

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT,

PART II,

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY INCLUDING SIND,

FOR THE YEAR 1906-1907.

Presidency papers

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LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT, PART II, OF THE  
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, INCLUDING SIND, FOR  
THE YEAR 1906-07.

A.—PRESIDENCY PROPER.

I.—Economic Condition and Prospects.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

1.—*Season.*

The rains started well and on the whole the rainfall was sufficient and satisfactory. And though an excess of autumn rain in the north and a deficiency thereof in the south of the Division prevented the entire fulfilment of the sanguine expectations of the cultivator, the season is recognised to have been the best for the last five or six years in Northern Gujarát, and to have been above the average in Surat and Thána and distinctly good in Broach. A great hailstorm, however, in February, did appreciable damage in the western half of the Kaira district and an adjoining tract of Ahmedabad; and in limited areas of the Broach and Surat districts some injury to the spring crops was caused by grasshoppers.

2.—*Crops.*

The outturn of wheat in Ahmedabad and Kaira districts was less than normal. Cotton in the Ahmedabad, Broach and Surat districts was normal, while in the Kaira district it was below normal. Bajri and tobacco yielded only eight-anna crops in the Kaira district. Rice was from fair to normal in the Daskroi and Dholka talukas of the Ahmedabad district and in the Kaira and Surat districts. The kharif crops in Thána were from 10 to 12 annas and the rabi crops 8 to 12 annas.

3.—*Prices.*

The prices of food-grains were high throughout the Division in spite of a normal season. Firewood was dear in Ahmedabad, though the mill-owners were enabled, by cheap railway freight, to substitute Bengal coal as fuel for their factories.

4.—*Labour and Wages.*

Scarcity and dearness of labour were keenly felt in the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts. Mr. Doderet says the causes of this state of affairs are threefold: (1) Famine (and plague to a less extent) has reduced the supply of labourers, (2) the extension of the mill and other industries in the city is drawing labourers from the country to the town, (3) with improved conditions the class of the small agriculturists has been swollen by secessions from the labouring classes. In the Ahmedabad district, reaping operations were seriously retarded in some talukas owing to the difficulty of getting labourers. In the Panch Mahals a special demand for labour was created by the mining operations in progress in that district. In the Surat district, the migration of the inhabitants of the coast villages to Bombay, Burma and South Africa resulted in a deficiency of agricultural labour, which, however, was partly counterbalanced by the temporary immigration of labourers from Káthiáwár and Márwár. In parts of the Thána district, agricultural labour is dear owing to the proximity of Bombay, and also on account of the building operations going on in Sálsette.

### 5.—*Education.*

New schools were opened in most districts and the number of pupils increased. Plague seriously interfered with education in the Kaira and Surat districts, where a number of schools had to be closed during its prevalence.

### 6.—*Water-supply.*

The supply of water was sufficient, but some of the villages in the Wágra and Ankleshwar tálukas of the Broach district and several parts of the Thána district were badly off for drinking water.

### 7.—*Emigration.*

In the Surat district, about 2,000 persons are reported to have emigrated to South Africa and Burma in spite of the restrictions imposed in the former. The amount of their earnings remitted during the year is estimated at from 3½ to 4 lákhs of rupees.

### 8.—*Public Health.*

Plague broke out in all the tálukas of the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts and in a few tálukas of the other districts. In Ahmedabad City, the epidemic was the worst hitherto experienced. Inoculation was largely and successfully resorted to in the Parántij and Dholka tálukas. In the Kaira district also, the epidemic reached its zenith and carried off 14,854 persons against 2,878 in 1905-1906 and 5,313 in 1904-1905. In the Panch Maháls district, three tálukas were affected. In the Broach district, plague appeared only in the Jambusar táluka, where it attacked 1,455 persons, of whom 1,053 died.

In the Surat district, the visitation was not as widespread nor as severe as that of two years ago, though it was worse than last year. In the Thána district, the disease was almost confined to the Sálsette and Bassein tálukas.

Cholera appeared in the Dohad táluka of the Panch Maháls district, in the Surat City, in the Párdi táluka of the Surat district, and in all the tálukas of the Thána district, except Dáhánu.

### 9.—*Cattle.*

Rinderpest prevailed among the cattle in parts of the Ahmedabad, Broach, Panch Maháls and Surat districts and in almost all the tálukas of the Kaira and Thána districts, and caused great havoc. In the latter district it carried off as many as 9,600 head of cattle in the year under report against 1,807 in 1905-1906. Preventive measures were adopted by the Veterinary Officers and were believed to be successful. There appears to have been no scarcity of fodder.

### 10.—*Public Feeling.*

Public feeling in this Division is distinctly tranquil and the newspapers are moderate in tone.

### 11.—*Payment of Government Dues and Contumacy.*

On account of the good season the people were able to pay the Government dues and, excepting in the Kaira and Broach districts, very little difficulty in collecting the demands has been reported. Beyond the issue of notices, coercive measures were resorted to only in a few cases. In the Kaira district, it is reported by the Collector that only 4 warrants of arrest were issued, one by the Collector personally and three by the Assistant Collector, against substantial men whom they respectively knew well, and against whom they had personally exhausted all other persuasions without success; but Mr. Wood has apparently overlooked a case reported by the Deputy Collector in which imprisonment for contumacy was found necessary.

In the Broach district, the Collector reports that one warrant was issued in the Broach táluka, while the statement furnished by the Assistant Collector

shows that four warrants were executed, two in the Broach, and two in the A'mod taluka. In one case, the arrears were paid up at once, while in the other three cases detention at the Chora or Taluka Katchery was found necessary. Thus contumacy was not carried so far as to necessitate the sending of any person to the Civil Jail. The Collector has dwelt at great length on the dissolution of the Bhágdári tenure. This tenure which helped defaulters to evade payment of land revenue has been dissolved in certain villages of the Jambusar taluka, and the result is believed by Mr. Bagnell to be beneficial both to Government and the ryot. It is satisfactory to note that the coercive measures adopted in previous years have had the desired effect in teaching the majority of the people that they cannot successfully withhold payment of Government dues and many have thought it best to pay their dues immediately on receipt of a notice of demand. Mr. Wood remarks that he is still far from satisfied with the collection of the revenue. I share his feeling, and am doubtful whether sufficient promptness is shown in dealing with either ordinary collection work, or with the arrears of revenue which has never been formally "suspended", but, by carelessness, especially on the part of Mámlatdárs, has failed to be collected.

### 12.—Tagáí.

Rs. 1,91,590 were advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Rs. 22,900 under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The amount outstanding at the beginning of the year under each head was Rs. 19,74,450 and Rs. 3,33,258, respectively. Altogether Rs. 9,30,922 were recovered under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Rs. 1,43,163 under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the amount written off under each head being Rs. 7,360 and 1,085, respectively. The balance under each head at the end of the year was Rs. 12,27,758 under Act XII of 1884 and Rs. 2,11,910 under Act XIX of 1883. I append a statement showing the details for each district.

The advances under both Acts were appreciably less than in the previous year. The recoveries were not altogether satisfactory.

#### Statement for 1906-1907 showing details of Tagávi Advances and balances outstanding

District.	Arrears outstanding at the beginning of the year.		Amount advanced during the year.		Amounts recovered during the year of instalments due in						Arrears written off as irrecoverable during the year.		Of out the en how mt arrears c due fo in pre
					Previous years.		Current year.		Future years.				
	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ahmedabad ...	6,83,370	1,00,752	36,406	3,000	73,031	5,902	2,51,270	37,215	...	...	1,366	449	71,79
Kaira ...	4,72,295	1,31,635	17,510	3,409	80,652	18,454	32,947	11,693	...	...	52	421	3,91,69
Panch Mahals ...	3,51,197	28,072	51,649	2,400	21,645	1,133	84,646	2,377	2,325	338	640	46	44,97
Broach ...	4,25,774	43,951	15,303	...	1,47,556	11,894	1,43,376	14,352	...	...	5,250	99	10,72
Surat ...	31,191	24,310	14,200	4,570	8,022	3,260	24,171	21,008	987	2,041	63	70	...
Thána ...	2,723	3,702	63,200	9,530	1,260	1,237	46,835	11,485	...	...	78	...	1,33
Total ...	19,74,450	3,33,258	1,91,590	22,900	3,30,435	41,059	5,91,225	93,145	3,212	3,020	7,360	1,085	5,20,571

#### Act XII of 1884.

	Rs.	
Balance at the end of the previous year	... 19,74,450	
Amount advanced during the year	... 1,91,590	
	21,66,040	Total Demand.
Amount recovered	... 9,30,920	
	12,35,118	Total Outstanding.
Amount written off	... 7,360	
	12,27,758	Net Outstanding.

## Act XIX of 1893.

	Rs.	
Balance at the end of the previous year	... 3,33,258	
Amount advanced	... 22,900	
	3,56,158	Total Demand.
Amount recovered	... 1,43,163	
	2,12,995	Total Outstanding.
Written off	... 1,085	
	2,11,910	Net Outstanding.

## Extracts.

## (I) General Conditions.

## PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

R. C. Brown, Esq., Collector.

Contentment and prosperity prevail throughout the district. The effects of famine are disappearing, but the deficiency of cattle, which rinderpest and small-pox have further contributed to, is seriously felt still. A demand for waste land and the eagerness for schools show the settled comfortable state of the people.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

That there has been a considerable improvement in the general condition of the cultivating classes is evidenced by the large area of waste land which has been asked for and taken up, throughout the whole division. A number of applications have been received also for the disforestation of land in villages in which there is no cultivable land available. The Panch Maháls however being one of the districts in which every inch of Forest land must be religiously preserved, cultivators have everywhere been given to understand that if they have to expand, they must expand into villages in which there is yet waste land. There are still considerable areas of revenue forest, *i.e.*, traverse numbers, which have been left outside the reserved area, and these are being absorbed into cultivation.

## AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

R. E. A. Elliott, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Pátidárs tell me that they can borrow at from 8-12 annas, a rate of from 6-9 per cent. : Kolis of course have to pay much more, but a few years ago they were unable to borrow at all. This year, however, the prosperous class have been the labourers, who with high wages and prices lower than last year have been comparatively a good deal better off than their masters. The largely extended area of cultivation however shows that the latter have not done so badly.

## THA'NA DISTRICT.

A. K. Cama, Esq., Collector.

In examining the Record of Rights work in the Dáhánu táluka, my predecessor Mr. Wales found that according to the prices prevalent this year, the "makta" or grain-rent, obtained by the superior holder from his tenant, represented in many cases as much as 5 or 6 times the assessment. Ordinarily, 3 or 4 times the assessment represents the current rental, though grass-dealers in Máhim táluka pay as much as 10 times the assessment for the best grass lands.

It is doubtful if there is any general increase in wages responding to this increase in prices. The wages of labourers in Sálsette táluka are high, as there is a large demand for them in Bombay. The wages for agricultural labour during the year under report varied from 1½ to 8 annas per day against 1½ to 6 annas during the year preceding, those for skilled labour being 6 annas to Rs. 1½ against 6 annas to Re. 1 during 1905-06.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Wales writes:—“The cartage of timber is a never failing source of income to any one who owns a cart and pair of bullocks: but owing to rinderpest and the consequent mortality among bullocks, the supply of carts has seriously diminished. One development of this traffic is noteworthy. It is a regular thing now, chiefly among the native Christians of Bassein, for a man to take his cart to a coupe where felling is going on, buy a cart-load of timber on the spot, and take it to a centre of trade and dispose of it at a handsome profit. It is even said that owing to this cartage-work the standard of agriculture has declined in places, the men leaving their return to their villages to the last moment and neglecting to prepare their fields properly for the monsoon.”

As one of the signs of the prosperity of the people, Mr. Wales writes:—“There is one small matter, which has attracted my attention during my tour and which, as it has some bearing on the prosperity of the people, deserves passing mention. All along the cart routes, tea-shops have sprung up and are extensively patronised by the cartmen. I was solemnly informed by one Mámílatdár that once when he sent for the village Mhár, word was brought back that he would come directly, he was taking his morning tea! The same Mámílatdár told me that he bought a head-load of wood from Thákur and he watched him go straight from his shop to a soda-water shop and spend half of the price of the head-load on a bottle of soda-water. Tea and sweets are said to have been given at marriage-feasts recently in place of liquor: this no doubt is a result of the temperance movement, which had some vogue a year or two ago.”

I doubt if the people have really got more temperate or intemperate during 1906-07, though there is no doubt that the habit of taking tea is on the increase in this district, probably because of the facility with which tea can be had.

## (II) Health (plague).

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

R. E. A. Elliott, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Plague has again caused havoc in Parántij and Daskroi, the number of deaths in each táluka approximating to 1,000. In Parántij itself some 260 persons died. The people moved out of the villages directly dead rats were found. This measure proved fairly effective in checking the plague. I am not sure though that the total result was good, as Mr. Gordon found that many persons, particularly young children, died of exposure consequent on living in straw huts during the cold season; in fact the people fell out of the frying pan into the fire. Some 300 persons were inoculated in Parántij. Mr. Gordon is certain however from inquiries made in many villages that there is room for a great inoculation campaign, if only the matter were taken up really vigorously. Once the people can be got to begin, there can be no doubt of the example spreading.

THA'NA DISTRICT.

A. K. Cama, Esq., Collector.

There is hardly a Municipality, which has not some old scheme of water-supply, nestling in its archives. It is, perhaps, surprising that cholera does not levy a still heavier toll on the lives of men in the district.

## Cattle.

THA'NA DISTRICT.

A. K. Cama, Esq., Collector.

Rinderpest visited the whole district and caused great havoc. It carried away 9,600 head of cattle during the year against 1,807 in 1905-06. The Dis-

district Local Board were quite alive to their duty. Three additional Veterinar Graduates were employed to combat with rinderpest by inoculating the cattle. Their exertions, except in the Kalyán táluka where the serum used is said to have been old, were very successful. At the same time, tagávi under Act XI of 1884 was granted to the extent of about Rs. 30,000, for recuperating the loss of cattle alone. The people take very willingly to anti-rinderpest inoculation for their cattle and thus present a strong contrast to their conservatism in not getting themselves inoculated against plague.

(III) *Labour and Wages.*

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

There were complaints all over the district of the dearness and shortage of labour. I was credibly informed that in the height of the reaping season in Viramgám the high wage of 9 annas a day was being paid to male agricultural labourers, and in November and December I myself noticed in Sánand and Daskroi how backward reaping operations were, owing to the difficulty of getting labourers. I have elsewhere analysed the causes of this state of affairs, a three-fold; (i) famine (and plague to a less extent) reduced the supply of labourers; (ii) the extension of the mill and other industries in the City is drawing labourers from the country to the town, and (iii) with improved conditions the class of the small agriculturist has been swollen by secessions from the labouring classes.

R. E. A. Elliott, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Perhaps however the most noticeable feature of this year has been the rise in the price of labour. Mr. Gordon made a very careful investigation into the matter and found that this feature is universal in Parántij and Modása as well as in Daskroi. The increase in the daily wage has amounted to 50%. In Daskroi no less than 6 annas per day was being paid in some villages, while in Parántij and Modása 4 annas was the rate in large villages. The scarcity of labour was so great that in some cases crops were left lying on the ground for want of labourers to cut and carry them. The causes are many and various:— decrease of population owing to famine and plague; extended area of cultivation in this year; drafting of the labouring population into the mills; and finally the fact that the Kolis are by the aid of tagávi taking up agriculture for themselves. These appear to be the most important causes. The change is significant and ominous for the future.

KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. Wood, Esq., Collector.

To take up last year's parable, we have not even now had the one really good agricultural season that Gujarát has been sighing for. We have had the best since the great famine, but that is largely counterbalanced by the increased cost and independence of labour. Some blame the Ahmedabad mills for this, but I wish that were the true explanation. What they draw away is slight in the aggregate: the sum total has become scanty, and individuals have begun to defy custom and claim contract. That tendency is doubtless wholesome in the broad view, but it dislocates the landholders' budget and may gradually lead to important consequences. The bigger Pátidár, hereditary cultivator though he is, has really become a little zamindár rather than a peasant proprietor. But he is wisely securing other strings to his bow, and as land becomes unprofitable to him, he can afford to hand it over to humbler caste-fellows who are not ashamed to work with their own hands, and to Dhárálas rising from the ranks of mere labourers. But that again is a wholesome tendency, and if it works itself out gradually, it may benefit the community without perhaps compelling a reduction of land revenue.

J. E. Husbands, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Everywhere I hear complaints that the field labourer demands and gets 4, 5, 6, or even 8 annas a day with his food, and with the general depopulation

and the growth of modern industries, there seems no prospect of any tendency to lower rates. Probably the farmer will in the end recoup himself by a rise in the normal price of his crops, but that will be a slower process.

SURAT DISTRICT.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Collector.

There has for some time past been a general complaint about labour getting dearer and dearer. This rise in wages, which is not a phenomenon of the present year, is attributable to scarcity of labourers and to some extent to the heavy prices of food-grain and other articles of consumption. The inhabitants of the coast villages particularly, migrate to Bombay, Burma and South Africa, where they get better employment and more liberal wages. The situation is relieved to some extent by immigrants from the northern parts of Gujarát and Káthiáwár who seek employment in the district.

Narayanbhai Lallubhai, Esq., Deputy Collector.

It is a common complaint that labour is getting dearer and dearer throughout the Presidency, the more so at Surat. It is not because of the industrial development or erection of new factories in the district, of which there is none, but it is sadly due to (I might with pardonable liberty say) the lavishness and profligacy and the pleasure-seeking tendency of the lazy people who employ a number of, but who would *be* without, labourers, if Kaira and Káthiáwár did not supply them. A mill-owner of Ahmedabad told me that there was at present a want of 50,000 labourers owing to which a number of looms remained unworked; consider then what a great dearth of labour the raising of about a dozen or more of the new mills there would create. Surat has both capital and intelligence, but these have no full scope owing to drunkenness and dearth of labour.

Agriculture would, in the long run, unless some new machines for cutting and reaping crops were invented, still suffer a great deal owing to the aforesaid want of labourers: and if the increased cultivation of cotton, oil-seed, tobacco, and other non-food crops and the export of the food-grains continue, what wonder if we have a scarcity of cereals even with sufficient rainfall.

BROACH DISTRICT.

Gulabbhai Kanthadji, Esq., Deputy Collector.

I am surprised to notice the very bad practice of exacting field labour from Bhils and others by the Bohra cultivators, especially in the Ankleshwar taluka. These men lend a small sum of money, from Rs. 30 to 50, to the chief man in a family and make all the members of the family pass a document to do the field work for two or three years together and compel them to work even though they are in the capacity of sureties. In some cases moreover the contract binds the executor to work for 5 to 7 years, and in case of failure to serve they carry the executors to the Criminal Courts to take undue advantage of Act XIII of 1859, though the law is not applicable to such contracts. I had to dismiss four such cases this year. The Bohras will, I think, now be prevented from entering into such contracts and making poor ignorant people work for the whole year round in the field for Rs. 6 to Rs. 12 for the whole year.

(IV) Prices.

SURAT DISTRICT.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Collector.

The prices of nearly all articles of food ruled high last year, though no signs of famine were apparent. The rise in the prices appears to be a general one over the Presidency and may perhaps also be to some extent due to local causes such as increased cultivation of non-food crops, *e. g.*, cotton, castor-oil-

seeds, sesame, etc., and consequent diminution in the area sown with food-grains. The heavy exports of grain to foreign countries, and to places outside the district where the markets offer more profitable rates, may also contribute to the present inflation of prices.

B. W. Kissan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The prices of all articles of food are generally higher than those of the past year. Complaints have been general about the high level which prices have maintained throughout the year. They have risen from 15 to 25 per cent. above normal and this not in the case of any one commodity only but of practically every article used for food.

One explanation which has been given is that the area under food-grains has been considerably diminished and replaced by cotton-fields while facilities for import are not sufficient to compensate for the diminution in the local supply. Mr. Scotson doubts whether this view is supported by the statistics and is inclined to believe that the real reason is the resistance of traders to a fall of prices to their old level after a long period of inflation such as has occurred during the series of bad years. This is very natural, and it is practically certain that, with the present facilities for export, a bumper local harvest which would flood the market would not cause prices to reach again their pre-famine level. Upward and downward movements there will be, but on the whole, we may expect a steady rise in the level of prices.

*(V) Credit.*

KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. Wood, Esq., Collector.

Agricultural credit presents a curious spectacle. No one but a substantial man can raise money at all, yet the rates of interest cling to their old customary character, and are much the same as they were before the great drought. A well-to-do Pátidár can still raise money at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. or even less: a Dhárála who used to borrow at  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and would now willingly offer 25, can get nothing. With this goes a strong feeling against resorting to the Bania at all—a feeling which is eminently healthy and does much good as it is, but which would do more if only that “one really good season” were forthcoming. Restriction of borrowing is but a negative benefit, when unaccompanied by a positive ability to save. People do, however, since the Famine, save enough food (if they can) to tide them over the following season, should it prove a failure; and they seem more ready to make friendly advances to each other, which of course is co-operative credit in embryo.

*(VI) Contumacy.*

BROACH DISTRICT.

H. W. J. Bagnell, Esq., Collector.

The smaller demand for tagái this year is also to some extent due to the measures taken to recover tagái debts, which the people persist in believing to be charitable advances for the payment of which no pressure would be exerted. Prodigious sums were advanced in the famine and succeeding lean years. In advancing these very little inquiry was made as to the ryots' resources for repayment or the security offered by them: this, combined with the lenient treatment allowed to debtors in the remission of  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the dues and in advancing the loans without interest, created a mistaken belief in the minds of the people that the loans advanced were more or less charitable assistance which they would never have to repay. This idea was strengthened because owing to lean years and other circumstances no strenuous efforts were made for the recovery of loans, though the date for repayment had long passed by.

## BROACH.

L. V. M. Robertson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There is a strong tendency on the part of the well-to-do cultivators, especially in Broach taluka, to delay payment as late as possible and even to overstay the second instalment. The issue of demand notices has little effect, as these people willingly pay the eight annas fee while employing their money in extensive dealings in cotton and other business. In several cases it was not till Mr. Turner had issued revenue summonses calling on them to pay up in his presence that the money was forthcoming from these gentlemen. Among them were some of the richest men in Broach, to say nothing of members of the District Local Board and of the Municipality. This delay causes a lot of extra and unnecessary work to the talátis and people must learn that Government dues in India as in all other civilized countries must be paid promptly.

## KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. Wood, Esq., Collector.

A competent taláti, sitting with well informed and helpful matádárs, cannot collect a thousand rupees a day from willing payers. Remove the favourable conditions, and often collection is practically not begun at all until some higher officer can find time to go to the village and sit down solidly to do the taláti's work for him. When I speak of "collection", the difficulty of course lies mainly in accounting for the collections made. The people offer money according to facts, but the wretched taláti has to account for it in the name of a fiction—the so-called khátédár. It is high time this ghost was laid, and the Record of Rights made the basis of collection and account both.

## THÁNA DISTRICT.

G. G. Desai, Esq., Deputy Collector.

I think I should here say something as to why the people of this taluka in general and especially those of the so-called "Atgaon Mahál" should continue to trouble us as regards payment of Government dues. As regards Mahomedans—and these form the great majority of these defaulters—they are many of them engaged in petty trades and their small capitals are always invested in the same. So at the time of the paying of instalments of revenue to Government, they find it difficult to disturb their capital and hence postpone the payments. At the end of the year they often pay if they have derived a profit from their forest or other trade, if not, they have to evade payment, for then they cannot find any other source to pay from. This reason of their non-payment I have ascertained after careful inquiry and observation and it constitutes nothing more or less than thoughtlessness and indifference. As regards kunbi and other defaulters, most of whom are hopelessly addicted to drink, they too, I was told by many of them, give away most of what they might have got from their lands to their sávkárs first of all rather than to Government.

*(VII) Tagáti.*

PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

R. C. Brown, Esq., Collector.

Owing to the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Act into this district and the passing of Act VI of 1901, the sávkár or money-lender is not now so ready to advance money to the agriculturists as before. The cultivators, therefore, now look more to Government help in the shape of Tagávi loans and the demand for the same shows a tendency to increase every year in consequence. The greater portion of the tagávi advanced by Government is devoted to the purchase of bullocks for the plough. In this year, in particular, mortality from disease among cattle has created an exceptional demand.

## AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

R. E. A. Elliott, Esq., Assistant Collector.

I am afraid that tagávi is in a poor way in this sub-division, and that the Bania has come to his own again. The coincidence of large arrears of tagávi and land revenue, together with the accumulations of interest on the former, has sickened the people who have, I am sorry to say, complained that the Sarkár is worse than the sávkár. The instalment system, too, which makes the people pay at a fixed time and at the convenience of Government, and not at their own, is a feature of the system which, though probably indispensable, is unfortunate and compares badly with the practice of the sávkár who can allow for the individual fortunes of his clients. Mr. Gordon reports he has preached tagávi assiduously; but the people generally shake their heads and say "Never again."

## KAIRA DISTRICT.

J. E. Husbands, Esq., Assistant Collector

The demand for tagávi during the year was small except from the Dhárála villages of Mátar. They have not yet been able to supply themselves with bullocks and they cannot get credit from sávkárs on good terms and tagávi is very popular.

*(VIII) Migration.*

## SURAT DISTRICT.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Collector.

Despite the restrictions imposed in South Africa, emigration to that country still continues. About 2,000 persons are estimated to have emigrated to South Africa and Burma. Among the emigrants are Mahomedans, Anavla Brahmins, Kolis, Mochis, Barbers, Potters, Washermen, Carpenters, Blacksmiths and Dheds. The Anavla Brahmins trade or serve as gumastas or clerks under big traders; artisans follow their own professions, and others are commonly employed as labourers and hawkers. The amount remitted during the year by these emigrants to their relatives at home is estimated at from 3 to 4 lákhs, which conveys the impression that they prosper.

*(IX) Education.*

## KAIRA DISTRICT.

Arthur Wood, Esq., Collector.

There has been a small increase in the number of Dhárála pupils, and appreciation of the value of schooling is slowly but surely spreading downwards.

J. P. Lakhia, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Tendency among the backward classes gradually increases towards education. It is clear that they now understand the advantages thereof.

## THA'NA DISTRICT.

E. H. Waterfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

An increase in the number of schools is very desirable, as there are large villages in Bassein with over one thousand inhabitants, namely, Chandansar, Kashidkoper and Koshimbe, with no Local Board Schools.

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

Some Kunbis are yet in such deep ignorance that they pay Khand (rent) to the Gujar sávkár for lands not only not in their possession but cultivated by others. Those who have received education show better acquaintance with the lands of the whole village than the taláti himself and read and write equally well and are ready to answer questions on all points connected with the village. Education is spreading slowly but steadily among these people. Considering the area of the sub-division (1,214 square miles) and population (223,497), the number of schools (57) is extremely small, and the school-going population (2,680) insignificant. Every effort is made to increase the number of schools as

funds permit and to locate them where they are most needed. But it must take long years before the masses are touched.

PANCH MAHÁLS DISTRICT.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

An interesting sign of increasing prosperity is the demand for schools. In one or two places it is true it has been found necessary to transfer schools owing to lack of interest, but the difficulty has been to know where to transfer them, as there have been half a dozen villages asking for a school, for one showing no interest in it.

D. M. Patwardhan, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Spread of education is the first essential. It was found that schools were closed for want of sufficient number of boys. The real cause was the desire of the teacher to run away from the malarious climate on the closing of schools. It is, therefore, necessary that the Bhils and Patelias should be trained as teachers.

For this purpose an humble beginning is being made with nine Bhil and Patelia students at Garbada—the parents or guardians being given one rupee per mensem in order to enable them to engage "Halis," farm labourers, etc. It is intended that the school should afterwards be transferred to Dohád, so that practical agricultural education can be given at the Government Agricultural Farm at Muvália.

✓ (X) *Swadeshi Enterprise.*

KAIRA DISTRICT.

Arthur Wood, Esq., Collector.

Swadeshi shops have been started in most of the towns, and I am encouraging officers to patronize them.

BROACH DISTRICT.

G. K. Desai, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The Swadeshi movement has not made marked influence upon the minds of the people in the Division. However, many are inclined to use Swadeshi articles, but owing to their dearness in comparison with English articles and roughness in finish, etc., they do not find much favour here. It is a matter of note that in many places Swadeshi sugar and clothes cannot be had, not to talk of any independent establishments of shops, and this fact will speak for itself.

PANCH MAHÁLS DISTRICT.

D. M. Patwardhan, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The former rule of using Benares sugar in Vaishnav temples has, I learn, been extended to caste dinners. The reason is the alleged impure nature of the imported sugar.

(XI) *Mines.*

PANCH MAHÁLS DISTRICT.

R. C. Brown, Esq., Collector.

The applications for mining licenses, chiefly manganese, have been very numerous during the year. From the first, *i. e.*, November 1905, there have been about 140; if this promise is fulfilled, the district will become a great mining tract, for almost the whole of the five Maháls may be said to be now occupied for exploration and prospecting. This will open up the District in a wonderful way and next year it should be possible to indicate some of the ways in which this will take place. The Shivrájpur and Bámankua mines—the two already opened—occupy at least 1,300-1,400 labourers, and the experience of

imported labour not having been altogether satisfactory, local labour will, it is probable, be gradually used. Scarcity of local labour, cattle for traction carts and roads are the great difficulties the mines have to overcome.

*(XII) Temperance.*

SURAT DISTRICT.

B. W. Kissan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Spasmodic attempts are still made in the cause of temperance, but with little success. The Machhis of the coast villages of Jalálpur are hard drinkers, and many efforts have been made to induce them to abandon or, at any rate, moderate their indulgence in liquor. Oaths of abstinence are obtained from them under the influence of strong excitement, but they invariably break them and return to their old allegiance.

THÁNA DISTRICT.

G. G. Desai, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Indigenous missionary temperance movements are very badly required to be started and furthered among these people, who ruin themselves completely by more often than not imbibing to excess and forming dangerously intemperate habits. A so-called sudden temperance movement was observed to have passed on like a wave in my charge about a year and a half ago, but it resulted in no permanent improvement and has already died out.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, Esq., Commissioner, C. D.

*1.—Season.*

The rain commenced in good time in June almost throughout the Division and was at times copious and on the whole fairly well distributed till the end of August. But early in September it began to grow scanty and failed more or less completely in October. The abundance of the early rains induced the cultivators to put an unusually large area under kharif and cotton, and this was really fortunate, as the deficiency of the later rains, which were just enough for rabi sowings, made the prospects of that crop very precarious. The kharif crops promised a bumper harvest, but the deficiency of the September rains arrested their development, and the outturn, though generally good, fell below expectation. Cotton too suffered for want of sufficient moisture and the yield on the whole was below the average, necessitating the closure of a large number of ginning and pressing mills in Khándesh. The area sown with rabi had necessarily to be curtailed and the outturn was generally poor. Locusts appeared in small swarms in parts of the East and West Khándesh and Sholápur districts, but disappeared without causing any damage. The failure of the later rains would have brought on a scarcity of water, had it not been for an unusually heavy fall of rain in April.

*2.—Prices and wages of labour.*

Notwithstanding the somewhat disappointing end of the monsoon, the agricultural season of 1906-07 was fairly prosperous and enabled the rayats in the Deccan to recover to a great extent from the effects of the acute scarcity which prevailed in the preceding year. The cause of this was in a great measure due to the good prices which the staple food grains fetched. The price of cotton too rose high on the news of the failure of the American cotton crop, and although the speculation which prevailed put some of the middlemen to loss, the cultivators were able to drive a good bargain. Owing to the great demand for labour in fields and on extensive building operations in several districts, the wages of skilled and unskilled labour for the most part ranged high and thereby compensated the labouring classes for the disadvantages of the high prices of

food-stuffs. The rise in wages of labour in recent years is due to the effects of plague and famine and to the improvements in communications and industrial expansion generally. Plague has thinned the rural population and famine has taught the people the way to move out in search of labour to places where better harvests or greater commercial activity may create a demand for their services.

### 3.—*Public Health.*

Public health was generally good. Cholera made its appearance in a mild form in a few places in almost all the districts of the Division. The Ashadi fair at Pandharpur is said to be chiefly responsible for the infection. There was a very virulent outbreak of plague in Poona City, and it raged in more or less severe form throughout the Poona and Sátára Districts, at Yeola in the Násik District, at Sangamner in the Ahmednagar district and in the Pachora, Chopda, Chaligaon, Ráver and Jámner talukas of the East Khándesh District. Elsewhere, the disease did not appear in an epidemic form. Evacuation was resorted to in most places during the fair season. Inoculation was also attempted, but not on a large scale.

### 4.—*Cattle.*

There was sufficient supply of fodder for cattle, but rinderpest appeared in almost all the districts and caused much loss. Cattle had suffered considerably in 1905-06 owing to the prevailing scarcity in the Deccan districts, and most Collectors might have dwelt upon the attempts made at recuperation last year. It is, however, understood that endeavours are being made by means of tagai to increase the stock of agricultural cattle, and Mr. Orr, who has given much attention to the matter, is also endeavouring to improve their quality by the purchase of good village bulls. Similar assistance might be given to rayats elsewhere. As remarked by Mr. Orr, the increase in their indebtedness and the loss of some of their lands is a small matter in comparison with their losses in cattle.

### 5.—*Emigration and Immigration.*

Emigration and immigration in this division as a rule mean a seasonal move in search of work from centres of lesser to those of greater activity. In Khándesh emigration is practically unknown, but immigration takes place on a large scale during the cotton season, chiefly from the Násik, Ahmednagar and Poona districts. A large number of labourers from these three Districts, and especially from Sátára, repair to Bombay for work in the mills and docks, while Násik and Poona in their turn attract labourers from outside at certain seasons of the year.

A large number of people from the affected districts in the Deccan had emigrated in 1905-06 in search of work to the Berárs and the Nizam's Dominions, Khándesh and Bombay. Most of them returned by the beginning of the monsoon to resume agricultural operations. It, however, appears that some have permanently left their homes. Mr. Simcox says that there is an increasing Deccani population in Khándesh which goes out to labour in the fields, at road repairs, etc., after the close of the cotton season. This is likely to temporarily throw some land out of cultivation in less favoured districts like Sátára. But it is probable that such lands are of inferior quality with a low assessment.

### 6.—*Trade and Industries.*

Much of the industrial enterprise in this division centres round cotton. The area sown with cotton in Khándesh and other districts is gradually increasing and thereby circumscribing the area required for the cultivation of food-stuffs and fodder and helping to raise their prices. The number of ginning and pressing factories is also on the increase everywhere, and although a good many of them have to lie idle for want of work, the business pays, as the owners generally form combinations for raising charges and divide the profits among all members of the ring; and in this way they seem to have worked well last year. The hand-loom weavers in Násik, Poona and Sholápur had a busy year, and so

had the mills in Poona and Sholápur. The construction of some more mills is said to be contemplated, and there is a large field for expansion in this direction in Khándesh, where the cotton is lying, so to speak, at the door. The Commissioner saw a mill under construction at Amalner, and it probably wants only a few of these concerns to be started by enterprising capitalists for others to join in the movement. The fear of risking their money lies at the bottom of the slow expansion of industrial concerns. This fear has been overcome in Gujarát and it is probably due just as much to the desire to make money as to the teachings of the Swadeshi movement that the industrial expansion of Western India which we are now witnessing is gaining strength. An Industrial and Agricultural Association at Sangamner and a match factory at Sholápur have also been started and a flour-grinding machine has been set up at Násik.

