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THE

} July & October.

} 1896.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

OF THE

POONA SARVAJANIK SABHA.

EDITED BY

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THE POONA SARVAJANIK SABHA.

Established on the 1st of Chaitra Shake 1792 i. e., 2nd April 1870
for representing the wants and wishes of the inhabitants of
the Deccan, being appointed on a popular elective
system under rules framed for the purpose.

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THE QUARTER.

With the present issue the journal enters upon its nineteenth year. It has now attained Retrospect. the age of majority, and it is quite in the fitness of things that it should henceforward take a more prominent part in the political battle of our country. The birth of this journal took place at a critical time. Lord Lytton's regime was a period of transition from the benevolent despotism of old to the unfortunate policy of distrust and discouragement that has with rare exceptions come to prevail since then. The shock of the mutiny had been almost forgotten, and the administration of the country had been so far settled on a firm footing as to make another convulsion of the kind next to impossible. The ideas of the rulers and the ruled began to change, and their mutual relations proportionately straitened. The race of noble-minded sympathetic Viceroys, like Lord Lawrence, Lord Mayo and Lord Northbrooke, was succeeded by a satrap who was a typical bureaucrat and an imperialist to the core. The Imperial assemblage at Delhi which opened the year 1877 was the crowning piece of Lord Lytton's Viceroyalty. But it was not a mere *tamasha*. It heralded in fact a policy which, whether, good or bad, was ultimately to change the whole political atmosphere of the country during the next two decades. The task of restoring peace and order throughout

the country was well-nigh complete ; and the work of consolidating and extending the empire was undertaken by statesmen whose constant aim henceforward was to centralize all power in the hands of a small coterie at the head-quarters, and reduce the work of administration to mere routine as far as possible. A corresponding change was also observable in the attitude and sentiments of the people. The great *tamishá* of Delhi gave birth to ideas quite unexpected by those who organised it. The unification of the empire under one head brought about a corresponding unification of public opinion throughout India. The representative men who assembled at Delhi were impressed with the notion that they were fellow-citizens of one empire and must work jointly for the common political amelioration of their country. Lord Lytton, whatever his merits or demerits might be, did one great service to this country, namely, that in declaring an Indian Empire he created an Indian Nation in the most real sense of the word. At first the feeling was dormant, but an opportunity was soon provided for it to gain strength and manifest itself openly. The dire famine prevailing at that time stirred the heart of the whole country to its depth. The spectacle of a starving population roused both the rulers and the ruled from their habitual lethargy and indifference. It dispelled their false sense of security by discovering a new danger more terrible than a foreign invasion or a mutiny. The famine had its lessons both for the Government and the people, and the necessity of co-operating with each other for stamping out the common enemy was vividly impressed upon the mind of both. The need of an organ that would voice the popular opinion and at the same time command respectful attention from the authorities was strongly felt at the time, and this journal came into living to supply the want. The enthusiasm with which it was hailed in the beginning and its successful career for eighteen years afterwards have more than realised the expectations of those who started it.

Eighteen years have passed since that time, and these eighteen years have brought about some remarkable changes. Not only has the nation advanced socially, morally and politically, but the whole society has been passing through a revolution fraught with momentous results. An entirely new set of questions has arisen demanding novel methods and special aptitudes to solve them, while of those that agitated the popular mind in 1878, some have assumed a different aspect while others have sunk into comparative insignificance. Public opinion, which was then in its infancy, has now attained a certain power and volume, so as to make itself felt occasionally. The growth of this public opinion, at least in the Deccan, has been almost contemporaneous with the progress of this journal, and its conductors may without boast claim to have materially assisted it. Conditions, however, are now changed, and the altered circumstances demand a corresponding change in our methods. We must discard the swaddling clothes of our infancy and assume a garb fitting to the age of manhood. We must justify our existence by keeping abreast of the times, and by discharging the new duties that continually devolve upon us. Eighteen years ago ours was almost a solitary voice in the Deccan, where now there is a full chorus of ably-conducted English and vernacular newspapers. Our task is not, however, lightened, but rather increases with the growing number and intricacy of the questions demanding our attention. There is ample field for work, although the character of that work may vary with the necessities of the times. Let us hope that our efforts will meet with due response and encouragement.

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The most important event so far as this journal is concerned is Prof. Gokhale's relinquishment of its charge. He had been connected with it for nearly seven years, and no small part of its success during that time is due to the zeal and

energy which he always throws into his work. Latterly his multifarious engagements prevented him from devoting as much attention to the journal as was absolutely necessary or as he himself wished to do ; and the same want of time compelled him at last to sever his connection with it finally some time ago. Had he consulted his own inclinations or the wishes of his readers, he would have surely continued to act as Editor of this journal ; but duty to the institution with which he is permanently connected was paramount, and the Committee of the Sabha had, therefore, no choice but to accept his resignation with the greatest regret. The public are of course the best judge of the merits of Mr. Gokhale's work, but we cannot allow this opportunity to pass without recording our high appreciation of the services he, unselfishly, rendered to this Journal, and the great loss it has sustained in his resignation. It must be a matter of deep regret to all that circumstances should have compelled Mr. Gokhale to relinquish a task which was a labour of love with him and which by nature he was so well fitted to perform. We have, however, the consolation to know that what has been a loss to the journal and the Sarvajanic Sabha will be a distinct gain to the Fergusson College. Prof. Gokhale will now be able to devote his undivided attention to the work to which he has dedicated his life ; and the readers of this journal will, we hope, feel compensated by the services he might render to the cause of higher education.

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* *

Her Majesty Queen Victoria completed the sixtieth year of her reign on the 23rd of September.

The Queen's Day. She has now the distinction of having sat the longest time on the throne of England. George III reigned nominally for 60 years ; but for the last 12 years he was a lunatic and his son exercised his powers as Prince Regent. Queen Victoria on the other hand has retained all the freshness of her mental powers, in spite of her advanced age and the heavy sorrows she has had to

endure in her domestic and public life. Old age has its penalties and the Queen-Empress has not been free from them. She has outlived most of her ministers, and only two men who sat in her first Parliament are alive this day, namely Mr. Gladstone and Sir G. Villiers. The sense of loneliness which afflicts even ordinary persons when companions of their youth have fallen off before their eyes, must come with the greater force upon one seated upon the high pinnacle of the throne; but Her Majesty bears her misfortunes with remarkable patience and fortitude. She is the type of a constitutional monarch, and what is more she is a model woman. Her name is greeted every where with the deepest feelings of admiration and reverence, not because she is the Queen of England or the ruler over the most extensive empire, but because she is a living embodiment of saintliness and moral purity. She has exerted all her influence to purify the British Court of the the profligacy and vulgarity that prevailed under the Georges, and her efforts have thereby tended to raise the whole tone of English society. It is her personality that now unites the many centrifugal elements in the empire in one bond of loyalty, and so long as she reigns there ought to be no fear of any internal commotion. Queen Victoria had the misfortune to be placed at once on the highest rung of the social ladder, but even there she has exhibited qualities that would have distinguished her in the humblest walks of life. Wealth or power could not demoralise her. Can any woman achieve a greater distinction than this? Queen Victoria is an example to the womanhood and not only of England but of the whole world. May her last days pass in happiness and tranquillity!

* * *

Our pleasure of sharing in the joy of Her Majesty's long reign is however marred by gloomy prospects in the country. Heavier calamities at home distract our attention. The spectre of famine is staring us in the face, and will hardly allow us to waste our money on useless gaities or expensive ceremonies. The outlook is very serious and unless precautionary measures are taken at an early date, the experiences of 1877 may, it is feared, be repeated during the next year. The season reports for the week ending 29th September are most discouraging. With the exception of Sindh, Broach and a portion of Kathiawar crops are withering for want of rain throughout the pre-

sidency. Fodder is scarce in four and prices are rising to 20 and even 30 per cent. in eleven districts. Plagues, locusts and trading conspiracies which usually follow bad weather are disturbing men's minds considerably. Unless the rabi crops prove unusually plentiful famine is now almost certain and it is the duty of Government to be prepared for it in time. The present famine, moreover, unlike that of 1877 threatens to prevail over the greater part of India. Except in Burma and the Southern districts of the Madras presidency, agricultural prospects are in a bad condition, and unless the Government adopt some heroic remedies, the distress of the people will be simply heart-rending. Leading men in all districts must also co-operate with the Government by starting relief funds, procuring grain, and above all by watching the operation of the Famine Code wherever it might be enforced. The insufficiency of grain in the country must be made up by ordering supplies from America and Russia, and Government of India must be asked to allot liberal grants for the purpose from the Famine Insurance Fund. Local Boards and Municipalities must also assist by making contributions and starting local relief works. We have no wish to overdraw the picture and we still hope that the prospects will yet improve. But the sky is overcast and we cannot shut our eyes to the gravity of the situation.

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Neither the Imperial nor the Local Legislature showed much activity during the past season. Legislation in Bombay. The only measure which provoked any criticism was the Karachi Port Trust Act Amendment Bill which was ultimately withdrawn. The interpellations were as numerous and varied as before, and the official replies were as unsatisfactory as usual. The Budget discussion, which took place on the 17th of August, fully maintained its character of a stale academical debate, although some valuable suggestions were made by non-official members in regard to the proposed revision of the Provincial Contract. The Hon'ble Mr. Nugent promised to take them into his consideration, and it is to be seen how far he succeeds in inducing the Government of India to accept any of them. The withdrawal of the University grant evoked much harsh criticism, while some other minor items also came in for their share. The Budget was in no sense a heroic one. It balanced the income and expenditure fairly enough, and showed only

one unusual feature, namely the large amount of building grants under the head of education. H. E. Lord Sandhurst seems to have been deeply impressed with the necessity of providing for a better housing of our primary and secondary schools, and it is to be hoped that he will bring about this reform before he completes his tenure. A remarkable and encouraging feature of the Budget meeting was the extreme cordiality that prevailed between the official and no-official members. The Hon'ble Mr. Nugent fully atoned for his last year's banter, while H. E. the Governor was very flattering in his references to the acumen, ability and industry of the honourable members. The only other important work done by the Council was the revision of rules for the conduct of business of the Council. The draft rules which were considered at a meeting of the Council held on 26th February and amended on the 18th of August came into force from the 1st of September. These rules are a distinct improvement upon the previous ones and will facilitate the business considerably. It is gratifying to see that several suggestions made by non-official members have been accepted. This is especially noticeable in rule 17 which now obviates the difficulty about giving notice of amendments before the agenda paper was sent to the members, by providing that a preliminary list of business shall be sent to each member at least fifteen clear days before each meeting, and that the complete agenda paper be despatched as soon as possible afterwards. It was desirable that these rules should have contained some provision for the annual Financial Statement being presented to Council before a certain date each year. A rule that a meeting of the Council shall be held at least once in two months would also have been useful by preventing an undue prolongation of the interval as was sometimes the case in the late regime. H. E. Lord Sandhurst is however setting a good example in this respect, and we may hope that when he leaves office the practice of holding frequent meetings of the Council will be so far settled as to make it difficult for any of his successors to override it.

The last session of the British Parliament was a memorable one in many respects, but nothing India in Parliament was so remarkable as the unusual interest that was manifested in Indian affairs towards its close. Rarely do we find that an Indian

question becomes the party battle-field in the House of Commons, but such was practically the case with Lord Hamilton's proposition to charge the Soudan expenses on the Indian revenues. The proposal came from the present Conservative ministry, and Mr. Morley's amendment was the protest made by the Opposition against such a glaring jobbery. A few conscientious Conservatives who condemned the action of the ministry on grounds of justice and decency also opposed the proposal, but the majority of them sheepishly followed the Government to whom they had vowed implicit obedience. It having ultimately become a question of confidence in the ministry, the proposal was, of course, carried, but not without two definite and valuable pledges made by the Secretary of State for India, that the Soudan expenses were to be charged on India only till December and that no similar proposal would be brought forward in future. This is somewhat like the plea of a culprit who tries to palliate his offence by promising that he won't do it again; but that was a great gain after all, and we must be glad for it. The occasion was a moral victory in another sense also, because it awakened, as is rarely the case, the moral conscience of the British public towards India. Even the *Globe*, one of the foremost Conservative papers, wrote at the time, "The present Parliamentary session ought to be favourably recorded by the future historian as that in which the British conscience first began to show uneasiness about 'injustice to India.'" For once the whole Anglo-Indian and almost the whole British press as well as the Government of India joined the Native Indian protests to invoke justice to India. The lesson will no doubt be useful in future, but its immediate effect was not very encouraging. The British interest in India soon resumed its usual low level, and the farce of reading the annual Budget had as in former years to be gone through before empty benches. Sir William Wedderburn's proposal to appoint a Select Committee of the House every year to examine and report on the East India accounts was negatived by a majority of 80. The session was thus wound up in the usual way, and India again receded into the back-ground.

The reorganization of the Educational Department is only a part of the general scheme of the Provincial Service. A Notification of the Government of India describing the general features of this reorganization scheme was published towards the end of July, and more specific rules are now under preparation by the various local Governments. According to this new scheme the Educational Department will, in future, be divided broadly into, (a) the Superior Service, and (b) the Subordinate Service. - The former will consist of two branches, one including all posts to be filled by persons appointed in England and called the 'Indian Educational Service,' and the other including all posts to be filled by recruitment in India and called 'the Provincial Educational Service.' Generally all Professors, Inspectors, Joint and Assistant Inspectors and Head Masters of District Schools and other offices carrying pay over Rs. 200 are included in the Provincial Service and a certain proportion of these are reserved to be filled up by appointments in England. The rest of the Provincial service as well as the whole of the Subordinate service are to be recruited in India. It is difficult to pronounce any definite opinion on the merits of this scheme before the special rules required to bring it in operation are framed by the local Governments; but judging from its general features the reorganization must be regarded as highly disappointing. Its merit lies in the precision with which it distinguishes the rights of the Europeans from those of the Native Officers. The sting of the scorpion, they say, is in its tail; and so the gist of this reorganization is contained in Appendix A which allots the greater portion of the fattest appointments in the Department to men recruited in England. Surely the Civil Service Commission when they recommended the constitution of the Provincial Service did not wish that the legitimate expectations of the people should be frustrated in this way. Government have also done a great injustice to many officers of the Department such as the Deputy Inspectors and Head masters of High Schools by excluding them from the Provincial Service. We hope the Local Governments will do their best to soften the rigour of the general scheme.

The Educational Conference which was held in Poona at the end of September under the Presidentship of the Hon. Mr. T. B. Kirkham may be said to be the first of its kind, although the Government Resolution directing its holding speaks of it as a revival only. The Resolution in question, dated 23rd June 1896, reminds the Head of the Educational Department of the recommendation 2 in Chapter III of the Report of the Education Commission and the remarks of the Government of India thereon, in their Resolution No. 10-309 of 23rd October 1884, and requests him to arrange for the regular holding of Conferences of official and non-official educationists. The Director is also asked to notice the work of the Conferences in future in his annual Administration Reports. The credit of drawing the attention of Government to this matter belongs to the Hon. Mr. Setalwad, and H. E. Lord Sandhurst must be thanked for having taken it up so readily. The first Conference was accordingly held in Poona and was an undoubted success so far as it went. Several papers were read and the discussion elicited many useful hints from experienced educationists. There is no doubt much room for improvement in the present system of primary and secondary education and we hope that those responsible for its arrangement will profit by the many suggestions made this year. There must be some rule as to who were to take part in these Conferences. A system of voting and passing resolutions should also be adopted in order to give a little more liveliness to the debates, while care must be taken to select only such questions as are urgent and lie within the range of practical politics. The date, the place and the subjects to be brought before the Conference should also be notified to the public a long time previously. This year the University was not properly represented at the Conference, and consequently higher education did not receive the attention one might have expected it to do. The President of the Conference should also be required to formally communicate any resolutions passed by it to Government and a full report of its proceedings should be published as soon as convenient. These and such other reforms are undoubtedly needed to make the Conference really effective; and the Director of Public Instruction will only be carrying out the wishes of the Education Commission in adopting them. We publish an article in this issue summarizing the results of the discussion, and one paper *in extenso* to-

gether with extracts from others. The paper of Mr. G. V. Joshi of Sholapur contains some very valuable suggestions.

* *

Mr. N. V. Mandlik has only discharged a filial duty by publishing in a handy volume the writings and speeches of his late lamented father. We are provided here with nearly eight hundred pages of real solid matter which is cheaply bought for the price asked for it. The volume before us contains only the minor works of Mr. Mandlik, namely his pamphlets, papers and select speeches, and presents a good many specimens of his characteristic thoughts and methods of work. Men like the late Rao Sahib Mandlik, however, do not shine best in their works. It is the life they live, the influence they exercise on their generation and the noble example they set for posterity, that enshrine their memory in the hearts of their countrymen. The short sketch of Mr. Mandlik's life prefixed to the volume is an excellent thing in itself and is specially valuable as a tribute coming from a writer who professes himself to 'belong to the opposite camp'. Mr. D. G. Padiye, the writer of this sketch, is a declared adherent of the social reform party with whom Mr. Mandlik was anything but a *persona grata* during his life time, and his high appreciation of his character is not therefore likely to be mistaken for the partial estimate of an admirer or the cant of hero-worship. Mr. Padiye has tried his best to preserve an impartial and dignified tone, and although a few sentences and expressions here and there might have been omitted with advantage, he has produced a tolerably life-like portrait of his subject. It should also be noticed that except in social matters the biographer is in full sympathy with his hero and does ample justice to his merits. We cannot help reproducing one eloquent passage at the end which furnishes the key as it were to Mr. Mandlik's life. "He had no sectarianism, no narrow-minded bigotry. He had no jealousy, he shrunk not from any competition. He had too grand a character for such weakness. There was something royal in his private life and family arrangements." Mr. Mandlik was a Maratha of the true stamp, and we fully sympathise with the writer of this sketch in deploring the gradual disappearance of men of his type. One cannot help wishing that the sketch had been a little more elaborate. Mr. Mandlik's biography, if properly written, will

be a history of Bombay for 30 years of his life, for he belonged to the band of men who may, without exaggeration, be said to have made Bombay the *Urbs Prima in Indis*. Ample materials, we learn, exist for such a work, and we hope Mr. Mandlik's son will not fail to discharge this sacred duty to the memory of his father.

The report of the eleventh Indian National Congress which assembled at Poona during the Christmas of 1895 has been published just in time to remind us that another session is close at hand.

The Indian National Congress.

The usual introduction is done a little perfunctorily this time, but the detailed report is very carefully edited and thanks are due to the Honorary Secretaries, and especially to Prof. G. K. Gokhale for the manner in which they have performed their task. We hope the Secretaries of the future Congresses will take care to issue their report a little earlier, and also to include in them several matters which one naturally expects to find in them. A detailed summary of the resolutions passed in the previous Congresses will be a valuable appendage to each report. A brief account of the work done by the Reception Committee as well as of the many events which take place in connection with a session of the Congress will also be useful as giving a truer picture of what the Congress really is than a mere report of the more or less studied speeches delivered from the platform. As a matter of fact Congress-life is more truly represented outside than inside the pandal, and no Congress report can therefore be complete without at least a reference to it. An attempt of the kind was if we mistake not made in some reports, and we expected that the editor of the last one would follow the example. We should also like to have a supplementary report by each local Reception Committee of the work they had actually to do with a full statement of the receipts and disbursements. Such reports will be valuable guides to the Working Committees of the future Congresses, and will besides clear up much of the mystery that often hangs upon their work. As to the 12th Congress which is to assemble at Calcutta next Christmas, our Bengali friends, we are glad to see, have already taken the preliminary steps, and the actual work of preparation will be soon full in swing.

A FOREST GRIEVANCE IN THANA.

No branch of the administration is so specious-looking in its theory, and yet so tyrannical in practice as the Forest Department. Its existence is usually justified on the most scientific principles, and yet the experience of its working for the last forty years has shown that it can be made the most oppressive to the people in whose interests it is chiefly created. Forest conservancy is ostensibly introduced for the benefit of the general body of the people ; and yet it presses so heavily on each section of that body that it is hard to know whence does the benefit of the whole come from, and how far it will compensate for the total momentum of the oppression in isolated cases. Not content with appropriating thousands of private holdings by including them in state forests, the Department is continually encroaching upon the rights of the people, most of which are absolutely necessary for their subsistence or for the beneficial enjoyment of their property. Nowhere do we have such glaring instances of the mischief that is usually caused by one-sided administration. Faddists and specialists when armed with sufficient power will always press their hobbies with an utter disregard of the other interests that may be injured by their proceedings. The whole history of the Forest Department is a continuous struggle between official advocates of forest conservancy and the people whose rights and privileges were from time to time endangered by their measures. No other Department is so difficult to control or so hard to appease. Government have often tried to effect a compromise between its demands and the just rights of the people, but their efforts have hitherto failed. The Forest Commission of 1885 did its work most conscientiously and made certain recommendations intended to make a final settlement of this question, but they have mostly remained on paper. Then the Government of India issued their celebrated resolution in 1894 laying down in broad terms the principles which should guide the Forest ad-

ministration in this country. Nothing can be more humane than the principles as enunciated in this Resolution ; and yet are they observed in practice ? Without answering this broad question, we shall consider here the latest instance of the Forest tyranny, which is typical of the general policy of the Department, and in which the spirit of the Resolution, if not its wording, has been most flagrantly violated. We refer to the recent withdrawal of the firewood privileges in Thana district.

The Notification announcing this withdrawal is dated 22nd July 1896 and bears the Collector's signature. It is in Marathi and may be translated thus :—

NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified to all that, village officers shall inform the people within their jurisdiction of the contents of the Notification.

Government had hitherto granted two privileges in the Reserved Forests, viz :—

1. That for the wild tribes to collect and sell dead firewood in forests ;
2. That for any other person to obtain firewood on paying a fee and obtaining a permit.

It is now brought to the notice of the Government that the said privileges are abused and that the State forests thereby suffer and are suffering loss. Besides, the *coupe* system having come into operation after those privileges were granted the difficulty of getting fuel for consumption that was felt a little till then, has now been entirely removed. And as labourers are required on the *coupe* operations, the men of the wild tribes have now an opportunity of getting their livelihood by labour. Hence Government has now resolved to withdraw both the above privileges. All are therefore informed by this Notification that the said privileges will be stopped from the 1st of September 1896, and that no permit will be given on payment of a fee to take away fuel. If after this date anybody is found to obtain loads of firewood from forests, he will be prose-

cuted according to law (A person who commits this offence is liable in law to a punishment of maximum imprisonment for six months, or a fine of Rs. 500 or both.)

A condition is made in the terms for cutting the *coupe* to allow the villagers to carry away free all sapling and wood of less than six inches diameter. Villagers should accordingly collect fuel in the *coupes* for home consumption.

THANA, }
22nd July 1896.

R. E. CANDY,
Collector, Thana District.

It is rather difficult to make any sense out of this and the concluding paragraph apparently contradicts the rest of it. The notification purports to withdraw two privileges hitherto enjoyed by the people of Thana, namely the free cutting of dead wood by wild tribes from open forests for purposes of sale, and the permission to others to take away firewood on paying a fee and obtaining a permit. The language of this notification is so vague that even the Collector himself saw the necessity of issuing a supplementary one on the 21st of September clearing up the ambiguity of the first, and expressly granting permission to the inhabitants of forest villages situated in any block to cut and take away firewood from the open forests of that block *for home consumption*.

Much consternation has been caused by these notifications among the population of the district, and among the wild tribes especially whose sole means of livelihood during many months of the year consists in fetching headloads and cartloads of dead fire-wood from forests and selling them in large villages and towns of the district. A brisk trade is thus carried on for eight months, which furnishes occupation for thousands of Katkaris, Warlis, Thakurs and other poorer classes of the population. In the town of Bhinvadi alone for instance something like four hundred headloads are sold every morning enabling as many men and women every day to purchase grain and other necessities of life with the money. Each headload takes upon an average three days of a man to fetch and sell it,

while a cartload often means the labour of a week besides the incidental expenses. Bhinvadi alone thus supports between 1500 and 2000 adults with their families. Other towns of the district such as Kalyan, Shahapur, Bassein and Dahannu as well as even small villages possess similar markets, all of which will now have to be closed on account of this notification. The total number of families thus thrown out of employment and out of livelihood cannot be exactly known, but that it must be very large can be easily inferred from the fact that most of the wild tribes mentioned above are solely dependent on this trade for their maintenance. But it is not they alone who will suffer. The villagers who could get their fuel cheap will now have to purchase it at high prices, while the forest subordinates will now have another handle to torment innocent people. No wonder therefore that the greatest excitement prevails throughout the district, and that the people of each taluka held mass meetings and memorialized the Government to have the obnoxious notification withdrawn. The strongest reasons alone can justify a step which is thus likely to harm one of the poorest classes of the people.

Before entering into the pros and cons of this question it will be useful to go over its former history so as to get a clear conception of the value of this privilege as well as the hardship its withdrawal is likely to inflict. The privilege of collecting firewood for sale is confined to Thana and portions of Kolaba and Khandesh adjoining it, on account of the peculiar situation of this part of the country. It was studded over with dense jungle before it came into the possession of the British, and the lower population mostly consisted in forest tribes such as Bhils, Katkaris, Varlis, and Thakurs, whose abject poverty and nomadic way of life unfitted them for agriculture. Hunting, gathering minor forest produce, extracting catechu and selling fuel constituted their chief occupations, while the *Kumri* cultivation was also resorted to by better classes among them. With the introduction of forest conservancy into the district began an effort to restrict their liberties by taking away their occupa-

tions one after another. Forest survey closed most of the tract in which they had been hitherto accustomed to roam against them as Reserved or Protected forests. *Kumri* cultivation was prohibited as ruinous and the better class of timber was protected as state property to be sold for the benefit of the general revenue. The only things left to them were the right to take away *rab* inferior fuel and some minor forest produce which had no commercial value. These were conceded as privileges, but not for ever. A struggle then ensued between the forest officials and the people of the district on account of these privileges, insignificant as they were and barely sufficed the people to eke out their livelihood. The forest officers contended that they furnished the people a pretext to enter the forests and do injury to them by eluding the forest inspectors. So long ago as 1863 the Committee of revenue and forest officers appointed to inquire and report about the rights in the Thana forests (*Vide* Government Resolution No. 4064 of 1863) stated that there were no private rights in forests, but recommended certain permissive privileges to be continued subject to regulations. The Committee in their report said :—

“ The time in their opinion has arrived when the cultivating classes, who have profited so much from the recent rise in the price of agricultural produce of all kinds, coupled with the light assessment which have become general under the Survey Settlements, may justly be required to provide the wood for their farming implements and for their houses also ”. (Forest Commission Report, Volume II, page 361).

Repeated attempts were made since that time to curtail these remnants of former privileges, and the people of Thana have had practically no respite during the last quarter of a century. The right to cut firewood for sale has had the hardest struggle for existence. It was absolutely denied by the forest authorities who however admitted though most reluctantly the right of agriculturists to get wood for domestic and agricultural purposes. Various proposals were made from time to time to square this small concession with a strict en-

forcement of forest conservancy in other respects, but all of them were found to be unworkable. The question of firewood thus remained unsettled till 1885, when it was expressly referred to the Forest Commission appointed in that year. Forest authorities denied the right of the wild tribes to take away firewood *for sale*, but the Government hesitated to stop it at once as the question of depriving a large population of the poorest kind of their chief means of livelihood was too serious to be solved in a summary way. Government therefore referred the following three questions to the consideration of the Forest Commission :—

- (1) Are the wild tribes sufficiently paid for forest produce collected by them ?
- (2) Are they as much employed as they might be by the Forest Department ?
- (3) In short is every effort made to enlist their sympathies and identify their interests, with those of the Forest Department ?

Besides these, questions were also submitted as regards the domestic agricultural and household wants of the villagers. The Commission had thus an opportunity to go into the whole question very fully, and made certain recommendations which though not entirely favourable to the people were loyally accepted by them as a fair compromise. The forest authorities were deady opposed to most of these recommendations as may be seen from the dissenting Minute of Mr. R. C. Wroughton, Deputy Conservator of Forests. An important change took place subsequently in the forests of the Thana district, namely the completion of the working plans and the introduction of what is popularly known as the ' Coupe system . ' The Forest Commission had strongly recommended that the privilege of cutting fuel enjoyed by the Katkaris, Warlis and such other people should be continued as before until a proper substitute for it has been provided. The Commission declined

to make any distinction between the wild tribes as such and other poorer classes of the district, and recommended that the privilege should be conceded to all alike. The only justification for stopping their privilege can therefore be found in the *coupe* system and nowhere else. We shall presently see what this *coupe* system is and how far it supports the contentions of the Forest officers. One thing is however clear. In view of the strong reasons given by the Commission for continuing this privilege and the large mass of evidence produced in favour of it, the *onus* entirely lay on the authorities concerned to show either that it is proving highly injurious to proper forest conservancy or that its necessity has ceased. Nothing has been done to discharge this *onus* except the bare assertions contained in the above notification, but they are obviously unsatisfactory so long as they are not supported by reasons or facts. The notification, we hear, was issued under the sanction of a Government Resolution which may perhaps contain these reasons, but as the text of that Resolution has not been published, we are not in a position to examine its merits.

The *Coupe* system was introduced into Thana under the superintendence of Mr. Millet, the Working Plan Officer of the Northern Division. The system is briefly this. Forests of each Taluka or Mahal are primarily divided into blocks varying in number and size according to its local circumstances and physical features. It is calculated that a forest attains its full growth in about 40 years; so each block is subdivided into 40 compartments or *coupes*, one of which is cut every year in rotation, so that by the time all have had their turn the first is ready for another cutting and the block is never entirely denuded. These compartments are nearly equal in area, of about 50 acres on average, while the whole block comprises about 2000 acres. Sometimes a portion of the block is reserved as non-exploitable high forest, and the rest only is sub-divided into compartments. One *coupe* in each block is demarcated and sold each year by auction in the

month of August. The purchasers are allowed to cut after the 1st of September and must gather and remove fellings before the 1st of May of the following year to a depot selected by the Divisional Forest Officer. Any timber not removed from the depot before the 1st of June is forfeited and the *Coupe* is then shut up for ten years as a closed forest in which nobody is allowed to enter or exercise any right except with permission.

The total number of blocks in the Thana district is 285 and that of the *coupes* 11,400, the number of blocks in each taluka varying according to the extent or natural features of the taluka. The work of the demarcation is still unfinished, three-fourths of the *coupes* remaining unmarked at the end of the last year. The following table (*Vide* Administration Reports of the Forest Department for 1894-95 p. 4.) will show the progress of the work of demarcation till the end of the year :—

Name of Range.	Number of Blocks.	Total Number of Coupes.	No. of Coupes marked out.	No. of Coupes exploited.	No. of Coupes marked for future exploitation	No. of Blocks in which Coupes for future exploitation are laid out	Number of Coupes yet to be marked out.
<i>East Thana Division.</i>							
Bhiwandi	20	800	243	158	65	20	557
Kalyan	16	640	135	119	...	...	505
Murbad	20	800	119	104	...	...	681
Shahapur and Khardi	53	2,120	308	259	...	...	1,812
Mokhadā	12	480	71	60	...	...	409
Vadā	54	1,360	249	180	35	9	1,111
<i>West Thana Division.</i>							
Salsetta	11	440	74	63	...	...	366
Bassein	23	920	283	189	71	16	637
Mahim	35	1,400	523	254	234	34	877
Dahanu	42	1,680	337	295	...	...	1,343
Umbargaon	19	760	143	124	...	...	617
Total ...	285	11,400	2,485	1,895	405	79	8,915

The figures in the last three columns are important, because they give us an idea as to how much is yet to be done before the *coupe* system can come in full operation. The system is worked at present by making a *coupe* in each block for the current year, and that work almost exhausts the capacity of the Forest staff. But although the system is thus in a preliminary stage only, Government have already begun to stop the customary rights of the people on the ground that it has eminently succeeded. They will not even have the patience to see how the experiment works for a sufficiently long time.

Each block is assigned to a group of forest villages, the inhabitants of which have alone the privilege of carrying free *tahal*, branches of less than 6 inches diameter and other minor forest produce, when the *coupe* sold to the contractor is opened for cutting. An express term to allow the villagers to take those things is entered into the auction contract, the theory being that they are the property of the Government which they can grant to anybody. Towns and villages having no forest attached to them have, of course, to depend for their *rab* and fuel supply upon the general market. If a *coupe* was not sold in any year, provision was made to allow the villager to take away the above things under the supervision of a special officer.

These details of the so-called *Coupe* system are given here as being necessary for understanding the full effect of the recent notification. Hitherto the people of Thana could obtain their fuel supply in three ways : (1) by fetching it free from the *coupe* actually being cut in their own block : (2) by buying the headloads and cartloads brought by Katkaris and others from open forests ; and (3) by paying fee and obtaining permit to cut wood in the block of another village. The first source was of course available only to the inhabitants of villages enjoying a forest of their own, while the third was for the benefit of non-forest villages the inhabitants of which could thus obtain their necessary supply from the adjoining

forests at a nominal fee. The second provided a good means of livelihood for thousands of Warlis and Katkaris who by a day or two's labour in the jungles could gather a headload large enough to fetch them 4 to 8 annas each. This mode proved very convenient also to the inhabitants of forest and non-forest villages situated at a great distance from the open *coupe*. Of these three sources, the notification in question allows the first under certain restrictions, but stops the latter two entirely. In future firewood can be obtained from the forests on three conditions only. It must be taken from the *coupe* actually being cut; it will be available only to inhabitants of the villages owning that block; and it must be taken for *bona fide* home consumption. Wild tribes who inhabit no village cannot get it; villagers who have no forest of their own cannot get it; and inhabitants of forest villages situated at a distance from the *coupe* cannot get it unless they choose to walk all the way for a few pieces of sticks. And even if a villager resorts to the *coupe* under all these difficulties, he must go and return by a specified route and must submit to all the cross-examination and inquiries at every turnpike as to whether his load of fuel is for *home consumption*. If he falters or if he is even suspected of intending to misapply it to some other purpose, he is liable to be summarily prosecuted under the Forest Act. A valuable privilege indeed it is that he enjoys! The ignorant villager is to submit to all this vexation and undergo the risk of prosecution in the bargain for a few annas worth of dead-wood! The villagers must no doubt be thankful to Government for the small mercies they confer, but in the present case the small mercies had better been withheld altogether. Much temptation and annoyance would have been saved if the forests of Thana had been entirely closed, and all the people without distinction were told to seek the open market for their fuel.

But the miseries of the ryot will not, we may be sure, stop here. The load of fuel must be for *bona fide* home consumption. What is *home consumption*? The

notification does not define it. The Forest Act does not define it. The common dictionaries do not interpret it. It is the petty Forest guard or the Patel of the village who is to determine the meaning of this enigmatical expression in each case. They must be angels indeed if they can withstand the temptation of persecuting the unfortunate villager. One kindles a fire with a few sticks at which a neighbourly visitor warms himself; is this *home consumption*? Another repairs a hedge common to his and his neighbour's field; is this *home consumption*? A third barter's a load for a handful of grain when he has no money to buy it and would otherwise starve; is that *home consumption*? A fourth stacks his fuel rather negligently and it is burnt accidentally or stolen; is that *home consumption*? A fifth fetches it for his master or for some other villager; is that *home consumption*? If it is not *home consumption* in these cases, the poor fellow must be prosecuted for daring to infringe the notification! Then there will be more complicated cases. A man brings the wood *bona fide*, but subsequently changes his mind and sells it; when does he become guilty? Or how is the wood which he sells to be identified with what he brought? These and such other niceties which might tax the highest legal acumen are to be solved by Forest Inspectors and Village Patels. "The inferior subordinates of the Forest Department," say the Government of India in their Resolution of 1894, "are perhaps as reliable as can be expected on the pay which we can afford to give; but their morality is no higher than that of the uneducated classes from which they are drawn." But the confidence of the local authorities in these men appears to be supreme! The Government of India forbid the investment of petty officials with unlimited powers of harassing people; but the Collector of Thana practically does what the Government of India have prohibited. It is clear therefore that the notification does not affect the wild tribes or the residents of non-forest villages only, as would appear at first sight. It will press hard upon the whole of the poorer population of the district. Even the well-to-

do people will not escape from its effects, for the stoppage of the headload trade and the consequent monopoly of the fuel-contractors are sure, as experience tells us, to raise the price of fuel. A similar notification was issued in Salsette some years ago by way of an experiment, and the price of fuel at once rose by a rupee per candy. The forest officers would, of course, welcome this result as likely to diminish the useless consumption of wood ; but the forest officers are extremely one-sided and most unreliable in such matters.

There is no doubt however that the greatest amount of hardship will be felt by the two classes of persons mentioned above. The distinction between forest and non-forest villages is purely arbitrary, or as the late Rao Bahadur Nulkar observes in his minute to the Forest Commission's Report, "wrong in fact ;" but so long as it was a matter of paying only a nominal fee to obtain the permit, it was not of material importance. But now that the privilege is entirely withdrawn from one set and allowed to some extent at least to the other set of villages, the mischief is enhanced and the distinction becomes a glaring anomaly. The non-forest villages are about one-fourth of the total number of villages in the Thana district, and these are now to depend for their fuel supply solely on the market. Whence are the poor agriculturists of these villages to procure money to buy the fuel even for *home consumption*? Hitherto they could obtain a permit for 9 pies or 6 pies according as the person was man or woman and bring a headload from the adjoining forest ; now he or she will have to pay 8 to 10 annas for the same. Formerly a large cartload could be brought at a fee of one rupee ; now it will cost at least 3 or 4 rupees to the agriculturist. Where is he to get this from ? And what does the Government offer to him in return for this loss ? Only the poor consolation that the fuel having become costlier he will burn it the less, and so the general taxpayer will be benefitted !

We now come to the case of the wild tribes. They are left simply destitute by the withdrawal of their customary right of selling fuel. The question of these wild tribes has been a most perplexing one, and the Forest Commission of 1885 devoted special attention to it. They collected a large mass of evidence on it, and after a careful consideration of their claims came to the definite conclusion that the privilege ought to be continued at least until a proper substitute is found for it. On p. 126 of the Report the majority of the Commission remark:—

“These privileges which will be summed up in the concluding chapter of our report are, we consider, necessary to enable the classes who are dependent on the forests to earn a sufficient living, and to prevent their becoming a source of anxiety in the future! The arrangements which we have recommended in the preceding chapter, will enable the wild tribes as well as any other poor inhabitants of forest villages who are driven by choice or necessity to earn their living in this way, to take free of charge from the forests headloads of firewood and unreserved and unfarmed minor forest produce, including *Karvi* for sale or barter.”

Some of the officers who gave evidence before the Commission were even more emphatic. Mr. Shewan, for instance, wrote:—

“Confining their removals to headloads there is hardly any kind of forest produce other than valuable timber that I would not allow such tribes to collect for barter and sale as well as for domestic use.”

And Mr. Crawley-Davey declared:—

“I strongly advocate the policy of interfering as little as possible with the customary rights and privileges of the forest tribes. For bare subsistence they are at present mainly dependent on the bounty of nature.” (Forest Commission Report Vol. III. p. 40).

Messrs. Loch, Gibson, Madan, Keyser, Snow, East, Horsley and Frost held the same opinion, and the Commission as shown above ultimately endorsed their views.

The Forest officers however were opposed to the continuance of the privilege, and we quote an extract from the evidence of Mr. Wilkins, the then Divisional Forest Officer of Thana, which fairly summarizes the reasons which they advanced for withdrawing the privilege :—

“ I do not consider it necessary or at all desirable to grant to Thákurs, Várlis, Kátkaris and other so-called wild tribes any special privileges in the forests beyond those granted to resident forest villagers in the matter of grazing, collecting dead firewood, wild fruits, roots and such like articles of minor produce for their own use. Nor should they be allowed to cultivate within forest limits : they have not been allowed to do so for years past and I do not see any reason why there should be any relaxation in the prohibition now. The present temporary concession of allowing so-called wild tribes to collect firewood free for sale is a most pernicious one, and one under which forest conservancy cannot be maintained. The extent to which the privilege has been abused by the wild tribes themselves and the advantage taken of the privilege by wood-dealers clearly show that the time has arrived for the concession granted to be withdrawn entirely. The withdrawal of the privilege will not cause hardship, as ample legitimate work can be found on the different forest operations in the district, and when the forests are blocked out and there are fellings in every 2,000 or 3,000 acres of forest, a further source of employment will be at hand. If the privilege is not withdrawn there is no saying what proportion the mischief may attain. Dealers, as it is, are establishing themselves everywhere in order to buy the firewood the wild tribes remove from the forests for sale : there is nothing to prevent them settling on the out-skirts of every forest and bringing with them their hordes of wild tribes, whom they employ as workmen for the purpose of ransacking the forests. It must be remembered that only a limited quantity of dead wood is formed from natural causes every year, and that in order to keep the dealer

supplied with firewood, when the supply of naturally formed dead wood is exhausted and to provide a means of subsistence for themselves the wild tribes begin to manufacture dead wood by firing the jungles, cutting trees, &c. By this means not only is immense harm done to the forests, but a very considerable pecuniary loss is suffered by Government. The number of wild tribes in the Thána District is estimated at 253,000 at page 153, Part I of the Thána Gazetteer. It may, therefore, be imagined how utterly impossible it is for the Forest Department with a staff of about 500 men to attempt even to exercise any control over these people when they are allowed to roam over the forests at will. The present system of allowing the promiscuous removal of dead wood is opposed to the principles of forest conservancy and must be abolished."

(Forest Commission Report, Vol. III, p. 49-50.)

It will be seen at once that the reasons given in the present notification for withdrawing the privilege are exactly those given by Mr. Wilkins and others ten years ago. They were fully considered by the Forest Commission who found many of them not supported by facts. Briefly stated the contentions of the Forest Officers are three :—(1) the wild tribes abuse the privilege by manufacturing dead firewood ; (2) they are used as tools by fuel merchants for their own profit ; (3) they can now obtain sufficient work otherwise and so need not depend on the fuel trade for livelihood. The first two points were not expressly referred to the Commission, but some evidence bearing upon them was given in support of the statements. The third point however was fully gone into, and the Commission unequivocally decided it in the negative. The Commission strongly criticised the attitude of the Forest officers in this connection. On p. 124 of their Report, the Commissioners say :—

"The general conclusion we draw from the evidence and from the opinions above alluded to is that the Forest officers are, as a rule, too apt to consider that their whole duty towards the wild tribes is fully accomplished when they have utilised their services according to their own convenience in all the forest operations of

the year, and have paid them for their labour at fair rates. They fail to recognise the fact, which an impartial consideration of the evidence clearly establishes, that the occasional employment which they can provide for these classes can only partly compensate them for the loss of the wages they have hitherto earned as carriers and distributors of firewood and other produce amongst the local population. Mr. Wilkins, for instance, considers it unnecessary to allow them the privilege of removing any forest produce for sale in the belief that ample departmental employment can be given them as a set-off against the proposed withdrawal of their present privileges. But we are decidedly of opinion that even if the wild tribes have the monopoly of all the labour which will be entailed by the working of the forests, they will be unable to support themselves without having recourse to illicit practices, unless they are allowed in addition the privilege of collection and sale of forest produce which they have heretofore exercised. These privileges must, in the interests of forest conservancy, be placed under strict control as recommended in the preceding chapter, but their total withdrawal would, in our opinion, in the present condition of these classes, cause serious and unnecessary hardship. They can have no interest in the preservation of the forests, if the regulations make it impossible for them to earn a sufficient livelihood therefrom. So long as they are practically dependent on the forests for their living they should, we think, as Mr. Shewan observes, be considered a first charge on the forests."

The plea that the forest tribes can obtain sufficient employment was as a matter of fact only an after-thought. At first the Forest officers wanted to ignore the wild tribes altogether; but when they were confronted with the fact that so many persons left without occupation would be a grave source of danger, they alleged that they could find enough of maintenance by serving under the Department or assisting in the cutting and other operations. It was however found that these employments were adequate or a small number of them only, while those actually employed either by Contractors or by the Department were underpaid or in some cases not paid at all.

The hollowness of the plea was thus fully proved before the Commission.

Let us now see whether the introduction of the *coupe* system has made any difference. It is alleged that most of these people will find ample employment for several months in the cutting operations of the *coupe*; but the actual facts show that this is quite fallacious. The cutting of the *coupe* as mentioned before begins on the 1st of September, and although the license extends to the 31st of March, the whole cutting operation usually finishes about the end of November and the material is stacked in the depots early in December. It has also been found by experience that forty labourers suffice to do the whole of this work. So as a matter of fact the *coupe* provides work for forty men only for the space of 2 months in the year. Nor are these forty men drawn exclusively from the wild tribes, although the Forest Commission recommended that they should be given a monopoly of this kind of work. The labourers of the forest and non-forest villages have a share and often times the largest share in it. Now if we take a block belonging to a group of, say, five villages containing 100 workers each on an average or excluding women and old persons, forty able-bodied labourers. These 200 men, plus a similar class of men from non-forest villages, plus the Katkaris and Warlis living in the vicinity, may together number 500 men who are to find employment in the cutting of one *coupe*, while as we have seen above it can provide work for forty only. It is true that some of these are settled agriculturists, but agricultural operations are generally over when the cutting commences. Is this a sufficient employment for the people in return for the privilege of selling fuel they had hitherto enjoyed? As only forty men at the most can get work in the *coupe*, what are the rest to do? And how are all of them to maintain themselves from December onwards when there are no cutting operations? Hitherto even women and children of these wild tribes could bring larger or smaller headloads, but now they will have

absolutely no work. Upto this time any labourer could earn a livelihood by his own exertions ; now all of them will be at the mercy of the contractor. It can hardly be alleged that forty men can earn in two months enough for their families for 12 months. Again it often happens that a *coupe* does not find a bidder and remains unsold and therefore uncut. In such cases even the work of cutting, small as it is, will be unavailable. It has been recommended of course that the Department should do the cutting whenever a *coupe* remains unsold ; but those who make the suggestion do not seem to have actual experience of the matter. It is absurd to suppose that a *coupe*, which remains unsold because a private contractor does not find it profitable to cut and export the wood, can be worked economically by the more costlier machinery of the Forest Department. Mr. A. F. Shuttleworth, in his answer to Question VII of the Commission has shown that it will be a heavy and useless burden on the general taxpayer to do the work of cutting departmentally. (Forest Commission Report. Vol. II, p. 336.)

What more proof is required to show that there is as little foundation now as there was in 1885 for the statement that sufficient work is available for the persons who hitherto supported themselves by selling headloads of fire-wood ? There is one more point which has not yet been openly alleged, but which may be advanced in future when all the other arguments fail. The privilege in question was stopped in one Taluka, namely Salsette, as an experimental measure some years ago, and it may possibly be contended that as no grievance has been felt there, the experiment may be said to have succeeded and that no objection can therefore be made now to its extension to the remaining talukas of the district. This is however simply illusory, for the conditions of Salsette are quite peculiar. The extent of State forest in Salsette is proportionately small being only one-third of the total area, while the remaining two-thirds belong to Inamdars who are not bound by the rules of Government and allow the wild tribes to

take the headloads from their own forests. Besides these Inamdars, in order to make as much profit out of their forests as possible, cut down unusual amount of their forest during the past few years, thereby creating an ample local supply of firewood. A comparison between the amount of timber exploited from State and private forests respectively in Salsette is enough to show that this result has actually happened. The price of fuel in Salsette rose by one rupee per candy after the withdrawal of the privilege in State forests. There was another circumstance in this case not taken into account. Most of the tribes in Salsette as soon as they were debarred from bringing headloads emigrated to other talukas such as Murbad, Bhinvadi and Dahann where they could do it; and thus no grievance was actually felt. But the case is entirely different when the prohibition is made to apply to the whole district. Where are the people to go now for obtaining their livelihood. The experiment of Salsette is therefore very misleading and ought not to be followed in other Talukas. It was clearly a mistake, whether conscious or unconscious we cannot say, to choose Salsette for making such an experiment; but to take advantage of it for the purpose of extending the prohibition to the whole district will be a grievous wrong to the poor people.

The plea of the privilege being abused by the wild tribes as well as firewood dealers is equally hollow. Though it has been repeated often and often, not a single instance has hitherto been advanced in proof of it. The abuse is said to be two-fold. Fuel merchants, it is said, settle themselves on the out-skirts of forests and send gangs of Katkaris and Warlis to collect headloads and cartloads of firewood which they afterwards export to Bombay or Gujarath. But there is no evidence for it. It has not been shown that the supply of firewood is so much in excess of the local consumption that some portion must go out of the district. On the contrary it has been found that the supply is hardly sufficient to meet the local demand. The

headloads are generally sold in the markets of towns like Bhinwadi, Kalyan and Bassein. The poor Katkari is impatient to realise his few annas and hardly cares to find out an exporting trader. What is really exported is the produce of the *coupes* sold to contractors and that of private forests belonging to the Inamdars.

Another allegation is that dead wood is extensively manufactured by girdling and such other processes; but if this is so, how does it happen that not a single case has been reported of such malpractices. Girdling is an offence under Section 25 of the Forest Act of 1878, punishable with an imprisonment for six months or fine or both, and yet it is strange that no prosecution has ever been successfully maintained for that offence in the whole of the Thana district. The offence is certainly not more difficult to detect than several others such as firing or stealing; and yet no instance of it has ever been reported. The complaint about dead wood being manufactured seems to be purely imaginary. The fact appears to be that the forest authorities have fixed an arbitrary limit of natural yield of dead-wood per acre, and whenever they find the total supply in excess of this proportion they raise the cry of deadwood being artificially manufactured. We do not know on what grounds this arbitrary proportion is fixed, nor does it appear that the other sources of supply are properly taken into account. But it is simply monstrous that a whole population should be charged with fraud and deceit on the slender basis of a forest officer's calculation of dead-wood yield per acre. Nothing can be more reckless, and nothing can be a better proof as to how the rights, comforts and even the honour of the people are sacrificed in the interests of a Department.

