplated; and Government trust that by such means the mistaken notion that contumacious refusal to pay is the best way to secure remission of revenue will soon be eradicated.

3. Wages for field labour ruled high during the year under report, the highest level reported being eight annas a day in Jámner (Khándesh District). Food on the other hand was particularly cheap, jowári selling at 80 lbs. to the rupee in Samppaum (Belgaum District) and for a short time at 127 lbs. to the rupee at Jámkhed (Ahmednagar District). This combination of high wages and cheap food was most advantageous to field labourers, and the reports of many districts lay emphasis on the fact that in the last few years the unskilled labourer has greatly improved his condition. In Gujarát, the Deccan and the Southern Marátha Country the same economic change is noted, *viz.*, that the labourer is rapidly breaking loose from the traditional fetters which have hitherto bound him to one locality and often to one master, and is now prepared to go considerable distances to better his prospects. This tendency is regarded as an indirect result of famine, which has taught the lesson of going far afield for work, and of plague, which in some places has so thinned the population as to cause a scarcity of labour. In the districts of Broach, Surat and Ratnágiri, and probably, though the fact is not specifically mentioned, in other districts bordering on the Arabian Sea, the long established custom of emigration to Africa affects the local labour market as well as the numbers of small traders and the condition of the agriculturists. It appears that, as is natural, the restrictive legislation of various Governments in Africa affects adversely this source of material prosperity in the coast districts. But for the most part it is impossible to say how far the improved position of the labouring classes is due to temporary and how far to more lasting causes. Whatever may be the educative causes which have led them to act with greater independence and intelligence the result is not unlikely to be a permanent increase in the rate of wages. Ignorance and apathy of the nature reported in the Ahmedabad and Thána Districts in connection with the lower castes and wild tribes, who will bind themselves for life as serfs of one master and will work in their own village for two annas a day rather than go 20 miles off where they can obtain six annas, are still powerful factors; but the efforts which are being made to educate these classes must in time tend to improve their status. If a permanent rise takes place in the standard of wages the immediate effect may be to increase the cost of cultivation, but if the rise in wages is accompanied by an increase in efficiency the ultimate result will be to cheapen production, and the landholder will benefit equally with the labourer. The outcome can only be awaited, and any tendency observed in this connection should be noted by District Officers in future Administration Reports.

4. Government concur with the Commissioner in Sind that the subject of education in its bearing on the well-being of the agricultural classes should be dealt with in the Reports on the Land Revenue Administration. It is not only in Surat and Thána that attention is given to improving the position of the lower classes by affording their children instruction in special schools, nor alone in Ahmednagar that technical and industrial education by other than Government agency is deserving of notice, nor yet in Sind only that schools and standards for particular purposes call for remark on their influence on bettering the condition of landholders and labourers. But, except from the reports for the districts and Province which have been named, little is to be learnt from the reports regarding the progress of the year in the sustained and continuous measures that are taken for more fully equipping the cultivator by means of education to maintain himself in his pursuit of agriculture or to fit himself for entering on new fields of industry. This subject also should receive adequate attention in future Administration Reports.

5. The large outstandings of takávi in the Central and Southern Divisions form the subject of despondent remarks on the part of several officers. Government have already expressed their desire that the period of repayment shall be extended freely in the case of loans advanced under the Land Improvement Loans

Act, wherever such a course is considered desirable, and have also requested the Commissioner, Southern Division, to submit definite proposals with regard to the large outstandings of takávi advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act which are stated to be irrecoverable. With a series of bad years and a very low water level it was to be expected that the recipients of takávi would not be able to fulfil their obligations punctually. The fact that in Bijápur and the Deccan a great part of the money advanced has been misapplied and has done the recipients no permanent good is more serious. Government are, however, unable to regard this as an argument against making advances for permanent land improvements in localities where capital is much needed for such purposes, and trust that with more efficient organisation it will be found possible to exercise such supervision as will secure the proper application of the loans. Orders have recently been issued and forms prescribed to assist Revenue Officers in this work, and it has also been suggested that in some tracts it might facilitate supervision to localise the grants that are made year by year under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