#### 7.—*Education.*

Education ran its normal course. In some places there was an increase in the number of, and attendance at, schools and in others a decrease. No marked progress in the growth of primary education was made, nor could it be hoped for in rural areas within the course of a year, especially as that year happened to be a fairly prosperous one, when young and old of the agricultural and labouring population were required to labour in the fields. Night schools exist at present in some places for the benefit of the labouring classes, and a suggestion made by Mr. Puntambekar, District Deputy Collector, Násik, for the opening of seasonal instead of regular schools, with a special curriculum for rural people, might be brought to the notice of the Educational Department. An alternative which I have been advocating in Ahmedabad for many years is to alter the school hours so as to better suit the children of agriculturists. Schools working for a few hours in the evening are likely to be better attended than day schools, especially in the cultivating and reaping seasons. It is satisfactory to note that special endeavours are being made in many districts for the education of wild tribes and depressed classes, by training teachers drawn from these classes. Mr. Vaidya, District Deputy Collector, West Khándesh, complains that raw young men are generally sent as teachers to village schools and that the falling off in attendance in these schools may generally be ascribed to want of tact and interest on the part of these teachers. Mr. Ghosal complains that it is not rare for some schoolmasters to carry on other business to supplement their salary. The Educational Department might see if any remedy for this can be found; but perhaps it will be difficult, unless the pay of all schoolmasters is considerably raised. But there can be little doubt that we cannot expect better material for the low pay now offered and that that pay does not afford a living wage for those in the lowest grades of the service.

#### X 8.—*State of public feeling and of the Press.*

Public feeling on the whole remained calm and loyal. There was much seditious writing, speaking and stage representation in Poona, Sátára and Násik, but it is reported that it failed to create widespread discontent. The spirit of active and obnoxious agitation is as a rule confined to some pleaders, and a few other educated men who have nothing particular to do and who appear to delight in going about spreading mischief. Swadeshism as a political movement preached at various centres by peripatetic orators failed to evoke much concrete sympathy from the public at large. Agitators have, however, exercised a bad influence on schoolboys in certain places by creating a spirit of contempt of, and insubordination to, authority, which, if not checked by the good sense of the boys' parents and the endeavours of the educational authorities, bodes ill for the manners of the coming generation.

#### 9.—*Land Revenue.*

As might be expected in a year of comparative prosperity, the collections of land revenue were on the whole very satisfactory throughout the division, and fair progress was made in the collection of arrears of previous years. In Khándesh there is, as a rule, no necessity for compulsory measures for recovering the demand, and the Collector of Násik reports that collections in his district were not attended with difficulty. In other Districts, notices had to be served

on a fairly large scale, but extreme measures were rarely found necessary, and in the few cases in which they were taken, they do not appear to have caused special hardship. Contumacy as a rule prevails among some of the well-to-do cultivators in certain areas, who withhold payment in the hope of eventual remissions, and it is necessary to deal with such persons firmly.

#### 10.—*Tagái.*

Recoveries of tagái advances were likewise made pretty freely. There was a fairly large demand for tagái during the year for land improvements, and especially for replenishing the stock of agricultural cattle, which had suffered from rinderpest and from the effects of the previous year's scarcity. Inspection of Tagái work is being systematically made in the Ahmednagar District, but the Collector does not report whether cases of misappropriation of funds or in which the works have proved useless have come to light. From the Násik and West Khándesh reports it appears that inspection of tagái works was not lost sight of in those districts. A few cases of misapplication of funds were noticed in West Khándesh and Násik. Efforts to introduce the joint bond system were made in Násik, but it did not find favour. Most of the Collectors have not dealt with these points and their attention might be drawn to the omissions.

#### Extracts.

##### (I) *General Condition.*

###### AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

Far more than for any other object the people require loans for purchase of cattle; and it is here that their condition gives most cause for concern. The increase in their indebtedness and the loss of some of their lands is a small matter in comparison with their losses in cattle through scarcity and rinderpest. The census of last year showed that everywhere cattle were from 30 to 40 per cent. fewer than 10 years back, and it is not only in quantity but also in quality that cattle have suffered. The poorer cultivators always sell their cattle when the pinch comes, and they have had to buy just anything they could get when compelled to recoup their stock; for the market is under-stocked, cash is hard to get and nothing like so good an animal can now be got for Rs. 50 as could be got for Rs. 30, twelve years ago. The diminution in cattle means diminution and consequent dearness of manure, and in poor people's holdings all over the district one sees large stretches of land either ill-cultivated or not cultivated at all for want of cattle and manure. The people seemed ready enough to avail themselves of any help offered to them and in most places inoculation was readily adopted as a prophylactic against rinderpest. The total inoculations to date are 11,047.

W. Greer, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Kolis and Thákurs of the villages near the edge of the gháts have profited by the improved arrangements made during the year by the Forest Department for the purchase of hirda. The inhabitants of 12 villages were able, thanks to money received for hirda collection, to keep out of the sávkárs' hand during the whole year—a thing which they could not remember to have done before. It is hoped that the system will be considerably extended this year.

###### SHOLÁPUR DISTRICT.

L. J. Mountford, Esq., Collector.

The general condition of the people is one of gradual recovery from a sequence of bad years, and the prospects of a complete recovery depend entirely on the monsoon. The soil is very fertile and the crops are good. Assessment is remarkably low and land commonly sells at sixty times the assessment, in some cases a hundred times. The cultivators cannot be described as very industrious, but their character is the result of climatic influences, which engender carelessness owing to the constant failure of the monsoon.

Otto Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Plague, the direct effects of famine, and the habitual emigration which has been the most remarkable indirect effect of famine, have considerably reduced the population and restricted the cultivated area of the district. It is true that the quantity of land which has been given up is not great, but the low assessments prevailing and the reliance of the inhabitants upon the liberality of Government lead to land being preserved fallow, even when the means of cultivation fail. In spite of the enormous sums of tagái distributed in past years, there is still a noticeable deficiency in cattle, and the cattle which exist appear, at least to the eye of one accustomed to the nobler species of Gujarát and Káthiáwár, to be with few exceptions weedy, weak-boned, and poorly bred. With a few exceptions, like the high canal-assisted cultivation round the city of Sholápur, agriculture in the district is primitive and deficient. The ploughing given is insufficient, manure is hardly used and weeding is insufficiently done. The insufficient supply of labour, the comparatively low level of education, the excessive sub-division of land, and the low standard of comfort prevailing, no doubt, all contribute to this result. But I am inclined to ascribe even greater effect to the precariousness of the seasons and the consequent increasing popularity of emigration.

SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

A. Montgomerie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The agriculturists have been enabled to a certain extent to recover from the effects of past famine. They have had good food crops and a fair supply of fodder and they have benefited by the high prices. But the lack of water in the wells and bandharas has limited the cultivation of the highly profitable garden crops on which they rely to improve materially their financial position. The year has thus been for them one of respite rather than of decided advance. There is, however, much hope for the future. A people who have come through the trying years which have been the lot of the peasants of this district east of Krishna, and who have shown a spirit of sturdy independence such as was exhibited in the last famine, will not fail to take advantage of every opportunity to recover their old position and free themselves from the burdens they have had imposed on them. Another good harvest, and the ryot will be free of his debt to Government; and given a succession of good years, he will increase his somewhat depleted stock of agricultural cattle and recover the ornaments which he has been forced to sell. The less hopeful features are that many of those who emigrated in the last famine have not returned and that those who have got into the habit of going to Bombay and Karáchi in search of labour have lost the taste for agriculture and neglect the necessary improvements on their fields. Thus a good deal of land seems to have gone out of cultivation.

The lowest classes seem to be growing more discontented with their lot. The Mahars are less and less inclined to remain in their old position of hereditary village servants. They complain of the increasing burden of work and the scantiness of their remuneration, and the villagers are inclined to refuse them their hereditary emoluments. The Mahárs are bad and careless agriculturists and the land which they enjoy for service is often left uncultivated while the owners are working in Bombay as coolies. They are thus dropping out of the communal village life and, unless something is done to provide them with definite pay and so induce them to remain in the village, the difficulties of Government work will be largely increased. It is not easy to see how the multifarious duties now performed by them can be executed in their absence.

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

D. Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Though the crops were not of the best, the high price of cotton in the beginning of the season gave the cultivators more money than they could have reasonably hoped for. The merchants bought as much of the cotton as they could lay their hands on, at reasonably high prices, but the demand in England for cotton being somewhat less than usual, the prices fell, and the merchants

found themselves in possession of goods which they could not sell, except at considerable loss. So far as the cultivators and the agricultural labourers were concerned, they were well off. The cultivators sold their cotton at high prices and the labourers had good wages.

POONA DISTRICT.

G. V. Joglekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The condition of the people in this year has no doubt been somewhat better than in the last year, as they could meet the Government demand and maintain themselves and their families in their own villages. In the previous season they were obliged to seek labour outside for their very subsistence. They kept body and soul together. The condition cannot be permanently improved, after such an unfortunate series of bad seasons, in a year or two. But the experience has been most useful to the lethargic and rather conservative Deccan agriculturist. He is now ready with the least sign of a drought to face it and with such readiness can bear it with greater fortitude, if ever that unhappy and unwished for contingency occurs again.

WEST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

J. Ghosal, Esq., Collector.

In spite of everything, the demand for land even in these parts is increasing and in out-of-the-way corners of Nandurbár Táluka the occupancy price of land sold this year averaged 12 to 15 times the assessment. In Dhulia and Sindkheda Tálukas waste lands in some cases were sold at 50 times the assessment on restricted tenure. This great demand for land, the ease with which all land revenue is collected, the harmonious relations between the landlords and tenants, the good clothing of even the poorer classes, the numerous ponies and tongas, and the large and substantial buildings in each village, all denote a high degree of prosperity and come as a pleasant surprise to one coming to this district fresh from the Deccan.

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

It is the cotton crop which forms the wealth of the district. The species grown is nearly all early cotton. In Nawápur, the late or Gujaráti variety is grown. In the case of both, the crop outturn was not on the whole more than 8 annas, but it is satisfactory to note that the total outturn was at least as much as normal owing to an increase in the area planted. I met with some remarkable examples of the profits made. In Pimpalner, one Bhil got Rs. 200 for the cotton crop of a field assessed at Rs. 5 only which he had just taken up, and another paying a slightly larger assessment was able to pay his sávkár over Rs. 150 and free his land. But, on the whole, cotton was not so profitable a crop as in the previous year.

The Bhils and similar castes showed the greatest desire for land for cultivation, and I think there can be no doubt that large numbers of them, who have been till now more or less nomadic, are showing a distinct tendency to settle down.

(II) *Labour and Wages.*

POONA DISTRICT.

G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

Labour was unusually dear during the year. The better harvest increased the demand for agricultural labour and freed the petty cultivators from the need of seeking other employment, as they were forced to do last year. On the other hand, there was a great demand for labour at Poona in connection with the extensive building operations in hand, and doubling of the G. I. P. Railway. The rate for unskilled labour at Poona and Baramati was for months as high as 6 annas and on the sugarcane fields crushing operations were delayed because it was not forthcoming in sufficient quantity even at that rate. There was a slight fall towards the close of the year. It is possible that the

severe epidemic of plague in Poona at the beginning of the year diminished the supply and so increased the price of labour, but there would have been a considerable rise even without this disturbing factor.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

Wages of field labour were for most of the year some 20 per cent. higher than the normal. The rise is due to the fact that in recent years the supply has not been equal to the local demand, owing partly to famine having taught the able-bodied agricultural labourers to emigrate in quest of labour to commercial centres like Bombay, or to places with prospect of good harvest season, particularly where much cotton is grown, and partly to plague having thinned the rural population.

SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

The rate of wages has remained practically constant at about 3 annas a day for unskilled and 8 to 10 annas for skilled labour. The almost uninterrupted succession of bad seasons since 1897, combined with annually recurring plague epidemics, has diminished the available supply of labour. Another factor, namely the demand for labour in Bombay and other centres and the high wages obtainable, has contributed to the same result by drawing off large numbers of labourers from the district.

L. J. Sedgwick, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Famine and plague have largely diminished the available supply of labour. During 1905 and 1906 many people left the sub-division as they were unable to support themselves at home. These for the most part found employment in Bombay. It is stated that not a few agriculturists abandoned their lands, and moved with their families and their cattle to the Berárs, where they saw better prospects of securing a maintenance. Even during the current year some four or five thousand persons are reported to have emigrated to the large towns of the Presidency, though work must have been procurable in the district.

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simeox, Esq., Collector.

The district had as usual to depend upon the Deccan for its labourers. Though the influx was not so large as that of the last year, it was not less than that of preceding years. In spite of the fact of so many immigrants coming into the district, the demand for labour still exists. This is apparent from the difficulty the officials meet in carrying out Public Works and Local Fund works. The rate for a cart and pair of bullocks was higher than usual from April to June owing to the price of fodder. The fact that labour is all imported and is hard to get is a sure sign that times are not bad. The Khandedhi will work when he wants food, and only then, unless he is forced.

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

During the greater part of the year the wages of the unskilled labourers varied from 4 to 6 annas, but at the time of harvesting, when the demand for labour was naturally at its height, employers had in many instances to pay double the amount mentioned. Gins and presses as also the Railway workshops at Bhusával still absorb a very large proportion of the unskilled labour. There is an evident tendency on the part of the better class of workpeople to eschew agricultural operations in favour of industrial employment. In the factories they are freer from anxiety about the future, and can enjoy the more social life of the towns and large villages.

WEST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

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

The system of hiring agricultural labourers by the year and paying them an advance so as to bring them under the provisions of Act XIII of 1859 is

growing almost as common here as it is in the Konkan. I notice that the position of such labourers here is distinctly less comfortable than there. They are not fed by their masters, but are paid rather more, namely, Rs. 4 to 5 a month. As the labourer generally spends his advance as soon as he gets it in getting married and then has nothing to live on, breaches of such agreements are inordinately common.

(III) *Prices and Wages.*

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

D. Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The prices of ghee, oil and fuel have increased considerably within a very short time. Even in the Famine of 1876, the prices of these articles never rose so high. Ghee is sold at  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of a seer per rupee, oil at two seers and fire-wood at twelve annas a maund. Ghee has become a forbidden article of food to common people. It is not easy to say what the cause is, but the fact remains, explain it how we may. Though the harvest last year was good, and though the rainfall this year is plentiful and timely, the prices obtaining for food-grains and other articles of consumption are almost famine prices.

(IV) *Credit.*

POONA DISTRICT.

G. V. Joglekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Owing to the long succession of bad seasons, much land has already gone into the clutches of the *sávkárs*, who are for the most part *Márwádis*, whereas in other *tálukas* they are generally *Gujars*, who are not as usurious and hard-hearted as the *Márwádi Banias* in *Sirur táluca*. These generally never cultivate the lands in person but let them for cultivation to the original owners or their brother cultivators. The relations up to now existing between the *sávkárs* and agriculturists have nowise changed, though the *Bania sávkárs* are losing a part of their lending business owing to the liberal distribution of *tagái* by Government during the famine. People no doubt find it hard to obtain sufficient money on their lands when already mortgaged with Government for *tagái*, but one good result has followed, *viz.*, the people have learnt to deny themselves some of the old luxuries and curtail marriage expenditure as far as possible.

(V) *Collections.*

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

Since last November a special establishment of *tagái* Head *Karkuns* assisted the *Mámlatdár* and ordinary and extra Head *Karkuns* to make a thorough inquiry into all cases of *tagái* grants under Land Improvement Loans Act not yet fully paid off. In each case the work was inspected, the results noted, further assistance, if necessary, given towards completion of the work either by *tagái* or by loan of jumpers and a settlement of the debt effected by fixing new instalments for repayment of outstanding principal and interest, according to the debtor's means and the profit or loss on his enterprise, remission being granted where necessary. In 301 cases out of the total of 8,680 investigated, misappropriation of the original grant was detected, and the whole outstandings—Rs. 97,066—in these cases (11 per cent. of the whole outstandings under Land Improvement Loans Act) have been or are being summarily recovered. The settlement has been extended since June to loans under the *Agriculturists' Loans Act* also, and by the end of November the whole of the *tagái* debts of this district will have been settled, so that each debtor will have a certain sum covering both principal and interest to pay every year on account of all his *tagái* debts together. The results of this settlement, together with all future *tagái* transactions, will be exhibited in a new set of *tagái* account forms in the new system of *tagái* accounts recommended by the *Tagái Committee*, in which the account work will be not more than  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of what it is now.

## SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

I have elsewhere strongly recommended an alteration in the system of village accounts, whereby every occupant who pays assessment direct to Government will have a separate ledger head and whereby it will no longer be necessary to search through the accounts of several "Khátas" in order to ascertain what is due from a given cultivator. The simplification of the work of village accountants will be enormous and fraud will be rendered far less easy. I have ordered the accounts of selected villages in two or three talukas to be prepared according to this system, in order to ascertain what the exact difference in the bulk of the accounts will be. As a matter of fact, most village officers keep already for their own information private ledgers showing the amount due from the different occupants. I shall report as early as possible the result of my experiment.

L. J. Sedgwick, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The collection of revenue whether due in the current year or as arrears from past years was attended with considerable difficulty. This is especially true of Khánápur taluka and the richer villages of Wálwa taluka where the greatest reluctance to pay was displayed. Goods liable to attachment were removed by the defaulters from their own houses to the houses of neighbours who had already discharged their liabilities, and frequently the rumour of the Mámlatdár's approach was a signal for the flight of defaulters themselves from the village.

*(VI) Migration.*

## NA'SIK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

Emigration to Bombay took place as usual from the south of the district which is adjacent to the G. I. P. Railway. The emigration from Sinnar was more than usual, doubtless owing to the great demand for labour at high wages in Bombay.

Immigration from the Konkan took place as usual at the time of harvest. Now-a-days Konkanis do not return to the Konkan at the end of the hot season, as formerly, but settle down in Násik and other surrounding villages where they can find sufficient employment. The Darna Dam work, which is in progress in the Igatpuri taluka in this district, attracted labourers from the Akola taluka in the Nagar district.

## POONA DISTRICT.

G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

During the famine period of 1905-06, it is estimated that about 115,000 persons emigrated to places such as Bombay, Berár, Khándesh and the Nizám's territories. The emigration commenced in December 1905 and ended in March 1906. The number includes those who even in normal years leave their homes for labour in Bombay. Emigrants began to return in June 1906 and by the end of September 1906 most of them had come back and resumed their agricultural operations.

The sugarcane industry in the Haveli, Bhimthadi and Indápur talukas attracted about 6,000 labourers from other districts, who returned when the crushing operations were over.

## EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

R. T. F. Kirk, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In the year 1905-06 there was an unprecedented influx of Deccani families into Khándesh, owing to the famine: and most of them found employment in the ginning factories and the cotton fields, with the result that the price of labour fell below normal. This year, however, there was no such reason for immigration, and the price of labour therefore rose again. There is of course a yearly influx of visitors who work in the ginning factories during the cotton

season and go back home when the season is finished. In addition to these, many persons who had come during the famine have remained in this district. There was no inducement to emigration, the year being a prosperous one and the Khándeshis not addicted to wandering.

(VII) Education.

ARMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

Throughout the season, I was looking for Koli candidates for masterships in Koli schools, with the result that the Educational Inspector and the District Local Board have now arranged for the opening next month of 7 new schools in the Akola Dángs and of a training school for Koli masters in a new building at Rájur on the lines of the Mokháda Koli Education scheme.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

Special attempts are being made to give education to the hill tribes and depressed castes. The District Local Board have voted funds for the establishment and maintenance of a hostel at Peint for pupils of those classes. In furtherance of the scheme, Government have handed over to the District Local Board part of the old Police lines which are now being adapted for a hostel. The Mhárs at Dindori have agreed to hand over their chávdí to the District Local Board for a school for Mhár boys and the District Local Board have sanctioned money for its repair and maintenance.

Similarly, the Mhárs of Dhodambe, táluka Chándor, Ambe-Dindori, táluka Dindori, Trimbak and Sávargaon, táluka Násik, have offered to supply buildings free of charge.

E. G. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Education has run its level course, and everywhere save in villages of Western Igatpuri those which do not boast a school seem very eager to secure one. There is a night school at Yeola which benefits the weaving class considerably, and the Mahárs of Ozar have also petitioned for a night school. The schools in all the táluka towns except Niphád are in good condition, and the majority of the village schools visited seemed to be doing good work. Villagers undoubtedly appreciate the benefits of education, and the lower caste pupils are slowly increasing in numbers. Great progress in educating the lower castes cannot be made, in my opinion, until they have their own caste masters and separate rooms to sit in.

W. Plunkett, Esq., Deputy Collector.

It is pleasing to note the gradual advance in female education, and a most refreshing sight is that of a well attended Mahomedan girls' school in the city of Málegaon. But such institutions to be successful must be in the hands of female teachers. These are unfortunately very rare and difficult to obtain.

Excepting perhaps schools in Municipal areas, it cannot be said that rural education is making any advance worth noting. Village punchas continue to show that apathy which has so often been referred to.

EAST KHÁ'NDESH DISTRICT.

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

Among the forces which combine to ameliorate the condition of the masses, education finds the foremost place. The increasing popularity of primary instruction may be gauged in some measure by the readiness with which, in many villages, subscriptions for educational purposes are forthcoming. Numerous applications have been received for the opening of new schools, and it seems a matter for regret that so many of these requests should have to be refused simply on account of the inadequacy of the Provincial grant. It is still difficult to attract the children of agriculturists to regular attendance at the schools.

*(VIII) Swadeshi enterprise.*

POONA DISTRICT.

G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

A large number of the shops are labelled "Swadeshi," but it is not probable that any capital has been specially diverted in this direction. Some of the Bráhmíns of Poona have however invested money in Swadeshi concerns in Bombay, such as a Swadeshi shop and a soap factory.

The only other business that need be mentioned is the jagri trade of Bárámati, which is the exporting market for two-thirds of the area irrigated by the Nira Canal. The value of the jagri dealt with at Bárámati during the year is estimated at 18 lákhs, but I was informed that the export by rail was 25 per cent. less than last year. Good prices were obtained by the sellers.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

E. G. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Industrial enterprise is represented by the trade combination movement in Yeola, the cloth of which town is famous owing to the permanency of its colour and the lustre of its silk and laces. The combination was formed for preventing the sale of inferior material. The dealers and weavers were not unanimous at first as regards details of the scheme, but a settlement has been effected and henceforth Yeola cloth will bear a trade mark.

Only one Swadeshi shop has been opened, that being a Co-operative Store in Yeola. It is said to be doing a good business.

*(IX) Temperance.*

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

E. G. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Temperance reformers were active in the beginning of the year, and according to liquor shopkeepers, much less liquor was consumed in consequence. The masses as a whole are not strong drinkers, and the majority of the rayats are total abstainers.

*(X) State of public feeling and the press.*

POONA DISTRICT.

G. V. Joglekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The population in this division is mainly agricultural and, as such, illiterate and backward in education. It does not show any inclination to political unrest or propaganda. Some people must be reading the newspapers printed and published in Poona, but nowhere were any signs apparent or visible of the dull agriculturists being moved by any of the pretensions and claims advocated in some of them. The mass is still unmoved. Though Poona, the head-quarter town of the district, is always full of activity and rather much ahead in respect of political matters, the villagers maintain their conservative attitude still in this division, and it can safely be surmised that at least for a decade to come no fears need be entertained of any political restlessness or activity, unless an extraordinary upheaval takes place.

SA'TÁRA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

I regret to say that the district has not been altogether uninfected by the seditious movement which has been in evidence throughout India during the past year. There has been some seditious writing, some seditious speaking and there have been some seditious stage representations. I was compelled to warn several editors of newspapers and so far, I am glad to say, no paper of which an editor has been warned has published a seditious article since the warning. The performance of two plays by a Sátára author, the tone of which was

decidedly seditious, has been prohibited by Government, one of which only had been performed prior to the prohibition. School boys have to some extent been encouraged by political agitators to take part in political meetings and it will need watchful care on the part of the educational authorities to prevent seditious doctrines being inculcated in the minds of the young at a most impressionable age. The teachings of some vernacular newspapers exercise an especially evil influence on school boys. Efforts have been made by political agitators to influence the cultivating classes, but they have not as yet, so far as my information goes, made much head-way in this direction.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

V. D. Puntambekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

I found perfect quiet throughout my charge, Násik town excepted. At Bhagur there are some tall-talkers, but they have no followers. With the exception of a few educated men, the average rayat seems quite contented. There appears no disaffection or dissatisfaction in him. He does not know what takes place in the so-called towns and he does not care to know it. I also observed that there were no race animosities. All the sects, castes and tribes appeared to be quite in harmony with each other.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

THE HON'BLE MR. W. W. DREW, COMMISSIONER, S. D.

1.—*Season.*

The season was on the whole fair, and coming as it did, after two bad years, brought welcome relief to the agricultural and labouring classes. Locusts appeared but in thin and scattered swarms, in parts of Belgaum, Bijápur, Kánara and Ratnágiri and did no appreciable damage, as in most cases the crops had been gathered in.

In Belgaum, the rainfall was adequate but not sufficiently seasonable. The monsoon was a little late in arrival and necessitated double sowings in places where they had already been made in anticipation of its timely outburst; again in three villages in the south-eastern corner of the Parasgad taluka, a rabi area, the late rains, on which it mainly depends, completely failed for the third consecutive year and gratuitous relief had to be provided for the aged and infirm, unable to leave their homes in search of labour, and for village servants whose presence within the villages was indispensable. The Collector states that in the latter part of August it rained copiously in the eastern tract, which led the rayats to sow cotton more extensively than usual. But their expectations were not fulfilled, as the yield was much affected by the deficient rain in October and unfavourable winds in November and December. In the rice growing tracts, *e. g.*, Sampgaon, Khánápur and Belgaum, the tanks did not fill and the crops suffered. On the whole, Mr. Brendon estimates that bájri was good and the other kharif crops moderate. The outturn of rabi jowári he puts at between 7 and 9 annas.

At one time in Bijápur the season promised to be a very good one, but the hope was doomed to disappointment. With the satisfactory opening of the monsoon, the kharif sowings made a good start and some of the usual rabi area even was sown with kharif. In July the rainfall was in defect of the average, but the deficiency was made up by the heavy showers that were received in the following month, and so far the standing crops fared well. In September the fall was much below the normal, but this did not much affect the crops, as the lands had retained sufficient moisture from the previous month's fall. Cotton sowings were completed and  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the rabi area was sown. In October, however, the rain was again below the average and November was a dry month. A few extraordinary heavy showers fell in December, but the Collector states that they did more harm than good. This capricious course of the monsoon affected both the kharif and the rabi, the combined outturn of which the

Collector estimates at not more than 6 annas. The rabi was poorer than kharif, being 6 to 8 annas against 8 annas of the latter.

Speaking of rainfall statistics, the Assistant Collector, Mr. Alcock, observes that as at present collected they are not very successful. In a district with light rain, totals of falls are, he thinks, no use. He would have such of the falls as amount to or exceed 20 cents shown individually. He further proposes that every circle in a taluka should have a raingauge to record the rain, to be entrusted to the village officers. The Commissioner does not see any necessity for the multiplication of gauges, nor does he consider that any change in the recording of statistics is called for. The gauges are now to be found at all Taluka Head Quarter stations, and also in places with dispensaries, where alone they can be trusted to be worked with reasonable accuracy; and this seems sufficient. His other suggestion would apparently involve extra clerical labour not commensurate with the advantage to be derived, and the Commissioner is not prepared to support it.

In Dhárwár, the season was better than in either of the two preceding districts. Jowári, the staple food of the district, gave an average yield. Cotton was almost equally good. In the western talukas, however, owing to the absence of heavy showers in August, the tanks did not fill and the rice crops under them suffered in consequence. In October, heavy rain fell, but it was too late to help the rice, though beneficial to other crops, such as cotton, late jowári and sugarcane. Allowing for the deficiency in the rice crop and for the short crops of wheat, which was affected by rust on account of the heavy showers of December, the Collector considers that the year was a 9-anna one.

In the coast districts of Kolába, Ratnágiri and Kánara, the rainfall was sufficient and fairly seasonable. The crop outturn was about normal. In Devgad in Ratnágiri, it is to be observed, excessive rainfall caused landslips, which involved the loss of 6 human beings and 58 head of cattle and rendered 167 acres of arable land unfit for cultivation. Remission of land revenue, amounting to Rs. 252, had to be granted on account of the latter. On the banks of the Kalinadi in the Supa Petha of the Kánara district, some wild elephants seem to have settled, which did some damage to crops, necessitating a remission of Rs. 60 on account of land revenue. The khedda operations, which were at one time proposed for their capture, were abandoned owing to the heavy cost they involved.

In Kolába, Ratnágiri and Kánara, not much difficulty was experienced in the collection of land revenue. In Vengurla in Ratnágiri, however, it is reported, the people in expectation of remission formed a sort of combination to resist payment of the suspended arrears of 1905-06, but it broke down with a little firmness on the part of the executive officers. It is satisfactory to find that there was no appreciable increase in the amount of pressure used in Belgaum and Bijápur, although there was a substantial amount of suspended arrears for collection in addition to the current year's demand. In Belgaum Rs. 3,44,713 of the former were collected. No such figures are forthcoming for Bijápur. In Dhárwár, the Collector merely says that Rs. 8,00,000 of suspended arrears were set down for recovery, but does not say how much was actually collected, nor what amount of pressure was needed. The subject of recovery of land revenue is intimately connected with the economic condition of the people, and Mr. Hudson will be asked to specially refer to it in his future reports.

#### *2.—Prices of food and labour.*

Contrary to the usual course in a favourable year, the prices of food-grains, which had reached a high level during the preceding year of short crops, showed little or no tendency to fall, except for a short time after the harvest, when the new grain was thrown on the market and the prices lowered a little. In Chikodi in the Belgaum District, the Collector states that they reached the normal for a few weeks. Various explanations of this phenomenon are attempted in the several reports. The year's outturn may have fallen short of the average, or the cultivators, who are generally reported to hold large stocks of grain, may have been the more impelled to replenish them this year, as their reserves had

been largely depleted by two successive years of bad harvests, and it may be that the merchants taking advantage of this scarcity of grain forced up the prices. All these causes may in part have contributed to maintain the high level of prices. But, as Mr. Yennemadi observes, the dominating factor of the situation seems to be that, owing to famine conditions obtaining in other parts of India and adjoining countries, the grain was largely exported, while the imports from elsewhere considerably lessened. It would seem that as facilities for export and import increase, minimising the incidental expenses, large land-owners, or, for the matter of that, the merchants seek to obtain the maximum of profit in the dearest market. Field labour is still generally paid in kind, though there is an increasing tendency to pay in cash owing to the high prices of food-grains. There was enough demand for such labour, and Mr. Sathaye observes that in Ron and Gadag it was difficult to get coolies even at 4 annas a day for Local Fund works. The wages for field labour do not appear to have generally varied much. The labourer being paid in kind, he is but little influenced by the prevailing high prices. In the case of ordinary unskilled labour, a small increase is reported. This must be the case, as owing to high prices, the purchasing power of the wages is *pro tanto* reduced. As Mr. Alcock observes, however, they do not vary in the same proportion as prices do in good and bad years, though no doubt the course of the latter must in some measure react on the former. The large number of marriages that took place during the year, coupled with the Swadeshi movement, gave sufficient employment to weavers, of whom there are considerable numbers in Belgaum, Bijápúr and Dhárwár. In Kánara, the Collector states that the Hávigs did well, cardamoms, one of their staple garden products, having fetched better prices during the year.

### 3.—*Material Prosperity.*

The year was one of respite and recovery, but not one of prosperity. The eastern tract of Belgaum is impoverished by a series of lean years, and the Collector considers that three or certainly two good years in close succession are required for it to recuperate. In Chandgad and hilly portions of Khánápúr, the cultivators are the Kunbi Maráthas, who are said to be very poor and little better than serfs of their Bráhmin creditors. As Mr. Artal suggests, there does not seem to be any way of uplifting them except by free and compulsory education. This can only be a process of time. Elsewhere, the majority of the cultivators are Lingáyats, who are a thrifty people. During the year under report, Mr. Brendon estimates that 65 per cent. of the villages in the district had normal crops, and 32 per cent.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the normal. This would seem to have enabled the district to make some advance towards recovery. The condition of Bijápúr is similar to that of Eastern Belgaum referred to above. Unless there is a succession of 3 or 4 good years in store for the district, the process of recovery here too must be prolonged. It is not easy to follow the Collector when he says that the extent of recovery of the district can be gauged by the amount of supply bills issued on the treasuries in Bijápúr during the three years of 1905, 1906 and 1907, which was respectively Rs. 9,92,000, *nil* and Rs. 13,16,000. In Dhárwár, the crops during year of report were twice as good as those of last year (which was a year of scarcity) and the peasantry are generally well-to-do. There is good trade in the district. The Railway workshop and other industries add a good deal to the general resources of the district. That the masses are possessed of fairly good resources was evinced during the last famine of 1905-1906, when they were able to pull through with a minimum of aid from Government in the form of a liberal grant of tagái and of suspensions of land revenue. Navalgund, however, is the only taluka, which gives some cause for anxiety, as it has been hit hard by a more frequent failure of crops. In Kánara, the garden cultivators, the Hávigs, once opulent, have now grown indolent and from false ideas of happiness are running headlong into debt. The other land-holders are said to be in easy circumstances. The Kunbi Maráthas of Bhatkal, who formerly depended mainly on kumri cultivation and were reduced to half-starvation of late years (many emigrated to Mysore), are now said to be doing well with their Hakkal assignments. Mr. Yennemadi hopes that in course of time they will take up the cultivation of rice land, of which there is a good deal to be found in the jungle villages of the Petha. On the other hand, the progress of

the Supa Kunbis, with their assignments, is said to be not satisfactory. They are too lazy to work. Mr. Chaubal repeats Mr. Yennemadi's suggestion made last year that in all forest villages the people may be permitted to clear forests undergrowth, including bamboo bushes, within 200 yards of their homesteads, which would improve the climate and with it their health. The Commissioner sees no objection to the proposal, which has the Collector's support, and is already in force in the Supa Petha as regards the forest undergrowth. It is satisfactory to note the progress being made by the Thákurs in Kolába towards a peaceful and settled life. The same cannot be said of the Kátkaris, who seem to be making poor use of their assignments and show but little sign of giving up their thieving propensities. A fairly good year has benefited the land-holders here. In Ratnágiri, it was equally good. Here two serious fires broke out and devastated two fishing hamlets of Ratnágiri town. The Collector, with commendable promptitude, opened a relief fund which soon reached the respectable amount of Rs. 4,000, and this enabled the destroyed houses to be rebuilt in a better style than before. The discovery of manganese in Málvan and Vengurla augurs well for the future of this poor and backward district. A great want of the district, Mr. Maconochie states, is improvement of communication, especially with the outside world. The matter is engaging attention.

#### 4.—Public Health.

Public health was nowhere seriously disturbed. Bijápur remained singularly immune from plague throughout the year, and though cholera and small-pox appeared, they never attained epidemic proportions. In other districts, the recrudescence of plague was generally mild. Mahád in Kolába was for the first time affected. Generally speaking, the people seem to pin their faith to evacuation more than to any other remedy. But it is not within the power of all, and it is hoped that in course of time their prejudice against inoculation, the only effective remedy within the reach of all, will wear away and it will be availed of to a greater extent than hitherto. In the *mallad* portion of Dhárwár, malaria carried off 1,524 persons more than last year, and the Collector has already induced the District Local Board to distribute, free, quinine among the people there. Rs. 4,000 have been sanctioned by that body for the purpose. In Kánara, the same malady was responsible for 7,437 deaths, against 5,000 last year. Quinine was distributed through the agency of school-masters. In the Collector's opinion, the Travelling Dispensaries are not doing sufficiently useful work, owing to the frequent transfer of the Hospital Assistants. The matter has been duly brought to the notice of Government in the General Department (*vide* para. 27 of Commissioner's Local Board Administration Report for 1906-07). Mr. Panse wishes to extend the system of quinine distribution by entrusting it to Village Officers. This seems a good idea. The increased virulence of malaria, Mr. Yennemadi attributes to the untimely rain in December. In Gokarn and Bhatkal, it is reported that there was organized opposition to vaccination, but it gave way soon after the people were threatened with the extension of the Vaccination Act to those areas. Except in isolated cases like those quoted above, the Commissioner thinks that the people appreciate the benefits of vaccination and willingly take to it as the best remedy against small-pox.

