

FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

FURTHER PAPERS

REGARDING

THE FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS

IN

INDIA

DURING THE YEARS 1896-97.

(In continuation of [C.—8302].)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,  
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from

SPOTTISWOODE, 22, Abchurch Lane,

JOHN MENZIES & Co.,

90, WEST NORTHERN

P. S. KING & SON  
Parliamentary Booksellers  
& Bookbinders  
12 & 14, KING ST. WESTMINSTER

FLEET STREET, E.C., and  
S.W.; or

EDINBURGH, and  
or

WILKES, FISHERS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

Price 2s. 3d.

## LIST OF PAPERS.

Page

1

*Telegrams between the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, from the 11th January 1897 to March 1897 . . . . .	10
Reports and correspondence from Central Provinces, from 26th October 1896 to 12th February 1897 . . . . .	11
Reports and correspondence from North-Western Provinces and Oudh, from 26th October 1896 to 20th January 1897 . . . . .	12
Reports and correspondence from Bengal, from 10th December 1896 to 20th January 1897 . . . . .	13
Report by the Punjab Government, dated 22nd December 1896 . . . . .	14
Report . . . . .	216
Report . . . . .	217
Table . . . . .	273

PRESENTED BY

**Sir Pherozeshah M. Mehta.**

# FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

---

## FURTHER PAPERS

REGARDING

### THE FAMINE AND THE RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA

---

#### TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE VICEROY.

---

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

January 11, 1897.

Famine. Jubbulpore Division latest vital statistics show very high mortality. Ask Commissioner, Central Provinces, for explanation by telegraph, and ascertain if mortality is on the decreased, and if relief operations in that province are equal to strain upon them.

---

From VICEROY.

January 15, 1897.

Your telegram of 11th. Famine. Jubbulpore mortality. Chief Commissioner complains abnormally high death rate largely due in spring and summer to epidemic cholera, and in later rains and autumn to generally unhealthy season, short crops, and high prices following previous bad harvests. Figures show mortality decreased in October, and still further in November; figures for December not yet ready. Relief arrangements for the relief of distress now quite adequate, and being steadily expanded according to necessity. I am examining the facts, and I understand that test works and poorhouses were kept continuously open and relief arrangements expanded directly in proportion to numbers indicated necessity, but first approach of severe distress told suddenly and seriously upon population already enfeebled by several bad harvests in succession. It has been ascertained that mortality rates per 1,000 for September, October, November, respectively, for division are 84, 75, and 55. Decrease common to all districts. Now on relief works 94,500, number on gratuitous relief 12,300, ordinary public works 28,000; total 134,000 for division.

---

From VICEROY.

January 14, 1897.

Crowded and influential public meeting, at which I presided, was held here to-day for the purpose of starting organisation for receipt and distribution of money subscribed by public for famine relief. Speakers included Chief Justice of Bengal, Bishop of Calcutta, Maharaja of Dharbhanga, Sayani, President of Indian National Congress, Playfair, President of Chamber of Commerce, Goethals, Roman Catholic Archbishop, and others. Resolutions unanimously passed adopting objects and organisation suggested by Government, and nominating large General Committee, under chairmanship of Chief Justice, representing all provinces, races, creeds, and interests. General Committee will meet to-morrow to appoint Executive Committee, which will begin work at once. Subscriptions amounting to 1,30,000 rupees promised at the meeting. Contributions may be sent to Bank of Bengal, or to Colonel Ottley, Secretary of Committee.

---

From VICEROY.

January 16, 1897.

Famine. Rain during week in affected districts:—About one inch from Peshawar to Lahore, where sowings still possible in northern districts; half-inch in Bilaspur, Central Provinces; one-third inch in Bikanir; few light showers elsewhere. Condition of crops prospects fair so far as sown, continues fair to good in Central Provinces.

Punjab, Behar, North-West Provinces and Oudh, except Bundelkand districts, where acute famine is now inevitable. Bombay now reports as very seriously affected, Sholapur, Bijapur; as seriously affected generally, Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara, Nasik, Khandesh; and as seriously affected in parts only, Belgaum and Dharwar. In North-West Provinces and Oudh famine now recognised in 16 districts, while 20 more receive relief. Necessity for relief will arise shortly in Berar. Prices have fallen very slightly in Madras, Bombay, Punjab, Burma. On relief:—Punjab 61,000, North-West Provinces and Oudh 663,000, Central India, 35,000, Rajputana 40,000, Bengal 162,000, Burma 30,000, Madras 27,000, Bombay 168,000, Central Provinces 146,000; total 1,332,000. Figures for North-West Provinces and Oudh incomplete.

---

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

January 21, 1897.

Famine. Your telegram of 16th January. Please telegraph names of additional seven famine districts in North-West Provinces beyond the nine shown in North-West Provinces famine monthly statement of 28th November.

---

From VICEROY.

January 22, 1897.

Your telegram 21st January. Additional famine-affected districts in North-West Provinces are Agra, Etawah, Cawnpur, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Unao, Barabanki.

---

From VICEROY.

January 22, 1897.

Famine. Rain during week in affected tracts from one to three inches in Punjab, except the Delhi Division; few light showers elsewhere. Condition of standing crops fair to good in Central Provinces, Behar, and North-West Provinces, except in Bundelkhand districts; in affected districts of Bombay crops are suffering from want of rain. Prices have fallen slightly in Northern Punjab, stationary elsewhere. On relief:—Punjab 70,000, North-West Provinces 795,000, Central India 42,000, Rajputana 28,000, Bengal 278,000, Burma 30,000, Madras 29,000, Bombay 265,000, Central Provinces 211,000; total 1,750,000. In Bombay apparent increase due in part to omission of non-working children in former reports.

---

From VICEROY.

January 29, 1897.

Famine. Rain during week and since in affected parts:—General in North-West Provinces and Oudh, one-quarter inch to one inch in Punjab, light showers in Delhi Division, heavier elsewhere; in Central Provinces, Berars, Central India, one-half inch upwards in many places in Bengal, one-quarter inch in Champaran; showers also in North Behar. No rain in Bombay or Madras. Spring crops much improved; in Upper India, on restricted areas sown, crops promise well; also fair to good in Central Provinces, Behar, Rajputana, Bhopal, Hyderabad. Prices slightly lower than at date of last report. On relief:—Punjab 83,000, North-West Provinces 1,024,000, Central India 41,000, Rajputana 20,000, Bengal 318,000, Burma 32,000, Madras 34,000, Bombay 292,000, Central Provinces 242,000; total 2,026,000.

---

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

(Paraphrase.)

February 3, 1897.

Grain supply. What is your latest information? Is it sufficient for any probable emergency, and can it be distributed in time? If you are not satisfied on this point, what do you propose to do?

---



From VICEROY.

(Paraphrase.)

February 6, 1897.

Grain supply. Latest information generally satisfactory. Prices are generally firm, and the fall which has already begun in the North-West Provinces and Punjab, together with the fact that visible supplies are sufficient for daily requirements throughout India, are good signs. In the Punjab it is reported that prices are 15 to 20 per cent. cheaper than at beginning of December. If failure of stocks were anticipated prices would rise. In North India and Hindustan spring crops are promising and should make considerable addition to existing supplies. Whether existing stocks are sufficient for any probable emergency cannot be answered quantitatively, but I see no reason to doubt that the policy laid down in your Despatch, No. 10, of 15th June—that food demand is better and more effectively supplied by trade as a whole than by Government—is correct. In these circumstances we do not propose to intervene to encourage imports by sea. As regards internal supplies, we consider trade capable of timely distribution of food stocks in most places, and no difficulty is anticipated by any Local Government, except by Government of Bengal, in regard to isolated areas in North-East Behar. That Government has been permitted, in case of emergency, to take special measures to aid private trade. Such cases will, we anticipate, be rare.

From VICEROY.

February 5, 1897.

Famine. Rain during past week in affected tracts :—About one inch in Bundelkhand districts of North-West Provinces, and showers elsewhere; over one inch in Hissar, and about one-quarter inch in Central Punjab and in parts of Central India Agency; scattered showers in Central Provinces, Madras, Bengal, Bombay. Crops promise well in Punjab, North-West Provinces. Prices show a tendency to fall. Numbers on relief increased in North-West Provinces by the recent rains, reducing demand for labour in the fields for irrigation. On relief :—Madras 42,000, Bombay 327,000, Bengal 339,000, North-West Provinces 1,254,000, Punjab 97,000, Central Provinces 280,000, Burma 33,000, Central India Agency 69,000, Rajputana 25,000; total 2,467,000.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

February 8, 1897.

Raipur. Please telegraph latest report as to condition of district and of relief measures; also latest current prices of food, and stock in Central Provinces.

From VICEROY.

February 9, 1897.

Your telegram of to-day. Raipur. Relief works three, relief workers 7,700, poor-houses four, with 700 inmates, persons receiving gratuitous relief, 680. We have not received lately any special information regarding district, but weekly crop report describes spring crops as good. Necessary advances are being given to landlords and tenants for land improvements, and in order to secure seed grain suited to district. Chief Commissioner has not expressed apprehension as to sufficiency of food stocks in Central Provinces. Prices not rising; Mandla  $8\frac{1}{4}$  seers per rupee; Raipur  $9\frac{1}{4}$ ; most districts, 10 upwards.

From VICEROY.

February 10, 1897.

Please inform Lord Mayor that 16 lakhs, first instalment of Mansion House Fund, received and handed to Central Committee, who desire to express deepest gratitude for prompt and munificent response in Great Britain to appeal on behalf of Indian sufferers.

From VICEROY.

February 13, 1897.

My telegram of 6th February. In view of importance of Burma rice for supplementary Indian stock, have inquired from Chief Commissioner about trade prospects. He reports that not more than half-crop likely to be marketed by end of March. Report continues:—"Demand for placing outside India dull rather than otherwise at present. Causes, enormous crops in the far East, and absence of any abnormal demand from South American or European markets. View is that, after satisfying foreign and Upper Burma demands, about five lakhs of tons available for India. Up to the present time about 80,000 tons shipped for India, and tonnage engaged for 20,000 or 30,000 more. Shipments checked by (1) tight money market, (2) low prices in India, shippers having lost money on some recent shipments. General expectation is that prices will be lower next few weeks, but will be ultimately forced up by Indian demands."

From VICEROY.

February 13, 1897.

Famine. Monthly telegram. During week scattered showers only reported in affected tracts. Relief figures for each province given below. Areas and population approximate only. Character of distress varies from district to district. Madras, in 4 Madras (Central) has 33 relief works, 36,291 workers, 2,915 dependants, also 7,732 weavers employed in weaving; distressed area, 9,800 square miles; population, 1,440,000; one test work in Ganjam, with 1,225 relieved; affected area, 600 square miles; population, 245,000. Bombay, in 8 districts, has 114 works, 244,972 workers, 103,600 dependants, also 13,126 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 42,000 square miles; population, 6,710,000. Bengal has, in 7 districts, 177 works, 270,373 workers, 7,981 dependants, also 6 poor-houses, 628 inmates; gratuitously relieved, 89,658; distressed area, 9,600 square miles; population, 7,623,000; also 24 test works, 7,428 workers and dependants; affected area, 2,900 square miles; population, 1,784,000. Punjab has, in 8 districts, 22 works, 66,857 workers, 21,273 dependants, 3,470 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 9,600 square miles; population, 2,575,000; also, in 5 districts, 8 test works, 4,049 workers, 1 poor-house, 685 inmates; affected area, 1,000 square miles; population, 400,000. North-West Provinces and Oudh have, in 18 districts, 181 works, 827,136 workers, 192,169 dependants, 85 poor-houses, 42,466 inmates, also 193,532 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 38,400 square miles; population, 17,393,000; also, in 19 districts, 102 test works, 95,981 workers, 11,003 dependants, 52 poor-houses, 16,246 inmates, 26,003 gratuitously relieved; affected area, 20,100 square miles; population, 11,031,000. Central Provinces have, in 16 districts, 52 works, 251,796 workers, 17,376 dependants, 31 poor-houses, 16,421 inmates, also 31,020 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 23,300 square miles; population, 2,632,000. Burma has, in 2 districts, 5 works, 26,524 workers, 5,379 dependants, also 533 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 3,900 square miles; population, 326,000; also three small test works in two other districts; affected area, 200 square miles; population, 31,000. Berar has, in one district, five works, 2,152 workers; distressed area, 1,500 square miles; population, 40,000. Including Native States, numbers on relief are 2,750,000. Situation little changed since January telegram as regards the extent and severity of the distress. Increasing numbers on relief indicate gradual exhaustion of resources, extension and improvement of relief system, increasing acquaintance with and readiness to resort to it. Increase will continue in North-West Provinces and Oudh till March, may temporarily decrease during harvest time, but will rise again in May and June. The same as regards Central Provinces. Much depends on course of prices. Prices show a tendency to fall, as fair crops are expected in portions of North-West Provinces and Oudh and Punjab. In Punjab distress is confined now to three or four districts in Deccan; no improvement possible till monsoon. In Central Provinces character of spring harvest uncertain, but yield must be poor. Throughout Bengal, effect of poor winter rice harvest is widespread, but knowledge of Burma surplus keeps down prices, and distress is not appearing in North Behar rice tracts as rapidly as was anticipated. In all provinces relief arrangements reported adequate and working well. Inquiry being made sufficiency as to Madras famine wage. Health of people and of relief workers generally good to fair in Central Provinces, where relief measures have greatly expanded. Cases of

extreme famine emaciation small in proportion to numbers relieved, and occur chiefly in poor-houses situated in districts where people did not come in time for help. Classes on works are mostly low-caste labourers and petty cultivators. In villages and towns home relief given largely to women and children of better classes. Provincial and local committees of Indian famine fund are now at work specially distributing blankets and clothing in poor-houses and relief camps. Committee for North-West Provinces and Oudh estimates minimum requirements at 20 lakhs, and other provinces proportionally. Relief fund will do great good. Food supplies are generally reported adequate, and no province has experienced serious difficulty. Wheat and barley are being sold for April delivery in Punjab at prices below present rates.

---

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

February 10, 1897.

With reference to questions in Parliament, please telegraph total deaths in Central Provinces for the year 1895 and year 1896 as soon as statistics are ready, giving remarks as to excess in latter year.

---

From VICEROY.

February 20, 1897.

Your telegram of 10th February. Mortality in Central Provinces. Total deaths 349,137 in 1895, and 468,469 in 1896. Deaths from cholera 37,479 in excess over 1895; deaths from fever 59,342; diarrhoea and dysentery 9,566; from other causes 11,842; small-pox 1,103. Local Sanitary Commissioner reports year exceptionally unhealthy, and high prices, unwholesome food, privations, have weakened general vitality of population. As evidence of unhealthy season, October death-rate at Jhansi and Hamirpur under unchallenged relief was same as in Jubbulpore Division, namely 7.5.

---

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

February 19, 1897.

Telegram from Consul-General, San Francisco. Local Indian Famine Committee offers gifts of grain, to be shipped free to India by United States Government. If you concur, I propose to accept and express your gratitude, also, in reply to question, to say that it will be conveyed on Indian railways at the expense of Government. I presume Central Committee will undertake distribution. Please telegraph as soon as possible.

---

From VICEROY.

February 22, 1897

Your telegram of 19th February. I concur regarding acceptance gift of grain from United States Government, and your proposed reply. Under the circumstances, Central Committee will doubtless undertake distribution, but they advised me on recent inquiry from Governor General of Canada that they prefer money to grain.

---

From VICEROY.

February 19, 1897.

Famine. Rain during past week in affected tracts:—In Punjab, fair to good rain in south-east and south; rain beneficial to crops and fodder in Bengal and Behar; good general rainfall in many districts, also beneficial scattered showers in other provinces. On relief:—Madras 55,000, Bombay 358,000, Bengal 435,000, North-West Provinces and Oudh 1,529,000, Punjab 109,000, Central Provinces 307,000, Burma 29,000, Berar 5,000, Central India Native States 95,000, Rajputana 2,000; total 2,948,000. Numbers increasing in Champaran, Darbhanga, and Rewah State, where relief works have been opened on a large scale. No marked movements in prices.