We have transgressed our limits and must stop. The subject is very important in as much as it affects almost the whole of the poor population of Thana. The question is not so light as to be set at rest by a Collector's Notification or an oral answer to the people's complaints. Th

people principally affected by the Notification are notoriously the poorest, the most ignorant and the most unruly ; and it will be a great administrative blunder to leave them without employment or to provoke them to retaliation. As the Forest Commission declared, they must be taken into confidence, and Forest Administration in the district must be carried on with their co-operation and for their benefit. We cannot help quoting, although it seems needless to do so, one passage from the Government of India's Resolution of 1894 to which we have already referred. In para 5, the Government of India say :—

“ The needs of communities dwelling on margins of forest tracts consist mainly in small timber for building, wood for fuel, leaves for manure and for fodder, thorns for fencing, grass and grazing for their cattle, and edible forest products for their own consumption. Every reasonable facility should be afforded to the people concerned for the full and easy satisfaction of these needs, if not free (as may be possible where a system of regular cuttings has been established) then at low and not at competitive rates. It should be distinctly understood that considerations of forest income are to be subordinated to that satisfaction. ”

The principle enunciated in this paragraph is being over-ridden in the present instance. The headloads which the Katkari brings from the jungle for sale is a necessity to him in a stronger sense than if he only burnt it for his own use. His very life depends upon it, and to say that he uses it for a commercial purpose is simply a mockery. The local authorities appear to be deaf to the complaints of the people, for the Collector of Thana, as if in reply to their petitions, issued another Notification on the 9th of October, threatening to fire upon any assembly gathered for the purpose of demonstration. We do not know what led Mr. Candy to issue this latter Notification, but it appears to us extremely inopportune,

if not positively cruel. Conciliation and not threats are the means to allay irritation. We strongly appeal to H. E. Lord Sandhurst and his colleagues to consider this question with an unbiased mind, and to cancel a Notification that has caused so much discontent in Thana.

N. B.—After the above was in type, a correspondent of the *Times of India* stated that the Notification in question has been suspended for a year subject to some strange conditions; but we have the best authority to say that no such order of suspension has been issued upto this time. In fact the conditions said to be imposed upon the wild tribes are too ludicrous to have emanated from any sensible officer of Government, and the communication to the Bombay daily is probably a hoax.

THE EDITOR.

THE NEW PROVINCIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

It will be remembered that in November, last year, Government published their long expected scheme of the new Provincial Service. Rules for admission to this service in both the Judicial and Executive branches were laid down, much to the disappointment of the general public. Some sixty posts with the minimum pay of Rs. 300, were enlisted on the executive branch, and some 112 posts, with the starting pay of Rs. 150, were reserved in the Judicial branch of the service. The two highest posts in the executive branch open to the Provincial Service men were declared to be those of Collectors. Similarly two posts of the highest rank in the judicial line *viz.*, of District and Sessions Judges have been thrown open to these new men. Looking to the age when Provincial Service men will generally step into these posts, it is to be hoped that good healthy districts only would be given to them. We propose this time to confine our attention chiefly to the new examination for admission to the Service and the results likely attend it. We cannot but think that the new examination authorised by Government is for various reasons a very inappropriate method of selecting men for the new service. It must be admitted that the subjects selected together with the books recommended require a high standard of intellectual capacity. This at first sight appears very satisfactory, and the fears entertained previously that the Provincial Service including as it does high magisterial and judicial posts would be an asylum for mediocreties considerably diminished. The public at first inferred that the Bombay Government in not restricting competition for the service to University graduates only, *as was done in the three other presidencies*, wanted to lower the intellectual test a great deal. Indeed the prescribing and continuation of elementary mathematics as a compulsory subject for the examination was and is even now an anomaly.

in the syllabus. The insertion of elementary mathematics and the general description of many other parts of the examination scheme led the public to suspect that the often-exploded hobby of helping the backward classes was again being ridden by Government. The hollowness of the plea was best shown by Revd. Dr. Mackikhan who on one occasion pithily remarked : "The backward communities will be best helped forward by the stimulus of open competition." Mr. Bhownagree, our second Indian M. P., who advocated the cause of Simultaneous Examinations before the Public Service Commission (although he has now chosen to assume a different tone) spoke sound sense when he said, "I do not think anything can be more fatal to the prestige of the service and consequently to the reputation for efficiency, zeal and fair play of the administration of India than any such impression that a number of appointments in it are given away either to revive the fallen greatness of old houses or to appease the cravings of dissatisfied communities, or out of any other consideration save that of securing the fittest men for the service ; much less do I consider it politic or fair that a number of appointments in the highest service in the land should be every year filled by persons who should shrink from competing for them in the open field, and whose claim for being placed in them is, that they, or their community as a whole are backward in the race of education. To think of dropping them into posts for which they are admittedly backward educationally, and therefore really unfit, is to hold out a premium to indolence and sluggishness." Mr. Bhownuggree's opinion on this point is entitled to weight, since on most other questions he is at variance with the advanced party of Indian politicians. If it was intended at any time that the backward classes, like the Mahomedans and the Eurasians, should be put in a position of equality with the College-going classes, the intention must have been abandoned, as would appear from the books and marks for the various subjects in the recently published curriculum. It

may be that this welcome change is the result of better counsels having come to prevail in the Secretariat. Whatever the cause, the result has been in compliance with the popular demand; and the local Government ought to be thanked for having made up the glaring defects in the scheme prescribed by the Government of India.

There are no institutions public or private, having a complete provision for teaching the various subjects, compulsory and optional appointed for this examination. Candidates, whether they be University or non-University men, will have to study by themselves. This will affect the quality of their preparation and will generally force them to acquire superficial knowledge of the subjects. No doubt, this is a common difficulty to all alike, but it is a pity that Government did not think of a better plan. It may be said that just as private coaches like Wren and Gurney have sprung up in England for the Civil Service Examination, so, in course of time, special classes will be opened for this examination, even if the existing Colleges may not on account of want of time and by being obliged to pursue their own University course, start classes for the Provincial Service candidates. We have however serious doubts on the point. For, every year there are not likely to be, on an average more than two places, open for competition. It will be unreasonable to suppose, that for two or three such posts, private teaching establishments will come into existence either in Bombay, Poona or Ahmedabad. The number of teachers, that will have to be engaged, the expenses necessary to pay off the establishment charges will be prohibitive. It is very likely that the high standard of knowledge required this year will be kept up in future years. The books and authors might vary, but the high level of examination will have to be kept up. The subjects for the examination which have to be got up within 10 months, at the utmost, appear to us too many in number and are sure to tax the candidate's mind and body rather heavily. The saving clause below the heading of 'English Literature and composition,' is

to the effect that 'a considerable number of questions will be set but candidates will only be allowed to attempt a limited number of them.' But as the limited number of these questions is not specified and as the candidates are warned in italics that the examination will not be necessarily confined to the works of the fourteen authors actually mentioned, one is simply staggered by the idea what a crushing burden this examination must prove to the unfortunate candidates. The English and history portions together with the practical necessity of taking up at least two if not three optional subjects prescribed for the examination can hardly be read together once during the whole ten months, much less mastered. We cannot imagine how the unnecessarily heavy mental and bodily strain on the comparatively weak candidates escaped the authors of these fresh rules. They manage things differently, in England. When for instance, a certain syllabus was proposed by the Secretary of State for the final examination of selected candidates for the C. S., the Civil Service Commissioners humbly protested against the extent of the subjects. The Secretary of State had the good grace to yield and partially give up the syllabus he had proposed. We take the following from the 34th Report (1889) of the Civil Service Commissioners:—
 "As regards probation, Lord Cross is of opinion that for present purposes, it must be considered as limited *to the one year* during which the selected candidates remain in this country. After a careful consideration of the suggestions of the C. S. Commissioners, and after consultation with the Government of India, Lord Cross considers (subject to any recommendation that the Civil Service Commissioners may make) that the subjects studied by the candidates during their probation and the value assigned to each should be as follows."

The C. S. Commissioners remarked upon this that '*by the inclusion of Indian History among the subjects presented as obligatory, an excessive task will be imposed upon the probationers and that they may consequently enter upon their*

duties with less freshness of mind and body than is desirable. Lord cross in reply wrote that *"in deference to the opinion of the Commissioners, he would confine the scope of the examination to the History of British India and would allot it no more than 300 marks."* The italics are ours. Now let us compare these subjects for the final examination of Civil Service with the subjects for the Provincial Service examination. The contrast will be painfully striking to our readers, and could have been avoided if Indians of note had been consulted by Government in choosing the subjects and setting the scheme of examination. It must also be borne in mind that the period for the final C. S. examination is one year, while that for the Provincial Service examination is only eight months for the compulsory subjects and two more for the optional subjects. The first announcement of the examination to be held in the first week of January 1897 was made in June of this year. The subjects for the Civil Service and Provincial Service examinations respectively are given below in parallel columns for comparison :—

COMPULSORY.

FINAL C. S. EXAMINATION.

PROVINCIAL S. EXAMINATION.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Indian Penal Code,
Criminal Procedure
Code. 500 | 1. History and Geogra-
phy of India and Eng-
land. 500 |
| 2. Principal Vernacular
of the Province to
which the candidate
is assigned 400 | (a) General History of
England as Brights, one
paper 200 marks. |
| 3. History of British India 300 | (b) Special period of
English history, one
paper 200 marks; this
period includes the one
from 1757-1815. Lecky's
History, Rosebery's Pitt,
Fyffe's Modern Europe
are recommended. |

(c) Indian history including a special period. Special period from 1757-1818; one paper of 200 marks. Meadows Taylor's History, Lyall's Warren Hastings, Owen's Wellesley Despatches, Grant Duff's History of the Marathas.

Geography excludes Physical Geography, but includes the Geography of India, England, Colonies and possessions.

2. Elementary Mathematics. 400

3. English literature, and composition.

English literature two papers. 350

Oral examination. 100

Essay 150

Candidates will be expected to show a general knowledge of the growth and development of English literature, but the examination will be more especially directed towards ascertaining how far they have studied in themselves the work included in the following list, though it

will not necessarily be
 confined to these :—
 Shakespeare—King John,
 Henry IV Parts I and
 II, Richard III, As you
 like it, Hamlet, Athel-
 lo, King Lear, Antony
 and Cleopatra.

Bacon—Essays and Ad-
 vancement of Learning.

Milton—Paradise Lost
 Books I-VI, Comus
 and Lycidas.

Dryden—Absalom and
 Achitophel Part I.

Addison — Selections
 (Golden Treasury
 Series.)

Swift—Gulliver's Travels.

Pope—Essay on Man,
 Moral Essays and Sa-
 tires.

Goldsmith—Vicar of
 Wakefield.

Burke—French Revolu-
 tion.

Scott—Waverly, Ivanhoe,
 Kenilworth, Woodstock,
 Peveril of the Peak.

Macaulay—Essays on
 Horace, Walpole, Bur-
 leigh, Addison, Boswell,
 William Pitt, Earl of
 Chatham and Chatham.

Thackeray—Esmond, New-
 comes, Pendennis, Va-
 nity Fair.

OPTIONAL.

(not more than two of these subjects)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Civil Procedure Code
1882, Indian Contract
Act 1872 | 450 |
| (2) Hindu and Mahomedan Law | 350 |
| (3) Sanskrit | 400 |
| (4) Arabic. | 400 |
| (5) Persian | 400 |
| (6) Political Economy | 400 |

Tennyson—Idylls of the King, Palgrave's Golden Treasury of English Lyrics.

An English essay on one of several subjects.

OPTIONAL.

Not more than three of the following subjects.

1. Either Natural science. Not more than two of the following each. 300
 - Chemistry.
 - Physics.
 - Geology and Physical Geography.
 - Botany or, Agriculture together with the Sciences, Geology, Botany, Agricultural chemistry. 600
2. Mental and Moral Philosophy. 400
3. Classical Languages either Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic or Latin. 600
4. Political Economy. 400
5. Higher Mathematics. 600
 - (1) The standard for natural sciences is as high as the B. Sc. degree standard for Agriculture, as high as that for the Diploma in Agriculture.
 - (2) In Mental and Moral philosophy as high as the B. A. degree.
 - (3) In Sanskrit as high as the B. A. standard.
 - (4) As high as old B. A.
 - (5) As high as the degree for B. Sc.

Even a cursory glance at the above is quite sufficient to prove that the new examination is far harder than the final Civil Service Examination. No wonder if after this the cry against the frequency and multiplicity of examinations gathers volume, and the native element in the Senate fast develops into a Students' Protection Society. Already we are being educated rather too much, and the imposition of this new examination will veritably prove the last stick on the camel's back. Perhaps it may be said in extenuation that the first Civil Service Examination contains a far greater number of subjects and hence really speaking there is no difference between the Provincial Civil Service Examination and the English Civil Service Examination. But it ought not to be forgotten that, there is no limit of time fixed for preparing for the first C. S. Examination, whereas for the Provincial Civil Service Examination eight or ten months only are allowed. Hence the comparison cannot stand. It is possible, no doubt, that this objection may be removed in future years by publishing the curriculum a sufficiently long time before the examination; but at present there is no rule that it shall be done. The age limit for Civil Service is fixed, but not the number of years during which a candidate may study previously. It may be natural for Englishmen to sympathise with the difficulties of English students, but it is also natural for Indians to complain when a different treatment is given to them, although it may proceed from the best of motives.

The first Provincial Service Examination is practically closed to mere Matriculates, for, they will not have the least chance of success. Undergraduates in Colleges, who have been unable to pass any one or more of the College examinations will also have no chance for if they failed to pass a College examination, they cannot hope to beat a successful College student in competition. It is only undergraduates who had or may have to leave College on account of want of means some other or reasons, that may have some chance. But as learning under special teachers will be

very costly, they will have to study privately and will be consequently seriously handicapped. Perhaps a candidate rejected at the Civil Service Examination in England may try his chance some year in the Provincial Service Examination, for the age limits of the latter 21-25 allow that. But he is likely to be a rare phenomenon and we may neglect him for all practical purposes.

It is absolutely impossible to finish the studies enjoined within the short period allowed. Even a year is far too short for such studies. We think that if a private Provincial Service College could by any possibility be started the best teachers in the institution will have to incessantly work for two full years in order to go through the various subjects and books for the examination. As there will be only two places vacant every year, every Matriculate will have to try his chances again and the whole period for him may go over four years. Of course Undergraduates who have passed an examination or two will take a lesser time. The three good private Colleges in the Presidency are the Fergusson, the Wilson and St. Xavier's Colleges. The teaching staff in these colleges does not cost much. Unless extremely high fees are levied or Government backs such an institution as it did in the case of the old Haileybury College, any new private College teaching for the service will be financially a failure. The uncertainty that exists as regards the future of these Provincial Service Rules and the possibility of their entire abrogation or alteration makes the chances of any private institution being started for this purpose nearly impossible.

Having stated the practical difficulties the heavy strain and the class of persons likely to compete, we may proceed to notice some of the very probable results of the new examination. In 99 cases out of hundred, graduates alone will succeed. Although this is certain to happen all manner of candidates will rush in only to be disappointed. This large number of disappointed men will have hardly any other chance elsewhere. Even Lord Macaulay's Committee which

framed the outlines of the Civil Service Examination wished to guard against such an evil in framing their rules. They say "We think it *most desirable* that the examination should be of such a nature that no candidate who may fail shall, to whatever calling he may betake himself, have any reason to regret the time and labour which is spent in preparing himself for the examination." It will be remembered again that the present Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, when Secretary of State for India in 1876, lowered the limit of age of the Civil Service candidate to 19 on two grounds, the second of which was as follows :—"A lower limit of age is recommended by another consideration of importance. Out of the number who present themselves for competition, it is certain that $\frac{1}{5}$ ths must fail, because the candidates are usually more than five times as many as the vacancies ; and no prudent parent in selecting a profession for his son will leave this certainty out of consideration. Some professions are absolutely closed, others are almost impossible to a man who thinks for the first time of entering them at the age of 22. A man therefore who competes for the L. C. S., at that age undoubtedly strives for a valuable prize, but does it at a formidable risk. He stakes in a measure his chance of self-support upon the result of a competition in which it is certain that $\frac{1}{5}$ ths must fail. It is more than probable that such a risk must weigh strongly with parents and diminish the field of competition, especially amongst the professional class." If this is true of the Civil Service, it is far more so of the unsuccessful candidates for the Provincial Service. The proportion of the failures must be great and their prospects in any other department almost precarious. It is too late to enter any College after 21 years of age. The Secretariat, the Educational, and the Revenue Departments will frown on such unsuccessful candidates. Every other important department will shut its doors against them. The poor fellows after being twice or thrice disappointed will have only the law examinations open to them, if the authorities do not in future

put a low limit of age for those examinations also. On the other hand, a graduate candidate who is unsuccessful is not in so bad a plight. He has already a status and a respectable pay provided for him in nearly every important department. He will not be by his failure as miserable as the non-graduate candidate. Hence occurs the question, why have this new examination at all? The subjects for the new examination are purely academical. It is not pretended that the M. A. of our University is a less literary or a less finished man than the successful candidate at this new examination is likely to be. Indeed taking the number of subjects learnt by a M. A. in all his University examinations, he is, sure to be so far as training and knowledge go, superior to the new Provincial Service man. A comparison of the whole University course of a M. A. in languages and of the new examination course will make this quite clear. We shall take for example the English course of studies for the examinations in the Faculty of Arts for 1897.

ENGLISH.

ARTS COURSE.

P. E.—There will be two papers. One in composition and one for the prescribed books. There will also be a *viva voce* examination. The books are:—

1. Sir Walter Scott.—
Lady of the Lake.
2. Irving.—Sketch-Book.

Intermediate Examination.—

There will be two papers, one for books and one for composition. There will also be a *viva voce* examination.

PROVINCIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION COURSE.

There will be two papers in English literature of 175 marks each; oral examination 100 marks; Essay 150 marks; 600 marks in all.

Candidates will be expected to show a general knowledge of the growth and development of English literature, but the examination will be more especially directed towards ascertaining how far they have studied in themselves the words included in

3. Milton.—Comus.
4. Tennyson—Princess.
5. Burke — Select Works
Vol. I.
(Clarendon Press edition)

———
B. A.—There will be two papers
one for books and another for
composition.

6. Bacon—Advancement of
Learning from Book II,
Chapter X to end.
7. Shakespeare—Henry IV.
Part I.
(Voluntary) 2 papers.
8. English Literature. Latter
half of the XVII Century.
9. Dryden — Absalom and
Achitophal and Hind and
Panther.

———
M. A.—There will be three pa-
pers, the third being one in
original English composi-
tion in prose or verse.

10. Shakespeare — Tempest,
Measure for Measure, Mid-
summer Night's Dream.
11. Emerson—English Traits
and Representative Men.
12. Wordsworth—Selections
by M. Arnold.
13. Carlyle—French Revolu-
tion.
14. Mill—Liberty.

the following list, though it
will not necessarily be
confined to these :—

1. Shakespeare—King John,
Henry IV. parts I and IV,
Richard III, As you like it,
Hamlet, Othello, King Lear,
Antony and Cleopatra.
2. Bacon—Essays and Advan-
cement of learning.
3. Milton—Paradise Lost, Books
LVI, Comus and Lycidas.
4. Dryden Absalom and Ach-
itophel Part I.
5. Addison—Selections (Gold-
en Treasury series.)
6. Swift—Gulliver's Travels.
7. Pope—Essay on Man, Moral
Essays, Satires.
8. Goldsmith—Vicar of Wake-
field.
9. Burke—French Revolution.
10. Scott—Waverley, Ivanhoe,
Kenilworth, Woodstock, Pe-
veril of the Peak.
11. Macaulay—Essays on Ho-
race Walpole, Burleigh, Ad-
dison, Boswel, William Pitt,
Earl of Chatham and Lord
Chatham.
12. Thackeray—Esmond, New-
comes, Pendennis, Vanity
Fair.
13. Tennyson—Idylls of the
King.
14. Palgrave's Golden Treasury,
of English Lyrics.

A considerable number of questions will be set, but candidates will be allowed only to attempt a limited number of them. Under the head of English composition, an essay will have to be written on one of several subjects which will be announced at the examination.

A comparison of these two parallel sets will show that so far as composition is concerned there are 4 composition papers in the Arts course, while there are only two in the new examination. That while there are nine papers in English in the Arts which have all to be passed in, there are only two papers in English in the new examination. Even this limit is qualified by the rule that out of a large number of questions set, only a limited number will be allowed to be answered. We cannot understand why this element of vagueness should have been left in a competitive examination. It may be that the authorities thought this an unimportant question of detail, as the candidates were specially warned that they would be required to go through the books recommended. If it were these books only that the candidates had to get up the plea may have appeared plausible. But the direction, *that the candidates will be expected to show a general knowledge of the growth and development of English literature* and that *the examination will not be necessarily confined to the forty books recommended* takes one's breath away and the big element of chance and uncertainty reduces the examination to a species of lottery. Within the four corners of the rules it will be quite possible for even a fair-minded examiner with only the rules to guide him to pluck any candidate howsoever clever. We hope Government in future specify the number of questions and recommends books total for

studying the growth and development of English literature. Looking to the number of papers in Arts examinations, *viz.* 15, and looking to the number of papers in the New examination 4, looking also to the two *viva voce* examinations of the Arts course as against the one for the new Service, we have hardly any doubt that although these are only 16 works of fourteen authors in the Arts course as against about 40 works of the same number of authors in the new course, the knowledge of English Literature in the Arts course is far superior and more accurately tested.

Let us now compare the Mathematical courses. We take it that out of the optional subjects, most candidates will take up those optional subjects which carry the greatest number of marks. The three such optional subjects are Natural Sciences 600, the Classical Language (say Sanskrit) 600, and Higher Mathematics 600. We are, however, forced to believe that it will be something like a feat for even a B. A. to get up the compulsory portion of these optional branches. Most candidates, will probably take up two optional. Comparing the two courses, we shall find even the U. S. F. Mathematical standard is higher than the compulsory Mathematics of the new examination. It is believed that certain classes of people are particularly weak in Mathematics. This lowering of the standard to their low capacities gave at first a legitimate ground for the cry that the Government of the day wanted to accomplish, by a sort of legislative side-wind, what they were not bold enough to do openly. The scheme of studies as now specified has gone to the other extreme.

MATHEMATICS.

ARTS.	NEW EXAMINATION, COM- PULSORY.
Matric.—Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid I-IV.	Arithmetic Algebra upto Equations, Euclid I-II.
P. E.—One paper in Algebra, upto Quadrilateral Equations	Higher Mathematics (optional.)

including Proportion and Variation, Permutations and Combinations, the Progressives and the Binomial theorem. One paper Euclid Books I-IV and VI with definitions and definitions of Book V.

Intermediate—Two papers

(a) Plane Trigonometry—solution of plane triangles with expressions for the Area. The nature and use of Logarithms (1 paper.)

(b) Balfour Stewart's Lessons in elementary Physics (omitting certain portions.)

Four papers of 150 marks each. The subject will include both Pure and Applied Mathematics upto and including the standard prescribed by the University of Bombay for the 2nd B. Sc. The Mathematics for 2nd B. Sc. is:—

I Pure Mathematics (three papers)

(1) Algebra—Binomial and multinomial theorems, Scales of Notation, Exponential and Logarithm series. Convegency and Divergency series. Terequalities.

Plane Trigonometry—Properties of triangles. Associated circles of a triangle. Examination of a series which do not involve Exponential functions. Spherical Trigonometry—So far as solution of triangles.

2. Conic Sections, treated geometrically and analitically, not including abridged notation.

3. Differential Calculus:—Differentiation of functions etc.

4. Integral Calculus.

Applied Mathematics (three papers).

1. Analytical Statics.

2. Elementary Dynamics.

3. Elementary Geometrical Optics including Astronomy.

We admit that this comparison shows that the Mathematics course for the optional new examination is more difficult than the Mathematics course for the whole Art course of a

M. A. and B. A. in languages ; but such a comparison will of course not be legitimate.

We shall now take the second Language course, as for instance that in Sanskrit :—

SANSKRIT.

ARTS.

NEW EXAMINATION.

P. E.—

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kālidāsa — Malavikāgni-mitra. 2. Bhatti—Bhattikāvya I-IV Intermediate.— 3. Dandin — Das'akumāra charita Pt. I. 4. Bhavabhūti — Uttararā-macharita. 5. <i>Laugākshi—Bhaskara—Tarka-Kaumudi.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bāna's Kūdambari, pages 92-185, (Bombay Sanskrit Series.) 2. Bhavabhūti—Mahāvīracharita. 3. Laugākshi Bhāskara—Tarka-Kaumudi. 4. Mammata — Kāvya-Prakāsha Ullāsas VII and X. 5. Rigveda—Peterson's Selections. |
|---|---|

B. A.—

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Mammata—Kāvya-prakāsha Ullāsas VII & X. 7. Hymns from the Rigveda edited by Dr. Peterson (Bombay series). Voluntary. 8. Shankarāchārya—Vedānt-Sūtra—Bhāshya Chap. II. Padas ii & iii. 9. Bhagavadgītā. 10. Weber's History of Indian Literature. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Shankarāchārya—Vedānt-Sūtra-Bhāshya -I, IV and II i. 7. Kathā and Mundak Upanishads. |
|---|--|

M. A.—

11. Rigveda—The 7th Mandala with the Commentary of Sāyana. Yaska's Nirukta I-VII.
12. Any one of six Shāstras, viz. Nyāya, Vyākaraṇa, Vedānta, Alankāra, Dharma and Paleography.

This will show that more than double knowledge of Sanskrit is required and secured in the whole of the M. A. course.

The general conclusion which follows from a consideration of the above facts is that taking the Language group alone, the Arts Course upto M. A. is on the whole more difficult than the whole curriculum of the new examination. But the disproportion as to the emoluments is painfully ridiculous. No M. A. can get more than 100 Rs. at the start after the most liberal calculation. But the new Provincial Service man, though inferior to him in education, begins with over three times more !! Is this not a further official discouragement, howsoever unconscious, of high University honours ? Already the number of candidates for M. A. is lessening for want of inducement. This fresh hindrance will still more lessen the number. In the interests of higher education, in the interests of the spread of the highest kind of knowledge in various subjects, this new examination will have to be looked upon as an unwelcome guest. Prizes and prospects will act as great incentives so long as humanity remains as it is. The acquisition of knowledge for the sake of knowledge itself will be an empty dream in a population, keenly struggling for very existence. Advice, such as often comes from the mouths of officials is little short of a cruel joke, for it cannot be forgotten that these gentlemen themselves owe their position simply to success in the Civil Service Examination. As it will be practically impossible for mere Matriculates to get into the Provincial Service, and as the chances are 99 per cent. for graduates getting the places, the question may well be asked, why lose the advantage which Government will secure by restricting the competition only to graduates ? It has been throughout the constant endeavour of the Home Government in their various changes of age-limits from the beginning, to secure for the Civil Service of India as many University men as possible. Three of our advanced Presidencies have restricted the competitive examination for the Provincial Civil Service to graduates only. The burden lies very heavily on the Bombay Government to show why the principle accepted in the other Presidencies should be given the go-bye by our Local Government.

It will be admitted on all hands that taking Matriculates as a class and graduates as a class, the latter have more trained intellects and possess broader and more liberal notions so far as caste or race prejudices are concerned. The excellence and integrity of the Judicial Department, which is mostly recruited by University men, are evidence in point. Mr. Justice Fulton, formerly Registrar of the Bombay High Court, says in his replies to the Provincial Service Commission, 'We have now a number of Sub-Judges who have admittedly given general satisfaction both for their ability and integrity.....; though from time to time, various accusations have been made against individuals amongst them, I have never heard complaint of bias towards any particular person or in favour of any particular caste. Considering how frequently one hears it alleged that Subordinate Government officials cannot divest themselves of caste partiality, the above fact should be noted.' Sir Charles Sargent, late Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court was also known to have held such opinions. It will be worth while here to quote the remarks of Mr. Lee-Warner, In a letter of his, as Acting Under-Secretary to Government in 1875, he clearly pointed out the difference between public-school candidates and specially trained candidates in London for the Civil Service. He condemned the special trainer and approved of the public school candidates. The distinction is quite applicable in the present case as between specially trained Matriculates and University Graduates. Mr. Lee-Warner says, 'The education of a boy is not secured by imparting to him book knowledge. The moral discipline of school, the traditions of a public school, association with other boys of all classes and not merely with a narrow set of students who are engaged in the same cause as himself, the influence of tutors and masters out of school and the teaching of the play-ground, omitting altogether its physical advantages, go to educate a man.....The boy sent to a crammer in London, is in the general sense of the term a less educated or developed machine than the boy who is sent forth from Rugby or Marlborough or any other public school.' Of course we have nothing or almost no-

thing in India like the public English school system. It is in our colleges only that the advantages of the English public school system are secured. The debating societies, the College libraries, the superior influences of excellent Professors, like Professors Wordsworth and Selby can never be obtained by mere Matriculates. The argument, therefore, again re-asserts itself and one cannot help feeling that the new examination ought to be given up in favour of our University Arts Course including the M. A. examination.

The duties of the Provincial Service men are of great responsibility and require minds of great capacity. The successful candidates are to be Deputy Collectors, Collectors and even Magistrates, wielding very great powers. It is necessary therefore to follow the principles which such a brilliant committee as that over which Lord Macaulay presided in 1854, observed in selecting candidates for the Civil Service. They said 'It is also desirable that he (the Civil Service candidate) should have received the best, the most liberal, the most finished, education that his native country affords.' Hence the M. A. degree being the highest of our four Arts degrees should form the door for admitting good men into the Provincial Service. In order to secure the highest standard of ability, by eliminating instances of chance-successes at any University examinations, Government should rule that the posts in the Provincial service should be filled, by those persons, who might stand highest in all their whole University course. The marks of candidates in all their arts examinations should be totalled and those at the top should be given the vacant posts in order of merit. An arrangement like this would be, we might say without detracting from the honest efforts of Government to determine the best mode of selection, a far better one than the one adopted at present.

We should like also to see that the successful candidates are encouraged to go to England and study for one year in some standard College there where the

Civil Service students study for their final examination. The association with the would-be members of the higher service in their probationary period and with other University men is sure to act beneficially on the character of the Provincial Service men. The best English influences will be acting upon them. In order to avoid any possible idleness on the part of such men, they may be required to pass some final examination which should comprize the subjects of the departmental examinations as far as possible, similar to the final examination of the selected Civil Service candidates. We do not however wish that every Provincial Service man should be sent to England. The expense of sending men to England ought to be defrayed by Government but if there is strong objection to do that the expense may be recovered from such student in small instalments from his pay when he gets a post in Provincial Service. Government may rule that in giving the highest posts in the service the fact of having studied in England for the final examination will be taken into consideration. Sir Raymond West in his minute on the Crawford Commission remarked that in our high native officials a sort of timidity and weakness are often observed. In other words he meant to say that as a rule that amount of self-respect, adventurousness and self-reliance as is necessary for an official in the interests of the service are found wanting among the natives. Perhaps, the perpetual habit of subordination is the real cause of this timidity and weakness which may therefore wear out by a close intercourse with Englishmen in their native country. Whatever the cause, a stay in an English College for a year is likely to cultivate those elements in a man's character, which will give him strength without impudence, politeness without obsequiousness and originality without ostentation.

Certain objections now remain to be noticed. The Government of Bombay probably resorted to a new examination either because they thought the University examination (a) too

high or (*b*) too low, or because (*c*) they did not trust the University, or because (*d*) they followed the Civil Service examination model, or (*e*) because they really and not in name simply, wished that non-University men should have a chance in obtaining the posts, or (*f*) because they thought of no better plan than the one now placed by them before the public. We shall consider these objections in order. (*a*) Surely if the M. A. was too high a test, any lesser examination ought to have satisfied the Government. They have a range of four University examinations. (*b*) If Government intended to secure a test higher than the M. A. they have clearly not attained their object, because the comparison made above of the subjects of our University Arts course and of the new examination reveals no such higher character in the latter. Besides in what department of life, where our M. A.s have been tried, have they failed as a class? We can confidently appeal to the experience of Government of our M. A.s in the Revenue, Educational, Secretariat and other Departments in this respect. (*c*) The Government of Lord Harris had the courage to tell the Secretary of State when they stated their views against Simultaneous Examinations that " Judging by actual experience both of *examining bodies* and of the manner in which the contents of important official communications become known to the public before they reach India, there is reason to fear, it would be a practical impossibility ever to be sure that the secret of the questions had been kept both in England and India and that the results of the examinations were in any way reliable." The Italics are ours. With this low opinion of "our examining bodies" there was no wonder that the Government of Lord Harris wanted to strike a new path for themselves by instituting a special examining body. This opinion of Lord Harris was quoted by the Government of India. They say ' The Bombay Government and the Chief Commissioner of Assam question the possibility of maintaining the secrecy of the examination papers if sent out to this country and it must be admitted that experience in University examinations in India tends to testify

this apprehension.' We do not know if this is a reflection against the examining machinery of our University; but if it is a more disgraceful and untrue insinuation against our University, our chief examining body, was hardly ever breathed by responsible authorities, cases have no doubt occurred of stray questions having leaked out. But where in the world has not this occurred sometimes? If the actual experience of Government is that in the majority of examinations or even in a very appreciable minority of examinations, questions have leaked out, the sooner the University is deprived by Government of its function as an examining body, the better. Again, has Government any absolute guarantee that the questions in the new examinations, which is to be held under the direction of a special board selected by the Educational Department, will not ooze out some way? We never heard any Governors, who are Ex-officio Chancellors, complain of this alleged defect in the University machinery. We know of no Government communication to the University complaining of the dishonesty and hollowness of the University examinations. We very strongly suspect that in the heat of controversy the ultra-conservative Government of Lord Harris resorted to the unworthy expedient of vilifying our University to support its opposition to the holding of Simultaneous examinations. We are however inclined to believe that the present Bombay Government questions neither the character nor the ability of the University examining bodies, nor have we any good reason to suppose, that, taking course for course, the present Government thinks the University examinations a lesser test of ability than the new Provincial Service examination.

(d) It may be urged against the proposal we have made that the new examination is on the model of the English Civil Service Examinations and as there is a separate examination for the C. S. in England, we must have a separate one for Bom-

lay also. But the objection cannot bear a close scrutiny. In the British isles, there are over six Universities and we know on the authority of the C. S. Commissioners that 'the greatest variety prevails in the systems adopted in the chief places of English education.' In the face of such a fact, it would be absolutely impossible to give any University in the British Isles a preference. Hence in England, it must have been a necessity, after the abolition of the Haileybury College, to hold a different examination, making competition open to all University or non-University men. That is not the case here. We have only one University for our province and no difficulty can therefore arise. (a) - We are quite confident that hardly any mere matriculates will even compete for the new examination. The range and variety of subjects must appear bewildering to them. As for securing any of the three posts offered, they might as well dream of becoming M. A's., without passing the previous examinations. We cannot but think that Government have nominally given to non-University men by one hand, what they have taken most effectually from them by the other. Hence the arrangement we have proposed of offering the vacant posts to those who stand highest in order of merit in the whole University Arts course after totalling the marks of candidates in other Arts examinations, appear to us a more simple and rational one than the one adopted by the Government. The arrangement here proposed will (a) secure the best men in the province, will (b) stimulate and spread the highest form of education in the Presidency, will (c) prevent the unlucky candidates from serious ruin, will (d) save the Government and the candidates the cost and worry of a new taxing examination, will (e) make rationally proportionate the pecuniary value of the various Arts examinations, will (f) supply candidates with an actually existing

able staff of teachers and professors, will (g) stop the growth of professional crammers, will (h) by stay in England secure to some extent the best English University influences, and finally will (i) add a new dignity to University distinction. We earnestly hope that the local Government will give due attention to these advantages in formulating their scheme for the next year.

B. N. BHAJEKAR.

THE EXISTING POSITION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

(A paper read before the Poona Educational Conference on 30th September 1896.)

A survey of the existing position of our Primary Schools—considered in relation to the general scheme of education on the one hand, and on the other, with reference to the expanding requirements of Presidency suggests a question of vital importance to the future of educational progress on this side of India, much—very much—has been done in recent years to extend, develop, and improve this class of schools, and no one who has seen them as they were and are can fail to mark the contrance and measure the advance achieved. All the Presidency over, these schools are now better housed, better equipped, and better supplied with trained teaching power; they teach better standards and read better text-books. And indeed, there is no feature of our recent educational administration more striking and encouraging than the large improvement which has been effected in the general efficiency of these schools. But with all this improvement, it is only too clear that their position in the general plan still continues weak and defective and that their working, whether regarded from that point of view of present or future requirements, cannot be held to be altogether satisfactory. The weak points appear to be mainly these :—

1stly. The number of these schools—with all the increase it has of late years received, is still most inadequate for our needs, and restricts their usefulness and operative range within comparatively narrow limits. Scarcely 1/3rd of the population is yet reached.

2ndly. Even within this restricted sphere under the existing organization which develops no real side in the upper

primary stage corresponding to the literary course of the 5th and 6th standards—9-10 ths of these primary schools which do not send up their pupils—and they are full 86 p. c. of the total number—to the upper literary courses, are placed in an anomalous position, and standing apart with no direct links to join them on to the higher special institutions, work on a lower plane and fail to carry down to the masses and the general industrial life of the Province, the light and leaven of new ideas.

3rdly. Even under their anomalous conditions, and considered as importing only initial elementary instruction, the practical working of these schools from the broader standpoint of national culture is not every way as it should be partly owing to the defective curriculum taught (Stds. I-IV) and partly owing to the faulty methods pursued.

These three features mark out the existing position of these schools as one of great weakness, and mar their usefulness. It is the object of this paper to submit for the consideration of the Conference whether the time is not come for a new departure and a strenuous effort to remedy these defects and put the whole system of primary education in the Presidency on a sounder basis. I would begin with a brief review of the facts.

1. The utter inadequacy of the existing provision for Primary education is the first weak point of the system. The small number of our schools limits the social base on which they work and circumscribes their useful activity within a proportionately narrow compass. Our present school-area barely covers $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the geographical area of the Presidency and embraces even less than $\frac{1}{4}$ rd of the total population of school-age. Over 18,000 villages with a scattered population of $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions (—4000 of which contain a population of 500—1000) are still unprovided with schools and form, so to speak, with their 5 lacs of boys a thick outer

ring of the social whole lying outside the sphere of our educational effort. Within the school-area itself scarcely half the population of school age is yet reached. As a net result, and looking only to the male population, we find that only 5 lakhs out of our total number of 16 lakhs of boys in the Presidency are at school. 11 lakhs—9 lakhs of whom belong to the lower classes or live in the remote rural parts—are yet at this moment as a direct consequence of the existing insufficiency of schools growing up in absolute ignorance—what could be sadder than this, and the moral waste of potential talent it involved? A system of Primary education which leaves out in the cold more than $\frac{1}{3}$ ds of the youths of the Province cannot but be regarded as essentially defective. Education is what each generation owes to the next and when we do not arrange even to educate a full third of our children, it is plain how imperfectly we are doing our duty in the matter. Besides an educational organization so restricted in its range can never supply the adequate moral and intellectual motor force for the onward movement, or assure the even progress of national life: In conceivable circumstances, such a narrow system might even tend to do harm to the higher interests of the country by creating in favour of the few as against the many that most fatal of monopolies—a monopoly of education and knowledge and the irresistible power they give. No disability is harder to bear and more cramping and narrowing in its effects than illiteracy and ignorance and the fact that more than $\frac{1}{3}$ ds of our youths are still outside the pale points to one of the weakest feature of the existing arrangements.

2. Even within the sphere of action so limited, these primary schools under a defective organization hold an anomalous position and can hardly do their proper work. Strictly speaking they are all primary schools, and represent a stage of instruction antecedent to and preparatory for higher studies. For 1-10th of their pupils (or say 50,000) who choose and can afford to enter upon the long literary course of the high schools leading up to the University, and so too in the case of 4 p. c. more

(or about 20,000) whose object is Government employment and who proceed to a further course in Vernacular qualifying for public service—these primary schools really serve as preparatory schools. But for the remaining 80 p. c. (or say 4½ lakhs) who do not go in for either of the advanced literary courses, they serve no such purpose. They train them for no higher study and their education ends in the middle of the primary course with the 4th standard. Practically, for these boys the upper stage of the primary course is yet a blank—no parallel lines of special study exist co-ordinate with the existing literary side. Nor do there exist any Vernacular lower departments in the special instructions of a higher order to receive such pupils through any regular channels of supply. The connecting link either way is wanting, and the result is that none of these boys who do not take up literary courses are able to go to any of the special schools and colleges—the Veterinary college or the Victoria Technical Institute or the College of Science. The *via media* to these special instructions lies at present mainly through the High Schools along the line of a preliminary literary course of wearisome length. Only 50 thousand pupils and no more from our primary schools proceed to the higher courses on that line, and out of these just 300 are to be found in the higher special instructions and about 350 more drawn from no regular source are learning in their lower vernacular departments. The rest and they the 86 percent of the total roll of our primary schools (4½ lakhs) having nothing further to go to leave off, at the IV standard with an utterly incomplete education. The disconnection between the bulk of these schools and the special instructions is thus complete, there being no real side to link the two. The results are —

(1) As regards these 4½ lakhs of pupils they go back home having received only elementary general instruction and absolutely no special training as contemplated in the recommendations of the Education Commission—fitting them for their position in life or of help to them in the daily occupation.

of their lives. Virtually thus, the masses go without any practical advantage from our educational arrangements.

(2) As for the special instructions themselves, the absence of a real side in the primary schools cuts them off from the proper recruiting ground. The High Schools as yet their only feeders send up an uncertain and precarious supply. The Veterinary College, the Victoria Technical Institute and the Agricultural classes of the College of Science have together a roll of 250 boys. The special classes at the school of Art and the Reay Art Workshops and the apprentices class at the College of Science have between them just 360 more receiving training in Vernacular in ~~all~~ less than 700 the two together! When we have in our primary schools 4 lakhs of pupils the figures call for no comment. Obviously as long as the special institutions are not (not?) connected with the primary schools by means of intermediate departments of special study they must continue stunted and start in their supply and can be of but little service to the industrial life of the people.

(3) Our primary schools of course suffer and suffer grievously in popularity and practical usefulness. The work almost is in isolation and do not serve to carry down to the masses the help and benefit of the higher institutions.

(4) Our whole industrial system also suffers. The industrial life of the Province receives but little elevation or improvement—except at the leading centres—and continues to move on in the old channels and there is yet little in our system to let in the stream of European science and scientific training issuing from the higher institutions and flowing down through the primary schools into the parched and exhausted fields of our industry to replenish and fertilise them.

All this is due to the existing hiatus between the primary schools and the higher special institutions, and this want of a real side in our upper primary stage is the second weak point of their existing position to which I would invite your atten-

tion. No such disservance exists between the primary and special schools in any of the countries of the continent. In France, Germany, Italy and elsewhere the elementary public schools, after a certain course of general education is reached develop in the upper stage a classical and real side, and through the real side carry the mass of their pupils to the Technical Schools and Colleges.

(3) There is yet a third feature which adversely affects the position and working of our schools. Both the scheme of study they teach upto standard IV. and their methods leave much to be desired. To take the methods first.

The teaching for the most part is more mechanical than formative and little is done to train the minds of the children or awaken their observation and intelligent interests in the facts and phenomena around them; the symbols are taught rather than the things symbolized. The Ujalmi as taught is worse than a waste of time, though the children are trained into a certain mechanical habit of accuracy and promptness of calculation, it is at the expense of higher purposes of early studies.

The faulty character of the teaching is however due partly to insufficiency of trained teachers and teaching appliances and partly also to a faulty graduation of the course. In arranging the studies the natural process—"which is from the known to the unknown, from the particular and the concrete to the general and the abstract from the empirical to the scientific"—seems at many points reversed. The arithmetic of the lower standards and the Ujalmi with its dreadful array of integral and fractional multiplication tables rather put the abstract before the concrete. So too Native and English tables of weight and measure of every kind and mental arithmetic based on them hardly fit into the courses where they are and might well be postponed to the higher standards.

While on this point I would draw attention to what are called the infant classes in our primary schools. The mini-

mum age for admission is under the revised code 4 years as in England and large numbers of little children from 4 to 6 years of age—fit only to be taught in the kindergarden way—come to our schools, where, however we have no provision whatever for such kindergarden instruction. The infant learners are subjected to a kind of training and discipline which tells upon their health and proves worse for their growing minds. The hours of attendance are the same for them as for the other boys and for most of the time they are at school shut up in their class-room they do little more than mechanically copy the alphabet or the abstract numbers they cannot grasp. They stay in their classes one or two years it is a matter of observation that during the stay the hard discipline exercises visibly weakening effect on them, they lose their freshness of look and their buoyancy, restless energy, susceptibility to new impressions—all suffer. The ignorant parents hand over gladly their children to the care of the school-masters, who, however, does not yet know how to look after his tender charge. In Switzerland and other countries the age of admission to the primary schools is 6. In Norway, Denmark, and New Zealand is 7. From 4, 6 or 7 the children attend the kindergarden schools. With us too some time ago the age limit was six and opinion is gaining ground that the sooner we revert to the old limit and close the infant classes, the better for the children and the schools. At all events their hours of school attendance should not be more than two hours a day and this instruction mainly by object lessons.

To turn next to the course of study comprised in standards I-IV it has a strong and a weak point. It is a strong feature of our Bombay system that it constitutes the first 4 standards as the initial stage of general education as designed for all and permits no specialisation of studies so far the object being to secure for all classes alike sufficiently high level of general culture to fit them equally for the duties of a common citizenship. The right training of the mind—the disciplining of its opening powers—the formation of character combined with the requi-

site amount of general knowledge and information, this is what is aimed at in this early course of instruction and it is no part of the scheme to supply any special training. From this point of view any attempt to lower this uniform standard of general elementary instruction demanded alike from all or to infuse to it special studies at the expense of the more necessary general subjects ought to be closely watched and resisted. Our Modi standards which are but a simplified copy of the Balbodha with grammar and Balbodha reading from standards II upwards dropped, are open to objection on the ground that they needlessly narrow the scope of the general instruction as intended for the rural classes and whatever the popularity of the course as a concession to the uniformed opinion of rural society it is calculated to place these people in the rural parts at a disadvantage in the race of life. The view which seeks to differentiate the requirements of the rural classes in respect of such elementary instruction for civic duty from those of the urban and which has its root in the old sentiment of aristocratic or caste scendency has little title to sympathy, and the practical effect of such differentiation in respect of general education could only be to widen the gulf and aggravate the inequalities between class and class already so deplorable amongst us. I find, it is further suggested that agriculture should be introduced into this lower primary course dropping one or more of the existing subjects. All such attempts, however, to reduce the present range being calculated to leave the free citizen's education inadequate are to be deprecated. The principle of utility in education ought not to be carried too far and it is now an accepted view in continental countries that even from the point of view of technical training there is no better preparation than a strong basis of general education. In Prussia even in the technical schools general education is invariably continued along side technical upto a very high standard, and it would be a retrograde step to introduce practical subjects such as agriculture into our course at a lower stage than the IV standard. Our Bombay scheme at present proceeds on approved lines

and its only defect seems to be that it is not sufficiently comprehensive and besides is here and there a detail overloaded. This brings us to its weak points :—

No *drawing* is here taught that which is of such recognised value as a general study, and no manual training, another subject held in France and America to be as necessary as reading and writing. Further there is here no introduction to natural science and to its broad truths. While defective in such important particulars, the course is overloaded with Ujalmi and English and Native tables of weight and measure of every kind. This viewed as a whole our scheme of the lower primary stage falls short of the standard aimed at in the countries of the West. In Prussia and Austria-Hungary drawing and science are added to the rudiments, in France and Belgium manual training is also taught. Our children thus learn but little at school to train their eye or hand or even to open out their minds to the broad teachings of natural phenomena. It is doubtful whether one in ten of these poor lads has any conception of what science is or teaches.

With a scheme of studies so narrow and methods defective, it is no wonder that these primary schools, in their practical working do not properly fulfil the one function they are intended to do, *viz.*, to impart to all elementary general instruction of a broad type.

To sum up the weak points of their existing position thus appear to be these :—

(1) These schools being so few in number as to reach but 1/3rd of the population have their range of operative effect much restricted and usefulness reduced in proportion.

(2) So defective, further is the existing organisation that these schools for the most part stand as it were isolated in the general system, carrying the bulk of their pupils no further than the IV standard of the primary stage and training them for no special study and being without any special departments of technical study organised in the upper stage to link them

on by direct connection to the higher special institutions they fail to be of any service in carrying down to the masses the new science and its lights from those higher institutions. Our present courses above the lower primary being more or less exclusively literary do not benefit the bulk of our pupils who have neither the means nor the patience to proceed on the wearisome journey.

(3) Even taking these schools as they are teaching mostly the first 4 standards, their working can hardly be held to be satisfactory the course being narrow and the methods faulty.

If the foregoing is not an inaccurate statement of the facts it suggests the directions in which change and improvement seems called for. Briefly our requirements are :—

(1) The widest possible extension of primary education.

(2) Creation of a real side in the upper standards of primary stage parallel to the existing literary.

(3) A reform of the curriculum of the lower primary stage.

As regards increase of schools we have here much ground yet to cover over 18000 villages yet without schools and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population unreached. The widest possible diffusion of primary education however, is one of our first requirements as elsewhere one of the first precedent conditions without which well ordered even progress is hardly possible. It is further the only means by which the masses could be enfranchised from the degradation of ages and their condition raised and improved. But happily on this point there are no two opinions and here as in other Provinces the most strenuous efforts are being devoted to the developement of this branch of public instruction. The question of extension is partly one of school management and partly and largely one of funds. Within the existing school area it is both the one and the other not even half the children yet attended and in the rural parts it is worth while considering, whether shorter

hours of school attendance, half-day sessions, longer vacations etc. might not be more suitable. It would also be well here to bear in mind the Prussian view "as is your teacher so is your school" and improve the qualifications of these village school master. Free education is yet no part of the popular demand but the claims of the poor and lower classes in the matter of freeships and stipends are entitled to every consideration. Some such changes, it may be trusted, would largely improve the attendance of our schools. As to the opening of new schools the question is entirely one of funds. In every division of the Presidency large extensions are only stopped for want of money.