#### 5.—Cattle and Fodder.

Fodder and water for cattle were ample everywhere. Writing of his subdivision, Mr. Alcock says that kadbi stocks can now be seen in abundance near many villages. Although the other reports do not specifically refer to the point, the same can be said of the other parts of the Desh as well. Tagái was freely advanced to replenish losses of cattle caused by the last two years of famine. Owing to the same cause, cattle sold rather dear during the year. It is consoling to find that no appreciable land went out of cultivation for want of them. Cattle are often hired for cultivation purposes and the Collector of Bijápur writes that cattle owners made some money on their animals this year.

Rinderpest broke out in all the districts and in rather a severe form in parts of Belgaum, Dhárwár, Kánara and Kolába, and the measures taken for checking it are discussed further on.

### 6.—*Emigration and Immigration.*

The majority of famine emigrants from Belgaum, Bijápur and Dhárwár returned in time to resume agricultural operations. The stay-at-home tendencies of the people are being overcome by stress of circumstances. Again this year from three villages in the Parasgad taluka of the Belgaum district, where the crops completely failed for the third time in succession, the able-bodied largely emigrated to more favoured tracts in search of livelihood. Beyond this small emigration, there was none except what takes place within the district in normal times. In Kánara, there was this year the absence of the usual immigration of labourers from the Portuguese territory to work in the spice gardens, which the Collector explains as due to the opening of manganese mines there, which seems to have offered them sufficient employment nearer home. The emigration of enterprising Mahomedans from parts of Kolába and Ratnágiri to South Africa has now received a check from the restrictive legislation passed there.

### 7.—*Industrial Enterprise and Trade.*

In Belgaum, the Gokák Falls Mills continued to do good work. They purchased 26 lakhs worth of cotton during the year and gave employment on an average to 2,219 hands daily. At Athni, two new ginning factories were set up. In all, there are now 9 ginning and pressing factories. The cotton crop of the year was not good and, as the Collector says, they cannot have made much profit. Mention is made in the Collector's report of two undertakings designed to revive the waning indigenous hand-loom industry in Belgaum. One is the opening of class for the free training of selected students in the use of an improved loom with a fly shuttle under the patronage of the District Local Board and the other is an attempt which is being made by the same teachers for the introduction of the Japanese loom. It is stated that some 50 of these were sold out during the year. This is a hopeful sign. In Bijápur, there are a few cotton presses. The Swadeshi movement here as elsewhere has benefited the hand-loom weavers. Dhárwár has 25 factories under the Act; with a fair-to-good cotton crop, they all did good work. The Collector refers to the Gadag Aloe Fibre Factory, but does not say how it worked. Hubli, the largest industrial centre in the district, continued to prosper. The cotton market was found insufficient and had to be extended during the year. There are four kerosine oil installations of three different Companies, at Dhárwár, Hubli, Gadag and Byádgí, respectively. In Kánara, a gual factory at Honávar, a coconut oil factory and a rope making handicraft design at the same place, a soap factory at Sirsi and a tile factory at Kumta, are among the signs of an industrial awakening, though on a small scale. The rice mills at Panvel and Karjat in Kolába are in a flourishing condition. Trade in timber was brisk. Mr. Koreishi observes that nothing short of a light railway, running through the Southern Konkan, can ever put the commerce in these parts on a satisfactory basis. As already referred to elsewhere, Vengurla and Málvan in Ratnágiri present a prospect for manganese industry. The Collector is experimenting with rubber at Dápoli. He also hopes that in time a cotton industry may spring up, as the local indigenous cotton known as "Dev-Kápus" seems to contain possibilities of development.

*Mining.*—Applications for manganese concessions are pouring in, especially in Belgaum, Dhárwár and Kánara. Kolába now remains the only district outside the sphere of the mining enterprise. In Bijápur, two applications for prospecting for gold and two for asbestos were received and the licenses will be issued in due course. In Ratnágiri, two exploring licenses for manganese were issued during the year. In Dhárwár gold mining continues to make progress. Four exploring licenses over an area of 9,237 acres were given during the year. The area given on two gold mining leases was 1,526 acres, making the total area leased 5,697 acres. From January last, in the Gadag gold-fields crushing has begun, but the Collector reports so far without satisfactory results. So long Gadag was the only field for gold. Now the operations have been extended to Kod, Karajgi, Bankápur, Dhárwár, Navalgund and Kalghatgi, the first being most popular. If gold is found in these talukas, the Collector apprehends that sufficient labour will not be forthcoming, unless the population abandons agriculture. This is, however, a contingency too remote now to seriously think of,

8.—*Education.*

In recent years famine and plague retarded the progress of many a rural school. The absence of the former and the diminished severity of the latter during the year of report helped to revive them. Mr. Leathem (Assistant Collector, Belgaum) writes of the prejudice of agriculturists against education, but the Collector, Mr. Brendon, flatly contradicts him. No doubt, the desire among them for education is keener than before, as is evidenced by the increasing number of applications received for the starting of new schools. It cannot however be gainsaid that the non-adaptation of our school curriculum to the needs of the agriculturists' life is a stumbling block in the path of progress. The education should be more practical. Again, at harvest times, the boys may be allowed a long holiday or at least night classes be opened then. The subject of free education is already under the consideration of Government. But as the Commissioner has already remarked, better facilities for education by the opening of a school for each village, if possible, are the more needed. Primary education, says R. B. Yennemadi, to be of use, should be imparted along with moral education. This is quite true. His suggestion for the raising of pay of teachers in primary schools deserves consideration. But the increase of pay of the Taláti and other Revenue subordinates should have precedence, if both cannot be done together. Mahomedan education is generally backward. But in Kolába, Mr. Koreishi observes that the Anjuman-i-Islam is doing good work. Female education outside large towns shows but little progress. The fact is that children are sent to school simply to keep them out of harm's way. As soon as they are past that stage, they are detained at home for their services. The education of depressed classes continues to receive attention. Separate schools for them are advocated, to be presided over by Mahomedan teachers failing those of their own class. In Ratnágiri the District Local Board have sanctioned free admission and Rs. 400 for scholarships to them. This seems a step in the right direction, and might be followed by others with advantage. Supply of free books will further improve matters. The Ratnágiri School of Industry is progressing well. There are two more industrial schools in the district, but the Collector considers them little better than Kindergartens. Mr. Divatia thinks that with occasional expert supervision they will do better. The Commissioner thinks this can be given by the Superintendent of Ratnágiri School of Industry. In Belgaum, Mr. Arthur repeats the complaint that the high prices of primary readers in schools work a hardship on poor boys. In the Collector's opinion, this is a real grievance, as the children have often to be supplied with more copies than one owing to their rough handling. The Commissioner agrees and he would suggest that the matter may be referred to the Educational Department for consideration.

9.—*Public feeling and Public Press.*

There were no striking indications of any feeling of hostility towards Government and its measures. The press influence is generally negligible. In Dhárwár, the Collector states that a new paper has been started, which takes its cue from the "*Kál*" of Poona and the other newspapers of that type, but its circulation is limited. Political propaganda of a doubtful character have not made any headway, although agitators have visited important towns from time to time, especially in Belgaum, Dhárwár and Bijápur. The fact is that the masses are generally ignorant and indifferent, and have neither the desire nor the capacity to understand the dogmas of Swadeshism, etc. As Mr. Vachha observes, Swadeshism does not mean much to the ordinary villager, as he is too poor to afford anything European. In fact, he is already a Swadeshite. Often it is those who openly profess Swadeshism that are not themselves Swadeshites either at heart or in practice. The agitation would seem to be confined to the educated classes, of whom the pleaders are more in evidence. In Belgaum, Mr. Artal, a Deputy Collector of experience and keen discernment, considers that it is already dying out. His remarks in this connection are interesting reading. Writing of Dhárwár, Mr. Hudson states that Lingáyats are the most important section of the population, who are enterprising traders and good cultivators. They concern themselves with nothing beyond their profession. In Siddápur in Kánara, as a result of temperance preaching, the toddy-drawers in a body refused to follow their profession, and the toddy-farm for the year

could not be sold for want of bidders. Later on, they began to take country liquor more freely than before. In course of time, the enthusiasm evaporated and Mr. Panse says that the farm was duly sold during the current year. In the high teak forests of Yellapur and Haliyál, the Dhangar Gowlis are said to be discontented on account of restrictions placed on the grazing of their cattle. These were necessitated in the interests of forest conservancy, and the discontent will wear away with the lapse of time, as the Gowlis get accustomed to the new order of things.

In Navalgund and Nargund in Dhárwár, Mr. Sathaye observes that the introduction of the revised survey rates was viewed with some discontent. The recent series of lean years in this part of the district have much to do with this, but it is hoped that a few good years will set matters right.

#### 10.—*Tagái.*

The intentions of Government in advancing tagái are well understood and their liberality much appreciated. The system has now been considerably developed, especially in the above-ghát districts. Mr. Graham in Dhárwár says that money has been distributed at all seasons of the year and without regard to whether labour was available. Three or four loans have been advanced to one village and at one time, with the result that the works have been delayed and often the money diverted to other purposes. He is setting matters right. It is difficult to see what prevents the disbursing officers from issuing the loan at or about the time when it will be actually needed, so as to reduce the chances of misapplication to a minimum. When once the money is issued at the proper time, its proper application can of course only be ensured by a systematic inspection of the work. With the available inspecting staff in the increased number of Circle Inspectors and special head kárkuns, these should not be difficult to attend to. Mr. Sathaye brings to notice that one effect of the extension of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act is to divert the rayat, who now finds but little accommodation with the sávkár, to Government for money needed for his purposes, other than those strictly connected with his land and he would now try to obtain it under the guise of tagái. This is a tendency to be carefully guarded against. Co-operative Credit Societies, as Mr. Sathaye rightly observes, are the proper institutions to replace the sávkár.

In Bijápur and Belgaum, tagái outstandings are considerable, recovery being inevitably retarded by a succession of bad seasons. In the former, tagái has been overdone. The Collector observes that unless large remissions are made, we shall be drifting from year to year without doing any good either to the rayat or to Government or to our system of accounts. The year under report was not sufficiently favourable in Bijápur and apparently not much headway would be made in the recovery of arrears. In Belgaum, one arrear instalment on account of each loan, together with overdue interest, was ordered to be recovered, with the result that at the end of the year the outstanding principal was reduced by Rs. 1,17,146. Both in Bijápur and Belgaum, proposals for freeing the rayat of his long standing liabilities on account of seed and cattle tagái, which he cannot reasonably be expected to repay, owing to his resources having been impaired by a series of bad years, through which he has had to pass, are under consideration. In Dhárwár, the arrears are comparatively small. Misapplication of tagái, especially of that under the Land Improvement Loans Act, is said to be common, but steps are promptly taken to check it. Mr. Sathaye suggests that to prevent demoralization in normal years the grant of tagái should be discouraged as it is neither needed by the people then nor is it possible to prevent its misapplication without strengthening the establishment. The Commissioner does not agree. This would be a retrograde step; all genuine demand for tagái must be met, and, if necessary, the inspecting staff may be further increased. In Belgaum, the Collector found that the inspection of tagái works made by Mámlatdárs and Maháلكáris was insufficient, and he has issued strict orders enjoining them to visit every important work, small ones being left to be done by Circle Inspectors. In the coast districts, tagái transactions are not many. Mr. Koreishi explains that in Kolába the system is not popular, because (1) all good land has already been converted into rice land; (2) the ordinary rayat is too poor to undertake costly improvements; and (3) land in the hands of the agriculturist is hopelessly encumbered, so that he can scarcely offer adequate security. There is much truth in this; and the same more or less holds good of the other two districts also.

## 11.—Famine Relief.

The year under report saw the end of the last famine. Special reports from the Collectors on the administration of relief measures have already been submitted to Government, with the Commissioner's comments thereon, and it is unnecessary to do more than briefly refer to the subject here. All relief was stopped by the 15th October 1906. During the first two months and a half, then, of the year under report, the following relief measures were in force in the affected districts of Bijápur, Belgaum and Dhárwár :—

District.	Nature of relief.	Average daily attendance during the last week of		Date of closure.
		August.	September.	
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>D. m. y.</i>
Bijápur ...	Relief Works ...	6,128	2,533	20 10 06
Belgaum ...		7,423	2,213	5 10 06
Bijápur ...	Gratuitous Relief ...	8,463	1,633	13 10 06
Belgaum ...		4,393	4,385	13 10 06
Dhárwár ...	Code.	59	32	13 10 06
Bijápur ...	Section 158, Famine Relief ...	3,170	2,802	13 10 06
Belgaum ...		1,315	1,199	13 10 06
Dhárwár ...	Code.	36	20	13 10 06

As referred to elsewhere, in three villages in Parasgad in Belgaum the rains completely failed during the year under report and gratuitous relief for the destitute and for the village servants had to be reopened there, the former in April last and the latter early in December 1906. The recipients number 16 and 9, respectively. As might have been expected from a rather uneven distribution of the rainfall, especially in the above-ghát districts, suspensions and remissions of land-revenue were necessitated in places as shown in the following table :—

District.	Out of current year's demand.		Out of past year's suspensions.	
	Suspended.	Remitted.	Further suspended.	Remitted.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Belgaum ...	41,710	150	4,47,110	11,539
Bijápur ...	24,564	No figures forthcoming in the Collector's report.		
Dhárwár ...	42,569	*37,000	7,00,000	28,000

\* Water-rate remissions in rice tracts.

In Dhárwár also, tagái instalments aggregating Rs. 6,768 were suspended. Similar suspensions have been apparently granted in Belgaum and Bijápur also, but the Collectors' reports do not furnish the figures.

The current year promised well, but the almost total absence of rain in October is causing anxiety; if the situation continue unchanged during the current month, it is apprehended that some relief will have to be provided in parts of Bijápur and Belgaum districts.

## Extracts.

## (I) General conditions.

## BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

L. C. Swifts, Esq., Collector.

As to Economic Conditions and Prospects, Mr. Bomanji observes :—

"I am afraid it will be some time before the people emerge from the sad results of famine. Three or four good or even normal seasons would

materially improve their condition, but such a succession is, I believe, unknown at all events during the last 10 years. One good season in three is all they look for and they are lucky if they get that. A more patient set of people it would be hard to find anywhere. And when in distress their trust in the Sirkár is childlike. It is not that they will do nothing for themselves. They go any distances for work, but they have full faith that they will not be left to starve. They hold life rather cheap and suicides are common. The bulk of the population lives from hand to mouth. The majority, even of the Inámdárs, are involved not so much owing to any poverty of the soil as to extravagant habits and famines. The burden of debt both for land revenue and tagái is enormous. And I am afraid very large amounts will have to be written off."

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

Mr. Gulwadi, the present Mámlatdár of Sampgaon, examined seven typical holdings of ten acres each and found that the profits of cultivation, after payment of the assessment, ranged from Rs. 67 to Rs. 270—the average being Rs. 183. In Sampgaon, therefore, a small holding of ten acres is able to support a man and his wife and two children.

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

N. B. Divatia, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The bulk of the population depends on agriculture, supplemented materially by labour in the mills of Bombay, the bunders of Bombay, and the petty shipping in Bombay, and the boat traffic along the west coast of the Presidency. But a perceptible proportion of the Mussalmans still flourish on their earnings in South Africa, considerable sums of money arriving from there in remittances by money order. Some of them possess substantial houses neatly built and kept up. Others trade in mangoes, for which this district is noted.

J. H. Garrett, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The outturn of crops in annas was as follows:—

				ANNAS.
Rice	...	...	...	8 to 10
Nagli	...	...	...	9 to 10
Vari	...	...	...	9 to 12.
Harik	...	...	...	8 to 11
Pulses	...	...	...	6 to 10
Bágáyat	...	...	...	7

From these figures I cannot help feeling that the anna valuation is all round too low. I think that there is an unconscious misunderstanding of what the normal crop is. I am sure that the crops this year were generally speaking up to normal. In fact, only in a very exceptional season will the crops in this poor district be better than they were last year.

DHA'RWA'R DISTRICT.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In Hangal and Kod, and especially in the western parts of these tálukas, there are many settlements of Lamánis and Waddárs who have abandoned their former nomadic life and have settled down to the pursuit of agriculture. For the most part they cultivate as tenants, but in some cases they have purchased land from the owners and in others they are taking up Government waste lands on the restricted tenure. I am not prepared to state that they lead a blameless life, and it cannot be denied that the Lamáni prefers his home-brewed drink to the produce of the liquor shop. The A'bkári Inspector in Kod has shown considerable activity and has detected certain cases, but the hills which enclose the Masur valley offer excellent cover for illicit operation. The

reputation of these people is much against them and offences are often attributed to them with which they had no connection. They have recently been removed from the Gumani Register *en bloc* and will have a better chance now that the standing presumption, based on their entry in the register, that they are rascals is removed.

KA'NARA DISTRICT.

Ráo Bahádur V. D. Yennamadi, Deputy Collector.

The Havik cultivators of gardens, by their habits of thrift, industry and simplicity, were once able not only to lead a comfortable life but also to save a good deal. Their habits have changed for the worse during the last 20 years and they are now running fast into debts on account of their indolence, love of luxury, ostentation and litigation.

The cultivating classes tenaciously cling to the narrow belt of land near the seashore, although the number of cultivators being very large in proportion to the area available for cultivation, they have to submit to rack-renting and to remain in a state of poverty.

(II) *Labour and Wages.*

BIJA'PUR DISTRICT.

W. O. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The labourer occupies a strong position, in that he is usually paid in grain for sowing and harvest work. For extra-routine operations like weeding and embanking he may be paid in grain, but often has to put up with cash in a bad season.

Payment in kind puts him beyond the danger of great loss by high prices, and rates of wages in grain do not vary nearly so much as prices do, between bad and good years. For harvesting grain  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seers (3 lbs.) per woman, 3 seers per man were given; these are good but not extravagant wages here. It is said that a man's wages may run as high as 8 seers in a very good year—no doubt, 4 seers is the standard for a reasonably good harvest. Sowing generally employs only the cultivator himself or his permanent hand, who gets his food and clothes and a trifle per year in cash. Weeding is done by women only at low rates—say, one seer of grain. Near large towns women collect and sell the grass for its price, but this leaves the other weeds to be otherwise dealt with by the cultivator. For special jobs (embanking or deep digging) the usual rates were two seers up to a little after noon, or six pice; in 1906, the rates fell to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seers or six pice. Last year six pice was also given in cases where men were paid in cash. These wages are all rather below the average; in fact labour was cheap. Cotton picking is done by women entirely, often by women of superior class. It is always paid in kind, the rate being usually  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the amount gathered, *i.e.*, six seers per maund. Thus a strong woman earns well at cotton picking. As to the efficiency of labour, we must look for its improvement to better supervision. There is no sort of education, and a low level of intelligence amongst the labouring classes, and even the small cultivators. But these men, whether Banajigir-Lingayats, Kurubars or Dheds, are cheerful and willing, if looked after, and cheap and contented.

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

N. B. Divatia, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The wages have been much the same as in two or three previous years. The daily wage of a skilled labourer was 8 annas, that of an unskilled labourer was 4 annas and that for a field labourer was 3 annas. This is of course much above the normal rate prevailing at a time prior to the past 3 or 4 years. The increase in the wages does in no way increase the efficiency of the labourers, but only serves to increase the cost of cultivation. This increase in wages is a consequence of the rise in the standard of living among all the classes—an economic

change—which has been gradually coming over all the strata of society, reaching the remotest one in rural tracts. The wants, notions of comfort, and requirements of petty luxuries, of the people have been steadily expanding. As an indication of this silent economic change, may be noted the fact that there is hardly a village of ordinary size or situated on a frequented line of communication, which does not glory in one or more tea-shops and shops for sale of aerated waters.

(III) Prices.

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Maconochie, Esq., Collector.

The price of nearly all kinds of food rose. In the particular case of rice, this may have been due to the distress in Bengal, which drew off much of the Burma rice usually available for export to these parts. But the general rise in prices is harder to explain, being caused apparently by the operation of vast economic forces beyond the ken of the ordinary observer. Whatever the reason, this serious increase in the cost of living presses hard upon the masses.

KA'NARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

The average price of rice continued to be as high as 11 pies per pound as in the previous year. The ordinary rate is 8 pies. The poorer classes depending upon daily wages for their maintenance had a very hard time of it, considering that the tightness of the grain market tells heavily upon classes whose earnings are counted in cash. Ragi, the other food grain of the district, sold at an average of 7 pies per lb. It appears that a favourable season did not bring down the price of either of these food-grains. It is difficult to find out the causes which led to the increase, but there can be no doubt that the state of the market in Bombay has influenced in no small measure the local prices. Imports of rice and ragi from up-country diminished considerably and so the local merchants had it all their own way.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

The experience of the last famine shows that the cultivators hold back as much grain as they can and the impulse must have been quickened in the year under review by the depleted condition of their grain-pits. This fact, coupled with the exhaustion of stocks during the famine, sufficiently accounts for the prevalence of high prices, though it does not explain the divergence in the rates reported from the several markets. I conclude that a scarcity of grain is used by dealers as a pretext for keeping the price higher than it need be.

DHA'RWAR DISTRICT.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

To explain the continued high prices, the quantity purchasable per rupee being from 25 to 40 per cent. less than normal, is not an easy matter. I notice that throughout the Presidency high prices have ruled in a season which for the Presidency as a whole must certainly be described as successful. In Hangal and Kod there never was at any time a prospect of a bumper year, but in Ranebennur and Haveri there was, so far as I can see, no reason why prices should have remained high. Without any great confidence I hazard the opinion that the reasons were not strictly economic. The grain dealers having raised prices last year to a figure not so high as they would have liked, were disinclined to lower them, and though they might have done so without any risk, the season was not sufficiently abundant to oblige them to do so. The methods of the grain merchants are neither those of the corner nor of the combine, yet they possess an efficiency of their own.

## BIJÁPUR DISTRICT.

W. O. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The question of the cause for the maintenance of high prices is one of which I cannot undertake to define the solution. It may have been the failure of the rabi jowari, or the poor quality of the kharif grain, or the necessity of replenishing the reserve stocks, which I believe all cultivators hold, of grain. On the other hand, though it is certain that grain pits were cleared out by the rains of 1906, it appears that they are still empty or nearly so. Attempts to discover a stock of grain held by well-to-do men have drawn blank, and there have been no criminal disputes about grain pits.

*(IV) Tagávi.*

## BIJÁPUR DISTRICT.

W. O. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The real difficulty is that (1) men of industry, and (2) men with good sound lands, usually (1) prefer to carry out improvements at their own cost, or (2) are able to get the necessary accommodation privately. The inference from (1) is sad but obvious. In making compulsory recoveries the pledged land is generally found to actually command now about half the 'panch price' previously estimated. In most of the above cases postponement is worse than useless, but so long as remission remains the matter for a special report with prolonged correspondences, there will be no general attempt to work for a clear slate in the matter of recoveries. Writing off is on all sides understood to be only possible after the defaulter has been reduced to beggary or has absconded.

*(V) Migration.*

## KA'NARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

The usual influx of labourers from the Coast talukas to the spice gardens of the Ghát talukas took place, but there is nothing specially worth mentioning in this connection. Similarly, labourers from the neighbouring districts of the Mysore Province and the Presidency of Madras came in gangs to the district in search of work.

The extent of this temporary immigration cannot be gauged with any approach to accuracy. It is a remarkable feature of the year that the Portuguese Territory did not send labourers in large numbers as hitherto. It appears that the opening of manganese mines in that territory gave them employment. Probably the wages offered by mining syndicates were higher than those offered by Forest contractors, which chiefly attracted them to this district in past years, or it may be that wages being equal, the men preferred work nearer home.

## DHA'RWA'R DISTRICT.

C. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

There was no immigration on any large scale except that about 500, 1,200 and 250 people from the Bijápur district came to the Hubli, Gadag and Kod talukas respectively in search of employment, mostly during the harvesting season. Except about 200 persons each from Hubli to Kalghatgi and from Nargund to Hubli, Gadag and Ron there was no appreciable exodus.

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

There was some emigration from Navalgund and Nargund in the kharif harvesting season. I noticed some villages in December in the north-west of the Petha deserted by nearly half the population. On inquiry I learnt that the

people had gone out in the preceding year in search of employment on account of failure of local crops and did not deem it advantageous to return till the rabi harvest. This shows that the stay-at-home tendencies of an ordinary rayat in the Petha are being overcome by force of circumstances.

KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The emigration of the residents of this district is essentially temporary. Some of the Mahomedans go out to South Africa for purposes of trade and return to their homes with some fortune, after a fairly long stay there. This emigration, however, is now in a slow stage of decline on account of the restrictions imposed by the South African Government. The other annual emigration pertains to day-labourers who go to Bombay to obtain a livelihood during the fair weather months, after the crops have been harvested, and return to their homes as soon as the season commences.

(VI) Education.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

The district made a distinct advance along the path of education. In rural schools the attendance rose by 6 per cent. and in schools in municipal areas by 25 per cent. Boys, girls and depressed classes, all attended school in greater numbers. No doubt the abatement of plague, the factor so disturbing to education, contributed materially to this encouraging result, but there is equally no reason to question the growth, even among the cultivating classes, of a desire for education. In the area administered by the Local Board, the percentage of the registered population attending school was 1·6, though the true percentage was nearly 1·9 owing to the loss of population since the census. But these figures by no means represent the capacity of the rural population for education; 50 villages are anxious to get schools, and most of them not only promise accommodation, but some even offer small contributions towards the initial expenditure on furniture. In municipal areas, the percentage of the registered population attending school was 5·7, whilst the percentage of the present calculated population was 6·6. In many schools, manual training, drill and gymnastics form an integral part of the curriculum. I was struck by the excellence of the schools for girls and Mahárs maintained by the Athni Municipality, and it is encouraging to note that a Mahár, grounded at the Mahárs' school at Athni, is now completing his education at the Belgaum High School. Female education is progressing and popular.

But although the demand for elementary education is spreading, the great majority of boys who attend rural schools are removed by their parents as soon as they attain an age to afford assistance in their traditional occupation. Many never reach the fourth and few the fifth standard. The practice is possibly not devoid of advantage, for it certainly minimises the risk of the younger generation growing up with a distaste for agriculture.

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

The primary education amongst the masses, including the agriculturists, is spreading gradually. This must have wholesome effects on the masses, especially the agriculturists, who will in course of time understand better what their rights are and how to safeguard them. The complaint against the dearness of the prices of the reading books (new series) still continues as before. I visited in all 64 schools, including 6 private schools, and was present at the examination of four schools held by the Deputy Educational Inspector, B. D. I can say unhesitatingly that the schools in this sub-division have much improved both in attendance and progress. The teachers pay due attention

to the object lessons, Kindergarden system, action songs, drilling and athletic exercise, which is essential for improving the children both mentally and physically.

DHA'RAWA'R DISTRICT.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

During my tour I found time to visit forty-eight schools. In many of the buildings the ventilation is bad and the accommodation insufficient. The teaching is of varying merit, but mainly mechanical. Nor can the boys be expected to cultivate any qualities except their memory, when three or four lessons are in progress in the same room. To one approaching the school before notice of his arrival has been given it is a matter of wonder how in such a din the boys can learn anything at all. That many of them learn very little and speedily forget what they have learnt I am convinced. Attendance at the schools is very irregular, and anything, a marriage, a fair, or a harvest is made a legitimate occasion for absence.

KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

R. S. Broomfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Among the agricultural classes, the old difficulties in the way of education prevail with undiminished force. The abolition of fees may effect a great deal. But we may perhaps have to admit in the end (this was my predecessor's opinion) that the poverty of the people, combined with their way of looking at things, makes a rigid enforcement of the present system impracticable or inexpedient. It is possible that greater success will be gained by adapting educational arrangements to the rayats' scheme of life, that is, by night classes, seasonal schools, half-timing, and so on, than by counting on them to make sacrifices for an object which they cannot appreciate. Of course, this is done already to some extent.

The giving of dole to Katkari scholars appears to answer its purpose satisfactorily. It is doubtful, however, whether an extended system of rice-scholarships is advisable, except as a temporary measure and to meet very special circumstances.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The subject of education of the agricultural population presents complex difficulties. The rural schools, if they have benefited anyone, have benefited the Pandharpeshas. Few boys of agriculturists attend them and fewer still care to finish their course. Thus, they manage to forget what little they may have picked up in the village schools. Various causes have contributed to this drawback, chief amongst them being the non-adaptation of the standards to the agriculturists' needs of life, the disinclination of parents to dispense with the services of their children from the field at busy hours of the day, and above all, the absence of sympathetic teachers. Parents often complain that without making them better cultivators, the education which their children are called upon to receive is likely to instil in their minds a sort of repugnance to ancestral avocations. Besides, the surroundings amidst which their children are taught are likely to accentuate this feeling. As soon as a boy is on his legs, he becomes a useful member of the family in the way of tending, grazing and watering the cattle. The parents consider these small services indispensable in the family. Lastly, the Pandharpesha teacher is no boon to the rayats. On the one hand, the teacher lives a solitary life amidst people whom he regards as his social inferiors. The only inducement for him to stay on in such uncongenial surroundings, away from his caste people, is the hope of being able to make additional private gains by officiating on holidays, etc., and obtaining "Bhikshuki" or charity in several other forms, from a people who regard him with reverence. On the other hand, his interpretations carry conviction and his admonitions are followed with eagerness. It is to the benefit of this teacher that the rayat should remain as ignorant as possible, and no wonder he allows self-interest to plead successfully against the dictates of duty. Different

curricula of standards, night or mid-day schools and the employment of teachers belonging to the predominant community in any village seem the only possible remedies for this question, and the sooner the Pandharpesha teacher in the village school is superseded by a more earnest and sympathetic worker the better for the well-being of such schools.

One way of inducing Mahomedan boys to attend schools is, in my respectful opinion, the opening of a larger number of Urdu schools in the district, which would attract them. Mr. Macmillan once complained that the efficiency of Urdu schools in his charge was impaired by factious jealousies. I am glad to be able to say that the same is not allowed to occur in the Urdu schools of my sub-division. The Urdu school at Morba (attended by about 125 children) in the Mangaon taluka is in the most flourishing condition, due chiefly to the efforts of freshly trained Mahomedan teachers at its head. If other Urdu schools are similarly manned by trained and capable teachers, primary education amongst the Mahomedans here will, I hope, be placed on a very satisfactory footing, in the course of a few years only.

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

N. B. Divatia, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The sub-division is on the whole well equipped in educational facilities. Leaving aside the agency of the school, I notice that almost every village of a decent size and importance possesses a reading room, modest in its equipment, no doubt, but still furnishing a link between the village and the wide world outside. The range and nature of this link is, however, of questionable value, and too often mischievous, when we look at the kind of newspapers that are patronised.

(VII) *Swadeshi Enterprise.* ✕

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. Leatham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The hand-loom industry has received some impetus from the Swadeshi movement. Kittur, the chief centre, suffered greatly from plague in past years and the industry was crippled. But money has been put into it lately and it is reviving. A Sholapur upright loom and one of Japanese pattern have been brought to the village. If not for weaving fine saris, at any rate for simpler textures, the upright loom could take the place of that now in use with advantage, and the importation by the Local Board of a teacher from Salem would, I think, be appreciated. The yarns used are imported.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The state of public feeling has undergone no change. There was no response to the agitation in the Punjab. The preaching of Swadeshim has been confined to a couple of Pandharpeshas' villages, Nagaon in Alibag and Tala in Mangaon taluka, and the little town of Mahad.

(VIII) *Industrial.* ✕

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

Two undertakings designed to resuscitate the indigenous hand-loom industry were started in Belgaum during the year. The first is a class at which pupils selected by the Local Board are given free tuition in weaving on looms of an improved pattern with a fly shuttle. The Local Board pays Rs. 2,000, on the understanding that 10 pupils at a time are trained during a period of 2 years; and as the training is expected to occupy on an average about 3 months, the Local Board hopes to turn out 80 trained weavers for the money. It is significant that the first batch of pupils contains a large majority of Brahmans, for

whom, should the attempt prove successful, a new field of industry will be opened up. The other undertaking is an attempt to introduce the Japanese hand-loom, which is said to be superior to all other patterns. The looms are made in Belgaum and intending purchasers are given full instructions in their use. I understand that about 50 looms have been sold at prices ranging from Rs. 80 to Rs. 220.

#### DHA'RWAR DISTRICT.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The trade of Hubli, the largest industrial centre of the district, continues to prosper and develop; so much so that the cotton market has had to be extended. This extension, which is not yet completed, was undertaken to prevent the recurrence of such fires as that which did so much damage the year before, when the space available in the cotton market was inadequate. The question of providing building sites for the increasing population of the town is engaging the attention of the local authorities, but the question as to the direction in which the expansion is to take place is not yet settled.

#### KA'NARA DISTRICT.

Ráo Bahádur V. D. Yennemadi, Deputy Collector.

A few more important industries have been started in the course of the past few years by persons who can command capital and intelligence. The most important among these is the *Gulál* industry carried on by Mr. Basrur in Honávar. He has shown remarkable ingenuity in producing from the pith of the Talipot palm gulál of the quality finding a ready sale in the Bombay market. The industry deserves every encouragement. Nine hand-looms are worked at Honávar for weaving coarse cloth, and it is yet to be seen how far it will be profitable. A cocoanut oil factory is at Mavinkurve in the Honávar Táluka. A Bania from Bombay made efforts during the last fair season to make ropes, etc., from cocoanut fibres, by means of a handicraft design invented by himself. It can be worked by a boy, while 5 or 6 persons can make ropes simultaneously. In the town of Sirsi, a rich young man has begun to prepare soap. This industry is yet in an experimental stage. Some persons in Kumta are arranging to open a tile factory at Manaki.

#### (IX) *Mincs.*

#### DHA'RWAR DISTRICT.

C. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

If payable ore (gold) be discovered in Kod, Ranébennur, Kalghatgi, Dhárwar and Bankápur, even if capital be forthcoming, I do not see where labour is to come from, unless the population abandons agriculture to a large extent, which it is hardly likely to do. The Gadag field alone is larger than Kolar.

Present indications point to gold waning and manganese booming; and applications in respect of the latter are pouring in. I allow the removal of one Bengal maund of ore without permission in the case of exploring licenses for minerals, except precious stones. Kabligati now has an installation for high power explosives.

#### (X) *Temperance.*

#### KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The temperance movement amongst the Agris deserves a passing mention. This movement originated some months back amongst the same class of people who struck work against the landlords. "Samps" or "Unions" were organised and a regular system of boycott of defaulting members was followed. In some cases, the promoters of the league even transgressed proper bounds and instead of maintaining a peaceful attitude of abstinence, they entered on a campaign

of coercion by unlawful means. This created dissatisfaction and matters came to a head in some complaints which led to the law courts being put in motion. It was then that the leaders realised their position and "Samps" were abandoned and individuals left to do as they liked. The object of the movement, however, cannot but be recognised as tending to raise the morals of the people.

## II.—Inspection.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

The administration suffered from changes in the personnel of the Collectors in all Districts except the Panch Maháls and Kaira, and of the Sub-divisional officers in almost all the Sub-divisions of districts. Efficient touring and inspection were, therefore, impossible, though there is no reason for finding fault with the amount of the latter. Comments on details appear unnecessary.

#### 1.—*Destruction of Records.*

Useless Revenue papers have been destroyed up to the year 1903-1904 in all the talukas of the Division, except Modása and Gogho Maháls of the Ahmedabad District and Godhra Taluka of the Panch Maháls district, where they have been destroyed up to 1902-1903. In the Broach District, the Revenue papers have been destroyed up to the year 1905. The Magisterial papers were destroyed in some talukas up to 1905 and in others up to 1904 or 1903. The attention of the District Officers was drawn to this matter and they were asked to destroy the Magisterial papers up to 1905 during the year under report.