From VICEROY.

February 26, 1897.

Famine. Moderate and useful rain in south-west and eastern Bengal, central and south Madras, and parts of Bombay Deccan. Heavy useful rain in Orissa, Ganjam, Bilaspur. No rain elsewhere in Central Provinces. No rain in Behar, upper or northern India, but high winds and increasing heat not good for crops. Markets sensitive there, and prices slightly higher. Harvest prospects still good in Punjab, North-West Provinces, Behar; fair in Central Provinces. Death-rate low throughout affected tracts, except Central Provinces, and lower there than in November. Bad outbreak of cholera on Rewah relief works. On relief:—Madras, 59,000; Bombay, 412,000; Bengal, 411,000; North-West Provinces, 1,621,000; Punjab, 118,000; Central Provinces, 324,000; Burma, 27,000; Berar, 10,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Central India, 133,000; Rajputana, 19,000; total, 3,141,000.

From VICEROY.

March 3, 1897.

Your telegrams of 18th and 20th February. It has been ascertained from Local Governments that they could not employ any of the retired officers, civil and military, who have volunteered for famine relief work. We are of opinion that all the assistance required can be given from Services in India.

From VICEROY.

March 5, 1897.

Famine. Virtually no rain in affected tracts during week. Rain is wanted in Punjab for backward crops on unirrigated land. Both there and in North-west Provinces dry winds have done harm and made markets sensitive. Prices of staple grains much the same; range in Madras from 12½ to 14½ seers per rupee. North-west Provinces 9½ to 12, Bombay 9½ to 13½, Bengal and Punjab about 10, Central Provinces mostly 10, but 9 in Saugor and 8 in Balaghat. On relief:—Madras 66,000, Bombay 412,000, Bengal 410,000, North-west Provinces 1,654,000, Punjab 124,000, Central Provinces, 351,000, Burma 26,000, Berar 11,000, Hyderabad 4,000, Central India 137,000, Rajputana 19,000; total 3,216,000.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

March 9, 1897.

Famine. Lord Mayor's Fund. It would be very advantageous if you could telegraph some information as to what has been done with sums already transmitted, and how and to what extent operations could be extended if fund materially increased.

From VICEROY.

March 11, 1897.

Famine Fund. Your telegram of 9th March. Provincial Committees provisionally estimate minimum demands thus:—North-West Provinces and Oudh 40 lakhs, Bengal 28, Central Provinces 27, Punjab 11, Bombay 10, Madras 12, Burma 2; total 130 lakhs. Of this at least 50 lakhs are required for seed and cattle, half in April and half 1st June. See fourth object statement annexed to Despatch of 23rd December. Central Committee has already allotted 21 lakhs to Provincial Committees for urgent demands; makes further large distribution shortly. Provincial Committees are understood to be working on the lines defined by Government, but are being asked to report. Needs of Native States not yet known; enquiries being made, with a view to grants where necessary. With good monsoon, 140 lakhs should, Central Committee considers, meet all requirements.

## From VICEROY.

March 15, 1897.

Famine. Monthly telegram. During past week rainfall unimportant. Relief figures for each province given below:—Madras in four districts has 43 relief works, with 56,564 workers and 3,750 dependants, also 8,052 weavers employed in weaving; distressed area 12,100 square miles, population 1,713,000; one test work in Ganjam with 1,770 workers; affected area 1,100 square miles, population 410,000. Bombay in eight districts has 110 works with 279,681 workers and 116,617 dependants, also 20,593 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 42,000 square miles, population 6,710,000; also one test work with 315 workers; affected area 1,600 square miles, population 353,000. Bengal has in 10 districts 307 works with 282,313 workers and 12,512 dependants, 17 poor-houses with 1,154 inmates, on gratuitous relief 150,527; distressed area 16,000 square miles, population 8,343,000; also 61 test works with 8,444 workers, and 4,744 on gratuitous relief in five districts; affected area 1,700 square miles, population 832,000. Punjab has in nine districts 80 works with 79,727 workers and 28,084 dependants, also three poor-houses with 1,031 inmates, on gratuitous relief 7,858; distressed area 12,400 square miles, population 2,963,000; also in three towns four test works with 530 workers. North-West Provinces and Oudh have in 19 districts 348 works with 931,318 workers and 225,168 dependants, 92 poor-houses with 34,556 inmates, besides 243,069 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 40,200 square miles, population 18,127,000; also in 18 districts 285 test works with 58,191 workers and 6,499 dependants, and 53 poor houses with 10,492 inmates, besides 41,929 on gratuitous relief; affected area 17,600 square miles, population 9,854,000. Central Provinces have in 16 districts 104 works, with 244,633 workers and 30,472 dependants, 48 poor-houses with 16,682 inmates, also 44,182 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 49,500 square miles, population 6,036,000. Burma has in three districts one work, with 19,784 workers and 3,316 dependants, also 824 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 4,000 square miles, population 381,000; also in one district one test work; affected area 200 square miles, population 16,000. Berar has in three districts 16 works with 5,692 workers, no poor-houses or gratuitous relief; distressed area, 4,300 square miles, population 617,000; also in further affected area of 4,300 square miles, with 777,000 population, 10 test works with 12,475 workers. Including Native States, numbers on relief are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  against  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions last month. During present week, however, numbers on works have decreased in North-West Provinces by 100,000, owing to harvest commencing, and minor decreases reported from same cause in Punjab, Central Provinces and Central India. In Bombay, Madras and Bengal numbers continue to rise. Prices continue high everywhere, the fall which last month seemed impending having been checked by fears about Upper India harvest, where high winds and drought have done damage. Fair to good outturn, however, is still expected. Burma rice is being imported in good quantities by trade; is found in village bazaars in Behar and North-West Provinces and on relief works. Food supplies reported generally adequate, though in remoter parts of Central Provinces possible shortness of stocks and failure of local trade to import are apprehended.

Chief Commissioner is devising suitable measures. Our weekly returns of inter-district traffic show free movement of grain throughout the country. Relief arrangements have been extended and improved when necessary, and capable of ready expansion. Additional staff given to Local Governments and Political Officers in Native States. Over 60 Engineer officers and subordinates, and 20 officers on the Staff at the headquarters of the Army, drafted from military employment. Two medical commissioned officers given to Central Provinces, and three to North-West Provinces. Five additional civil officers given to Central Provinces and Bombay by transfer from Punjab, Madras, Burma. In Native States large relief works are now open in Rewah, and in northern districts of Gwalior Maharaja Scindia making special efforts to make relief effective. Smaller relief measures in progress in Bundelkhand States under advice of Political Officers. In Hyderabad serious scarcity is expected in south western districts adjoining Bombay and Madras; relief measures being arranged. Condition of people is reported poor in Berar, though mortality to the end of January normal; in Central Provinces fair to good, excepting parts of Damoh, Balaghat, Raipur, Balaspur, Hoshangabad, where people coming on relief works are feeble, and in poor-houses where some cases of emaciation occur; in North-West Provinces good or fair, excepting isolated parts of Jhansi, Jalaun, Hardoi districts; in Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Bengal, and Burma good, mortality and sickness being normal. The

State payments to workers and in gratuitous relief exceed two lakhs a day. The immediate outlook is not unfavourable, though the strain on the administration is serious. The system of relief adopted is proving equal to the present emergency, and, as far as can be foreseen, will so continue. The attitude of all classes is exemplary; the people are genuinely grateful for the relief given.

---

## CENTRAL PROVINCES.

---

No. 8160. Dated Jubbulpore, October 26, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION, to the SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that, on the receipt of your letter, No. C—378, dated the 1st October, calling for an early general report on the agricultural prospects of each district of this Division, I asked all the Deputy Commissioners of the Division to send me in such a report, if possible, by the 12th instant.

2. I have only received replies as yet from the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Seoni. Copies of their reports,\* as noted below, are submitted herewith. I also submit a copy of my letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore (No. 8123, dated the 24th instant), containing some observations on his report.

3. Considerable distress already exists in the Jubbulpore district, and the autumn harvest is a poor one in the eight circles mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner. These are the eight circles in which suspensions of revenue were granted this year. Four of these are in the Murwara Tahsil and comprise the whole of that tahsil, two are in the Sehora, and two in the Jubbulpore Tahsil. It is expected that a large portion of the rabi area will remain unsown, and I am of opinion that we shall have to deal with severe scarcity over the greater part of this district. The scarcity will last until the next autumn crops are reaped, unless rain falls immediately so as to permit of the rabi area being sown.

4. In Saugor the kodo crop is very poor, but juari and rice are estimated to yield an 8-anna crop all round, so that the people have something to live upon at present. Rabi prospects are exceedingly gloomy, and a large area will remain unsown unless there is an early fall of rain. If there is not, there will be severe scarcity in this district also before long.

5. In Seoni, kodo has failed on high-lying lands, and the rice growing tracts have suffered from the untimely cessation of rain. The rabi crop will be short unless rain falls soon. The Deputy Commissioner apprehends distress in a large portion of the Lakhnadon tahsil and in the rice growing tracts of Ugli and Barghat. The information on which I have to base an opinion is meagre, but I think that there must soon be much distress in the Lakhnadon tahsil, which may deepen into severe scarcity a few months hence.

6. I have just returned from holding sessions at Mandla. Kodo and rice in high-lying lands have failed extensively, and there is now distress in the hilly tracts which will, in my opinion, rapidly develop into scarcity. The scarcity will widen and increase in intensity unless rain falls soon and permits of larger sowings of the rabi area.

---

(1) No. 8268, dated the 21st October 1896, from the Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore, with copy of enclosure.

(2) No. 2880, dated the 14th October 1896, from the Deputy Commissioner, Saugor, with two lists of possible relief works.

(3) No. 2825, dated the 13th October 1896, from the Deputy Commissioner, Seon.

7. As already stated, I have not yet received a report from the Deputy Commissioner of Damoh, but the condition of this district will probably be much the same as that of the affected parts of Jubbulpore, except that there may be an 8-anna crop of juari as in Saugor.

8. On the whole, prospects in the division, generally, are very unfavourable, and I consider that extensive measures of relief will be necessary. I cannot report on these in detail until I have consulted with the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Damoh, and Mandla, and the Executive Engineer. I have asked the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor, Damoh, and Mandla to come into Jubbulpore on the 2nd November to confer on the steps to be taken. I have not called in the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni, as Mr. Maw, who should have taken charge of the district by this time, is a junior officer who has no knowledge of the district, and it seems useless to call him in. I recommend, however, that in order to meet the apprehended distress in the Lakhnadon Tahsil, the Executive Engineer, Plateau Division, should be instructed (1) to complete the road from Lakhnadon to Kahani, the earthwork of which was taken up this year, and (2) to take up the section from Kahani to Ghansore. The work might be done (for the present at least) on ordinary contract terms, and I would recommend that it be put in hand at once; employment being given to all who apply for it.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,  
Commissioner.

No. 8268, dated the 21st October 1896.

From A. C. DUFF, Esq., I.C.S., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE,  
to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Secretariat letter, No. C. 378, dated the 1st October 1896, forwarded under your endorsement, No. 7525, dated 3rd October, and to report, in reply, as follows:—

2. The evil from which we are suffering being want of moisture in the soil, difficulty and distress will be experienced in the eight\* circles in which the bulk of the crop is grown on unembanked lands. In the other five† circles where there is a large preponderance of embanked land the kharif will be a fair one, and there will be little difficulty about rabi sowings.

3. I had before the receipt of these instructions deputed my superintendent of land records to make a rapid tour through these eight circles and to report the state of affairs and the prospects in each of them. After personal inspection on the spot, I beg to annex to this letter a copy of the reports which he has now sent in.

4. It will be seen that it is not anticipated that pressure will be severely felt before the 1st of December. In this opinion all my Tahsildars concur, and I myself accept it as correct. I think we should be prepared to start our relief works by that date.

5. The area most affected will be the Murwara Tahsil. There is very little embanked land here, and the people depend very largely on the kodo and kutki crops of the kharif harvest. These, as you are aware, were very unsatisfactory last year, and the reports show that they will be no better this year.

There is never much rabi cultivation in this tahsil, and when the rains come to a premature termination, as in 1895 and again in 1896, there is hardly any. I visited Murwara the other day and drew up, with the Tahsildar, a list of works for this tahsil. I beg to enclose a copy. Of these, No. 2 and No. 3 should be carried out by the Public Works Department, and the other works should be done under tahsil supervision—on which point I shall have something to say further on.

° Kundum	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Bargi	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Umria	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Behriband	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Bilheri	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Barhi	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Bijernagorh	-	-	-	} Murwara Tahsil.
Barwara	-	-	-	} Murwara Tahsil.

† Patan	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Panagar	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Shahpura	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Majholi	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Majhgawan	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.

6. Outside the Murwara Tahsil with its four circles there are four others too, *i.e.*, Umaria and Bobriband in the Sehora Tahsil and Bargi and Kundum in the Jubbulpore Tahsil, where distress will be felt and help will be necessary. I beg to enclose two lists showing the works which I propose to open in these tahsils. Details are not given of proposed expenditure on each work, as I am anxious not to delay further this report, which is already overdue.

7. A question of great importance is how are all these works to be properly supervised so as to ensure the money being used for the relief of starving people. One officer or official of some standing should be placed in charge of the works going on in each tahsil, at all events—I think there ought to be two for the Murwara Tahsil—and each individual work must be supervised by some competent subordinate. The pressure of court work at head-quarters is so great that it is most difficult to set apart the services of even one assistant for the supervision of relief works, and the Tahsildars and Naibs cannot be in all parts of their tahsils at once, and at the same time carry on their current duties. At the same time it is imperatively necessary to ensure that the money expended by Government is not misspent and diverted into channels for which it is not intended. Would it not be possible, at so exceptional a time as this, to suspend the normal duties of the land record staff and to use the Patwaris, wherever works were started in their circles, as supervisors under the control of their revenue inspectors, and to employ both the superintendent and assistant superintendent of land records as superintending officers? If the principle were sanctioned, a scheme could easily be drawn out.

#### Relief Works proposed for the Jubbulpore Tahsil.

- A. *For Kundum.*—(1) Improving the Baghraj tank (which will be useful for irrigation purposes also);  
 (2) Opening the Khamaria-Baghraji road for earth and muram work;\*  
 (3) Improving the Padaria tank (much used by people on the Kundum road, and by cattle);  
 (4) Also improving the Barela; and  
 (5) Padwar tanks.
- B. *For Bargi.*—(1) Finishing the Bargi-Kutkahi road, earthwork for a part of which was done in May and June last. Muram can also be collected and spread over this;  
 (2) Opening Barela-Bargi road (earthwork only);  
 (3) Improving the village road from Chargawan *via* Gangai-Bijori to Ghansore.
- Shahpura Circle.*—(4) Earthwork from Shahpura to Mirganj.

#### List of Relief Works proposed for the Sihora Tahsil.

Number.	Name of Village.	Particulars.	Remarks.
1	Dharsani - -	Repairing the road from Darshani to Katangi <i>via</i> Majholi.	To be done by Public Works Department.
2	Khitola - -	Collecting muram on the Khitola-Silondi road, and spreading gitti worth about 1,500 rupees, already collected.	
3	Umaria - -	Repairing Umaria Sleemenabad road.	
4	Ditto - -	Deepening the tank at Umaria - - - - -	This tank dries up in hot weather.
5	Paharwa - -	Deepening the tank at mauza Paharwa, near Kham-tara.	
6	Bakal - -	Deepening the tank close to encamping ground at mauza Bakal.	
7	Dhanwali - -	Deepening the tank at Dhanwahi, which lies between the villages of Majholi and Indrana.	This tank dries up in hot weather.
8	Dhakarwara - -	Deepening the tank at Dhakarwara, which is near mauza Majgawan.	