6. The reports disclose considerable inequalities in the provision of the buildings required for the land-revenue administration. It appears that in the Northern Division all the Mámlatdárs but two are provided with suitable kacheris, and that additional accommodation is needed in only two record rooms and in seven kacheris. In the Central Division eight entirely new kacheris are reported as urgently required, while in the Southern Division the list of requirements is long, and in Sind many new buildings are wanted, the need for three of which is described as extremely urgent. For many of the works mentioned by the Commissioners plans and estimates have been prepared, and the works have been entered on the list of major works for the division. Similar steps should be taken in respect of buildings for which this has not yet been done; and it is hoped that a substantial sum can be made available annually for supplying the deficiencies which are brought to notice.

7. Government have already communicated to the Commissioners their views on the details of the administration in the different districts, and are pleased to express their satisfaction regarding the general standard of the work, which was rendered additionally heavy in some districts by the appearance of locusts, necessitating in the first instance a campaign for their destruction, and subsequently detailed enquiries into the damage done with a view to grant suspension and remission of revenue. The level of efficiency displayed by the Mámlatdárs is stated to be distinctly high, and while a few of these officers are described as bad others obtain a very high degree of praise. Varied opinions are expressed as to the sufficiency of the clerical staff in the taluka offices, and several officers are of opinion that it needs further strengthening to keep abreast of the increasing mass of work. In this connection it may be noted that at the close of the year under report the sanction of the Secretary of State was received for the entertainment of additional revenue staff in the Presidency proper, involving an annual cost of Rs. 1,83,000; and proposals for a general reorganisation and amplification of the staff in Sind, involving an annual cost of Rs. 81,000, have recently been submitted to the Government of India. It is chiefly in connection with such recent additions to the district work as the present extensive takávi business and the preparation of the record of rights that the pinch is felt; and it is now under the consideration of Government to provide a permanent staff for each of these duties. The work of the Circle Inspectors receives praise in some districts and blame in others; but, as noted by the Commissioner, Central Division, the tendency is to speak more highly of it now than formerly. Distinctly good results have been obtained in the Ahmedabad District by a careful selection of Circle Inspectors, and Government are of opinion that if this plan is generally adopted and the Sub-Divisional Officers bear in mind the necessity for keeping a close personal watch over the Circle Inspectors' work and for recommending for reversion to the post of kárkún any one whom they find neglecting his duty, a steady improvement may be expected. The village Kulkarnis are as usual unfavourably reported on, and the Talátis in some places come in for disparaging comments. Government, however, have under consideration proposals for ameliorating the position of village accountants, and the position of the village headmen and of the inferior village servants is also engaging the attention of Government.

8. The preparation of the record of rights is the subject of much comment in the reports of all districts in the Presidency proper, and although this matter

is dealt with in a separate report it formed so important a part of the work of the year as to merit mention here. A fair start has now been made, except in Sind in which province for sufficient cause a commencement has been delayed, and in many districts satisfactory results have been obtained, though, it is stated, at the expense of other work and with considerable strain to the staff. Additional establishment for this work has since been supplied in most places and further steps in this direction are under contemplation. In some talukás the large number of villages and the complex nature of the interests to be recorded rendered progress slow, and in parts of the Deccan the Kulkarnis were found to be hardly competent for the work; but in Kaira the Talátis are stated to have devoted themselves to this duty loyally and conscientiously, and the Kánara shanbhogs also did well; while the Collector of Belgaum states that he was surprised by the careful and neat work of the Kulkarnis in that district. The attitude of the people varied greatly in different localities. In some places they were indifferent or suspicious, while in Kaira they are reported to have been interested and willing to assist in every way. This attitude of the people in the Kaira District combined with the activity of the staff made it possible to complete by the end of June the records for two talukás which were only commenced at the beginning of March, a very creditable piece of work.