#### 2.—*Indexing and Sorting of Records.*

All the Collectors have reported on the condition of the records in their offices. The vernacular records are sorted and indexed according to rules but the sorting and indexing of English records is in arrears in Sub-divisional and Taluka offices, and reports showing the need for extra establishment to cope with this work are being received.

### CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, Esq., Commissioner, C. D.

The tours of the various Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers were on the whole well arranged, and conjointly comprehended fairly large portions of their charges. All the taluka head-quarters in the Division, except Nándgaon and Kalwan in the Násik District, Párner in the Ahmednagar District and Pátan in the Sátára District, were visited by the Collectors and the usual inspection of records, accounts and sub-registers was performed. A fair number of villages received the attention of the Collectors in each District except Sátára. Mr. Arthur's tour was greatly interfered with by his being compelled to stay at Sátára for about a month during the travelling season on account of the Aundh Commission. Owing partly to heavy office work connected with the division of Khándesh and partly to ill-health, Mr. Shepherd was not able to start on tour till almost the close of November, nor to perform much inspection in villages; but in view of the size of the district, the outdoor work done by him and by his successors was quite satisfactory.

All the Mámlatdárs' and Maháلكaris' offices, except that of Peta Shirála in the Sátára District, were examined by the Sub-divisional officers concerned once and in some cases twice. Village inspection seems to have suffered a little in some places owing to frequent changes in the offices of Assistant Collectors, especially in the Sátára and Ahmednagar districts, by the detention of some officers for longer time in one or two talukas to supervise the record of rights and, in the case of Mr. Plunkett, by a considerable portion of his time being engaged in the trial of the Násik Dasara case. It is difficult to make a fair comparison between the work of various officers, as circumstances and means of communication are different in different places and information as to the

outdoor work performed by each officer is not given in a uniform manner in all reports. For instance, Messrs. Rothfeld, Greer and Digambar Dalaya are the only officers who make mention of the inspection of crops and boundary marks performed during the year. Allusion to the inspection of Police Sub-Inspectors' offices is made by Messrs. Turner, Puntambekar and Israel only; and Mr. Turner alone says that he inspected a Range Forest Office. Reference to the inspection of opium and liquor shops, dispensaries, tagái works, birth and death registers is made in one or two reports only. It is presumed that these matters did not escape the attention of most officers, and that omission to mention them is due to mere oversight.

The work of the destruction of records is reported to be fairly up to date in all taluka and sub-divisional offices. Generally, the latest year up to which useless records are said to have been destroyed and others arranged and indexed is 1903-04, though a few offices lag behind. It is, however, feared that while some of the papers may, as stated, have been destroyed up to 1903-04 or up to the later dates, yet the arrangement of a great many papers belonging to former years may be behindhand, as is evident from recent applications from the Poona, Sátára and Sholápur districts for additional temporary establishment for arranging and indexing records in some offices.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. DREW, COMMISSIONER, S. D.

*Huzúr Account Office.*—The accounts of all the treasuries in the division were examined by the Collectors during the year and no serious irregularities were discovered.

*General Inspection.*—The Collector of Belgaum visited all the talukas and maháls of his district. One mahál in each of the Dhárwár and Kánara districts, 2 talukas and Bilgi mahál in the Bijápur district, 2 talukas and 1 mahál in the Ratnágiri district and 1 taluka and 2 maháls in the Kolába district were all that remained unvisited by the Collector. The Sub-Divisional Officers visited all the talukas and maháls in their charges. The accounts and records of all the talukas and maháls visited were inspected. The inspection of the offices did not disclose any serious errors, except in the Supa mahál of the Kánara district, where Mr. Haigh discovered a deficit of Rs. 7-8-0 in the Treasury balance. The officials responsible for it were adequately dealt with. Mr. Panse speaks of the new system of inspection sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 2810, dated 16th March 1907, as tending to save much time and labour and being none the less efficacious in correcting faulty procedure. There is no doubt that these inspections had been allowed to degenerate into a lengthy list of trivial errors, many of which it was hardly worth while pointing out. The Commissioner has already set the District Officers an example as to how the inspection memoranda should be sorted and dealt with, so as to save the unnecessary correspondence and time involved in carrying it both in the inspecting and inspected offices.

The sub-registry offices were also examined in the talukas visited by the Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers. The number of villages visited for inspection by the Collector of Belgaum was comparatively very small, being only 39 out of 1,133 villages in his district. Again, out of these 39, the villages actually camped at numbered only 26. The Collector of Bijápur has not stated the number of villages visited by him for inspection, while that of Ratnágiri visited only 56 out of 1,340 villages in his district. The other Collectors visited a fair number of villages.

Among the Sub-Divisional Officers, the work of Mr. Alcock deserves special notice. He halted only for 57 days in the Head-quarters and travelled during

all the 12 months of the year. He visited no less than 346 villages. Next to him come Messrs. Bhide, Cowan, Vachha and Koreishi, each of whom visited more than 200 villages. Looking to the number of talukas and villages visited, the numbers of receipt books examined by the Collectors of Dhárwár and Kolába appear to be small, so also those of the books scrutinized by the Sub-Divisional Officer, 1st Division, Dhárwár, and the Sub-Divisional Officer, N. D., Kolába. The other officers scrutinized a fair number of books. From the reports received it appears that the Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers devoted sufficient attention to other branches of the administration. All of them examined a sufficient number of schools, Range Forest Offices, Police Sub-Inspectors' Offices and country liquor, opium and gánja shops.

The Collectors have given in their reports a tabulated statement showing the year up to which the vernacular records have been destroyed. The period for the revenue records ranges from 1902-1903 to 1905-1906 and that for magisterial records from 1902 to 1905. It is only in the Ratnágiri Collector's Office and in two talukas of that district that the revenue records have been destroyed up to 1905-1906. Steps are being taken by the Collectors for bringing the work up to date in places where it is in arrears. In the Mátherán Superintendent's Office, no great progress has been made in the work of indexing and sorting the records. The Collector seems to be of the opinion that the present staff will not be able to do the work in addition to the current work. This will be inquired into and dealt with separately. The state of the records is not reported to be satisfactory in the talukas of Belgaum and Chikodi of the Belgaum district. The reasons assigned by the Collector are that in the former taluka, the confusion caused by the removal of the records in the plague epidemic of 1898-1899 has not yet been entirely repaired, whilst in the latter, the confused state is due to the objectionable practice of allowing village officers access to the record room. Steps are being taken by the Collector to set the matter right.

Owing to the loss and discovery of certain papers in the office of the Mámlatdár of Muddebihál, the Collector of Bijápur issued a circular requiring the record Kárkún to overhaul the records and compare them with indices and called for a monthly statement from the Mámlatdárs, showing the quantity of work done during the previous month. Mr. Alcock says that though the work has been done, he doubts the examination having been done properly, owing to want of time on the part of the record Kárkún, and suggests the appointment of a special Kárkún for a period of six months for the examination of the records in the talukas in his charge. The extra work seems too much for the ordinary establishment. The Commissioner proposes looking into the matter on his visit to Muddebihál.

Mr. Alcock further brings to notice the question of sorting the English records in taluka offices and says that the general tendency is to bind up all Government Resolutions, of all degrees of importance and on all sorts of subjects, together in bulky index files instead of making small handy files and distinguishing the subject properly. The Commissioner thinks that much time is wasted in indexing, which could be avoided, if papers were sorted better and arranged by date, in which case no index is necessary.

The sorting and indexing of the current English records in the Collectors' and the Sub-Divisional Offices is being attended to. The following temporary establishments were sanctioned for this purpose :—

(1) Two clerks on Rs. 25 each, for a period of four months, for sorting and indexing the English records of the office of the Collector of Bijápur. (Government Resolution No. 8644 of 7th September 1906.)

(2) Two additional clerks, one on Rs. 25, and one on Rs. 20, for a period of five months, for sorting and indexing the English records of the Collector and District Deputy Collector's Offices, Kolába. (Government Resolution No. 7354 of 26th July 1907.)

(3) Two clerks on Rs. 20 each, for a period of four months, for sorting and indexing the records of the sub-divisional offices, Ratnágiri. (Government Resolution No. 7474 of 30th July 1907.)

### III.—Revenue Buildings.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

Generally, the existing buildings for the accommodation of Revenue Offices and records are sufficiently commodious and in a satisfactory condition. Additional accommodation is, however, required for the Mámlatdárs' kacheries at Dholka and Mándvi, for records at Mándvi, Mehmabad, Máhim, Kalyán, Sháhápúr and Mokháda, for the Resident Magistrate, Borsad, for the extra Aval Kárkún Magistrate at Nadiád and A'nand and for Circle Inspectors at different places. The need for a district bungalow at Jalálpur is again brought to notice. I have included it in my list of major works. Minor alterations for the more convenient utilization of existing accommodation are also said to be required in some places. The want, so far as kacheri accommodation is concerned in Dholka and Mándvi, is being supplied by the building of a new kacheri in Dholka, and by considerable alterations in the existing kacheri in Mándvi. Appreciable progress has been made recently in providing for other needs, from the grant for minor works placed at my disposal.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

4. Extensive building works were in progress during the year. The extension of the Mámlatdár's kacheri at Taloda in the West Khándesh district was taken in hand and funds were sanctioned for a new Mahálkari's kacheri at Edalabad and quarters for the Mahálkari and his establishment at Bhadgaon in the East Khándesh district. The different buildings required for the establishment of a head-quarter station at Jalgaon were under construction. Bungalows for the Collector, one Assistant Collector, District Superintendent of Police and Divisional Forest Officer were completed; but they cannot all be quite fit for use, as several necessary additions are yet to be made. The office buildings are dragging on and the Collector fears that they may take a year more to finish, the contractors having proved most unsatisfactory. Some other bungalows, *e. g.*, for the Second Assistant Collector, Assistant Superintendent of Police and Executive Engineer, are yet to be taken in hand. The revenue buildings at Násik were occupied in November 1906 by all the officers for whom accommodation was provided therein. The Collector complains that the Huzúr records cannot be contained in the rooms provided for them, and additions and alterations will probably have to be undertaken at an early date. The building of a new Mámlatdár's kacheri at Málegaon and quarters for Circle Inspectors at Peint is in progress. Funds for the extension of the record-rooms of the English, Account and Registration Offices at Ahmednagar were allotted during the year, and the question of providing improved accommodation for the Mámlatdár and the other offices, which are at present congested in the Collector's kacheri compound, is before Government. A new Mámlatdár's kacheri has been constructed at Khed in the Poona district. A new Mahálkari's kacheri at Paud is under construction and Government have recently sanctioned additions to the Mahálkari's kacheri at Dhond. A large number of smaller works, providing additions and alterations for existing buildings, were also completed during the year. The wants of the Division are yet many. Mr. Ghosal states that in most kacheris of the Western Division of his district, the number of rumals is growing so large that the question of either the extension of the record-rooms or the re-sorting of the records will have to be considered. Mr. Simcox states that the Mámlatdár's kacheris at Ráver and Amalner and the Mahálkari's kacheri at Párola are not conveniently housed and that some additions are required to provide accommodation for the records of the Sub-Registrar and Range Forest Officer in the Mámlatdár's kacheri at Jámnér. New kacheris for the Mámlatdárs of Dindori and Báglán are required and quarters for the Revenue staff at Sátára. Additions for the Collector's office,

Poona, to provide accommodation for the records and library, are badly needed. A new Mámílatdár's kacheri at Sátára urgently needs to be constructed, the present building being in a most dangerous condition. New Mámílatdár's kacheris are also required at Mádha and Karmála in the Sholápur district and the present buildings at Bársi and Pandharpur are in need of extension. Most of these works have been entered in the list of major works recently submitted to Government in the Public Works Department.

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#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. DREW, COMMISSIONER, S. D.

A new kacheri for the Mámílatdár is under construction at Hirekerur and one is shortly to be begun at Navalgund in the Dhárwár district. The following additional works have been proposed by the Collectors as necessary :—

- (1) New Mámílatdár's kacheris at Dhárwár, Honávar, Mángaon, Panvel and Mahál kacheri at Mandangad or Mhapral.
- (2) Offices for the Assistant and Deputy Collectors at Kárwár.
- (3) Witness' shed for the Collector's kacheri at Kárwár.
- (4) A District bungalow and an office for the Divisional Forest Officer at Alibág.
- (5) A new bungalow for the Collector at Ratnágiri.

The preparation of plans and estimates for the Panvel Mámílatdár's kacheri and the witness' shed at Kárwár has been already sanctioned by Government.

All these works have been entered in the divisional list of major works separately submitted to Government for funds to be provided in the Public Works Department budget for the year 1908-1909. Some of the Collectors suggest that the standard plan of the Mámílatdár's kacheris may be so revised as to admit of accommodation being provided for the extra Head Kárkúns and the increased staff of Circle Inspectors. The Commissioner concurs and recommends that the matter may be referred to the Public Works Department for necessary action.

The record-rooms in Belgaum and Kolába, except at Panvel and Mángaon, contain adequate space and are in satisfactory order. The room at Kalghatghí may have to be extended soon. In Kumta, Honávar and Yellápur, the record-rooms are impervious to light and get damp in the rains. Steps will be taken to provide funds from the Commissioner's discretionary grant to remedy these defects. During the current year, a sum of Rs. 1,800 has been allotted for constructing a new room for the records of the Mámílatdár of Devgad, and Rs. 1,722 for providing iron doors and windows for the record-rooms in the Agricultural Office at Bijápur.

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#### IV.—Revenue Establishment and Land Records Staff.

##### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

Owing to the great number of changes in the personnel of Collectors and Assistant and Deputy Collectors, the opinions expressed regarding the qualifications of Mámílatdárs and subordinate revenue establishments are, as a whole, of no great value: but I may say that, as regards the ability of its Mámílatdárs, the Northern Division is well off: though their work, especially in collection and in the prompt and personal disposal of vernacular correspondence, is not perhaps on a par with their ability. There is a fair proportion of intelligent revenue subordinates, including Circle Inspectors, but the work of the latter class of employés is not improved by the necessity for making numerous graduates put in a short term of service as Circle Inspectors.

The District Inspectors vary greatly in capacity ; and as I cannot regard failure as a District Inspector to be a reason for posting a man to an ordinary Mámlat, it will have to be seriously considered whether a District Inspector's incompetence at his own work should not be followed by his prompt reduction to the ranks.

Survey classes were opened during the year in the different talukas and the result is given in the district reports.

The number of talátis who have undergone survey training in each district is given below :—

District.			Number of talátis in the district.	Number who have passed in Survey.
Ahmedabad	...	...	249	220
Kaira	...	...	328	262
Panch Maháls	...	...	129	80
Broach	...	...	227	200
Surat	...	...	398	273
Thána	...	...	316	266
Total			1,647	1,301

The percentage of trained men in the Division is, therefore, 78·9. No mention is made of the efficiency of men who have already passed.

The punishments inflicted on village officers are shown below :—

Name of district.	Number of talátis.	Number fined.	Number dismissed.	Number of Patels.	Number fined.	Number dismissed.
Ahmedabad	249	43	...	513	25	...
Kaira	328	27	...	565	7	1
Panch Maháls	129	16	1	744	1	1
Broach	227	44	1	545	15	3
Surat	398	104	1	774	42*	...
Thána	316	75	...	1,691	3	4
Total	1,647	309	3	4,832	93	9

\* The fines in Surat appear excessive

### CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

During the year under report, one Mámlatdár was reduced on account of inefficiency to the position of kárkún on Rs. 50. The other Mámlatdárs are generally well spoken of by the Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers, some being especially commended. Most Mámlatdárs, particularly in the Deccan Districts, had heavy work thrown on them on account of the good season, which made it possible to recover large arrears of revenue. Inspection of tagái works, settlement of tagái payments, especially in Ahmednagar, Record-of-Rights work and the new system of repairs of boundary marks demanded much of their time. But excepting some minor failings, their work, on the whole, seems to have been well done. The work of the subordinate revenue establishment is not spoken of equally well. Mr. Orr, while commenting on the comparative inefficiency of Head Kárkúns, complains that "among the men who had got up to Head Kárkúns' posts by lapse of time under the promotion according to seniority rule, are a good many who have not got anything like that high degree of capacity for managing a large office, which is necessary in a Mámlatdár's right hand man, in order that the Mámlatdár may be free to do real administrative work on tour in his taluka, feeling that the office management is safe

in the hands of the Head Kárkún." The complaint is probably true in most districts. The efficiency of the lower subordinates seems to be gradually deteriorating. The fact is that a variety of special work created by the continual recurrence of famine, expansion of tazáí system, record of rights, land acquisition for railways, canals and other big schemes like the hydro-electric scheme at Lanowli is making continual demands on the services of the most capable subordinates available. The newly reorganised Police, A'bkari and Registration Departments are also attracting the better sort of hands, with the result that there is almost a general complaint that it is difficult to find men even to fill leave vacancies, which, *e. g.*, in a district like West Khándesh, are very frequent owing to its bad climate. The difficulty of finding recruits appears to have been specially felt in Násik, and Mr. Moore endeavoured in vain to get them from other districts and from some educational institutions. The remedy for this can only be found by placing the prospects in the Revenue Department on a level with those in other Departments. I propose addressing Government shortly on the question of reconsidering the orders refusing to raise the pay of the lowest grade of kárkúns to Rs. 15 or Rs. 20, on the score that the demand for employment is still keen.

### 2.—*Land Record Staff.*

The work of the District Inspectors of Land Records and Agriculture appears to have been very satisfactory in all districts, except Sátára and Sholápur, in which it was on the whole fair. The District Inspector, Sátára, proved a little unequal to the heavy work of that district and has since been transferred to West Khándesh. The work of Circle Inspectors is reported by the Collectors of all districts, except Sholápur, to have been fairly satisfactory. Mr. Mountford seems to think that the performance of the ordinary work left much to be desired. In fact, from the details of inspection, measurement, boundary marks, etc., work given by the Collectors, it appears probable that the routine work suffered considerably everywhere, owing to a large number of the best Circle Inspectors having been deputed to the record of rights and other special work, of which there was much in all the districts of the Division. It is hardly possible to expect as much work, which is, in its nature, to a great extent technical, from temporary substitutes as from experienced members of the permanent staff. Mr. Ghosal remarks that field work will always be shirked by Circle Inspectors, but, with a fair amount of supervision, good work can be got out of them. But since this supervision mainly rests with the Mámlatdárs, these officers, with their multifarious duties, can hardly be expected to find sufficient time for it. Mr. Carmichael suggests that "it would be a great benefit if the number of Circle Inspectors were increased, as their present charges are too large for their efficient supervision." The remedy, in my opinion, lies first in separating the technical measuring and classification work from the revenue routine inspection of Circle Inspectors and entrusting the former to a special staff of trained men. Before I left Ahmedabad, I initiated correspondence with the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, of which more will probably be heard in due course. If, after separation of the work, the routine inspection is too heavy for the reconstituted staff, then, as Mr. Carmichael suggests, the circles might be diminished in size. Even experienced Circle Inspectors can at present hardly complete the round of duties prescribed by Standing Orders, and when they are sent on special work, their substitutes have to omit or scamp a great portion of the annual programme. The village officers, too, are, at present, overwhelmed with a lot of non-revenue work, for which they have little aptitude, and all attempts to exact it from them have proved fruitless. The difficulty could perhaps be partly solved by transferring a portion of these duties to Circle Inspectors, if the area of their operations were appreciably reduced.

### 3.—*Village Officers.*

The Collectors of East and West Khándesh express general satisfaction with the work of their village offices. It is, however, understood that this satisfaction has reference to the village officer's main duties, *viz.*, the collection of revenue. Much ink has from year to year been spilt on the general inefficiency

of the watandar village officers, and it is useless dilating any further on their failings. The most satisfactory remedy could perhaps be found in relieving them of many of the duties for which they have no aptitude.

The percentage of village officers fined, suspended and dismissed is shown below :—

District.	Fined.		Suspended.		Dismissed.	
	Patils.	Kulkarnis.	Patils.	Kulkarnis.	Patils.	Kulkarnis.
West Khándesh ...	.3	11.7	.4	1.9	.05	.5
East Khándesh ...	3.8	19.1	.8	3.4	.2	.8
Násik ...	1.5	15.7	Not given		.001	.03
Ahmednagar ...	3.7	9.8	.9	2.4	.0	.2
Poona ...	6.3	20.1	.6	1.7	.17	.4
Sátára ...	7.5	21.8	Not given		.2	.2
Sholápur ...	7.5	32.1	1.8	8.9	.0	1.4

The Sholápur district shows the highest percentage of punishments. The Collector states that he reduced the fines in two cases that came before him, and in the case of three suspensions, he could not uphold the Assistant Collector's orders. Mr. Mountford and other Collectors have drawn the attention of their subordinate officers to the orders in paragraph 7 of Government Resolution No. 8956 of the 18th September 1906.

One Kulkarni in West Khándesh was specially given a Taláti's place for good work. The Patil and Jáglia of one village in the Ahmednagar district were rewarded by the Police for their bravery in leading an attack upon some notorious armed dacoits, who had invaded the village; a Jaglia of another village in the same district was similarly rewarded for capturing a robber at night. In the Násik district, 3 Patils and 3 Kulkarnis were rewarded with turbans and the Mahar of one village with cash, for conspicuous good service to Government and the public, as contemplated in Government Resolution No. 10813 of the 14th November 1906. Elsewhere it appears that arrangements for giving similar rewards have been made during the current travelling season.

Classes for the training of village accountants in survey were held in all the districts of the Division, except Poona, which was exempted (*vide* Government Resolution No. 9563 of the 6th October 1906) owing to scarcity. For the same reason, the number of classes held in Sátára and Sholápur districts was only 5 and 2 respectively. Out of 691 village accountants who attended the classes, 461 passed the preliminary examination. 294 passed the final test, out of 391 who were examined by the District Inspectors. Full information as to the number who obtained the certificate of competency is not afforded. The Collector of Ahmednagar states that out of 360 passed men in his district, none have as yet obtained it. He remarks that no progress will be made in this direction until Government consent to make a grant to each Kulkarni to cover the cost of flag holders and chairman. Mr. Arthur remarks that the men are not to blame for not doing the prescribed measuring work "because their duties do not leave them sufficient leisure for work. It is desirable to relieve them of their official duties during the period in which they have to do measurement work. In the present state of things, it is possible that the accountants will forget what they have learnt of survey work." Mr. Moore remarks that the successful candidates are reported to be able to do simple measurement work and that as an encouragement, two passed Kulkarnis have been given permanent Circle Inspectorships, and several others tried in acting vacancies. This course might be tried more fully in other districts. But, as remarked by Mr. Gibb in the concluding portion of paragraph 5 of his report for 1904-05, it is doubtful whether we shall ever be able to make the Kulkarni a tolerable surveyor, and my experience in Gujarát, where we have in the Taláti a more industrious and intelligent officer to deal with, leads me to share Mr. Gibb's opinion as regards the Kulkarni.

## Extracts.

*Village Officers' Work.*

## POONA DISTRICT.

G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

The most unsatisfactory feature in connection with the work of the village officers was the failure of many of the Kulkarnis of Junnar to assist with the Record of Rights. They took no interest in the work, they welcomed suspension to be quit of it and it was impossible to get substitutes to take it up except on a fixed monthly remuneration. The work to be done by the Kulkarnis is increasing in amount and the disadvantages of the system whereby deputies on half allowances are put on to officiate are becoming more and more obvious.

G. V. Joglekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

It seems that a large number of watandar Patils who come up for nomination are still illiterate. Time is arriving when the inconvenience of having illiterate Patels is being more and more felt. Owing to his being illiterate, the Patel, who with his position as an agriculturist ought to hold the first position as a member of the village establishment, has to be often subservient to the Kulkarni who then reigns supreme. It seems that if some pressure is brought to bear upon the watandars to learn to read and write, they would be amenable to it and exert themselves in the direction and in time to come we might expect a larger number to turn out literate. At present I am warning the new appointed Patels, if still young, to learn to read and write and show what progress they make next year. They have been told that they would be seen and examined at the jamábandi, as to the progress made by them in learning. All have promised to learn as directed.

## SÁTARA DISTRICT.

S. B. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

As regards the work of village officers, I can but repeat what I wrote last year, namely, that it cannot be called good. The average watandar Kulkarni is hardly equal to the multifarious duties that are now demanded of him, and the Patils for the most part no longer carry the same influence in their villages as formerly.

L. J. Sedgwick, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The work of the village officers has, with a few exceptions, been most unsatisfactory. In many cases no attempt has been made by them to collect tagái instalments for several years past. This is most noticeable in Khánápur. In this táluka also there has been great remissness during the current year in the collection of land revenue.

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

Patils, except in Karád, are usually ignorant but honest and command great confidence of the villagers.

## NÁSÍK DISTRICT.

V. D. Puntambekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

In Násik táluka it has become very difficult to get people to do Kulkarnis' work, if the officiating ones are suspended or dismissed. Nobody shows any willingness to serve. Those that are already in service, serve for the sake of watans and are a very inferior lot.

## EAST KHÁNDESH DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simcox, Esq., Collector.

Now that the survey trained Kulkarnis are growing accustomed to make use of the cross staff more efficiently, it appears that measurement and encroachment cases are disposed of more expeditiously.

## SHOLÁPUR DISTRICT.

Otto Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The work of village officers, and especially of village accountants, has for years been the subject of universal animadversion. I should only have to add to the general chorus of condemnation. They are overweighted by work for which their training and education do not fit them and for which their emoluments are insufficient. The watandari system leaves them no room for hope or fear and they have no stimulus or incentive to industry or diligence.

## WEST KHÁNDESH DISTRICT.

B. N. Vaidya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

It must be observed here that these operations have given opportunity to the Kulkarnis to be firmly grounded in the survey work, of which they had acquired superficial knowledge in one month in which they received instructions in the classes opened every year at the taluka head-quarter. Judging from the work they turned out, I have no hesitation in saying that they have approached, in efficiency, the measurers in the survey parties.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. DREW, COMMISSIONER, S. D.

Mr. Panse refers to a former proposal of his for being given a Personal Assistant to look to business of a routine nature, but the Commissioner does not think that one is at all necessary in Kánara. On the other hand, owing to the volume of the work and its importance in many respects, Dhárwár requires one, and the Commissioner has, in his letter No. 3813, dated 13th August last, recommended to Government the appointment of a Personal Assistant of the grade of Deputy Collector for that district. Before allotting a third Sub-Divisional Officer permanently to Bijápur, Government have remarked that they would prefer to wait until Mr. Swifte, the present Collector, gains some experience of the district. The Collector of Kánara asks for two additional hands for his office for work in connection with mining, but the Commissioner thinks that he may be given one extra clerk on Rs. 30 for the purpose as in Dhárwár. The reasons for the increase of work in the Sub-Divisional Offices have been given at length in the review of the reports for 1905-1906. Mr. Panse recommends that the two Sub-Divisional Officers in his district should be allowed at least two extra clerks each, and Messrs. Artal, Bhide and Broomfield consider one extra kárkún necessary for keeping abreast of the ever increasing work. The old scale of one kárkún for a taluka is not enough for the present day requirements, and, in the Commissioner's opinion, some of the Sub-Divisional Offices at least, if not all, require strengthening. The Mámlatdárs and Maháلكaris are stated to have on the whole performed their varied duties satisfactorily, though the conduct of one of the Mámlatdárs in the Dhárwár district had to be severely noticed and that of a Probationary Mámlatdár in the Kolaba district found fault with, for not detecting the arrears in his office. The work of special Head Kárkúns and Taluka Establishments, with a few exceptions, is generally favourably reported on. Eight changes in the personnel of the ordinary Head Kárkún and five in that of the special Head Kárkún at Indi cannot but have hindered

the satisfactory performance of the duties of those offices. Complaints about the inadequacy of the *táluka* and *mahál* establishments have been repeated in several of these reports. Mr. Brendon considers the existing establishments numerically sufficient, but wanting in quality. Mr. Bomanji also observes that the strength of the *táluka* staff is now getting up to the mark, but that the question of its remuneration requires consideration. The Registration, Police and *A'bkári* Departments have been recently reorganised, but the Revenue establishments have practically remained where they were at the time of their organisation about 40 years ago. Provision of a permanent staff in connection with the *takávi* and the Record of Rights works is already under the consideration of Government. The pay of the subordinate Revenue establishment is decidedly low and needs revision in view of the efficiency and experience expected of them in the multifarious branches of work they have to do, and especially as the cost of living now is considerably dearer than when the pay was originally fixed.

The question of providing the special Head *Kárkuns* with a *kárkun* and a peon has been again raised by the Collector of Bijápur. As already remarked in the review for 1905-1906, the *Mámlatdárs* can place one of their peons at their disposal, and there is nothing to prevent the *Mámlatdárs* from putting a *kárkun* under them.

Mr. Bhide again refers to the want of a separate *kárkun* for the *Táluka* Local Board work and suggests that the growing tendency of carrying on correspondence in English with the *Mámlatdárs* should be discouraged as far as possible; as in every *táluka*, one *kárkun* has to be told off solely for this work to the detriment of other work. The Commissioner does not see any necessity for a separate *kárkun* for the *Táluka* Local Board work. Nearly all *kárkuns* now appointed know English and the more correspondence is carried on in that language the better it is for the higher officers.

The special report promised by Mr. Panse on the subject of raising the *pethas* of Bhatkal and Mundgod to the status of a *táluka* each is awaited, but there are *tálukas* in other districts which require relief more than *Honávar* and *Yellápur*.

The work of the District Inspectors has been generally good, though the Inspectors of Dhárwár and Kolába were found fault with in connection with the compilation of the Record of Rights and the mutation registers. The work of the Circle Inspectors, with the exception of four or five, was, on the whole, done fairly well. Mr. Hudson observes that their training in survey causes inconvenient gaps. Their employment on the Record of Rights work and on the inspection and restoration of boundary marks is reported to have greatly interfered with their other work, such as that of the compilation of circle books and the disposal of measurement cases. Though a temporary establishment of 4 Circle Inspectors for a period of 4 months, from 1st March to 30th June 1907, was sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 10589 of 8th November 1906, for disposal of measurement work in arrears in the Bijápur district, the bulk of these cases have been reported to be still large in that district. The Collectors of Belgaum and Ratnágiri also remark that probably additional establishments will have to be employed to clear off the arrears; and they will be asked to submit the necessary proposals at an early date.

Mr. Vachha suggests a modification, if not abolition, of the system of making the Circle Inspectors hold auction sales in connection with the Civil Courts decrees, as interfering with other work for which they are more fitted. The Collector offers no opinion on the point. The partition work under Civil Courts decrees has to be done by Circle Inspectors under Rule 3 of the Circle Inspectors' Rules. The Commissioner does not think that they should be relieved of the sale work which forms part of the execution of these decrees. In places where the Civil Court decrees work is much in excess, additional or separate staff has to be entertained, and this has been done in Ratnágiri.

Complete information is still awaited from the Collectors in connection with the proposed revision of the remuneration of the village headmen and the inferior servants. The conduct of the *watandar* village officers does not show

much improvement; several cases of embezzlement of Government money were discovered in the Northern Sub-Division of the Bijapur district and in the Gokak taluka of the Belgaum district. The Collector of Belgaum remarks that the existence of factions renders the securing of convictions even in the plainest cases of dishonesty—a common failing with the Kulkarnis—a difficult task. These factions also interfere with the compilation of the Record of Rights and collection of land revenue. There are also complaints about Kulkarnis and Shanhogs not residing in their charges. Mr. Painter is peculiar in preferring the work of Kulkarnis to that of Talátis. The number of the latter is very small in Dhárwár, and Mr. Painter's remarks cannot be made applicable to coast districts, especially Kánara and Kolába, where the village accountant staff mainly consists of Talátis. Men who pass the necessary educational tests are only appointed. They are, as a rule, far superior to watandar Kulkarnis. They have to pass the sub-departmental examination. They hold much larger charges and have to manage all the work in their villages. The assistance they derive from the village headman, who is badly paid and generally illiterate, is nominal. A proposal was made to make their services superior as in the case of other taluka establishments. Government, however, have said in their Resolution No. 11166 of 26th November 1906, that the question of revising the status and remuneration of the watandar Kulkarnis is, in the opinion of Government, more urgent than that of the remuneration of stipendiary accountants and that until it has been disposed of the question of improving the remuneration of the stipendiary village accountant, of whom a sufficient supply seems to be available, cannot be considered. The Talátis are, however, a far more deserving body of men than the watandar Kulkarnis, and though their work is well done, it is getting harder every year to obtain the proper stamp of men for the post.

No classes were held in the Bijapur district for the training of village accountants in survey, on account of the continuance of famine operations there, until the middle of October 1906. In the other districts, 326 village accountants passed the preliminary examination, and, out of them, 178 were examined in the field by the District Inspectors. Of the 86 examined by the Superintendent, 48 were declared to have passed the final test during the year under report. Mr. Hudson states that reluctance shown by village accountants to join the class was considerably less than in previous years. Mr. Chuckerbutty remarks that some of the trained Talátis, who were deputed as extra Circle Inspectors on the Record of Rights work or appointed in place of those deputed on that work, did their duties well, and petty measurement work was satisfactorily carried out by them. On the other hand, Messrs. Artal and Alcock express their doubts as to any tangible results ensuing from this training.

Mr. Alcock's suggestion to authorize Kulkarnis to attach property in cases in which Government dues are not paid freely is rightly considered by the Collector as of doubtful expediency. He makes a proposal for supplying the Kulkarnis with printed receipt books in counterfoils and requiring them to be used in addition to the receipt to be entered in the villagers' book. A similar proposal was made by Mr. Bomanji in 1904-05. The proposal, though a good one, cannot be recommended for general adoption, on the score of its adding to the already heavy work of the Kulkarni and there being no likelihood of the rayat taking more care of the printed receipt than of his receipt-book. But there is much to be said in favour of requiring printed receipts to be given in all cases instead of in the rayats' receipt-book. He further questions the utility of the register in which a note has to be made of the punishments inflicted on village officers. The register alluded to seems to be the one prescribed in Government Resolution No. 5468, dated 29th July 1893, and printed on page 2087 of the Compilation of Standing Orders. This register, however, contains information on several other important points. Owing to the avoidance of punishment by fine and suspensions, ordered in clause 3 of paragraph 7 of Government Resolution No. 8956, dated 18th September 1906, practically "warnings" only have now to be entered in it. The following table shows the punishments inflicted on village accountants and Patils during the year:—

No.	Details of punishment	Belgaum.		Bijapur.		Dharwad.		Kánara.		Kolába.		Ratnágiri.	
		P.	K.	P.	K.	P.	K.	P.	K.	P.	K.	P.	K.
	Total number of employees	1,123	634	1,246	882	—	—	891	307	1,774	227	1,314	322
1	Dismissed No.	2	4	4	3	4	4	—	—	1	2	—	1
	Percentage	16	67	3	3	—	—	3	9	0	6	—	31
2	Suspended No.	18	18	35	66	23	23	—	—	14	3	9	2
	Percentage	1.5	2.6	2.5	7.4	—	—	1.5	1.9	7	1.3	6.8	6.2
3	Fined No.	23	48	69	80	34	76	—	—	23	36	6	25
	Percentage	2.3	6.9	5.5	9.1	—	—	5.1	15.9	1.2	15.8	4.6	7.7

The allotment of Rs. 2,000 made to this division for the current financial year for grant of rewards to village head men and inferior village servants was, after some correspondence, distributed among the Collectors on 31st May last, that is after the completion of jamábandi on which presentations have ordinarily to be made. No rewards were accordingly given during the year under report; but it is in contemplation to give some in the Dhárwár and Kolába districts. The Collector of Ratnágiri has issued orders for the presentation of a sword of the value of Rs. 20 to a police patel for his zeal in the detection of a criminal offence.