\* This to be done by Public Works Department.



## LIST of Relief Works proposed for the Murwara Tahsil.

Number.	Name of Work.	Miles.	Estimated Amount of Expenditure.	Remarks.
			<i>Rs.</i>	
1	Katcha road from Bhartala to Bilehri.	15	1,500	In this part of the district the crops are very bad. Though railway work is going on, yet the inhabitants of this tahsil derive little benefit, inasmuch as the said department does not employ such men as are weak and old, and therefore it will be necessary to open relief work here.
2	Pakka (Class II.) road from Bilehri to Jhinhri up to the Mirzapur road.	5	1,500	Ditto - - ditto.
3	Pakka (Class II.) road from Piprod on the Mirzapur road to Newar Railway Station.	4	1,200	The traffic will thrive by this road, and the poor maintained.
4	Katcha road from Newar to Deori-Hatai.	9	900	Necessary for the maintenance of the poor of this part of the tahsil.
5	Katcha road from Deori-Hatai to Barmorad.	7	700	Ditto - - ditto.
6	Katcha road from Barwara to Bhursa.	10	1,000	Ditto - - ditto.
7	Katcha road from Bhursa to Wilayat.	8	800	As on No. 6.
8	Katcha road from Barhi to Gair-Talai.	7	700	Ditto.
9	Katcha road from Gair-Talai to Keri-Talai.	12	800	Ditto.
10	Katcha road from Jakohi to Bijeragogarh.	14	1,400	The people of this part mostly live on daily labour. The road for about four miles lies within the Uchhera State, and the arrangement for this portion should therefore be made by that State.
	Total - - -	91	10,500	

## A STATEMENT in brief showing the Out-turn of the Kharif Crops and the Condition of the People.

## UMARIA CIRCLE.

It consists one-third of Haveli and two-thirds of hilly tracts. The kharif crops over the former are good, and in the latter unsatisfactory.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.	Rice.	Cotton.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	2	fair	2	6	fair.

*Rabi Sowing.*—Half of the land will not be sown, especially tagar and dofasi land.

*Condition of the People.*—Fair. Labouring classes of people will find work for about three months in the adjoining villages, where there is good embanked land. But after this period they will also be in a position to require help from Government; as compared with the other seven hilly circles, this circle is by far the best in respect of the condition of people and crops.

## BARGI CIRCLE.

In this circle there are 120 villages in the Haveli and 145 hilly. In the Haveli the prospects are fair, and in the hilly portion very unsatisfactory. The all-round out-turn of the kharif crop can be estimated to be about six annas.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Rice.	Cotton.	Til.	Juar.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	2	7	10	6	fair.

*Rabi Sowing.*—About six annas of the land will not be sown with any crop this year.

*Condition of the People.*—The condition of the middle classes of people is fair. But the labourers and inferior kind of tenants located in the hilly tract are in great trouble, and therefore relief works may be opened after two months. At present the invalid and incapacitated people are in great difficulty and trouble about finding their daily food.

#### BELEHRI CIRCLE.

This is a kharif-growing tract. It has materially suffered for want of rains in September. The all-round out-turn will be about six annas.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.	Rice.	Cotton.
Out-turn in annas . . . .	6	Nil	fair	Nil	6	8

*Rabi Sowing.*—A greater portion of this land, especially tagar and dofasli land, will be left unsown.

*Condition of the People.*—The poor-house at Murwara maintains some people, whilst a railway line gives work to all who stand in need of it. No new relief work is required to be opened in this circle. But the railway authority should be impressed that the people of this portion are properly given work.

#### BIJERAGOGARH CIRCLE.

This is a hilly tract consisting of inferior kind of soil.

The principal crops are rice, kodo and kutki, which have suffered much for want of rain. The all-round average out-turn is estimated to be six annas.

#### *Kharif.*

	Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.	Cotton.
Out-turn in annas . . . .	6	6	Nil	16	2	10

*Rabi Sowing.*—About six annas out of the land reserved for the rabi crop will be sown, the rest will not be sown on account of the hardness of the soil, as in this a greater portion of the land is tagar.

*Condition of the People.*—The condition of the people, especially of the labourers and of the lower kinds of tenants, is not satisfactory. For about two months they can with difficulty maintain themselves. Relief works after that period need be opened in this circle.

#### BARHI CIRCLE.

This is also a kharif-growing circle.

It rained slightly throughout the circle in the month of September, with, however, very little advantage to the crops. The all-round out-turn can be estimated to be about six annas.

	Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.
Out-turn in annas . . . .	6	6	Nil	10	3

*Rabi Sowing.*—About 10 annas of the land will not be sown with the rabi crop this year.

*Condition of the People.*—The condition of the poor classes of people is not satisfactory. After two months they should be provided with relief work. The people who are in bad health find it very difficult to maintain themselves.

## BARWARA CIRCLE.

This circle was sown with kharif crops as usual. But the rains in the month of September did not do any good to the crops, which are drying up for want of rain. The all-round out-turn is six annas.

	Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	5	Nil.	12	2

*Rabi Sowing.*—About half the area will not be sown this year for want of moisture in the tagar land.

*Condition of the People.*—Harvesting and sowing operations will give food to the labourers and poor tenants for about two months; after that period some kind of relief-work should be opened. It is imperative that the blind and the weak persons should be maintained.

## BOHRIBAN CIRCLE.

This is a rice-growing circle. There was no rain in September. The kharif crops suffered much. The average out-turn can be estimated to be about five annas for the whole circle.

	Kodo.	Rice.	Kutki.	Til.	Juar.
Out-turn in annas - - -	5	5	Nil.	fair.	8

*Rabi Sowing.*—A greater portion of the tagar land and almost all the dofasli land will become fallow this year. Out of the whole area under the rabi crop only six annas will be sown.

*Condition of the People.*—The middle class of people will be able to maintain themselves independently of any aid from the Government, but the poorer and the labouring classes will stand in need of such help after six weeks. The worn out people at the present date stand in need of succour.

## KUNDUM CIRCLE.

This is the most hilly circle in the district, and last of all in point of produce. The kharif is the principal crop grown there, which has considerably suffered in consequence of there having been no rains late in September. The all-round average out turn is estimated at 5 annas.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Til.	Juar.	Re.
Out-turn in annas - - -	5	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5

*Rabi Sowing.*—One fourth of the land allotted for this crop will be sown this year. The remaining three-fourths cannot be sown on account of the hardness of the soil.

*Condition of the People.*—It is very miserable. The people have already commenced eating the roots and fruits of plants in this circle. Some kind of work should be opened after six weeks.

No. 2880. Dated Saugor, October 14, 1896.

From COLONEL T. W. HOGG, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SAUGOR, to the  
COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

I have the honour to reply to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Second Secretary to Chief Commissioner's letter No. C-378 of 1st instant, received under your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd idem.

Para. 1. *Agricultural Prospects of the District.*—The monsoon began timely, and the rainfall continued favourable till the end of August, except to the til crop, the sowing of which was impeded to some extent. The area under juar has expanded by about 35 per cent. over that of last year. Cotton has also approximately increased by 15 per cent., and the areas under til, kodon and rice have similarly extended by about 5 per cent.

The reason of the continued expansion of the kharif area is to be found in the difficulty for the provision of rabi seed-grain, and in the desire to obtain an early food supply.

The cessation of the rains from the beginning of September has been more or less fatal to all these crops. The following table will show the estimated out-turn of each of these crops in each Revenue Inspector's circle in the district:—

Circles.	Juar.	Til.	Kodon.	Rice.	Cotton.	Remarks.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Naraoli - -	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 3 0	0 9 0	0 10 0	Some rain fell in September in the west portion of the circle. Ditto - north portion - ditto.
Karrapur - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	
Surkhi - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	No rain since the 28th August.
Rahutgarh - -	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 4 0	0 9 0	0 12 0	
Garhola - -	0 6 0	0 11 0	0 3 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	
Etawa - -	0 6 0	0 10 0	0 2 0	0 6 0	0 10 0	September rains in a few villages of Kanjia pargana. No rain since 28th August.
Barodia - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	
Deori - -	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 9 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	Rain in about 50 villages around Deori in September.
Garhakota - -	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	
Gourjhamar - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 11 0	Rain near Gourjhamar.
Binaika - -	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 6 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	Rain in a few villages near Banda in September.
Rurawan - -	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 12 0	Rain in a few villages near Dalpatpur and Shahgarh in September.

The outturn of juari and rice is expected to be eight annas. The til and cotton crops are likely to yield a little more than half, but kodo has fared worst, and its out-turn can only be estimated at five annas at the most on the whole.

Some showers fell in September in about 50 villages around Deori, and in a few villages near Garhakota and Gourjhamar, in the north portion of the Karrapur circle, west of Naraoli; in a few villages in the Etawah circle, and a few near Banda, Dalputpur and Shahgarh in the Banda tahsil. This is the reason of the variation in the outturn estimates. I apprehend that distress is likely to occur in the Khurai tahsil, in the southern part of the Karrapur, and the east of the Naraoli circles, also in the Rahatgarh and Surkhi circles, and in the remaining portions of the Banda and Rehli tahsils. The sowing of grain has been started in some places, but the plants will not be destined to live long if the present drought is prolonged much later. Large areas still remain untilled, though there is still hope that if it rains in the current month, the rabi prospects will revive considerably.

*Measures for Relief.*—Scarcity is general throughout the district. I append two statements giving a list of relief-works which can be taken in hand at any time it is thought desirable to start such works. The roads have been selected after consultation with the Tahsildars and the Sub-Divisional Officer.

Your demi-official, dated the 6th idem, has also been borne in mind.

The Public Works Department roads are substantial, and will afford labour for a long period.

The tahsil roads are petty works, and will afford relief to a large number for short periods.

These roads are not confined to any one part of a tahsil, but are so distributed as to afford relief to all parts of it.

Para. 2. *Crop Experiments.*—Mr. Moss-King, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Jageshwar Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, have been deputed to conduct a substantial number of crop experiments in rice, juari, kodo and other kharif staples. This will be reported later on.

### PUBLIC WORKS ROADS.

#### *Abstract of Proposals.*

	Rs.
Saugor-Rahatgarh road - - - - -	* 47,000
Saugor-Jhansi road - - - - -	* 9,119
Saugor-Cawnpore road (metal collection) - - - - -	* 7,000
Rehli road - - - - -	† 17,000
Kimlasa-Malthone road - - - - -	* 27,000
Deepening Teora tank, say - - - - -	3,000
Moondra to Rahatgarh - - - - -	† 14,400
Khurai to Kimlasa - - - - -	5,000
Feeder-roads, Khurai tahsil - - - - -	† 27,600
Saugor-Cawnpore road, Banda tahsil - - - - -	13,000
Garhakota to Rehli - - - - -	* 7,200
Metalling Garhakota to Patharia (Damoh border) - - - - -	* 7,000
Gourjhamar to Rehli - - - - -	† 15,600

#### *India Midland Railway.*

Saugor-Katni Railway feeders, say to two stations in Saugor district and five miles long, at 1,200 per mile - - - - -	† 12,000
Saugor-Kareli road - - - - -	* 15,000
Total - - - - -	2,26,919

Roads marked \* can be begun as soon as orders are received, but all the others will require from a fortnight to two months for preparation of plans and estimates. Those marked † are roads to be surveyed.

### LIST OF RELIEF-WORKS PROPOSED IN SAUGOR DISTRICT.

#### *Saugor Tahsil—*

- Roads (1) Saugor to Rehli *via* Dhana and Baroda, 24 miles.
- (2) Saugor to Jaisinghnagar and thence to Rahatgarh, 39 miles.
- (3) Saugor to Sihora-Rahatgarh and up to border of Bophal State, 25 miles.
- (4) Saugor to Bilera and thence to Jaisinghnagar, 22 miles.
- (5) From Barodia-Naonagar to Rahatgarh *via* Jhella, 10 miles.

#### *Khurai Tahsil—*

- Roads (1) Khurai to Etawah, 15 miles.
- (2) Khurai to Khimlassa, 12 miles.
- (3) Deepening of tank (Teora) on the Khimlassa road.
- (4) Khurai-Jhansi road from Bandri up to Karangarh, 29 miles.
- (5) Khurai to Rahatgarh *via* Barodia Naonagar, 12 miles.

#### *Banda Tahsil—*

- Roads (1) From Bandri to Barodia, 15 miles.
- (2) From Banda to Bara, 15 miles.
- (3) Banda to Binaika, 9 miles.

*Rehli Tahsil--*

- Roads (1) Garhakota to Rehli, 10 miles.  
 (2) Rehli to Deori, 21 miles.  
 (3) Rehli *via* Baheria to Gourjhamar, 13 miles.  
 (4) Rehli to the boundary of Rehli tahsil, 10 miles.

*Village tracks—*

- (1) Garhakota to Baleh, nine miles.  
 (2) Burpani to Baleh, six miles.  
 (3) Baleh to Chirari, thence to Mohli *via* Burpani, Pipla, Singhpur, Baroda to Mahrajpur.

This will relieve all the people in distress of the hilly tracts on the extreme south of this tahsil.

- (4) From Deori *via* Mehka, Sahajpur, Bankori, Tanda, and thence to Nanhi-Deori.  
 (5) Naharmow, Kachhni-Jailpur to Gourjhamar.

This will relieve the western boundary people of this tahsil.

The works on the roads will relieve people in the centre of the tahsil.

No. 2825, dated the 13th October, 1896.

From F. L. J. WILLIAMSON, Esq., I. C. S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SEONI, to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

Your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd current.

In answer to No. C-378, dated the 1st October 1896, from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I. C. S., Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department, Central Provinces, I have the honour to state that I have made arrangements for crop experiments being made as soon as the crops are ready.

The kodo sown on high-lying lands has dried up and the seed has not formed, the kodo sown on the black soil will be ready in about three weeks.

The rice and the juari crop requires from three weeks to a month to mature.

The early crops—kutki, soma and makka—yielded good outturns. These had already been reaped before the orders came. These crops form about six per cent. of the kharif of the district.

Unless rain falls, the distress will, I think, be heaviest at Dhooma, Kedarpoore, Adeygaon, in the Lakhnadon, and in the rice-growing tracts of Ugli and Burghat in the Seoni tahsil.

If rain does not fall, relief works will be found necessary. The Lakhnadon-Kahn road might be continued to Gunsore. This would give work to the Dhooma-Kedarpoore people.

There is still work to be done on the Keolari section of the Mandla road, which would relieve the Ugli and Burghat pargana.

Very little rain has fallen in September; reports have come in of slight rain in the south-west corner by Choori, and in the south-east corner around Aru.

No. 8123. Dated Jubbulpore, October 24, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I. C. S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your No. 8268, dated the 21st instant, reporting on the agricultural prospects, &c., of your district.

2. I shall take an early opportunity of discussing matters with you personally. Meanwhile I would make the following observations:—

- (1.) The report of your Superintendent of Land Records appears to me to indicate that the existing poorhouses are insufficient, and that new centres for gratuitous relief should be opened without delay at Bargi, Barhi, Barwara, Bohriban, and Kundam.
- (2.) I do not think it would do to employ the land record staff in supervising relief works, for it seems clear that they will have to be employed in the duties which devolve on them under the Famine Code. We must, I think, establish before long a system of village inspection, so that the infirms may be looked after. I do not wish to order the preparation of the village register of poor under Article 34 of the Famine Code before it is necessary, but I fear it will become necessary before long. For the present I would open additional centres for gratuitous relief, as suggested in paragraph (1), to which the needy from surrounding villages can be taken.
- (3.) I am disposed to think that the Chief Commissioner should be asked to appoint (a) an additional Assistant Commissioner or selected Extra Assistant Commissioner to the district, who would be in special charge of relief operations under your orders; and (b) an additional tahsildar to each tahsil to supervise the relief operations on the tahsil; some additional naib-tahsildars may also be required to be in immediate charge of relief works, but their number will depend on the distribution of these works between the Public Works Department and the district authorities; and
- (4.) The cost of proposed works in the Murwara tahsil is 10,500 rupees. This will not, I fear, go very far. Prices are high, and with grain at 9 seers the minimum wage for an adult male under the Famine Code is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas. Assuming that the daily wage for 10 relief workers is 1 rupee, and that 3,000 relief labourers are employed in the Murwara tahsil, the daily cost would be 300 rupees, and the monthly cost 9,000 rupees. I do not suppose that 3,000 labourers is an over-estimate of the numbers likely to require employment, say, in January, though it may not be so large at first. I would ask you to consider whether there are any tank projects which might be taken up in this tahsil.