Taking the Presidency as administratively divided into Municipal and Local Board areas we find that while the Municipal area with its population of slightly over 3 millions has 2,320 schools including aided and indigenous with about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of pupils on the rolls. The Local Board area with its population of close on 16 millions has only 6,500 schools with a roll of 3 lakhs of scholars (just equal to twice the Municipal number for more than five times the population). The disparity in regard to educational provision between the urban and rural parts is thus marked and yet while in the former further extensions are almost assured in the latter there is no such assurance and chances of future expansion are disappointingly poor. In the Municipal area the law imposes upon the Municipal Boards the duty of making adequate provision for primary education within their limits and the revenues they manage are elastic and susceptible of increase and are further supplemented by Government grants on the half local assets principle. Besides Government aids private schools in the Municipal towns out of its own revenues. Here also every agency is available for educational extension finds scope for work and prospers. Thus in the Municipal area, the position as regards future requirements is pretty strong.

But not so with the Local Board area where the existing provision is most inadequate. There is little prospect under

present conditions of any large extensions during five years from 1889-90 to 1894-95 there was actually a fall off in the number of Local Board schools to the extent of as many as 123. The Local Boards are simply administrative bodies with no taxing powers and the income they administer is mostly an inelastic income. Government fixes its subsidy-in-aid on the same principle as it does in the case of the Municipalities, the well-known half the local assets principle. The consequence is the Local Board income is almost a fixed quantity made up of a fixed Local Fund under Government grant equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of it and cannot possibly meet the growing needs in this regard of this rural parts. Further Government leaves these Local Boards to aid indogenous schools as far as they can out of their own revenue and does not aid them itself as in the Municipal area. The task of making due provision in this respect thus almost exclusively devolves on the Local Boards which, however, with inelastic funds at their disposal are not in a position to meet the growing demand. Unaided schools have but little chance in these rural parts and even when aided it is only the exceptionally strong schools that prosper and that too in the large villages. As long then as the present financial conditions continue which place at the disposal of the Local Boards an inelastic fund and do not render available for the purpose any definite proportion of Provincial revenues, irrespective of local assets the outlook is anything but hopeful. The existing arrangements seem scarcely fair to the rural parts. The $\frac{1}{2}$ local assets principle, as determining the Government subsidy works fairly enough in the Municipal area where the local assets are an elastic and expanding resource, but in respect of Local Board areas where the local assets are almost a fixed item only slowly growing with land Revenue, the application of the principle limits the funds and with it the power of the Local Boards to make any adequate provision in this respect. Year after year applications from the villages for new

schools have to be refused for want of funds—than which nothing could be more discouraging. If educational expansion in these rural Districts is to keep pace with the growing needs and the growing demand it is only possible provided Government gives its subsidy not in relation to the local cess income but with reference to the peoples' requirements.

But 2ndly even an extended provision for primary education a mere increase of schools without a fuller and better organisation of their departments and studies will not meet our necessities. As at present these schools, with no upper stage of real study yet developed corresponding to the existing literary, not only do not carry the mass of their pupils any further than the IV standard and leave their training altogether incomplete, but as a consequence, lying detached from the higher special institutions which too have no vernacular department as a connecting link, fail to serve as the broad medium through which the higher science and its lights could pass down to the masses to vivify and elevate the general industrial life of the Province. Experience makes it too plain that the literary courses, above standard IV, we at present provide in the upper stages of the primary schools on the one side and in the High Schools on the other within the latter case specialisations of study in the distant prospect, have no attraction for and do not benefit the bulk of our pupils who are thus forced to leave off having received no practical training to aid them in their future avocations. This is not as it should be and a change here seems urgently called for.

The programme of a complete primary education has been authoritatively laid down in the recommendations of the Education Commission. It is to be "the instruction of the masses through the vernacular in such subjects as will best fit them for their position in life" and is not to be "necessarily" regarded as a portion of instruction leading upto the University. The standards of primary education should comprise besides the necessary studies "practical subjects

such as native methods of arithmetic, accounts, mensuration, the elements of natural and physical science and their application to agriculture, health and the industrial arts." Instruction in the necessary rudiment is to be uniformed for all but further course of training suited to the different wants of the different classes is to be provided in the higher stages of the primary course literary for those who desire to proceed to the University and practical and special for the rest who do not or cannot go in for the literary.

The question as to where the course should bifurcate is an open question and much debated. With us the Bombay system fixes the limit of necessary elementary instruction as designed for all at the IV standard below which no specialisation of studies is admissible or even desirable.

The IV standard being thus our limit, we have, if we decide so to do, to develop our real side above that line *i.e.* in the upper standards of the primary stage. And here the wants of the different classes have to be considered. If in the larger towns we want a technical or a commercial branch in the villages a course of instruction in agricultural or small handicrafts would best suit the local needs. It seems desirable at the start to organise in the upper stage a real course—if optional with and parallel to the existing literary—divided into three sections—*Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial* arranged on co-ordinate lines and optional intended for those who do not go to the High Schools. The course of instruction should comprise :—

- (a) Agricultural Section—(1) Practical Agriculture, (2) Elements of Botany and (3) Veterinary Science.
- (b) Industrial Section—(1) Model and ornamental drawing, (2) Mechanical Engineering, (3) Applied physics, (4) Workshop instruction in small crafts such as wood-carving.
- (c) Commercial Section (1) Book-keeping, (2) Knowledge of goods, (3) Elements of political economy,

(4) Commercial Geography and (5) Correspondence.

This alternative course of real studies in the upper primary stage might be of two or three years, planned out in easy stages. The hours of school attendance also would require to be so arranged as least to interfere with the usual hours of labour, to meet the convenience of the poor classes. Some such development of new studies would immensely benefit the poorer scholars and increase the practical usefulness of the bulk of our primary schools. No beginning however could be made in any such direction without a supply of trained teachers and the first necessary practical step required would be to introduce the new studies as far as practicable in the curriculum of the normal colleges or to form such classes in the special colleges.

But these are more or less matters of detail and the main question for consideration is whether looking (1) to the comparative failure of our present system of literary instruction which leaves the bulk of our pupils without an adequate training for the business of life, (2) to the economic wants of the people in respect of technical education and (3) to the conditions of future development and expansions of the higher special institutions, whether looking to all these the time is not come for arranging in our primary schools a real side in the upper stage corresponding to the existing course of the V and VI standards. And in this connection it may be submitted that in no other way could full effect be given to the recommendations of Education Commission on the point nor could the position of the primary schools be really improved and their usefulness enlarged.

None of these suggestions, however, could be carried out without a large increase of funds devoted to education, but on this financial question I would only venture to observe that if we only succeed in making out our case and bringing home to the mind and conscience of Government and the people the

necessity for such expansion of the system, we may rest assured that our appeal for funds would not fail to receive a sympathetic response and that the requisite funds would be forthcoming for the purpose.

Lastly as regards a reform of the curriculum of the first four standards the time seems to have come for an effort to assimilate it to the curriculum of the primary schools in European countries. There is no longer any reason why we should be content with a lower standard of general culture, and considerations as to the future requirements of progress under British rule point to the necessity of having it as high. The additions required to improve the existing course and give it the requisite breadth are *drawing, manual training, introduction to natural science* (as in Huxley's series) together with largely extended realistic or object lesson teaching. The Ujaini might be conveniently much reduced and the arithmetic of the standards redistributed and I would take this opportunity of stating that this view is very strongly held by Mr. L. G. Deshmukh, the Collector of Sholapur, who takes a very warm interest in educational matters.

Thus improved and broadened the course of instruction (standards I to IV) would well serve our purpose whether considered as a uniform standard of general education for all or as a preparatory course for higher studies.

A large increase in the number of schools, the creation of a varied department of special study in the upper stage of the primary course to fill up the existing blank, and a reform of the initial course of instruction—with these enlargements and changes the position of our primary schools would be immensely improved and strengthened and it may be confidently hoped that when so improved and strengthened they would supply a broader and stronger foundation than at present for our system of higher instruction and its fuller and freer development along the rich and varied lines of classical and real study.

G. V. JOSHI.

THE TRAINING OF THE ARTIZAN.

(An extract from a paper read by Mr. Wallace before the Poona Educational Conference on 1st October 1896.)

This paper would not be complete without some attempt to indicate in more detail what I hold to be the proper way of training the artizan, and as the subject of technical education is one with which some present are probably not very familiar what I have to say under this head may serve to explain and elucidate statements previously made.

The training of the artizan may be broadly divided into two stages; in the first he should acquire a thorough knowledge of the use of ordinary hand-tools, and in the second learn to use and construct for himself cheap and simple labour-saving appliances. The training of the Indian workman is very defective in the first of these stages and of the second he is practically quite ignorant.

With regard to the work belonging to the first stage of training the use of hand-tools we find that the average Indian artificer in the building and repair of houses is chiefly remarkable for the inaccuracy of all he does for the blunt condition of his tools, and for his ingenuity in making excuses. Away from large towns he is usually without a foot rule and has never seen a grind stone.

Let us take the wood-worker as a typical example and inquire into what he most needs in the way of education. His methods are very defective. His tools are blunt as a normal condition so blunt as to greatly regard his speed and ease in working. This arises from his defective means of sharpening them. His wheel-stone is too small and is never level in surface, so that he produces always a rounded cutting edge. If provided with a good and smooth grind-stone he straight way cuts it into grooves, and otherwise abuses it, until it is

unfit for use. He then returns to the original method without a thought of putting the grind-stone in order. This may be seen at Bombay at the present time. It has been urged that the grind-stone is too expensive a tool for a native carpenter who has a small fixed workshop, but this is absurd as it can be made of any sand-stone, and mounted entirely in wood, including axle-bearings and handle. All sand-stones are not equally good but any is better than the existing stone as at present used. The sharpening of saws comes next in order. It involves an outlay on files which the carpenter is loath to make. I have only met one Indian workman who without compulsion kept his saws in good order. The general result is an enormous amount of needless labour that a sharp and well-set saw would obviate. Cutting up to a pencil line or cutting it out altogether, an operation that any European apprentice can perform, is an unknown art among most Indian workmen.

Accuracy in measurement is similarly neglected because the Indian workman has yet to learn that it is more easy to be correct than incorrect. That is to say the correct man loses the least amount of time.

Again in his attitudes, at work the Indian is frequently wrong. He sits to certain operations such as handsawing and planing that would be done with less expenditure of muscular force when standing.

Of drawing he knows little or nothing but he is capable of learning to make hand-sketches of details of work and of placing dimensions on them in a very short time if the subject is properly presented to him at the right age.

All the things I have mentioned may be taught and well taught to boys without the intervention of spelling book and their utility is so obvious and so suggestive of good wages, that the business of the school would be much more agreeable than in classes where the three rupees are the staple of mental nourishment.

The matter just dealt with all comes within the scope of the first stage of technical instruction. They all belong to that part of the art of labour which no literary study will impart and which can only be acquired by practice with the hand and eye. The second stage which although usually associated with literary acquirements is really quite independent of them enters into the economy of labour and deals with machines and appliances for expediting work not the expensive machine tools that are imported from Europe but such machines as may be made by the workman himself with the aid of the hard and the durable woods so common in India.

The disregard of accuracy of our local workmen results in their being unable to make anything exactly to pattern or to make any number of things alike. Each separate operation involves separate measurement, each with a strong probability of error in it. To obviate this gauges must be used for work that has to be repeated, and when the gauge is fixed mechanically on a work-table, and the cutting instrument is rigidly fixed in a certain relation to it, instead of being held in the hand. We have to gather the elements of a machine tool that will perform the same operation any number of times in exactly the same manner. It does not matter mechanically of what material the machine-tool is made, so long as it fulfills its purpose, but the difference in cost of a good home-made appliance and that of a machine made in Europe for the same purpose may be enormous. The latter as an article for exhibition and sale may be far superior to the former, and capable of doing a great variety of work but if the variety is not needed the advantage of it is destroyed.

Brass-workers in Bombay, Poona, Nassik, and elsewhere are importing elaborate slide and screw-cutting lathes entirely of steel and iron to do work which is done to-day in Birmingham on lathes with a bed and frame of wood.

treading his own lathe instead of employing another man to do this. Glass-fittings, garden-syringes and numerous other articles are thus made in for the Bombay bazaar.

The principal machines a workman may make for himself are the lathe, the circular saw, the fret saw and the drilling machine; and among the many uses to which these may be put the following may be mentioned.

In the making of doors, windows and shutters, the small circular saw with two blades cuts and shoulders tenons with speed and accuracy, while the drill papers the mortises by making parallel holes at each end of the recess. Jhilmil stave are cut to length and shouldered by the circular saw, while a tube saw, made of sheet iron or steel, and fixed in the lathe cuts the pins at each end to cylindrical form and at standard diameter.

The drilling machine makes the holes for these pins all in the right position in the shutter frame and parallel to each other, without measurement when once adjusted.

The foot lathe, which every pupil should learn to use, may be made largely of solid bamboo, with wooden fly wheel, axle, bed and head-stocks. It is good for both wood and brass turning, and screws may be cut on it with hand-tools. Small circular saws from 4 to 6 inches in diameter are often used in the lathe for a variety of work. The extension of the No. 1 stable of the Bombay Tramway Company, carried out by the writer, was joinered in this way. The circular saws used were old blades out of an worn out cotton gin, mounted in a very common joiner's lathe and the tube saw for forming the pins of the hundreds of jhilmil shutters was of common iron. No paring was necessary on the work. The device was afterwards needed for making the frames of notices hung in the tramcars.

The object to be aimed at in the training of workmen is to make them self-reliant, and as independent as possible of machine-tools which they cannot make themselves and which are only to be found in the large towns and manufactories. Men so trained have no difficulty in learning the use of machine-tools when this becomes necessary. The training of blacksmiths for instance should be such as would enable them to do their work almost exclusively on the anvil, like those smiths of the 18th century in Europe who were only proud of such work as shewed no trace of file, chisel or retying. A first class smith can forge every detail of a rose spray out of charcoal bar iron, and wield them together afterwards into a complete and beautiful representation of the flower. Riveted and classed work, as seen in grills of all sorts; may be taken up at any time after the smith's real training is over.

The European machines now used in Technical schools are quite beyond the means of any ordinary workmen, so that a student, when he leaves the school finds himself the worse rather than the better for having acquired the habit of using them, unless he can get employment in some large workshop fitted up with these machines. Such workshops in India only give employment to the smallest fraction of the whole number of workers in wood and iron and unless primary technical instruction is adapted to the needs of vast majority of the workmen the hoped for general improvement in methods of work, on which industrial progress really depends, must be indefinitely delayed.

The only knowledge, therefore, which can be usefully given in schools is that which can be turned to practical use by the ordinary workman in his own workshop, and

such knowledge consists chiefly of good and expeditious processes of work which are quite within the means of the artificer.

This knowledge deals first with the making and sharpening of hand-tools, the making and testing of straight edges, squares, and plumb levels, the handling of tools in the best manner for work, accuracy in making and measuring, and the use of many simple devices for holding materials while work is being performed on them. The next stage includes the construction of such machine-tools, principally of hard work, as the artificer can make for himself and more about in a cart to temporary work, like the joinery work in new houses. The most important of these, as I said before, are the lathe, the circular saw, the fretsaw and the drilling machine, all of which except the saw blades, could be made in such workshops as those of the school of Art in Bombay.

JOHN WALLACE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SABHA.

MEETINGS.

The Half-yearly General Meeting of the Sabha was held on 22nd March 1896, Shrimant Shri Baba Maharaja, the Vice-President being in the chair. It was resolved to convert a portion of the Wada into a public hall for lectures and other purposes. Discussion about using native cloth only. A proposal for sending agents to moffusil to agitate the question considered and further discussion adjourned to 19th July 1896, when another proposal to bind members of the Sabha with an oath was also discussed and eventually abandoned.

The Annual General Meeting of the Sabha was held on 15th August 1896, Shrimant Shri Baba Maharaja, Vice-President being in the chair. Report of the last year was read and after much discussion adopted with some verbal amendments. Budget for the next year sanctioned. A new Managing Committee was appointed for the year and thanks were accorded to the retiring one. Professor G. K. Gokhale B. A., having in spite of repeated requests, persisted his determination to resign the Honorary Secretaryship of the Sabha, Pro-

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fessor S. M. Paranjpe M. A. was appointed Honorary Secretary in his place. A resolution was unanimously passed thanking Professor Gokhale for his past services and expressing regret of the Sabha at their loss.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of the City and Cantonment of Poona was held under the auspices of the Sabha in the New Joshi Hall, Budhwar Peth, on 18th July 1896, to express public indignation at the resolution of Parliament to saddle India with the expenses of the Suakin expedition. Mr. Damodar Yashawant Jog presided. Professor A. S. Sathe M. A. proposed and Shet Nathmal Ghanasham seconded and Mr. Ghamande supported the first resolution, that the public of Poona felt deep regret at the recent resolution of Parliament about the Suakin expenses. Professor S. M. Paranjpe M. A. proposed, Mr. Jhambre Patil seconded and the Hon. Mr. B. G. Tilak supported the second proposition that the above resolution should be communicated to the Secretary of State and the Government of India. The Chairman having made a few remarks the meeting dispersed.

The following telegram on the same subject was also sent by the Honorary Secretary of the Sabha to Government of India on 22nd May 1896 :—"The Sabha respectfully begs leave to protest strongly against the despatch of Indian troops to Egypt and their utilization for purposes and interests other than purely Indian and also to invite the attention of Government to Statutory provision prohibiting employment of Indian forces beyond India, and further earnestly prays that the already overburdened Indian treasury may not be allowed to be saddled with any costs on that account."

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MEMORIAL.

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Managing Committee of the Sabha, the following representation on the impending famine was submitted to the Government of Bombay :—

No. 1975 of 1893.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,

Poona, 5th November 1893.

To,

THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,

BOMBAY.

SIR,

By the direction of the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha we have the honour to submit for the consideration of Government the following suggestions regarding the arrangements which are required to be made to alleviate suffering and distress caused by the abnormal failure of crops on account of the excessive rainfall at first, and the cessation of rain during the latter part of the rainy season this year. The last ray of hope for late rains has now disappeared; and if we might yet have any showers at all, they will be practically useless for the raising of the rabi crops, though they may afford some relief by increasing the supply of fodder and water. In spite of some moderate showers that we recently had in the southern part of the Presidency and about Poona and Satara, the time has, therefore, come, when, in the opinion of the Sabha, Government ought not to delay any longer to officially declare the existence of famine over the greater part of the Presidency. According to the information collected by the Sabha the cattle are being sold almost for nominal prices in Sholapur, Bijapur and Nagar Districts, while a few hundred cows have already been sent to the local Panjar-pole from Indapur and Bijapur and hundreds more are expected shortly to arrive. The very appearance of these animals is sufficient to convince any one of the want and distress which

prevails in the Districts whence these animals were sent. It is further reported that the cattle are also dying for want of fodder in the Western Districts of the Central Division. The prices of grain and grass have gone up more than hundred per cent.; and many field-labourers have left their villages, and are flocking in towns in the hope of finding some work to maintain themselves and their families. All these are not signs of mere scarcity as some misinformed persons believe, but they are the beginning of a real distress which, according to the inquiries made by the Sabha, threatens soon to develop into a severe famine, and it would be highly impolitic to shut our eyes to these stern facts. Even where the crops have not totally failed they are barely enough to support the rayats for two, or at best, three months, and the supply of fodder is equally, or, perhaps, more insufficient. The outlook is, therefore, dark and disheartening, and immediate steps must be taken on a large scale to afford relief to the distressed. The kind assurances given by the Viceroy, the Secretary of State, and Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress that every thing would be done to relieve distress and save life have been received by the people with grateful satisfaction, and the Committee of the Sabha trusts that no formalities or technicalities will be allowed to stand in the way of the fulfilment of the sacred duty of saving life, and mitigating distress which devolves on the Indian Government in these days, not only in its capacity of parental Government, but also as Famine Insurer, receiving an annual premium of a crore and half for the last eighteen years. A large number of petty farmers have already begun to feel the pinch of famine in the Districts of Ahmednagar, Khandesh, Sholapur, Bijapur, and Poona; and if Government means to wait until all the conditions for officially recognising the famine are strictly and literally fulfilled there is every danger of the poor rayats in these parts being starved to death, or being rendered permanently unfit for any work in future. Such a calamity could only be averted by timely relief, although the distress may not have technically become so general or severe as to justify the introduction of the Famine Relief Code. The object of the Famine Relief Code is to lay down certain general rules for the guidance of District officers in times of famine, but it does not follow therefrom that Government should refuse to relieve distress unless it prevails over a

large area and has attained its maximum extent and intensity. The Committee of the Sabha, therefore, earnestly requests that the famine may now be officially recognised without any more delay, and District officers be generally authorised to adopt measures of relief, either permanently or experimentally as the case may be, even if some of the conditions for the official recognition of famine may be technically wanting.

2. The experience of previous famines and the result of the inquiries instituted by the Famine Commission have served to place beyond the pale of controversy certain principles of Famine relief which were doubtful or contested in 1876-77; and the Famine Relief Code now contains elaborate provisions for the organisation of large and small relief works and poor houses, for the classification of different kinds of the people standing in need of relief, for the regulation of wages and ration, and for many other similar matters. It also lays down conditions under which suspensions or remissions of revenue are to be granted, or Government forests opened for free grazing, and gives directions to the officers of the Medical, Police, Engineering and Revenue Departments as to what is expected from them and what reports they are to forward to Government during the famine time. It is a matter of great satisfaction that so many principles of relief are now officially recognised and the Sabha feels that its work is considerably lightened by the codification of the rules of the Famine Relief Administration. But no Code is perfect, and this is especially the case with the Famine Relief Code, as the circumstances of different famines are not generally the same. As observed by the Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn in his statement about the present famine in the Imperial Legislative Council, new agencies of relief have also been brought into existence since 1876-77 and the Relief Code requires to be modified accordingly. It is probably owing to the same cause that the Bombay Famine Relief Code is now being revised; but as the Sabha is not aware on what lines the revision is undertaken, it ventures to make a few suggestions in regard to methods of relief, and the actual execution of the principles of relief embodied in the Relief Code, so that mistakes which were committed in 1876-77 and which, as was then pointed out by the Sabha, caused a considerable mortality at the time may not be repeated.

this year. In the first place Government may have noticed that the famine of this year differs from the famine of 1876-77 in one important particular. The prices of food-grains have gone up very high on the very first apprehension of the famine, giving rise to grain-riots at various places, such as Hubli, Dharwar, Yawal and other parts of Khandesh. It is believed in some quarters that this sudden rise in the prices of food-grains is entirely due to the combination of grain-dealers, who are credited with a desire to make profit out of what may be termed a national calamity. The Committee of the Sabha is not, however, prepared to accept this view. It is not to be denied that speculation generally prevails among grain-dealers at such times and the rise in prices is no doubt *partly* due to this cause. But there is no evidence of any general combination on the part of grain-dealers, and if there were the very circumstances that such a combination was made possible now and not before shows that the supply of food-grains must have become insufficient. The fact of food-grains being sold at famine rates on the very eve of the famine can, therefore, be only attributed to the expected insufficiency of the stock of food-grains in the country to meet the growing demand for the same in months to come. The Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn in his statement before the Imperial Legislative Council referred to the advantages of extended Railway communications which we now possess, and which were not available at the time of the famine of 1876-77. But the Hon'ble gentleman appears to have lost sight of the fact that Railway extension has its disadvantages as well as advantages. It not only helps and encourages the annual export of grain to foreign countries, but on the first alarm of famine it enables grain-dealers to run to the different parts of the country and by making large purchases to eventually raise the prices to the same level all over India. It is believed that the prices of food-grains in the Bombay Presidency would not have risen so high had it not been for easy Railway communications between this Presidency and N. W. P. and Central Provinces. The shops for selling grain at cheaper rates to the poor, established at some places by the local leaders or merchants, have given some relief to the lower classes, but the relief can only be temporary; and once the insufficiency of the food-grains in the country is made apparent, as it must be in course of a month or two,

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the prices would again go on rising and it would be difficult to purchase grain at moderate prices for the maintenance of these shops. The relief afforded by these shops, as will be shewn hereafter, is again very limited in its scope inasmuch as it implies ability to pay, though not to the fullest extent, for the grain purchased. An overwhelming majority of persons that require relief in the famine time do not possess such ability and consequently it is ridiculous to suppose, as some seem to do, that these shops, however they may serve to control the prices of grain for the time being, can in any way take the place of the measures of relief which can and must be undertaken by Government, such as grant of grain compensation allowance, establishment of poor houses &c. The famine of 1876-77 was not so much a famine of grain as of money and labour; but the present famine threatens to be a famine of grain as well as of money; and is also likely to be more widespread than the previous one. The Committee of the Sabha, therefore, strongly recommends that early steps be taken to ascertain the stock of grain in the Province and to supplement the same by importing food-grains from foreign countries. From the information received by the Sabha the quantity of grain in the Province is not sufficient for its own requirements and much less for the requirements of other Provinces where grain is now being largely sent from this Presidency, so that unless grain is largely imported into the country there is little chance of the prices settling down to a normal level. The Committee of the Sabha desires in this connection to draw the attention of Government to the steps taken by some of the Native Chiefs with respect to their States. Some of them have prohibited the export of grain altogether or have commenced to tax its exportation very heavily, while others are purchasing and storing grain for distribution in the severest days of famine. The Committee is fully aware of the difficulties which may prevent the Local Government from taking any steps of this kind. Importation of grain from foreign countries, with the present free commercial communications between the various Provinces which it is not desirable to disturb, can be usefully undertaken only by a central agency like the Imperial Government. But still the Local Government has a duty to perform in this matter by urging upon the attention of the Imperial

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SABHA.

Government the necessity of importing grain into the country by making one or two large investments, even at a loss if necessary. It is believed that private agencies are hesitating to import foreign grain for fear of incurring a loss if the local prices suddenly fall two months hence, by any unexpected event; and it is all the more necessary therefore for Government to undertake that risk by investing their own funds or guaranteeing the traders against loss. Once grain is imported into the country in sufficient quantity the prices would at once sink down and then Government would be free to devote its exclusive attention to the relief of the destitute cultivators. In other words the famine of grain would then at once disappear and Government would be free to cope only with the other aspects of the famine. The Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn, in his statement above referred to, has made a pointed allusion to the fact that for the first time in the famine history of India some foreign wheat has been imported into the country this year. But he does not appear to have looked at the question from the point of view mentioned above and considered if it was not necessary for Government to do anything in the matter on its own account. Ordinary commercial enterprise will, of course, supply the deficiency but not until the prices have gone up so high as to make the enterprise worth trying from the pecuniary point of view. But the Committee of the Sabha is of opinion that in the interests of the rayat and the Government, which in this case cannot be different, it would not be at all advisable for Government to make the distressed rayat wait so long. The Sabha does not ask Government to undertake the distribution of foreign grain amongst different Districts or Provinces after it is imported. That work may in the first instance be left to the ordinary commercial agency, and Government may restrict its operations only so far as to bear the risk and loss, if any, arising from the importation of grain in sufficient quantities. But as soon as any tendency is apparent on the part of grain-dealers to make large purchases and store or lock up grain in order to cause deficiency of supply and a rise in prices for the sake of profit, and there is no private agency sufficient to check or control this tendency, Government must be prepared to take steps to open shops on its own account to retail grain at the cost price, and, if need be, even at a loss.

3. The Famine Relief Code only provides for two kinds of relief—relief to the able-bodied persons willing to work and relief to the disabled or children of non-working age; which means that Government promises relief only to such persons as have become destitute and are willing to shift themselves and their families to places where relief works may have been started. There is no doubt that this is the principal and the largest class of people that urgently require relief in famine times. But there is a class of persons, whose income is, barely enough, even in days of abundance, to enable them to live from hand to mouth; and it is upon these people that high prices press very heavily in famine days. They cannot give up their usual employment and go to relief works, and the only means of saving them from semi-starvation is to make grain available to them at reasonably moderate prices. Grain-shops for selling grain at moderate rates can afford temporary relief to this class, but nothing short of importation of grain from foreign countries can remove or at least sensibly alleviate the distress of this class. Government may in the case of its low-paid servants sensibly relieve this distress by paying them, as is done in the case of Native Sepoys, in the Military Service, grain compensation allowance; but the Sabha regrets to observe that such allowance has not yet been sanctioned though the prices have nearly doubled during the last two months. This class also comprises artisans, day-labourers and others, that require similar assistance to enable them to maintain themselves and their families in these days, and this assistance can only be given by starting Government shops for selling grain at cheaper rate or by treating on grants-in-aid principle the shops that are started by public subscription at some places. But all this presupposes sufficient stock of grain in the country, and if such is not the case then grain will have to be imported as remarked above. It is also suggested, and not without good reason, that the closing of as many liquor shops as possible will, especially in towns, prevent many persons of the lower class from wasting their money on liquor. Such forced temperance may not commend itself to Government in ordinary times, but there is no reason why the experiment may not be tried in famine days, when Government is prepared to do a good many things which it would never venture to undertake in ordinary times.

4. With reference to the relief to be granted to destitute able-bodied persons, it appears that it will be given by starting large relief works at few selected places. The Committee of the Sabha, however, begs to point out that small local relief works are more useful and efficient for affording relief to the agriculturist population. Day-labourers may not find it inconvenient to shift from one place to another. But for an agriculturist owning a field or fields and cattle in a village, it is not only a real hardship but practically impossible to turn out his cattle and sever his connection with the village unless compelled by extreme hunger and destitution, if he at all survives the first attack of famine. It will be evident from the official as well as the non-official reports of the famine of 1876-77, that cultivators under these extreme circumstances hardly return to their fields again and there is always the danger of arable lands in the various villages being left uncultivated or poorly cultivated for considerable time after the famine is over. Small local Relief works undertaken in the first period of famine are therefore the only means of remedying, as far as possible, these evils and of keeping the agricultural population within their villages. Distressed people require relief by villages and not by Districts and the Committee of the Sabha wishes specially to urge this point on the notice of the Government. It is not only hard but cruel to ask people to leave their homes and to go to large relief works where there is hardly any accommodation for them and their families and where they do not get more than two annas per head per day—wages which would barely support a single individual—so that if he has his wife and children with him he must either keep them at the poor house or make every one of them to work at the Relief Works. There are many other difficulties which the cultivators have to overcome before they think of bidding good-bye to their homes, so much so that many die of starvation before they give up their land and cattle. The opening of small Relief Works in each group of villages is therefore a primary necessity if the cultivators, as distinguished from day-labourers, are to be saved from the jaws of famine.

5. The Committee of the Sabha further desires to press upon the attention of Government the necessity of increasing the quantity of ration allowed to labourers on the Famine Relief Works. It was pointed out by the Sabha in 1876-77 that at least a *sher* (2lbs.)

of food per day is necessary to maintain the body of a labourer in good working order and the opinion was fully supported by many competent medical men. The object of starting Relief Works is not to enable the destitute agriculturists to live merely, but to live in such a condition as to be able to take up their ordinary profession after the famine is over. It should also be borne in mind that these men have to do a full day's work and the officers in charge of Relief Works never fail to exact the same from them. Full work on starvation ration is an impossibility and the experience of the famine of 1876-77 shows that many of those that survive the famine are either incapacitated, owing to great physical weakness caused by the insufficiency of food, to resume their ordinary work or that they succumb shortly afterwards to maladies brought on by living for months on insufficient food. The Committee of the Sabha, therefore, strongly urges that labourers on Famine Relief Works should never be allowed a smaller ration than that given to prisoners actually employed on Public Works. Prisoners have only to support themselves; but the labourers on Relief Works have often to maintain not only themselves but the dependent members of the family, consisting of women and children who, though they may be employed on Relief Works, do not earn the full wages allowed to male adults. The Famine Relief Code now provides that the minimum ration excluding dāl and vegetables, to be allowed to a male adult should be 16 ozs. (1 lb.) of grain per day while the maximum is fixed at 24 ozs. (1½ lbs.) per day. The Committee of the Sabha is firmly of opinion that this scale requires to be revised in a more liberal spirit. The Bombay Jail Administration Report for 1895 (*vide* Statement VIII in the Appendix, page 43) gives three scales of diet for the prisoners in jail; one for the non-labouring prisoners, which is 20ozs. (1¼lb.) per day per head exclusive of vegetables; the second for prisoners on ordinary hard labour in Jail, which is 24 ozs. (1½lb.) and the third for prisoners on Public Works which is fixed as follows:—28 ozs. (1¾lbs.) of wheat, Bajri or Jawari, 5 ozs. dāl, 8 drs. salt, 8 ozs. vegetables, 6 drs. curry stuffs, 4 drs. co-cum or tamarind, 8 dra. oil and 14 ozs. firewood. The same Administration Report further mentions that this scale had to be increased to 2 lbs. of grain per day when the convict gangs were employed in Sind “on the hardest form of labour in the way of digging and embankment work.” (page 13.) This practically settles the question of the

scale of diet to be allowed to the labourers on Famine Relief works, who are mostly unskilled labourers only capable of doing the same kind of work as digging or embankment work. The ration allowed to prisoners in Jail can never be regarded as a luxury; and the minimum ration for a labourer on Relief works ought not to be less than that allowed to a prisoner working on Public works, that is, not less than 28 ozs. (1½ lbs.) of grain exclusive of dal, vegetables and firewood. The punishment diet scale in jails, that is, the diet given to misbehaved prisoners as a further punishment for misbehaviour in jail, is 16 ozs. of grain and it is more than cruel to adopt this scale for the minimum ration on Relief works. To be afflicted by famine is no crime and it requires no arguing that a Relief Works labourer ought to get not less food per day than that given to a prisoner working on public works and certainly more than the diet allowed to a prisoner undergoing simple imprisonment and consequently not required to work at all. It is a matter of painful surprise, therefore, to find, that the Relief Code still adopts the exploded theory of one pound ration, and fixes the minimum ration for a Relief work-labourer, at 16 ozs. of grain per day (that is 4 ozs. less than the diet allowed to simple imprisonment prisoners.) and the maximum at 24 ozs. (that is again less by 4 ozs. than the ration given to prisoners on public works). This maximum scale of 24 ozs. is equal to the diet allowed to ordinary hard labour-prisoners doing work in Jail. But in the first place it may be remarked that every Relief Works labourer is not given the maximum ration and again if by jail experience it is found that when hard labour prisoners are sent out to work on public works in the Deccan their scale of diet has to be increased to 28 ozs. of grain per day exclusive of dal, vegetables &c. (and even to 32 ozs. in Sind) it is simply merciless not to fix the minimum ration at 28 ozs. of grain per day in the case of labourers on Relief works, who ought certainly to receive better treatment than men condemned to work on hard labour. If a paternal Government really means to give relief to the distressed it should not be miserable; and the Sabha strongly urges that the present scale of diet of 1 to 1½ lbs. of grain exclusive of vegetables &c. should be at least raised to 1½ to 2 lbs. as the minimum and maximum limits respectively. This raising of the minimum standard of ration will, no doubt, increase the expenditure on the Famine Relief works. But the Committee of the Sabha begs to point out that the

question ought not to be decided according to the amount of funds available for the purpose. The real question at issue is how much food is required per day to keep a man of the labouring class in good working condition; and in the opinion of the Sabha the scale adopted by the Jail authorities practically solves the question beyond dispute. As regards additional funds required for raising the minimum scale of diet and for starting small relief works at different centres within the easy reach of the distressed villagers, the Sabha begs to state that the position of Government in this respect is far better in 1896 than what it was before the creation and maintenance of the Famine Insurance Fund which was not in existence at the time of the famine of 1876. The Sabha does not wish to enter here into the question whether the obligation to apply the fund exclusively to Famine relief is or is not self-imposed, as the Hon'ble Sir James Westland called it, in his Financial Statement for 1896-97. The time has now come when the obligation requires to be fulfilled whether it be self-imposed or otherwise and the Sabha fully trusts that neither expenditure nor effort will be spared to save life and afford relief to the distressed to the fullest extent possible.

6. As regards suspensions and remissions of revenue, the opening of Government forests for cattle, and the advance of Tagai loans to cultivators, the Committee of the Sabha trusts that these provisions of the Famine Relief Code will be fully and liberally carried out this year. Grain riots have already occurred at various places and it is apprehended that if no adequate relief for men and cattle in the form of the opening of the forests or Tagai loans be given, the cultivators may again assail and loot the Banias and Savakars in the villages. One of the provisions the Relief Code states that no undue pressure should be used to obtain payment of assessment from the agriculturist or no process used to secure the same so as to drive him to borrow from a Savakar or to sell or to mortgage his plough or cattle. But in practice this rule is generally disregarded and the lower subordinate officers often endeavours through overzeal, to collect the revenue by attaching the standing crops and in some cases going so far as to deprive the rayat of all means of subsistence and support. The implements of husbandry and such cattle and seed-grain as may be necessary to enable an agriculturist to earn his livelihood and the materials of the house

occupied by him are exempt from attachment under the Civil Procedure Code; and the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act includes immovable property, other than standing crops, amongst the exceptions, unless where it is specifically mortgaged. This is the protection given to an agriculturist against the Savakar in ordinary days and it is absolutely necessary that the scope of this protection should be widened in days of famine so as to make it operative and practically available as much against the State as against the Savakar. Where the crops have failed to the extent of ten or twelve annas it would be an unwise policy to attach the standing crops for the payment of the first instalment of the revenue and oblige the rayat to leave the village and go to the relief works a month or two earlier. Nor is such a procedure profitable to Government in the end, as the farmer, thus deprived of the means of support, will have to be maintained at public cost for a longer period. The Committee of the Sabha, therefore, requests that Government should now specifically declare, after calling for reports regarding the conditions of crops if necessary, in what cases the collection of revenue will be suspended or remitted owing to the failure of crops. Such a declaration would at once relieve the rayats of the anxiety which they now feel on the subject and keep down, for some time at least, the excitement caused by the present famine. Moreover, without discussing here the well-known facts that the revised rates (such as those in the Panvel Taluka) and in some cases even the old rates of assessment have pressed heavily on the agriculturist by not allowing him a proportion of the produce of his own labour sufficient to maintain himself and his family throughout the year in ordinary times, the Committee of the Sabha would recommend that even in cases in which it may be decided to enforce payment of assessment, it would be advisable to revert to the old rates for the time being, and modify even these in favour of the cultivator where necessary.

7. As regards cattle the Famine Relief Code does not make adequate provision for them though the Sabha gratefully admits that it contains directions for the opening of Government Forests for the free grazing of cattle. But forests are often a long way off from the distressed Talukas or Districts; and it is necessary that some arrangement should be made to transport cattle from

such Districts to the Government forests and there to feed them until the next rainy season when they may be returned to their owners. It is unnecessary to point out that during famine days provision has not only to be made to mitigate present evils but it is also needful to adopt measures for securing resumption of agriculture on a normal scale in the following year. In an agricultural country like India the saving of cattle in such dire days is therefore a state duty of the first importance. Questions have been raised of late as regards the utility of preserving lean or disabled animals; but the Committee of the Sabha, without entering into the philanthropic aspect of the question, begs to point out that if early steps are not taken to provide fodder to the agriculturists' cattle they would be rendered unfit for work by starvation. The Committee of the Sabha, therefore, suggests that in distressed parts the revenue authorities should be directed to take steps for the preservation of cattle necessary for agricultural purposes either by allowing them free grazing in Government Forests where such forests are near at hand, or by transporting them to the forest districts, or by opening free cattle houses or Panjarpols in each circle or Taluka. Grants to Panjarpols or similar other charitable institutions where they have been and may be started may also be usefully made by Government.

8. Gratuitous relief of non-working children, that is to say children under seven years of age, by placing them under the charge of nurses and by the distribution of cooked food is another method of granting relief in famine times. If this provision for the protection of children be liberally carried out there would be little need for proselytising charity in this connection. The Committee of the Sabha does not, in the least, desire to raise here the vexed question of religious conversions. It is now an accepted doctrine that under ordinary circumstances every adult is free to choose his own religion. But what the Committee of the Sabha wishes to bring to the notice of Government is that no person, whether an adult or a child, should be directly or indirectly obliged to change or even exposed to the risk of giving up his religious faith for obtaining relief in days of famine. The rules in the Famine Relief Code are framed in the same spirit and if they are properly executed there ought to be no ground for complaint in this respect.

9. Government will no doubt soon have its famine relief machinery, but the Committee of the Sabha begs to suggest that the machinery of the District and the Taluka Boards and the Municipalities may be advantageously used both for consultative and administrative purposes in the matter of granting famine relief. At the time of the famine of 1876 elected Boards and Municipalities were not in existence but since the passing of the Local-self Government Acts these bodies have been entrusted with greater powers and have been administering large funds for local purposes, placed at their disposal. Famine relief is a work of the same kind requiring a knowledge of local requirements and wants and consequently the suggestions and opinions of local bodies would be highly useful in this case. The Committee of the Sabha, therefore, hopes that the relief programme will be fixed upon and settled by Government, after inviting suggestions from the Taluka Local Boards in the distressed Districts. It is likely to be supposed that the information in the possession of Government is too full to require additional suggestions from the local bodies. But the Sabha begs to point out that even if such be the case there is at least no harm in referring the famine relief programme to the local bodies. Famine relief is intended for the people and the usefulness and efficiency of such relief cannot but be increased if it be granted after consulting local opinion. Partially elected Local Boards and Legislative Councils have now become a part and parcel of Government administrative machinery and Government would not be giving out of its way in inviting the suggestions of these bodies in the administration of famine relief. The Parliamentary Act of 1892 and the rules framed under it provide for the discussion of annual Financial Statement in the Legislative Council as constituted under that Act. Had the famine been anticipated at the time when the last Financial Statement was discussed in the Legislative Council this year the Famine Budget would have naturally formed one of the subjects of discussion thereat. But because this famine was not anticipated at the time, it would not, the Committee thinks, be advisable to dispense with the discussion of the Famine Budget at a meeting of the Legislative Council. The expenditure required for granting famine relief was not provided for in the last Budget. Famine relief is an entirely provincial head of expenditure. But it can hardly be disputed that such

Heavy expenditure as may be required this year for Famine relief cannot be met from Provincial revenues. The Local Government will it is hoped, therefore, claim and receive a special grant from the Imperial for this purpose, and the famine relief programme may be looked on as a special Budget framed for a special purpose and as such falling within the purview, if not the letter, of the Act of 1892. The extent of famine relief entirely depends upon the sum allotted for the purpose and though the Famine Relief Code may contain excellent principles, hundreds may nevertheless die of hunger and want if adequate funds are not available for the purpose. It is therefore not only desirable but absolutely necessary that the Famine Budget should be subjected to intelligent and independent public criticism especially as regards the adequacy or otherwise of the intended provision for relief. This opportunity can best be afforded by presenting to the Legislative Council a special Famine Budget supplementary to the annual one. The Committee need scarcely point out that any criticism of the kind would be too late after the famine is over and it trusts that Government would be pleased to invite independent criticism on its Famine Budget as suggested above.

10. Lastly the Committee of the Sabha begs to urge upon the attention of the Government the necessity for the publication, in the form of a supplement to the *Government Gazette*, of statements regarding the condition of the people, crops, cattle and the administration of Relief Works and similar other statistics and information relating to famine, which are required to be prepared and submitted by subordinate officers to Government under the Famine Relief Code. The Committee of the Sabha is endeavouring to collect, as it did in 1876-77, such information about the famine-stricken districts; but endeavours of public bodies like the Sabha or of private persons cannot be expected to cover the ground to the same extent as reports made by the Government agencies although it cannot be denied that information collected by the former is useful in checking, verifying, and testing the work done by the latter in that respect. His Excellency the Viceroy at the close of his speech in the Imperial Legislative Council has appealed to the wealthy and charitable people to come forward at this time to help the poor and the distressed

and the Committee of the Sabha has no doubt that the call for help will not go in vain. It must, however, be stated that private charity cannot do much when relief is necessary not only in one district or two, but over the major portion of India. What little it can do can however be done only if full and accurate information regarding famine is available to the public. There can be no difference between the official and non-official views in this connection, and the Committee of the Sabha trusts that Government would be pleased to take the local bodies and the public into their confidence, and with their co-operation carry on the work of saving life and mitigating distress to the utmost possible extent. The machinery of Government is very large, but the work entailed by the famine upon them is so great that advice and co-operation from outside will be found not only useful but necessary.

11. These are the principal general suggestions which the Committee of the Sabha has to make at present. The Committee as stated above is trying to collect further information on the subject, and as it arrives it hopes to submit for the consideration of Government more detailed suggestions as may seem to it proper and necessary for the purpose of relieving distress in the famine-stricken districts.

We beg to remain

Sir

Your most obedient servants

V. R. PATVARDHAN,

Chairman, Sarvajani Sabha, Poona,

S. M. PARANJPE,

V. R. JALNAPURKER,

Secretaries, Sarvajani Sabha, Poona.

The following reply to the above has been received :—

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1974, dated 10th instant, with which is forwarded a printed copy of a letter No. 1975, dated 8th idem, from the Chairman and Secretaries of the Sabha to my address, and to state that the representation will receive the earnest consideration of Government.

2. I am to say however with reference to paragraph 1 of the Sabha's letter that the Famine Code now in force makes no provision for an official declaration of famine, and in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council there would be no advantage in such a declaration. Government have been kept fully and punctually informed of the state of affairs existing from time to time in every part of the Presidency and are fully alive to the exceeding gravity of the situation in many places. Works have been opened wherever the occasion seemed to require it, to test the demand for labour, and relief works have been authorized to be commenced in all cases in which that demand has been shown to be abnormal by willingness to accept wages at the rates prescribed in the Code. Provision has also been made for such gratuitous relief as is at present urgently needed, and the Famine Code has been applied to the extent considered to be necessary in existing circumstances in all places in which relief has to be given. The Sabha will scarcely need the assurance of Government that in no case will interference with religious belief be permitted to be made a condition of assistance from the State. Grain compensation has already been directed to be given to Government servants on low pay to the extent admissible under the Civil Account Code.

3. As regards paras 2 and 3 of your letter I am to observe that the Famine Commission have in paragraph 159 of their report stated the cases in which in their opinion interference by Government with private trade would be justifiable, and their views have the full concurrence of this Government. The Governor in Council does not consider that occasion for such interference has yet arisen, and the importation of grain in the manner suggested by the Sabha is especially the work of large private firms and could not be undertaken by Government without an elaborate organization which would require much time to carry out. Any action of Government in this matter would in all probability be detrimental rather than

beneficial by deterring traders from importing through fear that they would be undersold by Government. Inquiries are however being made as to the probable sources of supply, and the Governor in Council will omit no reasonable and practicable means of facilitating private trade, and if the occasion for taking such action as is suggested in the para of the Famine Commission's report above mentioned is shown to exist, measures will be adopted with the least possible delay. As regards the reference to steps taken by some of the Native Chiefs with respect to their States I am to invite a reference to paragraph 151 of the report of the Famine Commission on the subject of the prohibition of exports, and to say that the Native Rulers will be advised to co-operate with the Government by the adoption of the same general system.

4. Turning to paragraph 4 of your letter, I am to say that provision is made in Section 100 of the Code for the opening of small works to relieve persons whom it is inexpedient to draft to works at a distance from their homes and for other purposes, and instructions have been given for the commencement of such works where they are needed for the objects contemplated in that section. It has also been directed that no distance test should be applied. But relief on a large scale can be given only by the concentration of labour as far as possible on large works. Even under that condition the provision of adequate supervision will tax the resources of Government to the utmost; such supervision and even the punctual payment of the labourers would be utterly impracticable if all persons requiring relief were employed near their homes on an immense number of small works.

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Sabha's letter I am to state that the Famine Code has been revised after the fullest consideration by a competent committee, by this Government and by the Government of India, and the occasion has now unfortunately arisen for bringing it into operation. The Sabha will no doubt recognize that the time is scarcely opportune for the resuscitation of a discussion of the question of an appropriate wage. Government have no doubt that that prescribed is adequate for the maintenance of health and have to bear in mind the important and now generally accepted principle that the cost to which the community as a whole is put by the employment of persons in want should be no more than the case strictly requires.

6. The question of the extent to which the land revenue should be suspended or remitted is one to which the fullest attention will be given at the proper time. The principles acted on in this matter are well established, and the Governor in Council is not aware of any reason for altering them. If the revenue due from agriculturists were needlessly sacrificed, the cost of bearing the burden now thrown on the general body of tax-payers could only be thrown to an undue extent on the members of the community who do not hold land assessed to the land revenue. Tagai advances are being made as freely as is practicable.

7. The Sabha is referred to Government Resolution No. 8939 dated 11th instant, which has been laid on the Editor's Table. It will be seen that all practicable measures are being taken for the preservation of agricultural cattle.

8. Adverting to paragraph 9 of the Sabha's letter I am to state that the Famine Code provides for the utilization of the agency of District and Municipal Boards, and the Governor in Council will welcome with gratitude the co-operation of all public bodies at a time when the strain on all Government officers is as great as can be borne. It is however quite impossible at present to frame any estimates which would be of the least use of the expenditure which will be needed for relief purposes, and the suggestion that a special Famine Budget should be presented to the Legislative Council is not therefore one which can be adopted. I am to add that the weekly crop and weather reports published in the Government Gazette will contain as full information as can conveniently be given regarding the condition of the people, crops and cattle and the number of persons in need of relief.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary
to Government.

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THE

{ January & April
1897.

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N. B.—We regret that the present number was
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THE POONA SARVAJANIK SABHA

Established on the 1st of Chaitra Shaka 1792 i.e., 2nd April 1870
for representing the wants and wishes of the inhabitants of
the Poona, being appointed on a popular elective
system under rules framed for the purpose.

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THE QUARTER.