### Extracts.

#### *Village Officers.*

##### BELAGUM DISTRICT.

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

As regards the village officers, they are, as a class, illiterate and, if at all literate, they are very poorly educated and low paid. We all know that the patil by heredity entirely neglects education, whereas the Kulkarni possesses it to some extent. The result is that the importance of the latter waxes and that of the former wanes. The patils, therefore, as a class, are merely puppets in the hands of the scheming Kulkarnis, whose standard of morality is very low. If a hereditary patil or kulkarni is charged with a criminal offence, it is extremely difficult to procure conviction; especially in the case of the latter, owing to his local influence and party factions. So it becomes extremely difficult or next to impossible to get these village officers punished even for the plainest cases of dishonesty.

### V.—Special Matters.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

1. *Record-of-Rights.*—The Record was prepared in two tálukas of the Kaira district, one in the Broach district and three in the Thána district, and was promulgated in one táluka and one Mahál in the Panch Maháls, and two tálukas in the Thána district. The work is reported to have been done satisfactorily. Special establishments were entertained in Kaira, Broach and Thána for the purpose of preparing the Record. Mr. Husbands, Assistant Collector of Kaira, is entitled to great credit for the attention which he paid to this subject which, in his Collector's words, he has "made his own."

2. *Bombay Act VI of 1901.*—The area of land held on the restricted tenure in each district at the beginning and close of the year was as follows :—

District.				At the beginning of the year.	At the close of the year.
				Acres.	Acres.
Ahmedabad	...	...	..	97,727	104,801
Kaira	...	...	...	66,132	71,979
Panch Maháls	...	...	...	94,770	101,612
Broach	...	...	...	15,526	22,956
Surat	...	...	...	25,385	33,533
Thána	...	...	...	2,276	2,756
Total				301,816	337,637

3. *Remittance by Money Order.*—As reported last year, the system appears to be popular in Thána only, where Rs. 5,800 were remitted during the year against Rs. 3,500 in the previous year. The system was taken advantage of also in Ahmedabad, Kaira and Surat, the amounts remitted in the latter two districts being Rs. 464 and Rs. 515, respectively.

4. *Special Assignments.*—There was no important case worth notice under this head.

5. *Land Acquisition.*—The public purposes for which lands were acquired were as follows :—

1. For Educational Institutions in Ahmedabad.
2. For Railways in Ahmedabad, Broach and Thána.
3. For tanks used for irrigation purposes in Kaira and the Panch Maháls.
4. For Agricultural Farms in Panch Maháls and Surat.
5. For rest-houses and Inspection bungalows in Surat.
6. For the Municipality of Surat for road widening.

6. *Introduction of Special Acts.*—The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act—As regards the working of this Act, the Collector of Broach reports: "The Sub-Judges report that in all cases, whether the agriculturists request or not, the accounts are called for and examined whenever any of the parties happen to be agriculturists. The provisions relating to repayment of debts seem to have been properly used, for in 1906 orders for repayment in instalments were passed in 291 cases, and as a result no processes against the agriculturists' land were issued for satisfaction of their debts."

Messrs. Doderet and Painter report that it is too early as yet to write with any confidence or to give a decided opinion on this point.

#### *A'bkári Act (Mhowra flowers).*

This was introduced in Broach and there was one prosecution.

7. *The Regulation of Building Sites.*—There is nothing of importance to be noted under this except for Thána where the work to be done is still considerable. The Collector has rightly pointed out the need for making the appointment of Special Officer permanent. He could take as an additional charge the revenue work of the Sálsette táluka, whether the táluka is or is not hereafter transferred to Bombay.

8. *Co-operative Credit Societies.*—No progress had hitherto been made in the Panch Maháls. In Broach, two societies were established. In Ahmedabad and Surat, the numbers were increased to 13 and 5, respectively. Mr. Doderet says that there is still ample room for expansion in Ahmedabad.

One case of embezzlement is reported from Kaira, where the Secretary had misappropriated Rs. 300, which amount was, however, paid up on the discovery of the loss. The man was committed for trial and has recently been convicted and sentenced.

9. *Operations of the Agricultural Department.*—There is nothing to be noted under this head, except in Broach and Surat. In the former, Egyptian seed was imported by some cultivators, and in the latter there was held an Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition and Cattle Show, where lectures and demonstrations were given by the Deputy Director of Agriculture and by the Superintendent of the Government Farm at Surat, and prizes amounting to Rs. 361 were awarded to 46 cultivators.

10. *Veterinary Department.*—The District Local Board of Broach propose to employ a Veterinary Hospital Assistant, as there is none in the Broach district.

#### Extracts.

##### (i) *Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*

###### AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

Some of the sections of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act have been applied to this district. Proposals have been submitted for the appointment of Conciliators and Village Munsiffs. It is too early as yet to write with any confidence about the results of the working of the measure. A circular has been issued by me to the villagers, explaining in simple language the benefits to be derived from a resort to the Act.

###### KAIRA DISTRICT.

Arthur Wood, Esq., Collector.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act is the last but not the least of the causes which have taken the occupation away from the money-lenders and also it must be added from the Vakil. It is a long-wished for boon which the rayat has gratefully accepted.

###### SURAT DISTRICT.

B. W. Kissan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The value of mortgages of land by agriculturists to non-agriculturists fell from last year by nearly one-half to Rs. 14,326, while the number of mortgages (124) was practically stationary. The value of sales, on the other hand, showed an increase of 34 per cent. and rose to Rs. 1,21,615, the number of sales also rising 31 per cent. to 566. This state of affairs would appear to be a direct result of the application of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.

##### (ii) *Restricted Tenure.*

###### AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

The area of land held on the restricted tenure at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year was 97,727 acres 31 gunthas and 104,801 acres 3 gunthas, respectively. Progress continues to be satisfactory.

###### PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The common complaint of the more advanced agriculturists is that their credit with the *savkars* is lessened and that they are unable to obtain petty

sums as usual. There has certainly been an extraordinary increase in the demand for tagávi, which may be partly (only) traced to this source. There is no evidence that the lessened credit has restricted agricultural operations at all. There have, on the other hand, during the past year, been very distinct indications of progress.

D. M. Patwardhan, Esq., Deputy Collector.

It was found that the villagers did not know what the new restricted tenure was; they continued to get their land cultivated by their relatives or their castemen, in spite of the provision in the agreement that previous sanction of the Collector was necessary. All these cases were between agriculturists and agriculturists and were allowed with the Collector's sanction. There was technically and literally an evasion of the provisions of the agreement, but not a real evasion. Fraudulent transfers to sávkárs are aimed at. There were none such.

#### SURAT DISTRICT.

B. W. Kissan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The land given out on the new tenure during the year was 1,521 acres assessed at Rs. 2,842. These figures are somewhat less than last year's, because it was during last year that Mr. Westropp inaugurated the practice of giving land freely on the new tenure without occupancy price. The number of cases in which the conditions of the tenure were broken was very few. With the diminishing of these cultivators' security in land it seems more than ever necessary to induce them to materialise their joint personal security by means of Co-operative Credit Societies.

#### KAIRA DISTRICT.

J. E. Husbands, Esq., Assistant Collector.

It is impossible to say how much the restriction of credit in the case of agriculturists, especially Dhárálas, which is undeniable, is due to the new tenure, and how much to the effects of famine, and fear of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. Cases of breach of the conditions are numerous, but the majority are purely nominal, the original khátedár lending his name to enable the original occupants to regain the land. I am afraid Mámlatdárs are still apt to confuse the two terms, and fail to realize that we do not want any more nominal khátedárs.

#### THA'NA DISTRICT.

G. G. Desai, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The woodland system has certainly improved the condition of the rent-paying classes in Wáda and to some extent in Máhim also. The woodlands are being fairly well guarded and all attempts are being made to instruct the people in the advantages of preserving tahál. A great deal of land has already been given to the poor people on this tenure and for the present it has been decided to wait and watch how far they make the right use of this privilege given them on such easy terms.

#### (iii) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*

#### AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

The number of Agricultural Banks has increased to 13 and the idea of co-operative credit seems to have caught on in this district, but there is still ample room for expansion.

## THANA DISTRICT.

A. K. Cama, Esq., Collector.

The grain-depôts, established throughout the district by Government for the benefit of the wild tribes and the poorest labourers living from hand-to-mouth, have afforded grain to them in July and August, when they needed it most, at a reasonable rate of interest (1 anna in the rupee) and have so far saved them from the clutches of the *sávkár* whose rate of interest (*wadididi*) for grain lent varies from 25 to 50 per cent. in kind. Neither the *sávkár* nor the well-to-do ryots feel any disinterested sympathy for these grain-depôts and we are still as far as ever from the day when the influential people will open a grain-depôt managed and run by themselves on co-operative lines to the mutual benefit of themselves and the indigent people relieved.

## CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

(1) *Record of Rights*.—In West Khándesh the record of rights was promulgated in the Nandurbár, Taloda and Shirpur talukas, where it was begun in 1905-1906. It was nearly completed in Pimpalner and the Collector hopes to announce it during the current touring season. It was also completed in the Yáwal taluka of the East Khándesh district and the writing of the fair copy was in progress. In Násik, the work which was commenced in Báglán in 1905-1906 was completed and announced during the year of report. The record was undertaken and completed in the Jámkhed and Akola talukas of the Ahmednagar district. In the Poona district, the record was announced in the Sirur taluka and completed in Junnar and Indápur. It was announced in the Tásgaon taluka and completed in the Mán and Karád talukas of the Sátára district. It was also completed and announced in the Bársi, Mádha and Málsiras talukas of the Sholápur district. The general public seems to be learning to appreciate the object and utility of the record of rights. The Collectors of West Khándesh and Sholápur state that no difficulty was experienced in getting the required information. The other Collectors had apparently not much to complain of.

The mutation registers are said to be generally well kept and up to date in East and West Khándesh. In Násik and Sátára, they are not up to date; but attention is being given to the matter in these as well as in the remaining districts.

The work of the mapping of sub-occupancies was carried on in the Dhulia and Sindkheda talukas of the West Khándesh district. It was completed in Dhulia, but a few villages remained to be measured in Sindkheda.

(2) *Restricted tenure*.—Land was given out on restricted tenure in all the districts of the division, except Sátára, as will be seen from the following details:—

District.	Area given out during the year 1906-1907.		Total area held on the restricted tenure.	
	A.	g.	A.	g.
West Khándesh ... ..	25,556	7	245,071	4
East Khándesh ... ..	5,918	17	16,727	1
Násik ... ..	8,542	0	36,217	0
Ahmednagar ... ..	556	0	2,157	0
Poona ... ..	141	28	543	11
Sholápur ... ..	372	6	7,749	12
Total ... ..	41,036	18	309,071	28

Mr. Arthur says that there is no scope for the use of "Act VI of 1901, since there is but little cultivable waste land in the district". He does not, however, state whether land resumed for the non-payment of land revenue could not be granted on the new tenure. The total area in the Sholápur district is less than was shown in the last report. This is due to the fact that 2,702 acres held on this tenure by Bháubands of the Aklúj and Dahigaon Deshmukhs in the Málsiras táluka were restored to them under the orders of Government.

The restricted credit of this tenure does not seem to have hampered agricultural operations. From the prices obtained in East and West Khándesh and Násik, it seems that prejudice against the non-transferable tenure is gradually lessening, although it must be remembered that it is in these districts, with a large proportion of Bhils and other backward tribes, that the new tenure is most suited to the wants of the population. In other districts, attempts similar to those made by Mr. Shalom Bapuji Israel to popularise the system might be copied. He writes: "The money-lending classes are naturally opposed to restricted tenure. When land is being sold by auction to *boná fide* cultivators on restricted tenure, they are unable to bid, as they could not get the money from the *sávkár* to pay the amount bid. When I was convinced that a *boná fide* agriculturist was desirous to have the land on restricted tenure, I granted the occupancy right, although the amount bid was less than usual. If the same value as is recovered under unrestricted tenure is demanded, when selling the land under restricted tenure, the *boná fide* agriculturist will never be able to take it."

(3) *Remittance of land revenue by money order.*—The facilities of sending land revenue by money order are as a rule availed of by well-to-do land-owners living in distant places and generally do not find much favour in East Khándesh, West Khándesh, Sátára and probably in Ahmednagar (the report for which makes no mention of the system). The following amounts were remitted by this agency in the remaining districts:—

				Rs.
Násik	...	...	...	1,325
Poona	...	...	...	4,177
Sholápur	...	...	...	849

(4) *Special grants or assignments.*—Under the orders of the Government of India (*vide* Government Resolution, Financial Department, No. 2216 of the 9th May 1907), an annual cash allowance of Rs. 600 was granted from the Poona Treasury to senior Hospital Assistant Rái Bahádur Bhoorya Jullaya Bahádur, on account of distinguished services in the Military Department. No other assignments or grants of special importance were made during the year.

(5) *Land Acquisition.*—Under recent orders, when land is required for public purposes, it is to be acquired under the Act and so there were several petty cases of land acquisition in all districts for the purposes of roads, schools, dispensaries, public bungalows, extension of village-sites, forests, etc. But the most important cases of land acquisition were those required for the headquarters of the new collectorate of East Khándesh, the extension of the Cantonment at Ahmednagar in connection with the military reorganisation scheme, the doubling of the G. I. P. Railway between Poona and Lonávla, the new Lunatic Asylum at Yerávda, the extension of the Bársi Light Railway, and enlarging of certain stations of the G. I. P. Railway in the Sholápur district. Extensive areas which are required in the Násik and Ahmednagar districts for the Godávári Canal and Darna Dam have already been notified, but as their acquisition will entail heavy work on the ordinary establishment, a special staff has been sanctioned.

(6) *The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*—The whole of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has been in force in all the districts of this division, except Khándesh and Násik, from the beginning. Considerable portions of it containing some of the most important provisions were extended to the Khándesh and Násik districts two years ago, but the officers concerned are yet diffident in expressing an opinion as to the exact effects of this measure. One thing, however, is clear, viz., that it has increased the number of sale-deeds, for

the *sávkárs* will no longer lend money on simple mortgage-deeds. Whether this will frighten the agriculturists into providence or induce them to approach Government for *Tagái* or to band together for the formation of Co-operative Credit Societies, is a riddle which has been read in vain for years in the other Deccan districts. It will be seen from the interesting remarks made by Mr. Orr on this subject that the *sávkár* holds a strong position in the economy of the village and that it is not law, but time and education which may perhaps diminish his influence.

(7) *Co-operative Credit Societies and Agricultural Banks.*—Owing to the dislike of the *sávkárs* to Co-operative Credit Societies, which have the effect of contracting their operations, the growth of these institutions must necessarily be slow. There are now 3 such societies in the West Khándesh district, one at Welda in the Nandurbár *táluka* and the others at Holnantha and Balka in the Shirpur *táluka*; the last two were established during the year under report. A new Society was also established at Dhayari in the Haveli *táluka*. It is satisfactory to note that the Society established at Bodwad in the Bhusáwal *táluka* of the East Khándesh district is flourishing. The two Societies at Bársi and Tadvala mentioned in the last report are also reported to be doing well. Mr. Orr mentions the existence of a non-official grain store Association at Wadgaon near Sangamner, which gives small cultivators grain loans on oral agreement, at low interest, from a stock raised by contribution from every one holding land assessed at over Rs. 10. Attempts said to have been made for starting similar associations elsewhere do not seem to have succeeded.

(8) *Operations of the Agricultural Department.*—Few Collectors make reference to the working of the Agricultural Department. The model Farm at Dhulia continues to do good work. Mr. Ghosal states that besides the usual experiment on Jowári, til and wheat, special experiments are being made by the Superintendent of the Farm for producing a variety of cotton by hybridization, such as would yield soft and long stapled cotton like the Hinghanghát variety. Ammonium sulphate was successfully tried on sugarcane and the crop was found to yield a greater percentage of sugar. Experiments made to introduce Broach cotton in Násik, Ahmednagar, and Sholápur did not prove successful. The results of the Mauritius groundnut sown in the village of Wadali, *táluka* Nándgaon of the Násik district, were successful, but the seed sown in the Sinnar *táluka* failed to germinate for want of water. Japan groundnut has been sent to the Násik and Sinnar *tálukas*, and the result of the experiment is awaited.

An Agricultural and Cattle Show was held at Ahmednagar in March last. The Agricultural Department assisted with exhibits, lectures and practical demonstrations. There were 1,760 agricultural exhibits and 227 cattle at the show; and 359 prizes of the aggregate value of Rs. 1,539 were given. Some big land-holders in Sholápur have tried English and American ploughs and chaff-cutters and found them successful; but the difficulty is to get them repaired; and to meet it Mr. Mountford is contemplating a technical school at Sholápur.

(9) *Operations of the Veterinary Department.*—Three new Veterinary Dispensaries—one stationary and two itinerating—were opened in the Ahmednagar district and one in Sholápur. A new dispensary will also be shortly started in Sátára. There was a more or less severe outbreak of rinderpest in most districts, and the Veterinary Graduates did useful work in going round the affected villages and attending the cattle. Inoculation was performed on a fairly extensive scale in Ahmednagar, but elsewhere, though it met with favour in some places, it was not generally acceptable to cattle-owners.

### Extracts.

#### (i) *Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

No definite opinion as to the results of the application of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act to this district can yet be formed. The agriculturists have begun to understand that their lands will not be sold for their debts.

But, on the other hand, the money-lending classes now refuse to advance money on mere mortgage-deeds and consequently the borrowers are obliged to pass sale-deeds to satisfy the wishes of their *sávkárs*. Subordinate Judges have frequently informed me that the chief result so far noticeable is a diminution of the number of suits lodged in their courts.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

The average ryot will go to any length to keep on the right side of his *sávkár*, and consequently the provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act in respect of accounts are and have been, I understand, for at least 30 years an absolute dead letter. Having learnt from inquiries into particular cases last year that some ryots were ignorant of the provisions of the Act, I arranged to have the provisions of sections 64 and 65 read out and explained to all present at the time of *Jamábandi*, and copies of my notes were given to every Kulkarni and Patel with instructions to read them out in the *chávdi* and let anyone who wanted take copies. The talks I had with the people at *Jamábandi* were most interesting. It was soon apparent that the great bulk of the people were absolutely ignorant of these provisions. There was a general complaint that *sávkárs* never gave receipts or accounts and village registrars never gave copies of documents. There was always a murmur of satisfaction when the provisions of the law were explained, followed after further discussion by much shaking of heads when the question of enforcing the Act was considered. Some test cases which I took up personally were withdrawn by the ryots concerned, and it is my firm conviction that what I heard from most villages is the whole truth, *viz.*, that the ryots *dare not* press their *sávkárs* to give them receipts and accounts, lest they should rouse their displeasure. Some of the best *sávkárs* with whom I have discussed these matters have undertaken to give receipts and pass-books, but most of them regard these provisions of the Act as a reflection on their honesty and say "We never have done this hitherto. Why should we do so now." One outspoken old fellow plainly told me "You can make what laws you like; but we shall always win the ryots over to our side and they *dare not* enforce the law against us."

WEST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

J. Ghosal, Esq., Collector.

It is very difficult to judge as yet of the exact effect of the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. I think all that can be said is that it has benefited those who had borrowed money before, for now they go to the Court and get off by the payment of moderate interest. But all who want to borrow money in future can only do so by actually selling their lands, for the *sávkár* will not listen to a mortgage. The number of sales has greatly increased.

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

This has been certainly operating to the advantage of the ryot, not so much by reason of the cases brought before Conciliators as because of the fact that the knowledge of the existence of the Act has led money-lenders to compromise with their clients. This has been the case specially in Pimpalner where a lot of persons have freed part of their holdings entirely by sacrificing the rest.

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

R. T. F. Kirk, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Land-holders in want of money find it more difficult to borrow on the security of landed property than they did before the introduction of this Act. *Sávkárs* aim now at getting sale-deeds executed, making a verbal agreement to return the property as soon as the money, which appears in the sale-deeds as purchase price but is intended by the so-called seller to be a mere loan, is returned to him. Meanwhile, the seller remains as tenant of the *sávkár*, and cultivates the land, giving half produce to the *sávkár* as rent or interest on

what he regards as a loan. This is a very dangerous practice for the landholder, who has nothing but a verbal promise from the *sávkár* to give back the land, and since the Kunbi would as a rule do anything rather than sell his fields outright, he will not have recourse to this expedient, unless he is very badly in need of money. The *sávkár* also will not lend on other terms and thus there is some contraction of credit, which is due rather to the working of this Act than to the introduction of the new restricted tenure. A dishonest *sávkár* has a splendid weapon in his hands, since the oral agreement of reconveyance will be very difficult to prove before the Civil Court when the *sávkár* produces the sale-deed. Generally speaking, however, the *sávkárs* are ready to patch up their disputes with debtors before the Conciliators.

(ii) *Restricted tenure.*

SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

L. J. Mountford, Esq., Collector.

Whether restricted tenure will do all that its advocates advance in its favour has yet to be seen, but it is well worth following out as an experiment. The mortgage of land will be replaced by the mortgage of the crops for which more onerous terms would naturally be exacted on account of the precariousness of the security; and restricted tenure will not save a cultivator from debt: but the fact that such loans will not be so generously extended by the *sávkár*, as the land cannot be obtained by him eventually, will restrict credit, and this in the long run will prove an advantage, as the curse of the agriculturist is easy credit. The natural tendency in the first instance, would be to drive the *sávkár* to ply his trade on unrestricted lands, but as these became more and more circumscribed, he would have to find an outlet for his capital somewhere and would fall back on the restricted lands.

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simcox, Esq., Collector.

There was an increase in the area of land held on the non-transferable tenure by 5,918 acres and 17 gunthas.

Out of the total grant, 3,027 acres and 11 gunthas of land have been given on the restricted tenure in Chopda taluka. The price realized is very high, in certain cases 100 times the assessment. This shows that the people have no longer any prejudice against the restricted tenure. In fact, though I receive applications for land most days, I hardly get any except such as state that the new tenure will be acceptable.

WEST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

J. Ghosal, Esq., Collector.

There was an increase in the area of land held on the non-transferable tenure, the total rising from 220,114 acres and 37 gunthas at the beginning to 245,671 acres and 4 gunthas at the end of the year. A part of this increase does not, however, represent new grants of land under the restricted tenure. A considerable amount of land in the western division of this district which had been given out free of occupancy price or on the *máfi* tenure has now been classed as held on the non-transferable tenure. The usual practice in the district is to sell land by auction on the restricted tenure to *bonâ fide* cultivators; the prices realised are occasionally very high, though there is still a strong prejudice against this tenure. It is not easy to estimate the effect of tenure on credit. Of course, credit under the non-alienable tenure is restricted, but it does not seem to have affected agricultural operations.

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

It was formerly the custom to give land free to Bhils and others on this tenure, but Mr. Shepherd introduced the very salutary rule of taking as occupancy price at least once the assessment of a survey number before giving it out for cultivation. This, besides insuring us against loss in the frequent contingency of a man reaping his crops and then disappearing into Baroda State or elsewhere, is still more valuable in that it assures us that a

man before asking for a number has really some idea of bettering himself. The occupancy price is of course very trifling and a man who would leave off drink for a month and devote the proceeds of his labour or Mhowra collection to purchasing a survey number, would be on the fair road to independence. As the figures, I think, show, this or something like it is occurring frequently.

In some parts of my charge, studious efforts have been made to boycott the tenure. In one case, a tálati was discovered to have made quite a handsome sum by decrying it to the Bhils and taking douceurs from them in recognition of his supposed efforts to get them their land on the unrestricted tenure. In other parts, people are taking to it readily and even well-to-do people are accepting lands on this tenure. It is I think questionable whether people who are undoubtedly fit for land on the old tenure should be *allowed* to take it on the new.

On the whole, I think, that the tenure is a success, and, in spite of difficulties, is useful in safeguarding the interests of land-holders who are not qualified to take care of themselves—an important fact in view of the yearly increasing demand for land.

(iii) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

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

The only such society in the Eastern Division is that at Bodvad. The present flourishing condition of the Society must be attributed in great measure to the praiseworthy efforts of Vazir Hidayat Patil, Chairman of the Committee. One might almost say that the very existence of the Society is bound up with the fact of his leadership. The growing popularity of the Society clearly demonstrates that the idea of co-operation is permeating the rustic mind; and once the experiment is an assured success, it will not be difficult to inaugurate similar institutions in other parts of the sub-division. At the same time, the history of the Bodvad scheme establishes the necessity of securing the services of a really capable local man to initiate and supervise,

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

We have had our hands too full to be able to give much attention to the institution of agricultural banks so far; but I hope the Salvation Army, with whose officers I have had some discussion on this question, will soon lead the way in this district. There is one purely non-official grain store association at Wadgaon near Sangamner, which in spite of famine has successfully carried out a programme for assisting small cultivators of the village with grain loans, granted on oral agreements at low interest, from a stock originally raised 2 years ago by contribution of one páyli per rupee of assessment from every-one holding land assessed at over Rs. 10. Some of my Mámlatdárs have attempted to get similar associations started on the Wadgaon lines in other villages, but none has reached the stage of practical utility as yet.

V. K. Namjoshi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The need for co-operative credit societies is greatly felt when it is remembered that Government could hardly be expected to grant subsistence tagái to all and sundry during the prevalence of a famine. The famine has deprived people of the means to help themselves and any suggestion to start a co-operative credit society is met by the plea of "no means." The establishment of grain stores in two villages in the Sevgaon táluka is, it may be mentioned, one step in the right direction.

(iv) *Agricultural experiments.*

SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

L. J. Mountford, Esq., Collector.

I have found some splendid cotton grown in Kerkela, H. H. the Nizám's dominions, which provides a staple too long for our Sholápur mills. I sent a

sample to the Director of Agriculture and a visit to Kerkela to investigate is now under contemplation: and this may result in introducing cotton of a far longer staple. One of the mill sub-agents, a Bolton man, told me the cotton was as good as American.

Some of the big land-holders who had an opportunity of being present at the exhibition held in Bombay in 1905 and who are able to read the Agricultural Journal issued by the Government of India have tried English and American ploughs and chaff-cutters, and found them most successful; but the main complaint is the difficulty of repairs. I am contemplating a technical school at Sholápur and that will probably meet the difficulty. The experiment of cultivating Broach cotton did not prove a success anywhere.

SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

A. Montgomerie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In some parts, the ryots have shown a willingness to adopt new crops. I would cite as an instance the potato in Koregaon which was introduced, I believe, some 10 or 15 years ago and which in some villages is regarded almost as the principal crop. Land sown year in and year out with this crop, followed by a good variety of wheat, gives a net profit almost equal to that on sugarcane, without the initial expenditure of capital or anything like the same risk of failure. The crop is spreading and I have hopes that it will be found suitable for some parts of Khatáv and Wái. During last year, there was also a fair demand in some parts of the charge for improved ground-nut seeds which were being sold by the Agricultural Department.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. W. Drew, Commissioner, S. D.

(1) *Record of Rights*.—This work was undertaken in all districts, except Bijápur, where it was not introduced in any of the tálukas during the year owing to the after effects of the famine. So far as the work of the initial record is concerned, Kánara and Belgaum districts were completed during the year. In the Belgaum district, the work of writing up mutation registers is up to date in 5 tálukas; in other districts the progress in this work does not appear to be satisfactory. However, steps are being taken to set the matter right. Detailed remarks on this head have been separately communicated to the Director of Land Records.

(2) *Restricted tenure*.—The following table shows the land held on this tenure in the division at the beginning of the year, that granted in the course of the year and the total at the close of it:—

District.	Settled up to 31st July 1906.	Settled during the year.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Bijápur ... ..	5,340	1,024	6,364
Kánara ... ..	2,345	427	2,772
Dhárwár ... ..	1,816	450	2,266
Belgaum ... ..	934	1,188	2,122
Ratnágiri ... ..	.....	1,570	1,570
Kolába ... ..	10	7	17
Total ... ..	10,445	4,666	15,111

The figures entered in column 2 against Bijápur, Kánara and Belgaum differ from those given in the reports for 1905-06, but no explanations of the discrepancies have been furnished. The figures opposite Ratnágiri in column 3 represent

the area of certain holdings entered on this tenure in lapsed Khoti villages, in accordance with the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 5346, dated 1st June 1906. With a view of preventing unfair competition on the part of sávkárs and affording the poor cultivators an opportunity of increasing their holdings and raising their status, the Collector of Dhárwár decided rightly to sell all "ordinary" waste lands in future under this tenure. The tenure has nowhere tended to restrict agricultural operations. There were two cases of infringement of terms in Kánara and steps are stated to have been taken for cancelling the grants. Mr. Bhide observes that nearly half the number of Chapparbands, to whom lands were given on this tenure, have gone elsewhere to follow their criminal avocations, leaving their lands to be tilled by their females and other relatives. The Commissioner does not see any objection to his suggestion to take an agreement that he would personally cultivate the land from each Chapparband before granting the land, being followed.

(3) *Remittance of Revenue by Money Order.*—Revenue to the amount of Rs. 946, Rs. 2,187, Rs. 5,874 and Rs. 9,270 was remitted in this way in the districts of Bijápur, Kánara, Kolába and Ratnágiri, respectively. The Collector of Kolába remarks that this course was particularly resorted to by the khátedárs of Panvel, Karjat and Alibág talukas. In Ratnágiri, the major portion (Rs. 6,012) of the amount remitted was, as usual, on account of A'bkári revenue. The Collector of Kánara advocates the reduction of the money order commission to induce people to resort more freely to this system, but there is no advantage to Government to be gained by it. It is purely for the convenience of the remitters, and they should pay the ordinary commission. The Commissioner has intimated to the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records his approval of the rules about the proposed introduction of the Revenue money order system into the Presidency.

(4) *Special Grants and Assignments.*—In Belgaum, lands measuring 33 acres 17 gunthas, assessed at Rs. 31-12-0, were given on payment of an occupancy price, calculated at ten times the assessment, to Mr. A. B. Desai, late Administrator, Sánгли, in addition to 112 acres 19 gunthas, granted to him on similar terms in 1905-06.

The Hakkal assignments to the Kumri Maráthas of Bhatkal in Kánara were sanctioned by Government in their Resolution No. 3203, dated 22nd May 1907. R. B. Yennemadi will be asked to submit a separate report on his proposals for allowing the removal of "Soppu" of wild trees for manuring rice fields.

In the Kolába district, the area of assignments of forest lands to Kátkaris and other wild tribes was reduced during the year by 681 acres 12 gunthas, under Government Resolution No. 4311, dated 26th May 1905.

(5) *Land Acquisition Work.*—Lands for various public purposes were taken up in all the districts of the division, but the important acquisitions were confined to Belgaum and Ratnágiri only. In the former district, 253 acres 22 gunthas were in three cases acquired at an aggregate cost of Rs. 24,353 for a Government Farm at Arbhavi in the Gokák taluka, Vaccine Depôt and a play-ground for Sardár's High School at Belgaum. In the latter district, 28 acres 26 gunthas 8 annas were taken up at a cost of Rs. 11,851 for the erection of a new house for His Highness the ex-King Thebaw and for the official residence of the Assistant Judge, Ratnágiri. The work of granting compensation for land acquired for the Neral-Mátherán Light Tramway was continued in Kolába.

(6) *The introduction or extension of any Act or Rule.—Court of Wards' Act.*—Belgaum continues to be the only district in which advantage of the provisions of the Act is being taken. Two more estates there were brought under the Act during the year, making the total number of estates under management at the close of it six. Four of these are reported to be heavily incumbered. An application from the Jágirdár of Tingnibidri in the Bijápur taluka and his brothers for their estate being taken over is under reference to the Collector.

*Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*—The Act has not been in force long enough to admit of any definite opinion being pronounced as to its effects;

though it is looked on with favour by the rayat, it is generally reported to have narrowed his credit and strained the relations which existed between him and his *sávkár* before its introduction. But this curtailment of the rayats' power of borrowing is, as remarked by Mr. Brendon, to be welcomed, if it does not impede agriculture, and it is not stated to have had such effect as yet. The Amendment Act (2) of 1907, authorising the Courts to go behind the transaction even in sale-deeds, with a view of finding out whether it was accompanied by any oral agreement for the restoration of the land sold on repayment of the purchase-money, will, it is hoped, check the rise in the number of bogus sales, safeguard the interest of the cultivators and prevent to a certain extent the transfer of their lands to the money-lending classes. In Belgaum, the Sub-Judges, who are *ex-officio* conciliators, with one exception, are stated as not taking much trouble to effect a settlement between the disputants out of court; and the existing number of non-official conciliators has been found insufficient. An increase in their number is under contemplation. Appointments of conciliators and village munsiffs for the Kánara and Bijápur districts were sanctioned after the close of the year, and proposals for the Dhárwár district are before Government. The reports from Kolába and Ratnágiri districts are awaited.

*Khoti Act.*—Commutations of crop share rents into fixed cash payments were made in a large number of cases by Mr. Garrett in his sub-division. In the other two sub-divisions, many applications are reported to be pending disposal. The reason assigned for their non-disposal by Mr. Divatia is the absence in the Act of any method for determining the average money value of the crop shares payable by the tenants of the khot and the consequent diversity of opinion as to the correct method to be followed. The Commissioner does not see why this should be laid down in the Act. One has to ascertain a matter of fact and the ordinary rules of evidence would apply. In the case disposed of by Government Resolution No. 9391, dated 24th September 1907, evidence of ten years' rent was considered ample for the purpose of fixing the average money value of the crop share under rule 5 (2) of the Rules under section 33 of the Act. It is presumed that there will now be no difficulty in disposing of the pending cases. The Collector suggests the appointment of a special officer, with a sufficient staff for this work. Though the Commissioner doubts the need for a special establishment, he is calling on the Collector to submit a special report, mentioning the number of applications there are for disposal, number disposed of, etc.

(7) *Building Assessment.*—The application of Rules 55-II and III of the Land Revenue Code to the towns of Hubli, Dhárwár and Gadag-Bettigiri in the Dhárwár district was sanctioned in Government Resolutions Nos. 7260, dated 24th July 1907, and 8720, dated 3rd September 1907. Mr. Painter says that the question of the provision of building sites for the increasing population of the Hubli town is engaging the attention of the local authorities, but the direction in which the expansion should take place has to be settled yet. Proposals for the application of the rules to certain areas in the Kolába district, recently submitted by the Collector, were returned to him for amendment. In Ratnágiri, there is practically no demand for sites for buildings of other than agriculturists. The non-Khoti villages were, during the year, divided in the requisite classes in accordance with rule 71, for the imposition of fines under section 65 of the Land Revenue Code. There is no keen demand for building sites in Belgaum and Bijápur districts. There are no village sites as such in Kánara.

(8) *Co-Operative Credit Societies.*—In Belgaum, in addition to three urban and two rural societies established in 1905-1906, four rural societies were registered during the year. None of the latter have yet obtained any advance, while the former have been given a loan of Rs. 6,650 from Government. Of the three societies in Bijápur, one, *viz.* that of Almel in the Sindgi taluka, was recently registered. The society at Muddebihal is reported to be doing good work. In Dhárwár, one more urban

Society was established and one Rural Society collapsed during the year, the number of the former being 4 and that of the latter 9 at the close of the year. All the existing societies are stated to be working well. There are no societies in Mr. Graham's charge, but that officer remarks that there is room for such development in the large villages of Karajgi and Ranebennur. The people of Mundargi and Nargund in the District Deputy Collector's charge are stated to have subscribed over Rs. 1,500 each, and necessary applications are being made for registration. Mr. Panse offers no remark on the work of the society at Sirsi, which was started in 1905. In Ratnágiri, the Kankavli Society is stated to be extending its sphere of usefulness. Two new societies were registered during the year, one at Vijaydurg and the other at Kharapatan, both in the Devgad táluka, the former for the benefit of the local horn industry and the latter for the local weavers. None has yet been started in the Kolába district, but Mr. Chuckerbutty says that the Mámlatdár of Panwel is trying to start one among the Kaachi Mahomedans of that town, for reviving the fortunes of the once flourishing cart-wheel industry there. A beginning seems to have been made in Mr. Koreishi's charge, as will be seen from the following quotation :—

“The people of 9 villages in the Roha táluka, unable to collect the minimum of Rs. 500 for starting a Credit Society, have put their small means together and established a sort of granary, to which individuals have contributed to the extent of 17 khandis, and this grain has to be advanced to cultivators during the monsoon at 25 per cent. interest in kind as against 50 per cent., which is demanded by the sávkárs. The immediate effect of this has been the reduction of the sávkár's rates, who is now prepared to advance on the same terms.”