---

No. 8310. Dated Jubbulpore, October 30, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION,  
to the SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL  
PROVINCES.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 8610, dated the 26th instant, I have now the pleasure to submit copies of the reports\* of the Deputy Commissioners of Mandla and Damoh on the agricultural prospects of their districts.

2. The report of the Deputy Commissioner of Mandla is a full one, and I need not add the remarks made in regard to this district in paragraph 6 of my previous letter.

3. The Damoh report gives a more favourable account, as regards the Damoh tahsil at any rate, than that hazarded in paragraph 7 of my previous letter. Prospects in the Hatta tahsil appear to be very gloomy.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,  
Commissioner.

---

\* No. 2439, dated the 26th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner, Mandla, with Enclosure No. 2860, dated the 26th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner, Damoh.

No. 2439. Dated Mandla, 26 October, 1896.

From SYED ALAY MOHAMED. Esq., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MANDLA, to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd current, on the Second Secretary's No. C. 378, dated the 1st idem, I have the honour to make the following report of this district, and the remedial measures to meet the situation.

2. I may better add, *in limine*, that the report I am going to make depends solely on the general information received by myself and the subordinate district revenue officers, whom I had sent out to make a tour in different portions (*vide* my letter No. 2312, dated the 7th instant), and I cannot support it by statistics. As is known to you, no village papers are prepared in this district since 1888, the land record staff being wholly engaged in survey and ryotwari work. So I am rather handicapped, and am obliged to proceed on "*andazi*," though I assure you no effort has been spared to make that "*andazi*" as accurate as was practicable under the circumstances. So, even where I attempted to give area figures, they are mere approximate ones, and this fact should not be lost sight of in valuing them.

3. With this preface, I beg to state that prospects were very good indeed, and everybody expected a bumper crop till the first week of September, since when the almost complete cessation of rain (\* with the exception of very good rains at Mandla Khas and its immediate neighbourhood, on the 21st September and thereabout) has blasted all hopes, the kharif has been irretrievably ruined, and the prospects of rabi are most gloomy. Of course there is a chance yet for the latter, and if rain comes even within the next three weeks the rabi prospects may much improve. But if no rain comes, and we have a dry November, I don't think that at best more than 33 per cent., or in annas five, and pies four, rabi area will be sown. Of course the outturn of this 33 per cent. will depend on the climatic character of December and following months. So, as far as rabi is concerned, I can't say more than I have said in the last sentence. Agriculturists, quite naturally and rightly, are in a very despondent mood, and their only hope lies in what the Government can do to mitigate the vigour of the impending very severe distress.

4. To take kharif, I have thought it advisable to illustrate our entire position, and the degree of the severity of the distress in each locality, by attaching to this report a plan of the district on a scale of 1" = to eight miles, and giving distinctive colour to the tracts similarly circumstanced.

Besides giving different colours, I have parcelled the district in five portions, approximately representing the five proposed revenue inspectors' circles in the district (I say proposed, because, as said already, revenue inspectors' circles have not yet been formally sanctioned, but I propose fixing these tentatively till I hear the result of my reference about strengthening the patwari and revenue instructors' staff), and I mark these portions A, B, C, D, and E.

5. The tracts in which the distress will be felt most, comprising A, C, and E circles, I colour dark blue. Unfortunately this covers in no way less than two-thirds area of the district, and, to make things worse, is the tract to which we look for two-thirds of our kharif; and to go down still lower, about three-fourths of kodo and kutki, the staple food of the aborigines, of whom Mandla is a stronghold. It consists of three-fourths of Mandla tahsil (Circles A and C) and one-half of Dindori (Circle E). This is the northern and southern part of the district.

6. The second portion, coloured light blue, is the easternmost tract, which runs like a wedge between Rewah on the north and east, and Bilaspur on the south. Here things, speaking comparatively, would not be so very bad as in the first group, *i.e.* to say, slightly better, as it has a greater proportion of rich soil. It is one-fourth of the total area of the district and wholly in Dindori (Circle D).

7. The third bit, consisting of not more than one-twelfth area of the district, coloured yellow, comprises the richest soil in Mandla. One-third of our total rabi area lies in this small tract, though it does not give us more than one-twelfth of our kharif produce.

\* This was practically confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Mandla Khas, to a radius of about five miles round it. It benefited this portion, no doubt.



Here kharif is about five annas as a whole, but, considering the small proportion it bears to the total kharif area, it cannot avail much, not to mention that even in itself it is not good.

8. To show in statement form the extent of the failure of kharif in each of these three differently coloured groups, and the relative value of each of them as a kharif and rabi produce, I attach the following table:—

NAME OF DIVISION.	Proportion of the Total Area Covered.	Proportion of the Kharif Area in the Tract to the Total Kharif Area in the District.	Proportion of the Rabi Land in the Tract to the Total Rabi Area in the District.	Average Estimated Outturn of Principal Kharif Crops.			REMARKS.
				Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	
A, C, and E.		Acres.	Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Lakhanpur Cheolia, Narayan Ganj, Mukas, Newas, Shahpur, Shahpura, Anjanis, Ghugri Bichia, Chapartala, and Mawae side	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$ or 249,064	$\frac{1}{3}$ or 76,654	0 4 0	0 1 0	—	I am sorry I cannot give the area under each crop in each of these groups.
D.							
Bandor, Bajak, Karanjia and Baiga Reserve side.	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ or 93,399	$\frac{2}{3}$ or 25,551	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	
B.							
Baja, Boria, Subharia-Pindrae, and Niwari side	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ or 31,133	$\frac{2}{3}$ or 51,113	0 6 0	0 5 0	0 3 0	
TOTAL		373,596	153,318				

This shows that kutki has been almost completely annihilated throughout the district. It is sown in the latter part of August, and since then rains have practically ceased altogether. Of the total kharif area, this crop covers about one-eighth, or two annas.

Kodo, the most important kharif crop, the mainstay of the aborigines, yields only one, four, and five annas respectively in the three differently coloured groups, which means it is one anna only in the portion covering two-thirds of the district. Kodo in a normal year occupies almost half the kharif area. Its proportion to the entire kharif area is estimated at seven annas. The portions in which it is estimated four and five annas comprise only one-third of the district.

Rice, which forms about four annas (one-fourth) of the kharif, is expected to yield four, four, and six annas respectively in the three differently coloured groups. The remaining kharif portion is taken up by other unimportant crops.

9. The total population of the district is 339,373, of whom 245,022 are those whose staple foods are kodo and kutki, and so the extent of their distress can well be imagined, more especially when the yields of the past three years have been very unsatisfactory, and they have nothing whatever left to fall back upon.

The prospects are therefore very distressing, and if what we are going to have (of course supposing it does not rain within the next two or three weeks) cannot be called a year, certainly we are face to face to something quite next door to it in at least two-thirds of the district.

10. This is the state of things as I find it. In this state of affairs I propose to help those who want work by opening road-construction work, as well as trying to arrange for digging as many tanks as I can.

The roads which I propose will be (1) from Tikiara to Shahpura, a length of about 1.54 miles, which, if made a III.B, will cost about Rs. 1,08,000, calculating at the rate of Rs. 2,000 a mile, the rate given in the road scheme. This will pass through the very heart of the northern portion (A and E) of the seriously distressed tract, and will afford sufficient employment for people of that part. This I propose should be done by the Public Works Department; (2) Bichia *via* Roghut-Bamni to Bajak, a distance of about 60 miles, and costing Rs. 1,20,000 at the above rate. This will traverse right through C, the southern portion of the seriously affected area, and pass on to portion to D (light blue), affording employment to people of these tracts. It is there that the Baiga colony is, and this will be specially useful for them. Thus it will serve portions C and D. Of course I would be glad to have this done, but if it cannot be done, I can manage it

with two naib-tahsildars and a professional overseer to guide them; but the Public Works Department must align the road and help the revenue officials by professional advice every now and then; (3 and 4) besides, I would like the Public Works Department work to go on the Dindori-Parli and Mandla-Seoni road. These are already in hand. Of these four roads only No. 2 is not on the district road scheme.

To illustrate the position of these four roads with reference to the affected tracts, as well as to others already existing, and proposed roads in the district, I attach a copy of the plan of the district attached to the road scheme. The roads on which I want to have work are shown in blue pencil.

Other lines are road scheme lines, and the references given on the map explain the different colours.

With these works in hand, I think sufficient employment will be available for those who want it, and every work-seeker will have work within a distance of at most 25 miles from his home.

11. Over and above this, tanks—about which necessary information is being collected—will afford employment in the different corners of the district.

12. Besides, we will have to establish not more than four poorhouses, say at Mandla, Piparia (midway between Tikaria and Shahpura), somewhere near Chapartala (on No. 2 road), and perhaps a small one at Bajag.

13. Forests will certainly have to be thrown open for all edible forest produce, and probably grazing, too, will have to be made free in most part of the district.

I am writing about these measures in rather general terms, as I think very detailed and absolutely final schemes are not wanted yet, and what is required for this report is a general outline.

14. This is also why I don't say anything about realisation, suspension, or remission of revenue or other Government dues relating to kharif and rabi, though we shall have to confront the question of realisation of kharif revenue about a couple of months hence.

---

No. 2860. Dated Damoh, October 26, 1896.

From L. A. G. CLARKE, Esq., I.C.S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DAMOH,  
to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd October 1896, to Chief Commissioner's letter No. C. 378, dated the 1st October 1896, I beg to submit the following report:—

The rainfall of the district up till nearly the end of August was good, and the crops were considered in a prosperous condition. A long break at the end of August and beginning of September did some damage. But rain, which fell between September 14th and 20th in parts of the district, mended matters to a certain extent. This rain fell in about 400 villages, which cover an area of about 1,25,000 acres. Out of the 400 villages, 250 are situated round the Damoh town within a distance of five miles towards north and east, and 12 or 13 miles towards south and west, 40 villages are towards Mala, 50 towards Tendukhera and Taradehi, 30 near Tejgarh, and a few more are here and there in the district. Besides these villages, about 150 villages lying in different localities got a slight rainfall, which was of no benefit to them. About 800 villages, which lie mostly in the Hatta tahsil, had no rain. In the Hatta tahsil there seems to have been hardly any rain.

2. As to the outturns of the crops, juar and rice are expected to be best. Juar and rice are estimated at 9 and 10 annas respectively. Kodo-kutki is estimated at 8 annas. Kodo-kutki, rice, mung, and urad have failed in about 400 villages, where the outturns of each crop is put at 4 annas, or less. Juar is thriving everywhere, except in villages on the Saugor border, where the soil is poor. Inferior crops such as samai, bajra, &c., which were reaped on September 15th, have yielded a full outturn. But, unfortunately, the cultivators have not been allowed to possess them in quietness, as some persons who were in distress have raided the fields at night, and stole grain. On the whole, in spite of the small rainfall of September, prospects for the kharif harvest are much better than they were last year.

I am enquiring as to where the 400 villages are where rice and kodo are said to have failed, and shall try to visit as many of these as I can. I should imagine that most of them will be in the Hatta tahsil.

I am sorry that this report has been so delayed. The reason is that no reports arrived from the revenue inspectors in the Hatta tahsil. I sent two reminders to them, but have heard nothing yet from them. I shall call on them for explanations as to why they have made this delay. I have obtained my information as to the state of the crops, &c., from the revenue inspectors of the Damo tahsil, and the patwaris, who came here a little while ago to make tracings of forest boundaries. The result is that my information about the prospects in the Hatta tahsil is small at present. I shall have reports sent in by the revenue inspectors there as quickly as possible. Next Thursday I am visiting Hatta, and will try to find out all I can there about the crops.

---

No. 4951 A. Dated Nagpur, December 11, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to reply as follows to your letters, in which you review the agricultural prospects of the several districts of your division, and submit preliminary estimates of the amounts which will probably be required for the relief of distress before the 31st March next. Early in November the Chief Commissioner had an opportunity, when at Jubbulpore, of discussing the situation with you and some of the local officers, and he authorised you at that time to take whatever measures you might deem necessary for effectively dealing with the situation, and placed at your disposal, as a preliminary allotment for relief purposes, a sum of two lakhs of rupees. He has also from time to time sanctioned the several detailed proposals you have sent up for each district. The issue of general orders was, however, deferred, to allow of a complete scheme of larger relief works for your division to be prepared and sanctioned. This has now been done.

2. The distress which is anticipated in your division is mainly due to a very poor kharif harvest, following on two years of agricultural failure. In three districts—Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh—the rabi crops of the last three years have been very poor, and the kharif crops of last year were little better. A good deal of suffering resulted from these past failures, and various measures of relief have been found necessary, and carried out in the years 1894, 1895, and 1896. This suffering will be greatly intensified by the comparative failure of the present kharif crop, which is the main support of the poorer classes in all these districts. In Mandla, which is essentially a kharif district, the chief food of the poorer classes being kodi and kutki, the kharif crops of last year (1895-96) were poor, and the kodo crop of the current year has been an entire failure. The yield of rice has also been very scanty, and much of the late-sown rice was left standing, the cut-turn not repaying the labour of cutting it.

Similarly, in Seoni, where last year's crops were bad, kodo has been in the present year an utter failure, and juar has yielded little or nothing except in the richer soils. In both these districts, especially in Mandla, the bulk of the population in the affected tracts are, even in ordinary times, very poor, and have no resources to fall back upon. As soon as their scanty autumn harvests are consumed there must be widespread distress among them, and this will continue and extend until the early crops of the next monsoon season are reaped. As regards the prospects of the coming rabi crops, the recent rain has improved prospects in all districts except Saugor, where the area sown has been very greatly restricted, and where the rain was very partial and scanty. In the other four districts, not only were the seedlings benefited, but further sowings were rendered possible, and these are, it is reported, still being carried on in the Mandla district. Even, however, in the event of a good rabi harvest, the situation in the affected tracts will not be materially affected. The population of these areas is, as has been already observed, chiefly dependent on the autumn crops, and the chief benefit to them of a good rabi out-turn will be the resulting cheapening in price of food grains. This is, no doubt, a considerable benefit; but to take advantage even of cheaper prices there must be money to pay for what is wanted, and as the autumn crops have yielded no

surplus, money will not be available. To meet these circumstances relief works on a large scale will be necessary, and the numbers for which work will have to be provided will increase as the season goes on. These works will have to be supplemented by gratuitous relief, and the Chief Commissioner, as at present advised, is of opinion that it is only by the exercise of great care and method in the present earlier stages of distress that you and your officers will be able to deal successfully with the much larger relief operations which will have to be carried out in the spring and summer months of the coming year.

3. I am now to deal with the situation in each district, and to discuss the measures which have been proposed in each case to meet the anticipated distress. In Jubbulpore the parts of the district which are most seriously affected by the present scarcity are the Murwara tahsil in the north, parts of the Sehora tahsil in the east, and the tracts of hill and forest country lying along the Seoni and Mandla borders to the south. Rice here has yielded from four to six annas, and kodo and kutki from three to seven. There is already a good deal of suffering in these areas, and this will increase with each succeeding month.