9. Considerable areas in the Northern Division, especially in Kaira and the Panch Maháls, have been given out on the restricted tenure which, though still unpopular amongst the more substantial cultivators, is accepted readily by the lower castes and wild tribes; and it is for the poorer and less thrifty classes that the benefit of the restriction is primarily intended. In the Central Division except in Khándesh and Násik and generally in the Southern Division, over a great part of which there is at present little demand for land, very little land has yet been taken up on this tenure. It is satisfactory to observe that the restriction on alienation is proving acceptable to the Mahomedan landholders in Sind. In future Collectors should be requested to state in their administration reports the area of land held on this tenure in their districts at the beginning and at the end of the year under report.

10. The system of paying revenue by money order is said to be making headway in Sind, but in the Presidency proper it does not seem to find much favour. The information furnished on this subject is somewhat fragmentary, but the system would appear to be most employed in the Thána, Poona and Dhárwár Districts, in each of which about Rs. 4,000 was remitted in this way during the year, and in the Kolába District where this method of payment is said to be common. It therefore appears to have its uses for some classes of revenue payers, and will not improbably become more popular when better known.

11. There is nothing calling for comment in the remaining matters referred to in paragraph 5 of the Commissioners' reports. It will, however, be convenient if in future reports the subjects are dealt with in the same order; (1) record of rights, (2) restricted tenure, (3) remittance by money order, (4) special assignments, (5) land acquisition, (6) the introduction or extension of any Act or rules such as the application of portions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act to Khándesh in 1903, (7) the regulation and assessment of building sites, (8) the inception and working of co-operative credit societies, (9) a brief general reference to the effect of the operations of the Agricultural Department, (10) and of the Civil Veterinary Department, as bearing on the prosperity of the agriculturists and on their cattle. Some of these special matters are in the present reports mentioned under 'General Remarks' in paragraph 8; but that paragraph should in future reports be reserved for such miscellaneous items of interest as are given for his districts by the Commissioner, Southern Division. The existence of associations of the nature of co-operative credit societies in the districts of Thána and Ahmednagar, and the establishment of similar institutions in Poona, are noteworthy facts which give good ground for hope of success in the operations that have been undertaken by the Registrar appointed under the Act. It is also satisfactory to note that in Sátára a District Agricultural Association has been started. The establishment of such societies is an integral part of the scheme for making known to the agriculturists the means and methods of improvement of agriculture which the College and the Farms of the Agricultural Department will devote themselves to ascertaining. Such associations will, it is hoped, also popularize the knowledge and use of veterinary science for the benefit of the agricultural cattle and of the advantages of care in the breeding and rearing of stock.