CHRISTMAS time is fast becoming the season for public activity in India. Three gatherings of a more or less national character have now become annual institutions of this time ; and they in conjunction with other minor events of the same kind unmistakably testify to the spirit of many-sided progress that has been created under the influence of British rule. The National Congress, the Mahomedan Educational Conference and the Social Conference are in one sense manifestations of the same general desire for self-advancement and the improvement of their countrymen, which has taken strong hold of the educated classes and which now finds articulate expression in these annual assemblies. Notwithstanding their apparent antagonism, which so much strikes superficial observers, these different movements are products of the same national upheaval and will ultimately lead to the same results. Of these the National Congress is, of course, the most important as combining all the races and communities in itself, and also as being the forerunner of the other two. The Indian National Congress is in every sense the mother of all recent organizations of a similar nature, whether they be Provincial, Educational, Social or Religious. It is the Congress that has furnished the idea, the construction and the working plans to these smaller bodies, and to essential antipathy can, therefore, properly

speaking, exist between them. There is no reason why these and such other limited organizations should not work simultaneously, without friction and without mutual jealousy, so long as each confines itself to its proper sphere and does nothing that might injure the general interests of the people. One cannot therefore but rejoice that all the three gatherings that were held during the last Christmas passed off successfully, and thereby advanced by one more step the cause of Indian progress.

THE Twelfth session of the Indian National Congress was held at Calcutta under the presidency of the Hon. Mr. Rahimtulla Mahomad Sayani, M. A. LL. B. on the last four days of December 1896. It was the second time when a Mahomedan gentleman presided over the deliberations of the Congress and thus gave a direct lie to the assertion that the Congress was composed of the Hindus alone and that the Mahomedans kept aloof from it. The President did an appropriate thing in answering fully in his inaugural address the various objections started by his co-religionists against the Congress movement, and exhorting them earnestly to abandon their present attitude of apathy and ignorance and join the rest of the people in the work of our common political advancement. He was especially happy in hitting upon a former speech of Sir Syed Ahmed himself, from which he quoted extracts to show that the veteran leader of the Anti-Congress Mahomedans was in his heart a staunch adherent of the principles that underlie the Congress movement. Sir Romesh Chandra Mitra in his speech welcoming the delegates gave an equally effective rejoinder to the objections of the officials. No criticism of the attitude of the officials towards the Congress could have been more scathing than the following:—

"Yes, gentlemen, we expect that openness should be met with openness. We have told our rulers what we are, and what we mean to do, and if there is any misapprehension touching our

aims or any patent defect in our method of work, we shall be too glad if our rulers will only let us know how to remove the one and rectify the other. We court criticism, and even censure, if offered or administered in a really genuine spirit of sympathetic guidance. But beyond stigmatizing us with some enigmatically condemning epithets, we have been favoured with nothing except cold and perhaps sullen silence. Confident of the perfect transparency of our object we do not fear any fight, mild or fierce that may beat upon us; but it is impossible to enter on the defence before charges are formulated."

We need not stop to review in detail the various resolutions passed by the Calcutta Congress. They were twenty-one in number, besides five formal resolutions moved from the chair. One remarkable feature of the last Congress was the large number of new topics discussed by it, for out of the 21 resolutions, as many as nine referred to subjects not previously brought before the Congress. They were congratulations to Her Majesty upon her long reign, provincial contracts, re-organization of the Education service, famine, trial of Indian Princes, Reform of the Universities, a third member for Provincial Executive Councils, sixty years' tenure, and Mr. Wacha's appointment to give evidence before the Royal Commission. The most important of these, namely, the one dealing with famine and the Famine Insurance Fund, found an eloquent champion in the Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Bannerji who in feeling terms appealed to the Government of India to practise economy and prevent future famines. The President was also authorised by the delegates to send telegraphic messages to the Secretary of State and to Lord Mayor of London to open an Indian Famine Relief Fund in England without delay. The message had an instant effect, and the Government of India also thought it prudent to allow the fund to be started at once. The fact that more than a lakh of pounds were subscribed within a week shows clearly that it was not opened too soon and the Congress may very well claim to have achieved a victory. The next Congress meets at Amraoti.

THE two Conferences which met simultaneously with the Congress resemble each other in many respects. They deal with topics that do not come under the direct cognizance of the Congress and are promoted by men who for one reason or other cannot take an active part in its deliberation. Both Mr. Justice Ranade and Sir Syed Ahmed are, we believe, ardent Congresswallas in their hearts; but the first by his official position and the second owing to his precarious leadership of the bigotted section of Mahomedans are unable to join the Congress openly. It speaks highly of their energy and patriotism, therefore, that instead of ruminating upon their enforced inactivity in silence they have chalked out new ways of their own to serve their countrymen indirectly and hasten the work which the Congress itself is doing. The methods they have chosen are likewise adapted to the needs of the two great communities to which they respectively belong. The great question with the Mahomedans is the want of education which is keeping the bulk of their community backwards in the race of life. Sir Syed Ahmed with a true insight into the future has taken up this question in right earnest, and is pushing it on with the aid of all his influence and wealth. On the other hand the great obstacle to the onward progress of the Hindus is the many social and communal customs which largely check individual freedom of action and prevent the mass of the people from adapting themselves to modern requirements; and Mr. Justice Ranade has started his Social Conference with the object of loosening these bonds, and thereby assisting his co-religionists to overtake the other communities that have already gone ahead in the race. Opinions may differ as to the details of their respective schemes or as to their methods of working; but we have nothing to do with these, so long as they are in essential harmony with the trend of our national progress. Only one improvement seems to be absolutely necessary in the management of these sectional Conferences to make them really useful. The leaders of the Mahomedan Educational Con-

ference must withdraw their open antagonism to the Congress and abandon for ever the idea that the interests of their own community clash with the interests of the nation. The promoters of the Social Conference on the other hand ought to do exactly the opposite ; they must learn to become more independent of the Congress, and also assume a name and a constitution that will truly express their aims. Let the Mahomedan Conference meet in the Congress pandal every year just after the Congress; and let the Social Conference be called the Hindu Social Conference composed of Hindus only ; and every body, we believe, will welcome them both as useful corollaries to the Indian National Congress.

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ONE of the prayers of the National Congress is just on the point of being granted, though in a half-hearted way. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab is to have a Legislative Council to assist him, probably from the 1st of May next, consisting of nine members nominated by him ; while the Province of Burma too is to have a similar Council at the same time after being converted into a Lieutenant Governorship. This is of course as it ought to have been long ago, and the concession would have been still more welcome if partial election had been sanctioned at least in the more advanced province of the Punjab. The Government of India, however, have ruled that the larger powers conferred by the Act of 1892 shall not to be extended to the Punjab "until further experience has been gained." Something is, of course better than nothing; and so let us hope that a very short experience will suffice to convince the Government of India that the Punjab is quite ripe for the franchise given by the Indian Councils Act of 1892. It is difficult to know however why the Central Provinces are still denied a Legislative Council when even a backward province like Burma gets it. Education is far advanced in the Central Provinces and it is high time that the Commissioner

there is made a Lieutenant-Governor with a Legislative Council of his own. Several other provinces such as Sindh, Oudh, Assam, and Ajmere Marwara, are still in an anomalous position, and the sooner their status is assimilated to the general constitution the better. The distinction between Regulation and non-Regulation provinces is a fossil of the old times and ought to be done away with at once. The cases of Berars and Coorg are special, but if rendition is considered to be out of the question the sooner they are openly declared to be pucca British territories the better for all parties concerned.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, as Chairman of the British Committee, has published a clear and concise statement of the work done by the Committee during the year 1895-96. They had great odds to fight against, and the exclusion of Mr. Dadabhai and many other friends of India from the present House of Commons crippled their usefulness to a considerable extent. It is encouraging to note therefore that in spite of these drawbacks they were able to do a large amount of useful work during the year, and our best thanks for it are due to Sir W. Wedderburn and those other Englishmen who are disinterestedly working for this poor country. Our joy would have been unalloyed if the financial position of the Committee had been as satisfactory as the work accomplished through its agency. The blame for these difficulties must no doubt primarily attach to those Standing Congress Committees who do not punctually remit the arrears due from them and Mr. Caine was not too harsh when at the last Congress he took them to task for their remissness. We have no wish to apportion blame in this matter, but those of our countrymen who have been most negligent in this respect ought to understand that even a political engine cannot work without an adequate supply of coal. The arrears due at the end of last year amounted to about

Rs. 50,000. If these are paid up at once as well as the charge for this year, the British Committee hope to found a permanent fund of £6000 duly vested in trustees and yielding interest at $3\frac{1}{2}\%$, that will considerably reduce the annual charge for expenses in England. Practically we shall have to pay Rs. 110,000 (50,000 arrears + 60,000 voted anew) this year. If we do it we shall have to pay about Rs. 3570 less from next year. The question is how long is this to go on, and the sooner our political leaders seriously put their heads together to devise a remedy the better.

One of the questions which is now occupying the attention of the British Congress Committee is the separation of judicial and executive functions in this country. The system at present in vogue has become scandalous and even the Secretary of State has admitted the necessity of effecting the required separation. An experiment now being tried in this presidency will undoubtedly be watched with keen interest in this connection. By a notification published a month ago the Government of Bombay invested ten subordinate judges in several districts of this Presidency with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. The step appears to have been taken to provide against increased criminal work during the famine times, but if the innovation works well, as we have no doubt it will, it will furnish a very strong argument in favour of investing all the Subordinate Judges with magisterial powers, and taking them away altogether from the executive officers. The only thing then required to complete the reform is to increase the number of Subordinate Judges which can be easily done without much additional cost to the State, if some of the Assistant Collectorships and Deputy Collectorships were abolished as rendered superfluous by the transfer of criminal work. It is yet too soon to prophesy, but some non-official member of the local Council will do well to ask for a special report on the success of this interesting experiment at the end of the year.

THE subject of separation of the Judicial and Executive functions necessarily recalls the memory

The late Mr. Mano Mohan Ghose. of one whose name has been for many years closely identified with it. The late

Mr. Mano Mohan Ghose was one of the noblest sons of India, and his untimely death in last November evoked a deep and universal feeling of sorrow among his countrymen. No better specimen of the invigorating influence of the Western education upon the subtle and receptive intellect of the Hindus could have been found than the shrewd, patriotic and large-hearted barrister of Calcutta, who stood very high in his profession and yet never confined himself exclusively to it. Whether it be the cause of a poor criminal or that of his much-poorer country, Mr. Ghose never failed to respond to it with a readiness and vigor that surprised even his more-leisured countrymen. He was a typical Hindu, proud, generous and keen-witted, and would have been an ornament to any country in the world. His was an irreparable loss, but his countrymen will always hold his name in grateful remembrances for the invaluable high services he rendered to them.

OUR article in the last issue on the Forest grievances in the Thana District was not written in vain. The obnoxious Notification of 22nd July last which caused so much hardship and ill-feeling among the people of the district has been rescinded or rather suspended for ten months by a Government Resolution No. 10530 (Revenue Department) dated 22nd December 1896. It is a rare thing to find Government changing views which they have once made public, and as the present case is one of these exceptions we ought to thank H. E. Lord Sandhurst for the candour shown on this occasion. It is possible that the earnest requests from Mr. Candy the then Collector of Thana, as the *Bombay Gazette* remarked, effected this change; or perhaps the defiant attitude, which the Forest tribes in the District were driven to take, might have convinced

the Government of the futility of persisting in their resolution to take away their main source of livelihood ! Whatever may be the cause, H. E. Lord Sandhurst and his colleagues deserve our hearty thanks for the concession they have made to public opinion, by modifying the former order and thus allaying the discontent of the people. It is true that the modification is only partial and is to hold good till 1st of November 1897 only, but Government promise to make it permanent if local officers report favourably as to the results of its operation. Let us hope that these reports will be favourable and the wild tribes thus freed for ever from the dread of losing their bread. So far the Resolution is welcome, especially owing to the fact that it distinctly admits all the contentions of the people. It is now acknowledged that the wild tribes are engaged in the work of coupe-cutting "only part of the year" and that during the remaining months "many of them may have but very slender means of livelihood if deprived of the privilege." It is also gratifying to see that "Government, after the most detailed and careful inquiry, have come to the conclusion that the abolition of that privilege may press unduly on numbers of persons belonging to these wild tribes." The privilege of cutting dead wood for sale is now renewed subject to three conditions. The third of these conditions that the privilege, if abused, would be taken away altogether is likely to become oppressive, and we therefore suggest that it should not be strictly enforced. It is only the privilege of carrying headloads of firewood that has been restored, while that of bringing cartloads on payment of a fee of 8 annas still remains under the former prohibition. We do not know what led the Government to make the distinction. Perhaps an impression has taken strong hold of the officials at head-quarters that the cartloads are chiefly brought by firewood-merchants for the purpose of exportation. We pointed out in our last issue that the impression is unfounded and that those who assert that such an exportation takes place to any large extent are bound to prove that the total out-turn of dead firewood in the district far ex-

ceeds the local requirements of the people. As a matter of fact the out-turn hardly suffices to meet the local wants. The prohibition of cartloads will be injurious in a two-fold way. It will diminish the local supply by at least one-third on an average, and besides tempt the wild tribes to practise fraud and mischief by splitting large sticks into small ones so as to make them portable on the head. Government has directed that firewood depots should be established at convenient places where the headloads may be bought from the gatherers at market rates and sold to the people of the district. By this expedient Government will have a practical monopoly of the firewood-trade in the district, and thus can ask any price for it thereby making it virtually impossible for poor villagers to get sufficient wood even for domestic or agricultural purposes. Besides where is the guarantee that such depots will be erected at once or that the wood-gatherers will always get a fair value for their loads? It was abundantly proved before the Forest Commission of 1885 that persons of the wild tribes hardly got their full wages when employed by the officers of the Forest Department; and we shall not be surprised if the same phenomenon happens with regard to the payment of the market price for headloads under this resolution. Now what benefit do the Government expect to reap by all this bother? No doubt they will thereby pave the way for a total abolition of the forest privileges in future; but what will they get in the end? Is it a wise policy to drive thousands of ignorant but harmless people to desperation by taking away the very bread from their mouths? The present modification is only a palliative; it does not remove the whole grievance. We earnestly request the Government not to stultify their generosity by such half-hearted concessions.

We are still under the grasp of the Bubonic Plague, and no opinion can be safely pronounced upon it. No body in fact, whether a scientist or a layman, seems to know any thing definite about it, as to

whence the *bascilli* came and how they are to go, what sort of creatures they are and how they manage to get the bubos upon us. Every body is in the dark about the cause, but the panic is fast spreading and has already dislocated the trade of Western India. Whether the plague is a divine punishment for our sins or a consequence of human follies, one thing is certain, that Bombay 'the beautiful' and through her the whole of India have suffered a blow on this occasion that it will take years to repair. Some of the ancient books of the Hindus mention this plague as occurring when the king harasses the people with oppressive taxes and society is demoralized by the spread of irreligion and evil habits. We cannot say how far this theory of the plague is correct, but poverty brought on by over-taxation and dirtiness caused by loose habits may perhaps have something to do with it. The visitation has many lessons to teach us. The *bascilli*! how microscopic they are, and yet how powerful? Insignificant as they look, they have defied the newest scientific methods and laid millions of people at their mercy. Poor mortals boast of their civilization and their lilliputian activities; but the Almighty can work his ends with any means he chooses. Who knows what may be in store for this much afflicted country? What with the plague and the famine and the chronic poverty, the people of India may very well despair of the future. But there is hope even in desperation. Good often comes out of evil, and even the fire that burns may discover hidden treasures. That Black Death in England, says Father Gasquet, destroyed many an evil of the Middle Ages; who knows what changes the plague will bring about in India? Let us hope for the best.

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WHAT with the plague and the famine among us the prospects of the present year are anything but cheerful. The famine that was expected since last September is actually upon us, and the only question that now remains for the Government and the people is how to minimize the distress that is sure to be caused by

this double visitation. Agriculturists or landholders, Savkars, or petty traders, manufacturers or Government officers, no class of persons can hope to escape unharmed through the present calamity. The situation in fact is more critical than at any time before during the last 40 years. The famine in itself is of sufficient magnitude to cause grave anxiety for the future. Not only the extent and intensity of the present famine are greater, but the staying power of the people has considerably decreased since 20 years ago, while the extravagant administration has so much crippled the resources of the Government as to make them almost powerless to cope effectively with the impending calamity. Not that Government have not the means, if they only have the wish, to give adequate relief to the people; but some how or other they are not doing it. It may be that they are so far committed to a policy of extravagance in certain matters and parsimony in others that they cannot in an instant divert the flow of money from the usual channels into that of famine-relief. This is the most charitable construction that can be put upon the illiberal and unsympathetic policy adopted by the Government of India as well as by some of the Local Governments with regard to measures of relieving people in famine-stricken districts. We have no wish to be unduly harsh upon the Government, and we shall not therefore impute to them any intentional ignorance or hard-heartedness in belittling the real amount of distress. But there are good grounds for believing that the relief afforded by Government reaches only a small portion of the people affected. No doubt a magnificent show is made on paper about relief works, and other famine operations; but the question is how much of these paper schemes is actually realized in practice. To take one instance out of many, the weekly summaries published in *Government Gazette* give details of the relief works started in different places, but has any body taken the trouble to ascertain whether all the requirements of such works are supplied in each case? Numerous complaints have reached us that in many of these works there is as yet absolutely no hutting provision, no water-supply or no medical and sanitary arrangement; and yet reports have been appearing from week to week that everything is going on all right. The Famine Code has fixed a scale of famine wages which is itself too low to afford sufficient maintenance to an able-bodied worker, but the officers in charge of relief works would still improve upon it by reducing the wages in the shape of fines and deductions. And yet officials at the head-quarters are so innocently ignorant of all

this that they are quite willing to take full credit for the liberal promises held out in the Famine Code and other paper resolutions. If famines could be averted by mere Government resolutions, we may be sure that our rulers would never have hesitated to issue any number of them; but, as fate would have it, a starving population cannot be fed on mere paper. Practical charity requires money, and it is money above all things that the British Government is always wanting, unless of course it required for some military or diplomatic venture. Excess of red-tapeism is the canker of the British administration. Even charity it seems cannot be doled out without unnecessary fuss; and more money will probably be spent upon paper and ink and the salaries of famine officers than upon actual relief. The action of the Viceroy in blocking the Lord Mayor's fund illustrates the same tendency, while the reason given for refusing the offer was also very characteristic. The Viceroy told the Secretary of State that he was not then ready with a cut and dry scheme for distribution. Could any excuse have been more frivolous? But perhaps it was a mere pretext. It may be that the Government of India had too much self-respect to accept charity from the British people, or it may be that they were afraid of an inconvenient scrutiny into their affairs if once Englishmen at home have to pay out of their own pockets. They yielded to good reason after, but the hesitation shows how the wind usually blows in official circles. Lord Elgin's administration, we fear, is doomed to be a failure.

The policy of the Government of Bombay has been the most retrograde in this respect. From the beginning there appears a determination to do as little for the people as is consistent with decency and the general cry for relief. It seems that in spite of the apparent liberal-mindedness of H. E. Lord Sandhurst he is unable to influence the economical conscience of his colleagues in Council. At first the Hon'ble Mr. Nugent would not even admit that there was a famine, and when he had to do so he freely indulged in hopes about the winter rains. When even these latter proved faithless, the Hon'ble Mr. Nugent could not but admit the possibility of famine but devised a peculiar plan of famine operations by which Government were to have full credit for charity without having to incur much loss of money. A sort of a double system was introduced by which complete schemes of

relief were to be drawn out on paper, but only a part of them was to be realized in actuality. For instance the beggars were each to be paid four pice only, but were to be credited with 7 pice with a deduction of 3 pice as fines. The Famine Code requires a sufficient number of huts to be built on every relief work, and when H. E. the Governor visits any, they are provided with unwonted alacrity. But what if others have it not? What is it to the Hon'ble Mr. Nugent if he can save his pies, while the weekly summaries in the *Government Gazette* are discretely silent upon the point. Take another instance. The Famine Code provided special relief to weavers and other artizans, but our Government cannot or will not spend money for it. The weavers of Sholapur are clamorous and even non-official gentlemen volunteer to bear all the responsibility of management and the major portion of loss of such special works; but Government will not listen to the proposal. And why? because they would not entrust a single pie of theirs (the rayot's money) into the hands of non-official Sawkars, as if all those who are not officers of Government are either thieves or rogues. The N. W. P. Government saw no objection to sanction a similar scheme at Lucknow with respect to tagai advances; but our Local Government sticks to a principle and would rather see thousands of weavers starve and become incapacitated by uncongenial labour than break the symmetry of their famine operations. The Sholapur weavers relied upon Section 151 of the Famine Code, but the redoubtable Mr. Nugent was equal to the occasion. He cut the Gordian knot by getting the Government of India to amend the section itself. Let the people take a warning. If they demand too much relief or even more than what the paternal Government is pleased to grant them in charity, steps will at once be taken to abolish the whole Famine Code if necessary, and thereby save so much useless bother and expense to Government! The action of Government in getting the section modified to suit their wish is illustrative of the policy that is now being pursued with respect to famine relief.

The Hon. Mr. Nugent had in fact devised a plan admirably suited to deceive the people here as well as in England; but unfortunately for him the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha spoiled the game by exposing the tactics in a series of memorials to Government.

The local Government and the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.

and also by instructing the ryots as to their rights under the Famine Code, which the latter lost no time in demanding from the local officers. It was no doubt an act of rashness on the part of the Sabha, for it has brought on that body the severe displeasure of the Olympian gods, a displeasure which has been sounded in all tenses and moods in the replies sent to the memorials of the Sabha. The Sabha will of course outlive any amount of such thunder, as it has already survived the official lives of half a dozen members of Council. Nay the Sabha is rather glad to note that its influence is felt even in the dark chambers of the Council, and entertains a strong hope that its suggestions although curtly rejected for the time being will silently mould the future policy of Government. But there is a wider question at issue, whether the replies of Government are consistent with official etiquette and honesty. No fancied or real sins of the Sabha, we think, can justify the dignity of official documents being dragged into the mire by the use of intemperate language or unworthy subterfuges. No useful purpose can be served by Government officials adopting a tone of supercilious contempt towards public bodies or individual petitioners. The correspondence between the Government and the Sabha on the subject of famine upto date has been published elsewhere, and the public will judge as to which side has the advantage in argument. We need not here traverse the points already set forth fully in the various representations of the Sabha. The fact that not single argument of the Sabha has been answered by Government may be taken as a sign that no answer really exists.

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THE anger of the authorities against the Sarvajanic Sabha may be measured by the methods employed to hamper its work. Its memorials received curt replies; abuse and threats have been used; its agents were watched; officers were prohibited to give any information; its instigation is assumed wherever official high-handedness meets with popular opposition; and last though not the least, even the aid of the Police and the Criminal Courts was sought to crush the efforts of the Sabha. It is true that all these attempts have failed, for the Sabha has too much righteousness and justice on its side to be harmed or intimidated by any such missiles; but they show at any rate to what depth autocratic officials will sink

in order to achieve their object. Everybody knows that the three prosecutions in the Kolaba district were really meant to give a death-blow to the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha. A criminal prosecution is always a dangerous weapon, and redounds, if not properly wielded, on the very person who uses it. Such has been the result in the present case, for the failure of the prosecutions against Prof. A. S. Sathe and the three gentlemen of Umbargaoon has only served to damage the reputation of the Kolaba Police. Prof. Sathe's case is quite remarkable. Not a scrap of evidence could be produced against him when the trial began, and yet the Magistrate, Mr. H. O. Brooke, did not hesitate to issue a warrant against him in the first instance. Sec. 204 Cr. P. C. requires a Magistrate before issuing warrant to satisfy himself that "there is sufficient ground for proceeding." We think both the Bombay Government and the High Court ought to call for an explanation from this Magistrate as to how he satisfied himself before issuing a warrant against Prof. Sathe. The proceeding against Messrs. Paranjpe, Karulkar and Pimputkar of Umbargaoon was not a whit more well-founded. They had to be discharged as soon as the printed circular issued by them was properly interpreted. And yet Mr. Brooke the sapient Magistrate of Panvel thought nothing of issuing a warrant against them, presumably upon the bare report of the Police. Are we to believe that the Magistrate did not read or did not understand the Marathi circular which constituted the gist of the offence? Mr. Brooke seems to have unbounded confidence in the Police officers of his division; but they have proved treacherous to him in two cases. We advise him therefore to be more cautious in future, and never to believe in anything that the Police may say without strong independent evidence. The case against Mr. Apte has disclosed still more remarkable facts, but as it is *sub judice* we refrain from making any comments upon it at present. We cannot however help remarking that executive officials in Kolaba and other districts will be better advised if they make their ground sure before rising in open arms, as it were, against such a well-established and respected body as the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.

THE FAMINE CODES.

Lord George Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, in opposing the amendment to the Address proposed by Sir W. Wedderburn asking for an inquiry into "the condition of the masses of the Indian people with a view to ascertain the causes by reason of which they are helpless to resist even the first attacks of famine and pestilence spoke in glowing terms about the Famine Code and described it as a masterly document breathing beneficence in every line and showing with extraordinary clearness and detail how the forces available to cope with famine are mobilized." Lord George does not stand alone in his estimate of the beneficent character of the Famine Code. There are many Anglo-Indian administrators who speak of the Famine Code in similar terms and point to its provisions, if asked what Government is going to do to meet the famine or mitigate its evils. The fact, that about $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of people are, at present, receiving relief at the hundreds of relief works scattered over the country, is also adduced in evidence to prove the beneficent character of the Code; and it must be admitted that the Codes have greatly facilitated the administration of Famine Relief. But it must also be borne in mind that the Famine Codes were framed with the express object of relieving distress, and instead of pointing out to what is done we ought first to see if the Codes properly provide for every kind of relief needed in Famine times, and if not

how the defect or defects can be removed. With a Famine Fund specially established for the purpose, the Government, apart from its general duty to save the lives of its subjects, is specially bound to help the people in days of famine, and the people, while thankfully acknowledging what is done for them, are, we think, fully justified in inquiring if the objects of establishing the Famine Fund is or is not carried out to the fullest extent possible. It is true that $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions are now in receipt of relief, but a question naturally arises if this number represents all really in need of relief or whether any have been precluded from taking advantage of the measures of relief intended for their benefit on account of some defects in the Codes; and it is in this light that we propose to examine in this article the provisions of the different Provincial Famine Codes and to see how far they are suited to carry out the object in view and where they might be improved. We might at the outset observe that we may have the best possible code and yet thousands may die of hunger and want on account of its provisions being badly and harshly executed. Such a case is by no means imaginary. Complaints about the management of poor-houses and kitchens, started under the Famine Codes so much eulogised by Lord George Hamilton, are not as rare as his Lordship may suppose them to be; and in spite of the recommendation of the Famine Commission that the Famine Codes are intended to guide the Local Governments in doing all that is needful in the matter of giving relief to the distressed and to prevent so far as the State can do it, any one from dying for want of food, hundreds and thousands

are being reported as dying of starvation in the famine-stricken districts of the Central Provinces. This clearly shows that it is not enough to have a good Famine Code only, but that its provisions must be liberally and sympathetically carried out by the various Provincial Governments, who are responsible for the Famine Relief administration in their Provinces; otherwise we may have a most benevolent Code and yet the disastrous results of famine would not be averted.

These Codes were framed on the recommendation of the Famine Commission contained in paragraph 113 of Part I of their Report. The object of framing these Codes is thus explained by the Famine Commissioners. After observing that every Provincial Government has felt the need of issuing general orders in time of famine to avoid risks that would arise from any of its officers not possessing personal experience of this particular kind of work, the Commissioners state that "the duties involved in relief measures are complicate and multifarious; their successful performance necessitates the utilisation of large stores of accumulated experience and a carefully considered and prepared plan; they cannot be safely left to individual energy and resource or be dealt with on a system impoverished only when emergency has risen. Prompt and decided action in carrying out these measures is of primary importance and by considering well beforehand the principles that should guide them much of that hesitation and uncertainty of purpose which has been found so detrimental in the past will be avoided in future." With this view therefore a draft code was appended to the

Report of the Commission, and on the model of this draft were drawn up the various Provincial Codes which have been now revised in the light of the experience gained during the famines of the last dozen years. The Famine Commissioners were fully aware that different Provinces would require different Codes suitable to their varying wants and administrative systems. But the broad principles according to their recommendations were to be the same for all Provinces and these principles were discussed by them in the report and formulated in the draft Code appended to it. We have now, therefore, to see how far the object of preparing the Famine Codes has been practically carried out and for this purpose it is necessary to compare the Famine Codes of the different Provinces. We have already stated that we do not propose to examine the execution of these codes. That is a subject which will require a separate treatment by itself. We only mean to examine the law as it is and see wherein it is defective and how it may be improved. This will, of course, indirectly involve the question of the famine relief administration as it is carried on at present, but to avoid misconception it is better to state that the object of the present paper is mainly to examine the broad principles incorporated in the Codes and not the details of their execution.

The Codes may be divided for our purpose into two parts. The first containing directions as to how the Medical, Engineering, the Revenue, the Police and other departments should co-operate and work with each other in order to efficiently carry out the measures for the relief of the distressed in time of famine; and the

second describing the various measures of relief recommended by the Famine Commission and approved by the Government of India. The provisions regarding the duties of the revenue and village officers previous to and during the time of scarcity, circle organisation and duties of circle officers and the duties of the police and the medical officers fall under the first head; and the rules regarding the relief works, wages and rations, poor houses, suspension of revenue, utilisation of forests etc. come under the second. It is evident that the rules in the first part will vary with each Province to suit the administrative system of each; but the broad principles of relief contained in the second part must be almost identical in the different Codes, and it is here that the comparison of the different provincial Codes will be found to be useful and instructive.

As regards the first part, the part which to use the words of Lord George Hamilton describes how the forces available for famine relief are to be mobilised, we think that the codes err too much on the side of the elaboration of details. Each department has a separate duty assigned to it and before the co-operation of all the departments is secured it is not uncommon to find the famine already too much advanced. We readily admit that under the circumstances under which administrative work is carried on in India it is necessary to have special rules regarding the work and the duties expected from each department that is asked to co-operate in the administration of famine relief. The organisation of large relief works and the collection of statistics previous to and during famine can only be done by special agency or departments, and if no definite instructions

are given in the Codes regarding these matters they cannot be carried out as promptly and efficiently as is necessary under the circumstances. But the famine generally comes upon us with such celerity that in its earlier stages it becomes impossible to relieve distress without discarding the detailed provisions of Code regarding the duties of the different departments. It is necessary, therefore, to incorporate in the Codes some rules regarding the administration of relief in the earlier stages of famine when local relief on a small scale is chiefly needed; and which can be efficiently administered only by the local officers if they are vested with full powers in that behalf. Another defect in this part of the Code is that the differentiation of duties required of different departments is carried on to an undesirable extent. For instance, the medical department is alone responsible for the health of the labourers and until it moves the officer in charge of the relief work can do very little in the direction of securing the comforts of the labourers. A large relief work requires the co-operation of at least two or three departments which are generally under the superintendence of two or three independent officers. There is, therefore, a sort of divided authority, and the execution of certain details which requires no special training or skill is unnecessarily delayed in consequence. The officers of each department again bring with them their own notions regarding the details of execution, which, how-so-ever well-founded and necessary they may be in ordinary times, require to be greatly modified in the case of the administration of famine relief. It is on this account that we hear of rigorous fining by the engineering officers for short work and such medical theories that

agriculturist and weavers gain in health by working in the open air exposed to the rays of the summer sun. The revenue and the agricultural departments know the principles of famine relief better than the engineering and medical ; but the latter often overrule the former on the ground that the subject matter falls specially within the duties assigned to them. Thus an engineering officer very often forgets the principle approved by the Famine Commission and enunciated in the introductory note of the Madras Code that the success or failure of a system of relief in time of famine cannot be subjected to a financial test and that the bills of mortality will alone furnish the true criterion in this respect. He is prone to look upon the relief work as an ordinary work in which you must get full return for the money spent thereon and in consequence is naturally dissatisfied when he finds that the work done by the labourers falls short of the standard work given in the specification tables. If he were, however, to study the report of the Famine Commission he would soon find that his expectations were misformed ; and that in carrying out famine works new principles and new standards must be observed in view of the broad fact that these works are started more to save life than to get a full equivalent for the wages given at these works. Of course the engineering officer learns this principle in course of time, but the object of the Famine Code is to prevent the misapplication of the principles from the very beginning and that object, we must say, is frustrated by having too many departments to look after the administration of famine relief. It is probably on this account that the Codes provide

for the appointment of a Famine Commissioner, but the executive Governments are very often reluctant to part with the powers of control and superintendence which in the absence of a Famine Commissioner are vested in them. A Famine Commissioner with a staff of subordinate officers in charge of relief works conversant with the principles of famine relief is a better organisation to administer relief than to have two or three officers from different departments to look to different details of such administration. But the Codes do not make such a system compulsory and as a consequence we find strange theories and principles regarding rations, task work and other details started and sometimes observed in the management of relief works commenced under the Famine Codes. We want the co-operation of all the forces available for the famine campaign; but it is necessary that they should be under the command of one head officer and animated by the same motives and objects, if the work is to be successfully carried out. The Codes do not, in our opinion, contain provisions which would guarantee this result in every case, and the administration of famine relief suffers on account of conflicting theories brought to bear upon it by the officers of the different departments, each thinking in its own way. As regards preparations to meet the famine when it comes and the preparation of statistics previous to famine, the work does not seem to be carefully done, otherwise there would have been no difficulty in starting relief works of various kinds to suit the convenience of different people. The Codes contain elaborate provisions regarding village search and house-to-house in-

spection during famine ; but somehow or other the relief does not reach to thousands of people that are badly in need of it. Lord George Hamilton tried to defend the Indian Government by stating that it was impossible not to expect the general rate of mortality to rise higher in time of famine. But the defence is on the face of it very weak ; and it cannot be doubted that the rate, though it may rise over the normal to some extent, may yet be very much lower than what it is actually at present in some of the Provinces if the Government machinery available for the work is better utilised not only during famine but also during the time immediately preceding it. The crop-inspection which is a very important matter is very often delayed too long and the agriculturists are in consequence deprived of the benefit of the measures of relief dependent upon such inspection. In an agricultural country like India the immediate cause of famine is the failure of crops and it ought to be the first duty of the agricultural and the revenue departments to prepare careful estimates of the failure of crops in the affected area before any measures for relief are organised. It is to be regretted therefore that the provisions in the Code in this respect are not as stringent as they should be. With a separate department to collect this information it should not be a matter of difficulty to prepare these estimates immediately after a scarcity is apprehended. In short the preparation of such estimates ought to precede any measures of relief for the distressed and the Codes should contain explicit provisions to that effect.

We next come to the second part of the Famine Codes formulating the measures of relief sanctioned by the Government of India. These measures are, (1) relief works large and small; (2) poor houses and kitchens; (3) suspension and remission of revenue; (4) special relief to weavers and artizans; (5) utilisation of forests and (6) Tagai advances to the agriculturists. There are chapters on each of these subjects in the different Codes, and generally speaking they contain the rules recommended by the Famine Commission. But here and there are important variations which cannot be said to be necessitated by local wants and one is at a loss to see why such provisions should not generally be adopted in all the Codes. Take for instance the subject of special relief to weavers and artizans. The Bombay Code contained a provision making it obligatory on Government to provide special relief to weavers by giving them work in their own trade, a principle fully recognised in the report of the Famine Commission and acted upon in other Presidencies as may be seen by the elaborate provisions contained in an appendix to the Madras Code. But the Bombay Government obtained the sanction of the Government of India to alter the rule in the Bombay Code so as to make it discretionary with the Bombay Government to provide for such relief. We are of opinion that Local Government should not be permitted to take such liberties with the principles of relief discussed and recommended

by the Commission and once approved by the Government of India. They are not local questions dependent upon local circumstances, but are questions of principles which must be made binding upon all Provincial Governments. Any unwillingness to carry out these principles means so much stinginess in affording relief and the supreme Government should not therefore allow any departure from the settled principles incorporated in the Codes on the simple ground of administrative inconvenience, a reason which can be more easily alleged than proved. The same thing may be said of the suspension and remission of revenue. It is only in N.-W. P. that we have a set of rules, though by no means complete, for regulating the suspension and remission of revenue, and so far as we know the expenditure on this head is incurred not according to the wants of the agriculturists but according to the funds made available for the purpose. This is exactly the reverse what it ought to be. Suspension of revenue does not eventually cause any loss to Government beyond the interest on the amount of the suspended revenue. It is, therefore, idle to contend that this measure of relief should be limited in its operation because you cannot forego revenue on one hand and start relief works on the other. Equally untenable is the argument that an agriculturist who does not pay more than the usual assessment in times of plenty should not be allowed to enjoy the benefit of the suspen-

sion of revenue during the year of scarcity. The argument of averages may be an answer to the total remission of revenue but when mere postponement of payment is asked for it simply means excusing the tenant from payment in hard times and distributing it over years of plenty—a procedure which is not only free from any objections but necessary and beneficial in the interests of the rayat. Large suspensions of revenue granted during a famine year will cause a temporary fall in the revenue, but it has to be borne in mind that it is to meet the contingencies like these that the Famine Fund was established, and that a temporary loan from that fund to the Provincial Governments would obviate all the difficulties caused by short land revenue on account of famine. Any how it cannot be gainsaid that the inconvenience to Government arising from large suspensions of revenue is quite insignificant when compared with the relief such suspensions afford to the distressed agriculturists. A dozen or a half a dozen rupees very often mean two or three months' provision for an agriculturist living in his own village and it is simply merciless to compel him to pay the revenue when the crops have totally or almost totally failed. We have already pointed out above the necessity of early preparing accurate estimates of the failure of crops not only over large areas but in individual cases, and we think that the Famine Codes ought to contain a distinct provision as to the necessity of making the

relief of granting suspensions of revenue dependent upon the estimates of the failure of crops previously prepared. Some of the Codes do contain rules which may be interpreted in the way proposed. But there is much vagueness in the rules on this subject and unless it is removed suspension and remission of land revenue cannot be said to have been made an integral part of the administration of famine relief as proposed by the Famine Commission. It is only in an extreme case, that an agriculturist leaves his land and goes to a relief work, and it is unwise to refuse him any relief by way of suspension of revenue and so practically force him to go to a relief work. The utilisation of Government forests is another subject which requires to be more carefully treated in the Famine Codes. In Bombay the provisions of the Famine Code in this respect have had to be supplemented by a resolution sanctioning special measures for the protection of the agricultural cattle, and there is no reason why the experience so gained should not be incorporated in the Code for the guidance of the officers concerned. The preservation of agricultural cattle in time of famine is of as much importance as the preservation of human life; but unfortunately the subject does not seem to have yet received the attention it deserves.

The next point for consideration is the management of poor houses and kitchens, and specially the rations fixed by the Famine Codes. We do not mean to go into the old controversy regarding the 1lb ration started by Sir Richard Temple more than twenty years

ago. A summary of the opinions then expressed will be found in Mr. Digby's Famine Campaign in Southern India, and we refer our readers to it. It was probably on the strength of the opinions regarding the sufficiency of 1lb ration then held by some of the leading civil and medical officers that the Famine Commission recommended in para 184 of Part I of their Report that "on an average a ration of about 1½lbs per diem of the meal or the flour of the common coarser grain of the country suffices for an ordinary working adult male. In the rice-eating countries an equal weight of rice may be accepted and in any case the ration should include a suitable proportion of pulse. A man doing light work should require about 1½lbs and the ration which consist of 1lb of flour with a little pulse has been found sufficient to support life in numerous relief houses where no work is exacted all over the country." The diet scales in the different Famine Codes, which are almost identical in nature, are built upon these data. All the Codes fix 16 ozs. of atta and 2 ozs. of dal, with a small supplement of salt, ghee or oil and condiments, as the minimum ration for adult male, and 24 ozs. of atta and 4 ozs. of dal (with usual supplement of salt, condiments etc.) as the maximum ration for the adults working on famine relief works. It has been felt in every Province that this ration is insufficient to keep the labourers in health. It may serve to keep the body and the soul together, but a labourer living on this scale of diet for some months is sure to be rendered unfit for agricultural labour. We

have again to remember that the ruinous system of fining very often reduces this ration below the minimum sanctioned by the Code, though some of the Codes distinctly provide that fines for short work are not to be so imposed as to reduce the wage below the minimum sanctioned by the Code. The recommendations of the Famine Commission, therefore, require to be modified in the light of subsequent investigations carried on by the Sanitary Department for the purpose of fixing the scale of diet for labouring and non-labouring prisoners in Indian jails. The report of the Famine Commission is dated 7th July 1880. Sixteen months after, that is, in November 1881 Surgeon-Major T. R. Lewis, special assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, published his elaborate report on the nutritive values of the several scales of diet in use in Indian jails. In this report he has compared the Indian scales of diet with the standard diet scales of English prisons making due allowance for the difference in the average weight of an English and Indian convict; and the scales of diet now in force in Indian prisons are based upon the conclusions arrived at in this report after a thorough examination of the different diet scales then in use in India and in England. It will be readily admitted that the prison diet scale is fixed solely on considerations of what is absolutely necessary to keep the prisoners in health and that it can be safely

Diet Scale for non-labouring prisoners.

Articles.	Bengal.	Madras.	Bombay.	N.W. Provinces.	Punjab.
Ragi, cholam, wheat (Atta)		21 oz.	20 oz.	20 oz.	20 oz.
Dal	4 oz.	4 oz.	4 oz.	2 oz.	3 oz.
Rice	15 oz.				
Oil or Ghee	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Tamarind		$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	140 gr.	
Salt	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		200 gr.
Curry powder or condiments	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Vegetables	6 oz.	6 oz.	6 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.
Onions		$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.			
Garlic		30 gr.			
Meat or fresh fish or salt fish		4 oz.			
Firewood	1 lb.	2 oz.	1 lb.	6 oz.	12 oz.

* When meat or fish is given dal is reduced to 2 oza.

It will be seen at once from these tables that the diet scale for labouring prisoners provides for 28 to 30 ozs. of grain per day, while that for the non-labouring prisoners gives not less than 22 ozs. of grain with the usual supplements of oil or ghee, condiments and vegetables. Fire-wood is separately provided for. If we compare this scale with the scale of diet given in the Famine Codes it will be found that the minimum famine ration is 4 ozs. less than the ration fixed for the non-labouring prisoners. While the maximum famine ration is at least equal to the ration allowed to the labouring prisoners. In other words a non-labouring prisoner gets more food in an Indian prison than labourer of D. class on the Famine Relief works; while a labourer of A. class, who may have dependents to support, can

hardly expect to get more than prisoners undergoing rigorous imprisonment in any jail. Even hard labour prisoners get some special allowance when they are required to do harder than ordinary work; but the famine labourer seems to be condemned, according to the provisions of the present Codes, to work on a diet much less than what is allowed to a non-labouring prisoner in jails. For it is very rarely that famine labourers are put in the A. class and no deductions made from their wages for one reason or another. Such a state of things cannot be said to be creditable to the administration of famine relief, especially when the rayat has been made to pay for the establishment of a fund for the Famine Relief and Insurance purposes. The increase in the cost of famine relief caused by an increase of 4 ozs. in the rations now fixed would not be very great and there is no reason why the supreme Government should hesitate to incur it in consideration of the amount of relief it would afford to the famine-stricken people. Prisoners, who, on account of their misbehaviour in jail, are subjected to further punishment, are allowed only 1 lb. of grain per day and this scale of diet is called the punishment scale. The minimum famine ration is only a little more than this, while the penal ration prescribed in N.-W. P. and Punjab Codes for contumacious relief-workers is even less than the punishment scale of diet allowed in jails. It is no wonder if under these circumstances some able-bodied persons in need of relief prefer going to jail to doing work on the relief works. The low scale of famine ration is, therefore, a blot on the administration of famine relief and the sooner it is removed the better for all the parties concerned. There is no valid excuse for the Government of India to ignore the investigations of its own competent medical officers subsequent to the report of the Famine Commission and to stick to the opinion expressed by the latter simply because it is

somewhat more economical to do so. It is not a question of simple economy, but of preserving labourers in strength and health and if later investigations conflict with the recommendations of the Famine Commission Government is bound to accept the former in preference to the latter. A relief worker should get as much food as is allowed to a labouring prisoner and certainly not less than what is allowed to a non-working prisoner, while in the case of contumacious characters fines ought not be inflicted so as to reduce the ration below the penal diets allowed in jails. A comparison of the famine rations with the scales of diet in force in jails at present leads to no other conclusion and the grievances of the relief workers cannot be redressed until the Code rations are modified on the lines suggested above.

There are many other minor points *e. g.* aid to village officers regarding which the provisions of the Code require to be more or less modified. The subject of grain compensation to the low-paid servants is omitted in the revised editions of the Codes and transferred to the accounts Code, but in doing so the rules have been rendered less liberal than what they were previously. The Codes are again silent as regards the important question of financial responsibility. The famine relief charges is a head of provincial expenditure but it is understood that in cases of widespread scarcity Provincial Governments are not expected to meet these charges from the Provincial revenue. No definite rules seem however to have been laid down as to the distribution of the famine relief charges between the Supreme and the Provincial Governments.

As a necessary consequence Provincial Governments sometimes find themselves handicapped in the administration of famine relief owing to the reluctance of the Supreme Government to sanction any large expenditure for the purpose. Such a state of things is not desirable. The Supreme Government must retain the final financial control in its hands to see that no Province gets an undue share of the Famine Fund, but it must be left to the Provincial Government to determine what expenditure would be required to relieve distress in each Province according to the principles laid down in the Codes and the Government of India should not try to circumscribe the scope of this relief on purely financial grounds.

Such are some of principal defects in the present Codes and we trust that when they come to be revised in the light of the experience gained in the present famine, the Supreme Government will duly consider the points noticed above. That the Codes have secured greater uniformity and method in the administration of relief in the present famine cannot be denied, but much yet remains to be done, and we hope that no pains will be spared to make the Famine Codes as definite and complete as possible, so as to make it impossible for any one to defeat in any way the noble object for which these Codes are framed, and which it is the avowed intention of the British Government to fully carry out as a sacred trust in the interests of people committed to its care.

FAMINE IN THE DECCAN.

A NON-OFFICIAL PICTURE.

As soon as the possibility of famine in this province became apparent, the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha prepared itself for the contingency. True to its former traditions, the Committee devised various ways to co-operate with Government in minimizing the evils of the threatened distress. As a preliminary the Committee resolved to send out trustworthy agents to affected districts in order to see the real condition of the people and to collect first-hand information, such as cannot always be had from carefully edited official reports. Such information was needed both to verify and supplement official reports and also to enable the Committee of the Sabha to make timely representations to the Government about the wants of the people. It took some time for these agents to traverse the districts respectively assigned to them and send detailed reports which have now been summarized in the following pages. The summary does not, of course, pretend to be exhaustive, nor should it be expected that a non-official body like the Committee of the Sarvajanic Sabha, without the means and machinery such as that of Government at its hand, can collect as full and complete information as Government agency can do. But there are things which subordinate Government officers cannot know or will not report to their superiors and which the agents of a popular body like

the Sabha who move and work among the people can alone observe. It is in this respect that the information supplied by the agents of the Sabha has an advantage over the weekly summaries published in the *Government Gazette*. That some errors about details may be found in the reports of the Sabha's agents is quite possible, nor is it unlikely that particular statements here and there may require a little modification; but so far as the Committee is aware there is no reason to doubt the general accuracy of these reports. It should also be remembered that the agents of the Sabha had to work amidst great difficulties. Not only had they to face popular apathy and ignorance, but oftentimes they had to contend against open or silent opposition by Government officials. All sorts of means were tried to thwart them. The mighty weapon of a criminal prosecution too has not been left unemployed in order to divert them from their self-imposed task. It is highly creditable therefore for these gentlemen that in spite of these odds they could do as much work as they have actually done. The thanks of the Sabha as well as the public generally are due to them for having discharged their voluntary duty so fearlessly and so satisfactorily at this critical time. It will be seen from the following summary that the information was called for only from those districts of the Presidency which have been wholly or partially affected by famine.

POONA.

[This district comprises 8 Talukas with an area of 34,24,059 acres and with a population of 10,67,800 souls. The realisable land revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 13,51,472; and the same in 1875-76 was Rs. 11,29,956. Suspensions and remissions amounting to Rs. 4,56,830 and Rs. 1,740 respectively were granted in the famine of 1876-77. The portion of the district liable to famine is stated in the Statistical Atlas of the Bombay Presidency to be 2,634 sq. miles including Indapur, Shirur, Purandar $\frac{1}{2}$, Haveli $\frac{1}{2}$ and Bhimthadi; Junnar $\frac{1}{2}$, Khed $\frac{1}{2}$, Purandar $\frac{1}{2}$, and Haveli $\frac{1}{2}$ are less liable to attack. Parts of all Talukas are *now* affected; Bhimthadi and Indapur severely. The principal crops are Bajri (Kharif) and Jwari (partly Rabi). The official estimate of Kharif crop is 3 annas; Rabi crop is reported to be mostly withering.]

ALH [TALUKA JUNNAR] (23-12-96)—On account of want of rain a portion of the soil has remained uncultivated. The yield from the cultivated is less than 4 annas. The yield of Bagayat land which is very small is 10 annas. On the whole the average yield is hardly four annas. The whole crop might sustain the population for two months at the most. An earnest appeal is made for the suspension and remission of revenue. The relief works ought to be as near to the village as possible. The Kosteas, the weavers, the momins and the rest are very hard pressed. It is absolutely necessary that orders for suspension and remission should be communicated to the Patel before the 10th of January. A suggestion is made that the weavers &c. should be employed on special works of their own craft.

AMBEGAUM [TALUKA KHEED] (22-12-96)—The yield is less than two annas. The relief works are far away from the village and therefore hardly useful. The situation is on the whole miserable. The road from Bhimashankar to Dumbhe has been, it is said, not opened yet. No separate provision has been made for the lame

and blind. According to reports received from villages round about this village more than half the population is suffering from famine.