As regards the provision of labour, a scheme of road work has been drawn up by the chief engineer, in consultation with yourself and the Deputy Commissioner, which will give work in all the tracts likely to be affected. The proposed expenditure on these roads up to the 31st March 1897 is 99,600 rupees, but neither in this nor in the other districts of your division should you consider that you are limited to this expenditure, if the subsequent development of events should show that the numbers in want of work are greater than the scheme provides for. The greater part of these works will consist in the collection of road metal, and efforts should be made to concentrate work, so far as this may be possible, without taking people too far from their homes. This will enable you to make supervision much more effective.

Regarding local works, you have not yet submitted detailed proposals. The Chief Commissioner understands that there is some scope for tank work in the large rice area of this district, although he has been informed by the Deputy Commissioner that most of the irrigable land has already been provided with a water supply. He is prepared to grant takavi loans to any malguzars who are willing to do such work. If they are unwilling to take such loans, the works might be carried out from famine funds. The whole question of local works needs your early and careful consideration, and you should also consider whether forest roads might not be constructed in the wilder parts of the district and utilised as famine works. A beginning in this direction has, as Mr. Lyall is aware, already been made; but more is probably possible.

To provide gratuitous relief you have continued and enlarged the poorhouses at Jubbulpore, Sehora, and Murwara, which have been working with smaller numbers throughout the less acute distress of 1895 and 1896, and have also arranged for the establishment of "relief centres" at 13 places within the affected area. The object of these centres is to relieve starving wanderers by the provision of food, and, by arranging for local labour of a not too arduous kind in the immediate neighbourhood of each centre, to enable such of these as have, owing to hunger and weakness, been rendered temporarily incapable of work, to regain their strength. As soon as they are considered strong enough, they will be sent on to the nearest large relief work under the management of the Public Works Department. You estimate the probable expenditure on poorhouses and children's kitchens at 15,000 rupees, and on relief centres, including a portion of the estimated expenditure under "Miscellaneous," which rightly comes under this head, at, say, 20,000 rupees. I am to observe, as regards relief centres, that great care will be necessary to prevent their being used by the healthy and able-bodied as a means of getting sufficient food without the necessity of hard labour. The circle inspector, the patwari, and the local committee, must be carefully instructed as to the class of persons who are intended to be relieved at these centres, and each centre must be inspected, as frequently as possible, by responsible officers, with a view to securing that all who are capable of regular taskwork are drafted off to regular labour under the Public Works Department. The Chief Commissioner has recently issued detailed instructions on the subject of these centres, and these should have the careful attention of all your officers.

4. In Saugor the three chief kharif grains (rice, kodo-kutki and juar) yielded badly, the out-turn of kodo and kutki having been only two annas. Some 70 per cent. of the normal rabi area is reported still to be unsown, and, owing to the partial and scanty character of the recent rain here, prospects, even on this greatly restricted area, are not good. Th

tracts where most distress is anticipated are said to be the areas of poor land, consisting largely of hill and forest, which lie along the northern and western borders of the district. You also anticipate distress in the extreme south. Past years have, however, been so bad in this district, and the resources of all classes have been so drained by repeated calamities of season, that the Chief Commissioner fears that there is scarcely any portion of this district that will escape distress, and it seems probable that relief measures will have to be organised here on a very extensive scale.

As regards works, a list of ten large road works has been drawn up by the chief engineer, in consultation with yourself and the Deputy Commissioner, and the scheme has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. The estimated expenditure on these roads up to 31st March 1897 is 1,05,450 rupees, and the work will consist chiefly in the collection and breaking of road-metal and, to a less extent, in earthwork. You are authorised to order any or all of these works to be started as a relief work as the necessity for each arises.

There appears to be but slight scope for small works in this district, and care must be taken that the large works are sufficiently numerous and accessible to provide labour for all those who need it.

As regards gratuitous relief, you propose to open relief centres as in Jubbulpore, and to have poorhouses at all tahsil head-quarters (these have already been opened), and you estimate 30,000 rupees as the probable expenditure under these heads. The Chief Commissioner much doubts whether this sum will be sufficient even up to the end of March. He fears, from all he has heard, that the population of this district has been so much reduced by repeated bad seasons that there are large numbers of people who will be found incapable, until they have been fed and looked after for a time, of any but the lightest labour, and he anticipates that you will probably find it necessary, before long, to organise village relief. Your estimate is admittedly a purely provisional one, and you must not hesitate to exceed it if circumstances, which have become distinctly more unfavourable since you wrote your letters of the 26th October and 7th November last, should make this advisable.

5. In Damoh the kharif harvest in the Damoh tahsil was somewhat better than that of last year; but in Hatta it was very poor, being estimated at three annas for rice, five annas for juar, and two annas for kodo and kutki. Last year's kharif and rabi were also bad in this district, and the area put under rabi in the current year has consequently been considerably restricted. But though the recent rain was not sufficient to enable fresh sowings to be put in hand, it was of great benefit to the seedlings, and the present prospects of the standing crops are good. As regards the areas affected by scarcity in this district, it is expected that distress will be most severe in the south-west, north, and north-west of the district, the central portion being, so far, in not very distressed circumstances. As regards relief works, the Public Works Department scheme, which has now been sanctioned, provides for five lengths of road work, the estimated expenditure on which up to the 31st March 1897 is 49,800 rupees. There is, however, little scope for road work in the southern part of the district; the main road to Jubbulpore and the Patna-Tendukhera roads being the only works here on which expenditure is provided for. Moreover, it has been stated by the Deputy Commissioner that a large proportion of the able-bodied labouring population of this district have gone to work on the Saugor-Katni extension of the Indian Midland Railway, and that those left at home are, for the most part, weakly or aged persons who are generally incapable of hard or sustained work. He suggests, therefore, that numerous local works, chiefly embankment and tank-making, should be arranged for, and that they should be associated with centres for the distribution of gratuitous relief. The present Deputy Commissioner is, however, new to the district, and the Chief Commissioner is not prepared to decide upon the desirability of an extensive scheme of local works here, until he has visited the district, as he is immediately about to do. As at present advised he doubts, however, whether sufficient local works can be found to give employment to the large numbers who will probably require it. This is really the case in the Hatta tahsil, where the distress will probably be most severe.

As regards gratuitous relief, you propose to have three poorhouses at Damoh, Hatta, and Beria, and to supplement these by relief centres, situated generally at the head-quarters of revenue inspectors' circles, throughout the affected tracts. You estimate the expenditure of this nature at 18,000 rupees, but the Chief Commissioner thinks it probable that more than this will be found necessary, if distress is to be effectively dealt with. Looking to the circumstances of the last few years, both here and Saugor, but little can be expected from private charity, and Government must arrange to do what the people are unable to do for each other.

It must, it is true, be remembered that both in Saugor and Damoh some measure of relief has been given to the poorer classes by the opening of the forests for the extraction of edible roots, mohwa, and fruits; but this will be of little or no avail until the coming hot weather. Regarding grazing, no difficulty is at present reported either here or in other districts of your division, though it may be necessary, later on, to open parts of the forests to free grazing for agriculturists.

6. In Seoni the kharif crops were seriously injured by the absence of rain in September and October. Unirrigated rice yielded practically nothing, and kodo, which is the staple crop in the Lakhnadon tahsil, was an utter failure. As regards rabi prospects, a large proportion of the normal area was, in the first instance, left unsown, but the recent rain was fairly general here; sowings were again put in hand, and the prospects of the crops sown are, at present, good. The rabi area is, however, still considerably below that of ordinary years.

It is anticipated that distress will be most severe in the south of the Seoni tahsil, where rice is largely grown, and over about three-fourths of the area of the Lakhnadon tahsil. Here the people depend almost entirely on the kharif crops, chiefly the small millets; past years have been bad, and the cultivators and labourers have no resources to fall back upon.

In the sanctioned Public Works Department scheme of relief works, work on five lengths of road has been provided, the estimated expenditure on these up to 31st March 1897 being 40,000 rupees. The Chief Commissioner understands, however, that there is considerable scope in the south of this district for tank construction in aid of the cultivation of rice, and he is prepared to grant whatever sum may be thought necessary to assist malguzars who may wish to start such work with the aid of land improvement loans. He understands that works of the kind will be most useful, and he desires that the Deputy Commissioner should decide, without delay, where they can be started, and report how and to what extent the necessary funds should be provided.

As regards gratuitous relief, you propose to open poorhouses at the Tahsil headquarters, and here, as elsewhere, to supplement them by relief centres at the chief villages in the affected areas. You estimate the expenditure for these purposes during the current financial year at 3,500 rupees. The Chief Commissioner much doubts whether this sum will be sufficient, and you should apply for a larger grant should you think it necessary.

Here also the forests have been opened for the extraction of roots and fruits, and the concession allowing the extraction of head-loads of wood free of duty in places where there is a local market, has recently been extended for three months.

7. In Mandla kodo and kutki, which are by far the most important crops, have almost entirely failed; while rice, especially that which was sown late, and which occupies three-fourths of the total rice area, was very poor. One-third of the district is normally under rabi, but only one-quarter of this area had, up to the recent rain, been sown. Sowing then began again, and is reported still to be in progress; but the rabi harvest is, in any case, proportionately so small, especially in the area most affected, that it cannot materially change the present situation. The prospects of the rabi seedlings are, however, at present good.

Distress in this district is expected to be general. Last year's crops were poor, and the people are thriftless and without resources of any kind.

The Public Works Department scheme of relief works provides (in addition to two important roads now being constructed by contractors on ordinary terms, which will supply employment for the able-bodied) for four lengths of road, on which the expenditure up to the 31st March 1897 is estimated at 55,650 rupees. You have recently proposed to supplement these by four forest roads, to be carried out as relief works by the Forest Department in the wilder parts of the district. Your proposals on this point have been separately approved. These road works traverse, it is true, most of the affected parts of the district, but the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think, having regard to the difficult and inaccessible character of the country, and the home-keeping disposition of the people, that the distances will in some cases be too great for the workers to travel to them, and he thinks that they should be supplemented, as far as possible, by local tank work, for which the Deputy Commissioner reports that there is considerable scope in Mandla. That officer should complete his inquiries on this subject as soon as possible, and submit detailed proposals showing what work can be done, how funds should be provided, and under what supervision the works are to be carried out.

As regards gratuitous relief, the Deputy Commissioner proposes to have poorhouses at Mandla and Dindori, and to establish relief centres (at present 17 in number

throughout the distressed tracts. The estimated expenditure on gratuitous relief is, including relief wages paid for light work in connection with relief centres, 18,000 rupees, but the Chief Commissioner fears that here, as elsewhere, this will not be sufficient for this district, and will need to be supplemented later on.

The bulk of the population in this district is so backward, and their villages are so scattered and remote, that the efficient relief of the distressed will be a very arduous problem. The Chief Commissioner trusts, however, to the experience and care of the Deputy Commissioner, with the help of your supervision and advice, to deal with the difficulties of the situation.

8. I am further to observe, generally, that while a scheme of Public Works Department works has been completed for all districts, detailed schemes for local works have not yet been prepared. It is of the utmost importance that these should be completed without delay. The civil officers will immediately be relieved of the charge of the larger relief works by the Public Works Department, and their attention should be given to energetically pushing on the preparation and execution of a scheme of such subsidiary works for each district, a statement being submitted showing exactly what it is proposed to do, how funds are to be provided, whether from famine funds or from land improvement loans, and how supervision is to be arranged for. It seems certain that in a short time we shall have to deal with general, and in some cases, severe, distress in nearly all parts of your division, and unless everything is completely organised beforehand district officers will find themselves, when the time comes, unable to provide the relief that is wanted. You should also once more impress on all district officers the imperative necessity of a personal inspection by them of all affected tracts, with especial regard to the proper organisation of relief centres, and the provision of sufficient local work for those who need it. The Chief Commissioner desires that by the middle of January the organisation for the effective relief of distress in all districts should be so complete, that all that will then remain to be done will be to put it into operation.

9. In conclusion, I am to point out that the kharif revenue instalment falls due in the districts of your division on the 1st February next, and under the rules issued under Section 9 of the Tenancy Act ordinary tenants' rents can be legally demanded by the malguzar one month before that date. It is therefore desirable that any proposals which Deputy Commissioners may think necessary for the suspension of the kharif revenue instalment should be formulated without delay, and, after due consideration by you, submitted for the orders of the Chief Commissioner.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,  
Chief Secretary.

---

No. 9233. Dated Jubbulpore, December 3, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION,  
to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, REVENUE  
DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that I recently asked the Deputy Commissioners of this division to submit revised estimates of the kharif outturns of their districts, and also to give me the latest available information regarding rabi prospects. The information was so run up to the 27th ultimo.

2. I have now the honour to submit a summary of the reports received. I also submit copies of the reports\* themselves.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,  
Commissioner.

---

\* Not printed.

SUMMARY of the District Reports on Agricultural Prospects, &c., in the Jubbulpore Division, up to the 27th November 1896.

1. KHARIF OUTTURNS.

The following is the all-round kharif outturn by tahsils as estimated by Deputy Commissioners:—

DISTRICT.	Tahsil.	Anna Estimate.	REMARKS.
		<i>Annas.</i>	
Jubbulpore	Jubbulpore	6	In three out of five circles in this tahsil rabi is more important than kharif.
	Sehora	5½	In two out of four circles rabi is more important than kharif.
	Murwara	3 to 4	Throughout this tahsil the kharif area is three times larger than the rabi area.
Saugor	Saugor	4	In this tahsil about one-third of the cultivated area is kharif and two-thirds rabi.
	Khurai	4	In this tahsil rather more than one-third is kharif and the rest is rabi.
	Rehli	4	In this tahsil kharif covers rather less and rabi covers rather more than one-half cultivated area.
	Banda	4	Kharif predominates in this tahsil, but there is also a large area under rabi.
Damoh	Damoh	6	} About half is kharif and half rabi.
	Hatta	3	
Seoni	Seoni	4½	Information not given by tahsils.
	Lakhnadon	4	In the district the rabi area is larger than the kharif area.
Mandla	Mandla	2½	In this tahsil about two-thirds is kharif and one-third rabi.
	Dindori	3	Much the same as Mandla tahsil.

In all districts the kharif suffered severely owing to the want of rain in September.

**Jubbulpore.** In the Jubbulpore tahsil the estimate varies from less than 4 annas in the Kundum circle to nearly 9 annas in the Patan circle. In the Sehora tahsil it varies from about 4½ annas in the Umaria circle to 7 annas in the Majhgawan circle. In the Murwara tahsil the outturn was uniformly poor. The chief kharif crops in this district are rice and kodo-kutki. The estimate for rice varies from 7 to 10 annas in the Haveli lands, and from about 4 to 6 annas in the more hilly tracts. In these tracts the estimate for kodo-kutki varies from 3 to 7 annas.

**Saugor.** In the Saugor district the all-round outturn was poor in all circles, the highest estimate being 5 annas in the Etawa, Garhakota, and Bineka circles. Juari did fairly well in the district, the estimate being 8 annas; but the estimate for til is only 4 annas, and the kodo-kutki is only 2 annas. These are the three chief kharif crops in this district.

**Damoh.** In the Damoh tahsil the all-round estimate varies from 6 annas in the Tejgarh Mala circles to 9 annas in the Patharia circle. In neither of the two circles of the Patharia tahsil is the estimate higher than 3 annas. Rice, kodo-kutki, and juari are the chief kharif crops in this district. In the Damoh tahsil the estimate for rice (in the two circles taken together) is 9 annas, for juari 8 annas, and for kodo-kutki 4 annas; corresponding estimates in the Hatta tahsil being 3 annas, 5 annas, and 2 annas.

**Seoni.** The Seoni district is under settlement, and estimates by revenue inspectors' circles not available. The Deputy Commissioner writes as follows:—"In 19 villages of the Seoni tahsil, to the south-east of Barghat, the rice was saved by isolated showers in September; the yield for this group on irrigated and unirrigated land together varied from 6 to 12 annas. Irrigated rice gave an outturn varying from 2 to 16 annas, while the unirrigated area produced practically nothing. Very little, if any, rice was sown in Lakhnadon. In both tahsils the juari or barra and sehra soil withered before the formation of the ear; that grown on black soil yielded from 4 to 12 annas. The kodo crop in Lakhnadon was an utter failure."



