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It is to be regretted that the friendly relations between the officers of Government and a section of the people were temporarily marred by the emergence of the civil disobedience movement in the latter half of the year, but the cry of non-payment of rents and revenue made little headway, and the course of revenue administration was not materially affected.

3. **Arable statistics**—The occupied area of the province increased from 23,740,609 to 23,818,497 acres or by .3 per cent, but the net cropped area decreased by 154,444 acres. The decrease was marked in the Jubbulpore division due to short rabi sowings. The double cropped area also decreased by 90,169 acres. The area under rice and juar increased by 35,048 and 122,935 acres, respectively, but there was a shrinkage of 161,710 acres in the area under wheat, as a result of successive unfavourable seasons in the northern districts. Owing to the grant of *sir* rights in khudkast land at settlement the *sir* area increased by 68,226 acres, whereas the khudkast area fell by 81,327 acres. The area held by occupancy tenants increased by 80,859 acres.

4. **Rental statistics**.—For the province as a whole the total rental demand on current account rose from Rs. 1,69,11,395 to Rs. 1,71,01,437, or by Rs. 1,90,042. The percentage of collections to the current demand in the several divisions was 94 in Chhattisgarh, 87 in Nagpur, 70 in Nerbudda and only 43 in Jubbulpore. Owing to suspensions, the percentage was lowest in the Saugor and Damoh districts, where also the practice of crediting rental payments against private debts is said to be prevalent. In the Jubbulpore district short collections are ascribed partly to the civil disobedience movement and partly to the fall in the price of grain, which resulted in the withholding of stocks.

5. **Raiyatwari estates**.—Out of 217,162 acres of unallotted land at the commencement of the year 40,496 acres were allotted and 25,900 acres of land previously allotted were relinquished during the year, leaving a balance of 202,566 acres of unallotted land with an assessment of Rs. 51,929 at the close of the year. The system of allotment of land by auction is reported to be working satisfactorily. Progress in the improvement of raiyatwari estates continued. The difficulty of finding contractors

for carrying out works in outlying areas remains to be tackled. The Commissioner, Nagpur, however, reports that in Chanda certain works were carried out through the agency of patels under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Officers and Tahsildars. A partial solution of the difficulty seems to lie in this direction and attempts should be made to get comparatively simple works carried out through such local agency under the supervision of revenue officials. The instructions embodied in the circular issued during the year for the guidance of revenue officers in selecting works for improvement and their execution should be useful in extending such experiments.

6. **Destruction of Pig.**—The reports disclose the usual indifference of landlords and tenants to measures for the elimination of this pest. The only division which reports good progress is Nerbudda, where there was considerable activity on the part of revenue and forest officials, pig-killing associations and shikaris, and about 8,000 pigs are reported to have been destroyed. The poor response on the part of cultivators to the efforts of officials in this respect bears out the view expressed by some Commissioners that the damage done by pig is steadily decreasing.

7. **Agricultural loans.**—Rs. 17,93,174 were advanced as loans to agriculturists, against Rs. 43,31,337 in the previous year. Out of this Rs. 2,69,075 was given under the Land Improvement Loans Act. On account of the succession of crop failures and poor harvests the Jubbulpore division absorbed the larger share of this, namely, Rs. 13,23,450. The total amount due for recovery within the year was Rs. 29,52,822, of which Rs. 22,10,510 remained outstanding at its close. Suspensions to the extent of Rs. 19,95,588 were granted, the bulk being in the Jubbulpore, Saugor, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts, and Rs. 2,14,922 remained in arrears. The total amount outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 81,25,432, out of which 67 lakhs were in the Jubbulpore division alone.

8. **Recovery of land revenue.**—Owing to the failure of the rabi crops in the north of the province, out of the arrears of Rs. 19,68,301 in the Jubbulpore division Rs. 7,89,696 was further suspended and Rs. 9,05,468,

remitted. Out of the current demand Rs. 11,08,681 was suspended in the Jubbulpore division, and Rs. 47,202 and Rs. 17,362 in the Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad districts, respectively. The net demand for recovery was Rs. 1,07,74,077. This was collected in full except for a balance of Rs. 2,12,185, the bulk of which belonged to the Jubbulpore division.

The collection of land revenue not on the roll was satisfactory. Out of the arrear and current demand Rs. 13,769 and Rs. 9,799, respectively, had to be suspended in the Jubbulpore division.

The balance of miscellaneous land revenue left uncollected at the close of the year was Rs. 35,835 in the Nagpur division against Rs. 48,648 in the previous year which represented chiefly the arrears of mining dues. In other divisions the collections were satisfactory.

9. The number of coercive processes issued was about double that of the previous year in the Jubbulpore division. It increased slightly in the Nerbudda and Nagpur divisions, while it remained practically stationary in the Chhattisgarh division. Six defaulters were confined in the civil jail, and sales of moveable property occurred in 48 cases. Nine mahals were attached and held under direct management, and one mahal was attached and sold. The increase in the number of processes from 3,788 in the previous year to 5,085 cannot however be said to be excessive in the circumstances of the year. It appears from the Commissioners' reports that processes were issued only against defaulters who could pay but were withholding payment through contumacy.