ANE [TALUKA JUNNAR] (30-11-96).—The pinch of famine is being severely felt. Petitions for suspension and remission of taxation have been sent. At present bajri sells at 7 shers a rupee, wheat 5 shers, rice 4 shers and jwari 8 shers. Fodder is quite insufficient and there being no Government forest in the vicinity, the condition of cattle is causing grave anxiety. The opening of relief works is absolutely necessary. No help is yet given out of the Local Funds. Till now more than 350 men have emigrated and the emigration will soon continue on a large scale. Cattle are dying. Half the soil has remained untilled and the yield in the remaining half is hardly two annas in the rupee. This is the state of the Kharif crop. Rabi sowings are nil.

BORI [PETHA DHOND TALUKA BHIMTHADI] (without date).—No relief works have been opened; suspension and remission of revenue are badly needed. The corn in the village is extremely insufficient. Fodder scarce, Government forests not yet opened. Water will not be sufficient and no provision is yet made to remedy the insufficiency. Emigration has continued and if the prospect does not brighten up during the next week, Bori may become a deserted village. Cattle are brought to the market but they do not find any better customers than butchers. Rabi nil. Kharif nil. The Collector and the Forest officers had been here, but they made light of our complaints.

BELSAR [PURANDAR] (20-12-96)—No relief works have yet been opened at this place or at any place near the village. Prices have more than doubled. Fodder insufficient, and there being no Government forest, the deficiency cannot be made up. A Dharan on the river Kars and a Dharmashala would be appropriate relief-works. They will maintain 400 people. Water insufficient. No help is given by the Local Fund Board. Emigration of cattle and men continues. Kharif crop one anna; Rabi not yet estimated, because the sowings took place only a few days back.

BHIGWAN [INDAPUR] (25-12-96)—Kharif nil. Fodder scarce. No Government Forest at hand.

CHINCHOLI [BERATHADI]—No cheap grain-shops opened. Relief works opened at Baramati. Corn insufficient. Prices doubled. Fodder scarce. Government forests thrown open. Kadba 20 Rs. per 1000 (normal price 10 Rs.). More relief works badly wanted. Water insufficient. Wells must be deepened and new ones sunk. No emigration as yet, but soon apprehended. Cattle starving. Kharif crops bad. Bagayat indifferent. Jirait nil. Pavs (underground stocks of grain) and fodder stocks damaged by the late rain. Cattle offered at one-tenth of the usual price, but even this does not induce any one to buy them.

CHAKAN [KHED] (26-11-96).—On account of the early heavy rains much of the Kharif sowings became damaged and the late sowings are withering on account of want of rains. Two petitions were sent to the Assistant Collector, but apparently our prayers fell upon deaf ears. Bajri yield hardly one anna. Jwari entirely parched up. Wheat not sown. Even under normal conditions the cultivators have to borrow from the savkars to pay the heavy assessment of the Sarkar. Their inability to pay the assessment in times of famine may therefore be easily perceived. There are Government forests to the East, the South and the West, and Government is earnestly requested that the one to the West should be thrown open for grazing. Water for cattle and men hardly sufficient for two months. There are even now some people in the village who get one meal in two or three days. The construction of a *Talao* near Jagadbi Kuran is suggested as being beneficial both to the people and the Government. Full remissions wanted.

CHAROLI (29-11-96) Do.—The construction of a Railway line from Poona *via* Alandi to Junnar and Sangamner joining the main line at Bhusaval is advocated as a relief work. Existing stock of grain insufficient. Suspension and remission wanted. The price of Kadba has risen from three to fifteen rupees per 1000. The construction of a road from this place to Alandi out of the Local Funds would be useful. Water insufficient. Kharif crop one anna. Babi nil. Great damage to property on account of early rains.

GRANDE (30-11-96).—Petition for suspension and remission sent up. Prices of grain more than doubled. A portion of *Gayari* has been granted free, but the reserved forest still conti-

ness to be closed. Water sufficient. Kharif yield ranges from 2 to 8 annas.

DHOND [BHIMTHADI] (16-11-96).—Suspension and remission of revenue required. Grain insufficient. Fodder scarce. Forests thrown open, but there is nothing to graze upon. In some places in the Peta water is insufficient. Local Fund Board has not yet moved. Emigration has begun and the number may swell. Rabi indifferent. Bagayat moderate. Heavy damage on account of the early floods. Cattle are sent to the market in large numbers but there is nobody to buy. Many children badly require relief, but nothing is yet done to protect them. The Kurans being leased by Government to contractors, the benevolence of Government in opening their forests is not likely to be of any use.

DHORI (10-11-96).—Rice and Nachani crops parched up. Many people are living on roots and leaves. Water scarce. They are absolutely unable to pay the revenue.

DAPODI [BHIMTHADI] (without date).—Grain insufficient. Fodder and water scarce. No forests have been thrown open. An appeal is made to the Government to supply the villagers with fodder and they are willing to pay ordinary rates for it. Sinking of wells and the repair of the old tanks required. Rabi and kharif nil. A petition for the supply of canal water for *jirai* was sent but the request was refused to the great disappointment of the people. When the Assistant Collector was here, some pointed to their empty stomachs and said they were starving; but the Saheb retorted that the stomachs did not seem to be empty and went away.

DIKSAL [INDAPUR] (23-12-96).—Kharif nil. Rabi may yield something if there be a good rainfall. Cattle are famishing for want of fodder. The situation on the whole is very hard.

DONJE [POONA] (16-12-96).—A suggestion is made that from the 12th Mile on the Khadakwasla road to Sonapur a road should be constructed. There are forests on both the sides of the road and the construction of the road will ultimately treble the price of the forest produce. Relief works are too far away.

HARGUDE (21-11-96)—The soil being Jirait below the hills it was all swept away on account of the heavy rains. Winter crops are withering. Water, food and fodder entirely insufficient. Wanted remissions of land tax. The people are in the main agriculturists. No relief work is yet opened. They suggest the sinking of wells. Emigration on a large scale is apprehended.

INDAPUR [INDAPUR] (without date)—Wages on the relief work are entirely insufficient. The correspondent suggests:—that (1) the extension of the Nira Canal should be undertaken and (2) the agriculturists should be supplied with water by cleansing the tank which is now full of silt. Bagayat yield is nearly four annas. Jirait will entirely fail if no rain falls. Tagai is badly needed. The momins and the weavers need special relief.

JUNNAR [JUNNAR] (15-11-96)—Cattle are dying for want of fodder. Forests not yet thrown open. The out-look is horrible. No relief works yet opened. Prices doubled. Weavers have emigrated. The Local Fund Committee has not yet moved. Rabi and Kharif yield each 2 annas in the rupee. Damage has taken place also on account of the early floods. Property and person are becoming insecure. Crime increasing. Wanted an increase in the Police force.

JOULME KHURD (12-11-96)—Fodder and food entirely insufficient. People may soon be reduced to starvation. Water is insufficient. Both Rabi and Kharif have failed.

KIVALE (22-11-96)—No grain-shops or relief works have yet been opened. Prices have doubled. No free grazing since all the Kurana have been leased to contractors. Emigration is yet insufficient. A suggestion is made that a road should be constructed from Shelarwadi to Kivia. This would give food to people for at least 2 months. Cattle are famishing. Rabi 2 annas. Kharif bad.

KHED [KHED] (Channer &c. 23-11-96)—Very little Rabi sowing. Crop withering on account of want of rain. Suspension and remission of revenue wanted. Water insufficient.

KASURDA [EHIMTHI] (4-12-96)—Recommends removal of silt from the Talao. If the same be provided with stone bank, the village will have a permanent water-supply.

KHED (proper, 8-12-96) Grain insufficient. Suspension and remission of revenue wanted. Government forests are thrown open, but the fact is not yet made generally known. And again the Kurans having been leased to contractors there is very little grass available. The Patels &c. should make the fact of the opening of the forests as widely known as possible. Metal road should be constructed from Khed to Bhimashankar and from Poona to Junnar. Local Fund Committee has not yet moved. In some places in the Taluka water is badly wanted. Rabi 2 annas and Kharif from two to four for the whole Taluka.

KADUS [KHED] (3-12-96).—Kharif nearly 6 annas. Rabi crop entirely ruined. Remissions of revenue required.

LANOLI (13-11-96) Petitions for suspension and remission of revenue (nearly 40) have been sent. Government have promised inquiry. Nearly 40 villages are dependent upon Lanoli for their grain. Kharif yield ranges from 3 to 4 annas in the Taluka. Fodder is entirely insufficient. Government forests require to be thrown open. No relief works have yet been opened. Local Fund Committee has not yet moved. The sinking of wells is suggested. Government is requested to utilise the Famine Insurance Fund. Heavy damage to crops on account of the early rains. Water is insufficient. The river Indrayani and the tank will dry up at the close of winter. The river bed, they say, is covered with mud brought on by the torrents of early rain, the same not being washed away by later rains. Much of the water at present available is diverted for domestic and garden purposes and this diversion will tell heavily on cattle and men. Prices have doubled. Lanoli has many retail dealers, but on account of the difficulty of importing the usual quantity of grain, the pinch of famine has become more acute. An appeal for the opening of forests is made. It is also suggested that the Patels should make known to the public the provisions of the Famine Code. Repair of roads may give relief. Construction of a road from Ambegaum to Lanoli is said to be already sanctioned, and this may give relief to many if the work is undertaken.

LOHOGAON [POONA] (16-11-96).—Kharif failed. The yield hardly exceeds the original quantity of grain used for seed. Complete remis-

sion wanted. The repair of the road from Yerwada to the village and the "excavation of Harnala Tank" are suggested as appropriate relief works. The high way tolls are unbearable now.

MANCHAR [KHED] (9-12-96).—In normal times on Sunday (the Bazar day) nearly 125 carts of grain used to be brought to the market from Nagar and Sirur. But now this supply is stopped. A petition for supply of grain was sent to the Collector but with no result. Fodder is insufficient. Cattle find customers among butchers Mahars and Mangs. Forests are thrown open. The wages per diem on relief works require to be increased to 3 annas. Kharif ranges (in some fields) from 3 to one anna. Suspension and remission required. No orphanage and no house for the blind and the lame.

MULSI (without date).—Grain insufficient. Fodder Do. Forests have been thrown open. The construction of a road from Pand to Konkan via Pimprighat and a bridge across the river are suggested. This will give work to 5000 people. Emigration is threatened. Kharif is on the average nearly four annas. Some fields have been greatly damaged on account of early floods. The Patil and Kulkarni are, it is said, ordered to collect the revenue while the crops are standing.

NIMBGAON [INDAPUR] (2-12-96).—It is suggested that payment should be per day and that the persons to be employed on the relief work should be taken from the nearest villages and that corn should be supplied to the labourers at the rate which the Mamlatdar reports. Forests have been partly thrown open. Weavers and Dhangers need special relief. Construction of road from Nirvangi to Nimbgaon (13 miles in length) is suggested. Arrangements may also be made to supply Shetyea, Gotandi, Vyshali, Kontali, and Nimbgaon with canal water from the Nira river. Thirdly it is suggested that an over-bridge should be constructed on the Nira canal on the road to Pandharpur which is unfordable in the rains. Kharif nil. Rabi uncertain, probably nil. The cattle are dying for want of fodder, and it appears to be ordered that the cattle here should be removed to Thana. Water will be sufficient. Emigration so far is insignificant. Relief Works have been opened.

PARASA [BHIMTRADI] (9-11-96)—Suspension and partial remission at least needed. No grass in Government forests. Fodder scarce. The Local Fund Committee has not yet moved. There are many men who need support by relief works. Water is sufficient for the present. Kharif (in Bagayat) 8 annas and Jirait 2 annas. Rabi nil. Damage on account of the early floods. Pavs ruined. It is suggested that a *Talau* between Sulegaon and Malwadi should be constructed.

Ditto. (8-12-96)—Relief work has been opened and employs 3000 people. The wage is As. 1 Ps. 3 per man and 1 anna per female. The work is hard. The rate of Bajri is 8 seers a rupee. The correspondent says that the food required for such work is at least a sher. A telegram was sent to Government but with no result. A cheap grain-shop at the work site would be a real blessing.

Ditto. (15-12-96) Yesterday after estimating the work the male labourer on an average received $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas and female $3\frac{1}{2}$ for $6\frac{1}{2}$ days! The situation is very hard. It is feared that if this state continues many people will die of starvation. Famished people are required to do the hardest work, viz., metal-breaking.

PARINCHE (15-12-96)—Grain entirely insufficient. Fodder is insufficient. It is said that Government Forest has been opened but no order has yet been received here. The relief work is too far off to be really useful. Great damage to property on account of the floods. The Government seems to be under the impression that there is no famine here. But this is a delusion caused by the appearance of certain Bagayat lands. The people are already in the clutches of famine and need relief.

POUDA [HAVELI] 1-12-96.—Seventy-five petitions for remission have been sent. Grain is insufficient. Fodder is scarce. Government Forests will be thrown open. Water insufficient. Suggestions—(1) the water in the Kurana (Poud) should be brought into town and then distributed through pipes. (2) Repair of the Houda at Avalas, (3) Over-bridges on the Nala of Piranguta and on the Ramnadi should be constructed. These two require to be crossed on the way from Pouda to Poona. During the rains these are unforisable and many men and cattle have been drowned in the

samo. The Government mail too is often delayed. (4) It is believed that the construction of a road from Pouda to Mahad has been sanctioned. The expenditure is estimated to be 13 lakhs. This will give work to many. (5) The Mula river blocks the road from Pouda to Avalas in the rains near Mulsi. A bridge across might be constructed. In the forest there are *mad* trees at Thaman-khare and Avalas and if the use of these is given gratis to the ryots, the ryots will be able to live on. One tree is sufficient for one man for a month.

POONA [POONA].—Cheap grain-shops opened by the Poona Famine Relief Committee and one by Mr. Narayandas Thakarsey. This saved the city from an impending grain riot. The Committee's shops, one in the Vetal Peth and one in the Reay Market, were opened. Jwari alone was sold at first at 10 seers per rupee and Bajri was subsequently introduced and sold at 8 seers per rupee. Up to the end of December 1896 the total sale proceeds amounted to Rs. 50,551 and the Committee had to bear on it a loss of about Rs. 1,000. No one was allowed to purchase more than 8 annas worth of grain at a time at these shops.

The stock of grain in the market is said to be sufficient for five months. Grain speculation was rampant in October but subsequent rains have put a stop to it. The prices have now fallen from what they were in October, but may rise again. No relief works near the city. The Municipality promised a contribution of Rs. 5,000 to the cheap grain shops. Beggars and destitute persons are crowding in the city. Their number being roughly estimated at 20,000. Besides people from Bombay are pouring in on account of plague. An orphanage has been recently started, but no child as yet received. The amount subscribed to make up the loss incurred by selling grain at cheaper rates is about Rs. 19,000 including the Municipal contribution of Rs. 5,000.

SUPA [BHIMNADI] (no date).—There is sufficient grain here for a month or two, but even this is withheld from us by the greedy Marwari. Prices have been trebled. Fodder is insufficient. Cattle will soon begin to die. It is suggested that the Railway charges should be reduced. Forests should be thrown open. No relief works have yet been opened. The construction of a local Talav would afford

practical relief. Water is insufficient. It may suffice at the most for two months. Emigration has begun. Kharif yield is almost nil. Rabi not sown.

YEOT [BHIMTHADY] (4-12-96)—Repair of the Talav called Khatikdhar would offer substantial relief. Kharif yield abnormally bad. Rabi sowings have taken place but the soil will not return anything because there has been no rain. Remissions of revenue wanted. Forests should be thrown open. People have become much afraid of the sawkar. For want of water the sugar-cane crop has entirely failed. Cattle are dying. It is said that the construction of a road from Yeot station to Pimpalgaon has been sanctioned out of the Local funds. This work should be at once begun since it would give work to many village people. They would then be able to look after their fields and will not be compelled to leave their homes. Motaba Talav should also be repaired. The water charge has increased. It is absolutely necessary that Talavs should be constructed at Khamgaon and Deulgaon. This would confer a double benefit. The villages would be supplied with water and people would get food in these famine days. Kasurdi Talav should also be cleared of silt. A Dharmashala near the station may also be taken up.

SATARA.

[SATARA comprises 11 Talukas with an area of 30,87,783 acres and with a population of 12,25,999. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 18,15,623, and the same in 1875-76 was Rs. 15,54,320. Suspensions and remissions amounting to Rs. 2,51,850 and Rs. 2,880 respectively were granted in 1876-77. The portion liable to famine is stated to be 1,960 sq. miles, including Khanapur, Man, Khatav and Tasgaon. But now Patan, Jawali, Satara, part of Karhad, Shirala Petha and Khanapur are severely and others partially affected. The number of relief works in the district is 5 and the principal crops are Bajri (Kharif) and Jwari (Rabi). The Kharif crop is estimated for this year, at 5½ annas and Rabi crop is reported to be fair.]

BATTESHIRAL [VALVA] (20-12-96).—A construction of a road 38 miles in length from Shirala to Petla is suggested as an appropriate relief work. Nearly 30,000 acres of land have gone to the Forest Department; and of this the people complain bitterly.

The Mongal-Kasegao road and the Shiralegaon road may also be usefully undertaken.

The Varna-Valley road ought to be undertaken. The Local Board admits this, but it has no money on hand.

Grain-stock is entirely insufficient. The number of the unemployed is swelling. Some are starving. Wages of artisans &c. have gone much low. The early rains have done some damage to property. Kharif is on the average nearly three annas. Cattle are being sold to butchers. The *Mangs* here are making much disturbance by robberies &c. It is reported that the local authority refuses to admit the existence of famine. If this is so, Government should not be misled by this report.

DHOSEGAON (3-12-96).—No relief works. No cheap grain-shops. Fodder is insufficient. Prices have doubled. Water is not available for cattle. Kharif is 4 annas. No Rabi sowings for want of rain. Cattle are selling at one-fourth the original price.

BHARATGAON (no date).—Many petitions for remitting or suspending one-half of the revenue have been sent. Grain-stock is insufficient. Fodder is insufficient. The Local Fund Committee has not yet moved. Water is sufficient for the present but will not be sufficient for Bagayat. Emigration has not yet begun. The number of cattle is fast dwindling. Kharif yield is four annas. Rabi is 6 annas.

CHIKURDA [VALVA] (16-12-96).—Cheap grain-shops will be a real relief. The Valva Local Board is ready to undertake the construction of the Islampur-Takari-station road and the Hole-Tasgaon road and also the Varna valley road in case the District Board advances a loan and also if some money is allotted to it from the Famine Insurance Fund. Partial remission and suspension of revenue wanted. Prices have nearly doubled. There are no forests near the place. Famine has already claimed some victims. Some labourers are now engaged in pigery-making (*उद्दिष्ट*) but will be out of employment

after a month or two. Wells should be sunk. Nearly 4 cattles have emigrated, Kharif is nearly 4 annas in some fields. The general crop-yield is much below the necessary minimum. Krishna canal-water should be supplied to the people.

DEVRASHTRE [KHANAPUR] (no date).—No relief works. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. No authoritative report about the opening of forests. Unless the silt is entirely removed from the Local Tank, water will be insufficient. Emigration has begun. Kharif yield is nearly 3 annas. No Rabi sowings. Cattle are selling at one-eighth the original price. Suggests the construction of a road from Devarashtre to Vittu. A road from Takari Station to Vita via Devarashtre will give relief to nearly 500 people and suggests the establishment of an orphanage.

DISKAL [KHATAY] (Dec. 96).—No relief works near the village. There is one relief work twenty miles away from Diskal, but that is useless to the village. Complete remission and suspension wanted. Sometime back most of us were ruined by a terrific hail storm. We petitioned the Government for relief by way of suspension &c. but nothing was granted to us and now we fear that Government has become blind to our sufferings. Prices have doubled. Forests have already been leased to the contractor. Cattle are dying. Emigration on a large scale is apprehended. Disease is rampant among cattle. Kharif yield is nearly two annas. Rabi will be equally bad.

KUMTE (28-11-96).—The people have become hopeless of receiving any relief.

KHATAY [Do] (29-11-96).—Grain stock is insufficient. Kharif more than four annas. Forests must be thrown open. Nearly 2500 people are out of employment. Emigration has begun, though not on a large scale. In some cases Rabi yield will be 8 annas and in others almost nil.

It is said that the Collector yet sees no signs of famine.

LUKANTHAN—Kharif and Rabi almost nil. Fodder is insufficient. Wholesale emigration is apprehended. Complete remission and suspension of revenue would avert the calamity at least to some extent. Petitions for Tagai advance &c. have been sent.

MALGAON (22-12-96).—On account of early rains Kharif was swept away. Crop-yield on the whole is bad. The agriculturists are quite unable to pay the revenue. Fodder is scarce. Emigration has begun. The early rains have done much damage to person and property.

MAHULI [SATARA] (no date).—Kharif on the average 2 annas. Rabi is withering away. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. Cattle suffering for want of fodder. There are no Government forests. Nearly 30 people have emigrated and many are waiting for the starting of relief works.

PIMPWANDI (4-12-96)—Suspension of revenue is wanted. An appeal is made to Government for throwing open its reserved forests. Nearly 700 people (out of 2800) have emigrated. Kharif yield is below two annas. Rabi is four annas and in a few fields it is even 8 annas. The construction of the canal at Sonke is suggested. This would give relief to many and increase the productive capacity of the fields. Government forests must be thrown open. Many people are starving.

VANRESHI [PATAN] (6-12-96)—Population 1000. Some are starving, but are concealing their condition for they are generally well-to-do people. Some want labour but the relief work opened at *Kashil* is too far away to be really useful to them. The construction of the Taralo—Patan road is suggested. Kharif not even two annas. Rabi ditto. The area of the Government forest is 700 acres, but that is practically useless since Government refuses to allow free grazing.

SONEGAON (22-12-96).—Kharif yield is nearly 4 annas. Rabi below 6 annas. Forests have already been leased to the contractor. Many cattle have already been sold off. Some have died. Emigration continues.

SATARA TALUKA.—A correspondent from Satara wrote early in January :—

I have examined 41 villages in the Taluka. There are no relief works in the vicinity of any of these; but metal-breaking is going on near Atit. As the number of labourers grew very high some of them were sent to break metal on the Satara-Mahabaleshwar road.

Fodder and grain stock insufficient. In the following 6 villages there will be scarcity of water, viz. (1) Golavadi, (2) Degaum, (3) Wela (4) Kalamb, (5) Deodashi and (6) Wadha. Emigration on a vast scale has begun but some of the persons are described as "habitual emigrants." The construction of a Dharan on the river Krishna at Jaytapur and also repair of the Colowadi Tank suggested.

WALWA TALUKA.—The situation in this Taluka is most distressing. A poor house was opened at Ashta but the Collector has stopped it on the plea that crops there were excellent.

There are 145 villages in the whole Taluka and the average state of crops may be thus stated :—

Kharif 4.9 and Rabi 2.06 : Partial remission and suspension of revenue are badly wanted. Grain-stock is just sufficient, in case the whole stock in the Taluka is evenly distributed in the villages. The villages on the Western side will have to depend for the most part on the villages in the east.

Fodder generally will be insufficient. Sinking of some wells in different portions of the Taluka is suggested. It apprehended that emigration will begin in January and that it will reach its maximum in February. Some people have emigrated even now but they are described as "habitual emigrants."

No relief works in the Taluka. The present attitude of the authorities is indifferent and may perhaps degenerate into oppression. Tagai advances are wanted. Two relief works are suggested : (1) The Islampur Water Works. (2) The Takari-Islampur road.

SHOLAPUR.

[The whole district is liable to famine. It comprises 7 Talukas with a total population of 7,50,689. The area is 29,05,194 acres. The total realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 11,21,239. In 1875-76 the realisable revenue was Rs. 10,73,905. Suspension to the extent of Rs. 8,49,490 and remission amounting to Rs. 7,530 were given in 1875-76.]

The whole district is now affected. The principal crop is jwari (Rabi). The Kharif crop is estimated at 1 anna; late Rabi crops are withering.]

AKUTJ [MALSIRAS] (1-12-96).—No cheap grain-shop. Relief works have been opened. Three petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain is barely sufficient. Fodder is insufficient. Forests have been thrown open but there is no grass. On the relief works mentioned, nearly 12000 are employed. Many have been refused employment for want of implements. Water is sufficient here but in the surrounding villages there is a scarcity of water. Emigration has continued. Nearly 1700 people have already departed. 200 cattle have died for want of fodder. Rabi is nil. Bagayat yield is fair. The artisans are starving for want of employment.

Ditto. (24-12-96).—Rabi sowing is one anna. The butchers are reaping their harvest. It is suggested that a *Talav* should be constructed near the *Nala* at Mandavegaon. Tagai advances are badly wanted in some cases.

CHINCHOLI [PANDHARPUR] (12-12-96).—Cattle dying for want of food. No employment. Med-bhend Talav, Aste Talav and Mbhend Talav are appropriate for relief works.

JINTI [KARMAIA] (11-12-96).—On account of the recent rains rabi sowings have taken place but more rain is wanted to secure a good yield. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population is already without food. Wages on relief work too low. Kharif yield hardly one anna. Fodder is very scarce.

GHARI (11-12-96).—Relief work has been opened. There is no Government Forest. Fodder is insufficient. Employment on relief work is often refused. A *Talav* at Shirale will give work to some thousands.

KARRAMB [MADHA] (2-12-96).—No cheap grain-shop. Fodder nil. Government forests have been thrown open but there is no grass in them. Nearly 500 cattle have died. Relief works are too far off to be useful. People cannot go (1) because the wages are very low (2) and the work is too far off. There is water-famine here. Government should take off the salt from the *talav* which would

be beneficial in various ways. Kharif yield 1 anna. Rabi is nil. Cattle have become an intolerable encumbrance. Out of the whole population (7500) there are many weavers who need special relief. The attitude of the authorities is disheartening. The importation of grain has stopped on account of the heavy pressure of famine in the exporting talukas. An appeal for help has been sent to leaders. The market has become uncertain and the retail dealers are changing their rates almost every fourth hour.

KARMALE [Do.] (4-12-96).—Cows are selling at 8 annas. 200 cows have been sent to the Poona Panjarpole and 100 more to the Nagar one. Butchers are reaping their harvest. Fodder is entirely insufficient.

Ditto. (18-12-96).—It is said that Government has called for an estimate stating the amount of grass which Karmaale will require. In 1895 the area of arable land here was 3,82,081—the money valuation being Rs. 1,52,314. During the same year the bullocks numbered 39,249. It will be seen from this how many bullocks will be required for tilling the land. Reference is made to the declaration of Lord Sandhurst at Surat that the lives of cattle were as valuable as those of men. It is absurd to ask the cattle to be sent far away. On the Test work and on the well-work undertaken by the Committee nearly 2000 men have been employed. In the B and C Divisions the wages are anna 1-12 and 1-7 respectively for men. For women the wages are 1-7 and 1-6 respectively. For children As. 1-6. The 900 children who are without work get 9 pies per diem. The Mukadam get 3 annas per diem. The labourers are without hata. There are some who go to the surroundings for shelter but the large majority with their little children are required to sleep on earth without a shelter. The misery of these people is indescribable. The grain supplied is execrable. There is want of implements and therefore many people are required to go away without any employment. The Committee retains its low rate of wages even though the well has been sunk very deep. The Assistant Collector had been here to see the Committee's work. At the time of the visit the spectacle, presented to the Collector, of labourers filling up earth was far from the truth. The labourers have many complaints but they dare not make them for fear of being turned out. Many petitions for Tagai advances have

been sent. It is said Government has asked for an estimate for undertaking some water-work. The lame and blind from the surrounding villages are asked to come all the way to *Karnale*. But how can they come here and what shelter can they get when even the children and wives of able-bodied are required to sleep under the roof of the heaven. The Assistant Collector has ordered the distribution of *Shidha* to the lame &c. at *Pangre* and *Dhalawani* when he found that, at the former place, two men actually died of starvation. It is absolutely necessary that the distribution should take place in every village. At *Jinti* and *Ghiti* there are many persons starving for want of food. The *Shidha* consists of $1\frac{1}{2}$ *Chipte* of *Jwari* (*Sholapur* measure) $\frac{3}{4}$ *Kolve* dal for men. For women 1 *Chipte* *jwari* and $\frac{3}{4}$ *Kolve* dal. For child $\frac{1}{2}$ *Chipte* *Jwari* and $\frac{1}{2}$ *Chipte* dal. Oil is also given.

Ditto. (25-12-96)—The news of two men having died of starvation at *Pangar* has been authoritatively confirmed by Government. Forest contains no grass. Government is appealed to supply fodder gratis.

Ditto. (26-12-96)—On the Bazaar day here 800 oxen, 100 cows, 50 horses, 25 she-buffaloes were put up for sale at a nominal price. It is not true that no cattle for sale are brought to the Bazaar. There are three relief works. (1) *Bergao* Road. (2) *Karnala-Arjapur* Road. (3) *Joor* Road. The *Jategaon* Road will, it is said, soon begin. The wages in the (B) division are 2 annas per man; (C)—As. 1-8. For women (E) As. 1-9 and (C) As. 1-7. For the working children As. 1-7; and for the rest 6 pies. No huts have yet been constructed. The yearly instalment of *Tagal* already advanced is being rigorously enforced. On the wall the labourer is required to show 100 cubic feet of work and he is practically prohibited from joining the relief work. Low Government officers exercise the authority with a vengeance.

KARDUWADI [MADRA] (9-11-96)—No cheap grain-shops have yet been opened. A railway might be constructed from *Karduwadi* to *Pandharyur*. Grain stock is sufficient for two months. A heavy duty on exportation is suggested. Fodder is nil. It will have to be brought from other places. The repair of *Chewdi* and *Dharmashala* is sug-

gested. Water will be sufficient for four months. Emigration has begun and in a few months many villages will be deserted. Kharif is nil. Bagayat is indifferent and Rabi is nil. Cattle are being put up for sale for nominal prices. The construction of Talavas is suggested. The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act is preventing many saw-cars from making advances to the rayats.

MAHOL [MADHA]—Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population living on insufficient food. The cutting of *Nivdung* and the construction of a tank may give food to some. There is the usual complaint about the insufficiency of wages. The work again is too hard and full work is enforced with almost unconscionable rigour. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. The *Tagai* grant must be expedited to be useful.

Ditto. 9-12-96.—Water is insufficient. Some relief works have been closed with disastrous results. The last rainfall was too feeble to be really useful. Government forests contain no grass and hence the opening of the forests is a sham. Cattle are dying. Emigration has taken place. Some people returned after the last rainfall but emigrated again when they found that the shower was too feeble to justify Rabi sowings. Kharif is nil. Rabi 1 anna in Bagayat where it was sown. Cattle are sold for a nominal price. A petition for free use of the canal is sent.

MADHE [Do] (9-12-96)—Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Prices have doubled. Fodder insufficient. *Nivdung*-cutting has begun. The road from Mahol to Madhe gives employment to some. At *Abhargaoon* the labourers number 700. Many people are starving. It is complained that the labourers do not get their pay regularly or at the place where they work. They have to go to the Mamlatdar's camp, and this deprives them of one day's wages. The weavers need special relief but they do not get it. Government has called for an estimate of the lame &c. The *patel* gave the number to be 40. But the Mamlatdar feeds only five. Water is barely sufficient for fifteen days. Nearly 30 petitions have been sent for *Tagai* advances for the sinking and repair of wells, but no reply has been received. Emigration of cattle and men has begun. Nearly 4000 cattle have died. Others are already half-dead. Kharif yield is hardly two annas. Rabi is nil.

NARAYED [Do.] (10-12-96)—Emigration has continued. The condition of the cattle is horrible. Kharif is almost nil. A relief work opened here may give food even to surrounding villages. Rabi is nil.

PANDHARPUR (No date)—The attitude of the authorities is disheartening. The Mamlatdar has been ordered to take care of the lame, the blind &c. Emigration on a vast scale has commenced. Grain-stock is quite insufficient. Government Forests contain no grass.

Ditto. (15-12-96)—Construction of a railway line from Kurduwadi to Pandharpur is suggested. Local Fund Committee is now unable to do anything. Nearly 10,000 people have emigrated. Cattle too, nearly 5,000, have emigrated. Kharif indifferent. Rabi is nil. On account of the heavy floods property worth 58 lacs has been destroyed. Credit is due to the Mamlatdar for his efforts. The prices of cattle are as under. The horses, oxen and buffaloes sell at $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the normal price, and cows for nominal price. Many people are willing to part with their cattle if any one cares to support them. Unable to bear the dying agonies of the cows &c. the owners hasten to sell them to butchers so that the cattle may be at once killed. Water wanted for jirayat free of charge. Appeals for holding over suits &c. are being made. Because the cost of litigation is unbearable in these days. High-way robberies, thefts &c. are the order of the day.

Ditto. (16-12-96.) Government is willing to facilitate the transfer of cattle from one place to another (vide Resolution 8929 Revenue Department, November 11th, 1896); but Government should also state the places where grass is tolerably abundant.

BRAHMAPUR [PANDHARPUR] (18-12-96). Prices doubled. No fodder for cattle who are being fed with Kumbhas. It is heart-rending to look at people leaving their homes with their cattle. Water is sufficient, Kharif nearly nil. Rabi nearly 40 acres sown but the prospects of yield are nearly nil. The prices of horses, buffaloes, and cows have declined by $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{10}$, respectively.

BHALVANI—Population 3000. Prices trebled. Fodder is entirely insufficient. The condition of people who are extremely poor even under normal times, may be better imagined than described. Nearly 300 cattle died for want of fodder. Kharif nil. Rabi one anna. A list of people who have emigrated is supplied. The total 356.

KASEGACH, [PANDHARPUR] Grain-stock is insufficient. Prices have trebled. Government Forest is thrown open. People are ready to be employed but they do not get any employment. Three villages are nearly suffering from water-scarcity. The following table will explain itself:—

Village.	Population.	G	
Kasegaon	3000	2000	100
Tamli	500	100	100
Gunegaon	500	100	150
Taori	1200	300	200
Marapur	600	0	50
Gharsueki	400	0	75
Chichumbe	300	40	30
Shindwad	1200	100	100
Yekmespur	500	200	100
Dewale	600	500	0
Methawade	800	200	0
Mamdabad	500	200	0
Shetfal	900	100	50
Khardi	800	50	50
Segewadi	600	50	50
Umbargao	400	25	0
Beboli	700	0	0
Takli	600	50	20
Korti	800	20	0

The following table gives similar information about cattle :—

Village.	Number of cattle.	Going to emigrate.	Already emigrated.
Kasegaon	2500	500	1000
Tambi	300	50	50
Gunegaon	600	50	90
Tawasi	900	100	50
Marapur	200	30	0
Ghaanipi	250	40	0
Chichumbe	275	20	20
Sindewadi	200	50	50
Yekmespoor ...	225	25	25
Dewale	300	275	0
Methawade	375	350	0
Mamdabad	200	170	0
Shetfal	300	50	25
Khardi	375	25	25
Segewadi	275	25	30
Ombergao	205	25	0
Beboli	600	0	0
Takli	300	10	40
Korti	400	20	0

The Kharif crop yield ranges from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$. Rabi nearly nil. The ryots have not left their villages in the hope of the opening of relief works. But these are delayed. People willing to emigrate cannot do so because they have no money absolutely. The weak and the lame are not well cared for. The payment of wages is in many cases delayed to a fortnight or even a month. It is very difficult to get grain on credit. Wages very low.

SHOLAPUR, [SHOLAPUR] The ryots are poor. Fodder is quite insufficient. *Tagai* advances for the sinking of wells and *Bhudkars* should be made to the ryots. This would offer substantial help. People cannot utilise the *Sáccar* to the fullest extent on account of the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act. Nearly 10,000 weavers have emigrated. Daily wages must be at least three annas.

TEMBURNI [KARMALA] (9-12-26)—Cattle offered for sale but nobody buys them.

TADAWALE [AKALKOT] (6-12-26)—The population is 4061. Mainly agriculturists. Situation is very bad. Property and person have become very insecure. People ought to be supplied with arms. Grain-stock is insufficient. Fodder is insufficient. Local Fund Committee has undertaken Kusulamba-Yermal road. The sinking of wells is absolutely necessary. Kharif 1 anna. Rabi 3 annas.

URLAI-BUDECK. [MADHA] (13-12-26)—Petitions for remission and suspension have been sent. People are dying for want of food. Teachers should get famine allowance. Butchers are buying cattle.

BELGAUM.

[The district comprises 7 Talukas with an area of 29,79,376 acres. The population is 10,13,261. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 15,60,788 the same in 1875-76 being Rs. 12,53,970. The principal crop is Jwari (Rabi). The portion comprising 1,522 square miles including Athani, Gekak $\frac{3}{4}$, and Paragad $\frac{1}{2}$ is stated to be very liable to famine. Athani, Gekak and Paragad are now affected. The portion comprising 1,766 square miles including

Chikodi, Gokak $\frac{1}{2}$, Paragad $\frac{1}{2}$ and Sampago is less liable. The Kharif crop is estimated at 6 annas; Rabi mostly dried up.]

ANADKATI, [TALUKA MURGOD PRATAPGAD MAHAL,] (29-12-96).—(1) Both the crops withering away. (2) Grain-stock insufficient. (3) Water insufficient. (4) Prices increased. (5) No relief works. Fodder badly needed. (6) Emigration of cattle and men has begun. (7) Government forests should be thrown open for free grazing and for fuel. The construction of tank and wells is suggested. (8) Remission and suspension of revenue needed.

ATHANI [Do.] (16-11-96).—(1) People and cattle have been starving owing to the want of food and fodder.

CHIKODI [Do.] (11-11-96).—Rabi crop 5 annas. Kharif one anna. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Relief works are badly needed. Population of the Taluka 2,95,305, cattle 1,44,745. Emigration of men and cattle commenced. 5,000 is the number of cattle gone out. Damage sustained owing to excessive rainfall at first.

GOKAK [Do.] (9-11-96).—(1) Grain-stock and fodder insufficient. (2) Government forests have been thrown open. (2) Prices more than doubled. (4) Relief works should be started for about 25,000 people. (5) Cattle sold at a nominal price to butchers.

HUBLI (22-12-96).—(1) Relief works should be soon started. (2) No crops; no sowing. (3) Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. (4) Cattle are pouring into this Taluka from outside.

BIJAPUR.

[The district comprises 8 talukas, All of which are very liable to famine. The area is 36,27,811 acres, the population being 7,96,332. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 14,22,303; the same in 1875-76 being Rs. 12,94,814. Suspensions of revenue in 1875-76 amounted to Rs. 7,48,332, while the present estimate is Rs. 5,69,906. The number of relief works is 18, two of which are Local Board and Municipal works. The principal crop

is Jwari. The Kharif crop is estimated at $\frac{1}{2}$ anna; rabi reported to have failed except along the river-side and in garden-lands. Cattle distress is severe.]

AGA KHEDA (13-1-96.)—It is an Inam village. Cattle are dying for want of fodder. There is a perfect panic here. Crime is on the increase. There were no sowing, either of Kharif or Rabi. People are desirous of going to jail since, they say, that they would at least get more food there.

DIJAPUR (24-11-96.)—The distress of cattle is indescribable. Thousands have perished. It is proposed that cattle should be supplied with fodder from the forests of Dharwar and Karwar. In the last famine some arrangement was made but that proved a failure. The Commissioner has wisely consented to consult local opinion before starting relief works. It is said that Government is willing to grant suspensions of revenue only to an insignificant extent when they are more largely needed. Cattle disease and cholera are prevalent in some places.

Ditto, (9-12-96.)—The local magnates are busy in collecting subscriptions for a tennis tournament.

Ditto, (8-12-96.)—Nearly 4000 people are employed on relief works. The work is heavy; the wages are low, while accommodation and lodging are wretched. Emigration has begun long ago. Cattle are being sent to Dharwar and Belgaum. Rabi nil. Kharif nil. Cattle can be had for the mere asking. Orphans are dying. The subordinate officers are preventing the people from representing their grievances to Government. Nearly 800 cattle come under the knife of the butcher every week. The Collector is exerting every nerve to collect the whole revenue. In about 30 villages in the Taluka the yield is nearly nil.

Ditto, (4-11-96.)—No cheap grain-shops have been opened by Government, but at Bagalkot Ramdas Darbari has opened one. Prices doubled. Water is quite insufficient.

BAGALKOT (12-12-96.)—Relief works are quite inadequate to give work to the distressed, most of whom are required to go away disappointed. Nearly 500 weavers are starving. Emigration has begun. Cattle are dying for want of fodder. Rabi nil, Kharif nil. People do not send any petitions for remission.

etc., because they say that they go for nothing. The condition of the people on relief works is pitiable.

BAGEWADI (17-12-96).—Remission and suspension of revenue badly wanted. Instalments of Tagai advances due this year should be demanded by Government next year.

Ditto. (1-11-96).—Grain-stock is insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Relief works not yet opened. Emigration has begun. Kharif nil. The attitude of local authorities sympathetic.

Ditto. (12-11-96).—People going out of the Taluka in large numbers, also cattle. Real relief must mean the grant of grain weighing at least 120 Rs. to male, 80 Rs. to female and 40 Rs. to child. The crop-yield will be nearly two annas. Water is insufficient.

HIPARGI [T. SHINDGI] (22-11-96) No cheap grain-shops have been opened. Prices doubled. Fodder is nil. Government should bring in the market its own fodder as was done in the last famine. The sinking of wells and the construction of *Talao*s are suggested. The relief-works should be undertaken as near Hipargi as possible. Nearly 50 per cent of cattle have died. Twenty-five per cent have emigrated, and the rest will soon die or emigrate. The Mamlatdar has written to Government giving a true description of the situation. The whole crop-yield is below one anna. Rabi was not sown at all. An attempt must be made to import grain from other markets; but people hesitate to undertake such a thing for fear of being looted. Crime is on the increase.

HARTI [T. INDI] (no date).—Crops have withered away. Complete remission and suspension of revenue is wanted. Fodder nil. The condition of cattle is beyond description. Tagai advances should be made for the purpose of saving cattle. Relief works should be undertaken—viz. the Sholapur-Hubli road-work. Grain is entirely insufficient. It cannot be had even by well-to-do people. School-fees should be remitted in these days. The situation is simply miserable and the strong hand of Government alone can give some relief.

MUDEBIHAL [Do.] (1-12-96).—In Talikoti perganna in this Taluka the situation is horrible. Nearly 75 per cent of the village-cattle are dead. No less than 17,000 cattle have been the victims of the

butcher, 11,000 cattle have died for want of fodder. Nearly 3,000 cattle have emigrated. This is the state of things in the Talikoti Parganna (which comprises nearly 35 villages). Nearly 3,000 people are in want of food. Relief works should be undertaken as soon as possible. Remission and suspension of revenue are badly wanted.

MAJIMPUR (no date)—The construction of the *Tagai* at *Hingalgi* should be undertaken as this would give substantial relief to many people and supply water to 15 villages.

MANUR, (24-12-96)—Test works opened. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock and fodder entirely insufficient. No Government forests opened. Many cattle have been sold for nothing. Many are dying. Crop-yield is nearly nil. The construction of the *Hingalgi Talao* is suggested.

SHIVAPUR, (31-12-26)—Payments on relief works irregular. Wages very low. It was notified that the wage-rate would be as follows:—male, As. 2-3 female, As. 2-1 and child As. 1-6 and for children not working 6 pies, babies 7 pies; but *actually* the wages were given at the following rates:—male, As. 1-6 female, As. 1-5; child, 11 pies. The work is very hard. The number of labourers is 1130. No wages given on Sundays. The existing rate is quite insufficient to keep body and soul together. Two annas are required to buy one seer of *Jwari* and with these not an atom of salt can be had. Condiments &c. should be supplied gratis. Many of the labourers come to relief works from their homes in the surrounding villages, which are far away from the relief works and therefore many of them are not in time in the morning to answer the roll-call. This is a real hardship. They are quite willing to live in huts and sheds if they are supplied, and also if grain can be had at the relief works. But there are no sheds or grain-shops on relief works; and they are perforce required to go to their villages at night. It is suggested, therefore, that Government should either erect sheds or should not be so strict in calling the roll early in the morning. There is one more difficulty. In days of famine both women and men are employed on relief works and there is no one to cook at home. Therefore, women should get a recess some time in the morning to prepare food.

Dita. (6-1-97)—Brahmins are starving. Obviously they cannot go to relief works and therefore need special relief. The correspondent adds that cattle also require to be specially cared for.

TELGI, [T. BAGEWADI] (10-12-96)—Nearly 2,000 labourers are employed on the Bagewadi road. Fodder is scarce and nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of cattle have already died. Soil not under the plough. Mamlatdar has admitted the existence of famine. Butchers are reaping their golden harvest.

The following table show the extent of cattle-distress in this District. These figures have been collected by an agent of the Sabha.

Village, Taluka, Zilla.	No. of cattle in June 1896.	No. of cattle dead or sold by Dec. 1896.	Village, Taluka, Zilla.	No. of cattle in June 1896.	No. of cattle dead or sold by Dec. 1896.
BEJAPRU TALUKA.					
Torne.	2090	1060	Gonal.	100	50
MUDDEBIHAL T.			Gungvor.	400	150
Kalagi.	600	350	Banvsi.	150	50
Ohelmi.	100	60	Kamaldini.	250	50
Amargol.	500	200	Gadalmari.	300	150
Rakasgi.	200	300	Chirchulkul.	150	60
Haulgeri.	300	170	Pedekunoor.	804	400
Jalpur.	150	80	Konoor.	972	600
Hokrani.	250	50	Tumbigi	700	400
Goodnal.	300	100	Yanasgal	150	600
Somnal.	500	100	Jekeral.	150	50
Katandoni.	10	4	INDI TALUKA.	3905	1792
Kalagbal.	400	150	Indi.	282	50
Chevanbhavi.	500	150	Mayinhalti.	3975	1865
Bulganoor.	500	350	Salotgi.	1244	718

NIDGUNDI [T. BAGEWADI] (10-12-96)—Owing to famine toddy is not sold at all. As toddy leaves are used as fodder no juice can be extracted from the toddy-trees. Customers who chiefly consist of poor people have run away to the west, and hence the shops are closed.

DHARWAR.

[The district comprises 11 Talukas with an area of 29,45,832 acres and the population 10,51,314. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 25,80,794 the same in 1875-76 being Rs. 20,33,291. The portion very liable to famine is stated to be 1,696 square miles and includes Gadag, Navalgund and Ron. 1,184 square miles including Dharwar $\frac{1}{2}$, Hubli $\frac{1}{2}$, Bankapur $\frac{1}{2}$, Ranebennur $\frac{1}{2}$ and Karajgi $\frac{1}{2}$, are less liable. The Talukas now affected are Navalgund, Gadag, Ron, Nargund and Mundergi Pethas. The principal crop is Jwari (Rabi). The Kharif crop is officially estimated at 2 annas in the affected and 10 annas in other Talukas. Rabi crop in Ron, Nargund and Munderg are withering.]

GADAG, NAVALGUND and RON TALUKAS—A correspondent deputed by the Sabha writes in the course of a report on the situation made when the famine has just set in Gadag, Navalgund and Ron Talukas :—

“The distress in these three Talukas is intense. During the last rainy season there was only one day on which it rained ; so that throughout the length and breadth of the three Talukas there was not a blade of green grass to be seen. The streams and rivulets are all dry and the scarcity of water is even now keenly felt. It is supposed that the wells will run dry before long. The water-supply in the towns and villages of these three Talukas is never very copious ; and during drought it is expected to be very scanty. Government has come to recognise this ever since the last famine. But it has practically made no efforts on an extensive scale to cope with the difficulty during the years of prosperity. Whenever there is a chance of famine coming some small tanks are dug and after the famine is over, the digging stops or is hurried over. *No extensive work of real utility is undertaken and the scarcity of water continues from famine to famine. Government ought to undertake such works during prosperous years.*

In these three Talukas, Kharif crops have altogether failed, and probably there is no chance of Rabi crops being sown. If, however, rain falls in sufficient quantities, sowing may begin ; but this

is simply a hope. As the crops have failed it is needless to say that fodder for cattle is nowhere to be had in the three Talukas. Jwarl which is the staple food-grain here is sold at 4 shers and a half (local), equal to about seventeen pounds or $8\frac{1}{2}$ Poona shers. The grain-dealers have grain in stock which may last for six months or so; but they withhold it from market in expectation of higher prices in the future. *There are only two ways to make them bring out the corn they hold; importation of corn from outside or legislation to force them to produce it. Importation from other parts failing legislating is the only remedy available to break the ring.*

It is estimated that there are thirty thousand people who will require relief in these three Talukas. Taking three rupees as sufficient wages for a month, it will require seven lakhs and twenty thousand rupees to support thirty thousand labourers for eight months; until the labourers return to the field next year. Out of the seven lakhs and odd thousands estimated Government have sanctioned two lakhs and sixty thousands to be expended on relief works for the next three months. Of these two lakhs and sixty thousands nearly two lakhs are taken from the Local Funds. In my opinion, this misuse of the local funds ought to be promptly exposed. The sanction of two lakhs of rupees from the local funds towards relief works in the three Talukas in question is a case in point.

Cattle is mostly being driven to the hills, called Malnads or Maavals. The Malnad hills are healthy and so there is no objection to cattle being driven there. But the great Kanara forests which have also been opened are not well suited in this respect. During the famine of 1876-77 cattle from Bijapur, Sholapur, Dharwar, and other adjoining districts were driven to graze there. *But the cattle and the drivers both succumbed to the pestilence of Malaria which is the peculiar feature of the Kanara district in general and the Kanara forests in particular.* Government is aware of the fact. It notices it in its famine report. *In the Bijapur Gazetteer commenting on the famine of 1876-77 the fact is admitted; but instead of cautioning its subjects to enter the forests of Kanara at their risk, Government has generously placed the said forests at the people's disposal for grazing purposes. If the migration to the forests be allowed, the tragedy of 1877 will be repeated. The drivers and the cattle will both*

dis. It, therefore, behoves the Sarvajanik Sabha to bring the matter to the notice of the people and to advise the Government to utilize the grass in the Kanara forests some other way. The grass in the Kanara forests should be mown and transported to the districts of Bijapur, Sholapur and Dharwar, if necessary. It will be sinful to connive at the certain death which the drivers and their cattle are allowed to court.