In this district kodo-kutki is far the most important of the kharif crops, rice taking the second place. The kodo yield was miserably poor throughout the district, the estimate for the whole district being only a little over 2 annas. The estimate for rice is 4½ annas. The failure of kodo-kutki is very serious in a hill district such as Mandla, where it is the staple food of the large aboriginal population. As regards rice, the Deputy Commissioner writes :—“The crop experiment statistics show that the result of early sown crop-cutting brought out an average yield of 8 or 10 annas in certain tracts, but it should not be forgotten that the proportion of early to late sown rice is one to three in the district and the late sown rice was particularly bad ; and it is believed that the yield for more than half the late sown area was so very bad that it was left uncut, it being mere waste of time and labour to cut it.” Mandla.

### 2. Rabi area unsown.

Statistics of the area unsown are not yet available, but estimates of that area have been made by Deputy Commissioners.

In the Haveli portion of the Jubbulpore Tahsil most of the rabi area has been sown and the Deputy Commissioner writes that some fresh sowings were begun in embanked fields after the recent fall of rain on the 22nd November. In the hilly parts of the Jubbulpore Tahsil it is estimated that about one-half or three-fourths of the rabi area is unsown. In the Sehora Tahsil it is estimated that from one-fifth to one-third is unsown, and the estimate for the Murwara Tahsil is two-thirds unsown. Jubbulpore.

Of Saugor Mr. Gajraj Singh, Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of the Settlement Office, Saugor, writing on the 25th November, writes as follows :—“The estimate as regards the area unsown with rabi is a mere guess, and, as owing to the continuous decline of the rabi cultivation the crop equilibrium has been disturbed, it is difficult to know what is meant by the term 16 annas when it is said that only 8 annas has been sown. As far as possible an attempt has been made to secure that the area under rabi last year is taken as the basis of comparison. The result is that about 65 per cent. remains unsown in the Saugor Tahsil, about 75 per cent. in the Khurai and Banda tahsils, and about half in the Rehli Tahsil.” There does not appear to have been sufficient rain in this district to admit of fresh sowings except possibly in the Rehli Tahsil, but Mr. Gajraj Singh writes that where rain has fallen an 8 anna crop may now be expected where a 1 to 4 anna crop only was expected before. Saugor.

In the Damoh Tahsil it is estimated that one-twelfth of the rabi area has remained unsown, and in the Hatta Tahsil one-ninth. But if the Saugor estimates are anywhere near the mark, it would seem that the unsown area in the Damoh District has been much underestimated. Mr. Blakesley has only just taken charge of the district, and all his information is at present second-hand. Damoh.

In the Seoni District the proportion of rabi area left unsown is estimated at 6 annas in the Seoni Tahsil, and at 10 annas in the Lakhnadon Tahsil. Seoni.

In the Mandla District it is supposed that about three-fourths of the Rabi area is unsown. Mandla.

### 3. Prospects of Rabi where sown.

In Jubbulpore it is reported that the recent fall of rain has much improved the prospects of Rabi on the area sown, and a satisfactory outturn is now expected. Jubbulpore.

The Deputy Commissioner of Saugor, Mr. Phillips, who only took charge of the district a few days ago, writes as follows :—“In Saugor only 5 cents were registered, in Khurai only 19 cents, in Banda none at all, and in Rehli 95 cents. The rainfall in the interior of each tahsil appears to have been much the same as the rainfall at its head-quarters. For instance, no rain seems to have fallen in the Banda Tahsil, in the Saugor Tahsil there were only slight showers here and there, in the Khurai Tahsil slightly heavier rain fell than in the Saugor Tahsil, and in some few places there were good showers ; while in the Rehli Tahsil there was good rain in most directions. The Assistant Commissioner was in camp in one direction in that tahsil on Sunday last, and the Forest Officer in another, and both of them met with drenching showers. The latter had a tent standing that day at Surkhi, which is near the border of the Saugor Tahsil. Judging by his experience of the previous day further south, he expected to find it soaked when he got there on Monday. But to his surprise it was dry. In fact the storm seems to have swept across the southern portion of the district in a north-easterly direction, and only the scattered fringes of it touched the Khurai and Saugor tahsils. Saugor.

"I fear, then, that the recent rain has not materially altered prospects, and distress is likely to be very severe in most parts of the district before very long."

**Damoh.** In Damoh the prospects of the Rabi already in the ground have taken a favourable turn in consequence of rain which fell on the 21st and 22nd November; but no fresh sowings have been reported from this district.

**Seoni.** The Deputy Commissioner of Seoni writes as follows:—"The rabi prospects have been materially improved by the rain of the 22nd and 23rd November. There is now every reason to hope for a 14 to 15 anna return on the area sown, and it is hoped that even if it is too late to sow wheat, much of the land now fallow may be taken up for gram and possibly linseed. On the 22nd November 56 cents were registered and on the 23rd, 37."

**Mandla.** The Deputy Commissioner of Mandla writes:—"The rain of Sunday and Monday last (22nd and 23rd November) has put new life into the plants which were withering. But for that the prospects of Rabi were only 6 annas or perhaps less. If things continue favourably, the crop on the ground may yield 10 annas or perhaps a little more."

In a recent telegram the Deputy Commissioner stated that this rain, though very beneficial to standing crops, was not sufficient for fresh sowings.

#### *Prospects of Distress.*

**Jubbulpore** 4. In the Jubbulpore District distress already exists in the hilly parts of the Jubbulpore and Sehora tahsils and throughout the Murwara Tahsil. Recent rain has not benefited the labouring classes, and the distress must become more acute before long.

**Saugor;** In the Saugor District the localities where distress is likely to be most severe are:—

In the Khurai Tahsil—

- (1) The western parganas of Kanjia and Eran.
- (2) The northern border of the tahsil and the Malthone Dogaha pargana.

In the Banda Tahsil—

- (1) The Dhamoni pargana.
- (2) The portion of the Shahgarh pargana below the ghâts.

In the Saugor Tahsil—

- (1) The country along the southern border of the tahsil, viz., Rahatgarh pargana and the hilly portion bordering on foreign territory.

In the Rehli Tahsil—

- (1) The eastern border of the tahsil up to a width of say 10 miles, the Naharmow pargana and the hilly tract of country in the west of the Deori pargana.

**Damoh:** Of the Damoh District the Deputy Commissioner writes that the distress will probably be most severe in the south-western portion of the Damoh Tahsil and in the north and north-western portion of the Hatta Tahsil.

**Seoni.** In the Seoni Tahsil it is reported that the pinch of scarcity is being felt in the Ugli, Barghat and Korai country, where people are described as being entirely dependent on the kharif crops. In Lakhnadon the affected area lies around Kahani, Dhooma and Kedarpur on the east and around the Adegaoon taluka and along the Chindwara border on the west, comprising about three-fourths of the Lakhnadon Tahsil.

**Mandla.** In the Mandla District the affected area extends to about five-sixths of the Mandla Tahsil, and to half of the Dindori Tahsil.

#### *General.*

5. Although the recent rain has done much to improve the Rabi prospects and put <sup>the</sup> cultivators in good heart, it has not altered the situation as regards the labouring clas<sup>ses,</sup> and the measures which are being taken to deal with the expected increase of distress<sup>are</sup> no less necessary now than before.

No. C. 2. Dated Camp, Saugor, December 17, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION,  
to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL  
PROVINCES.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a Summary of information for the month of November, 1896, of matters relating to the relief of distress, &c., in the Jubbulpore Division, for the information of the Chief Commissioner.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,  
Commissioner.

SUMMARY of information for the month of November 1896, of matters relating to the relief of distress, &c., in the Jubbulpore Division.

In the last summary it was stated in regard to agricultural prospects that, owing to the early cessation of the monsoon rainfall, the outlook at the end of October was very gloomy. In my letter, No. 8160, dated the 26th October 1896, reporting on the state of the crops, &c., I referred to the general failure of the kharif harvest and to the largeness of the unsown rabi area, and said: "On the whole prospects in this Division generally are very unfavourable, and I consider that extensive measures of relief will be necessary."

There were local falls of rain about the 22nd November; the effect of this rain was referred to in my letter No. 9233, dated the 3rd December 1896, reporting again on agricultural prospects on the latest available data. I then wrote: "Although the recent rain has done much to improve the rabi prospects and put the cultivators in good heart, it has not altered the situation as regards the labouring classes, and the measures which are being taken to deal with the expected increase of distress are no less necessary now than before."

A conference of such local officers as could be present was held at Jubbulpore on the 3rd November, when the Chief Commissioner was present, and the situation was discussed. The action which followed (in regard to leading points) may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) The Chief Commissioner intimated that he would place a first instalment of two lakhs of rupees at my disposal for famine relief purposes in the Jubbulpore Division.
- (2) On the 7th November, estimates were submitted to the Chief Commissioner, of the probable expenditure on famine relief in each district up to the 31st March 1897. These aggregated 6,15,000 rupees.
- (3) On the 7th November, instructions\* were issued to the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Mandla and Damoh (a) for the establishment, as soon as possible, at selected places in the interior, of relief centres where gratuitous relief would be given to local and wandering paupers unfit for work, and light labour on local works would be provided for those able to work but not fit for regular tasks; and also (b) for the preparation in distressed areas of the village register of poor, prescribed by paragraph 34 of the Central Provinces Famine Code. "The opening of relief centres" it was explained "is intended not to supersede the system of village to village relief prescribed by the Code, but to be a stepping-stone towards its development; while relief is being afforded at the centres to be opened as soon as possible, mukaddams and patwaris will take up the preparation of the village register of poor, so that everything may be in readiness for the extension of the relief system from the centres to be immediately established to the individual village."

\* Similar instructions were subsequently sent to Seoni.

As regards the class of work to be done at relief centres it was said :—

“ The deepening or repairing of village tanks would be one of the most suitable kinds of employment, and persons who are only temporarily incapacitated from earning their own living would be put on such work after they had been fed gratuitously for a time at the relief centres and have become fit for light labour. They would then receive a wage on the Class D scale in return for work done. When fit for harder labour they could be drafted to a relief work where stone-breaking or some such severe form of labour is exacted.”

- (4) On the 10th November the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Damoh and Mandla were informed that under paragraph 137 of the Famine Code, sums of 25,000 rupees, 20,000 rupees, 15,000 rupees, and 15,000 rupees had been allotted to their districts, respectively, for famine expenditure, out of the Divisional grant of two lakhs. A sum of 10,000 rupees was subsequently allotted to the Seoni District.
- (5) A complete list of roads to be taken up as relief works by the Public Works Department, as necessity arises, was prepared for each district. From this list certain roads were subsequently selected, in communication with the Chief Engineer, so as to form a programme of road work to be undertaken in the near future.
- (6) Proposals were entertained and subsequently sanctioned for affording relief to the hill tribes of Mandla (who have been seriously affected by the failure of the kodo harvest) by improving certain forest roads through the agency of the Forest Department.
- (7) The opening of additional poorhouses in the Saugor, Damoh and Mandla Districts was sanctioned.
- (8) Proposals were submitted and subsequently sanctioned for increasing the district and tahsili staffs in Jubbulpore, Mandla and Damoh and more recently in Saugor. Some details will now be given, as usual, regarding individual districts.

#### *Jubbulpore District.*

The price of wheat at the close of the month at head-quarters was  $8\frac{3}{4}$  seers, and of gram  $10\frac{1}{2}$  seers, these prices being slightly higher than those prevailing at the end of October; the price of common rice (9 seers) was unchanged.

The number of labourers employed on various works at the end of each fortnight of the period under report is shown below :—

Fortnight ending	Railway.	Jubbulpore Municipality.	Roads in the Interior.
14 November - - -	2,356	3,005	878
28 November - - -	3,259	2,714	831

Seven relief centres were open towards the end of the month, the number relieved on the 28th November being —

(1) Gratuitously - - - - -	200
(2) On light labour - - - - -	254

The Deputy Commissioner writes (28th November):—“ The harvesting and threshing of the kharif crops have afforded temporary employment to the agricultural labourers, petty grain thefts have decreased; 7 centres have been opened during the week for start relief works and gratuitous relief, and arrangements are being made to start work at other centres where pressure is likely to be felt severely.”

The poorhouse population was as follows :—

Poorhouse.	On 14 November.	On 28 November.
Jubbulpore - - - - -	1,349	1,472
Ditto Church Mission - - -	198	145
Ditto Radha Bai - - - - -	10	9
Sihora - - - - -	341	476
Murwara - - - - -	440	456
Ditto Mission Children - - -	100	105
Total - - - - -	2,438	2,663

In the Jubbulpore poorhouse numbers have fallen away during the month of October from a little over 1,100 to a little over 900. During the first fortnight of November there was a large and sudden influx as shown by the above figures. A census of the inmates taken on the 23rd November gave the following distribution :—

From the Jubbulpore District - - - - -	514
From other Central Provinces Districts* - - - - -	245
Native States - - - - -	371
North-West Provinces - - - - -	71

Gover  
In  
wri

Total - - - - - 1,201

The total of 1,201 seems small ; probably the sick under treatment in hospital were not included in the enumeration.

#### Saugor District.

At the end of November the price of wheat at head-quarters was 7½ seers, and of gram 10 seers.

The number of labourers employed at the close of each fortnight is given below :—

	14 November.	28 November.
Railway - - - - -	6,574	6,286
Saugor, Railway Ganj, at head-quarters - - - - -	573	603
Roads in the interior - - - - -	267	202

The poorhouse population was as follows :—

	14 November.	28 November.
Saugor - - - - -	1,473	1,066
Khurai - - - - -	215	194

The numbers in the Saugor poorhouse fell off suddenly during the week ending the 21st November, but no special explanation of this has been given in the district report for that week, where it is, however, stated that signs of want or emaciation were visible among the very poor.

#### Damoh District.

There has been little change in prices, those ruling at head-quarters at the end of November being—wheat 7½ seers, gram 10½ seers, and common rice 8 seers.

The information relating to the number of labourers engaged in the railway is again very incomplete. In his report for the week ending the 7th November, the Deputy Commissioner stated that “the local people are beginning to come back to the railway to

\* Viz. :—Damoh, 129 ; Narsinghpur, 71 ; Hoshangabad, 19 ; Nagpur, 10 ; Saugor, 9 ; Mandla, 7 ;—Total, 246.

work," and in the report for the week ending the 21st November the number employed is estimated at 15,500, of which, however, only about 50 per cent. are believed to belong to the Damoh District.

The number of persons engaged on the Hatta-Damah road on the 28th November was 146.

The poorhouse figures are as follows:—

	Week ending			
	7 November.	14 November.	21 November.	28 November.
Damoh - - - -	525	489	382	394
Hatta - - - -	100	108	133	145

The decrease in the Damoh poorhouse is misleading if taken to indicate a decrease of starving wanderers in that town; for there are a large number of such persons begging about the town who ought to be in the poorhouse, but prefer to pick up insufficient doles by begging. The only effectual method of dealing with this class of people is to sweep the streets from time to time, as has been done at Jubbulpore, and compel them to come into the poorhouse; if left to themselves they become more and more emaciated, and at last succumb. At Hatta numbers are increasing.

A census of the inmates of the Damoh poorhouse taken to-day (15th September) discloses the following particulars:—

Damoh District - - - - -	220
Other Districts of the Central Provinces - - - - -	22
North-West Provinces - - - - -	14
Native States - - - - -	51
Total - - - - -	307

In his report for the week ending the 7th November the Deputy Commissioner stated that the distress in the district generally was "growing worse."