12. So far as can be ascertained from the figures given in the district and divisional reports the collection of inámdárs' dues has been unsatisfactory, which is disappointing in a good year when some progress in this matter might have been expected. It is stated that a large part of the outstandings which date from famine years are irrecoverable and that, while some inámdárs have agreed to remit such arrears on a scale similar to that adopted by Government in the neighbouring *khálsa* villages, others decline to grant any such concessions. Government have already accepted the principle that it is inequitable to grant powers under section 88, Land Revenue Code, to any inámdár, who will not undertake to grant to his tenants in famine time suspension or remission of revenue on the same scale as is granted by Government in the neighbouring villages in similar circumstances, and agree with the Commissioner, Central Division, that it would be inexpedient to order wholesale forfeitures of land in order to recover outstandings from the famine years which the cultivators have no means of paying. The Commissioners should cause arrangements to be made similar to those reported from Ahmednagar, *viz.*, that in the case of each inámdár it should be settled what portion of the existing arrears is irrecoverable without resorting to measures which it would be inequitable to apply, and that all efforts should be directed to the recovery of the remainder. The irrecoverable portion need not in future be included in the arrears reported. As regards the current demand for the year under report the figures for the Central Division are not clear, but in the Southern Division it is stated that only Rs. 1½ lákhs were collected out of Rs. 2½ lákhs due, a result said to be due to disputes amongst sharers. Government are aware of the administrative difficulties attached to the collection of this revenue and recognise that the necessity for undertaking formal proceedings under section 86, Land Revenue Code, before compulsory process can be issued is bound to delay collection; but they trust that Collectors will use every effort to secure adequate attention to their duties in this respect on the part of the subordinate staff. Disputes between the holders of unsurveyed inám villages and their tenants are reported from all divisions, and apparently in two cases, one in Belgaum and one in Surat, the right of the inámdár to increase the rents is the subject of proceedings in the Civil Court. Cases are also reported from all divisions where inámdárs habitually recover their dues direct from the tenants, and it is stated that in the Dhárwár and Kolába Districts the inámdárs treat their mirási tenants as tenants-at-will, and turn them out of their holdings at pleasure. The right of an inámdár in an unsurveyed village to enhance rents and evict tenants is governed in each case by custom (section 83, Land Revenue Code); but if it is a fact that inámdárs in such villages are deliberately and with impunity encroaching on the customary rights of their tenants it would appear that the need for some interference is indicated. Section 85, Land Revenue Code, in prescribing that the superior holder of an inám village shall recover his dues through the Village Officers and not direct from the tenants, clearly distinguishes between the status of tenants in inám villages and that of mere tenants-at-will who pay direct to their superior holders. It appears, however, that the provisions of this section are not generally enforced. The Commissioners of Divisions should be requested to report whether the circumstances mentioned above call for any action and to state why the provisions of section 85 are not observed.

13. It is remarked in one of the sub-divisional reports for the Belgaum District that for the most part the watan lands of inferior village servants are not held by the watan family. Service watans connected with duties which are no longer useful to Government or to the community have been commuted, and the lands attached to them are now transferable private property; and the same is the case with service watans not useful to Government but useful to the community where an 8-anna settlement has been applied. But the lands attached to service watans of the latter class to which a 4-anna settlement was applied are not transferable, and, if alienated, are resumable under the rules published in Notification No. 2702 of 23rd April 1902; so also are the lands attached to service watans useful to Government and assigned for the remuneration of village servants concerned with the administration, such as Máhárs, Rámoshis, etc.; and it is not understood why, if such lands have passed into the hands of non-officiators and still more if they have passed into the hands of non-watandárs, action has not been taken in accordance with the provisions of the rules already mentioned or under Part II of the

Watan Act. As the record of rights is completed for each táluka Collectors should scrutinise the entries made against such lands and should take the requisite steps with regard to those which have been improperly alienated.

14. The statement is made that in the Bijápur District the inspection of boundary marks leads to no practical results, for though it is performed, well or badly, by the Village Officers, and checked by the Circle Inspectors, Mámlatdárs and Sub-Divisional Officers, nothing is done to repair the marks which are found to be out of order, though great numbers of them are said to be in this condition. Such a state of affairs is unsatisfactory, and Government trust that it is not general. Very few reports refer to this subject at all; but in Surat one Sub-Divisional Officer remarks that he found the boundary marks in very bad order and paid special attention to the matter, getting large numbers repaired on the contract system, while the other Sub-Divisional Officer who apparently found the same state of affairs merely remarks that he directed the Village Officers and Circle Inspectors to see that repairs were made. As remarked by the Commissioner, Central Division, the enforcement of repair in a few cases is worth more than any amount of inspection which leads to no result; and Government request that the Commissioners will take steps to secure that this work is efficiently and intelligently carried out.

15. The training of village accountants in survey work is a matter with which the Superintendents of Land Records and Registration deal in their annual reports, and it is unnecessary that Collectors should furnish details on this point in their Administration Reports. It will be sufficient if they merely state the number of accountants who have passed the survey test and remark briefly on their general efficiency. The Director of Land Records and Agriculture should deal fully with this subject in his Land Records Report.