With regard to relief works, road-making, metal-breaking and tank-digging is the order of the day. It is proposed some-how to entertain thirty thousand labourers. Immediate relief on temporary works appears to be the mania with Government officers. Works of permanent utility do not come within their ken. Really speaking famine-relief-works ought to be both works of temporary as well as permanent utility. In this district three-fourth of the country is level; water is almost always rather scanty; in fact *there are no storage tanks*. The district is in want of such tanks. If the Government were to direct its resources, whatever they be, to the construction of storage tanks, a great boon would be conferred on the people of the three Talukas.

A Tagai of three lakhs has been sanctioned and it is hoped people may take advantage of the assistance thus offered by Government.

As for the remission and suspension of assessment, I have reason to think that no definite orders have reached the officers of Government here. The probability is that the assessments would be suspended rather than remitted altogether.

The next thing to remark in this district is the *continual lessening of the acreage under wheat and jwari and the corresponding increase of that under cotton and oil grains*. The statistical details can be had from the Agricultural Director's report. The production of food-grains being lessened, the capacity to face famines is also lessened year by year. A certain definite percentage of the whole cultivable acreage must be kept aside for the production of food grains, which would suffice to maintain the district in case of famine for two years. Individual freedom in such matters is ruinous. The prominence of the evil is brought to light during famine days.

ABBIGERI [TALUKA RON] (10-1-97).—No Kharif crops. Rabi crops are withering away on account of the scarcity of rain. The condition of the poor is lamentable. No fodder. Famine relief works are not yet commenced. Scarcity of water is much felt. Reports about repairing the tanks and remission of the revenue are submitted to the Collector but no reply is, as yet, received. Applications are made for the suspension of Tagai instalments. Poor-houses are necessarily required.

ANNIGERI [NAVALGUND] (no date). Grain-stock, water, fodder, all insufficient. Nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the people need relief. Suspension of revenue wanted. Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population has emigrated. 50 per cent of the whole number of cattle have emigrated. Many have died and the rest are starving. Kharif 2 annas; Rabi nearly 4 annas.

The following works are suggested :—

- (1) The repair of the road from the town to the Station
- (2) The repair of the road which branching off from the Hubli—Gadag road leads to Aunnigery.
- (3) The repair of the Massabi well.

CHICKAWADVATTI [T. GADAG] (no date).—Remission of revenue is quite necessary. One-eighth of the usual Kharif crops was reaped this year. There is no water to drink. Tanks, if repaired, can hold water next year. Cattle do not get sufficient fodder. The forest should, therefore, be thrown open. There is no stock of grain of the last year.

DHARWAD (8-11-96.).—Situation is very bad in Nawalgund, Gadag and Ron. The Collector is endeavouring to open a cheap grain-shop at Dharwar, Hubli and Gadag by private subscriptions. Fodder is generally insufficient. The District Local Fund Committee has sanctioned Rs. 126,000 for relief works in the three distressed Talukas. People are asking why the Famine Fund is not utilised. In the affected Talukas the crop-yield is almost nil.

Another correspondent writes. "On account of exportation the grain-stock in the Taluka is being gradually decreased."

HOLIHADAGALI [TALUKA RON] (16-1-97).—Almost all lands being of purely black soil, no Kharif crops nor Rabi crops are reaped this year. The Collector has put up his camp here. On our re-

questioning him, he has issued orders not to urge the Ryots for revenue until he got a reply to his report from the Government.

HONGAL, [Do.] (9-11-96).—Disease is rampant among cattle. Fodder is insufficient. Only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the soil was under the plough. The crop-yield on the whole is miserable. Rabi is passable. Cattle are selling at the rate of $\frac{1}{8}$ th the original price.

KALKERI, (4-1-97).—Remission of revenue is badly wanted. No water to drink. Cattle are in the worst condition. No grain in stock. Poor people are starving.

MUNDARGI, [T. GADAG] (8-1-97).—Kharif crops withered away when they were one foot in height on account of the scarcity of rain. Rabi crops not even attempted. Emigration is going on in great numbers. Cattle sold at ridiculously small prices. People are quite unable to pay the revenue. Local officers rebuke the ryots right and left if they (the latter) dare express their inability to pay the revenue.

NARAIGALLA [TALUKA RON] (10-1-97).—People are in a miserable condition. Application was made to the Collector for the remission of the revenue but the reply was that there was no famine here and that revenue must be paid. An appeal is made to the Commissioner. Kharif crops withered away, so much so, that even fodder was not got from them. Rabi crops are altogether lost. Many lands are uncultivated. Local officers are urging for the payment of revenue. They do not care to give Talai sums regularly. To some they are absolutely refused by the Government. Some minor relief works are commenced, but the labourers do not get their proper rations. More labourers are refused. Weavers and other skilled labourers have no work and are consequently starving. The sinking of Talavi is suggested.

TADAS [T. Bankapur] (18-11-96).—The prices of grain are increasing every day. The following table shows the details and the difference of prices.

Prices in September.		Current prices.	
Per rupee.	Srs.	Per rupee.	Srs.
"	15½ Jawari.	"	4½ Jawari.
"	14 Paddy or rice.	"	8½ rice or paddy.
"	3½ Wheat.	"	4 Wheat.
"	5½ Pulse.	"	4 Pulse.
"	5½ Gram pulse.	"	3½ Gram pulse.

There is no sufficient fodder. Relief works are not commenced here. Local Fund Committee too has done nothing. There is sufficient water to drink. Population is increasing on account of immigration. Two months ago population was 3200; now it is nearly 4500. No Rabi crops. Kharif crops, however, reaped to some extent. Local officers do not seem to have reported to the Government about famine and the remission of the revenue. Toddy-shops are closed. Grain-shops should be opened out of the famine fund. No steps are taken against poor orphans being converted to Christianity.

AHMEDNAGAR.

[AHMEDNAGAR comprises 11 Talukas with a total population of 8,88,755. The area is 42,17,206 acres. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 16,39,725. The same in 1875-76 was Rs. 13,22,040. Revenue amounting to Rs. 3,51,260 was held in suspense while Rs. 1,31,740 were remitted in 1875-76. According to the Statistical Atlas 3,739 square miles comprising, Kopergaum, Nevase, Sevgaon, Karjat, Shrigonda and Parner are very liable to famine. Sangamner, Rahuri, Nagar and Jamkhed are less liable to attack. But the whole district is now affected. Parner, Shrigonda and Sangamner less severely.]

AHMEDNAGAR [Do.] (17-12-96).—There is no severe famine in the Taluka of Sangamner. The number of labourers on Relief-works is increasing. Relief-works are to be soon started at Ohas, Shirdhon and Rui in the Taluka of Nagar. It is said that Relief-works are started at Belapur in the Taluka of Rahuri and at Vadale in that of Nevase. The Courts at Rahuri and Sheogaum are ordered to be closed for six months.

ALKUTE [PARNER] (1-12-96).—It is said that the Municipality has opened a cheap grain-shop at Nagar but it is of no use to the inhabitants of villages in its neighbourhood. Grain-stock insufficient. Prices have more than doubled. Kharif crop nearly 4 annas while Rabi 2½ annas and in some villages nil. Relief works must be

started. Water insufficient. Cattle emigration has begun. Cattle are sold to butchers. Cattle price much decreased. Government forests must be thrown open.

AKOLA [Do.] (17-11-96).—Kharif nearly six annas. Rabi nil. Grain-stock insufficient. Prices have doubled. Fodder insufficient. Relief works should be started for people of 70 villages, some few Local Board works have been started. Petitions have been sent for remission of revenue. Water sufficient. It is said that Government has sanctioned Rs. 38,000 for the works of the tank named झरझरी and ब्राह्मणवाडे. These works need soon be started.

BELAPUR [RAHURI] (10-12-96).—There are 2700 men and 600 children employed on the Relief work all of whom belong to the Mahar caste. The condition of the old and the infirm is very miserable. No poor houses opened.

KOKANTHAN (28-11-96).—Kharif $\frac{1}{2}$ th sown, crop yield nearly 6 annas, Rabi not sown. No Bagait yield. Applications for Tagai have been sent. The rate of wages on relief works is not sufficient to feed the labourer. No fodder is available in Government forests as they have been already leased to contractors.

KOREGAUM [KARJAT] (9-12-96).—Rabi nil. Kharif 8 annas, Rs. 500 have been sanctioned for relief works. And a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been granted for Tagai grants. 3500 Bhils are without food. Rs. 45,000 have been sanctioned for the construction of a road from Nevase to Sangamner. The Mamledar has been authorised to report the number of cultivators to whom suspensions of revenue should be granted. Cattle are often sent to the Bazar at Yeola.

KOTUL [AKOLA] (25-11-96).—Kharif 2, 4 and 6 annas. Rabi not sown. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Prices have more than doubled. Petitions for remissions of revenue have been sent. Damage from excessive rain worth about 25,000. Cattle from other districts have been sent to this place. No Government forests thrown open. Cattle price is much reduced. About 2,000 cattle emigrated. The construction of a road from Kotul to Brahman Vada, and of wells in some villages. Nearly three-fourths of people are in need of relief work. No Local Fund works started. Water barely sufficient. People from various villages have migrated,

MALI BABULGAON (17-12-96).—Kharif yield nil. Rabi not sown. Wild pigs have done great damage to garden crop.

NEPTI (7-12-96).—No petitions for remission of revenue have as yet been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. No Government forests thrown open. Grain prices have doubled. Fodder insufficient. Water sufficient. About 75 cattle dead. Price much reduced. The Municipal tax on wells has been raised from three to five-rupees.

NEVASE [Do.] (16-12-96).—Crop yield nearly 4 annas. The condition of cattle is very miserable. About 400 cattle died. No Government forest in this Taluka. One private poor house has been opened for 50 poor people. Labourers on relief works have been put to great trouble in the work of metal-breaking. 728 families have emigrated.

PATHARDI [SHEGAON] (8-12-96) (8-1-97).—Grain prices have tripled. Weavers are not accustomed to do the work of metal-breaking. Special work for weavers and the construction of a road from Nagar to Beed are suggested.

PIMPALWANDI [JAMKHED] (6-12-96).—Kharif 3 annas. Rabi 3 annas. Petitions for remission of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Relief works need to be started. Government forests ought to be thrown open. The construction of a bridge to the River Kukadi on the road from Nasik to Poona which can maintain 500 labourers is suggested. 4 or 5 families have emigrated.

RAHURI [Do.] (23-12-96) (5-1-97).—Kharif 3 annas. Rabi almost nil. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder and water not sufficient. Grain prices have doubled. Cattle price much reduced. Relief works are badly wanted. The construction of a dam to the Mula river, of a road from Belapur to Ghoti and of a tank at Samrit are suggested.

RAJUR [Akola] (7-12-96) Kharif 2 annas. Rabi 1 anna. People are not informed that Government forests have been thrown open. Water insufficient. Tagai grants wanted. The repairs of old walls and the construction of a dam to the stream are suggested.

SANGAMNER [Do.] (31-12-96) About 400 men emigrated. A cheap grain-shop has been started out of the funds of private persons. The construction of a dam to the Pravara river near

Mhalsa Devi is suggested. This can give work to people in the districts of Thana, Poona, Nagar and Nasik. A relief work has been started at a distance of 5 miles from Sangamner. Wages are too low and the labourers are not well treated. They are very much exhausted by the work of metal-breaking. They are working in the sun. There are no trees to protect them from the sun. Also there is no sufficient water supply. There have been started two relief works in the Akola Taluka. The number of labourers is increasing. There is abundant water and ample shade of trees. The inconvenience felt there by the labourers is owing to the want of sufficient number of implements to break metal with. There is a private poor house opened at Sangamner. Also there has been a private cheap grain-shop from the month of November last. Scarcity of water and grain felt in the Talukas of Sangamner and Akola. Fodder not sufficient. The local Municipality has passed a resolution for the loan of Rs. 25,000 from Government in order to help the weavers &c. by purchasing their goods. Petitions for Tagai grants almost from all the villages and petitions for remission of revenues have been submitted but the reply from the Collector is that no remission is to be granted as cultivators do not pay more revenue in the year of good crop yield. Government should offer Tagai grant to well-to-do persons in order to help the weavers to continue their work of weaving, so that 2,000 weavers may be able to protect themselves and their families. Rabi two annas. Kharif 4 annas. Fodder not sufficient. Emigration of cattle commenced. They are often sold to Mahars.

SHIWGAUM [Do.] (16-12-96)—Kharif two annas. Rabi 1 anna. Petitions for remission of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock sufficient but prices have tripled. No Government forests thrown open. Butchers are the only purchasers of cattle. Relief works need to be started. Suggests the digging of wells and ponds for water supply and the construction of a road from Amarapur to Pathardi. Crops have totally failed in 35 villages. Poor house need be opened.

SAMSHERPOOR—Rabi not sown. Crops totally failed. Grain-stock insufficient. Emigration of cattle and men commenced. The construction of a road from Deolam to Samsherpoor is suggested. Remission of revenue wanted.

WAMBORI [Rahuri] (27-12-96).—About 400 people emigrated in search of relief works which need be started. Kharif 2½ annas, Rabi not sown. Tagai grants needed. If the local Municipality be supplied by Government with a loan of Rs. 20,000, special work for weavers &c. may be started. Fodder not sufficient. The local tank should be repaired. Cheap grain-shop need be started.

WARHEDI [Nevasa] (8-12-96).—Kharif 2 annas. Rabi nil. Grain-stock insufficient. About ¼ths of the population cannot get their livelihood. Relief works need be started. About 1,000 cattle emigrated. Government forests which are thrown open and have no grass are of no use to cattle.

NASIK.

[This district comprises 12 Talukas with an area of 87,20,295 acres, the population being 8,43,582. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 15,83,560. The same in 1875-76 was Rs. 12,48,995. Suspensions and remissions to the extent of Rs. 52,790, and 1,38,030 respectively were granted in that year. The portion very liable to famine is said to be 2,096 sq. miles including Sinnar ½, Chandor ½, Yeola, Nandgaon, Malegam, Niphad ½, 1,404 square miles including Nasik ½, Sinnar ½, Dindori ½, Niphad ½, Chandor ½, Baglan ½ and Kalwan ½ are less liable. The portion now affected includes Malegaon, Nandgaon, Yeola, Niphad and Sinnar Talukas (severely), others partially. The principal crop is Bajari (Kharif). The official estimate of Karif is 5½ annas; Rabi crops are mostly withering.]

ABEONALE (1-1-97).—Crops have failed. Government Forest has not yet been made open. There are many Varlis &c. and if they are allowed to cut logs of wood they would get relief. The building of the temple of Maruti is suggested.

DHONDHE (24-12-96) (Under Vinchurkar).—Water is insufficient. The construction of a tank at *Kundane* to the north is suggested. Emigration has begun. Crop yield is below two annas. Nearly 200 cattle have been sent to Konkan. Fodder is insufficient.

The construction of a road from *Vadali Bhoi* to *Vani* and also one from *Pachora* to *Devade* via *Dhondhe* is suggested. Complete remission of revenue wanted.

IGATPURI [Do.] (30-12-96).—The Local Fund Committee has begun the construction of *Shinnar* road. Nearly 50 petitions for remission and suspension have been sent. The Forests have been opened after the collection of fees. Water should be supplied by the sinking of wells. *Ghotibari-Ghaut* road should be undertaken by the Public Works. Those engaged on relief works have no huts to live in. The result is the prevalence of sickness. The dispensary is too far off. The wages are very low.

GANGATPOOR [NASIK] (29-11-96).—Petition for suspension and remission has been sent. Grain-stock is entirely insufficient, fodder is also insufficient. No emigration has yet taken place but it is apprehended. Rabi yield is nearly 4 annas and Kharif 2 annas. Famine petitions are returned for want of stamp!

JANORI [DINDORI] (5-12-96).—Non-agriculturists are starving. Because they are dependent upon *Dindori* for supply. Crop has entirely failed and importation into the local market has stopped.

KOLVAN. (16-12-96).—Twenty-five petitions from the villages for remission and suspension have been sent. The prices of grain have gone up enormously. The price of fodder is quadrupled. A road from *Daole* to *Deogaum* and a school at *Abhone* are suggested as relief works. Government is in possession of Rs. 500 from the public for the purpose. The *Talao* at *Chankapur* should be completed. The *Bhils* from *Golabhal*, *Monmkt*, *Khalji* &c. have emigrated in search of bread. Kharif in some villages is two annas, at others it is less still. At *Abhone*, *Bhaburdi*, *Golakhal*, *Sonki*, *Vitalwadi*, *Paypun*, *Baral*, *Kalmath* and *Palgudruk* crop has entirely failed. Water is insufficient.

KHAMTHEDE (without date).—Petitions for remission and suspension have been sent. Kharif yield is nearly four annas. $3\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole number of cattle has emigrated. The Government Forests though opened contain no grass. Water is sufficient. Wells will have to be repaired. Rabi is nil. The undertaking of several relief works is suggested. The crop yield in a few fields is fair, but this should by no means be taken as an accurate indicator of the

general condition of the agricultural yield which is on average very poor and scanty.

DAKHMARPUR (23-12-96).—No cheap grain-shops have been opened. Collection of revenue has begun and it is understood that the Patel has received orders that the revenue should forthwith be collected. Fodder is sufficient. Government forests contain nothing. Relief works must be begun at least at 10 different places. Water is insufficient at several villages. Kharif yield is four annas. Rabi is nearly nil. A piteous appeal made to Government for granting suspension and remission of revenue. Government forests have not yet been opened.

MALEGAON [Do.] 15-12-96.—Metal breaking has begun at Zodge and Jalgaon twelve miles away from this place. At first the work was begun near Malegaon and had nearly 5000 labourers on it. But when the Collector, observed the large number of labourers he seems to have thought it his duty to carry the relief work at a long distance. There are many momins and other weavers among the labourers. Many Momins have emigrated. Metal-breaking is very trying for them and they need special relief. The Committee is thinking of buying the products of their looms if Government help them and thus relieve the class.

MAKHMALA BAD [NASIK] (8-12-96).—A cheap grain-shop-wanted. Hundred villages would profit by the construction of a road from Nasik to Girnar—and this should be taken up by Government. At some places the soil was not even under the plough. The situation is bad. Water is insufficient. Advocates the construction of a *Talao* near Virtaks to the north of the town. Kharif 3 annas. Rabi 2 annas. Cattle sold at low prices.

NYAYADONGRI [NANDGAON] (21-11-96).—In January next is to be begun the construction of a road (4 miles in length) from Nyayadongri to Bolthan. The work should not be entrusted to any contractor. A petition for remission and suspension was sent up by the people of Sourgaon and the verbal answer given was "Do you pay anything in excess in years of plenty?" Prices have doubled. There is urgent necessity for relief work. Cattle have emigrated. A petition has been sent for Tagai advances. Crime is on the increase and property and person are insecure.

The correspondent supplies a full account of the robberies committed during last few weeks. No order for the opening of Government Forest has yet been apparently sent.

Ditto (31-12-96).—The slight showers of rain which we had are useless. The Patel has notified that the revenue would be collected in *one instalment* this year. Petition against the order has been sent. Agriculturists are subsisting by wage-labour. Grain-stock is insufficient. Prices double. Kharif is nearly 4 annas. Rabi nil. Fodder is insufficient.

NANDGAON (16-12-96).—Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Kharif is nil. The local authorities have misled the Government as to the real condition of the Taluka. Emigration has begun (nearly 75).

Ditto (28-11-96).—Cheap grain-shops have been opened by the local merchants. The wages on relief work are too low for subsistence. Grain-stock in the Taluka is entirely insufficient. Fodder is insufficient. The execution of the Government order about the opening of Forests and the free collection of leaves &c. is very unsatisfactory. The work on the railway yields wages double to those on relief-works.

A water-famine is apprehended at Vehelgaon Savargaon and Kondar. Nearly 1200 cattle have emigrated. Some cattle have died of disease and many more are likely to fall victims to the prevailing epidemic. There is an urgent necessity for a veterinary doctor. Kharif is nearly 4 annas. Rabi not sown. Some damage on account of the heavy floods has occurred at Saigaon, Amode Barole &c. A gentleman at Nasik has kindly consented to undertake to support some destitute children. Remission and suspension of revenue are badly needed. The authorities seem determined to collect the annual assessment at all costs. Government Forest has been opened but the Mamaltdar, the local authority, says that it is opened not for free grazing but the people are simply allowed to carry head-loads of grass. Nearly 1000 cattle have emigrated in the direction of Gujrath. On the relief-work there are no sheds for labourers.

NASIK (3-12-96)→An abortive attempt was made by some local leaders to open a cheap grain-shop. But a Dhatia from

Bombay sold bajri at cheaper rates. He is prepared, he says, to incur a loss of Rs. 10000. He is sought to be checkmated by the local grain-leaders. At a general meeting of the Municipal Corporation it was suggested to demand from the Government a loan of 5 lacs to supply the city with pipe-water. It is attempted to give organised relief by the aid of local charity.

OZARTAMBAT.—Rabi is nearly nil. The owners of jirayat (who are few) are doing fairly well. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. The commission of daring robberies has begun.

Ditto. (28-11-96).—The Mamlatdar of Niphad has unofficially facilitated the opening of the grain-shop at Ozar, Pimpalgaon two, Sutane, Saykhede, Chandori and Niphad. The relief road of Pimpalgaon, Niphad and Vinchur have been undertaken. Grain here as well as in the Taluka is insufficient. Prices have doubled. A strange Government circular in reference to the opening of Forests has been received. It says that *valuable* Government forests and also those under Government *coupe* should not be opened in any case and that other forests should be opened only on receipt of *the due fees*. Free supply of water is wanted. More relief-works are wanted. Carpenters, momins, &c. are out of employment and need special relief. Cattle emigration is apprehended. Kharif yield is 4 annas and Rabi is 2 annas.

PALEBUDRUP BASWANT [KALWAN] (No date).—The original condition of the Kharif crop in the early rains created delusive hopes in the minds of the cultivators who directly sold off their stock of grain. Little did they know then than that the Kharif crop would wither away. Fodder is insufficient. The growing of *Vilayati grass* is advocated.

There are many Bhils and Kolis who are starving. The construction of Dharana over the *Girja river* is suggested. Water is insufficient in many places. The emigration of cattle has begun towards the western part. Kharif yield is two annas. Rabi is nil. No relief works have been opened.

PIMPALGAON [NIPHAD] (4-1-97).—Remission and suspension of revenue badly needed. Relief works ought to be opened. Water insufficient. Two hundred cattle have emigrated. Kharif yield is four annas. Rabi is two annas. It is rumoured that the

Collector reports Kharif yield to be 8 annas. Cattle are being sold for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the original price.

SINNAR [Do.] (16-11-96).—Neither cheap grain-shops nor relief works have been opened. Grain-stock is insufficient. Prices have doubled. Government forests have been opened—not gratis. Thousands of Rhils &c. are on the verge of starvation. The Local Fund Committee has undertaken the road work. Water is insufficient. Petitions for remission and suspension have been sent, but to no effect. For the last 16 years Government is being requested to undertake the construction of a *Talao* at *Maparicadi* near Sinnar. Government some time back replied that it would do so in case the *ryots* subscribe to the expenses to the extent of Rs. 2000. This sum is lying in the savings-bank for the last four years. Government is still silent though the *ryots* are suffering for want of water. The Collector has notified that the work cannot be undertaken as the Engineer is against it. Nearly 700 cattle have emigrated to the Thana district for want of fodder. Rabi is nearly nil. Kharif is 4 annas. It is rumoured that the Government report takes an unjustifiably rosy view of the situation. The necessity for relief-works is very urgently felt.

SINDE (13-12-96).—The wages on the relief work used to be barely sufficient for the labourer and recently there has taken place a perfect stir among the labourers on account of the alleged order of the Collector to the effect that the wages should be in proportion to the work done. No arrangement is made either for huts or for supplying medical aid to the sick.

THANGAON (5-12-96).—The local merchants are thinking of opening a cheap grain-shop for the relief of the poor. Grain-stock is insufficient and importation from the surrounding villages is under a ban. Cattle have emigrated towards Konkan. The price of fodder is quadruple. The construction of a rail-road from Ghoti-station to Balapur is suggested. This would offer tangible relief to nearly 30 villages. The Local Fund Committee has undertaken construction of a road to the extent of three miles only! Water is insufficient. The sinking of another well in the town is suggested. Some people have emigrated. Kharif yield is two annas and *Prayat* is 4 annas. Rabi is nil. The early floods have caused damage to property to the extent of Rs. 3,000.

WANI [DINDORI] (21-12-96).—No cheap grain-shops have been opened. Grain rates are unconscionably high. The rayats have applied for remission and suspension of revenue. Fodder is insufficient. The following makes a pathetic appeal to Government to open its forests for free-grazing. Cattle emigration has begun. Disease among the cattle is rampant. Rabi is nearly nil.

YEOLA [Da.] (19-12-96).—A cheap grain-shop has been opened. The Municipality has aided it to the extent of Rs. 6000. The wages range from 1-9 to 9 pies to men, children &c. Huts are being built. There is a complaint about irregular payments. No forests for free grazing have been opened. Water is insufficient. The weavers need special relief. Nearly 2000 people have emigrated. Kharif is 3 annas and Rabi is one anna.

KHANDESH.

[KHANDESH comprises 16 Talukas with an area of 56,60,900 acres and the population 14,60,851. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 40,23,914, the same in 1875-76 being Rs. 30,26,127. In the Statistical Atlas the district is represented as free from famine generally. But now all Talukas are partially affected. The principal crop is Bajri and Jwari (Kharif). The Kharif crop is estimated at 6½ annas. The District is divided into three divisions Western, Central and Western and the report of each is given separately.]

NANDURBAR (8-1-97).—The principal crop yield of wheat has almost failed. Average crop yield not more than 4 annas. Grain-stock insufficient. Prices have risen. People are starving. Famine Code should be applied to this Taluka. Remission and suspension of revenue badly wanted. Reserved forests should be thrown open for free grazing. Cattle starving. Relief works should be started in order to help the poor and thus prevent them from plundering. The repairs of the local tank and the construction of a road from Nandurbar to Shelbari are suggested.

WEST KHANDESH.

PIMPALNER (31-1-96).—Kharif 4 or 5 annas and the principal crop yield Bajri is 2 or 3 annas. Grain-stock is insuf-

cient. It is imported from outside. Low caste people such as Bhils, Machi &c. live on wild berries and Mohra flowers. Grain prices have doubled. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Fodder not sufficient as it has been carried away by the outside people. Government reserved forests should be thrown open for free grazing and for bringing fuel. Low caste people having nothing to eat committed highway robberies. Police force should be increased in order to avoid this. Famine Code should be applied to this taluka. Relief works need be started. The construction of a road from Pimpalner to Varse and of a road from Pimpalner to Shelbaria is suggested.

SHAHADE (12-1-97.)—Cotton (Kharif) which was very small was taken away by thieves. Remission and suspension of revenue badly wanted. Fodder being taken away by outside people insufficient. Government reserved forests should be thrown open to cattle for grazing. Relief works need be started for the poor that they may not be obliged to take to illegal means. The construction of a canal to the Gomati river, and the construction of a road from Shahade to Taloda are suggested. Police force should be increased in order to protect people's lives and property as highway robberies often take place in this Taluka.

TALODA (10-1-97.)—Kharif less than 2 annas. Rabi 4 annas. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. Petitions have been sent. Government reserved forests should be thrown open for grazing. Relief works need be started for the needy. The construction of a road from Nandurbar to Taloda, the repairs of the local Kumbharwadi Tank and the construction of a road from Taloda to Raisingpur towards Sakleari and of a road from Taloda to Shahade are suggested.

CENTRAL KHANDESH.

AMALNER TALUKA (27-12-96.)—Rabi almost nil. There was no test-work even opened at Amalner. A test work, which was opened and continued for two days with every prospect of the labourers increasing, was stopped by the order of the Deputy Collector.

CHORPA (5-1-97.)—Jwari yield 2 annas. Bajri 1 anna. Cotton 5 annas. It is necessary for the support of Panchal People

that they should be allowed to bring coal from forests gratis. The test work opened at Chopda is at the distance of five miles from the town. There is no provision made at the test work for the residence of labourers. This causes a great inconvenience to them. The works suggested are the construction of roads :—

- (1) From Shirpoor to Chopda.
- (2) From Chopda to Adavad.
- (3) From Chopda to Jalgaon.

DHULIA (5-1-97)—Hundreds of persons who had gone to Songir in search of labour were obliged to walk off for want of hammers to break metal with. Payment of wages is made on Sunday. People wish that it should be made on the day previous to the Bazar day. Prices of food grains are a little cheaper on the Bazar day.

DHULIA (10-1-97)—Jwari 3, Bajri 4 and Cotton 5 annas. The condition of cattle is very wretched.

JALGAON TALUKA (21-12-96)—The 1 Kharif yield 4 annas Rabi crops have yielded nothing, wheat would yield an anna and gram two annas. Cultivators of some repute would rather incur debt and stay in their own places than migrate. There are no orders for free grazing. The number of beggars has increased. Grain-shop has been opened at Jalgaon, by the local Municipality. The people of Marurabad had contributed 500 Rs. towards the repairs of a water tank for cattle, but no repairs have yet been commenced. The Taluka Local Board Committee has not spent a pie towards the village from the date of the establishment of the Board, the village contributing Rs. 1125 towards the Local Fund. The following works may be undertaken (1) The water-supply for the town being quite insufficient, the improvement of water works at Mehroon be first undertaken. (2) Roads be constructed running between (a) Mehroon and Mhasawad, (b) Asoda and shelgaon, (c) Jalgaon and Chopda, (d) Nasirabad and Bhusaval.

PABOLA PETA [T. AMALNER] (25-12-96.)—(1) Rabi nil. Cotton 5 annas. Bajri 3 annas. There is one test work at Wanjari. Wages insufficient. There is one Municipal grain-shop. The condition of cattle is miserable throughout. The statement in one

of the Government extraordinaries that cattle are not affected yet is not quite accurate. Some 50 persons from Mudirkhed have migrated. The number of beggars has increased. The following works are suggested. A work of permanent water-supply for the town (Parola) be undertaken. Every year water is scarce in Parola and it will be more so this year. (2.) The earth-work on the Railway line between Amalner and Dharangzon be soon commenced. (3.) These roads be constructed.—(a) From Parola to Bahadarpur. (b) From Parola to Tamasvadi.

SHINDKHEDE [Do.] (2-1-97).—Jwari 1 anna, Bajri 4 annas, Cotton 5 annas. Even last year suspension of Rabi instalment was granted to the following villages :—Takarkhed, Mingul, Vadad, Chavalda and Tarkhed. These five villages are Rabi villages. Of all the Talukas of Khandesh the lot of this Taluka is most miserable. There had been scarcity in this Taluka for the last three years. Suspension had to be granted to the five villages mentioned above even last year. But the farmers are repenting for it because they had to pay the revenue this year when the crops have completely failed. The condition of cattle is everywhere miserable. The people of Virad suggest that the work of a school building for the town be soon commenced.

SEMPUR [Do.] (4-1-97).—The condition of crops is not so bad here as elsewhere.

EAST KHANDESH.

AMODA [SAVDA] (1-1-97).—Rabi nil. Cotton 8 annas. Jwari 8 and Bhiniang 12, Grain and Grass stock not sufficient. Cattle price reduced to one-half.

BAMBERU [PACHORA].—Almost all the fields are washed off by rain.

EMADGON PEER [PACHORA] (5-1-97).—Relief works wanted for the inhabitants of 30 villages. Crop almost nil.

BHORANG AND KEADKI [CHALISGAUM] (10-1-97).—No Grass. No Relief work. Jwari 2 annas, Bajri 4 and Cotton 5. 15 beasts died.

DHUSAWAL [Do.] (19-1-97).—A relief work is started on the Tapti near Dhusawal. There is only one man (labourer) of

A class out of nearly 1700 people employed on the work. The general complaint is of excess of work and shortness of wages. Fine is also mercilessly imposed.

CHALISGAUM [Do.] (9-1-97) Jwari 2 annas, Bajri 2, Cotton 4 and Rabi nil. Fodder insufficient. Cattle are in pitiable condition. Some 50 died of hunger. Relief works need be started.

CHALISGAON TALUKA.—The following table shows the average crop :—

Village.	Jwari.	Cotton.	
Bandgaon	8 annas.	6 annas.	} No grass. Cattle famishing.
Pathraj	4	6	
Bodhra	1-6	3	
Taloda	3	6	
Lonza	8	6	} Grass insufficient.
Bandgaon	8	6	
Shirpur	4	8	

CHINCHKHEDA [PACHORA].—Just like the above.

FAIZPUR [SAVDA] (28-12-96).—Rabi nil. Cotton 8 annas, Jwari 3 and ground-nut 12 annas. Fodder insufficient. Government forests not thrown open. Crop stolen away. Special works need be started for weavers (2000). Some 225 persons have emigrated. One test work started at Udhali.

GOARKHEDA [PACHORA] (No date).—Crop yield 3 annas. Cotton 4 and Jwari 3. No relief work started to relieve the poor.

JAMNER [JAMNER] (14-1-97).—Crops are in good condition. Test works need be improved. Government forests should be thrown open. Tagai grants should be given.

JAMNER TALUKA.—The crops in this taluka are on an average not so bad.

KEKAT NIMBHORA (16-1-97).—The average crop 6 annas. Fodder insufficient. Relief works need be started. Tagai grants should be given.

KEPHALA (SAVDA) (26-12-96).—Rabi nil, Cotton 6 annas Jwari and Bajri both together 2 annas. Fodder insufficient. Government forests not thrown open. Relief works need be started for 1000 people. No Local Fund work except the school buildings. Suggests the construction of a bridge on the Sakee river. The

crop almost stolen away; fifteen families have emigrated along with 200 cattle for want of food.

KHEBUDA [SAVDA] (1-1-97).—Crop stolen away by the Bheels in Sâtpuda. Fodder insufficient.

KURHA [BHUSAVAL] (No date).—The assessment is collected with force. People are obliged to sell their cattle and field for the payment of the revenue.

MANJALWADI [SAVDA] (26-12-96).—Cotton 8 annas, Jwari 4, Bajri 4 and Rabi nil. No relief works opened either by Government or by L. F. C. Fodder insufficient. Government forests not thrown open. Crop stolen away.

MEHUNBARA [Chalisgaon].—The average crop 6 annas. Some 15 villages washed off by the flood of the Girna and the Titur. Government forests not thrown open. Cattle dying.

NURGAON AND BODWADI [BHUSAVAL] (24-1-97).—The village officers collect revenue with force. Thus people are obliged to sell the grass, their oxen &c. in order to pay off the assessment. Crop nearly 2 annas.

PACHORA [Do.].—Rabi nil. Cotton 2 annas. Jwari 4 annas. Fodder not sufficient. Government forests not thrown open. Cattle dying. Grain insufficient. Bheels and Koles die owing to the want of food. No relief works started.

PARKHEDA [PACHORA] (4-1-97).—Crops worse but no remissions or suspension of revenue granted by Government.

PIMPALGAON GOBIK (15-1-97).—Jwari less than 2 annas. Cotton less than 2 annas. Fodder insufficient.

SONALA.....Crop nearly 1 anna.

KAPISWADI ... " 2 annas.

Palner.

Cheri.

Londre.

Moygaon.

Pimperkheda.

Talegaon.

Shahapoor.

Shelgaon.

Kuranfata.

Kasali.

Samrod.

Taherkheda.

Jalandri.

Nangaum.

Saval.

Pimpri.

Amkheda.

Vagholia.

Rajura.

Chinchkheda.

Shengola.

Vanderkheda.

Tadgaon.

Have no crop. No grass. The people are starving. No relief work.

The average crop yield not more than 3 annas. Jwari and Cotton 2 annas.

RANGANGAN [CHALISGAUM] (11-1-97).—Rabi nil, Jwari 4 annas. Bajri 6 annas, Cotton 8. Fodder not sufficient.

RAVER [SAVDA] (24-12-96).—Rabi totally failed, Jwari 4 annas, Cotton 10 annas. Grain-supply insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Government forests not thrown open. Relief works need be started for 1500 people of Raver who are without food. Test work has been started.

RASALPURA [SAVDA] (25-12-96).—Rabi nil. Cotton 8 annas. Jwari 4 annas and Bajri 2 annas. Fodder not sufficient. Almost all the crops stolen away. Cattle price reduced. No test works. No Local Fund works have been started.

VADODA [BHUSAVAL] (21-1-97).—Fodder insufficient. The assessment is collected with force. The Mahalkari forced the people to take Government numbers by lease for their cattle to graze.

VAGHODA LARGER [SAVDA] (31-12-96).—Rabi nil. Cotton 8 annas. Jwari 4. No fodder. Government forests not thrown open. Relief works need be started for 300 men. The wheat eaten away by insects. Price of cattle reduced to one-half.

VAGHODA SMALLER [SAVDA] (31-12-96).—Rabi nil. Jwari not more than 2 annas. Bhumug not more than 2 annas. Fodder insufficient. Government forests not thrown open. No Local fund works started.

VAGHOLI [CHALISGAUM] (9-1-97).—Field are washed off. Men and cattle die of hunger.

SABOLA [PACHORA] (No Date).—Nearly one-fifth land not useful for cultivation crop. Jwari 2, Bajri 8, Cotton 6 annas and Wheat almost nil. Fodder insufficient.

THANA.

[The district comprises 10 talukas with an area of 28,92,47 acres and population of 8,19,580. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 11,65,934. The principal crop is paddy (Kharif) the out-turn of which is estimated at 7½ annas. This district is considered as safe from famine but now scarcity is felt in all the Talukas, and severely by forest tribes.]

ANJUR [BETTWADI] (6-12-96).—Suggests the construction of a road from Alimghar (अलिम्हार) to Bhivandi and the repairs of old tanks, which will be a food for the people of 25 villages. No relief works opened by Government or Local Boards. Some petitions have been sent for remission and suspension of revenue. Grain-stock insufficient, but fodder barely sufficient. Government forests should be opened for free grazing. Emigration of people has begun. Kharif crop almost nil and Rabi 2 annas.

BASSEIN [DO.] (30-11-96).—Kharif six annas, Rabi nil. Fodder insufficient. Prices have nearly doubled. Water insufficient. The construction of three roads which will give relief to most of the inhabitants is suggested. Some damage has been caused to field on account of the early rains.

BHIVANDI [DO.] (8-12-96).—Population 84,000. Kharif crop four annas. Rabi nil. Petitions about 200 have been sent to the District Collector for the remission of revenue. There are no cheap grain-shops, nor Relief-works started. Fodder insufficient. Water insufficient. Government forests should be thrown open. Prices nearly doubled. New wells and tanks require to be sunk and old ones repaired. That can maintain about 20,000 people. About 2,000 weavers emigrated. The excessive rain caused damage to fifty villages.

GHALAVADE (No date).—Crop 8 annas. Water insufficient. Relief works need be started. Government forests should be thrown open. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted.

KHANIVDE [BASSEIN] (18-12-96 15 VILLAGES).—Rabi nil. Kharif 4 annas. Grain-stock insufficient. Water insufficient. Relief works are badly needed for about 3000 persons. Local Board Committee has not moved. Suggests the construction of a dam to the river, and repairs of a Khind Umbarpada. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been submitted.

NANDGAON [MAHIM] (19-12-96).—Kharif yield three annas; Rabi nil. Grain-stock insufficient. Water insufficient. Fodder also insufficient. Prices doubled. Relief works need be opened. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. The repairs of an old tank near Nandgaon is suggested.

PETTA UMBERGAON [DAHANU].—Population 66000. There are three crops here viz. (1) Kharif, (2) Varkas and (3) Rabi. The second crop (Varkas) on which 40,000 people live is nil. These people usually sell fuel as head-load. But this year no fuel is allowed from forests. So these men are starving. Kharif crop is 4 annas on account of want of rain. No Rabi crop. Remission of revenue is badly wanted.

RAI T. [SALSETI] (30-11-96).—Kharif crop 4 annas. No Rabi crops. Grain-stock sufficient for some months. No fodder. No water-supply. Government forests at Kashmire and Ghed-bunder should be thrown open. Water can be supplied if brought through pipes from Tulsi reservoir via Bandora. The poor people of these villages should be permitted to bring fuel from Government forests. Otherwise they will be starved to death.

SARAND (12-12-96).—No famine. Crop yield 8 annas. So no petitions for remission and suspension of revenue to Government. Fodder insufficient. Suggests the removing of silt from the old large tank near Sarand which will supply abundant water.

THANA [SALSETTE] (No DATE).—Kharif yield from 4 to 12 annas. Rabi nil. Relief works are badly wanted. Suggests the construction of a road from Dhanoo to Johar and of Wādā Bombay Agra trunk Road via Shri Ghaut.

VANGANI [KALYAN] (7-12-96).—Population 634. Both the crops almost nil. Petitions for remission of revenue have been sent. Also official reports have been submitted. Fodder sufficient but water insufficient. The Local Fund Committee has not yet moved. Relief-works should be started. The construction of a road from the Railway station to the village, of a Dharmashala and the construction of a bridge near the Railway station, and the repair of the old well called वेङ्कट, and also a new well at the Railway station are suggested. All these will give good relief to the inhabitants of the villages viz. Tanhai, Chinchavli, Varode, Dahivali, Kharvai, Borshil, Bhoja Saudoli, Chamtoli and Mankinli. Field received some damage owing to the early rains.

UMBERGAUM [DAHANU].—Water insufficient. At least test works should be opened. Fodder sufficient. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. Government officers have reported in-

correct crop yield. Really speaking crop yield is 5 or 6 annas. Grain-stock sufficient for $\frac{1}{2}$ population. The remaining population shall starve to death owing to the want of grain.

KOLABA.

[The district comprises 6 talukas with an area of 13,61,939 acres and population of 5,94,872 souls. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 12,42,976 as against Rs. 7,24,623 in 1875-76. The principal crop is paddy (Kharif) and is estimated at 7 annas. It is not considered as liable to famine generally but now scarcity is felt in almost all Talukas and severely by forest tribes.]

APTE [PANVEL] (14-11-96).—No cheap grain-shops opened. Crop 7 annas. Petition for remission has been sent. Two thousand people require employment. No relief works started. The construction of a dam to the river near the burial ground is suggested.

ASHTAMI [ROHA] (23-11-96).—Kharif crop yield about 8 annas, Rabi nil but incorrectly reported to be 14 annas by the Mamledar. Prices raised from 30 to 80 per Khandi. Grain-stock insufficient. Most of the cattles died. Fodder insufficient. Free grazing in the Government forests should be notified. The following works should be done: the construction of roads from Ashtami to Nagothana 6 miles, from Ashtami to Alibag 24 miles from Roha to Gophan 6 miles and from Varegaon to Pouda (Poona District) 30 miles; a road from Nagothana to Bombay would be most convenient for trade; suggests the construction of a dam to the river, also the repairs of the two tanks which will supply water to about a dozen villages in the neighbourhood. 125 petitions have been sent for remission and suspension of revenue but to no effect. Cattle should be allowed free grazing in the Khandala Ghat.

ALIBAG [Do.] (18 and 25-11-96).—Crop yield 4 annas. Grain and fodder insufficient. Water not sufficient. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent from all villages.

Government forests are not allowed to be used for free grazing. Grain prices more than doubled.

BAUDHAN AMREPUR [ALIBAG] (18-11-96)—Rabi crop 4 annas. Kharif nil. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Government forests thrown open for free grazing. The construction of a dam to the river which will supply water, is suggested.

BARTALI (23-11-96)—Kharif 8 annas. Rabi cannot be estimated. Government forests should be thrown open. Water insufficient. 250 petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Prices doubled.

HASIVRE (4-12-96)—Some petitions for the remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. It is said that there is a Government resolution that there is no famine here. The Collector is said to have reported that the crop here is 6 annas.

KAVILVHAL (1-12-97)—Rabi $\frac{1}{2}$ has been sown. Crops in some villages have swept away by rain. Crop yield is 4 or 6 annas. People are not able to pay the revenue. Remission or suspension of the same badly needed. Petitions for the same have been sent. Prices have doubled. Fodder sufficient. Relief-works should be started for 20,000 forest tribes. The Mamledar is said to have reported to the effect.

KHANAPUR (6-12-96)—Crop yield 10 annas. Grain, water and fodder sufficient. Petitions for suspension of revenue have been sent.

MAHYM (No DATE)—Crop-yield estimated to be 8 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Fodder insufficient. Water not sufficient. Fields have sustained great damage from the excessive rainfall. The District Local Board has asked for a loan of Rs. 1,00,000. Government officers are said to have reported recommendation for the commencement of Relief works.

NAYGAUM [ALIBAG] (28-11-96)—Garden crop 3 annas. The other crops almost nil. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder in sufficient. Government forests have not been thrown open. About 200 cattle and 500 poor people have come from outward. Population almost cultivators. Fields almost all have been mortgaged. The Collector came at the request of the Sarvajanjik Sabha here and

examined the crops and was convinced that they have almost failed. He is said to have reported to Government to the same effect. Revenue should be collected according to the yield of the crop, the remaining portion of the revenue should be remitted or suspended at the discretion of the Government.

MARVT [ALIBAG] (1-12-96).—Rice crop 4 or 6 annas. Nachani 3 or 4 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Prices have more than doubled. The Local Board is said to have asked the Government a loan of Rs. 5,000 for starting relief works. Some should be undertaken to ensure the supply of water by pipes from the always flowing stream four miles off from the place.

PALASPE [PANVEL] (21-12-96).—Government officers are said to have reported that the crop is 8 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock-not sufficient. Fodder not sufficient. Government forests need be thrown open for free grazing. Relief works should be started. Suggests the construction of new wells and the repairs of old tanks.

PEN [Do.] (6-12-96)—Crop-yield 6 or 8 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension have been sent. Grain-stock and water insufficient. Fodder sufficient, but Government forests should be thrown open. Relief works should be started.

POLNDPUR (5-12-96)—Kharif 8 annas, Rabi 8 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Fodder barely sufficient. Water insufficient. Suggests the construction of dams to the river and of new wells and the repairs of old ones.

PANVEL [Do.] (25-11-96)—Rabi nil. Kharif from 1 to 4 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain barely sufficient, water and fodder insufficient. Relief works should be started. Suggests the construction of dams to the river and streams and of tanks and wells.

REVADANDA [ALIBAG] (5-12-96)—A deputation with petitions was sent to the Collector of Kolaba for remission of revenue. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder and water insufficient. Grain prices have doubled. Government forests need be thrown open. Relief works need be started. Suggests the construction of tanks and wells for the supply of water.

RATNAGIRI.

[The district comprises 9 talukas with an area of 25,59,021 acres. The population is 11,05,926. The realisable revenue in 1895-96 was Rs. 9,25,153 as against 9,20,303 in 1875-76. The principal crop is paddy (Kharif). In the Statistical Atlas this and other Konkan districts are classed under area free from famine. But now scarcity is felt in parts of many Talukas. The Kharif crop is officially estimated at 7 annas. Rabi crop is usually small and not of much consequence.]

AGARGULE [RATNAGIRI] (no date).—Kharif crop 4 annas. Rabi not sown. Petition for remission and suspension of revenue is sent to the Collector, but no reply. Grain-stock insufficient. Prices nearly doubled. Cheap grain-shops needed. Fodder insufficient. Water insufficient. Relief works not started but are badly wanted owing to the plague of Bombay. Suggests the construction of a tank. Mamledar has, it is said, reported that there is no famine here.

DAPOLI [Do.] (21-11-96).—Some forty petitions for remission and suspension of revenue were sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Crop yield is four annas. Rabi nil. Fodder insufficient.

DRAMAPUR [SANGAMESHWAR] (No date).—Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Government forests should be thrown open gratis for fuel. Relief works need be started. Water insufficient for the present. Crop 6 annas. Cattle sold at a very low price.

GIRGAUM READY [VENGURLA].—Kharif crop 8 annas, Varkas one anna, and Rabi nil. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Government forests should be thrown open. Relief works need be started. One-fourth of the population has emigrated.

GHASAR Peta (CHITPOON).—Rice crop 8 annas and Varkas 6 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent by Khots but contrary ones have been sent by ~~guzs~~ ^{guzs}. Grain-stock insufficient, Fodder sufficient; but prices increased. Water

sufficient. Relief works are badly wanted. Local Board Committee has not moved.

HADI (MALVAN) (4-12-96)—Food grain sold at a very high price, grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Relief works shall soon be started.

HINDANE [DEVAGAD]—Both the crops failed. Petition for remission and suspension of revenue has been sent. Village officers have begun to collect the revenue with strict measures. Relief works need be soon started for the poor people who are prevented from going to Bombay for maintaining themselves owing to the raging plague.

KEANU [RATNAGIRI] (10-12-96)—Crop yield 5 annas. Khots have made no application for remission and suspension of revenue. But tenants have made some. Grain sufficient. Fodder insufficient. Relief works need be started for 200 people. The construction of a road and of new tank is suggested. This will incur an expense of Rs. 150. Some fifty men have emigrated and some 25 intend to go out. Relief works shall soon be started. Tagai need be granted to 30 men whose houses were burnt lately.

KURPHE (RATNAGIRI)—Rice crop 4 annas, petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient, Fodder insufficient and water also not sufficient. Relief works need be started for the poor people. Suggests the repairs of an old tank. Cattle are starving and will be sold at a nominal price. Cheap grain-shops must be started.

LANJE [RAJAPUR] (20-11-96)—Crop yield not sufficient for people to live on for the whole of the year. Remission and suspension of the 2nd instalment of Government revenue wanted. Bombay plague prevents people from going to Bombay to maintain themselves, so relief works must be started. The construction of a road from Lanje to Bandarsathavali of about ten miles long, and of another road from the same place Lanje to Dathole joining Ambeghat about ten miles long is suggested. This will give food to the poor labourers. But the rate of wages must be at least 2 annas.

