

1913-14

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PARA.	PAGE.
Presidency proper ... ..	1-18
I. Number of estates under management ... ..	1
II. Income ... ..	1
III. Expenditure ... ..	2
IV. Collection of estates' dues ... ..	3
V. Government revenue, cesses and rates ... ..	4
VI. Cost of management ... ..	4
VII. Advances granted to cultivators ... ..	5
VIII. Special schemes for management ... ..	5
IX. Management and education of wards ... ..	6
X. Payment of debts and existing liabilities ... ..	7
XI. Reduction of claims secured in consideration of prompt settlement ... ..	8
XII. General remarks ... ..	8
Statement I.—General position of estates ... ..	10
„ II.—Efficiency of rent collections ... ..	14
„ III.—Progress made in liquidation of debt ... ..	18
Sind—Report ... ..	19
Statements ... ..	24
Commissioner's review ... ..	25

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**I.—NUMBER OF ESTATES UNDER MANAGEMENT.**

*Northern Division.*—There were seven large and 29 small estates under management at the beginning of the year and two large and six small ones—five in Ahmedabad, one in Kaira and two in Surat—were added and none released, thus raising the total number of estates under superintendence to nine large and 35 small ones.

Of the added estates, the most important were those of Malek Shermia Bapumia, Kasbati of Dholka, and Khán Bahádur Sadruddin Khán Ajmuddin Khán, Bakshi of Surat, both having incomes of over Rs. 10,000. The former, which was under Government management under the Guardians and Wards Act, was taken over under the Court of Wards Act in order to facilitate the conduct of certain pending litigation and the settlement of the minor's private debts: while the superintendence of the latter was assumed under the provisions of the Court of Wards Amendment Act on account of its historic importance and with a view to save the very large permanent and hereditary pensions, allotted to the family by the British and Baroda Governments, which were in danger of being frittered away.

Of the small new estates, four were taken over for management on account of minority, one for investigation and settlement of debts and one on account of the unsoundness of the ward's mind and his consequent incapacity to manage his own affairs.

The report contains no statistics of the Surat Bakshi's estate and for four small estates as they came under management towards the close of the year. Similarly no figures in respect of the small estate of Mahij have been given in statements I and II as owing to a hitch in the debt settlement proceedings control could not be assumed from the creditor, but it is expected that a satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at before the opening of the next season.

*Central Division.*—At the beginning of the year there were in all twelve estates under management. Two small estates were added during the year and none was given up.

Of the fourteen estates which were under management at one time or other during the year, eight were big estates having an annual gross income of Rs. 10,000 and above, and the rest small. Information regarding one small estate (H. R. Natu of Poona) added during the year is not available as charge was taken towards the close of the year.

*Southern Division.*—The total number of estates under management was 24 against 23 in the preceding year. Three estates were relinquished in Belgaum, while four new estates were taken over, two in Belgaum and two in Dhárwár.

**II.—INCOME.**

*Northern Division.*—The gross income of the estates which in the year preceding had risen abnormally to Rs. 5,65,831 remained at Rs. 5,33,828, as