(9) *Effects of the operations of the Agricultural Department on the prosperity of the Agriculturists.*—Lands were acquired during the year at a cost of Rs. 6,232 at Arbhavi in the Gokak táluka of the Belgaum district for a demonstration farm. As the farm could not be started, the lands in question were leased out for cultivation for the current year. The Jahagirdars of Agarkhed in the Indi táluka of the Bijápur district have introduced the English plough. The results obtained are said to be satisfactory. Broach cotton was sown as an experiment, but no opinion can be pronounced on the results of it. In Dhárwár, the agricultural station and the agricultural association continue doing useful work. The area under Broach cotton is reported to have been extended this season, owing to the encouraging results obtained from its cultivation. In Kánara, Mr. Panse pronounces the result of the experiment by the Agricultural Department of substituting bone and oil-cake for ‘Soppu’ manuring, for the areca palms as very discouraging. A society is stated to have been formed in that district for introducing more scientific methods of agriculture. In Ratnágiri, information about the cultivation of tree cotton, locally known as ‘Deo Kapus,’ was disseminated and an experiment of rubber cultivation undertaken at Dapoli. Mr. Chuckerbutty in Kolába ascribes the absence of any effect of the Department on the prosperity of the agriculturists and their cattle to the staff of the District and Circle Inspectors mostly doing the work of land records and not taking any interest in agricultural matters. This must always be the case, so long as the Circle Inspectors form a part of the regular revenue establishment. The Shet, Shetki and Shetkari, copies of which were ordered to be supplied at Government expense to selected village officers in each district, was very irregular, and it is quite uncertain when the numbers, which have already been paid for, will be supplied.

(10) *Effects of the operation of the Civil Veterinary Department on Cattle.*—The Veterinary Dispensaries in the Belgaum, Dhárwár, Ratnágiri and Kolába districts did considerable good in combating the epidemic prevalent in these districts. In Belgaum, a vigorous and sustained effort was made to protect cattle by inoculation against which a prejudice existed, and the tact and interest displayed by the Veterinary Graduate there are reported to have been crowned with a large measure of success. In 26 villages, 2,120 head of cattle were inoculated. In Dhárwár, besides the Stationary Veterinary Assistant and

the Itinerating Veterinary Assistant, an extra Veterinary Assistant was employed for 6½ months to deal with rinderpest. In all 4,633 inoculations were performed. In Mr. Painter's charge in the Dhárwár district, a few Patils are reported to have set a good example by having their own animals inoculated; steps are being taken to reward these Patils, but their lead was not much followed, owing to the general aversion which, however, is not deeply rooted. In view of the fact that inoculation proved eminently efficacious, people have begun to appreciate its value. Mr. Graham was able to get a large number of cattle inoculated at Haveri after a little persuasion. It is interesting to note that in Kánara, where there is a general distrust of inoculation and no veterinary institution has been established hitherto, a Veterinary Graduate was temporarily employed; he carried on inoculation work for 6 months, without any great opposition from the people. The Dispensary at Bijápur is making good progress. It is getting very popular and is being taken advantage of to a great extent. It is gratifying to see that more than 1,500 animals were treated in the first 8 months of its existence. Ratnágiri district seems to be a bit behind-hand in appreciating the good results of inoculation. Mr. Bakre suggests that it would be better if some centres, 2 or 3 in each táluka, be formed and arrangements for periodical lectures on the efficacy and advantages of the new scientific treatment be made. The Commissioner approves of the suggestion. In Kolába, cattle-disease prevailed throughout the greater portion of the district. In some villages, the assistance of the Veterinary Assistant did not reach in time. The people used quarantine methods of a sort, but they proved quite useless. The results of the western method of treatment and prevention, especially the latter, were convincing. The inoculated cattle were all immune. The reluctance to allow any interference with the healthy cattle was, to some extent, at least, overcome.

#### Extracts.

#### (I) Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.

##### BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

L. C. Swifte, Esq., Collector.

During 1906 nearly 76 per cent. of the deeds registered under the Indian Registration Act were deeds evidencing sales outright, but, in fact, being accompanied by an implied or oral condition or option of re-sale on payment of the purchase money. Bombay Act II of 1907 fortunately renders evidence of such oral conditions admissible, thus tending to afford material relief to the ryot and to check to some extent the transfer of land from *boná fide* cultivators to the moneyed and trading classes.

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

The introduction of the record has reduced litigation to an appreciable extent.

But there is a general complaint on the part of pleaders, not only in this district but also elsewhere, that the introduction of the Bombay Land Record of Rights Act, No. IV of 1903, and also the extension of the provisions of certain sections of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, No. 17 of 1879, have reduced civil litigation to an appreciable extent, and consequently there is a considerable falling off in their income. On the other hand, the money-lending classes cry out against the extension of the provisions of the latter Act, as it, they say, affects their business to a material extent, as the agriculturist borrowers flatly refuse to repay their debts owing to the facilities and protection afforded to them by the Act.

##### DHÁRWA'R DISTRICT.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

From both sides, that is to say, from ryots and from *sávkárs*, I heard that the effect of the extension of the Act, or rather of parts of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, has been to diminish the number of loan transactions. The bogus sale has not been long in finding its way into the district, but as such

transactions have been ruled to be within the grasp of the Act, the *sávkár* must either devise some other means of evading the Act or must divert his capital to other activities. Two such instances of the diversion of the *sávkár's* capital to other than the conventional ends, I observed in the course of field inspection, and it is possible that many others escaped my notice. In the cases referred to, I found two excellent sugarcane-crushers at work in the fields. The design was, I believe, on view at the Bombay Exhibition, but the machines in question had been brought from Madras. They were owned by *sávkárs*, who let them out on hire to the ryots, at what appeared a reasonable price. This mention of machinery leads me on to draw attention of the inventive powers of a carpenter in Halgery in the Ranebennur *táluka*. The brother of this man had been convicted of murder by the Sessions Judge and the man went to Bombay for the appeal proceedings. While there, he strolled into the Agricultural Exhibition and saw a winnowing machine at work. The appeal was dismissed, the brother was transported and the man came back to his village to work for the cancellation of the sentence. For this he wanted money, and being a carpenter by trade and of an inventive disposition, he set to work, and, remembering what he had seen at Bombay, made a winnowing machine, which he lets out for hire. Personally, I have not seen the machine working, but I am assured by large land-holders in Ranebennur that it is good.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

R. S. Broomfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

It is curious that opinions differ widely as to the effect of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. The ryots without understanding much about it, appear to regard it with favour. Yet it narrows their credit and, to some extent, strains relations with the harmful necessary *sávkár*. As a remedy for the agrarian problem it seems likely to kill or cure. If the small land-holder has the strength of mind to dispense with a loan, which he can only obtain by passing an indisputable sale-deed, all will be well. If not, the situation will be worse than ever.

(II) *Restricted Tenure.*

BIJA'PUR DISTRICT.

W. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The new tenure continues to make good steady progress. There is no great demand for land in this district, but the new tenure is liked, and is generally asked for. In several cases non-agriculturists have asked for land on this tenure, and others have offered to take up land, forfeited some years ago for arrears, on payment of these arrears.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

People, of course, must have a dislike against the new tenure, as the credit of persons holding such land is weakened to some extent, though it has not tended to restrict agricultural operations. No cases of evasion of the conditions of the tenure have come to my notice. As only land of inferior sort has been taken up on the restricted tenure, it would be premature to give a definite opinion just now in the matter.

(III) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Macnochie, Esq., Collector.

Two new Co-operative Credit Societies were registered during the year; one at Giri-Vijayadurg, and the other at Khabrepatan, both in the Deogad *táluka*. The former was established principally for the benefit of the locally famous horn work industry of the place. It started business with thirteen members

and a capital of Rs. 1,335, including the Government advance of Rs. 650. The latter was formed for the benefit of the weavers of the village. It commenced operations with thirteen members and a capital of Rs. 1,213, of which Government advanced Rs. 600.

As these societies are in their infancy, any remarks on their working at this stage would be premature. I, however, feel sure that they will be a success.

The Kankaoli-Math and Varavade Society, which was organised in the year 1905-1906, has settled down to regular work, and is gradually extending its sphere of usefulness.

#### (IV) *Agricultural Experiments, etc.*

##### RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Macconochie, Esq., Collector.

I sent up some specimens of local tree-cotton, which was pronounced to be of good quality, and the same as that cultivated with such success by Mr. Spence at Deesa. I widely disseminated this interesting information.

##### BELGAUM DISTRICT.

B. C. Artal, Esq., Deputy Collector.

I visited the cotton plantation started about three years ago at Waghvade, taluka Belgaum, and inspected it in company with Mr. Tytler, about the end of February last. The variety of cotton grown is supposed to be of the rough Peruvian origin. The growth of the crop was not uniform throughout. In some parts the plants were very poor. Mr. Tytler said that he had obtained the seed some twenty years and odd back from a friend of his. The plants grown, he said, were of valuable hybrids. They resembled the red-flowered tree cotton known as Deo-Kapus, which is found here and there in the compounds of native houses in villages in the wet zone. He showed me a small quantity of cotton grown in the farm, which was stored in the farm-house. It was fine, the staple being a good deal larger, finer and silkier than the ordinary cotton grown in the district. If the experiment proves successful, it would certainly be a great boon to the inhabitants of the ghát villages situated in the western wet zone. It would, I think, be premature to give just now a decided opinion on the success or otherwise of this undertaking.

### VI.—Assistance to Inamdars and Superior Holders.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

The number of cases during the year was 916, and the total amount involved was Rs. 49,454. Assistance was given in 440 cases and Rs. 20,078 were recovered. These suits are generally filed at the close of the revenue year, and therefore the bulk of the work of recovering the arrears comes in the following year.

In Surat, the Inamdárs of Abhwa, Vesu and Sama complained that their tenants contumaciously withheld payments of their dues, and, at their request, a special officer has been appointed with the sanction of Government, received in Government Resolution No. 5860, dated 11th June 1907.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, Esq., Commissioner, C. D.

7. The number of Inámzárs in the East Khándesh, West Khándesh and Sholápur districts is small and the question of recovering their revenue does not

present special difficulties; the number of assistance suits is generally few and all that was fairly recoverable was recovered. In the Násik district, a sum of Rs. 2,01,198 was recovered out of a total of Rs. 4,14,526 recoverable, Rs. 8,172 being remitted and Rs. 1,994 suspended. Assistance from revenue officers was sought in 68 cases for the collection of Rs. 29,439 and was granted to the extent of Rs. 25,504, of which Rs. 6,444 were recovered before the close of the year. More could not be recovered, as the suits were filed towards the close of the year. This problem is most acute in the Ahmednagar, Poona and Sátára districts, but information as to the revenue recoverable and actually recovered in those districts has not been fully given. The number of assistance cases disposed of in the Ahmednagar district was 368, of which 101 were instituted by Inámdárs. In the Poona district the revenue due for recovery and the amount recovered are not stated; but assistance was sought in 1,711 cases for the recovery of Rs. 2,50,579 of which Rs. 1,42,393 were arrears of previous years, and granted for the recovery of Rs. 1,66,262, of which Rs. 74,217 were actually recovered and Rs. 2,013 were found irrecoverable. Most of the applications for the recovery of the year's dues came in at the close of the year, and there was no time to collect any large part of them. The number of assistance cases filed in the Sátára district was 6,669, of which 1,694 were disposed of in the Sátára táluka and 979 in the Karád táluka.

Nine Kulkarnis were fined in Násik for neglect in the collection of Inámdárs' revenue, and several warned. In the Ahmednagar district, the Pátíls of two inám villages had to be suspended for the same reason for one month each. In the Poona district, one Pátíl and two Kulkarnis were suspended, one Pátíl and one Kulkarni were fined, and one Pátíl and four Kulkarnis were warned. In the Sátára district, information is available for the Karád and Pátan tálukas only; one Kulkarni in Karád, and 14 Pátíls and 18 Kulkarnis in Pátan received either punishment or warning.

#### Extracts.

##### NA'SIK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

The Dumaldars are generally found averse to granting any remissions and suspensions and thereby complicate accounts and retard the progress of revenue collection in their villages.

##### SA'TÁ'RA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

The Inámdárs who are frequently absentee landlords care nothing for their tenants and are concerned only to exact from them the uttermost farthing in good years and bad alike. The tenants, galled by seeing the favourable position in bad seasons of those who hold land direct from Government, as compared with themselves, and, after a succession of bad years, hopelessly in arrears as regards their rent, retaliate on the Inámdár by evading payment by every means in their power and by withholding the Inámdárs' dues even when quite able to pay them.

The number of assistance suits has been large throughout the district, but especially in Sátára and Karád, where the number disposed of in the year reached the enormous totals of 1,694 and 979 respectively. The total number for the district was 6,669. This *quasi*-civil work falls heavily on the táluka officers, and I am constantly impressing on Mámlatdárs the necessity for rejecting as complicated all applications in which it is not on the face of it clear that rent is due.

##### SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

Otto Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations of Inámdárs to their tenants are more satisfactory than they were in the Sátára district and less satisfactory than they are in Gujarát, where the Inámdár regards his village less as a mere investment, and where he has

greater control. In this district there is at least no active hatred between Inámdárs and their tenants, except in one village. On the whole, Inámdárs are inclined to be grasping, and villagers to be contumacious, but the landlord is more often generous and the tenant more often reasonable than I had expected from Sátára experiences. In one village I personally assisted the Inámdár to make collections with, I am happy to say, considerable success, and I was struck by the fact that while each side was distinctly anxious to gain an advantage and while the village officers were the ringleaders of contumacy, yet there was a good deal of good humour on both sides. In my opinion the village officer is usually the cause of strained relations between landlord and tenant, and when he has collected enough to pay for the judi, does his best to instigate contumacy. The Inámdár, on the other hand, knowing this to be the case, is reluctant to write off any debt.

Between tenants and private landlords, relations appear to be very peaceable, although the ratio of rents to assessment is, in most cases, astonishingly high.

POONA DISTRICT.

K. G. Kalghatgi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The recovery of Inámdárs' dues is a very troublesome subject, owing to the division and sub-division of shares in Ináms and also owing to disagreement existing in almost all the cases between the sub-sharers.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

The Honourable Mr. W. W. DREW, Commissioner, S. D.

*Superior Holders.*

The question of the recovery of the Inámdárs' dues is not of any practical importance in Kolába and Ratnágiri. In Kánara, Inámdárs there are none. In Dhárwár also, the majority of the Inámdárs are reported to have been collecting direct from their tenants in accordance with a long standing practice. In Belgaum, where the number of Inám villages is 220, collections were made as shown below :—

	Arrears.	Current.
	Rs.	Rs.
Amount for collection ...	... 5,82,975	2,51,022
Amount collected ...	... 2,20,520	1,95,005
Balance ...	3,62,455	55,017

The collections for arrears and current dues can be reckoned at 37 and 78 per cent, respectively, against 40 and 94 in the Government villages. In view of the higher mamul rates prevailing in the majority of the Inám villages, the collections appear to be satisfactory. Some portion of the arrears is reported to be as much as 10 years' old. Mr. Brendon is of opinion that this should be remitted by the Inámdárs, who cannot however be induced to consent. Complete information in respect of the collection of Inámdárs' dues in the Bijápur district is not available. Messrs. Bhide and Mardhekar have given it so far as their sub-divisions are concerned. In Mr. Bhide's charge more than half the total demand was collected, and in Mr. Mardhekar's the collections were also satisfactory. Mr. Mardhekar refers to some Jághirdárs in the Indi táluka who have been showing arrears since 1875, without taking any legal steps towards their recovery. It is now a settled principle for Government villages that arrears of more than three years' standing should be remitted. If the Mámlatdárs and Sub-Divisional Officers explain this principle and also impress on the Inámdárs the necessity of writing them off their accounts owing to their claim being barred by limitation, the Commissioner does not think there will be much difficulty in reducing the arrears to a minimum. Mr. Alcock suggests that it would be simplifying matters if registers were everywhere prepared of the customary dues of each tenant in

Inám villages. He apparently means that the Record-of-Rights should be introduced in the Inám villages. In the Commissioner's opinion, the time has not yet come for reconsidering G. R. No. 262, dated 12th January 1904, exempting Inám villages from the operation of the Record-of-Rights Act. The questions of introducing Survey Settlement into Inám villages and granting commissions under section 88, Land Revenue Code, to Inámdárs or their agents, are under reference to the Collectors. Mr. Sathaye is of opinion that Inámdárs are generally reluctant to accept the Survey Settlement, as they apprehend the loss of dignity and control over the rayats and that the rents they levy are much in excess of the survey rates in adjoining Government villages. It has been found difficult to persuade such Inámdárs to have the settlement rates introduced. The default of village officers in collecting the dues was punished by a warning in the Bijápur district.

No Inámdárs were proceeded against under section 85 of the Land Revenue Code for direct levy of their dues. But Mr. Graham apprehends that in Hangal the Inámdárs disregard the provisions of section 85 and he proposes holding an inquiry into this matter. There were only three cases of succession in the Division, one in Kolába, another in Bijápur, and the third in the Belgaum district. No lapses have been reported.

There was an increase in the number of rent suits filed during the year, especially in the coast districts. In Kánara, the number rose from 1,313 to 1,606. In Kolába, there were 3,297 against 3,074. In the Ratnágiri district, the increase was slight, there being 822 against 815.

It is worth noticing that there was a decrease in the number of suits under the Mamlatdars' Court Act, apparently due to the amendment of the Act last year.

#### Extracts.

##### (I) *Inamdar's Dues.*

BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

L. C. Swifte, Esq., Collector.

Mr. Bomanji remarks :—

“Complaints were heard as usual about village officers not doing all that they might to recover Inámdárs' dues. On the other hand, some Inámdárs deserve no sympathy for the methods they employ in various ways to squeeze what they can from their tenants. In Agarkhed in the Indi taluka, things are coming to a head; so also in one, if not two, villages in the Bilgi Mahál.”

V. B. Mardhekar, Esq., Deputy Collector.

There are some jághirdárs in Indi who have been showing arrears since 1875, without taking any legal steps towards their recovery.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

B. A. Brendon, Esq., Collector.

Of the current year's revenue, 78 per cent. was collected against 94 per cent. in Government villages. In view of the higher mamul rates prevailing in the majority of the inám villages, the collections may be regarded as fairly satisfactory. Of the arrears, 37 per cent. was collected as against 40 per cent. in Government villages. This result also is satisfactory. Some portion of the arrears is as much as ten years old and ought to be remitted by the Inámdárs, who cannot however be induced to consent. In future reports, I hope to be able to show what portion of the arrears is actually and legally recoverable. No village officers were fined for neglect in the collection of Inámdárs' revenue.

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

Although the progress made in the collection was fairly satisfactory, the balances outstanding for collection are very great. This unsatisfactory result is due to various causes, such as successive famines, plague epidemics, rack-renting, negligence on the part of village officers and mainly to want of proper management on the part of Inámdárs as a class, who seldom keep proper accounts and scrutinise them carefully. They scarcely visit their inám villages. They are mostly very indolent, uneducated, litigious, and loose in character; and they are therefore constantly in need of money. The moment the harvest is over, their purse becomes empty. Somehow or other they drag on with what they have till the monsoon, when they borrow money from their rayats which is not properly brought to account. They never, as a rule, remit irrecoverable balances; thus the arrears accumulate. As a rule, they do not take real interest in the administration of their estates which in most cases are entirely in the hands of their hereditary karkuns, who being low-paid servants are uneducated, corrupt and unscrupulous.

J. B. Vachha, Esq., Deputy Collector.

As regards collections for the past years I think the case is almost hopeless. There are arrears dating as far back as 1862 and the Inámdárs do not think of writing off such arrears. Owing to the unprecedented successions of bad seasons and the fact that the Inámdárs would not as a rule grant any suspension or remission, these arrears have accumulated.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

In none of the Inám villages in this division are survey rates levied. The Inámdárs are generally reluctant to accept the survey settlement, as they apprehend loss of dignity and control over the rayats. There is, I think, some ground for these apprehensions. The rents they levy are of course much in excess of survey rates in adjoining Government villages, but they are moderate and fair compared to those levied by private landlords and superior holders in Government villages. The Inámdárs do not generally find much difficulty in getting their rents in normal years.

## VII.—Revenue and Rent-Paying Classes. Transfers, Rents, Sub-letting, Relations between Landlords and Tenants.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

J. DeC. Atkins, Esq., Commissioner, N. D.

In Ahmedabad district the relations between landlords and tenants were generally remarkably amicable. In this district 1,978 acres of land were sold by agriculturists.

In Kaira, the condition of the tenancy appears to have undergone a material change, which is described by the Collector as follows:—

“ Before the present famine years, rents were more commonly paid in cash and varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per acre, the tenant paying the assessment in addition. Owing to successive bad years, cash rents have decreased by 10 to 50 per cent., and the share system (always in vogue as an alternative) is now becoming the more common. Half the gross produce remains the usual rent-in-kind, but now one-third is heard of and in any case this system is subject to some give-and-take, as regards who pays the assessment, who finds the manure, cattle, implements, etc.”

In Broach, the agriculturists are reported to be doing as much money-lending as the so-called sávkárs, and it is said that agriculturists in general are a fair match for the sávkárs.

In the Surat district, the tenancy is reported to be annual in name, but the same tenant is continued for some years, unless he proves unsatisfactory. In Káliparaj villages, the rent represents a share (generally half) of the gross produce of the field, and in Ujliparaj villages, the rent is paid in cash and is, as a rule, double the assessment of the field.

In the Thána district, the relations between the two classes are reported to be generally satisfactory. Though the great majority of tenancies are nominally annual, the same tenant is continued from year to year. There is, however, little sympathy between the two classes, as in many cases, the superior holder lives miles away at the head-quarters or some other equally important village.

The number of rent suits shows no appreciable variation in any district. The number of ejectment suits has, however, gone down in Kaira from 306 in the previous year to 155 in the year under report. The reason for the sudden change is ascribed to the new provisions of section 5 (i) of Bombay Act II of 1906 (Mamlatdars' Courts Act).

### Extracts.

#### THANA DISTRICT.

E. H. Waterfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

A problem which may later cause anxiety attracted Mr. Elliott's notice in Bassein. A small sub-caste of Brahmins, known as Shamwedis, who are cultivators and deeply indebted, have begun a system of boycott and terrorism against the persons who attempt to dispossess them of lands sold under Civil Court decrees or other process. He had to proceed against 8 persons of this caste under chapter 8 of the Criminal Procedure Code on this account, and take security from them for their good behaviour.

### CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. Dederet, Esq., Commissioner, C. D.

The agricultural season having proved fairly satisfactory, the condition of the revenue payer was on the whole easy throughout the division. Remissions and suspensions were granted, wherever necessary, but a considerable amount of revenue was collected, in spite of the exhibition of a feeling of contumacy in some parts; but the measures adopted do not seem to have caused much hardship to the people.

There is not much evidence in the district reports to show to what extent the season affected the condition of rent-paying classes, who are mostly tenants of Inámdárs and occupants who, having disposed of their lands to sávkárs, continue to cultivate them as tenants at will. It may, however, be inferred that their condition was a trifle better than some years past. It is well known that many Inámdárs and other landlords of the non-resident class care little for their tenants, and their chief aim is to extort as much as they can get out of their tenants. Consequently, the relations between landlords and tenants always continue to be more or less strained in all districts, except East and West Khándesh and some hilly places, where owing to the simplicity of the people and the absence of the sávkár, who has little attraction for acquiring land there, a better feeling prevails; and it is difficult to expect any general improvement in the relations between landlords and tenants in the course of a single good year coming after a series of lean years.

### Extracts.

#### POONA DISTRICT.

G. Carmichael, Esq., Collector.

The Inámdárs are as a rule absentee landlords who have considerable difficulty in getting in their revenue. They do little or nothing to help their tenants to

improve their lands and will not guarantee their applications for tagái. As no loan is given by Government without such guarantee, the tenants in inám villages are not so favourably placed as their brethren in khálsa villages.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

The relations between the ryots and their sávkárs are not what they should be, but do not at present give ground for alarm. There is a simmering feeling of resentment against the exactions of the sávkárs, and in Akola, where there have been some iniquitous doings by unscrupulous sávkárs in the past, this sometimes reaches the boiling-over point; but on the whole, the general feeling seems to be that the sávkár in spite of his exactions is indispensable, especially in times of scarcity when he is the only source of loans for maintenance, and must therefore be tolerated and humoured.

I do not think there is any call for further legislation as between sávkárs and ryots at present. We must go on explaining the provisions of the present law to the ryot, so that he may be in a position to enforce them for his own benefit when occasion arises, and the sávkár may not turn the ryots' ignorance of law to his own profit; but for any practical improvement in the relation between sávkár and ryot and for any reduction of the risk of losing or unduly encumbering his land that the ryot runs in dealing with unscrupulous sávkárs we must depend on the institution of agricultural banks which shall compete with the sávkár and make him for his own sake mend his ways in order to retain his clientèle.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

E. G. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Transfers of land do not seem to be larger than usual during the year though there is doubtless a constant growth of the system of complete alienation to sávkárs, many of whom refuse to advance money unless land is sold outright to them. The Record-of-Rights, if properly kept up, will give valuable information of this gradual process of permanent alienation. No cases of any abnormal increase or decrease in rents have been reported and the relation between landlords and tenants is not unsatisfactory. The people must have their sávkár, and no case of murder or other violence against a sávkár by his debtors has come to notice.

WEST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

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

Strictly speaking, there are no rent-paying classes in the charge. The fact that even the most wealthy land-owners for the most part cultivate their own land goes far to explain the ease with which the revenue is recovered. Of course, a good deal of land is given out for cultivation, generally on the metayage system. Where a money rent is fixed, it hardly ever exceeds twice the assessment. Assistance suits are wonderfully few in number and in most cases of tenancy, the cultivator is a money-lender's client who is so deeply involved that he is quite in the power of his landlord. Such bad feeling as does exist, exists rather between the ignorant cultivator and the middleman than between the tenant and landlord.

EAST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

D. Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The relations between landlords and tenants have not been to my knowledge strained. The people have subsisted for generations in a sort of vassalage to their landlords, superior holders or sávkárs, and never feel that they are being hardly dealt with. The usual terms on which lands are let are "half the produce," but money payment, which is usually three times the assessment, is not uncommon.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. DREW, COMMISSIONER, S. D.

The condition of the revenue and rent-paying classes described in the previous reports has not undergone any material change. In the Belgaum district, except in Khánápur and Chandgad, where the Marátha cultivators are mere serfs of their Brahmin creditors, relations between the landlords and tenants are reported to be friendly; so also the relations between the tenants and the ordinary landlords as distinguished from the Inámdárs in the Bijápur district. In Kánara, they are not reported to be "exactly the most cordial." In the Ratnágiri district, the relations are said to continue to be peaceful only in villages other than Khoti. In the latter, there is a serious tension of these relations. Mr. Divatia, the Sub-Divisional Officer, writes:—"The new amendment of the Khoti Settlement Act has stirred up a host of tenants against the Khot. The tenants make common cause against the Khot and go so far as to withhold all immediate payments to the Khot under a misapprehension, although they have in future to pay only the commutation value fixed in terms of the new Khoti enactment." Several applications for commutation of crop share rents under the Khoti Settlement Act were disposed of by Mr. Garrett, and it is hoped that the settlement of the pending claims will reconcile the differences between the landlord and the tenant. In the Kolába district, the relations are not said to be strained except in the Kharepat lands. The number of rent suits increased. Looking however to the rise in price of the staple food during the last year, and that in most cases the rents payable were in kind, it would be unsafe to draw any inference relating to the relations between the landlord and the tenant, from the increase in the number of rent suits.

## Extracts.

*Landlords and Tenants.*

## RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Maconochie, Esq., Collector.

The tenants in the Khoti villages have shown great anxiety for the conversion of their crop share rents into fixed cash payments under section 33 (c) of the new Khoti Act. Mr. Garrett has given effect to these provisions in a large number of cases in his sub-division. In the offices of the other Sub-Divisional Officers, a number of such applications are awaiting disposal, pending decision of the method of calculation of the average money value of crop shares.

The application of this section is likely to weaken the power of the Khot to some extent, but will doubtless better the condition of the tenants. It has advantages to the Khots also in that the trouble and expense of appraisement are avoided, assistance can be more easily obtained, and the value of the Khotki in case of sale or mortgage will be increased.

## KA'NARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

The revenue-paying classes receive their rents in kind and, as the price of rice stood high during the year under report, they realised a good income. The proportion of agriculturist to non-agriculturist landlords varies from 40 to 60 per cent. along the coast villages, to 75 per cent. in villages in the interior. The coast is more thickly populated and tenants can always be found to cultivate the lands. In the ghát villages the landlords are in the hands of the tenants because there is any amount of land to be had at favourable rates. Towards the coast, the rents are high, averaging from Rs. 20 to 30 per acre, while in the above-ghát talukas, it is as low as Rs. 12 and even less for rice land. The rent of gardens is fixed in cash at near-about Rs. 75 per acre of cocoanut-garden in the coast, or Rs. 125 to Rs. 150 for spice gardens in the ghát talukas.

The spice gardens are not usually rented for want of tenants, but I have deduced the figures from the gross income and the cost of cultivation. Whether the landlord be the master of the situation or the tenant, the relations between the two classes are not exactly the most cordial. The tenant and the landlord both will not let go an opportunity of defrauding or squeezing the other.

R. Y. Chaubal, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Paucity of tenants is felt everywhere in ghat-villages to a more or less extent. Generally, the lands there are cultivated on a term what is called "palu," according to which, the cultivator gets a net equal share of produce for his labour, the assessment and the cost of seed and cattle, etc., being paid by owners. The landlord is at the mercy of the tenant or "palgar." This is not the case with coast villages. Here, there is a keen competition for lands which has resulted in the lands being rack-rented. The tenants are not treated favourably.

KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

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

The population escapes serfdom, because capitalists are dependent on them and cannot import outsiders. Either side understands well enough how to put the screw on and unless they have a man of extraordinary force of character and capacity for villainy to deal with, the ryots hold their own. They are beaten however when it comes to exhaustion of clubbed finances owing to law suits.

R. S. Broomfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The strike of Agri tenants in the Pen Salt lands lasted throughout the year with little sign of giving way on either side. It was finally ended in July by the intervention of Khan Bahadur Hormusji. The rate finally agreed to, 11 maunds per acre, is in the nature of a compromise, the Agris having originally stipulated for ten. As, however, the avowed object of the great sávkárs was to force the Agris to surrender at discretion, the result must be regarded as a moral victory for the latter. There is the germ of trades unionism in their successful combination. A very satisfactory feature of the struggle was the honest and law-abiding way in which it was conducted by both sides.

It is to be regretted that the Agris did not display the same forbearance in their temperance movement, which led to some inexcusable attacks on liquor shops. Still, if they can confine themselves to lawful means, there are the seeds of progress in these associations. There could be no better watchword for reform than the three resolutions of the great meeting at Nawade "to abstain from liquor, to reduce expenditure on marriages, and to impart education to boys."

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. Leatham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Rents do not seem to be excessively high on the whole. The decrease of population owing to plague has made it impossible for landlords to force people into accepting exorbitant rates. The relations between superior and inferior holders are good on the whole. Subletting is not very prevalent. The number of transfers has not been excessive.

BILA'PUR DISTRICT.

W. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Tenants, as usual, occupied a very strong position. The common tenure is that of the half share of the produce according to which the landlord bears his fair share of the losses of the season. Non-agricultural landholders are compelled to let, and rarely find any competition of tenants for their favour;

population is not heavy, and the number of available cattle, particularly, is always under the requirements; bullocks are hired out for sowing, etc., up to their full capacity. Gardens, river-side fields, and some good cotton lands, were let for cash, at an amount equal to one, two, three or four times the assessment; some few at eight or ten times, but these are very few. In most villages the rent paid is once the assessment (which the tenant pays) or twice that amount.

In bad years this rent is not paid, and landlords have to acquiesce. Inámdárs' tenants are everywhere very obstinate, and in 1905-06 paid practically nothing. In 1906-07, one year's rent was paid with no difficulty except in cases of neglectful village officers, but there was a general objection to pay up arrears, *i. e.*, two years' rent in all. One-and-a-half times the rent was acquiesced in cheerfully; but it was found that some inámdárs had been asked to pay up judi for both years owing to their having neglected to get a formal suspension under the rules. Indeed one Mámlatdár ordered that all collections in inám villages should be sent to the taluka until the judi of both years was complete. These matters have been equitably settled.

#### DHA'RAWA'R DISTRICT

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The sávkárs in this division are generally of the same caste as the ryots and are certainly far more considerate and sympathetic than the Marwadis and Gujárs in the Deccan. There is hardly a sávkár in rural areas who is without land of his own or who derives his income solely from money-lending. The relations between them were hitherto cordial and peaceful. But they have lately been somewhat strained owing to the introduction of the Agriculturists' Relief Act. The result is that a sávkár does not lend money as a rule without a formal deed of sale or a usufructuary mortgage, and endeavours to settle his accounts with his old debtors amicably, failing which, the latter readily resort to Civil Courts to file redemption suits. There is no doubt that a ryot's credit is impaired and transactions in money bonds are rare. He is now more inclined to look to Government for money in the shape of tagái.

### VIII.—General Remarks.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

There were three changes in the personnel of the Commissioner, Northern Division, during the year under report, and I did not take charge till after the close of the touring season.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

W. DODERET, Esq., COMMISSIONER, C. D.

Having returned to the Division after an absence of 15 years (except for a brief interlude in Khándesh), I abstain from making any general remarks. The seven districts have been in charge of capable officers, who have given their best to Government, and they have been generally well seconded in their administrative efforts by their Assistants and Deputies.

#### Extracts.

##### AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

Temporary dams on the system described in Appendix IV to Famine Code were put in a few of the more important streams in each taluka, when their flow was failing, with a view to storing up water against the hot season. This device, where properly carried out in good time, has proved of immense value, especially to cattle, in the hot season, and has now become a regular feature of the annual routine and is not to be confined to famine years.

## WEST KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

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

Though the crop of mhowra flowers was a poor one everywhere owing to the untimely rain in April, the sum paid to the village Patils in Navápu: for mhowra flowers was over Rs. 40,000 or more than the land revenue of the petha. The system of collection, inaugurated, I believe, by Mr. Curtis, has worked very smoothly. Offences as to mhowra flowers used to be very common in the petha. The records of the Second Class Magistrate show that three or four years ago he was trying nearly 300 ábkári cases a year. Now he does not have more than a dozen or so.

## SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

L. J. Mountford, Esq., Collector.

To secure the south of the district against famine, the Nira Right Bank project will, it is hoped, be pushed on as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile steps have been taken to provide a famine programme in every táluka and village so that in future famine relief will result in useful works. The Special Mámlatdár has completed a programme for village works in six tálukas, while the Superintending Engineer on special duty has formulated projects for impounding water by damming streams and for terracing fields, the latter a most useful form of work suited to an undulating district with shallow soil. Whatever, therefore, the years may bring, we shall be better prepared to face them, and a series of future famines would at least have one advantage, that it would leave behind a lot of useful work in mitigation of its havoc.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. W. W. DREW, COMMISSIONER, S. D.