MANCHE [DEOGAD] (3-1-97)—Kharif crop 4 annas. Fodder insufficient but water sufficient. Relief works need be started

owing to the raging plague of Bombay. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent.

MALVAN (15-1-97).—This Taluka consists of about 62 villages and Boards. Relief works (4) have been opened only at 3 villages viz. Malvan, Tryambak and Varad. The sanction for these Relief works is Rs. 1650 out of which Rs. 1100 have been collected by contribution from the well-to-do inhabitants in the Taluka. And only Rs. 550 have been granted by Government as provincial grant out of Rs. 3000 granted for the whole district. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent, but village officers are collecting the revenue with stringent measures. The sum of the 1st instalment is greater than other instalments, which is a great inconvenience felt by the people. The poor people of this Taluka go to Bombay every year to seek labour and pay the Government revenue out of their wages, for the crop is not able to feed them even a quarter of a year. This year they being afraid of the Bombay plague have not left their places in search of employment. Rice crop yield is on the average 6 annas; Bagayet failed. Grain-stock is insufficient and cannot be supplied from Bombay, Savant-wadi, nor Goa. Price of food grains has increased this year if compared with that of the famine year 1876-77. Fodder insufficient for cattle, relief works need be started soon by Government. The construction of a road from Malvan to Paud for which Government has sanctioned Rs. 85000 and of a road of about four miles long is suggested. Nine thousand men are expected to go on the relief works but the wages must not be the famine ones. Water sufficient. Here there was no excessive rainfall this year. Cattle are sold at half the ordinary price.

MAKHJAN [DEVROKH] (13-12-96).—Crop yield 8 annas. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Cheap grain-shops need be started. Water insufficient. A dam to the stream running between Makhjan and Dhamapur is suggested. Relief works need be started.

NANDEVAD [CHITLUN] (15-1-97).—Crops withered away. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Water insufficient. Suggests the construction of a road from Nandivade to Jayagad of about two miles; the repairs of old tanks and wells; and the construction of a road from Jayagad to Dhamankhol.

NADAN [DEOGAD] (18-1-97).—Crop yield 4 annas. Grain-stock insufficient. Water insufficient. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Relief works need be started.

NADGATE (DEOGAD) (10-1-97).—Rice crop 5 annas, Varkas crop 4 annas. Grain-stock insufficient, prices increased. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent, but no reply. Fodder insufficient. Relief works need be started.

PEDHARI (DEOGAD) (16-1-97).—Kharif crop 8 annas, Varkas 4 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Petition for cheap grain-shop has been sent. Relief works need be started.

PUEAL (DEOGAD) (20-1-97).—Crop yield 4 annas. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient, prices increased, Water insufficient. Relief works need be started. People complain of the Bombay plague and excessive duty on salt.

RAJAUR (Do.) (1-11-96).—Crop yield 6 annas, petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent by tenants. Grain-stock insufficient. Prices have doubled. Water insufficient, Fodder insufficient. The breaking of Anasur Ghat and removing of sand from the Khadi channel are suggested.

SHRI GANAPATI PULE [RAJNAGIRI] (24-11-96).—Crop-yield 3 annas. Petition for remission and suspension of revenue has been sent. Grain-stock insufficient; cheap grain-shops need be opened. Fodder insufficient. Owing to the Bombay plague relief works need be immediately started for the poor people as they have no other means of subsistence. The construction of a road from Sangameshvar to this village and the repairs of old tanks are suggested.

TIKAT (23-1-97).—Kharif 4 annas. Rabi nil. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Water insufficient. Men from Bombay have returned home. Relief works need be started for them. Cheap grain-shops need be opened and salt should be sold at a cheaper rate.

VENGURLA [Do.] (12-11-96).—Crops withered away. Remission and suspension of revenue wanted. Grain should be supplied. The excessive duty on salt should be exempted. Relief works need be started.

Do. (13-12-96).—Kharif 6 annas, Varkas almost nil and Rabi nil. Petition for remission and suspension of revenue has been sent. Grain-stock insufficient, prices doubled. Fodder insufficient. Local Board Committee has not moved. Repairs of tanks and wells should be taken in hand. One thousand men have emigrated.

VIJAYADURG KHAREPATAN KANKOWLO DEOGAD [DEOGAD] (No date).—Rabi crop withered away. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Prices increased. Men have returned home on account of Bombay being infected by the plague. Relief works need be started for them.

VAJIVADE [DEOGAD] (10-1-97).—Crop yield 2 or 3 annas. Grain insufficient. Fodder insufficient. Government forests should be thrown open for free grazing. Relief works need be started for men have returned home owing to the Bombay plague.

VIJAYADURG & GIRI [DEOGAD] (3-1-97).—Crops totally failed. Petitions for remission and suspension of revenue have been sent. Owing to the Bombay Plague most of the people have no means of livelihood. Relief works need be started.

WADR [DEOGAD] (No date).—Rice crop 6 annas, Varkas crop withered away. Petitions for remission sent. Grain-stock insufficient. Water insufficient. Relief works need be started. The construction of a road of about 8 miles long should be undertaken. Owing to the Bombay plague, men have crowded in the district. Salt is very dear. Salt-earth is used instead of salt.

KANARA.

[The district comprises 8 talukas with a total area of 2,296,956 acres and population 421,840. In the Statistical Atlas the district is represented as being practically out of the reach of famine but now at least a portion of it is affected. The principal crop is rice.]

SIDAPUR [Do.] (20-11-96).—(1) Cheap grain-shops are badly needed. (2) Petitions signed by 800 persons for remission and suspension of revenue and also for Tagai have been sent. (3) Rice crop two annas and Bagayat crop much less. (4) The repairs of the old tank (गङ्गा) and the old wells which are full of silt, dust &c.—which will cost about Rs. 4000, are suggested. (5) Government forests should be thrown open. (6) Tagai should be freely advanced. (7) Prices have gone up very high. (8) Village officers are, it is heard, ordered to collect Government revenue with stringent measures.

HALLYAL [Do.] (18-11-96).(1) Crop (Rice) 4 annas, owing to want of rain. (2) About 2000 people came here from outside. Cattle are also pouring. (3) Grain-stock insufficient. (4) No relief works started. (5) Construction of new wells is suggested. (6) Cattle sold at a very low price. (7) Remission and suspension of revenue wanted.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SABHA.

MEMORIALS.

FAMINE—I. SPECIAL RELIEF TO WEAVERS.

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Managing Committee further representations on the Famine question were submitted to the Government of Bombay as may be seen from the following correspondence :—

No. 2307 OF 1896.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,
Poona, 27th November, 1896.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.
Revenue Department (Famine).

MARABLESHWAR.

SIR,—We have been directed by the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha to request you to place before Government the following information and suggestions regarding famine relief to be granted to weavers in Ahmednagar, Nasik and other Districts wherein there is a large population of weavers, numbering several thousands, most of whom are now thrown out of employment.

2. In the weekly statement published by Government on the 12th instant, it is stated that about 2500 Momins from Malegaon have deserted the place in search of employment in the weaving trade. In Ahmednagar weavers are said to be in distress, while in Sholapur they were clamouring for work. It is further stated that weavers in Bijapur have had no sufficient work, while their trade is reported to be slack in Khandesh.

3. From the information received from the Agents of the Sabha in the several Districts, and especially from those in Nagar and Nasik, it, however, appears that the distress of weavers in Nagar and Nasik is far more acute and wide-spread than what is

represented in the weekly statement. This is evident from the very fact that several hundreds of weavers have had to go to the ordinary Relief Works started in the Nagar District, and work there in stone—a work which they would never consent to do unless compelled by hunger and want. The Agents of the Sabha have further reported that although the weavers first went to those Relief Works owing to extreme necessity, most of them have now left those works in keen disappointment caused by the treatment they received at those works. A weaver is not used to such kind of manual labour as excavation, digging and the like, and it is a great hardship to ask him to work as an ordinary labourer in stone quarries. His lot further differs from that of an ordinary day-labourer inasmuch as his wife and children are utterly unused and disqualified for doing the work usually assigned to women and children on ordinary Relief Works. The weaver has, therefore, not only to feed himself but his wife and children in famine days, and the wages which he gets on ordinary Relief Works are quite insufficient for the purpose. Add to this the fact that the Engineer in charge of the Relief Work does not give the maximum wages to a weaver but since he is unused to the work of excavation or stone-breaking, the Engineer puts him in the C class of labourers and pays him $\frac{1}{4}$ of the maximum wages fixed by the Famine Code (Vide Section III of the Famine Relief Code). The weavers who went to the present Nagar Relief Works accordingly received only one anna and eight pies per head per day—a sum manifestly so small to support themselves and their families that they left the works and returned to Nagar in large numbers in the hope that the District authorities would realise their hard lot and grant them adequate relief by giving them employment in their own trade.

4. As the principle of granting relief to weavers thrown out of employment in famine times by giving them work of their usual trade is recognised in the Famine Relief Code, the Committee of the Sabha thinks it unnecessary to dwell upon it in this letter. The only question for consideration at present is how to carry out that policy and give relief to weavers, without any more delay, by providing employment in their own craft as contemplated by Section 151 of the Famine Relief Code. On this point, the Committee of the Sabha begs to suggest that special Weavers' Relief Works

should be opened in each of the Districts of Nasik, Nagar, Sholapur, and Bijapur for employing the weavers or Momins that may have been rendered destitute by loss of their usual work. Ordinarily these weavers are maintained by rich traders who make advances to them in the shape of money or yarn and take in return the work turned out by them. It is quite probable that these traders, with a liberal grant from Government, may still be induced to start Weavers' Relief Committees at different places to provide work to the needy weavers. The traders would not be losers in the end, inasmuch as they will get weavers to work on lower wages now than in ordinary times and the difference between the two wages will, it is believed, be sufficient to cover the loss caused by the locking up of the capital until all the stock of cloths &c., turned out by the weavers, is sold. But if there be any risk of loss Government may offer to eventually bear the same rather than require the weavers now to go to the ordinary Relief Works, and then when they are disabled for work owing to insufficiency of food, consequent on short wages and other causes, to feed them and their families gratuitously in the poor houses.

6. The Committee of the Sabha desires, therefore, to make the following proposals in order to practically carry out the principle laid down in the Famine Relief Code :—

(a) That at least one special Weavers' Relief Work should be started, without delay, in each of the Districts of Nagar, Nasik, Sholapur and Bijapur and that it should be maintained as an ordinary large Relief Work.

(b) That this special Relief Work should be placed, where possible, under the superintendence of a Committee composed of the Collector, the Executive Engineer, the Deputy Collector or the Mamdar, the Vice-President of the District Local Board and some local traders.

(c) That the capital required for carrying on the work should, where practicable, be subscribed by Government and the traders in equal shares, Government undertaking, if necessary, to eventually bear the loss.

(d) That each weaver should be at least paid As. 4 per day. His wages in ordinary days vary from As. 8 to As. 12 per day, and As. 4 would be a proper famine rate of wages in his case. But if

necessary it may be regarded full famine wages for himself, and semi-gratuitous relief for his wife and children, who, even if they work on the special Relief Works, will not earn full wages. This will bring the proposed rate of wages within the standard fixed by the Famine Relief Code.

(e) That the weavers should be asked to prepare principally such cloths as may be required for use in poor houses, hospitals, or in the Military, Police or other Departments of Government. But if there be any demand in the market for any particular kind of cloth it should be first turned out.

(f) That such Special Weavers' Relief Works should be continued as long as other Famine Relief works are open, and similar provision of huts &c. for weavers should be made as is done for labourers on ordinary Relief Works. But weavers should be asked to bring their own tools.

(g) That in the case of weavers that may not go to these works the Relief Committee should purchase at a liberal rate the work privately turned out by them as directed by Section 151 clause (d) of the Famine Code.

7. The Committee of the Sabha is firmly of opinion that unless some such arrangement is speedily adopted, the intention of the Famine Relief Code cannot be fully carried out in practice. Weavers, unlike agriculturists, do not show much reluctance to remove from one place to another and it is believed that one special Weavers' Relief work at a convenient centre would be sufficient at present for each of the four Districts named above. As regards funds Government might treat such works like other Famine Relief Works and divide amongst them the whole of the Relief Fund set apart for the District. To save life is the cardinal principle of Famine Relief and special works of the kind suggested above are as much necessary for the purpose as ordinary Relief Works now managed by the Public Works Department.

We have the honour &c.,

V. R. PATWARDHAN, Chairman.

K. B. MANDE, Assistant Secretary.

The Government of Bombay replied to the above letter of the Sabha as follows :—

No. 76 Famine of 1896. Revenue Department (Famine.)
Mahabaleshwar, 29th November, 1896.

To

The Chairman, Managing Committee,
 and the Honorary Secretary,
 Sarvajanik Sabha, Poona.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2307, dated 27th instant, and in reply to state that the question how far it is practicable and desirable to provide relief of a special kind for weavers has received and is receiving the careful consideration of Government.

I have the honour &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 2334 of 1896.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,
 Poona, 3rd December 1896.

To,

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,
 Revenue Department (Famine),

BOMBAY.

Sir,—In continuation of our last letter dated 27th ultimo, we have been directed by the Committee of the Sabha to request you to place before Government the following additional facts regarding the condition of Weavers in the Nagar District and the necessity of granting special relief to them. The Sabha is glad to learn from your reply to its above-mentioned letter which reply was received on the 30th November 1896 that the subject is now receiving the careful attention of Government and the Sabha trusts that the final decision of Government would be in favour of the distressed weavers.

2. From the second weekly memorandum regarding famine published by Government on the 26th ultimo it is quite clear that the distress of the weavers in the Nasik and Nagar Districts is

increasing and that no steps have yet been taken to grant them special relief under section 151 of the Famine Relief Code which, the Sabha is glad to find, has been made applicable to these districts. The question now before Government is not whether it is desirable to extend section 151 to these districts for it has already been extended but how to carry out its provisions so that special relief may be given to the weavers as contemplated by the Famine Code. The Sabha begs to urge the point upon the special attention of Government inasmuch as from your reply to the last letter of the Sabha it seems that some doubt is still entertained about the desirability of granting special relief to weavers, when as a matter of fact that question is not left open by the Famine Relief Code.

3. From the information received by the Sabha it seems that in the city of Nagar itself about 6000 weavers are in distress, of whom 728 heads of families have already left the city in search of weavers' employment. Similarly there are about 3000 weavers at Sangamner of whom about 300 have left the place and as many more are rendered completely destitute and are literally starving. The Sabha further learns that over 2000 weavers have left the Relief Works in disappointment, as the wages received there were inadequate to maintain them and the work namely metal-breaking was one in respect of which they were utterly unused and consequently disqualified. It is therefore a great hardship on these weavers, first to assign them the work of metal-breaking and then to tell them that they are unused to the work and consequently classed in the C class of labourers.

4. The Sabha learns that Government has sanctioned Rs 2000 for granting special relief to the weavers in the Nagar District. The Sabha begs to point out that the sum is quite insufficient for the purpose. If special relief is to be granted to weavers it must be by opening special weavers' work for them where arrangements would be the same as in the ordinary relief works, except that instead of metal-breaking weavers will have the work of their own trade. If Government is now prepared to invest in storing metal for road repairs for the next ten years there is no reason why similar investment should not be made in storing ordinary or coarse cloth which may be sold off during the next one or two years. It is something like Tagai adyan

ces to agriculturists. As pointed out by the Sabha in its last letter the money required to start special works for weavers will be a kind of investment and it is more likely that the undertaking may not result in a loss. But supposing it does, it is this loss alone that will represent the real expenditure on famine relief for weavers and such an expenditure will not, the Sabha believes, be disproportionate of the number if weavers who would obtain relief in this way be taken into consideration.

In conclusion, the Sabha therefore trusts that Government, with the co-operation of the Municipalities, Local Board, and Local traders who are interested in the weavers' trade, will establish as soon as possible special relief works for weavers by offering to supply a greater portion of capital required for starting the work, and by undertaking to bear the loss eventually. Other details regarding superintendence, management &c. may be left to the discretion of the district authorities.

We beg to remain &c.

V. R. PATWARDHAN, Chairman.

V. R. JALNAPURKAR, Hony. Secy. S. Sabha, Poona.

The following reply was sent by the Government to the above :—

No. 2958 of 1896.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, (Famine),
Bombay Castle, 8th December 1896.

To

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES, SARVAJANIK SABHA, POONA.

Gentlemen,—In reply to your letter No. 2334, dated 5th instant I am directed to refer you to paragraph 3 of the Notification No. 9013, dated 4th idem.

I have the honour &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Tilak was requested by the Sabha to go to Sholapur and formulate a scheme for the special relief of Weavers in consultation with Shrimant Appasaheb Warad, Shet Virchand Deepchand and other leading and wealthy Merchants of the place. The following correspondence between Mr. Tilak and the Government gives the details of the scheme :—

Poona, 16th December 1896.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,
Revenue Department (Famine),
BOMBAY.

SIR,—With reference to the question of providing special relief to weavers by giving them employment in their own trade under Section 151 of the Famine Relief Code which is now engaging the attention of Government, I have been authorised by the Committee formed at a meeting of traders held at Sholapur on the 12th Instant at the residence of Shrimant Appasaheb Warad to communicate to you the scheme formulated at this meeting for the purpose of granting such special relief to weavers and I beg to request that you will place the same before His Excellency in Council for such consideration as it deserves. The scheme has been framed and adopted at the meeting after full consideration of the difficulties of working it out and with the chief object of co-operating with Government in the work of granting relief to the distressed by removing those difficulties as far as possible.

2. Most of the weavers at Sholapur are now thrown out of work as may be seen from the fact that nearly three-fourths of the relief workers employed on Relief Works at Sholapur are weavers by profession. Being unaccustomed to the work of metal-breaking, most of these are unable to perform the full task-work expected from them, and they are consequently included in the third or C class. But even then the work turned out by them falls much short of the work necessary for yielding the full amount of wage and Government is, therefore, practically supporting them by what may be called a semi-gratuitous relief. If all the weavers continue to be so employed, Government would hardly get 'in the shape of work' return equal to half the amount spent in paying wage

to those men, which means, that 50 per cent. of the wages paid to these men would ultimately be a dead loss to Government.

3. The scheme proposed by the Committee would, it is believed, bring greater return for the wages given and on the whole prove to be more profitable to Government. The scheme is based on the supposition that from 500 to 1000 weaver's families are to be provided with the work of their craft for six months each weaver's family being, on an average, supposed to be composed of one man, one wife and two children, so that 1,000 families would comprise about 4,000 people, men, women and children. It is calculated that each family would turn out one *sadi* or a *khadi* a day and will have to be paid from five to six annas for labour, the yarn being supplied by the Committee. Taking a *sadi* to cost Rs. 2 at the lowest 1000 families would turn out two thousand rupees worth work every day, or the monthly cost would amount to sixty thousand rupees and the total cost for six months would be about three lakhs and sixty thousands, supposing that the work turned out does not find immediate sale.

4. The Committee does not, however, believe that there will be no immediate demand for the work turned out, though it will be far less than what it is in ordinary times. At any rate the Committee estimates that it will take two years to sell the stock of cloth turned out by weavers in this way; and if Government is prepared to invest capital to the extent of 2½ lakh of rupees in this business for two years certain without interest, the Committee will be glad to undertake the work of providing special relief to weavers under the superintendence of the Collector and in conjunction with such officers as Government may appoint. The Committee so composed will select yarn and give it to the weavers, determine the quantity and the quality of work to be taken from them, directly superintend the sale of the stock, keep accounts and undertake to return to Government the capital advanced from the sale proceeds. The total cost as stated above would be about 3 lakhs and 60 thousand rupees. But as some of the merchants have agreed to supply yarn without demanding full payment at present, it would be sufficient if Government advance about 2½ lakhs of rupees in monthly instalments as required and wait for repayment without interest until the cloth turned out is sold, that is, for two years.

The Committee expects nothing for its labour or for such additional capital it may invest in the shape of yarn, but the cost of Karkun &c. employed by the Committee would be charged on the work turned out. If there be any loss eventually owing to there being less demand for the cloth turned out or fall in the prices of coarse cotton goods the Committee proposes that Government should first bear the same but only upto 10 per cent. on the capital advanced by it and the Committee would bear the rest upto another 10 per cent.; while if there be still greater loss, which is not probable, Shet Virchand Deepchand, the Manager of Morarji Gokuldas Mills undertakes the risk. If, however, it so happens that the cloth be sold at profit the Committee proposes that it should go to a public charitable purpose. To put briefly, one thousand families of weavers can be provided with their usual work and paid almost at famine relief rates, if Government is prepared to invest $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees for 2 years without interest and if it is willing to bear loss up to the extent of 10 per cent. on the capital so advanced. The Committee, which will eventually include Government officials, will undertake the execution of the scheme, supervise work and sales and realise and repay the capital advanced under conditions mentioned above.

5. If Government approve of this scheme the Committee will be glad to settle further details in consultation with the Collector of Sholapur. The sum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs which the Government is requested to invest is not excessive. Government will have to spend at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees in paying famine wages to one thousand weavers' families if employed in breaking metal, and nearly 50 per cent of this would be a dead loss to Government as pointed out above. As the metal would be again in excess of the annual demand it will take years before the whole of it is utilised and the money spent in preparing the same would be locked up till then. When contrasted with this, the scheme now proposed by the Committee is sure to be, in the end, more profitable to Government, though the capital required to work it up is greater than the sum required to pay wages to the weavers if they are employed on ordinary works. It may be mentioned that the traders of Sholapur have subscribed a sum of twenty thousand rupees to meet the second 10 per cent. of the loss in case the scheme be accepted and result in a loss of more than 10 per cent. It is proposed that the

non-official members of the Weavers' Relief Committee should be selected from these subscribers.

6. To sum up, the main features of the scheme are as follows:—

(a) That a Weavers' Special Relief Committee be formed consisting of the Collector and such other officers as Government may appoint and local traders that may be willing to guarantee Government against any loss which will exceed 10 per cent. on the capital advanced by it.

(b) That in order to support from five hundred to one thousand weavers' families, Government should invest about 2½ lakhs of rupees partly in wages and partly in yarn for two years without asking for any interest. The Committee will find out further capital if necessary and superintend the execution of the scheme and guarantee repayment of the money invested.

(c) If after selling the stock any loss be incurred Government should first undertake to bear it upto 10 per cent. on the capital advanced, the rest, if any, being borne by the Non-official members of the Committee and met from a guarantee fund specially raised for the purpose; while if there be any profit after paying the capital advanced it should go to a public charitable purpose.

(d) That the cost of working out the scheme would be charged on the work turned out; the Committee charging nothing for its superintendence. The weavers would be required to bring their own tools.

If the scheme be approved other details may be settled in consultation with the Collector of the District.

Trusting that the scheme, if it be not wholly acceptable to Government, will still facilitate the solution of the question now before it, I have &c.

B. G. TILAK.

No. 1486 of 1896.

Revenue Department, (Famine)
Donkey Castle, 21st December 1896.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Poona.

Sir.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 16th instant, on the subject of the proposed scheme for pro-

viding special relief to weavers in the Sholapur District by giving them employment in their own craft, and in reply to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that he is unable to entertain the proposal. He would gladly give all legitimate encouragement to any well-devised scheme for giving relief to distressed weavers. But it would be contrary to an essential principle of the administration to entrust the management of State funds even partially to gentlemen who are under no official control. All expenditure of public money must be carried out by public servants, whose responsibility for efficiency and economy through their dependence on Government for their position can be directly enforced. Nor is it apparent why the scheme should be dependent on the provision of capital by Government. No doubt the larger the capital the wider will be the range of the scheme. But the gentlemen who are willing to subscribe further capital and to give guarantee against loss beyond a certain rate can carry out the project to the extent of the capital available and the benefit will be precisely in proportion to that capital. It is absolutely necessary in the administration of famine relief that the assistance given by Government and private charity should be kept quite distinct.

I have &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Poona, 24th December, 1896.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Revenue Department (Famine) BOMBAY.

Sir,—In reply to your letter No. 10486 of 1896 dated the 21st instant, communicating the inability of His Excellency in Council to entertain the proposal for providing special relief to weavers contained in my letter of the 16th instant, I beg to observe that the object of the proposed scheme seems to have been somewhat misunderstood and request that you will please lay before His Excellency in Council this letter for a reconsideration of the scheme proposed in my last letter.

2. With reference to the remark that it is not advisable at any time to entrust the management of state funds

even partially to non-official gentlemen I beg to point out that such was not the object of the proposed scheme. As stated in my last, the Committee is quite prepared to leave the financial control entirely in the hands of the Collector. But if further precaution be required Government may nominate more than half the members of the Committee from amongst its own officials, so that the financial control would be both directly and indirectly in the hands of Government.

3. It will, I hope, be thus clear that the scheme sketched out in my last does not aim at entrusting the management of State funds to non-official gentlemen. It is proposed in the spirit of co-operating with Government and removing its difficulties in undertaking such a scheme. From what I can gather from the published resolutions of Government on this subject it seems that Government is hesitating to undertake any large scheme for giving special relief to the weavers because (1) such a scheme would involve a large outlay of capital, a large portion of which may not be realised; (2) Government agency alone cannot provide that supervision and close personal attention which is required to make the scheme successful; (3) there is considerable difficulty of keeping accounts and carrying on the trade in cloths until all the stock is sold out; and (4) it is not easy to find out well-qualified persons to direct the execution of the scheme, to examine the yarn and the cloth turned out and to carefully store the same until it is all disposed of. There are all commercial difficulties and if Government is prepared to find out the necessary capital the Committee thought that the scheme should not be allowed to fail for want of co-operation on the part of traders or persons thoroughly conversant with these commercial matters. It is this help and assistance that Mr. Virchand Deepchand and other traders of Sholapur desire to respectfully offer to Government without asking for any financial control. Of course it rests with Government whether or not to accept this offer. When the State undertakes to offer relief to all who need it, voluntary relief committees have, as observed in the report of the Famine Commission, generally very little scope for their activity. But the present is an exceptional case in as much as certain commercial and technical knowledge is necessary to ensure the success of the arrangement. The voluntary aid of independent persons may therefore be utilised in this case

provided Government retains, as recommended in the report of the Famine Commission, full financial control in its hands.

4. As regards the remark made in the concluding part of your letter, I beg to observe that benevolent merchants like Mr. Virchand Deepchand are doing what they can to relieve the distressed weavers. But private charity or relief cannot be so effective as when it is administered to work in with the Government organisation and system. (*Vide* Report of Famine Commission Part I para 188.) It is difficult for a single individual to find out all the capital required for carrying out a large scheme and to undertake the whole risk involved in it. But if Government be willing to advance the required capital competent gentlemen would certainly come forward at each place to work out the scheme under official supervision, and I respectfully submit that there is no reason administrative or otherwise why such voluntary assistance may not be utilised by Government especially when not only it does not conflict with, but actually ensures the success of any arrangement for giving special relief to weavers as required by the Famine Relief Code.

5. The subject of giving special relief to weavers is still engaging the attention of Government and it has authorised the Municipality of Yeola to spend the sum of Rs. 50,000 lent to it, for giving employment to weavers in their own craft. But unless similar measures are undertaken on a large scale and Government agrees to bear loss upto a certain rate, no scheme for granting special relief to weavers can be as useful or successful as it should be. District Municipalities can hardly find funds to make up the loss, if any, incurred in carrying out such schemes, nor can private charity alone do much in the matter. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary for Government to undertake such large schemes if the provisions of the Famine Relief Code are to be carried out. However it is for Government to decide the point. All that I am authorised to say is that, if Government at all desire to undertake such a scheme the traders of Sholapur would gladly help it by supplying that supervision and attention which commercial gentlemen can alone provide and by guaranteeing against loss beyond 10 per cent. on the capital advanced by Government. This they are prepared to do in all cases, that is, even

when full financial control and management is retained by Government in the hands of its officials.

I have &c.

B. G. TILAK.

No. 8 Famine of 1897.

Revenue Department, (Famine),

Bombay Castle, 4th January, 1897.

To,

The Hon'ble Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Poona.

Sir,—In reply to your letter dated 24th December 1896, on the subject of the proposed scheme for giving relief to distressed weavers in the Sholapur District, I am directed to inform you that Government are unable to modify the conclusion already arrived at in this matter.

I have &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

II. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT MEASURES OF RELIEF.

The Sabha published a small pamphlet in Marathi giving a summary of the Famine Relief Code and other resolutions of Government on the questions of Famine Relief, and has up to date distributed gratis about 6,000 copies of the same in the affected districts. The Sabha requested the Government for help in distributing the pamphlet ; but the request was not granted, as may be seen from the following correspondence :—

No. 2304 of 1896.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,

Poona, 25th November 1896.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,

Revenue Department (Famine),

MAHALAKSHWAR.

Sir,—By the direction of the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha I beg to forward to you herewith 3 copies of a Marathi pamphlet published by the Sabha chiefly for gratis distribution to the people in the districts affected by the famine. The pamphlet comprizes (1) an introduction (2) summary of the famine Relief Code, (3) summary of Government Resolution No. A. 8939 dated 11th November 1896 on the preservation of agriculture and

forest, (4) method of preparing food for cattle from prickly-pear published by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, (5) Relief Works sanctioned or opened in the districts of Poona, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Sholapore and Satara, (6) Civil Accounts Code section 72 regarding grain compensation to low-paid Government servants, (7) summary of Tagai Advances Rules under Act XII of 1884 and XIX of 1883; and it is hoped that it would be extremely useful to the people inasmuch as it will acquaint them with the measures that are being adopted by the Government to relieve their distress.

2. The Sabha has written letters of request to the Collectors of different districts intimating to them the willingness of the Sabha to supply one hundred copies of the pamphlet without cost for distribution in each district and, if more be required, at a nominal cost of Rs. 2½ for every additional hundred copies. The Sabha is also distributing copies gratis on its own account, but it is believed that the distribution would be better effected with the co-operation of the Government agency in the different districts. The Sabha therefore requests that Government be pleased to permit the district officers without committing themselves to the accuracy or otherwise of the translation and summary of the rules contained in the pamphlet, to help the Sabha in the distribution of the pamphlet.

3. As the Sabha proposes to issue from time to time such pamphlets for general information, it is requested that Government would be pleased to supply the Sabha with copies of all Government Resolutions on Famine matters excepting those that may be confidential. Such information, if supplied to the Sabha, would, it is hoped, materially help it in co-operating with Government in fighting with the famine. The agents of the Sabha are already in the affected districts and they will acquaint the people with the intentions and measures of Government regarding famine relief if they have such authentic information on the subject as is contained in the various resolutions of the Government. The weekly summary though good in its own way, does not give all the details necessary for the publication of separate leaflets and pamphlets as contemplated by the Sabha.

I have the honor &c.,

K. B. MANDR,

Asst. Secretary Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona.

No. 9759 of 1896.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (Famine)

Bombay Castle, 3rd December 1896.

To

THE SECRETARY, SARVAJANIK SABHA, POONA.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2304 dated 26th November 1896, and in reply to inform you that Government are unable to take any part in the distribution of a private pamphlet and that any orders regarding famine which Government desire to publish in full be placed on the Editor's table.

I have the honor &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

III. TASK WORK, GRAZING, SUSPENSION AND REMISSION OF REVENUE &c.

The following representation was made to Government on the measures of relief undertaken in the affected district :—

No. 8 of 1897.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,
Poona, 4th January 1897.

To

THE SECRETARY to the Government of Bombay,
Revenue Department (Famine),

BOMBAY.

Sir,—By the direction of the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarva-Janik Sabha I have the honour to request that you will lay before Government the following observations and suggestions of the Sabha regarding the measures that are now being undertaken for granting relief to men, and cattle in the districts affected by famine. The agents of the Sabha have by personal inspection ascertained the real condition of the people and cattle in the affected parts; but the Sabha thinks it unnecessary to give the same in detail in this letter as Government must have already obtained similar information from its own agency. What it wishes to do now is to notice briefly the points which in its opinion require consideration at the hands of Government, and it trusts that the same will receive the attention they deserve.

2. Firstly, as regards *cattle*, Government reports published every week do not contain the information about the emigration, or loss of cattle. From the inquiries made by the Sabha's Agents it is found that the cattle in Bijapur are reduced by 50, and that in Sholapur by, at least, 20 per cent. The agents of the Sabha actually took a census of the cattle in several villages in these two districts, and the figures, which were submitted to the Commissioner S. D., have been found to be correct in cases where official verification was possible. But it is difficult for the Sabha to undertake a similar census in all districts, and it, therefore, requests Government to order a cattle-census in this month, or, if a wholesale census be impracticable, then, to obtain statistics by way of a test for a few villages in each Taluka, and publish the estimate, based on these figures, of the loss of cattle in each district. Last annual cattle-census was taken in June last, and if a census be now taken, and the figures compared with those of the last census it will materially help Government in taking measures for the preservation of cattle in agricultural districts, inasmuch as it will show in what places relief is most urgently needed. The statistics of the export of hides from the different Railway stations in the affected districts have been partially published in the newspapers; and the Sabha's agents have obtained similar information from some of the Railway stations in the Bijapur district. Upon this point, however, the Sabha has no means to get that complete information which Government alone is able to obtain, and it, therefore, desires to draw the special attention of Government to the importance of collecting and publishing such information.

3. *Grass and grazing* : It is now nearly two months since the first Resolution, No. 8939, dated, 11th November 1896, of Government on this subject was published; and the Sabha learns that grass has been sent to some places in the Bijapur district. But still there are many places where it is most needed. The Sabha is fully aware of the difficulties in carrying out any scheme of supplying grass to the cattle in the affected districts on any large scale. But it is equally necessary to keep in mind the straits to which cattle in certain districts are reduced, and the urgent necessity of granting immediate relief to them. The Sabha, therefore, begs to state that in its opinion time has now arrived when without waiting to see private traders coming forward to purchase and carry grass to the

affected localities, Government should undertake to do the work through its own agency, and to offer grass at a moderate price to the people in the famine-stricken parts, and, especially, to those in Sholapur and Bijapur. The prices of the bundles of compressed grass should be fixed not in comparison with the prices that obtain at present but with reference to prices which obtain in times of plenty; for in these days of distress cultivators may not be able to purchase grass at high prices. The famine, in the majority of cases, is a famine both of grain and money, and agriculturists would, though most unwillingly, prefer to leave cattle to their fate rather than incur heavy debts for feeding them, even supposing they could borrow. The price of one rupee per eighty pounds of grass is, the Sabha believes, rather too high, and should be reduced to at least eight annas per eighty pounds. In this connection the Sabha further requests the attention of Government to its suggestion, made in its representation, to Government, dated, 8th November 1896, of establishing Panjarpols or relief-houses for cattle in the several Talukas affected by famine. It is believed that the establishment of such houses near Railway stations at least in Sholapur and Bijapur Districts would afford substantial relief, and would preserve cattle in an efficient manner for the next agricultural season. It would not be difficult to formulate a scheme for starting and maintaining such houses so as to prevent any complications in future if Government approve of the scheme. As regards grazing in Government forests the Sabha desires to observe that although these forests have been declared open by Government yet no steps seem to have yet been taken to disseminate the information as to the best roads to be taken and as to the specific forests to which owners of cattle in different districts may with advantage send their cattle. In para 1890 of the report of the Famine Commission part I the Commissioners recommend the necessity of such a measure and the Sabha begs to draw the attention of Government to the same. A Government proclamation might be published in every village chawadi, specifying the forests to which the cattle in the district may be removed with advantage, the roads best suited for the purpose, and the condition, if any, which must be satisfied in order to take advantage of this concession.

4. *Relief-Works*: In the opinion of the Sabha time has now come when small relief-works might be opened with advantage in

every Taluka affected by famine. Government has already notified that it would not enforce the distance test. The Famine Commissioners, in their Report Part I, para 128, observe that "if possible one such (relief) work should be opened in each subdivision of a District in which severe distress prevails." This principle has been partially, the Sabha is glad to find, carried out by Government. But it is of opinion that it should be further extended. The agents and correspondents of the Sabha have suggested various small local works in the different Talukas. But as most of these can be easily ascertained by Government it is needless to mention them in this letter. The Sabha would, however, be glad to furnish a list of such works proposed by its agents and correspondents if so required.

5. *Task work and wages* :—The Sabha has already communicated its opinion to Government that the minimum wages granted on famine relief-works are insufficient to maintain people in health. But leaving that question aside for the present, the Sabha wishes to point out to Government the necessity of directing the special attention of its officers to the provision of the Famine Relief Code regarding task work and wages. The Code distinctly provides that no relief labourer is to be fined for short work so as to reduce his wages below the minimum fixed by the Code, except in cases of contumacy, or persistent unwillingness to do the task fixed for his class of labourers; and it is necessary to draw the attention of the Superintendents of the Relief-Works to this provision. It may also be noted that in many cases labourers have to walk 5 or 6 miles from their villages to reach these Relief-Works, where there are as yet no huts provided for them and no allowance is made for this in exacting task work from them. As regards fixing the tasks for the A class of labourers it is also necessary to bear in mind, as stated in the Report of Famine Commission Part I, para 131, the fact that a "large proportion of the labourers are doing unaccustomed work, that many may be physically or morally depressed, and that the disruption of their ordinary life, and the novelty of their position on the Relief-Works probably act injuriously on their bodily powers. The full task demanded from such persons should not therefore be more than 75 per cent. of that commonly performed by labourers in ordinary times." The Sabha, however, regrets to find that this principle is not properly attended to in fixing the standard task in

metal-breaking. Ordinarily, the highest standard is 12 to 10 cubic feet, and according to the principle stated above it should be 8 or 7 cubic feet for famine relief labourers. The Central Provinces' Famine Code gives 8 cubic feet as the maximum standard of work for breaking ordinary stone for road-work and 6 cubic feet for breaking very hard stone; and the Sabha recommends that the same may be adopted also in this Presidency, on the principle laid down in the Report of the Famine Commission noted above.

6. *Special Relief-Works* :—The Sabha has already submitted its observations to Government on this point. It fully appreciates the difficulties of Government in providing relief of this kind on any large scale. The advisability of granting this kind of relief to artisans is no longer disputed. The principle has been settled and incorporated in the various Famine Codes, and the question is one of organisation for carrying it out. The difficulties of Government may be said to be twofold, financial and administrative. With reference to the latter, the Sabha begs to observe that all administrative difficulties can be got over by the co-operation of local traders and merchants as proposed in the Sholapur scheme submitted to Government. As for funds the Sabha thinks that there should be no hesitation in finding out the requisite capital, especially, as under the Sholapur scheme, Government does not run the risk of incurring more than ten per cent loss on the capital advanced by it. But if the Sholapur scheme be not found suitable, Government might, as suggested by G. V. J. in his letter published in the *Times of India* of the 23rd December last, appoint a committee of a few experts to formulate without delay a new scheme for giving special relief to weavers.

7. *Suspensions and remissions of Revenue* :—In this connection the Sabha begs to request that steps should now be taken to obtain an estimate of the total out-turn of crop in the affected districts, so as to enable Government to decide where suspensions and remissions of revenue may be granted. The time for paying the first instalment of assessment has arrived, and it is reported that the village officers have in many cases already begun to press the cultivators for payment of assessment according to the annual practice. Several cultivators in the affected Talukas, the Sabha learns, have also applied for suspension and remission of revenue. The Sabha, there-

fore, respectfully begs to draw the attention of the Government to the principle laid down in para 167 Part I of the Report of the Famine Commission which states that "such suspensions ought to be liberally granted, and that great care should be taken that the granting of this relief is not unduly delayed while inquiries are being made into the claims of circumstances of individuals." The Commissioners, it may be further mentioned, also recommend the granting of relief by suspending the land-revenue in the case of landlords, provided they in their turn agree to make similar concessions to their tenants. In other words the Commissioners appear to think that if no suspensions of revenue are granted to landlords the tenants will have eventually to bear the burden, as the former will not fail to realise it by any means from the tenants who will not thus obtain the protection and relief they really require. The Commissioners have therefore recommended that suspensions of the land-revenue in the case of landlords should be made contingent on corresponding suspensions of rent due to them from their tenants; and the Sabha thinks that the same policy be now followed by Government and that where crops have abnormally failed suspensions should be liberally granted irrespective of the fact whether the cultivator has or has not mortgaged his land or whether he is or is not a sub-tenant. The Sabha learns that no sanction of Government is now necessary for applying the provisions of Chapter X of the Famine Relief Code to the affected districts. But still the Sabha believes that it would be highly desirable if Government, after obtaining the information regarding the failure of crops &c., issue general orders on the subject. As the matter stands at present the cultivators in different affected districts know not whether or not suspensions of land-revenue will be granted to them, and this has caused considerable uneasiness amongst them. Many of them have applied to the District authorities for such suspensions, but no definite replies have been yet received by them. A public declaration of the policy Government means to follow in this matter is therefore sure to remove all misgivings on the point.

Trusting that the above suggestions will meet with the favourable consideration of Government,

I have the honor &c.

V. R. PATWARDEAN,

Chairman, Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona.

No. 116 (Famine) of 1897. REVENUE DEPARTMENT (Famine),
Bombay Castle, 11th January 1897.

To,

THE CHAIRMAN, MANAGING COMMITTEE,
SARVAJANIK SABHA, POONA.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 8 dated 4th instant and to state that as the measures taken by Government with regard to the several matters referred to are periodically published no detailed reply to the observations and suggestions made considered by His Excellency the Governor in Council to be necessary.

I have the honor &c.

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

SUSPENSION AND REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE
• DURING FAMINE.

The following is the correspondence on this important measure of relief between the Sabha and Government :—

No. 160 of 1897.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,
Poona, 25th January, 1897.

To,

THE SECRETARY, to the Government of Bombay,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT (Famine)

BOMBAY.

Sir,—We are directed by the Managing Committee of the Sarvajanic Sabha to forward to you this representation on the subject of suspensions and remissions of land revenue and to request that you will place the same before Government for its consideration. The Sabha briefly referred to this subject in its memorials, dated 8th November 1896, and 4th January 1897, and was informed in reply to the first memorial that "the principles acted on in this matter were well established," and that "the fullest attention would be given to them at the proper time." The Sabha now learns that Government has approved of certain instructions issued by the Collector of

Poona to his assistants in this matter, and that the same course is directed to be followed in other Districts. The Collector of Poona is reported to have directed (1) that a distinction should be made between agriculturist and non-agriculturist occupants, (2) that the full land revenue should be recovered from all non-agriculturist occupants or mortgagees whether well-to-do or not and irrespective of the out-turn of their fields, and (3) that amongst the agriculturist occupants suspensions should be granted only to those who (a) are not well-to-do, and in addition (b) have lost three-quarters or more of their crops. No provision is made in this order for granting relief in cases where the crops are greater than four and less than eight annas, and to land-owners receiving rents from their sub-tenants. This, in the opinion of the Sabha, is contrary to the principles laid down in the famine of 1876, to the recommendations of the Famine Commission and to the provisions of the Bombay Famine Code Section 140, clause 2 of which distinctly refers to the case of superior holders receiving rents from their sub-tenants. The Sabha is aware of the principle that any consideration shown to the rayat in this matter should be such as not to cause an unnecessary sacrifice of Government revenue, and that any rules to be adopted in this respect should equally guard the interests of the rayat and the Government. All these points, however, have been fully considered by the Famine Commission and also in the correspondence between the Local Government and the Government of India which took place during the Famine of 1876-77 and which was published in the form of Bule-Books in 1879; and little, therefore, now remains to be said on the subject except to compare the course suggested by the Collector of Poona with the principles settled by the Famine Commission and embodied in the Famine Codes. It is needless to point out that suspension or remission of revenue is not now looked upon as a mere indulgence to the rayat, but is recommended as an important measure of relief to the agriculturists who are thereby enabled to hold to their fields for a longer time. In short, suspensions and remissions of revenue are now regarded as an integral part of the famine relief administration of each Province and the Committee of the Sabha proposes to examine the course suggested by the Collector of Poona in this light.

2. In the Famine of 1876-77 the Local Government in its Resolution (Revenue Department) No. 6557, dated 15th November 1876, issued the following order regarding the suspensions and remissions of revenue in the then affected Districts :—

“ Where, as is the case in the large number of villages in the “Sinnar Taluka, there has been what practically amounts to an entire failure of crops there the revenue is to be wholly remitted.

“ Where the crop of the village has been an average one but “where there are isolated instances of failure then individual inquiries must be instituted under such arrangements as the Collector may think best. *Broadly speaking where the loss has been “eight annas no remission should be granted, where it is more than “eight and less than twelve one instalment should be remitted and “where it is more than twelve then the whole may be remitted as the “Collector and his assistants think proper.* ”

This Resolution was made applicable to all Districts in both Divisions in which there was a failure of crop. In the Districts where there was nothing but *kharif* the Local Government also laid down a similar principle in its Resolution (Revenue Department) No. 6007, dated 21st October 1876, para 2 of which is as follows :—

“ As to remissions the Collector (of Nasik) should be informed that in villages where there is nothing but *kharif* and where “that crop has wholly failed entire remissions may be granted. No “remission, however, should be granted where there has been an “eight anna crop, but where there is below that valuation the first “instalment should be wholly foregone. ”

These instructions to the Collectors were not approved by Sir Richard Temple, who was then the Famine Delegate of the Government of India. But his objections were directed not against the conditions or circumstances under which remissions were to be granted, but against the principle of granting remission itself instead of suspension of revenue in famine times. In those days the practice was to grant remissions at once and not suspensions; and both the Madras and the Bombay Government justified their practice and firmly protested against the change suggested by Sir Richard Temple, with the result that the Government of India ultimately left the matter to the discretion of the Local Governments intimating at the same time its desire that “subordinate authorities should be warned against too free remissions and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the landholders without undue pressure be able to pay

the revenue in arrear during the next season." (*Vide* para-9 of the Despatch No. 10 from the Government of India to the Secretary of State dated 9th February 1877.) In accordance with these instructions nearly 2½ lakhs of land revenue were remitted and 50 lakhs suspended in the famine of 1876-77, in the nine affected Districts, the total revenue of which nearly amounted to 140 lakhs.

3. The question of remissions or suspensions naturally came next for consideration before the Famine Commission and its decision and recommendations on the subject are contained in paras 166-170 of Part I, and in paras 8 and 9 of Section 2, Chapter III, Part II of its Report. The Commissioners did not approve of the practice of granting remissions of revenue in the first instance, but recommended that in cases of total or almost total destruction of crop suspensions ought to be *liberally* given at first, and care should be taken to see "that the granting of this relief is not unduly delayed while inquiries are being carried into the claims and circumstances of individuals." They have further observed that "if suspensions are granted when their necessity is proved by the impossibility of collecting the revenue, the time when they would be most effectual in saving the land-owners from embarrassment will probably have passed." The Commissioners also recommend suspensions or remissions in the case of superior holders, provided corresponding suspensions are granted by them to their tenants; and have approvingly referred to the practice in North-Western Provinces where the Rent Law makes it obligatory upon the landholder to grant to his tenants suspensions and remissions of rent in the same proportion and for the same period in or for which the Local Government suspends or remits the revenue payable by the landholder to Government (*Vide* Section 23 of Act XVIII of 1873 and Section 23 of Act XII of 1881 by which the former is repealed and superseded.) As regards remissions, the Famine Commissioners recommend that the question, whether whole or part of the revenue thus suspended be eventually remitted or not, should be afterwards carefully considered by Government, and remissions of rent or revenue should be granted where circumstances are unfavourable, and the suspended revenue "cannot be collected without undue pressure on the person liable to pay it" *e. g.* "by sale of the defaulter's agricultural cattle or implements." In making these recommendations on suspensions and remissions-

of revenue the Commissioners have not laid down any special rule for determining what failure of crop would require this measure of relief. But in para 77 of Part I of their Report they observe that "it may, therefore, be inferred from the experience of the past that a year which yields more than 50 per cent of full crop will produce food enough for the population and there will be no such pressure as to require special measures of relief. When the crop is so reduced that the whole out-turn of the year is diminished to 25 per cent it may be taken as certain that intense famine will prevail." Combining these statements and considering the fact that the Famine Commissioners have nowhere expressed their disapproval of the conditions and circumstances under which Bombay Government granted remissions previously, but have simply confined themselves to the controversy regarding suspensions or remissions, it is clear that the only modification they recommend in the old practice is suspension of revenue instead of remissions in the first instance. The Famine Relief Codes of the different Provinces accordingly provide for liberal suspensions of revenue at first and remissions of such portions of the suspended revenue as the Local Governments may deem fit after a careful consideration of the circumstances in each case. But, except to some extent in N. W. P., no specific rules seem to have been framed as to the circumstances under which such suspensions should be granted although the Famine Commissioners have expressly recommended that such rules and principles should be fixed and previously announced in as much as "by making the degree of relaxation uniform over considerable tracts of country according to some uniform and clearly ascertained rule, the evils of personal favouritism and official corruption and oppression would be, to a great extent, obviated." (I^{vide} paras 7 and 8 of Chapter III, Section 2 of Part II of the Famine Commission Report.)

4. It will thus be seen that the only change recommended by the Famine Commission in the practice followed in this Presidency in and before 1876 is that early and liberal suspensions and not remissions of revenue should be granted in the first instance. There is not a word in the Report of the Famine Commission which justifies the distinction between agriculturist occupants and non-agriculturist occupants as suggested by the Collector of Poona. The Commissioners on the contrary expressly state that relief to the tenants ought to be secured by requiring the land-owners to pass on to

the rayat the concession granted to them. It is indeed stated in the Report that suspensions of revenue may not be granted to wealthy persons, but the Commissioners have taken care to explain their meaning by adding that "the great majority of land-owners will not under the circumstances have sufficient means both to pay the revenue and to provide for their own support." The test of wealth here suggested by the Commissioners is that the land-owner must have sufficient surplus of produce for sale in excess of his own wants; but where there is no such surplus they have recommended liberal suspension of revenue in the case of agriculturist and non-agriculturist occupants alike. In other words what the Commissioners recommend is that in famine times (1) suspensions of revenue should be granted to all who require the produce of their fields for their consumption; but (2) where a land-owner actually receives from his tenants such produce as though smaller than usual, is sufficient not only for his own wants but also for paying the revenue, he ought to pay it, for in that case there is no reason why Government revenue should be sacrificed. But where tenants themselves are not able to pay rents to the superior, holder relief must be granted to the latter with instructions to pass it on to the tenants.