The northern portion of the district appeared from the reports of the Revenue Inspector to be worse. This is possibly explained by the fact that the north of the district is bordered by Native States, whence many wanderers make their way south. Later information, however, indicates that the condition of the poorest class is as bad in the southern as in the northern portion of the district, and that the further measures of relief now being adopted are very urgently needed. The necessity for a more extensive system of relief has increased very greatly during the month under report. The police reported two deaths from starvation in the first week of November, one in the second week, one in the third, and one in the fourth. A large number of deaths have also been reported as due to sickness combined with privation.

In his report for the week ending the 21st November, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Blakesley, who has recently taken charge, writes:—"Only one death from actual starvation is reported, and some 20 from starvation and other causes, but I suspect that these figures are not very reliable (*i.e.*, are an under-estimate). There is the usual restless tendency to aimless wandering about, which I take to be a physical symptom produced by want, and which resists attempts at any control or restraint even when this is the only hope of saving life. Distress in a more or less acute form is prevalent everywhere, especially in the hilly tracts, *i.e.*, practically everywhere, except in the valley of the Sonar river. The number of beggars seems on the increase. Many petty malguzars and tenants are reduced to the condition of ordinary labourers. The recent rainfall has probably led to a small amount of grain-sowing, which may last for 10 days, but will not be large enough to give substantial relief."

#### *Seoni District.*

Prices have risen a little, wheat being quoted at the end of November at 9½ seers gram and common rice at 9 seers.

The number of persons in the Seoni poorhouse on the 28th of November was 81 in the Lakhnadon poorhouse 36. The parts of the district chiefly affected by the failure of crops are the greater portion of the Lakhnadon Tahsil and the rice-growing tracts Ugli and Barghat.

In this report for the week ending the 28th November the Deputy Commissioner writes (under date the 15th December):—

“The only sign of increasing distress during the week was the occurrence of a case of grain-looting in the Ugli Taluka. . . . Relief works will be started during the current week near Lakhnadon and in Ugli and Barghat. There are 455 people employed on ordinary works under the Public Works Department.”

*Mandla District.*

Price at headquarters on the 28th November were: wheat  $9\frac{1}{2}$  seers, gram 10 seers, and common rice 9 seers.

The number of labourers employed on relief works, and the number fed gratuitously on those works is shown below:—

	Labourers.	Gratuitous.
7th November - - - - -	3,473	60
21st „ - - - - -	3,998	47
28th „ - - - - -	4,276	77

About 100 persons are supported by the Church Mission at Mandla. The opening of Government poorhouses at Mandla and Dindori has been sanctioned.

In his report for the week ending the 28th November the Deputy Commissioner writes:—

“The scanty yield of the last harvest will soon be consumed, and people will then flock to the works. The figures show already an increased tendency. No report has reached me of any death due directly to starvation, though it is believed that some may have been accelerated by it.”

*General.*

On the 20th November Mr. Blakesley assumed charge of the Damoh District from Mr. Clarke, a junior officer, who has been placed in temporary charge in succession to the late Mr. Burn. On the 25th November, Mr. Phillips took charge of the Saugor District on the retirement of Colonel Hogg. On the 27th November, Mr. Fox-Strangways assumed charge of the Seoni District from Mr. Williamson, who had held temporary charge since the 20th September.

Diary No. 380 F.

No. C.-100. Dated Seoni, January 15, 1897.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statements A. and B. prescribed by Section 16, IV.—VII. of the Central Provinces Famine Code for the districts of the Jubbulpore Division. Maps of each district, coloured to show the tracts most affected, are also submitted, together with a memorandum by the Commissioner of the Division summarising the main facts of the famine situation for each district.

2. I am to express regret that owing to these being the first set of monthly famine returns that have been submitted, the reports from the remaining districts of the Province have been delayed. They will, however, be forwarded as soon as they are received, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that the orders which have now been issued to Commissioners and Deputy-Commissioners on this subject will secure their punctual and complete submission in future.

3. I am to add that, as soon as Mr. Lyall receives all the district reports, he proposes to prepare, for the information of the Government of India, a full separate report for the whole Province dealing with the general situation as regards famine during the month of December; describing the various measures taken during that period towards the complete organisation of relief in affected tracts, and indicating, as far as is now possible, the probable future development of the famine situation in the Provinces generally.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Period ending Saturday, 26th December 1896,  
for the Jubbulpore Division.

District.	Area.	Popula- tion in Thou- sands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.					Number on Gratui- tous Relief.	Price of one or more principal Food Grains in Seers per Rupee.			Monthly Death-rate.	Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Wheat.	Gram.	Common Rice.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jubbulpore -	3,948	748	2,459	368	-	4,037	-	26,149	30,186	5,777	9½	11	10½	-	See appended remarks.
Saugor - -	4,007	591	4,007	591	300	800	970	16,282	18,852	2,850	7	9½	6	-	"
Damoh - -	2,831	925	2,000	200	-	1,322	-	4,240	5,562	1,457	8	11	8	-	"
Seoni - - -	3,198	370	1,766	200	-	-	-	6,107	6,107	480	10½	12	10½	-	"
Mandla - -	5,056	389	5,056	389	-	-	-	9,509	9,509	204	9½	10½	9	-	"

F. C. ANDERSON,  
Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT B. for the Weeks ending Saturday, 26th December 1896,  
of the Jubbulpore Division.

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Number for whom Relief was provided for Three Months in last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Pro- gramme on date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st April 1896.			Advances since 1st April up to end of Month under		Revenue suspended.
		Date of last Pro- gramme.	On large Works (under Public Works Department).	Other Local Works.	On large Works.	Others.	Date up to which account in made up.	Rupees omitting 000s.	Land Im- provement Act.	Agricul- tural Loans Act.	Rupees omitting 000s.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jubbulpore -	70,000	1 Dec. 1896	23,000	No formal programme yet sanc- tioned but numerous works arranged for and in progress.	23,000	15,000	26 Dec. 1896	22	19	4	74	100
Saugor - -	60,000	"	19,000		19,000	8,000	" "	14	13	1	30	73
Damoh - -	35,000	"	19,000		19,000	5,000	19 Dec. 1896	3	8	-	94	137 (remitted).
Seoni - -	23,000	"	17,000		17,000	7,000	26 Dec. 1896	3½	½	4½	24	The suspension of a portion of the February list 1897 has been sanc- tioned.
Mandla - -	30,000	"	17,000		17,000	4,000	23 Dec. 1896	17	1	-	13	-

F. C. ANDERSON,  
Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division.



**SUMMARY of the Remarks in the District Reports to accompany Monthly Famine Statement A. (Jubbulpore Division) for December 1896.**

The private relief afforded has for the most part been of the usual kind, consisting of the distribution of doles by the charitable in the larger towns. There are some private poorhouses in the Division which are maintained from private funds, and a good deal has been done by the charitable disposed in the way of presenting blankets to the inmates of the public poorhouses. A public meeting at which the Chief Commissioner presided was held at Jubbulpore on the 11th December, to consider the question of organising a system of relief for respectable persons who are ashamed to make known their want or to avail themselves of the forms of public relief provided by Government. A committee of inquiry was appointed whose report had not been submitted before the close of the month.

The following is a statement of the poorhouse population at the end of the months of November and December respectively :—

Poorhouse.	28th November.	26th December.
Jubbulpore - - - - -	1,472	1,853
Sehora - - - - -	476	666
Marwara - - - - -	456	524
Katangri - - - - -	—	Not returned.
Private poorhouses - - - - -	259	266
<b>Total Jubbulpore District -</b>	<b>2,663</b>	<b>3,309</b>
Saugor - - - - -	1,066	1,133
Khurai - - - - -	194	342
Banda - - - - -	—	102
Rehli - - - - -	—	321
<b>Total Saugor District -</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,898</b>
Damoh - - - - -	394	426
Hatta - - - - -	145	163
Patharia - - - - -	—	153
Jabera - - - - -	—	11
<b>Total Damoh District -</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>753</b>
Seoni - - - - -	81	191
Lakhwadon - - - - -	36	73
<b>Total Seoni District -</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>264</b>
Mandla - - - - -	—	122
Dindori - - - - -	—	47
<b>Total Mandla District -</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Total for the Division -</b>	<b>4,579</b>	<b>6,393</b>

The above statement shows that two new poorhouses were opened in Saugor, two in Damoh, two in Mandla, and one in Jubbulpore during the month under report.

Gratuitous relief has also been afforded to the poverty-stricken and sick at various convenient centres where regular poorhouses have not been established. Wanderers are intercepted at these centres before they have gone far from their homes.

Village inspection in order to the preparation of the registers of poor on which the system of relieving the aged, the blind, cripples, &c., in their own homes is based was begun early in November, and this form of relief is being brought into operation throughout the Division with all possible dispatch.

General character of relief works.

Relief works managed by the Public Works Department on which a proper task is exacted will constitute the backbone of the system of public relief works. Stone-breaking on roads is the chief form of labour employed. The numbers employed on works of this class and on various local works on the 26th December in each district were as follows :—

(a) About 10,000 on Public Works Department works and the rest on local works	- - -	Jubbulpore	-	30,186(a)
(b) On Public Works Department works only-	-	Saugor	-	18,352(b)
(c) 1,530 on Public Works Department works	-	Damoh	-	5,562(c)
(d) 4,667 on Public Works Department works	-	Seoni	-	6,107(d)
(e) Detail not reported	- - -	Mandla	-	9,509(e)

For those who are unfit for immediate employment on hard labour, such as stone-breaking, light labour (chiefly tank digging) has been provided at the relief centres referred to in a preceding paragraph. As they become fit for regular task work, these persons will be drafted on to the Public Works Department relief works. Such persons are included in the totals given above.

Physical condition of the people.

The distress has developed very rapidly in all the affected tracts, and very plain indications of its acuteness amongst the poorest classes are seen among those who receive gratuitous relief in the poor-houses and at the various relief centres. Many of these, especially in the Jubbulpore and Damoh districts, are immigrants from the Native States on the north. Distress, more or less acute, is also widely prevalent among the labouring classes generally, and the demand for work is great. The Deputy Commissioner of Saugor reports, however, that those on relief works though somewhat reduced are still in fairly good condition, and that emaciation is only visible among the inmates of poor-houses and wandering beggars. It seems from the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Damoh that emaciation is more common in the population of his district. This indeed appears to be the district in which distress is greatest. Parts of Mandla appear to have suffered similarly. Mr. Maw, Assistant Commissioner, who has been employed on famine inspection duty in the Jubbulpore district, writes :—

“It is surprising, considering the number of relief workers, that their condition should be so good. As a rule the relief workers do not show any outward signs of unusual poverty, except in the scantiness of their attire.”

Mortality, deaths from starvation, &c.

In Seoni the majority of relief workers appear to be in fair condition.

There is less distress in Seoni than elsewhere. The death-rate per mile for the month of November in each district is as follows :—

Jubbulpore	- - - - -	}	5·4	Exclusive of Towns.
Saugor	- - - - -		8·6	Ditto.
Damoh	- - - - -		6·3	
Seoni	- - - - -		7·8	
Mandla	- - - - -		4·2	
			3·52	

The death-rate figures for December are not yet forthcoming. The reports from the several districts as to the number of deaths in December due to starvation or accelerated by privation differ very widely and are neither satisfactory nor reliable. Village Kotwars are the reporting agency in the rural tracts; we cannot expect accuracy from totally uneducated men of this class, and it is difficult for the police to verify the cause of death long after its occurrence. In Jubbulpore 632 deaths are reported to have been due to starvation or to have been accelerated by privation; this figure includes deaths among the inmates of poor-houses. In Seoni the number of such deaths is reported to have been 97, including those of starving wanderers brought to relief centres whose lives could not be saved. I quote the following passage from a recent diary of the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni :—

“Five or six deaths from starvation have been reported recently from the Kahani outpost. I enquired into one on my way, and found it should not have been so classed. The others were all wandering paradesis (foreigners) found dead in remote parts.”

This affords some evidence of the fulness, if not of the accuracy, of the reporting in this district. The number reported from Damoh is 83, but the Deputy Commissioner thinks this an under-estimate. The number reported from Saugor (from starvation only) is six. The number reported from Mandla is 15. Apart from cases of actual starvation, which,

I believe, occur chiefly among unknown wanderers exhausted by long journeying, there can be little doubt that insufficiency of food, or of proper food for more or less prolonged periods, and exposure to cold, have produced much sickness and resulting mortality in the months of November and December.

These appear to be generally sufficient for present requirements, and no complaint of difficulty in regard to the supply of grain at the relief works has been reported. Food stocks.

The following statement of retail prices of the chief staples, at the head-quarters of each district at the end of the months of November and December, respectively, shows that they have remained fairly constant :—

DISTRICT.	WHEAT.		GRAM.		COMMON RICE.	
	November.	December.	November.	December.	November.	December.
Jubbulpore - -	8½	9¼	10½	11	9	10¼
Saugor - - -	7½	7	10	9¾	6	6
Damoh - - -	7½	8	10½	11	8	8
Seoni - - -	9¼	10½	9	12*	9	10¼
Mandla - - -	9½	9½	10	10½	9	9

\* Price of Jowar.

In Jubbulpore the chief import is of rice from Chhattisgarh, and there are some exports from Jubbulpore into Damoh, but there are no reliable statistics regarding the imports into the latter district. The exports of grain from Saugor (chiefly to Hoshangabad, Jhansi, Agra Fort, Dholpur, and Achnera) have exceeded the imports into that district. There is, practically, no importation of grain into Seoni, and the importation into Mandla is not on any extensive scale. Importation of grain.

The general failure of the last kharif harvest following on previous bad years is the cause of the wide-spread distress now prevailing. Unfortunately the normal rabi area has been very greatly curtailed owing to the early cessation of the rains, and the consequent stoppage of sowings. The harvest will be a small one so far as area is concerned, and possible earnings in the shape of harvest wages will be correspondingly small. The prospects of the crop on the ground have been improved by the rain at the end of December. Local hailstorms have done damage in some places. It is anticipated that numbers on relief works will go on increasing until the rabi harvesting begins, when there will be a temporary reduction, to be followed later on by a large increase of applicants for work. General condition and prospects of affected area.

Relief wages are based, for the most part, on a rate of 10 seers of grain per rupee, and there are no changes to record. Changes in the rates of wages.

Work on the Saugor-Kutni Railway extension was giving employment at the close of December to 6,470 persons in Jubbulpore, 7,487 in Damoh, and 6,771 in Saugor. General.

F. C. ANDERSON, Commissioner.

No. 34-C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner, Nerbudda Division, to the REVENUE SECRETARY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letters No. C-379, dated the 1st instant, and C-449, dated the 22nd instant, I have the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects of the Hoshangabad District, and the measures for relief which it will be advisable to take.

2. In the Harda Tahsil, with the exception of the Charwa Pargana, and in the Seoni Tahsil, the prospects of the rabi crops are at present fair. The ground still contains a certain amount of moisture. Of the kharif crops, kodo and kutki are an absolute failure, and it is doubtful whether juari will yield more than from 4 annas to 6 annas. The

early tilli will do very well, but the late sown tilli is not progressing favourably. The present prospects of all the crops in this portion of the district are not at present wholly unpromising, but as three-fourths of the cultivated area, approximately, will be under rabi crop, it is too early to give a very definite opinion.

In the Sohagpur Tahsil and the Hoshangabad Tahsil the prospects are more unfavourable. The proportionate area under kharif crops is larger than in the western half of the district. Kodo and kutki, late sown rice and late sown tilli, are all failures. The wheat that has been sown has germinated, but has withered in many places, and the prospects of the gram crop are doubtful.

3. There will, therefore, I fear, be a serious failure of crops in all that portion of the district which lies east of the Hoshangabad-Betul Road; and as the people, who occupy this tract, have already been much impoverished by three very bad harvests, it will be necessary to provide them with assistance in the form of relief works. As, moreover, the exports of grain to other parts of India have been heavy and are continuing, it is possible that high prices may to some extent cause distress among the labouring classes of the Harda and Seoni tahsils also.