10. Revenue court work.—The total number of revenue cases finished fell from 97,273 to 91,572, the decrease being shared by all divisions. Consideration money in private sales amounted to 27, 40, 38 and 57 times the land revenue assessed in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda, Nagpur and Chhattisgarh divisions, respectively, as compared with 31, 33, 39 and 60, respectively, in the previous year.

11. Village officials.—Lambardars, mukaddams and kotwars are reported to have worked satisfactorily during the year under report. In the Chhattisgarh division considerable pressure was brought to bear on kotwars in

various ways to induce them to resign their posts and not to co-operate with Government. Apart from threats of social boycott persistent attempts were made to persuade villagers not to pay kotwars' dues. Despite such attempts the kotwars discharged their duties with remarkable zeal and loyalty and rendered valuable assistance in combating anti-Government activities. Destitute kotwars in the affected areas in the Jubbulpore division were given monthly doles up to the end of September 1930, amounting in all to Rs. 57,176. Cash rewards amounting to Rs. 472 were paid in the Jubbulpore division for assistance rendered in the detection of crimes.

12. **Malguzari forests.**—The reports disclose the usual indifference on the part of proprietors to the conservation of malguzari forests, which are a valuable asset to the village community. Suitable action has been taken under the existing rules under section 202 Land Revenue Act to bring the defaulters to book in cases of breaches brought to notice. The rules have been found to be defective in certain respects and action is being taken to revise them.

13. **Legislation, rules and orders.**—Four bills for amending the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act were passed into law during the year. The procedure for the publication and consideration of the forecast report of a settlement was laid down by the addition of section 56-A and by an amendment of section 57. Section 37 was amended so as to provide for appellants being heard before rejecting an appeal summarily. A new provision was inserted in section 106 empowering the Deputy Commissioner to declare plot proprietors to be malik-makbuzas during the currency of the settlement. Provision for imposing a fine up to Rs. 50 for encroachment on communal or Government land was included in section 219. Rule 11 of the rules under section 204 was amended so as to permit raiyats to cut and dispose of fruit-bearing trees in their survey numbers in specified tracts. On the recommendation of the Commissioners' conference held at Pachmarhi in June 1930 provision was made in the rules for the appointment of minors and females as sadar lambardars, and instructions were included in the Revenue Book Circulars for hearing parties before passing final orders. A new Revenue

Book Circular containing a note on the interpretation of entries in the village administration paper with reference to section 219 of the Land Revenue Act was issued during the year.

14. Land records and staff.—The revised halka-bandi for patwaris was introduced in the Bhandara district during the year, and the scale of their pay, raised from Rs. 14— $\frac{1}{4}$ —18 to Rs. 17— $\frac{1}{2}$ —27 per mensem *plus* a special allowance of Rs. 2. The compensatory allowance paid to patwaris in the Wardha, Nagpur and Nimar districts, while employed on settlement work or map correction, was raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per mensem. Patwaris and revenue inspectors worked satisfactorily, as is indicated by the fall in the number of punishments awarded. The checking of entries of land records by the district staff is still far from satisfactory and no improvement is likely to take place in this direction unless Deputy Commissioners pay personal attention to it.

15. Settlement operations.—Settlement operations continued in the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur (khalsa and zamindari), Drug and Mandla; and map correction work was undertaken in the Wardha, Nagpur and Nimar districts. The operations in Bilaspur zamindari came to an end during the year. 2,795 villages comprising an area of 4,365 square miles were inspected by the five Settlement Officers and revised assessments were announced in 4,354 villages. The organizers of the civil disobedience movement sought to exploit the occasion of the announcement of rents and revenue in the Raipur tahsil, with the result that in some camps few malguzars and tenants had the courage to come forward to receive their pattas. Better sense, however, soon prevailed and all accepted the pattas after a time. Similar troubles occurred in connection with the announcement in the Mandla district also. There were only fifteen appeals against the assessments.

16. Consolidation of holdings.—A substantial advance was made in the work of consolidation during the year. 341 new applications were received against 114 in the previous year. Of these, 263 related to the Drug district, 48 to the Raipur district and 30 to the Bilaspur district. Eighty-five schemes were sanctioned and brought into force. The fields of 5,557 persons were

consolidated and the number of fields was reduced to a fifth of what they were before. The cost of consolidation per acre was Re. 0-5-10 against an average of Re. 1-2-1 during the previous year. Government notes with pleasure that the system has gone beyond the experimental stage in the Drug and Balod tahsils, and its advantages and utility are being fully appreciated by the people. Its extension to all suitable cases would now appear to be only a question of time and well conducted propaganda.

17. Notice of officers.—The political upheaval during the year imposed a severe strain on all ranks of officials, and the fact that in spite of it the machinery of district administration continued to work without any serious hitch is a tribute to their tact, alertness and courage. The Governor in Council records his appreciation of the efficient manner in which Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners administered their charges in a year of unprecedented stress, and notes with pleasure the names of those whose work has been specially brought to notice in the reports. Government also thanks Mr. Waterfall for his efficient control of the Settlement and Land Records Departments.

ORDER—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution and of the reports annexed thereto be submitted to the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands (Revenue); that copies be forwarded to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners; to the Commissioner of Settlements and Director of Land Records, and to the Settlement Officers; and that the Resolution be published in the Supplement to the *Central Provinces Gazette*.

By order of the Governor in Council,

G. P. BURTON,

*Revenue Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.*

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NOTE.—The statements are prepared purely for provincial purposes.