5. Now, in the opinion of the Sabha, there is no reason why the rules for suspensions and remissions of revenue in 1897 should be less liberal than what they were in 1876, provided that, instead of granting remissions of revenue at once, suspensions are alone allowed in the first instance as recommended first by the Government of India and subsequently by the Famine Commission. That is the only change that requires to be made in the rules of 1876 in the light of further discussion, and any greater stringency would be alike unwarranted and inconsistent with the object with which this concession is recommended. There are also other reasons why the rules should not be less liberal now than what they were twenty years ago. The pressure of population and assessment on land has much increased since 1876 owing to increase in population and enhanced Revision Survey rates. In some parts of the Deccan these enhanced rates are to come in force this year, and the Sabha apprehends that unless the introduction of these new rates is postponed at least for a year, the pressure on the rayat would be so great as to ruin him beyond all hope. It has also to be borne in mind that whereas remissions were at once

granted in 1876 suspensions alone are to be now granted in the first instance; and that the distress threatens to be deeper and more widespread this year than what it was in 1876. Viewed in this light the circular issued by the Collector of Poona will be found to be conceived in a very narrow spirit and in ignorance of the principles previously settled. It is very difficult to understand, for instance, why all non-agriculturist occupants should be required to pay the full revenue except on the supposition that the Collector wishes to levy a contribution from the superior landholders for the benefit of the treasury. He seems to forget the fact that every superior landholder is under the rent-law of the Presidency (Section 86 and 87 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code) entitled to assistance from Government for the recovery of the rents due from his tenants; and consequently if he be asked to pay the full revenue Government cannot consistently refuse to help him to recover his rents. It was considerations like these that led the Famine Commission to recommend suspensions of revenue in the case of landlords, with a proviso that they make a similar concession to their tenants. As stated above the policy is also recognised in the Bombay Famine Code; and it is now too late in the day for the Collector of Poona to disregard or arbitrarily set it aside. The same remark applied to non-agriculturist mortgagees to whom notices are directed to be issued in the circular noted above. A simple mortgagee is not even an occupant under the Land Revenue Code and it is quite unintelligible why he should be made to pay the revenue. The only reason why notice is directed to be issued to him seems to be that in case the occupancy right of the agriculturist be forfeited, the mortgagee should have no claim against the mortgaged property. But supposing that any mortgagee pays the revenue to avoid this threatened consequence, will he not naturally come down upon the rayat and the latter hopelessly driven into the clutches of the sawkar, a danger which it is the very object of the Famine Relief Code to avert? The phrase "well-to-do" is again too vague and is likely to prove a source of favouritism or oppression in the hands of lower subordinate officers. It has been pointed out above that though the word 'wealthy' is used in the Report of the Famine Commission the Commissioners do not thereby mean that landowners should be asked to pay the land revenue out of income derived from other sources. Even supposing, however, for argument's

sake that the Commissioners do recommend that the full land revenue be recovered from wealthy persons, the Sabha desires to draw the special attention of Government to the observation of the Commissioners that in a great majority of cases land-owners will not have sufficient means to maintain themselves and to pay the revenue. Amongst those that cultivate their own land there will be very few, if any at all, who can be regarded as wealthy or well-to-do; and in the opinion of the Sabha it would be far more convenient and advisable to let these few men take advantage of the postponements of revenue rather than place in the hands of the subordinate officers a power which is likely to be misused. As regards those that do not cultivate their land it has already been pointed out that they are to be made mere conduit pipes for passing the relief to the agriculturist occupants; and if so, any discussion about their having or not sufficient independent means becomes quite irrelevant. The Sabha, therefore, is of opinion that it will do more harm than good to leave to the lower subordinates such a wide discretion in the matter as suggested by the Collector of Poona in the circular above referred to. Payment or postponement of land revenue should properly speaking be made dependent entirely on the portion of the crop reaped and not on the means of the occupants. There was some reason for not allowing the concession to the wealthy in 1876 in as much as suspensions were then unknown. But under the present system suspensions are to be alone granted in the first instance and consequently the consideration of the means of individual occupants may be safely postponed till the time when Government decide the question of remitting wholly or in part the revenue so suspended, under Section 139 of the Bombay Famine Relief Code. It may be contended that all those who are able to pay must pay the revenue. But the Sabha begs to point out that in practice the principle cannot be worked out without causing injustice and hardship to the rayat, unless either ability to pay is understood to mean, as stated in the Report of the Famine Commission, such surplus of produce in excess of one's wants as may enable him to pay the revenue by selling it, or unless some other similar definite and intelligible test of ability to pay, be laid down; provided a man is not made to pay Land-Revenue out of his non-agricultural income, for such a step would be tantamount to imposing a double tax on one and the same kind of in-

come as the latter is already subjected to the income-tax. On the other hand when a non-agriculturist does not pay any income-tax, it means that his non-agricultural income is barely enough or not even enough to meet decently the ordinary wants of his life, and so he has no surplus to pay the income-tax. It is, therefore, plain that Land Revenue should be paid out of agricultural income or produce alone; and as a natural corollary from this it follows that ability to pay Land Revenue must be correctly interpreted to mean ability to pay Land Revenue out of the surplus of the agricultural produce.

6. Such are the chief defects in the circular issued by the Collector of Poona. It seems to be issued, as stated above, in ignorance of the old practice and the recommendations of the Famine Commission and it makes distinctions which are not warranted by either. It is, therefore, necessary that it should be modified so as to make it consistent with the rules and principles in this matter followed in the famine of 1876-77 and discussed and settled by the Famine Commission. These may be summed up as follows :—

(a) In the affected Districts where the total out-turn is less than eight and greater than four annas in the rupee, or 25 per cent. of the full crop, one instalment may be suspended in the first instance.

(b) Where the out-turn is less than four annas, or where the crop has wholly failed entire suspension should be granted.

(c) That in granting these suspensions no distinction should be made between agriculturist and non-agriculturist occupants or mortgagees, except that the latter should be required to pass on the relief to their tenants.

(d) That if it be decided not to grant suspensions in the case of wealthy individuals a simple and intelligible test of ability to pay should be fixed, such as that recommended by the Famine Commission, viz., having such a surplus of produce in excess of one's own wants that, though it be smaller than usual, it will be sufficient to pay the revenue on account of the rise in prices consequent upon a great scarcity.

(e) That the revenue so suspended should be ultimately remitted or collected after a careful consideration of the circumstance

in each case, but not in a way so as to cause such a pressure on the occupant as to oblige him to sell his cattle or agricultural implements or deprive him of the means of subsistence or drive him to borrow from the sawkar.

(f) That where the new enhanced Survey rates are to be levied for the first time this year the enhancement in assessment should not be enforced this year in all cases in the affected Districts.

Of these principles the first two are based upon the Government Resolution of 1876 and para 77 of the Famine Commission Report, mentioned above. The third is founded on the recommendation of the Famine Commission, recognised in Section 140, clause (b) of the Bombay Famine Relief Code. The fourth is taken from para 167 of Part I of the Report of the Famine Commission and the fifth is contained in Section 141 of the Bombay Famine Code, while the last is already adopted in N. W. P. (*Vide Supplement to the Gazette of India*, 12th December 1896.) But though the principles are thus recognised in different places, yet up to now there was no necessity for amending the Resolution of 1876 so as to bring it in conformity with the latest views on the subject. Such a time has unfortunately now arrived and the Sabha trusts that the Local Government will not in granting suspensions of revenue show less leniency in 1899 than what it did in granting remissions in 1876. As observed by Sir Richard Temple, in para 7 of his minute, dated 29th March 1877, the determination of the rules for granting large remissions and postponements of revenue is a question of general policy to be settled by Government and not a mere executive detail to be carried out by the Collectors. "If the Government thought," writes Sir Richard, "that in justice to the general interest of the country and in reference to the circumstances of the rayat classes, reasonable effort should be made to collect the revenue notwithstanding the badness of the season, the Collectors would, I understand, be prepared to make such efforts. If the Government thought otherwise the Collectors would have no objection to spare the people accordingly." It is therefore necessary for Government to announce the policy which it means to follow in this respect. (*Vide Famine*

referred to above). Such a declaration would remove all causes for anxiety or misgiving on the part of the rayat in regard to this important measure of relief, and inspire confidence into the rayat by lessening the chances of favouritism or oppression at the hands of lower subordinates. Lastly it may be mentioned that the reasons for extraordinary economy that existed before the establishment of the Famine Insurance Fund in 1878 have lost much of their force at present, and that it would not be justifiable on any ground whatever to treat the rayat with greater stringency now when suspensions alone and not remissions of revenue are to be granted in the first instance. I have &c.

V. R. PATVARDHAN,
Chairman, Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona.

No. 335 (FAMINE) OF 1897. Revenue Department, (Famine)
Bombay Castle, 29th January, 1897.

To

THE CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARIES,
Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to inform you that before replying to your letter No. 160 dated 25th instant Government would be glad to know from whom the Sarvajanic Sabha obtained information of the instructions issued by the Collector of Poona to his assistants regarding the collection of the land revenue, of the approval of them by Government, and of the direction that the same course should be followed in other districts. I have &c.

(Sd.) J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 165 of 1897. SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,
Poona, 3rd February, 1897.

To,

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,
Revenue Department (Famine),

BOMBAY.

Sir,—In reply to your letter No. 335, dated 29th January 1897, asking the Sabha to communicate to Government the source from

which the Sabha obtained the information of the instructions issued by the Collector of Poona, their approval by Government and their extension to other Districts, we have been directed by the Managing Committee of the Sabha to state that the Government orders in question have been communicated by the Collectors of Poona, Thana, Colaba and other Districts to the Taluka and Village officers and the latter, in their turn, have naturally explained their contents to *hundreds* of agriculturists in those districts with a view to realise this year's land-revenue from them. Several *khatedars*, who had previously applied for suspension or remission of revenue, have also been informed, orally or in writing, that being well-to-do no concessions can be granted to them. A summary of the Government Resolution was also published in the newspapers. Under these circumstances the Sabha was rather surprised at the inquiry made in your letter under reply. The information has been published in its due course and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the information so published. But if the information be not accurate in any respect, the Sabha would be glad to know what the real orders on the subject are.

2. In thus replying to your letter above referred to, the Committee of the Sabha takes the opportunity to further submit for the consideration of Government a few facts and arguments in support of the last memorial addressed by the Sabha to Government. It has been shown in that memorial that there is no authority or justification for making a distinction between agriculturists and non-agriculturist occupants in the matter of granting postponements of revenue, even supposing that the wealthier land lords are not to be allowed any favour or concession in this respect. This statement is likely to be misunderstood as urging that those who are able to pay, should be also excused from payment this year. The Sabha, therefore, begs to point out clearly that such is not its meaning; and that the distinction between agriculturist and non-agriculturist is quite different from that between wealthy and non-wealthy. It is a mistake to suppose that all non-agriculturist occupants are wealthy enough to pay the revenue in famine time, even though they do not receive full rents from their tenants. The relief is not to be granted to the non-agriculturist occupant, but to his tenants; and if Government, as landlord, is not willing to grant suspension to the middlemen, it cannot consistently refuse to help the latter.

recover his rents from his tenants. The force of this argument has been fully admitted by the Famine Commissioners and their recommendations have been unreservedly adopted in North-West and Central Provinces. Thus Mr. Lyall, the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, who, as he says, is fully alive to the principle of "carefully scrutinising all claims to leniency in this respect" and not letting off those who can pay except under special circumstances, is reported to have said as follows in his reply to an address presented by the District Committee and Municipality of Mandla on the 6th January 1897 :—

"I have decided that the necessities of the case will be met, as regards the land revenue now falling due, if one-half of the kharip instalment is suspended in the Pathan and Haveli tracts, to the west of Mandla which have suffered considerably less than the rest of the Mandla Tahasil and in Dindori Tahasil two-thirds of the February kist will be suspended. This will result in Government foregoing, for the present, a sum of Rs. 33,364 out of the total demand of Rs. 52,784, leaving Rs. 19,520 to be realised. I trust that you will understand that I expect the balance to be paid punctually and that there would be no difficulty in getting it in. You will also, of course, understand that the concessions now made to Mālgujars must be passed on by them to their tenants; that those, half of whose revenue is suspended, must not seek to recover more than half the rent from their tenants; and similarly those who have now to pay one-third can recover only one-third of their rents at the present time."

It will thus be clear that Mr. Lyall does not find any conflict between granting relief to non-agriculturist occupants and refusing the same to wealthy landlords. The Mālgujars in the Central Provinces occupy a position analogous to that of Khots and other non-agriculturist occupants in this Presidency and as a class they are better off than the Khots in the Konkan Districts. But still, postponements of revenue have been granted to them according to the recommendation of the Famine Commission, in as much as the benefit of the same is eventually to go to their tenants. The Bombay Famine Code recognises this principle as pointed out by the Sabha in its last memorial; and the Sabha is of opinion that the necessities of the case will not be met if postponements of revenue, with a similar

proviso, be not granted to a majority of non-agriculturist occupants in the affected Districts of this Presidency. It is unjust to ask a man to pay the land-revenue simply because the land has been mortgaged to him. Apparently this looks like recovering the money from a person able to pay, but practically it amounts to bringing indirect but real pressure on the agriculturist mortgagor. The distinction between agriculturist and non-agriculturist occupants in this matter is, therefore, indefensible in principle and oppressive in practice.

3. As regards wealthy landlords — and the phrase is not in any way synonymous with non-agriculturist occupants — it has been pointed out in the last memorial that as their non-agricultural income is already subject to another tax, and that too for famine purposes, it is not proper to compel them, in famine times, to pay the land-revenue out of income other than agricultural. Rent or revenue derived from land is exempted from liability to the Income tax by section 5 of Act II of 1886; and on the same principle non-agricultural income should not be held liable to the payment of land-revenue. Each kind of income is liable to a separate tax and just as income tax is not levied on rents, land assessment should not be recovered from non-agricultural income. The argument of averages has been already declared by the Famine Commission as inapplicable to famine cases. There is, therefore, practically no reason why non-agricultural income or savings of a wealthy landlord should be taxed for the purpose of recovering the land revenue. But if Government does not desire to exempt the wealthy from payment of the land-revenue in any case this year, the Sabha would request that at any rate a definite test of ability to pay be laid down so that there may be no mistake, difficulty or harshness in applying the test and recovering the revenue only from such as are able to pay. It has already been stated above that all middlemen are not necessarily wealthy and that if tenants are in any way to be benefitted by suspensions, the middlemen, like Malgujars, Khots, superior-holders and others, such as mortgagees, must be granted suspensions of revenue with directions to pass them on to the tenants, as has been done in N. W. P. and Central Provinces. The wealthy, if they can be ascertained by a simple test, may be excluded from this concession whether they be agriculturists or non-agriculturists; but

if they are superior landholders Government cannot, under the circumstances, reasonably refuse to help them in recovering their rents from their tenants. These considerations led the Sabha to suggest that, in the words of the Famine Commission, land-revenue should be recovered only from those landlords who "still obtain a surplus of (agricultural) produce for sale in excess of their own wants." The suggestions of the Sabha regarding (1) the unwarrantable distinction between agriculturist and non-agriculturist occupants, and (2) the necessity of laying down a test of wealth thus stand on entirely different footings, and the Sabha trusts that they will each receive the independent consideration they deserve at the hands of Government.

4. Lastly, the Sabha begs to make a few observations on the estimates of suspensions and remissions of revenue contained in the letter of the Government of Bombay to the Government of India, dated 12th January 1897 and first published in the *Gazette of India* of 23rd January 1897. They are evidently rough estimates prepared in haste and not on any fixed or well-recognised principle. For instance, the total realisable land-revenue in Bijapore was Rs. 14,22,203, as against Rs. 13,51,472 in Poona in 1895-96. Bijapore is now admittedly far more affected by famine than Poona; and yet suspensions proposed in Poona amount to Rs. 6,26,700, while those in Bijapore are estimated at Rs. 5,69,906. The contrast becomes still more vivid if we compare the amount of suspensions allowed in Bijapore in 1876-77 with the estimated suspensions for it this year. The total realisable land-revenue in Bijapore in 1876-77 was Rs. 12,94,814, while the outstanding balances at the end of 1876-77 amounted to Rs. 7,48,382, i. e., a little less than 60 per cent. of the revenue was not collected during that year. In 1895-96 the total realisable revenue has risen to Rs. 14,22,203 and the suspensions proposed this year only amount to Rs. 5,69,906, i. e., about 40 per cent. of the total realisable revenue. This clearly shows that the estimates are not prepared according to any fixed or settled principle; and that if this method be not improved it is, sure to cause undue pressure in some and undue leniency in other districts. To take another instance, the District of Ahmednagar is now equally, if not more, affected than in 1876-77. The total realisable revenue of the District has risen from Rs. 12,26,178 in 1876-77 to Rs. 16,39,725 in 1895-96; and yet whereas the suspensions allowed in 1876-77 amounted to

Rs. 3,53,694, they are now estimated at Rs. 3,47,750. It is not also known whether increased revision survey rates, that are to be levied this year for the first time in Thana, Khandesh and Satara, are or are not included in the estimated suspensions. But if they are, the proposed amount of suspensions would give much less relief than what it otherwise appears to do. This further strengthens the contention of the Sabha that suspensions and remissions of revenue should be regulated by some fixed and settled principles deduced from the report of the Famine Commission and other authorities, and that these should be previously formulated and announced by Government for the guidance of its officers to avoid all unequal distribution of relief, undue pressure or leniency or unnecessary trouble, difficulty or irritation to the rayat and the officers concerned. The extent of distress is evidently wider this year than it was in 1876-77. One-fourth of Nasik and one-half of Poona, Satara and Khandesh were then affected by famine. But now the distress is more or less severely spread over parts of all Talukas in these districts. The Konkan districts of Ratnagiri, Kolaba and Thana are generally regarded as safe from famine. But the out-turn of Kharip crops, on which these districts mainly depend, is, this year, estimated by Government officers to be, on an average, not more than 7 annas in Kolaba and Ratnagiri and $7\frac{1}{2}$ in Thana. According to the test laid down by the Famine Commission these districts must, therefore, be considered as affected by great scarcity, if not famine. No relief works are opened in them, and suspensions of revenue, together with such Forest and Abkari concessions as may be granted, therefore constitute the only relief obtainable by the rayats therein. Again since 1876-77 the land-revenue has, in the twelve affected Districts, grown from about 170 to 204 lakhs, while the stringent operations of Forest and Abkari Departments have still further reduced the means of subsistence within the reach of the people twenty years ago. That is the real reason why the number of labourers on relief works is now already about 2 lakhs as contrasted with 2,28,000 in 1876-77, and the Sabha apprehends that it will soon largely exceed the estimated number. The agriculturists have not yet given up their fields and resorted in large numbers to the relief works. But, unless liberal suspensions of revenue are granted, it is very likely that they may flock to these works.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SABHA.

earlier than they would otherwise do, and that they will have to be maintained there at the expense of the State. It is, therefore, more economical, in the end, to grant liberal suspensions of revenue and forego the interest thereon, as is sometimes done in the case of Tagai advances, than to recover by every possible means the last farthing that can be got from the agriculturist or any one connected with the land, and allow postponements for such balances as may ultimately prove to be irrecoverable. This may be a good policy in ordinary years, but the Famine Commissioners have expressed their disapprobation of the same during the famine times in unmistakable terms; and the Sabha trusts that the Bombay Government will adhere to its own liberal policy laid down in 1876, with such modifications as are necessary to be made therein in the light of subsequent discussion as stated in the last memorial of the Sabha.

We have &c.

V. R. PATVARDHAN, Chairman,

S. M. PARANJPE,

V. R. JAINAPUREKAR,

Hon. Secretaries, Sarvajanik Sabha, Poona.

The following resolution was issued by the Bombay Government on 10th February 1897, in reply to the two above memorials of the Sarvajanika Sabha and was communicated to the Sabha in letter No. 432 (Fam.) R. D. dated 8th February 1897:—

Letter from the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajanik Sabha, Poona, No. 160, dated, 25th January, 1897, forwarding a representation on the subject of suspensions and remissions of land revenue during the existing scarcity; and making remarks.

Letter to the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajanik Sabha, Poona, No. 335-Fam., dated 20th January, 1897:—"I am directed to inform you that before replying to your letter No. 160, dated 25th instant, Government would be glad to know from whom the Sarvajanik Sabha obtained information of the instructions issued by the Collector of Poona to his assistants regarding the collection of the land revenue, of the approval of them by Government, and of the direction that the same course should be followed in other districts."

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Letter from the Collector of Poona, No. 6, dated 29th January 1897:—"In reply to your telegram, of yesterday, I have the honour to state that my instructions about suspensions of revenue were not published by notification in villages by me or by my order, but I cannot without enquiry say whether they were so published by Mamlatdars or Assistant Collectors of their own motion. The substance of the instructions was, no doubt, and as it seems to me, necessarily communicated by Mamlatdars to village officers. I have not myself seen the published letter of the Sarvajanic Sabha; in the districts the only newspaper that I see is the *Times of India*, and I have not observed the letter in the columns of that paper. Consequently I am not in a position to state whether the letter published indicates the possession by the Sabha of details, such as they were not likely to be able to gather from the substance of my instructions made known to the village officers, and by them of course to the occupants. I can only say that the Sabha cannot have got a copy of the Resolution* in any authorized manner."

Letter from the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona, No. 165, dated 3rd February, 1897:—"In reply to your letter No. 335, dated 29th January, 1897, asking the Sabha to communicate to Government the source from which the Sabha obtained the information of the instructions issued by the Collector of Poona, their approval by Government, and their extension to their districts, we have been directed by the Managing Committee of the Sabha to state that the Government orders in question have been communicated by the Collectors of Poona, Thana. Kolaba, and other districts to the taluka and village officers, and the latter, in their turn, have naturally explained their contents to *hundreds* of agriculturists in those districts with a view to realise this year's land revenue from them. Several *khatedars*, who had previously applied for suspension or remission of revenue, have also been informed, orally or in writing, that being well-to-do no concessions can be granted to them. A summary of the Government Resolution was also published in the newspapers. Under these circumstances the Sabha was rather surprised at the inquiry made in your letter under reply. The information has been published in its due course, and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the

* No. 98-Fam., dated 9th January, 1897.

information so published. But if the information be not accurate in any respect, the Sabha would be glad to know what the real orders on the subject are."

Resolution.—Ordered that the following letter be addressed to the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajanic Sabha :—
 " With reference to your letters Nos. 160, dated 25th ultimo, and 165, dated 3rd instant, I am directed to state that the publication of correspondence with the Collector of Poona on the subject of suspensions and remissions of land revenue has not been authorized, and that if a summary of a Government Resolution, which was not authorized to be published, appeared in any newspaper, it could have been only through the violation of general rules regarding the conduct of public servants. The Governor in Council declines to take into consideration any representation with regard to instructions to the officers of Government which he has not deemed it necessary to communicate to the public.

" 2. I am to add, however, that Collectors are fully aware of the wish of Government that there should be no distress caused by the untimely levy of the assessment, but, on the other hand, any person who has the means of discharging what is due by him to the State will be exceedingly ill-advised if in existing circumstances he withholds payment, and will receive sympathy from nobody who appreciates the duty of honest and loyal subjects in such a crisis, or who has any true regard for the public welfare."

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

II. THE REFUSAL OF GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE THE SABHA.

No. 381 Fam. of 1897. Revenue Department. (Famine).

Bombay Castle, 2nd February 1897.

To

The Chairman and Honorary Secretaries,
 Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona, Poona.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to forward two notices together with copy of translation issued in the Dharwar district by one Anantrao Joshi Yeksambekar who styles himself an

Agent of the Sarvajani Sabha, and to request that you will be so good as to state explicitly for the information of Government whether Anantrao is an Agent of the Sabha, whether the Sabha admits responsibility for statements made by him in its name and whether it accepts all liability for the statements made in these notices.

I have &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Translation of the notices issued to the public by the Agent of the Poona Sarvajani Sabha.

Come Sirs, come please, let us know your respective grievances.

The Government of India have received a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India to the effect that no one shall die of starvation in the current year's famine and orders have been issued to all the Commissioners in the Bombay Presidency to grant remissions of Land Revenue in places where the outturn of crops is 6 annas and to postpone its realization to next year where the crop is 12 annas and also to grant tagai to ryots.

Notwithstanding this no consideration is paid to the fact that in some places men and cattle are dying and also to the fact that assessment is being levied by compulsory measures on fields which have not been sown. In order that all possible information from ryots about these matters might be communicated to the Poona Sarvajani Sabha so as to enable them to ask for redress from Government in the case of such persons the Agent of the said Sabha will deliver a lecture on "Famine Relief" on Thursday 21st December 1896 from 3 to 6 p. m. in the Shri Vir Narayan Temple, and it is my prayer that all the Vakils, Shets, Sarkars, ryots and poor helpless people should present themselves there to represent their grievances.

(Sd.) Anantrao Joshi Eksambekar,
Agent Poona, Sarvajani Sabha.

(Sd.) E. J. EBDEN,
Ag. Commissioner S. D.

True Copy.

SHAMRAO D. MANKAR,
Superintendent Famine Department.

No. 737 Fam. of 1897. REVENUE DEPARTMENT (Famine).

Bombay Castle, 5th March 1897.

To

The Chairman and Honorary Secretaries,
Sarvajanic Sabha, Poona.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to inform you that unless a reply to my letter No. 281 Famine, dated 2nd ultimo is received within a week from this date Government will then proceed to dispose of the matter.

I have &c.

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 453 of 1897.

Sarvajanic Sabha Rooms,
Poona, 9th March 1897.

To

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY to Government,
Revenue Department (Famine), Bombay.

Sir,—In reply to your letters No. 381 of 1897 Revenue Dept. (Famine) dated 2nd February 1897 and No. 737 of 1897 Revenue Department (Famine) dated 5th March 1897, enclosing copies of notices issued by Mr. Eksambekar and inquiring if he was an agent of the Sabha and whether the Sabha accepted all liability for the statements made therein, we have been directed by the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha to state that the said Mr. Anantrao Eksambekar was deputed by the Committee of the Sabha to collect information regarding the condition of the Famine-stricken people in the Bijapur and Dharwar districts in December last. The notices referred to in your letter purport to have been issued by him simply for the purpose of advertising meetings which he convened for explaining the Famine Code to the people and hearing their grievances from their own mouths. As these and such other handbills were not in each case previously approved by the Committee of the Sabha, it is obvious that they cannot from their personal knowledge vouch for the absolute accuracy of everything contained therein. But we may at the same time be allowed

to remark that the Committee as at present advised see nothing in either of these notices that materially transgresses the general instructions given by them to the said Mr. Eksambekar. Neither the reference to Her Majesty the Queen's message nor a lecture on "Famine relief" advertised by these handbills can in the opinion of the Committee be objected to.

2. We have also to point out that the translation of one of these notices enclosed in your first letter is not accurate in several respects. For instance on referring to the original it will be seen that the words quoting the Queen's message in the hand-bill are to the effect that "No one *may* die (not shall die) of starvation." And there is a similar inaccuracy in the rendering of the first sentence of the second paragraph.

3. As regards the statement about remissions and suspensions having been ordered in cases where crops are 6 and 12 annas respectively, Mr. Eksambekar was asked to state the source of his information and stated in reply that the statement made in the hand-bill in question was based upon a report to that effect current at that time among the people of the place. We beg to enclose for your information copies of correspondence in vernacular that passed between us and Mr. Eksambekar on the subject. That there must have been some and often contradictory rumours such as the one referred to by Mr. Eksambekar appears to be very probable from the fact that the limit of the out-turn of crop above which remissions were said to have been ordered is stated differently in the two notices. The unusual delay caused in publishing the official Government orders on the subject must have given rise to various more or less well or ill-founded rumours, one of which appears to have been relied upon, perhaps, inadvertently by Mr. Eksambekar.

4. We have to state, in conclusion, that for the several considerations stated above there was no reason for the Sabha to attach any significance to the contents of the hand-bills, and as the matters had to be formally inquired into owing to your letter of the 2nd ultimo, some time was unavoidably required before Mr. Eksambekar's explanation was received. The Committee are obliged to you for drawing their attention to the matter and hope that Government will always be equally vigilant in noticing things that appear in public print. We have &c.

V. K. PATWARDHAN, Chairman.

No. 876-Fam. of 1897. Revenue Department, (Famine).

Bombay Castle, 17th March 1897.

To

THE CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARIES,

SARVAJANIK SABHA, POONA.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to forward for the information of the Poona Sarvajani Sabha a copy of Government Resolution No. 875-Fam., of this day's date.

I have &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 875-Fam. REVENUE DEPARTMENT (*Famine*).

Bombay Castle, 17th March 1897.

Letter from the Commissioner, S. D., No. F.—195, dated 26th January 1897—Submitting a letter No. F.—453, dated 21st idem, and its accompaniments, from the Collector of Dharwar, on the subject of notices issued by an agent of the Sarvajani Sabha regarding the suspension and remission of land revenue.

Letter to the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajani Sabha, Poona, No. 381 FAM., dated 2nd February 1897 :—

"I am directed to forward two notices* issued in the Dharwar

* Together with
copy of translation.

District by one Anantrao Joshi Eksamtekar, who styles himself an agent of the Sarvajani Sabha, and to request that you will be so good as to state explicitly for the information of Government whether Anantrao is an agent of the Sabha, whether the Sabha admits responsibility for statements made by him in its name, and whether it accepts all liability for the statements made in these notices."

Letter to the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajani Sabha, Poona, No. 737-FAM., dated 5th March 1897 :—

"I am directed to inform you that unless a reply to my letter No. 381-FAM., dated 2nd ultimo is received within a week from this date Government will then proceed to dispose of the matter."

Letter from the Chairman and Honorary Secretaries, Sarvajani Sabha, Poona, No. 453, dated 9th March 1897 :—

"In reply to your letters No. 381 of 1897, Revenue Department (Famine), dated 2nd February 1897, and No. 737 of 1897, Revenue Department (Famine), dated 5th March 1897, enclosing copies of notices issued by Mr. Eksambekar and inquiring if he was an agent of the Sabha and whether the Sabha accepted all liability for the statements made therein, we have been directed by the Managing Committee of the Poona Sarvajani Sabha to state that the said Mr. Anant Rao Eksambekar was deputed by the Committee of the Sabha to collect information regarding the condition of the famine-stricken people in the Bijapur and Dhárwar Districts in December last. The notices referred to in your letter purport to have been issued by him simply for the purpose of advertising meetings which he convened for explaining the Famine Code to the people and hearing their grievances from their own mouths. As these and each other hand-bills were not in each case previously approved by the Committee of the Sabha, it is obvious that they cannot from their personal knowledge vouch for the absolute accuracy of everything contained therein. But we may at the same time be allowed to remark that the Committee, as at present advised, see nothing in either of these notices that materially transgresses the general instructions given by them to the said Mr. Eksambekar. Neither the reference to Her Majesty the Queen's Message nor a lecture on 'Famine Relief' advertised by these hand-bills can in the opinion of the Committee be objected to.

"2. We have also to point out that the translation of one of these notices enclosed in your first letter is not accurate in several respects. For instance on referring to the original it will be seen that the words quoting the Queen's Message in the hand-bill are to the effect that "No one *may* die (not shall die) of starvation." And there is a similar inaccuracy in the rendering of the first sentence of the second paragraph.

"3. As regards the statement about remissions and suspensions having been ordered in cases where crops are 6 and 12 annas respectively, Mr. Eksambekar was asked to state the source of his information and stated in reply that the statement made in the hand-bill in question was based upon a report to that effect current at

that time among the people of the place. We beg to enclose for your information copies of correspondence in vernacular that passed between us and Mr. Eksambekar on the subject. That there must have been some and often contradictory rumours such as the one referred to by Mr. Eksambekar appears to be very probable from the fact that the limit of the outturn of crop above which remissions were said to have been ordered, is stated differently in the two notices. The unusual delay caused in publishing the official Government orders on the subject must have given rise to various more or less well or ill-founded rumours, one of which appears to have been relied upon perhaps inadvertently, by Mr. Eksambekar.

"We have to state in conclusion that for the several considerations stated above there was no reason for the Sabha to attach any significance to the contents of the handbills, and as the matters had to be formally inquired into owing to your letter of the 2nd ultimo, some time was unavoidably required before Mr. Eksambekar's explanation was received. The Committee are obliged to you for drawing their attention to the matter and hope that Government will always be equally vigilant in noticing things that appear in public print."

RESOLUTION.—The Collector of Dharwar reported that there were published in various places in that district notices bearing the name of Anantrao Joshi Eksambekar who declared himself an agent of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha. These notices contain a definite statement that orders have been issued to all the Commissioners in the Bombay Presidency to grant remissions of land revenue in places where the outturn of crops is 6 annas and to postpone its realization till next year where the crop is 12 annas. That statement is false and could not be believed by any intelligent person, acquainted with the Bombay Revenue system, to have a reasonable foundation. It was calculated to incite uneducated landholders to withhold payment of revenue due by them to the State, and it is reported to have resulted in combinations against such payment even in parts of the district in which there is no distress. The Chairman and Honorary Secretaries of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha were ask-

ed waener Anantrao Joshi Eksambekar is an agent of the Sabha and whether it admits responsibility for statements made by him in its name and accepts liability for the statements made in these notices. After the lapse of five weeks they replied that Anantrao Eksambekar was deputed by the Committee of the Sabha to collect information and that the Committee as at present advised see nothing in either of the notices sent to them that materially transgresses the general instructions given by them to the said Mr. Eksambekar. A statement which must be known to be false is not repudiated, and there is offered an explanation of the fact of its being made which is manifestly inadequate, while the letter furnishes no indication of any desire to discountenance action, which tends to cause unnecessary trouble to the administration; to induce landholders to bring on themselves coercive processes and to be injurious to the public interests. The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha as at present constituted must therefore cease to be recognized as a body which has any claim to address Government on questions of public policy.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

III.—WELCOME ACCORDED TO MR. CAINE BY THE POONA SARVAJANIK SABHA AND THE STANDING CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Caine arrived at Poona from Sholapur on the night of Tuesday, the 2nd of February 1897, and was received on the Railway Station by the Officers and the Leading Members of the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha and Deccan Standing Congress Committee. He put up at the Connaught Hotel, and visited on Thursday evening the Joshi Hall where the Members of the Sarvajanik Sabha and the Standing Congress Committee as well as several Gentlemen from the city had assembled to give him a hearty and enthusiastic welcome. Among the Gentlemen that were present on the occasion there were Sardars Shri Baba Maharaja and B. R. Natu, Rao Bahadurs V. B. Kanitkar, R. M. Kelkar, and G. R. Phadke, the

Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Tilak, Shet Kalyandas Keshavdas Modi, Esq. B. A., J. P., and Shet Bhagvandas Narotamdas, Esqr. (Bombay), Shet Hukumchand Ishwardas, Esqr., Professors S. M. Paranjpe, A. S. Sathe, and N. O. Kelkar, Dr. N. V. Chatter, Rao Sahab S. R. Medhatkar, Messrs B. R. Vaidya, P. L. Nagpurkar, M. V. Sathe, N. B. Kanitkar, and V. V. Lele, and several others. Mr. V. R. Patwardhan, B. A. LL. B. the Chairman both of the Poona Sarvajnik Sabha and the Standing Congress Committee, opened the proceedings of the evening, and in doing so he said:—

Gentlemen, on behalf of the Poona Sarvajnika Sabha and also of the Dekkan Standing Congress Committee, I have a very pleasant duty to perform this evening, and you have been invited here not only to witness but also to share in the performance of the duty, and this duty is no other than that of giving in the first place a hearty welcome to our friend and well-wisher Mr. Caine. (*Cheers*) We must be all thankful to him for his having kindly found time amidst a number of pressing engagements, and also for having consented to come here and receive this our humble expression of a hearty welcome. Mr. Caine, as you know, gentlemen, was deputed by the British Congress Committee as a Delegate with some important messages to deliver to the 12th Indian National Congress, and in this connection we must be more thankful to him, because by coming here he has given us an opportunity to do conveniently another and a most important part of our duty to which I shall presently refer. Mr. Caine duly delivered the messages and the Congress has already done its duty on behalf of the Indian Nation in according an earnest vote of thanks to the British Committee for their invaluable and disinterested services in the cause of our political advancement and it would be simply superfluous,—nay even presumptuous, to attempt to repeat, or add anything more to the same. But something has been left undone. Now, the Dekkan Standing Congress Committee is, as you know, gentlemen, a part of the Provincial and Territorial Agency of the Congress, and the Poona Sarvajnika Sabha is, if I may be allowed to use the expression, a miniature Standing Congress which has been in existence for more than a quarter of a century past having its objects, operations and aspirations in every way similar to those of the Congress. It is, therefore, clear that we are in duty bound to do in our own humble way what the Congress has accidentally left undone. I just now said that we have

to do another part of our duty, and that part is no other than that of sending with Mr. Caine a return message to the British Committee which has Sir W. Wedderburn for its head, Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji for its heart, Mr. A. O. Hume for its mouth, and Mr. Caine, the guest of the evening, along with Mr. Goolridge and other members for its back-bone and other important limbs. (*Cheers*) I need not here refer to the whole of the contents of the messages delivered by Mr. Caine at the last Congress except one or two important facts. We are glad to hear from him that the appointment of the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure was one of the outcomes of the agitation made by the British Committee in England in furtherance of Indian political interests. Mr. Caine has also informed us that one of the important results of the present Royal Commission would be the establishment of a permanent tribunal of Arbitration which will decide questions in dispute between the Indian and the English Governments. Now, gentlemen, we have reason to regard the Royal Commission on Indian expenditure as an immense *bon-fire* created by the labors of the British Committee to destroy, as it were, the pernicious germs and products of the mal-administration of the Indian Government, and the British Committee would do well to keep up the fire by supplying it with the fuel of the best evidence obtained either from here or in England. Gentlemen, Mr. Caine's advent to this country at this juncture is the most opportune, important and useful to us. On the one side in the West the Royal Commission on Indian expenditure is engaged in collecting evidence, and on the other side in this country in the East is raging the deadly famine as one of the living and permanent examples of the Indian mal-administration. It would have been far better if we had been given as prayed for by us a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole of the Indian administration, but even the present limited Commission might be made to accomplish, in a great measure, the same objects as the other one, provided the British Committee takes care to direct the labors of the Commission in such a way that they may result in some of the recommendations to the British Parliament, which on behalf of the Sabha, I now humbly beg to suggest. The first suggestion is that it may be ruled that all kinds of Civil and Military stores, machinery and other things which may be required by the Government

of India or any Local Government whether for the purposes of revenue or otherwise, shall be wholly and invariably manufactured in India. To this perhaps, it may be objected that such a step would be against the usual principles of Government, and in reply to this I have only to say that it is quite in accord with the right principle and the present practice. The British Indian Government has been already engaged in trade and mercantile business. For the purposes of revenue it has been indirectly manufacturing *salt* and through farmers of liquor-revenue it has been brewing wines and distilling intoxicating spirits for the use of the European Military and for selling them for the forced or induced use, so to say, of our people. Why go so far? It has been directly manufacturing military ammunitions, such as, ball, powder and the like in this country and if it is manufacturing ammunitions, I don't see any reason why it should not, with equal propriety, manufacture guns, muskets and other things. Such a step would not only give industry and employment to thousands of our people but alleviate or even eradicate *famine* altogether. The second suggestion is that the enlarged Legislative Councils should be authorized to control the ways of *expenditure* for to rule that expenditure shall be made in a particular way is equal to legislating on the matter. The third suggestion that is to be made is that Government should forego the *Atkari* Revenue. By doing so Government will not properly speaking be a loser. For instance, the Government of Bombay makes nearly one crore of revenue and the liquor revenue farmer makes as much by his contract. It is therefore clear that for the one crore of rupees to be lost by Government the people generally will save or gain two crores. What is gained by the people cannot be considered as any loss to Government inasmuch as Government is merely the representative of the people. Those are some of the humble suggestions for the present. Gentlemen, we have again to thank Mr. Caine for the kindness he has shown in consenting to receive the hearty welcome, and earnestly requesting him on behalf of the Sabha to bear the suggestions as a return message to the British Committee, I beg to conclude for the present and resume my seat although much remains to be said in this matter.

Mr. Caine briefly acknowledged the reception and in doing so he said :—Gentlemen, as I am going to speak at great length, to—

night, in the Anandodbhava theatre I shall not detain you for a long time. I am glad to note the suggestions made by Mr. Patvardhan and assure the Sabha and the Congress Committee that they will be duly communicated and made use of. In fact they in England have taken up all these questions and made the very suggestions. I am a representative of the British Committee, and as such there was no occasion for the Sabha to thank me. The Congress, the Standing Congress Committee, the popular Sabhas like the Sarvajanic Sabha, are all part and parcel of the great liberal body, which is being represented in England by the British Committee. It is well that the Sabha has faith in the British Committee. In fact you ought to look to the liberal party in Parliament, and the liberal party alone for the redemption. You will get nothing from the Conservatives. You will get everything from the Liberals. The Liberals are unfortunately now out of office; and perhaps it is well that so they are for when out of office and in the minority the party leaders have to keep up activity and they get themselves bound and committed to pursuance of certain principles. It was due to the fact that the Liberals were out of power, that India found men like Mr. Morley to advocate India's cause, in the debate on Suakin charges question. It is extremely doubtful he would have shown the same strength if he were in office. Perhaps he would have voted the charge out of India's pocket. Now that the Liberal leaders have committed themselves they would not do any such thing in future. Gentlemen, I again thank you all and the Sabha and the Congress Committee for the reception and invite you all to hear me in the theatre to-night.

Mr. Caine was then garlanded and after the distribution of Panupari and after the meeting dispersed, to meet Mr. Caine again in the theatre at 7-30 P. M. where after conclusion of Dr. Barrow's address on Christian Theism, Mr. Caine made the following speech.

My dear friends —

We are very much obliged to Dr. Barrows for the intellectual address which he just now gave us. I don't think that it is all useless that you should come down from religious to political subjects. In our every day-life we ought to have true faith in God.

I believe myself in religion. I am a politician by profession, but according to my opinion the word politics means the sense of the welfare of the people. The Society which has called this meeting is trying for the welfare of the people. Educated Indians have gathered together into a congress. I was three times a member of the Congress. I attended its meetings at Alahabad, Calcutta and again at Calcutta this year. But this Indian National Congress some days ago divided itself into two wings to carry out its work into two countries. Hear it is our duty to place before the Government of India the wishes and aspirations of India. Now, by this latter capacity, that of instructing the Government of India, we have accomplished many things, and you will find this, if you will read carefully the various resolutions that have been passed by the Congress from its first sitting down to its last, and respecting the different rights which the people of India now enjoy, it is the Congress only that has done something for us. Only last week an announcement has been made of making Panjab and Burma into Lient. Governments, and all this is the result of the Congress agitations. But some papers have denied this fact, and they say that it is the result of the time and of the provisions of the Indian Councils Act of 1861. But I don't know why this was not brought into effect for so long a time, and so I say that this is the result of Congress agitations. Now, I want to take you to the British Committee in England. British Press looks upon the Congress in a very different way from the Anglo-Indian Press. British Politicians have appointed a Royal Commission in which Lord Welby is the chairman. In this are appointed certain representatives of India Office, of War-Office &c. Some independent men are also appointed. There are some men from the British Committee also, and the British Committee is recognised as the representative of the great body of public opinion in this country. There the Government recognised your existence and gave you the representation in the Royal Commission dealing with important questions about India. The British Committee has called into existence the Parliamentary Committee in 1893. Sir William Wedderburn invited to dine some of the members of Parliament and when we give dinner we can do everything what we want, and so in a very short time we all liberals formed into Parliamentary Committee of some 90 in Number. In India office the British Committee is recognised and now

we have liberals 120 in number in a Conservative Parliament to help India. We have pledged to do everything to secure for you the democratic Government. The Indian Committee consists of Messrs. Schwann, Smith, Roberts &c. Well there is already one Committee of your Congress in England. So there are two Committees: one Congress Committee and the other Parliamentary Committee. Now, I shall tell you what we have done for so long a time. I have watched the progress of Indian officers in Parliament. In these ten years only a day was allowed for Indian Budget per year and that too for some hours only. But we secured two days for discussion of the Budget &c. We had a great debate on cotton duties. Well this native congress pledges itself for having no distinction of class. We had taken the case of the Indian Prince of Zalavar for securing a public enquiry. 70 members of Parliament were against this. At the time of the discussion about Soudan expedition there were 70 Conservatives smarting under humiliation. All these first class debates you never had before. It is we the Congress Party who called this Commission into existence. They gave us this Royal Commission to enquire into the management of Civil and Military expenditure of the Indian Government. Dr. Bahadurji gave good evidence before this Commission. It is worth reading for a student of Political Economy. Many other officers as well as independent men have given evidences before this Commission; and the Chairman has asked the public to send some more witnesses and to represent their views before the Commission. I think Mr. Wacha is going to England in a very short time and Mr. Gokhale from this city will also get a chance for the same. The one point of Indian expenditure which every man has alluded to is the Military expenditure. At first Military expenditure was ten crores, then it was raised to 17, but now it has reached up to 24 crores. From this expenditure we might save 6 crores of rupees per year and what amount of good will it bring if we can use this sum towards the famine? In this country there are 74000 British troops. When the soldiers revolted in the year 1857 all the people remained loyal to the British Government. Only 50000 troops were quite sufficient. And so 25000 English troops is only reserved forced for the Imperial purposes; and we don't get anything thereby. But we are obliged to pay for the troops which are not kept for our use. In some other countries the British soldiers are kept but their expendi-

ture is borne by the Imperial Government. But such is not the case in India. I am sure about the loyalty of the Indian people. Some might say that these troops are required for the defence from Russia, but I don't see any reason why you should pay for it, because that is an imperial question, and so the imperial treasury should pay for it. Now, I consider we had to pay from the British treasury as the contribution of the Indian treasury something like 6 or 7 crores of Rupees on account of the reserve force of the Indian army for imperial purposes. We took 6 or 7 thousand Indian troops over to Turkey. We had a war in Egypt, and we took Indian troops, and made India pay for it. But is it fair to make Indian people to pay for all these troops? The Indian people don't want any fleet. But they have two fleets at Halifax and Victoria and the Imperial treasury pays not a farthing for it. For 20 years past India is paying ten thousand as the subsidy to the telegraphic companies at Zanzibar. We pay for the Consulates in China and Persia. India is required to pay for the India Office. In Arabia we have a port and the expenditure is laid on India. All the ships which go from Arabia belong to the English merchants, and no ship of Indian people passes through it. But no other country pays the money. British War office is the Department which should be abolished. Would it not be better if the Government of India would manufacture all the articles which they require in India? and for all this we must fight a great battle. We love the Indian people. There are men who say that they will live and die for India. But I will rather live for India than die for it. I am saying all this from my experience of 17 years. The battle must be fought in England for there the British Congress Committee will do everything to achieve success and you too here should give them help.

IV. LEPERS BILL. — *A Representation to the Government of India.*

No. 2350 of 1896.

SARVAJANIK SABHA ROOMS,

Poona, 30th December 1896.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Calcutta.

Sir,—We have been directed by the Managing Committee of the Poona, Sarvajanic Sabha to request you to lay before the Council the following suggestions of the Sabha in connection with the Leper's Bill introduced before the Council on the 30th of July 1896. The Sabha is fully aware of the expediency of providing for the segregation of pauper lepers and the control of lepers following certain callings and though it accepts the usefulness of the bill, it is its earnest wish that every precaution should be taken to prevent people being put to unnecessary hardships and troubles, and with this view the Sabha begs leave to suggest the following amendments.

1. The Sabha has to suggest two amendments to section 9. In the list of callings provided for in that section, the callings of a factory labourer or labourers who work in a body is not included. But labourers, who may be affected by the odious disease, are likely to communicate it to others working in company with them and it is therefore desirable that they should be prohibited by legislation from mingling with healthy labourers. The Sabha for this reason craves permission to submit that in the list of callings, given in the section, the calling of a factory labourer be included. Under this section a magistrate is empowered to sentence a person sentenced to a fine extending to Rs. 50. But the Sabha has to suggest that the Magistrate be directed not to exercise this power in the first instance. The person, brought before the Magistrate under this section, may be perfectly ignorant of the true nature of his disease and it would in the case be an act of injustice to punish him for what he knows not to be an offence. It is desirable that he should only be warned in the first instance, and if after receiving this warning he persists in committing the prohibited act, then only the sentence of fine may be imposed upon him. The Sabha therefore requests that this section should be amended so as to provide for a warning in the first instance.

2. Section 14 of the Bill contemplates to vest one single officer with the final authority of deciding the real nature of the disease of the person accused under section 9 of this bill. But leprosy is a disease which even medical men of large experience will sometimes find it difficult to determine and distinguish from some syphilitic effects and sequelae and the verdict of one single medical officer will occasionally be wrong, thus causing great hardships to persons not actually affected with the disease. The Sabha therefore begs to submit that the appeal from the decision of an inspector of lepers should lie not to one single officer but to a board consisting of at least 3 medical men of whom anyone or more may be private practitioners. If this suggestion of the Sabha be adopted by the Council, the chances of wrong verdict will be greatly minimized and no ground for complaint in this direction will be left.

In conclusion the Sabha hopes that all the suggestions will meet with a favourable consideration from the Council.

We have the honor &c.

V. R. PATWARDHAN,
Chairman, M. C. S. S.

V. R. JALNAPURKAR,
Secretary, Sarvaianik Sabha, Poona