## 1.—Boundary Marks.

In accordance with the rules accompanying Government Resolution No. 10527, dated 10th November 1906, the work of repairs of boundary marks was undertaken in all districts in tálukas and maháls, other than those in which the record of rights work was in progress. In Raṭnágiri, the operation of the new rules was confined to Government rayatwari villages and villages under attachment. Rule 3 of the rules requires the issue of the printed notices in kharif villages not later than November 15th. But as the Government Resolution was received in the second week of that month, the date was altered to 15th December in Bijápur and Kánara. The preliminary work of dividing the villages of each circle into groups, printing and distributing the notices, etc., took some time, and consequently the commencement of the work was delayed beyond the prescribed dates everywhere.

As the system was newly introduced, the rayats did not take to it easily. Mr. Alcock points out that in many cases the cultivators were unable to repair from a *bond fide* ignorance of where a mark ought to be and that many marks were shifted by mistake. Contumacy was, on the other hand, shown by the occupants of a few villages in Mr. Bhide's charge, and their marks had to be repaired by hired labour.

The work of repairs also could not be completely done according to the programme, in consequence of the difficulty experienced in securing labourers in some places and contractors in others. In two tálukas in Bijápur, 4,038 marks, the Collector says, could not be repaired for want of labour during a part of the hot season. This ought to have been done in order to set an example and get the rayats to do it in the following year. If what was done was well done, it does not matter being rather short in quantity.

Complaints are made by the Collectors of Kánara and Kolába about the prescribed amount of work being heavier than what the Circle Inspectors can

be expected to perform, consistently with their other duties. Mr. Alcock observes that as under the new rules, a Circle Inspector cannot leave a village without finishing the work there, no miscellaneous work can be sent him in the meanwhile and that unless he were prompt, he cannot render any assistance to the Mámílatdár in the collection of takávi and land revenue, which have to be seen to while the cultivators have their money or grain in hand after the harvest. Their other routine work is also reported to have suffered by their being told off on this duty. It was expected that during the first year there would be trouble, but that if the rayats see that the marks out of repair are promptly repaired by Government agency and the cost immediately recovered from them, they would themselves repair the marks after receipt of the notice, and the brunt of the work would not fall on the Circle Inspectors.

Mr. Bhide says that the village officers did not assist the Circle Inspectors who had to do the work single-handed. This should have been checked. The new rules do not relieve the village officers of boundary mark inspection. They are to work with the Circle Inspectors and to collect promptly the cost of the repairs from the khatedars. From the experience already gained, the Circle Inspectors will, it is hoped, be able to make a better progress during the current year.

The draft of the supplementary instructions, referred to in paragraph 8 of the Government Resolution quoted above, drawn up by the Divisional Commissioners in consultation with the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, has been separately submitted to Government for their approval.

#### *2.—Restoration of improperly alienated service watan lands.*

In Belgaum, watan lands were restored in 211 cases and sanadi lands in 142. No mention of this has been made in the Bijápur and Kolába reports. In Dhárwár, the Collector says there is no backwardness in this respect. In one sub-division there, 374 acres 17 gunthas, assessed at Rs. 475-2-0, were resumed under section 11 of the Watan Act. In Ratnágiri, the Collector says there are few service watan lands, and steps with regard to those which are improperly alienated are taken as the record-of-rights is completed for each táluka.

Mr. Artal thinks and Mr. Brendon agrees with him that the existing law and rules regarding the resumption of service watan lands should be amended, enabling the authorities to restore the watan properties to officiators in all cases. They think that the provisions of law and rules, making the property liable to contribution for payment of remuneration to the officiators, do not sufficiently remove the evil, and give rise to unnecessary correspondence and trouble. The subject has been before Government on different occasions. The rules of 1889 referred to by Mr. Artal (please see No. 15 at page 33 of Phadnis Watan Act) cannot be made applicable to all cases. Each case has to be dealt with on its own merits. The scale judi levied by Government on these lands is almost equal to assessment in the majority of cases. No change in the existing law seems immediately called for.

#### *3.—Regulation XII of 1827.*

In Dhárwár, six cases involving six persons were disposed of by the District Magistrate against 10 cases involving 29 persons in 1905-06. Four cases under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code were disposed of by the District Magistrate of Belgaum. Twelve persons concerned in these cases were released on their executing agreements under this regulation. Other district reports do not give any information under this head.

#### *4.—Wild Pigs.*

Considerable damage is reported to have been done to crops by wild pigs in Belgaum, Dhárwár and Kánara. They are also reported to have lately grown into a terrible scourge in the jágir village of Kotnal in the Indi táluka of the Bijápur district. Most of the lands belonging to the village of Deogaon in the Sampgaon táluka of the Belgaum district have been abandoned by the rayats

on this account. These animals find a safe refuge in tracts thickly covered with prickly-pear and forests. Adoption of measures for putting down their depredations, which are on the increase, is urgently called for in the interests of poor cultivators. In Kánara, as also in other districts, a gun license for the destruction of pigs is not refused as a rule whenever suitable persons are found and the necessity for one is established. Mr. Brendon rightly remarks that it is not advisable to arm every cultivator with fire arms to put down the number of pigs; on the other hand, it is not understood how people with a limited number of guns in each village can effectually protect all the fields scattered over the large area in that village. A number of guns evidently remain unused by the licensees among the rural population, owing to their inability to meet the cost of powder and shot; and, therefore, in places, these animals are hunted on foot and speared. But their numbers cannot be kept down by these means. The Commissioner would accordingly request that Government may be pleased to reconsider the orders issued in their Resolution No. 8011 of 21st August 1906 and sanction the grant of a reward of one rupee for full grown pig and annas eight for pig not full grown, which will afford an incentive to shikaris and villagers to destroy these animals.

Crops are also reported to have been damaged seriously in the Karjat táluka of the Kolába district by Rohis. The Sub-Divisional Officer recommends the grant of more gun licenses to put them down and the Commissioner agrees with him.

#### 5.—Magisterial work.

The number of cases scrutinised by the District Magistrate of Kánara and Kolába seem excessive. If they include cases merely examined at táluka inspections, this is wrong. They ought to include only cases specially called for. The tendency of the Second and Third Class Magistrates to treat civil disputes as criminal offences and to write lengthy judgments is said to have been fairly well checked by the District Magistrate, Ratnágiri, during the year. Mr. Koreishi refers to the disposition particularly of the subordinate Magistrates in Mahád and Mángaon of receiving complaints without what he calls 'verification.' The misuse of this word, which is almost universal among Second and Third Class Magistrates, for the examination of a complainant which it is incumbent on them to hold before issuing process, shows that they are disposed to treat it as a mere matter of form. Mr. Panse took up five cases in relief of the Táluka Magistrates. A fair number of cases was taken up in relief of the Táluka Magistrates by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates in Belgaum, Bijápúr, Kánara and in the 2nd and 3rd sub-divisions of the Dhárwár district. In the Ratnágiri district, only two cases were taken up by Mr. Garrett, and none were so taken up by the Sub-Divisional Officers in Kolába, owing to pressure of record-of-rights and other work.

#### 6.—Forest.

The original Forest Settlement Registers having been lost, in 11 out of 14 forest villages of the Bijápúr, Bágevádi and Muddebihál tálukas, the claims were re-settled by Mr. Bhide in accordance with the orders conveyed in Government Resolution No. 9158 of 25th September 1906.

In Kolába, steps are being taken for interesting the people in the preservation of their woodlands, and Mr. Nerurkar's efforts are reported to have so far met with a fair amount of success.

#### 7.—B. Volumes of Gazetteers.

The Collectors of Kánara, Kolába and Ratnágiri report that information and statistics have been written up to date in B. Volumes of the Gazetteers for their respective districts. The other Collectors are silent on this point, and their attention will be drawn to the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 5019 of 22nd September 1904, General Department.

#### 8.—Sub-Divisional Reports.

In paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 5160 of 26th July 1902 it is laid down that the Annual Administration Reports of the Sub-Divisional Officers

are not ordinarily to exceed 12 sides of typed foolscap. But this limit has been exceeded in the case of almost all the reports submitted by the Sub-Divisional Officers in the Belgaum, Bijápur, Dhárwár and Kolába districts, their reports varying in size from 18 to 58 pages. No doubt, as pointed out by Mr. Sathaye, many new paragraphs have been added to the annual report since the issue of the Government Resolution quoted above. Mr. Hudson recommends, and the Commissioner agrees with him, that a Sub-Divisional Report should not exceed 18 pages, and that in normal times 15 pages should suffice.

The reports of Messrs. Painter and Alcock and of the Collectors of Dhárwár and Kánara have not been accompanied by the usual table of contents. The Collector of Kolába has not shown in the map accompanying his report his tour for 1905-1906 and Messrs. Broomfield and Koreishi have shown their tours for the two years on two different maps instead of on one in different colours as required by Standing Orders. The attention of the officers concerned will be drawn to the defects noticed above.

This report also exceeds the authorized length, and is submitted later than it should have been by 13 days. The reason for this is that precedence had to be given to the preparation of returns for the Decentralization Committee at the time when the report was in hand.

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## B.—SIND.

### I.—Economic Conditions and Prospects.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

1. The year under report was, as remarked in paragraph 17 of the last year's report, one of general prosperity owing to the extraordinarily good inundation, which was among the best on record. The river was low at the commencement of the season when water was not much in demand; but the rise, when it did occur, was both opportune and rapid, and the continued maintenance of the level above 13 feet (the fair irrigating level) at the Sukkur gauge from the beginning of June right up to the end of September afforded a plentiful supply of water for both kharif and rabi crops. The rainfall also was copious everywhere, including both the Desert and the Kohistan. But the beneficial results in the latter tract were discounted owing to the destruction of crops by locusts in 23 out of the 28 *malkans* into which it is divided. The high inundation and heavy rainfall were, however, not an unmixed blessing. A series of breaches of more or less importance occurred in the river and canal embankments in almost every district. The most serious breaches were those in the river band at Budh-ka-Takar in the Guni taluka, and in the Baghar-Ochito band, succeeded by breaches in the Baghar embankment, in the Karáchi district. Full particulars of the nature and extent of the damage caused by the resultant floods were reported to Government in this office No. W-897, dated the 23rd October 1907. The total area under cultivation exceeded that of the previous year by nearly 8 per cent. and the revenue demand by 6 per cent. And, notwithstanding that the total amount remitted (Rs. 5,25,000) was double that of the preceding year, the net demands show an increase of over 5 lakhs.

The remissions on account of floods amounted to Rs. 1,69,000, the disastrous floods above referred to being responsible for no less than Rs. 1,47,000. In the Guni taluka it became necessary to relax the ordinary remission rules and to remit the whole assessment due in the flooded dehs, without inspection of individual fields, and irrespective of any rabi dubari crops grown in them. Fodder was plentiful everywhere, except in the Hala division, where, owing to the high level of the lands, scarcity of fodder is the normal complaint, and where not even the plentiful rains and the increased cultivation of the year could wholly mend matters. The attention of the Assistant Collector, Naushahro, is being invited, in connection with the comments in paragraph 3 of his report on the unsatisfied need for remission on account of damage caused by blight to rabi crops in the

Sakrand taluka, to paragraph 2 of Part I of Special Circular No. 29, under which he could have obtained the special orders of the Collector for the entertainment of remission applications after the prescribed dates. The Nara floods though causing an appreciable loss to kharif crops, were accountable for a large increase in rabi cultivation, which more than counterbalanced the loss of revenue in the kharif season.

2. Speaking generally, the canals worked very satisfactorily, and it was found practicable to make further grants of land on the Begari, though it is not yet considered safe to remove the restrictions on the entire length of the canal, as the lands lower down the canal in the Shahdadpur taluka still receive a very meagre supply of water. The Begari remodelling Project, which was looked forward to by the zamindars of the taluka with great eagerness, has been rejected by Government, and is to be worked out afresh. The Choi branch of the Begari canal, which is intended to give better irrigation to the central portion of the Shikarpur taluka, is nearing completion, and will, it is hoped, be opened in the ensuing season. The Dadwah has been working admirably since the excavation of the new mouth from the Indus in 1906. The Nasrat canal, which was reported to have worked badly in the preceding season, also gave satisfaction. An attempt was made to solve the Renwah problem by changing its mouth and constructing a regulator at its head; but the attempt proved abortive, the regulator not surviving the approach of the inundation waters by more than a few hours, a misfortune which resulted in considerable dislocation of traffic and heavy remissions on account of floods. The Mahrab and the Naulakhi canals worked poorly and had to be placed under restriction. Regarding the latter, the Superintending Engineer, Indus Left Bank Division, makes the following remarks in his annual irrigation revenue report for the year 1906-1907:—

“The Naulakhi Project, although sanctioned, has never been carried out, owing to the prospect of perennial high level canals being introduced, and to the danger of the river cutting into this canal at certain places. This the river actually did in 1906, when it cut off 8 miles from the mouth, lowering the water level in the canal by about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet and making a great reduction in the discharge, which will more or less seriously affect the area of cultivation according to the level of the river.”

The damage to the canal to which the Superintending Engineer refers has resulted in a loss of revenue for the current season to the extent of something like a lakh of rupees. Measures to remedy it have since been taken in hand.

The important general question as to the extent to which minor schemes of improvement and maintenance should be prosecuted, during the pendency of the Rohri canal and allied projects, has been weightily discussed by Mr. Pratt. The Commissioner is not aware of the grounds on which it is supposed that Government entertain the intention of indefinitely postponing such schemes on this account. The question is one of supreme moment to large areas on both banks of the river, and it cannot be more than alluded to in an administration report. If, however, there is any basis for the supposition, the Commissioner hopes that he will be given an opportunity of expressing his own views on the subject before any such decision as is referred to by the Collector is arrived at. Mr. Hamid Ali's remarks on the extension of the Mubarak wah and Fuleli improvement schemes are well worth the consideration of the Public Works Department. The latter in particular is a matter of very pressing importance, as affecting the cultivation of a large portion of the Hyderabad taluka.

3. The Mahiwah worked well in the year under report; but the question of ensuring the water-supply to the Gidu dhandh from the feeder *gahs* is still under consideration.

4. The canals in the Tatta sub-division of the Karachi district worked well with the exception of the Baghar, in which a number of breaches occurred. The Commissioner is glad to observe that the scheme for the improvement of the Baghar channel has at last taken a definite shape, and that the necessary plans and estimates are in course of preparation by the Superintending Engineer, Indus Right Bank Division.

The liberal grants, which Government have promised to give for the clearance of the Karáchi canals until the completion of the scheme, will certainly go a great way towards ameliorating the condition of the tract, which has steadily deteriorated of late years. The Bund Virah, in the Kotri taluka, which has after years of neglect been restored, will, it is hoped, greatly benefit the considerable tract of country commanded by it. A rough survey of the tract was commenced in the year 1905-06 and is now nearly completed. The silting up of the Ochito mouth of the Indus has been the subject of a great deal of correspondence, and it is a pity that the new dredger was found to be inadequately equipped for the removal of the obstruction, which is said to consist of a clay bar. The matter is engaging attention.

The Mithrao canal carried a good supply of water in the kharif season. But this was rather due to the heavy rainfall and the floods from the Nara, as the supply failed in the rabi season, resulting in a failure of the rabi crops and consequent remissions to the extent of Rs. 6,800. The Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Párkar, has expressed his satisfaction with the improvements which have been effected to the mouth of the canal during the year, and better results may be hoped for hereafter. The Khipro canal is said to have worked fairly; but this also is ascribed to flood water supplementing the canal water. As remarked last year, the Nara canals are in need of improvement, and require the special attention of the Public Works Department.

5. There was a rise in the prices of labour throughout the Province, the normal dearth of this commodity having been accentuated by a variety of contributing causes. Among these were the abundant harvests of the year, the return to their homes of the Kachi, Tharri, Marwari and Pathan immigrants, owing to a good rainfall in their own country, the prevalence of an unusual extent of malarial fever, the natural consequence of a high and prolonged inundation, and the increased demand for labour in rice and other mills. This state of things greatly interfered with agricultural operations, and even the ordinary clearance of several canals had to be abandoned on this account. Mr. Hamid Ali has correctly depicted the situation, when he says that there was an increase all round of 20 to 30 per cent. in the wages of labourers, and that for days together crops remained unreaped simply for want of labour, the zamindars who usually pay 1/20th share of the crop to the reapers having had to give as much as 1/8th. The incapacity of the Sindhi cultivator to provide in good seasons against the privations of bad is perhaps the most serious agrarian problem in Sind.

6. All District Officers, except the Collectors of Karáchi and Lárkána, report a fall in the prices of food-stuffs, with the exception of rice, which realised higher prices owing to the growing demand for it for purposes of export. The Collectors of Karáchi and Lárkána report a rise in prices generally, though the figures given by the former indicate a decrease all round except in the case of rice. It is possible that Mr. Mules' remark refers to the prices which obtained at the end of the year, when the early indications of a bad inundation caused the dealers to hold back whatever quantities of grain they had in hand. There can be no question, however, that any fall in the prices realized by the zamindars was more than compensated for by the larger outturn of the crops, and there is abundant evidence to show that there was a material improvement in the condition of the rural population. The prices of fuel were abnormally high in some places, the rise being attributed to the inability of the wood contractors to procure labour for transporting the wood to the market. The Commissioner notices that none of the reports of the Sub-Divisional Officers in the Hyderabad district contain any information as regards the prices of food-stuffs in their charges.

7. The total demand of land revenue for collection during the year, exclusive of remission, was Rs. 1,12,00,000 against Rs. 1,08,00,000 in the previous year. The recoveries amounted to Rs. 1,06,00,000 or 94.43 of the demand. The percentage is slightly lower than the corresponding figure of the year 1905-06, but may still be regarded as satisfactory. There was again an increase in the number of notices issued under section 152 of the Land Revenue Code, but

that does not necessarily imply that the amount for the recovery of which the notices were issued was larger than in the previous year. There may be some truth in Mr. Kindersley's remarks that unpunctuality in the payment of Government dues is partly induced by the erroneous notion prevalent among some zamindars that it is the duty of the tapadar to go from village to village demanding payment; but the Commissioner is of opinion that the judicious use of section 148 of the Land Revenue Code will gradually reduce the bulk of the notices. Mr. Kindersley's suggestion that the bill of assessments presented to the zamindars should contain a note of the dates of instalments according to European, Muhammadan and Hindu calendars will be duly considered. The reports show that the provisions of section 148 were resorted to in a larger number of cases than has hitherto been the case. There are no indications of any extended use of the more severe forms of coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue, the large number of forfeitures shown in the Lárkána district being mere forfeitures under the fallow rules.

8. The Commissioner has little to add to his remarks in previous reports on the working of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. The general trend of opinion and experience seems favourable to the view that contraction of credit, though its existence cannot be questioned, has not proceeded, and shows no symptoms of proceeding, to the point of causing embarrassment to the agriculturist in his operations. The area of cultivation shows probably as much elasticity in responding to favourable conditions as at any time previous to the application of the protective Acts. Scarcity of labour is a far more effective course of restriction than scarcity of capital. If, as several district officers see good grounds for supposing, the tightness of money has led to a check on sumptuary expenditure, the effect is rather wholesome than otherwise.

9. The total amount of takávi advanced in the year under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts was Rs. 5,16,000 as against Rs. 5,50,000. The amount advanced in the Hyderabad district was proportionately large; but this was necessary owing to the zamindars of the Guni táluka being in need of special relief on account of the losses suffered by them in the floods caused by the Budh-ka-Takar breach. Mr. Mackenzie's remark that the disbursement of a small sum only (Rs. 430) under the Land Improvement Loans Act was due to the unwillingness of zamindars to construct large works with loans is not an adequate explanation. It is not only for the construction of large works that advances are made under the Act, but they can be made for canal clearance, construction of wells, improving and erecting bunds, etc.; and Rs. 7,000 were in fact so advanced in the previous year. Mr. Ilahi Baksh's observation with regard to the grant of takávi to defaulters is similar to that made by Mr. Ferrers and dealt with in paragraph 9 of the last report. Mr. Ilahi Baksh has not specified the additional objects for which in his opinion takávi advances might, with advantage, be given to cultivators. More attention might have been paid in the reports to the important duty of inspecting takávi works. The remark of Mr. Wali Muhammad that "improvement works were inspected by the Mukhtiarkars of Guni and Badin personally in some cases" indicates a most inadequate appreciation of the responsibilities in this respect of the Officer in charge of a sub-division.

10. Education is making slow progress. The attendance was small, especially among Muhammadans. This may partly be attributable to the prevalence of malarial fevers consequent on the high inundation, but the Commissioner feels no doubt that, as remarked by Mr. Pratt, if village headmen of zamindars take sufficient interest, the schools will always be found well attended by Muhammadan boys. It is observed that, in some large towns, the Muhammadans are awakening to a sense of their responsibility in the matter, as is evident from the starting of an Anglo-Vernacular school at Nehar under the auspices of the Anjaman-i-Islam Association and a Muhammadan girls' school at Talti in the Sehwan sub-division. The two Hur Settlement schools did well. The complaint regarding the insufficiency of trained school masters still continues. The boarding school at Pithoro has yet not been started, and the Commissioner regrets to find that very slow progress has been made in the

collections for the boarding house at Tando Muhammad Khan. In the Naushahro division the arrangements for opening a new Anglo-Vernacular school with Muhammadan boarding house have been completed. The management of the boarding house in connection with the Anglo-Vernacular school at Jacobabad shows considerable improvement, and it is gratifying to find that the attendance has nearly doubled. Great stress has been laid upon the improvement of the mosque schools which play an important part in the education of the Muhammadans.

11. As remarked by Mr. Pratt, it is very necessary that the cardinal points of the policy of giving grants-in-aid to the indigenous mosque schools should be published for general information. The demand for and the success of the rural standards is largely subject to local conditions and opinion; and wherever they may be found to be a mistake, it rests with the Local Boards themselves to discontinue them. This point appears to have been overlooked by the Collector of Karáchi, and will be duly impressed on him.

12. Both the Dayaram Jethmal Sind College and the Sind Madressehtul-Islam did good work during the year. An application has been made for a Government grant-in-aid towards constructing a wing to the boarding house of the Madresseh. Recently Government sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 10,000 per annum guaranteed for 5 years in aid of the Dayaram Jethmal Sind College. This has enabled the authorities to create the appointment of an English Professor and arrangements are in progress for securing the services of an officer from England. The two private institutions in Hyderabad—the Navalrai Hiranand Academy and the Nava Vidyalaya—continue to do good work.

13. There was, as already mentioned, a general retrogression during the year under report of immigrants from Cutch, Márwár and the trans-frontier territory, due to the good rain in those regions. Apart from this, there is nothing to record under the head of immigration and emigration.

14. The export trade of grain by sea increased considerably owing to the good harvest in Sind and Northern India. Progress in industrial enterprise is manifested in the number of new factories which were started during the year. In the Hyderabad district two new cotton presses were started. In the Thar and Párkar two rice-husking and one flour mill were established, and the Deputy Commissioner states that he has, in conjunction with the Jodhpur-Bikánir Railway authorities, completed arrangements for the construction of several more husking mills and factories. Other districts reported similar progress. Except factories of this class, there are no large industries in the Province.

15. The state of public feeling is satisfactory. A few meetings on *swadeshi* matters were held in Karáchi, and one in Tatta; but they were purely commercial. The native press is on the whole moderate and sensible, and the Commissioner's experience is in accord with that of the Collector of Hyderabad that it has more than once done good service by exposing abuses and wrongs which might otherwise have passed unchecked and unnoticed.

#### Extracts.

##### (1) General Conditions.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

F. G. Pratt, Esq., Collector.

The year under report was one of great general prosperity owing to the extraordinarily good inundation, which I believe was the best of which there is any record. The cultivated area both in kharif and in rabi increased largely, the kharif crops were abundant and excellent throughout the district, and the prices of the staple food-grains were unusually low.

LÁRKÁNA DISTRICT.

S. H. Covernton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The indebtedness of the zamindars springs from many causes. The big zamindars, who are generally the most embarrassed, as a rule do not manage

their estates themselves, but employ a kámdar or agent who is probably as often as not either dishonest or incapable. Sometimes these agents manage all the agricultural work of the estate, in which case they are Musalmans: sometimes they are financial agents, and in this case they are Waniyás. The zamindar himself, like some Irish squire of the last century, may not have the least idea what his income is or what he is spending, or whether his agent's account is on the right side or the wrong, until the money-lender begins to press for his money and his interest, and the Government is demanding the arrears of last year's takávi, and there is nothing left to pay it with. Then again, from time to time, there is a marriage in the family and a marriage means a very heavy expense; to meet it, money must be borrowed. Without any very special extravagance, it is yet only too easy for him to fall deeply into debt.

Even if the zamindar manages his own affairs, he can scarcely sell the corn himself: it has to be done through a middleman. He draws his profits in kind and is almost certain to lose in converting them into cash. If he sells at once, he may sell on a low market. If he keeps the grain in hand, a sudden need may arrive for cash, which he can only meet by borrowing.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

Shaikh Illahibaksh, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The prosperity of the peasant class depends as much on the condition of the season as that of the zamindars. They are also not free from incumbrances in spite of a very simple and frugal way of living. This state is mostly due to an imprudent management of the house by the females who go on exchanging grain for commodities, paying double the amount that the latter are worth. But in a bad season, they add to their income by plying carts and taking up employment. It would be a great help to the zamindars if they were to educate their sons and try to employ them in trading.

Jesasingh Kimateingh, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The prosperous year that preceded the present one was a great help to the zamindars, who, I have reason to believe, have laid by considerably and rendered themselves independent of the money-lender, whom the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has affected considerably. The zamindar class has grown thrifty and careful and almost every cultivator knows the beneficial provisions of the Act, which saves them attachment and ensures them the taking of accounts, and it is hoped that if favourable seasons continue, the indebtedness of the agriculturists will be greatly minimised. The Bania too is taking to land and though sales of alienable land to him by the Mahomedan zamindars continue, yet the number contrasted with that of the preceding years is much less, probably due to the restriction on their tenure.

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

Mahomed Ibrahim, Esq., Deputy Collector.

During the year under report, the condition of the people was prosperous. Since the famine of 1899-1900, the Tharis had not had such a favourable year. The outturn was good and fodder was abundant for their cattle, which is their wealth, and the produce of which forms the main source of their living. All classes of people breed cattle. This year, though the quantity of Ghi produced was large, yet its rate rose high, owing to a keen demand for this commodity in the Cutch territory, much to the benefit of the Tharis. In the like manner, a large number of dealers from Guzerat purchased from here a number of bullocks at good rates. Thus the Tharis, who are primitive in their habits, had sufficient to provide for themselves the necessaries of life.

(2) Canals.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

The year under report was a most favourable one. The inundation was excellent, both as regards height and duration. The river was late in rising,

but the rise was opportune and the continued maintenance of the level above 13 feet from the beginning of July to the end of September afforded a plentiful supply for kharif as well as rabi crops.

Had it not been that the floods were so high and so long sustained that malarial fever was very prevalent in consequence, the rabi cultivation would have been phenomenally large, but, owing to sickness, many cultivators were unable to prepare their lands at the proper time, whilst in parts of the Mirpur, Ghotki and Rohri talukas, the flood water did not dry up in time to allow of a crop being sown.

#### KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

J. W. Smyth, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The year opened under most favourable conditions; the previous good year, which was the first of the new and lighter settlement, had put heart into the zamindars, and the early rise of the river held out hopes of a good season. These would have been realized to the full, but for the unfortunate catastrophe at the end of August, when a sudden and totally unexpected rise in the river caused a large breach in the river bund at Sadnani in the Tatta taluka, and a series of breaches in the bund of the Baghar Canal in the Tatta and Mirpur Sakro talukas. The result was disastrous floods, of which the only comforting feature was that no loss of life, human or animal, was reported. The Sadnani breach was a furlong wide, and the flood water swamped the country from that point to the Ambra creek, where it drained off into the sea. The whole intervening tract to a width of some two miles was ruined. The floods from the Baghar were less disastrous, but a large portion of the Tatta Tapa was submerged for months. This catastrophe found the officers of the Public Works Department ready to meet the emergency, but their efforts were largely frustrated by the selfish and apathetic conduct of the Tatta zamindars, which cannot be too strongly condemned. These men from the first never realized their obligations; for had they brought prompt and ready assistance, there can be no doubt that much of the damage done would have been avoided, and much loss saved. As it was, they all retired to Tatta and left matters to take care of themselves.

#### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

Walimahomed Hasanally, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The kharif crops were very successful throughout, with the exception of the western portion of the Guni taluka, which unfortunately was swept by floods in the Indus river bund at Budhkatakar, a place where there had been a similar breach in 1889. This was a real misfortune for the people affected. It is alleged that this breach was either due to sand having been blown away, or to a cut having been made by some interested zamindar. All efforts at closing the breach were abortive and the river passed inland through a gap nearly 1,200 feet wide and submerged practically all lands irrigated by the small fed canals in the division. The flood swept onward with remarkable rapidity, which is accounted for by the fact that all local depressions were already full of waste water from the canals which had been working most satisfactorily. Almost the whole tract fed by the successful new Hasanali canal was inundated. Not only their crops, villages, corn and live-stock were lost, but the banks of many of the canals were entirely washed away in places and the restoration of the same has not yet been satisfactorily completed, owing to labour being extremely limited in the present working season. The massive banks of the Hasanali canal itself, stretching southward across the country, served as a splendid protection to the whole division and, but for their existence, there was danger that the flood would have rushed eastward and entered the Fuleli and washed away the important municipal town of Tando Mahomed Khan in this division. Disastrous in one respect as the flood of 1906 was, it is accountable for vast areas of rabi having been grown in Guni taluka.

(3) *Prices.*

LA'RKANA DISTRICT.

H. L. Fox, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Last year the high price of jowari was chiefly due to large exports to famine-affected areas in Rájputána and Cutch. This year the price fell slightly at the beginning but rose again later, the reason probably being that increased prosperity led to increased consumption, whilst rice to some extent displaced jowári cultivation, thus balancing the falling off in exportation. A substantial rise in the price of rice,—as much as Rs. 2 per maund in Kambar táluka—shows that Sind rice is gaining in popularity for exportation; the partial failure of the crop in some of the rice countries of India is no doubt largely responsible for this. Exportation to Baluchistan is also on the increase.

As usual, the lion's share of the increased profits of cultivation fell to the Bania dealer. Many zamindars, anticipating a fall in prices owing to the excellence of the season, concluded their bargains whilst the crops were still standing. The Mussalman zamindar does not as a rule appear to be good at a bargain, which involves intelligent anticipation or the undertaking of some slight risk. It is customary to pour out much sympathy on the unfortunate Mussalman overreached by the wily Bania, but much of this appears to be wasted. If he loses much profit in a good year, it is probable that following the same system he gains somewhat in a bad one; in other words, he generally plays the part of the over-cautious investor,—no great gains and no great losses.

S. H. Covernton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The rise in rice and wheat is due to the failure of those crops on account of floods and rust respectively. If a general average for the whole division be taken for jowár, the price will be found to be practically the same, while bájri shows a decrease. As jowár and bájri are the universal food of the poorer classes, and as the bulk of the population are agriculturists and paid in kind, this rise in price has not produced any bad effects on the general well-being of the district, but is rather a matter for congratulation.

(4) *Labour.*

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

F. G. Pratt, Esq., Collector.

The people were too well off to care to supplement their resources by labour, and the scarcity was made more acute by the return to their own country of large numbers of the Cutchi and Marwari immigrants, who usually swell the market in Sind. Labourers were in fact at a great premium and were able to make their own terms.

The scarcity of labour caused much difficulty and inconvenience in many directions. Mr. Hamid Ali has shown that even harvesting labour was hard to procure; wood-contractors could not get labour to bring their wood to market and this helped to make fuel in the big towns inconveniently dear: the ordinary clearance of very many canals had to be abandoned for want of labour: and even in the Guáni táluka, where the kharif crops of half the táluka had been destroyed by a disastrous flood, the engineers had extreme difficulty in attracting sufficient labour to repair the breached embankment in the hot weather, without taking power to impress labour under the Irrigation Act.

Hamid A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There was no immigration during the year, but the floating population of Tharis, Marwaris and Cutchis decreased considerably owing to the return of large bodies of these people to their homes after the good rains. The consequence of this exodus was to diminish the supply and raise the wages of labour. The diminution of the supply of labour was still further aggravated by the fact that, having plenty, the Sindhi will not work, as also by the extraordinary prevalence of fever from October to March. The wages of unskilled

Sindhi labour rose to 8 and even 10 annas a day, while Tharis and Marwaris earned, the men 6 and the women 4 annas a day, i. e., an increase all round of 20 to 30 per cent. Even at these enhanced rates, labour was often not available. I saw numerous fields unreaped late in November, owing to dearth of reapers. A reaper generally gets  $\frac{1}{20}$ th of the bajri he reaps, but in the year under report, zamindars had to give as much as  $\frac{1}{12}$ th and in some instances in the Hyderabad taluka even  $\frac{1}{8}$ th, before they could get any one to reap.

LA'RKA'NA DISTRICT.

H. L. Fox, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Wages rose to an abnormal figure, even higher than was to be expected in such a prosperous year. This is to be accounted for partly by the naturally indolent temperament of the average Sindhi, when once he has obtained a sufficiency. I believe that there are many haris in this division who only cultivate in the kharif season, and live on the proceeds during rabi, perhaps condescending to do some harvesting, and occasionally some carting work, with some cattle theft, thrown in as a pastime—this too when unskilled labour is commanding a wage of 6 or even 10 annas a day, in place of the old 4 or 6 annas.

KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

A. F. Kindersley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Labour was scarce, and wages unusually high this year. This was chiefly due, so far as this division is concerned, to the immigration of Cutchis being of dimensions much below those of recent years, a favourable season having succeeded to a series of bad years in Cutch. The result was that Public Works Department and Local Fund works were hampered and delayed, and the amount of private improvement of land was curtailed. The Sindhis, as usual, undertook labourers' work only in small numbers, and that chiefly on Public Works Department works, at the bidding of a few public-spirited zamindars whose haris they were.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

The increase in the wages of unskilled labour is due to a variety of causes. On the one hand is the scarcity of labour arising from the exceptionally severe fever season, the non-arrival of the usual numbers of Pathan and Marwari labourers, and the return of emigrants to Kelat where the good rains offered prospects of favourable season. On the other were the good harvest, the usual canal clearances and the making of a new canal in the bordering taluka of Shikarpur, while in Jacobabad itself there was an exceptionally strong demand for labour.

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

Mahomed Ibrahim, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The price of labour in the desert was higher than in the previous years, the reason for which is not far to seek. There is no separate class of labourers, and both agricultural and non-agricultural work is done by one and the same person. Men were busy with their cultivation and were contented and thus cared little for ordinary labour.

(5) Migration.

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

There is no permanent emigration or immigration to this district during the year. A few people from the desert and adjoining States temporarily settled in

the Nara Valley in the beginning of the year in search of labour, but they returned to their homes when the rains fell, in order to benefit by them. Such conditions the prosperity of the Valley greatly depends. During the year a small number of men from the adjoining talukas of Hyderabad took their cattle, as is customary, for grazing into the desert lands, where the grass is specially nutritious.

(6) *Credit.*

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Collector.

The credit of the many large and influential zamindars of the district is still good, but that given by Banias to smaller landholders is stated to be decreasing, and money to be obtainable only by sale of land or mortgage with possession, leases for fixed periods or contracts for the sale of standing crops. Small zamindars have no doubt been affected and find loans more difficult to raise than formerly when dangerous facilities for the purpose were more plentiful, but there is little doubt, generally speaking, that the effect of the contraction of credit has been good. I have heard little or no complaint against the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, but have found the restriction of tenure often strongly objected to by zamindars.

LA'RKA'NA DISTRICT.