16. The report for the Northern Division alone deals with the subject of revenue and rent-paying classes, as the instructions on the subject were not received in sufficient time to enable compliance with them this year in all the reports. In future the Divisional reports will include an account of all noteworthy events of the year bearing on the subjects indicated in paragraph 7 of the report. Amongst the general items of interest mentioned by the Commissioner, Southern Division, the most remarkable is the prospect of prosperity opened out for the Dharwar District by the development of the gold mining industry.

17. On a general review of the administration of the year there appears substantial cause for satisfaction. From the effects of preceding years of famine and scarcity there has been a distinct recovery—general throughout the Presidency, though less marked in Gujarát than in the other divisions, and more partial in the northern than in the southern section of that Province. The events of the current year have emphasized the difference in the progress of recuperation in the tracts indicated. Notwithstanding a general shortness in the rainfall and a consequent loss of crops in all but the Konkan Districts no famine relief measures beyond some suspensions and remissions of revenue, some additional advances to agriculturists, grants for water-supply, and a little liberality in respect of grazing for cattle, have been found necessary in any districts except those of Gujarát. In the Northern Districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Maháls alone have relief works had to be opened for the employment of labourers, accompanied by a freer resort to the other measures of relief than has elsewhere been necessary; while only in Broach and Surat have Government been obliged to come to the assistance of the people in importing fodder for cattle. The facts of the past and current years afford an unimpeachable refutation of the statement that has been made that the cultivators of this Presidency are unable to resist one bad year without coming on relief. It is clear that a single prosperous year following on a series of unfavourable seasons enables them to withstand on their own resources an immediately succeeding year of scarcity; and that it is only an unbroken series of such years that renders necessary Government measures of relief. While the year under review affords thus reassuring evidence of the resources of the people and of a return of material prosperity, there are many indications of progress in administration. In Sind the zamindárs appreciate the measures taken to improve their condition by restricting the power of alienating their holdings and by extending to the Province the provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. In the Presidency proper there is distinct evidence of the Land Records staff growing into an organization efficient for the purposes for which it was created; and the compiling and maintenance of a record of rights in land is now well under way and is in parts

of the Presidency intelligently appreciated. Revenue establishments have in some cases been strengthened, and the consideration of the more difficult question of improving the village staff has advanced along with that of further improvements to the stipendiary establishments. Progress is recorded in specialized instruction, in the organization for improving and developing agriculture and for making known to the cultivator the results attained by scientific research and experiment, and in associations for the improvement and organization of rural credit. Though the feeling engendered by the restricted collections of revenue in the famine years has not altogether passed away and has in some parts necessitated strict measures for the enforcement of the right of the public to the payment of revenue due, there is sound reason for expecting that the clear and systematized statement of the principles on which suspensions and remissions will henceforth be granted and of the manner in which the grant of such relaxations will be made known will materially assist in removing in future the difficulties which arise from the wilful withholding of revenue which should and can be paid.

There are still pending questions of importance, such as a satisfactory solution of the difficulties which attend the administration of alienated villages; and much remains to be done in furtherance of the reforms which have been initiated or are in process of evolution. But the record of the year is such as to justify Government in regarding the results as satisfactory and in expressing their appreciation of the efforts of their officers in contributing to these results.

G. F. KEATINGE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, N. D.
The Commissioner, C. D.
The Commissioner, S. D.
The Commissioner in Sind.
All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind.
The Director of Land Records and Agriculture.
The Conservator of Forests, N. C.
The Conservator of Forests, C. C.
The Conservator of Forests, S. C.
The Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge Sind Circle.
The Director of Public Instruction.
The Principal, College of Science, Poona.
The Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department.
The Agent to the Governor, Káthiáwár.
The Accountant General.
The Educational Department of the Secretariat.
The General Department of the Secretariat.
The Political Department of the Secretariat.
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat.
The Financial Department of the Secretariat.
The Government of India.
The Under Secretary of State for India. } By letter.

No. _____ of 1905.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to