H. L. Fox, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In general, agricultural credit appears to be dependent on four factors, on either side; the Bania makes money and probably does not feel either secure enough or rich enough to be able to afford to bury all his surplus profits in his house; he must invest it either with other Hindus in trade or with Mussalmans. In the former case, he only gets 6 per cent. per annum, in the latter he gets from 12 per cent. even up to 25 per cent. On the other hand, most cultivators will not, or cannot, save, so they must borrow. They have two courses open to them—takavi or the Bania. The cultivator naturally prefers dealing with his own village people, if he can do so on reasonable terms. Fortunately takavi applications are common, but borrowings from money-lenders are very considerable, and the amount of land mortgaged to Hindus was found in the course of Record-of-Rights inquiry in the Labdaria taluka to be very extensive.

In money-lending transactions, the Bania has undoubtedly the stronger position still. It is true he must lend, but as the Mukhtiarkar of Larkana notes in his report, he takes good care not to let the ignorant would-be borrower know that. With apt repetitions on his lips of the difficulties to which the Relief Act has exposed him in recovering, he leads the cultivator to think that the favour is on his side in lending, and by this and specious verbal promises, which he takes care not to put into writing, persuades him to agree to conditions, perhaps in some cases, more onerous than were in vogue before the introduction of the Act. The favourable character of the past two or three seasons has probably prevented these forces from being seen working yet with full effect.

(7) *Education.*

KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Miles, Esq., Collector.

In the course of my tour I personally visited 17 Board, 4 Municipal and 1 registered indigenous schools and 1 Church of England Zenana Mission School. What I saw tended to strengthen, if that was possible, my long formed and frequently expressed opinion that the rural standard, in so far as the atte

to teach Mahomedan boys Hindu-Sindhi goes, is a dead failure and must remain so. I do not believe that a single Mahomedan boy in the district has acquired or will acquire any really practically useful knowledge of this character.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

R. B. Milne, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There are several very flourishing vernacular schools : and I have noticed with great pleasure the personal interest which some zamindars are taking in the matter, not only providing suitable buildings free of charge, but also securing a regular attendance. On my suggestion, the Deputy Educational Inspector has issued orders to his subordinates to keep rolls of defaulting parents: the benefit is twofold, firstly, that it can be seen if the school master has done his best to secure a proper attendance, and secondly, in directing the attention of touring officers to the proper quarters.

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

There is a technical school attached to the vernacular school at Umarkot, besides the two industrial classes attached to the Sanghar Hur School, one for males and the other for females. The technical school has much distinguished itself lately, and received the approbation of the Examining Officer, the Executive Engineer, Eastern Nara Canal. It is at least pleasing to report that the whole of the furniture for the Huzúr offices at Mirpurkhás was made in the school. It is also gratifying to report that this technical branch had received a medal for certain fine articles sent to the Surat Exhibition. The two industrial classes of the Sanghar Hur School are thriving well and are doing useful work.

The rural schools are getting popular.

The question of female education is attracting the attention of the people in this district. The people of the desert especially evince a great desire for improvement in this direction. There are at present a sufficient number of girls' schools in the desert, viz., at Mithi, Islámkot, Chachro, Chelher, Gadro and Nagar. Both Gujaráti and Sindhi are taught in these schools and attendance in them is generally steady. In addition to the literary education, embroidery work is also taught, which, it is stated, serves as an impetus to the people to send their girls to the schools.

LA'RKA'NA DISTRICT.

Sheikh Illahibaksh Kadirbaksh, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The peasant class of people are apathetic in educating their boys simply for the reason that they think that the education is intended for service only. Their mistaken idea seems to be correct in a way, as the boys after passing the Sindhi Final Examination try to secure employment, and failing this they go and remain at home without doing anything. They think it is below their position to follow the profession of their fathers. They want to be well-fed and neatly dressed and be an extra burden on their parents. As education is merely intended to improve the faculties of the boys in order to enable them to follow their own profession in a better way, the system of opening technical branches for giving practical lessons of art and agriculture attached to village school is necessary. The boys in that case will be conscious of their position from the beginning, and will unreservedly follow the profession of their elders.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

In Jacobabad, the technical school continues to do good work and a number of ex-students have during the last year got profitable employments in the Railway Workshops at Sukkur and elsewhere.

*(8) Industrial.*

## THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

The embroidery work of the désert is well spoken of and is exported to a fairly considerable extent by the merchants of Karáchi and of adjoining States: but since the great importation of these coloured stuffs some years ago, when work was hurriedly done and very badly finished, purchasers who know what good work is, have fought shy of patronising these workers. Some years ago I warned them what would be the result, and they have realised it. We can only hope that the rejection of their spurious articles will teach them a lesson to improve and return to their old methods. Towards this as much as possible is being done in the desert schools.

*(9) Press.*

## HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

F. G. Pratt, Esq., Collector.

The local press is on the whole moderate and sensible and has more than once during the year done good service by exposing abuses and wrongs which might otherwise have passed unchecked or unnoticed. In one case a newspaper editor himself gave information which resulted in the suppression of a gambling den in the city.

## II.—Inspections performed by District Officers.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The following table shows the amount of inspection work performed by district officers:—

No.	Nature of inspection.	IN HOW MANY			Rayats' receipt books examined.
		Muktia-kar's station.	Mahal-kari's station.	Villages.	
	Total of Province ...	57	3	5,229	...
1	Visited for inspection ...	50	2	953	...
2	Accounts examined ...	32	2	1,034	...
3	Records examined ...	38	2	478	...
4	Rayats' receipt books examined ...	...	...	...	610
5	Sub-registry offices examined ...	27	1	...	...

The decrease in the Karáchi and Hyderabad districts is due to the tours of the Collectors having been interrupted for several reasons, the principal of which are in the case of the former district the visit of His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan, and of the latter the destruction of the Collector's office records by fire. The work of destruction of records is mostly up to date.

## III.—Revenue Buildings and Record Rooms.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

Under this head the most unfortunate destruction of the kacheri buildings at Hyderabad by fire may be noticed. Government have already been informed of the circumstances. The re-construction of these buildings is a most pressing want, and plans and estimates have been submitted to Government. The condition of some of the táluka offices is unsatisfactory, as regards

both design and accommodation. Extensive alterations and, in some cases, complete re-construction will probably be necessary in the near future.

#### IV.—Revenue Establishments, including Village Officers.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The revenue establishments are reported to have done good work on the whole. The Commissioner notes with satisfaction the commendations deservedly bestowed by Mr. Pratt on certain Mukhtiarkars in his district.

The establishments of some offices are still reported to be inadequate. Suitable action has been taken on the representation of the Collector of Karáchi for the increases of the establishments referred to in his report. The partition of the Lárkána sub-division is a much needed reform, which has long been under the Commissioner's consideration. But, as Mr. Baker rightly observes, it is not in an Assistant Collector's administration report that detailed proposals should be submitted.

The village establishments appear to have given satisfaction during the year, though there is still much room for improvement in that portion of their work which relates to survey. The Commissioner had again to revise the standing orders on the subject, so as to ensure the exercise by Sub-divisional Officers and Mukhtiarkars of a more complete and effectual control over the tapadars' and supervising tapadars' work. It is satisfactory to note that, of the 808 tapadars in the Province, the number trained in survey work is 718. Retention of the survey parties is still necessary, and a recommendation has recently been made to Government for their continuance up to the end of October 1909, by which time it is to be hoped that the fate of some of the irrigational projects will have been decided.

The scheme for the revision of village establishments was sanctioned in the year under report. The number of supervising tapadars has been increased from 157 to 227, and the monthly rate of travelling allowance drawn by them has been raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. One additional divisional tapadar has been entertained in the Kotri sub-division. The numerical strength of tapadars remains unaltered, but they, too, have been given a fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem. The pay of kotars has also been raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 9. The tapadars will have no excuse now for extorting petty sums from the zamindars under the colour of providing for the up-keep of their ponies, and it may be hoped that the increase in their emoluments will attract better men to the service.

The following table contrasts the punishments inflicted on village officers with those in the preceding year :—

	Total No.		Fined.		Reduced.		Suspended.		Dismissed.		Total number punished.	
	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.
Supervising tapadars.	*157	157	2	1	2	1	...	2	...	1	4	5
Tapadars	808	808	48	69	6	11	2	2	7	13	63	95

\* Exclusive of the 70 new supervising tapadars appointed from the 1st August 1907.

One tapadar in the Karáchi district, who embezzled Government money, was tried, convicted and sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment. As many as 19 tapadars were fined in the Naushahro division for remissness in survey work, and Mr. Milne's attention has been invited by the Collector to the orders contained in paragraph 7 of Government Resolution No. 8956, dated the 18th September 1906. The institution of the Black Book referred to in the Collector of Karáchi's report will, the Commissioner hopes, have the desired effect of reduction of punishments by fine.

## V.—Special Matters.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

A full account of the Record-of-Rights work done during the year has been given in the annual report on Land Records submitted to Government under this office No. 5279, dated the 20th December 1907.

The area held on the restricted tenure at the beginning of the year was 264,212 acres. This was increased during the year by 86,570 acres. These figures do not include the areas granted on the Jamrao, Nasrat, Dad and Hiral tracts under Act III of 1899. Including these, the total was 973,058 acres against 830,916 acres at the end of the year under report. Several cases of violation of the conditions of the tenure came to notice, most of which were brought to light in the course of the preparation of the Record-of-Rights. It is not entirely satisfactory that so many infringements took place without being independently detected. Some of them have not yet been disposed of. Those that have been, have ended in resumption. The restricted tenure, as is natural, is not popular, but there is little reason to suppose that its unpopularity is due to any serious economic embarrassment resulting from it. Sentimental reasons of a personal or social complexion, and a natural aversion from any form of legal restriction are sufficient to account for reluctance to accept land on these terms. Credit has been little, if at all, affected by it, and the proportion which land held on this tenure bears to the mass of ordinary occupancies is too small to admit of any general deductions relating to changes in the position of the land-owner being attributed to it. The report of the Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier, shows that it is often strongly objected to by zamindars, chiefly big zamindars, who regard it as calculated to lower their credit. The Collector of Lárkána is wrong in stating that the restricted tenure almost always applies only to small additions to existing holdings. His attention will be invited to the orders which require an exception to be made in such cases.

The total amount of revenue remitted by money order amounted to Rs. 81,728 against Rs. 55,000 in the previous year. This form of remittance naturally commends itself most to those living away from taluka head-quarters. The system, inaugurated in 1905, of making recoveries of Land Revenue at the taluka head-quarters, instead of at the tapadars' *deras*, has been generally successful, and is gaining popularity. The variation of the proportion of Land Revenue recovered in this manner in different districts and sub-divisions is probably to be attributed largely to the degree of personal interest evinced by the local officers. The system is no doubt still capable of expansion, and special efforts, more particularly on the part of Assistant Collectors and Mukhtiarkars, should be directed to this end. It would be over-sanguine to suppose that it will put an end to illegal extortions on the part of tapadars, but it ought certainly to do a great deal to restrict them.

No special assignments were made during the year under report, with the exception of the grant of a huri to the extent of 2 acres 10 gunthas in the Upper Sind Frontier district and two new seri grants to the extent of 4 acres 4 gunthas and 31 acres 32 gunthas in the Hyderabad and Lárkána districts respectively and the grant of 26 acres 15 gunthas for tree plantation in 6 cases in the Sukkur district.

The Commissioner has nothing to add to the information as regards Land Acquisition work given in the district officers' reports.

The provisions of clauses II to IV of rule 56 under the Land Revenue Code have been applied to the vicinity of the town of Shikárpur. The application of these rules to the towns of Karáchi and Jacobabad was not considered to be needed.

Two Co-operative Credit Societies came into existence in the year under report, one at Kandiaro in the Naushahro division and the other at Khairpur Daharki in the Mirpur Mathelo division. The society at Khairpur Daharki is reported to be doing well. That at Kandiaro never started its operations for want of funds, its demands having been refused by the Registrar as exorbitant.

The experimental farm at Mirpur Khas is reported to have shown much improvement during the year under report, and the appointment of a resident Deputy Director is certainly a step in the right direction. Egyptian cotton again suffered considerably from the attacks of boll-worm; but the out-turn realised excellent prices at the auctions held by the Colonization Officer.

Barsim was not sown on the Jamrao during the year under report, no seed having been procured by the Agricultural Department. Experiments on ground-nut were tried in the Upper Sind Frontier district, but with unfavourable results, owing apparently to unsuitable natural conditions.

The veterinary dispensaries are reported to have done good work. An outbreak of "Fluke" among buffaloes and of "Surra" among horses and camels occurred in the Ghorabari taluka of the Karachi district and Mirpur and Ubauro talukas of the Sukkur district respectively, suitable steps being taken in each case. The various horse and cattle shows held were successful, and there was an increase in the number of exhibits everywhere except at Talhar, where the decrease was only slight.

#### Extracts.

##### (1) Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.

###### SUKKUR DISTRICT.

M. N. Asardas, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Notwithstanding the extension of the provision of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act to Sind, agricultural credit has not suffered to a large extent. From the various inquiries made by me during my short stay in the division, I find that the takavi advanced by Government represents but a small percentage of agricultural expenses and that most of the rest is borrowed from the money-lenders as usual. The Bania is, however, not so careless or liberal in making advances as he used to be before. Living, as he as a rule is, near the borrower's land, he knows the probable result of the crops likely to be raised on the security of which advances are made and therefore regulates the loans accordingly.

###### THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

Naraindas Motaram, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The introduction of the Incumbered Estates Act and the application of portions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act to this Province has no doubt lowered the credit of the zamindar, but it has had the counterbalancing advantage of teaching the zamindar to cut his coat according to his cloth. Nevertheless, the feeling between the agriculturists and the money-lender is not bad. The Bania is ever clamorous of his income having gone down owing to circumstances which have limited the monetary transactions between him and the zamindar. All the same, however, the loan trade goes on, with this difference that the rate of interest has gone down, while precautions are taken to give loans where the repayments are certain, all the change in circumstances notwithstanding. The sales by the agriculturists to the money-lender, were in 13 cases 327-23 acres.

##### (2) Restricted Tenure.

###### LA'RKA'NA DISTRICT.

Sheikh Illahibaksh Kadirbaksh, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The working of the system of giving out land on restricted tenure has found favour with Muhammadan zamindars, who are satisfied that the land, though unfit for being sold or mortgaged, yet can descend as a hereditary property to their followers on the same scale as other property. The Banias have practically shut the doors of lending against the zamindars, who have now been compelled to be prudent in their way of living and spending. Finding no hope of credit

they have not only to check their extravagance but try to save and make sufficient margin for unforeseen events. It is evident that the interests of the zamindars are safe-guarded by the adoption of the principle of restricted tenure, the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act and the amendment of the Incumbered Estates Act in Sind. The wants in connection with agricultural operations are satisfied by the liberal grants of takávi.

(3) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

R. B. Milne, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Kandiari society has never started operations, its exorbitant demands being refused by the Registrar. The zamindars of the táluka are not the most progressive in the division : and there was no nucleus of wealthy zamindars who could supply a basis of capital. The aims of the members were purely selfish and they had never the slightest intention of doing anything for themselves in the matter. All the capital was to come from Government, and when their application for Rs. 5,000 loan on the strength of their private capital of Rs. 500 was refused, they filed an application for dissolution.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

M. N. Asardas, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The Rural Co-operative Credit Society started by Mr. Vali Mahomed at Khairpur Dabarki with the assistance of K. B. Jam Shah Nawazkhan and others, including the then Mukhtiarkar, Mr. Lalchand, who took keen interest in its well being, is doing well. There are in all 91 members, and the donations, deposits and subscriptions amount to Rs. 1,000. Lately a loan of Rs. 1,000 has been sanctioned to be paid by Government, but for certain reasons the money could not be drawn within July 1907. The Registrar, Mr. Campbell, paid a visit to Khairpur and, having examined the details of the bank and the accounts, expressed satisfaction at its working. The satisfactory feature of the whole arrangement is that the members who form the Managing Committee are all responsible and well-informed persons who can be relied upon for exercising great care and circumspection before sanctioning loans. While at Khairpur on the 28th August, I went into the working of the society and can fully endorse the above statements recorded from Mr. Vali Mahomed's notes. The institution is still in its infancy and requires constant attention at the hands of the Mukhtiarkar, which I am glad to state has been and is being paid. On the whole the undertaking promises to fare well.

(4) *Record-of-Rights.*

KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

J. W. Smyth, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The blankness of the rustic mind on the subject of the Record-of-Rights still remains, and it is difficult to throw any light on what appears to him to be an impenetrable fog. Many people used the opportunity of the special Mukhtiarkar and the Assistant Collector inquiring into the facts of the possession of land, to put forward all kinds of claims, and claims which only a Civil Court could decide, and one and all of these men seemed to think that this was a new and cheap substitute for the Civil Court. It was no easy matter to disabuse them of the idea. In a backward and conservative place, it is difficult to convince people of the advantages of a record, which to them leaves what is undisputed alone, and does not decide what is disputed.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

Hamid A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

One great result of the Record-of-Rights will be to lift the cultivators out of the hazy notions they have about their rights in land and their duties to others,

and to help them out of their entire dependence on the Bania, while it will make the work of revenue officers lighter, and considerably curtail land correspondence.

(5) *Agricultural Experiments.*

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

The Agricultural Department has, I think, taken a decidedly new lease of life under the new Deputy Director. Not only is there much wider supervision, but, what there was not before, there is far more sympathy and co-operation with the zamindar. He is encouraged now to visit the farm, his own lands are visited, advice given, and interest shown in his operations. The Department is showing that they exist for the benefit of the zamindars and not personal advancement. An intelligent system of rotation of crops, and reclamation of land, both operations which should beneficially revolutionize the agricultural procedure of the country, are being demonstrated sympathetically to the zamindars without any entanglements of a highly scientific character. The fact is that work is now being practically demonstrated, whereas up to this year the farm has been more of an experimental play-ground than a centre for imparting useful information. I am convinced that if continued on such a basis it will be of immense benefit.

It is pleasing to observe that the district is fast emerging from its somewhat isolated position with regard to the other districts of the Province and taking its place as a great trading centre. I have referred to the factories and mills, and there is little question that when the feeder lines have been constructed, many firms will be attracted. Cotton experiments at Mirpur Khas are still continuing, and I cannot see why eventually a considerable portion of the district should not be under 'Egyptians.' Everything so far has been simply in the experimental stage, but when I was myself informed in Liverpool with regard to the Egyptian cotton which I had taken home for sale that the brokers looked upon it with the greatest favour, and were grieved that instead of 5 bales I had not taken home 50,000, and in another place they wished it had been 100,000 bales, there are ample grounds for hoping that the industry will flourish to the immense benefit of our cultivators.

(VI) **Inamdars' Recovery of Revenue Assistance Cases, Successions and Lapses.**

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

In only four cases in the Karachi district was assistance given to jagirdars under section 86 of the Land Revenue Code, and the amounts claimed were paid on issue of process. The Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier's remark that there was no neglect on the part of the village officers in the collection of the revenue of alienated villages is unintelligible, no such collections being made through these officers.

The particulars of successions and lapses are given below:—

SUCCESSIONS.

1st class jagirdars	...	...	... 1 case.
Garden grants	...	...	... 2 cases.
Frontier grants	...	...	... 1 case.

LAPSES.

	Cases.	Area.
Life grants	... 4	1,757 acres.

## VII.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes, Transfers, Rents, Sub-lettings, and Relations between Land-holders and Tenants.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, Esq., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The relations between the landlords and their tenants have been generally peaceful. Mr. Martin has reproduced in his report a note left in this connection by his predecessor, Mr. Ferrers. The matter will engage further attention, but the Commissioner is not at present satisfied that any special remedial measures are either necessary or practicable. He is disposed to agree with Mr. Pratt that the cash-rent system is regarded as advantageous to the tenant rather than to the landlord.

The following table contrasts the details of transfers in the several districts with those for the previous year, so far as the information is available in the reports:—

	Sales.		Mortgages.	
	1906-1907.	1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1905-1906.
Karachi ... ..	14,639	15,222	3,555	1,647
Hyderabad ... ..	10,623	*12,708	11,823	13,031
Sukkur ... ..	10,462	6,564	...	...
Larkana ... ..	13,706	13,921	...	...

\* Last year's figure was incorrect.

### Extracts.

#### *Landlord and Tenant.*

##### KARACHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

The relations between landlords and haris have been normal, and are on the whole friendly. But except in Kohistan and in a few isolated cases, there is not much of the spirit of feudal devotion noticeable here which strikes one so much among the Baluchis of Upper Sind.

##### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

F. G. Pratt, Esq., Collector.

The relations between landlord and tenant are generally harmonious. It is in fact the zamindar's interest to treat his haris well, for a decent hari would never find it difficult to find another master. It may be of interest to record here that while rents are mostly taken in kind under the crop-share system, the cash rent is usually found to prevail, wherever, owing to the poverty of the soil or of the water-supply, the hari has to be tempted by easy terms. Wherever I have made inquiries in the district, I have always found that the cash-rent system is supposed to be to the advantage of the tenant, not of the landlord.

Hamid A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations between superior and inferior holders in jagir as in rayati lands have been on the whole satisfactory. There is a distinct improvement of the situation in the zamindari of Mir Ali Akbar Khan Talpur where in the previous year the dispute between the Mir and his haris had become very acute. The question is as to who is zamindar in the land, which used to be jagir and has recently lapsed to Government. As it includes seven whole dehs comprising about 20,000 acres, the matter is of great importance. The revenue authorities have decided in favour of the Mir and assistance under section 86 of Land Revenue Code is being regularly given to him. The haris, about 800 in number, had recourse to a civil suit, but the suit has been dropped on the Court deciding that each hari must sue separately and over 250 of the men have appointed Mr. Mahomad Yusuf, brother of the late Sardar Muhammad Yakub, arbitrator in the dispute and more are coming to terms. An award is ready,

I understand, which, while sparing the Mir the continual worry and trouble of a long-drawn dispute, will make the conditions of tenancy very light for the haris and give them practically the status which Maurusi haris have in jagirs.

LÁRKÁNA DISTRICT.

C. M. Baker, Esq., Collector.

Zamindars complain a good deal about the independence of their haris, caused by the great demand for labour. A hari, who knows he can earn Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month at a neighbouring rice-mill whenever he likes, is naturally independent. But I do not think the haris as a whole have the upper hand. They are averse to change and those who cultivate really good land are very unwilling to leave it. It is on new and inferior lands that the zamindars have difficulty in finding and keeping tenants.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Ferrers notes under this head:—

“Relations of revenue and rent paying classes continue much as before. Cash rentals are commoner here than elsewhere in Sind perhaps: the contracts not being written seem to have a certain vagueness as regards duration, *e.g.*, certain rahaks complained to me that their zamindar had raised their rents, and asked that he should be compelled to give them land on the same terms as before. The duration of these contracts would become of consequence in case the proposal for compulsory registration became law. Zamindars, of course, allege that the agreement is for one crop only, and that they change rahaks from field to field at their option. Rahaks would like to make out that they are entitled to continue to cultivate the same land so long as they pay the stipulated rental. As elsewhere in Sind, haris are under little control, especially Hindus' haris. In one case, haris were caught preparing a Mafi number for inspection by uprooting (not reaping) and carrying off plants.”

### VIII.—General Remarks and Conclusion.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

KARÁCHI DISTRICT.

The question of a Resident Magistrate for Tatta is under separate consideration, as also is the very much larger question of relieving the Collector of Karáchi of the Shahbandar sub-division.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

A scheme for the removal of the congestion of the town of Hyderabad is practically ready, but the municipal funds do not permit of its being taken in hand at once. On the Collector's suggestion, the Commissioner has recently asked Government whether they would consider an application for funds on the ground that a scheme of this kind is a sanitary measure of the first importance. The Commissioner has personally inspected, with the greatest interest, the admirable work already carried out at and in the vicinity of Hyderabad under Mr. Pratt's direction with the limited resources at present at his disposal.

THAR AND PÁRKAR DISTRICT.

The question of the dual control of the Jamrao tract has been disposed of, *vide* Government Resolution No. 11008, dated the 11th November 1907. The Deputy Collector, Nara Valley's remarks regarding the transfer of Income Tax and Civil work to the Colonization Officer should not have found a place in an administration report. The Commissioner has already considered the desirability of transferring the Income Tax work to the Colonization Officer.

*Reports.*

Commissioners' Land Revenue Administration Report, Part II, and Collectors' and Sub-Divisional Officers' Administration Reports for 1906-07.

No. 9542.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 19th September 1908.

Letter from the Commissioner, S. D., No. S. R.-7, dated 11th November 1907.	} Submitting the Land Revenue Administration Report, Part II, of their respective charges for the year 1906-07, together with the Collectors' and Sub-Divisional Officers' Administration Reports for that year.
Letter from the Commissioner, C. D., No. V.R.-88, dated 13th January 1908.	
Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 1817, dated 7th April 1908.	
Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 1735, dated 26th May 1908.	

RESOLUTION.—The season 1906-07 was, on the whole, favourable to agricultural operations. In Gujarát, the initial stages of the monsoon gave promise of bumper crops; and although the later rains did not fulfil expectations, the out-turn was well up to the average. The Konkan also experienced a normal season. In the Deccan and Karnátak, a good beginning was followed by a deficiency of later showers, which was not without ill-effects upon the rabi crops. These were, however, largely counterbalanced by a considerable extension of kharif cultivation; while the high prices obtained for cotton in several districts tended in the same direction. There was an exceptionally favourable inundation in Sind, and although floods and locusts caused some damage, the year can fairly be described as good.

2. With the recurrence of an average season, it is desirable to note the extent to which agriculturists show signs of a return to pre-famine conditions. To begin at the bottom of the scale, the state of the labouring classes has materially improved. Perhaps the most striking economic feature of the day is the change in the position of labour. Plague and famine have reduced numbers, and stimulated emigration to centres of demand. Wages have risen and are still rising over the greater part of the Presidency. The Northern Konkan is the only marked exception, and there too the close proximity of Bombay can hardly fail shortly to produce its effect. At present, it is true, the increase of wages is partially counterbalanced by a rise in prices. The significance of this fact is discussed below; but, whether it be permanent or temporary, it can produce little ultimate effect on the remuneration of labour. The labourer's position is daily increasing in strength. The industrial movement is as yet only in its infancy. With its development, it will make ever-growing demands on the supply of labour; and the latter will be able to claim its full share of the resulting increase of prosperity.

3. The extent to which this tendency will affect agriculture, is a problem of the future. Signs of its influence are already apparent. Sind is becoming increasingly dependent on immigrants from Cutch and Márwár, driven from their native places by local scarcity. In the past season, a return of prosperity kept many of these persons at home, and this fact, coupled with the ravages of malarial fever among the Sindhis, produced a very serious shortage. Indeed, through a great part of the province, labourers are reported able to make with their employers what terms they will. A similar scarcity is already being felt in Gujarát. Yet mills are still rising in numbers in Ahmedabad; and mining enterprises in the Panch Maháls are only now beginning to develop. All these will make further demands on the supply. How the deficiency will be met, it is hard to foresee. It is suggested that the Pátidárs of Kaira will find it necessary to return to the ways of their ancestors and labour personally in their fields: but it is significantly reported that they are beginning to employ their surplus capital in industrial enterprises, and this points to a probable reduction in the size of holdings. In the Broach district, a great part of the money-lending business is already in the hands of cultivators.

The introduction, on a considerable scale, of labour-saving machinery seems to present one solution of the difficulty; and it is interesting to note that experiments of this kind are being made in various parts of the Presidency. It seems probable, however, that material progress in this direction will become possible only with the multiplication and development of Co-operative Societies.

4. In the condition of the rent-paying classes little change is reported. No great improvement could be expected. Tenants have gone through the stress of the lean years, and, in many cases, have received no relief in the shape of remissions of rent. This is particularly true of inámdárs' tenants. In one district of the Southern Division, an inámdár is reported still to retain on his books arrears dating back to 1862; and the Poona and Sátára districts show an equally unsatisfactory state of affairs. There are, fortunately, some signs of improvement in this respect. Commissions are being granted to inámdárs on condition of allowing to their tenants the same remissions and suspensions as are conceded in Government villages. Moreover, the tenants are drawn largely from the same class which supplies the labour market; and the improvement in the remuneration of labour is bound to re-act on the conditions of tenancy. Prosperous in the one sphere, they will be able to command better treatment in the other. If, as is possible, the shortage of labour leads to a contraction of large and a multiplication of small holdings, tenants will be unobtainable without the grant of liberal terms.

5. It is difficult to gauge the exact condition of the land-holding class. In the Deccan they are reported to have shown most unexpected powers of recuperation.

In Gujarát, some measure of recovery is suggested by signs of a revival of credit. Many of the Patidárs of Ahmedabad are able to borrow money at the original rates of from six to twelve per cent. a year. Moreover, the better classes throughout the Northern Division have shown signs of the old disinclination to accept tagávi. There is everywhere a diminution of the amount distributed, except only among the wilder tribes of Thána and the Panch Maháls.

There can be no doubt however that, except in the coast districts and certain favoured portions of the Karnáta, the cultivator requires special consideration and lenient treatment. The scarcity of agricultural labour must cause him difficulty, and a still greater difficulty arises from the shortage of cattle, immense numbers of which succumbed in the famines. The succession of lean years has been of unprecedented duration and an, at least, equally long succession of normal seasons is required to set him completely on his legs again.

Some apprehension has been felt as to the possible effect upon agricultural credit of the non-alienable tenure and the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. The latter has only recently been introduced into many parts of the Presidency, and Collectors are consequently unable to report its precise effects. It is, however, satisfactory to note that though some check has been set upon transfers of land, there are no indications of any evil effect upon agricultural operations. Grants of land on the restricted tenure have proceeded apace both among Mahomedans in Sind and among the less thrifty peoples of the Presidency proper. The tenure is reported from several directions to be gaining in popularity, while in Khándesh land so given out commands a substantial occupancy price. It is unlikely that either Act or tenure will seriously injure credit. The more capable cultivators will continue to hold land on the old terms. They can already borrow money at reasonable rates, and the sávkár as a rule has no desire for actual possession of their fields. In the case of the backward classes, some limitation of the power of borrowing is bound to arise. Provided that their agricultural operations are not hampered, this result is eminently satisfactory. Formerly, it is true, they could borrow money with more freedom; but the poverty of their security led to the exaction of exorbitant rates of interest. Under present conditions, while the grant of tagávi may be expected to provide for the most pressing agricultural needs, the reckless incurring of debt for other purposes has received a check. In time, it is hoped, Co-operative Credit Societies will be in a position to advance funds for all other reasonable expenditure.

6. Another sign of recovery is to be found in the greater ease with which the dues of Government have been collected. Tagávi collections are still difficult, but this is not surprising, considering the wide and somewhat indiscriminate grants that were made during the years of scarcity. Where arrears are heavy, careful inquiries

are now being conducted into the circumstances of each loan, with a view to its remission, if really irrecoverable, and to the supplementing of the original advances, where such a course will prove profitable. The realisation of inámdárs' dues has not been entirely satisfactory. Owing to the reluctance of the superior holders to write off old arrears, a very heavy burden of collection work has been thrown on the shoulders of taluka officials. The difficulties have been increased by the strained relations between inámdárs and their tenants, which still exist in a great part of the Central and Southern Divisions. But, as noted above, there is some prospect of improvement in this respect.

7. Liberal grants of tagávi have been necessary during the year, owing partly to the damage done by floods in Sind, and partly to the ravages of rinderpest in the Presidency proper. Cattle were attacked by this disease in all three divisions, with grave results to a stock already thinned by a series of bad years. Veterinary officers laboured hard to stamp out the epidemic, and inoculation in many cases produced excellent effects. The people in general were far more ready to submit their cattle to this measure than to undergo a similar operation in their own persons for the prevention of plague. Plague was present in more or less severe form throughout the Presidency proper, and was particularly virulent in the Kaira, Poona and Sátára districts. Sind appears to have been free from its onslaughts, but heavy floods caused throughout the province a serious outbreak of malarial fever, from which agriculture suffered considerably. There was more than average mortality from the same disease in Kánara and Dhárwár.

8. An outstanding feature of the year has been the high price of food stuffs. This has been noticeable everywhere except in Sind. Several officers suggest local causes for the rise in prices, but in view of its universal character it seems probable that some more general economic reason is to be sought. The matter has been, for some time, engaging the attention of Government, and is a subject of peculiar difficulty. Such minor factors as the enormous increase in the cost of "ghi," which has rendered it in many parts of the Presidency a luxury, where it was formerly regarded as a necessary, of the lower classes, are susceptible of ready explanation. The heavy mortality among milch cattle, due first to famine and then to rinderpest, fully accounts for the phenomenon. The causes of the general rise are, however, more involved, and it is as yet too early to make any definite pronouncement on the subject.

9. In the matter of education, the year presents no striking features. Slow progress is being made, but cultivators, as a rule, still show little anxiety to educate their children. While very young, infants are often allowed to attend school, largely with a view to keeping them out of mischief; but as soon as they reach an age at which they can be useful in the fields, their instruction is brought to an abrupt close. The present value of labour is calculated to increase this tendency. In certain districts, attempts have been made so to fix school hours as to make attendance not incompatible with assistance in field operations. Varying measures of success have resulted, and it seems not improbable that the ultimate solution of the difficulty lies in this direction. In Sind, education makes comparatively slow progress among Mahomedans. Many of the Mullas' schools continue to flourish, and in view of the desirability of combining religious with secular instruction, and the favour which this course finds in Mahomedan eyes, it is possible that these institutions will, under adequate supervision, play a great part in the intellectual development of the province. Special efforts continue to be made for the education of backward classes, and the training of teachers from among the communities concerned is a measure which promises well for future success.

10. A review of the year would not be complete without a reference to the advance made by industrial enterprise. Mills are rapidly multiplying in Ahmedabad. Sind has seen an increase in the number of factories which deal with cotton, rice and wheat. Cotton gins and presses are being erected in the Central and Northern Divisions. Other concerns worthy of special mention are a match factory, started in Sholápur, and several ambitious enterprises in Kánara. Belgaum is making special efforts on behalf of the hand-loom industry, with excellent effects on the trade, which has also undergone a revival in Bijápur and parts of the Deccan. Mineral investigations have also been active. Manganese in the Panch Maháls and gold in Dhárwár now employ a considerable body of labour, and inquiries are being vigorously prosecuted by prospectors in all districts but one of the Southern Division.

Any marked degree of success cannot fail further to complicate the labour problem, which has been discussed in an earlier paragraph.

11. To sum up, the year has been on the whole a good one for agriculturists, the majority of whom, though still far from the degree of prosperity which they enjoyed previously to the famine, have paid the dues of Government without difficulty and have lived in comparative comfort. Labour has taken a further step along the path of independence. Education continues to make way but slowly among the cultivating classes, and there is unfortunately no ground for hope that the rate of progress will materially quicken in the near future. At the same time, there is no reason for despair in the matter, as it is at least possible that the continued development of economic migration will induce in the lower classes an appreciation of the value of the school-master. Prices have ruled high, to the undoubted advantage of those agriculturists who had surplus produce to dispose of, and the number must have been considerable. Industrial enterprise is rapidly expanding and begins to attract the attention of the cultivating classes. On the whole, the year was one of recovery, requiring nothing more than a succession of similar years to induce prosperity. Unfortunately, the year 1907-08 has brought a set back, which, however, the prospects of the present monsoon afford ground for hoping, will be no more than temporary.

J. E. C. JUKES,

Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind,  
 The Commissioner, N. D.,  
 The Commissioner, C. D.,  
 The Commissioner, S. D.,  
 All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind,  
 The Colonization Officer, Jāmraō Canal,  
 The Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records,  
 The Director of Agriculture,  
 The Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies,  
 The Manager, Incumb-red Estates in Sind,  
 The Director of Public Instruction,  
 The Accountant General,  
 The Educational Department of the Secretariat,  
 The General Department of the Secretariat,  
 The Political Department of the Secretariat,  
 The Judicial 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.