4. Effect is being given to the orders, contained in paragraph 2 of your letter No. C-379, dated the 1st instant, with regard to the making of crop experiments, but the results have not yet been communicated to me. The above report has been based on the best general information procurable.

5. The measures of relief which I propose are the following:—

- (1) The completion of the road schemes of the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils (with a few omissions) as shown in Schedule A appended to this letter.
- (2) The raising to Class I of the Harda-Handia Road (*vide* Schedule A).
- (3) The stacking of supplies of metal for road repairs on the Pipariya-Pachmarhi and Itarsi-Betul roads (*vide* Schedule A).
- (4) Procuring, through the orders of the Government of India, work on that portion of the Indian Midland Railway which lies between Hoshangabad Station and the Nerbudda. The line here follows a dangerous curve which is\* to be straightened by erecting a new bank  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and 25 feet high, a work which would provide employment for about 1,000 men for three months.
- (5) Digging of fields in Court of Wards estates for the eradication of kans grass.
- (6) The opening of poorhouses at Hoshangabad and Sohagpur.

The embanking of fields is considered by all the cultivating classes of this district as useless, and I am inclined to accept their opinion. In most portions of the district kutchra wells are also impracticable, owing to the depth to which they would have to be carried. Tanks could only be constructed in a very few places.

6. The only minor works under district agency which I propose to undertake are test works. One of these has already been opened in the Sohagpur Tahsil. I am of opinion that the construction of Class III. roads is not a public work of lasting utility, and I believe that I have the support of the chief engineer in adopting this view. Moreover Class III. roads do not afford sufficient scope for the employment of large numbers of unskilled labourers being unembanked (or only partially embanked) and unmetalled. I propose to undertake no road work which does not involve the construction of a Class II. or Class I. road, or the raising of a road of lower class to either of these classes. Each work undertaken will thus employ more labourers and will employ them for a longer time, as after the embanking comes the metalling. It may be argued that roads of Classes I. and II. involve a considerable expenditure on causeways and culverts; but the answer to this is that, owing to the rise of prices, skilled labourers, such as masons, will be in straitened circumstances, and will be willing to work at low wages in order to secure employment.

7. I do not propose any outlay at present on children's kitchens. For gratuitous relief outside poorhouses, it will suffice for the present to provide a sum of Rs. 1,000. For "miscellaneous" a sum of Rs. 1,000 may also be allotted.

---

\* Under proposals recently submitted to Government by the Railway Company.

8. I turn now to the important question of the number of persons for whom employment may have to be found upon relief works, and the estimated cost of their maintenance. Famine Statement C shows that the maximum number of persons likely to require relief in a serious famine in the Hoshangabad District is 25,000. If we take half of this or, say, 13,000 as representing the population needing relief in the Hoshangabad and Sohagpur tahsils (*i.e.*, the area where distress is apprehended) and add 4,000 for the, comparatively, small section of the population of the other two tahsils who may require assistance, we have a total of 17,000. In addition to this total, however, there will probably be a certain number of outsiders—wanderers from Narsinghpur, Jubbulpore, Saugor and Bhopal. I would therefore take 20,000 as the maximum number likely to require relief.

Assuming the price of grain to be 9 seers for the rupee, and taking 2 annas as the rate of wage on the average,\* we get an expenditure of 2,500 of rupees a day, exclusive of charges for establishment, or 75,000 rupees per mensem.

I do not, however, suppose that this total will be worked up to at an early date. The maximum will probably not be reached till April or May. I consider that it is reasonable to assume that the total number of persons employed on relief works will not rise in a more rapidly ascending scale than that shown below:—

	Persons.
December - - - - -	5,000
January - - - - -	6,000
February - - - - -	12,000†
March - - - - -	15,000‡
April - - - - -	20,000

I do not anticipate that the need for relief works will cease till the end of August, when the makka crop and early kutki will be reaped. We have, therefore, to provide funds for four months at an average of 35,550 rupees a month (= 1,42,200 rupees) and for five months at 75,000 rupees a month (= 3,75,000 rupees), or a total of 5,17,200 rupees—of this sum 1,42,000 rupees will be required in the current financial year.

In the scheme of works appended to this letter (Appendix A) provision has been made for a possible expenditure of 5½ lakhs in the course of 9 months, beginning in December next. It is well, I think, to provide for works in excess of the estimated outlay against the contingency of that estimate being below the work.

9. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that poor-house relief will be required during the remainder of the current financial year for 200 persons at Hoshangabad and 500 at Sohagpur.§ The approximate cost of feeding a pauper in the poor-house is 0-1-6 rupee per day. The total cost for food per diem will thus be 65-10-0 rupees, or say, 65 rupees. The cost per month will be 1,950 rupees, or 8,775 rupees for the four-and-a-half months, commencing on the 15th proximo. To this must be added cost of establishment, as shown in Appendix B to this letter, amounting to 137 rupees per mensem. For four-and-a-half months the cost will be 616-8-0 rupees. Adding 300 rupees for buildings and contingencies, the expenditure on poor-house relief up to the end of the financial year may be taken at 9,700 rupees in round numbers.

I may remark that it is not possible at this stage to estimate what number of persons the poor-houses will have to accommodate after the close of the current financial year. We shall be in a better position to give an opinion on this point in March next.

10. To sum up, the total amount that may be expected to be required for famine relief during the current year is as under.

	Rupees.
1. Relief works - - - - -	1,42,000
2. Poor-houses - - - - -	9,700
3. Gratuitous relief outside poor-houses -	1,000
4. Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,000
	1,53,700

\* Experience shows that in these provinces more women come to relief works than men.

† Large increase owing to kharif crops becoming exhausted.

‡ Slight increase owing to harvesting of rabi crops in Harda and Seoni.

§ His estimate is based on a rough census made by the police.

1). A careful examination of the District Council budget has shown that after providing for establishment charges, Schools, Pounds, and only such urgent works as have already been given out on contract, there will be a sum of 22,000 rupees available to meet a portion of the above expenditure. From subscriptions by private persons towards poor-houses the Deputy Commissioner hopes to obtain 6,000 rupees. It is possible that some of the Court of Wards' estates which have balances in hand, and are not crippled by the difficulty of collecting rents this year, may be able to subscribe to the same object: and I, therefore, put subscription down at 10,000 rupees. Deducting 32,000 rupees from the total given in paragraph 10 above, the balance to be provided by Government for famine expenditure in the Hoshangabad District during the current year is 1,21,700 rupees, or say, 1½ lakhs in round figures.

I have, &c.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.—(To Letter, No. 34-C., dated October 31, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department, Central Provinces.)

SCHEME OF RELIEF-WORKS—DISTRICT HOSHANGABAD.

Order.	Name of Road.	Length in miles.	Details of Work.	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total of each road.	Equivalent Number of Coolies at 2 annas per day.	Number of People for Nine Months.	Amount required in 1896-97.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Piparia-Sandia Road, 2nd Section.	10	Construction - -	Rs. 1,350	Rs. 13,500	—	—	—	Rs.	As III-B.
	Piparia-Sandia Road, 1st and 2nd Section.	15	Murramming - -	1,500	22,500	36,000	2,88,000	1,066	—	Raising to II.
1 (a)	Piparia-Sobhapur Road, 1st mile.	1	Making up and murramming.	1,650	—	1,650	13,200	49	—	
2	Semri-Barkatch - -	9	Repsiring flood damage	—	2,000	—	—	—	—	
			Raising III-A to II	3,100	27,900	29,900	2,39,200	886	—	Class III-A to II.
3	Sobhapur Batgaon - -	5	- Ditto - -	3,100	15,500	15,500	1,24,000	459	—	Ditto.
4	Old Bombay Road Narsinghpur border to Seoni	100	Filling up hollows - -	—	2,000	—	—	—	—	Repairing.
			Raising 2-ft. bank	800	80,000	—	—	—	—	Raising to III-B.
			Metalling - -	2,000	2,00,000	282,000	22,56,000	8,355	—	Class I.
5	Babai-Bagra - - -	5	Raising III-A to II	3,100	15,500	15,500	1,24,000	459	—	Class III-A to II.
6	Harda-Handia Road - -	13½	Metalling 6 inches - -	3,000	39,750	39,750	3,18,000	1,178	—	Class II to I.
7	Tigaria-Dolaria - -	7	Raising III-A to I - -	4,000	28,000	—	—	—	—	Class III-A to I.
	(Doolaria-Semri already made as Class I.)									
8	Semri-Umani - - -	5	Constructing as Class II	3,900	19,500	47,500	3,80,000	1,407	—	Class II.
	Seoni-Lokartalai - -	7	- Ditto III-B	2,428	17,000	—	—	—	—	As Class III-B.
			Murramming - -	1,000	7,000	—	—	—	—	Raising to II.
9	Lokartali-Dekhua - -	8	Constructing as Class II	3,500	28,000	52,000	4,16,000	1,541	—	Class III-A to II.
	Sohagpur via Khurpapur to the Denwa.	14	- Ditto III-B	1,800	25,200	—	—	—	—	As III-B.
			Murramming - -	1,000	14,100	39,200	3,13,800	1,162	—	III-B to II.
10	Collecting metal on the Piparia-Pachmarhi - Itarsi-Dhar Roads - }	—	Estimates not yet ready.	—	—	—	—	—	—	NOTE.—As this total of persons is not to be provided for during the whole period of nine months, a smaller number can be employed at first, and a proportionately larger number later on.
			Total - -	—	—	5,59,000	—	16,562	—	

The estimate is that at first the number of persons requiring employment will not exceed one-quarter of the maximum (Rs. 20,000). During December and January the following works should be undertaken:—

- (1) Collection of muram for 1st and 2nd Sections of Piparia-Sandia Road.
- (2) Piparia-Sobhapur Road (making and metalling).
- (3) Collection of metal for Tigaria-Dolaria Road.
- (4) Ditto Harda-Handia Road.

Allotments to be made on the basis that Rs. 1,42,000 is available for expenditure up to 31st March, more work to be undertaken, if required, within this limit of allotment.

No. 35 C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the  
SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,  
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34 C. of to-day's date, on the subject of the agricultural prospects of, and the measures of relief to be adopted in, the Hoshangabad district, I have now the honour to submit a similar report on the Betul district.

2. The following estimate of the Kharif crops of the Betul district has been furnished by the Assistant Settlement Officer:—

Crop.	Harvest.		Proportion of Area early sown to Total Area sown.
	Early sown.	Late sown.	
	Annas.	Annas.	
Kodo - - - - -	8	3	Five-eighths.
Rice - - - - -	10	6	One-eighth.
Juari - - - - -	8	6	Five-eighths.
Jogni - - - - -	4	2	Three-eighths.
Kutki - - - - -	16	2	One-eighth.
Tilli - - - - -	8	6	One-half.
Sugar-cane - - - - -	12	-	All sown at one time.
Urad and mung - - - - -	12	-	
Inferior crops, viz., Sawa, Madji, Rola and Kangni - - - - -	12	-	

This estimate, the Deputy Commissioner reports, is more favourable than that obtained from other sources, though it is borne out to a certain extent by crop experiments conducted up to the date. I forward herewith, in original, a statement\* submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, which gives the result of crop experiments so far as they have gone. As juari is not yet ripe, experiments have still to be made in respect to its yield. The Deputy Commissioner's opinion is that juari on highlying and stony land is already dead, while that on low and comparatively moist land will produce an outturn of from 4 to 8 annas. This being so, the only crops that can be considered to have practically failed are the late-sown kodo, kutki, and jagni. In the case of kutki and jagni alone does the late-sown area form a considerable proportion of the total area sown. The estimate of the rabi area sown (as compared with the area usually devoted to rabi) is given as 11 annas by the Assistant Settlement Officer. The Deputy Commissioner prefers to take 10 annas. It is considered that if there be no more rain, the rabi crop on this area will be 7 or 8 annas. The rabi forms the chief harvest of the level portions of the district while in the hilly tracts kharif crops are almost exclusively raised.

3. The conclusion I arrived at is that such distress as may ensue in the Betul district will be practically confined to the upland tracts. This district has hitherto been free from scarcity, and the distress will not be such as if it followed on consecutive years of bad harvests. "If a line be taken from Bordai through Amla, Badnur and Bhainsdehi," writes the Deputy Commissioner, "then the country lying to the north side of this, with the exception of the flat portion round Chicholi, may be taken as the area of greatest distress. To this may be added that part which would be cut off to the south by another line taken from Bhainsdehi to Dabka." The population of this area is nearly 70,000, or about one-fifth of the total population of the district. The inhabitants are chiefly aboriginals, such as Gonds and Korkus, who are constitutionally averse to regular labour. If the Government forests are thrown open, and there is a good mohwa crop, the majority of them will be able to eke out a subsistence on mohwa and other jungle products.

\* Appendix B.

4. Famine Statement C shows that in the event of serious famine in the district at large it would be necessary to provide work for 19,000 people. Under the circumstances now existing, it seems improbable that work will have to be provided within the current year for more than 4,000 persons. The Deputy Commissioner reports that it is the opinion of the officers and intelligent malguzars whom he has consulted that between 4,000 and 5,000 is the maximum number to be provided for. Seeing that the makka and bhadeli kutki crops were quite successful (though the area sown with them is not large) it is improbable then any want of food will be felt before the 1st of December. We have therefore to provide work for 4,000 persons for nine months. I took the price of grain at 9 seers the rupee for the Hoshangabad district. In the Betul district prices will probably rule lower and 11 seers may be taken.\* At this rate the average wage may be stated at 1 anna 9 pies per head. The cost of maintaining 4,000 labourers for four months (from 1st December to 31st March) will therefore be about 52,000 rupees in round figures. But it is unlikely that so many as 4,000 persons will come upon the works at the beginning of December. The scale will probably be somewhat as under:—

	Persons.
December - - - - -	1,000
January - - - - -	2,000
February - - - - -	4,000
March - - - - -	4,000

So that not more than 40,000 rupees will, on this estimate, be required for relief-works during the current year.

Assuming that the number on relief-works from the beginning of April to the end of August 1897 is 5,000, then an expenditure of 82,000 rupees will be incurred, in addition to the above, forming a total for nine months of 1,22,000 rupees. In Appendix A to this letter are given the major works on which labour can be profitably employed. The Badnur-Ellichpur Road is the one most required for the needs of the district, and it has been surveyed. Next in importance to it is the Badnur-Harda Road. This also has been surveyed, and it goes through the centre of the affected portion. These two roads would provide ample work for persons estimated to need relief; but to complete them would involve an expenditure largely in excess of that proposed above. It will be necessary therefore to confine work to certain sections of these roads. I recommend, for the reasons given in my letter on the Hoshangabad district, that the selected sections be constructed as Class II. roads or Class I. roads (according as metal or only muram is procurable).

5. As to minor works, my proposal is that, as in the Hoshangabad instance, these should take the form of test works, to be carried out by the District Council. The District Council after re-casting its budget can only provide 5,000 rupees for expenditure on relief works. I intend that 3,700 rupees of this sum shall be applied to test works marginally noted,† which have been selected by the District Council, and that after deducting 100 rupees for tools and plant, the balance of 1,200 rupees may be applied to poor-house expenditure.

6. As to poor-houses, it should suffice to open one at Badnur. It seems unlikely that more than 200 persons will be accommodated in it during the current year. The cost of their maintenance for three months (January to March) would be approximately 1,700 rupees. To this must be added cost of establishment on the Hoshangabad scale‡ and about 300 rupees for cost of construction: total, 500 rupees in round figures.

7. I do not propose any children's kitchens, or gratuitous out-door relief at present. Miscellaneous charges may be set down at 200 rupees.

\* At present jari sells at 14 seers to the rupee

† Road Work.—Badnur-Ranipur, 9 miles, Rs. 900; Shahpur-Ranipur, 24 miles, Rs. 1,200; Chicholi to Nimpai, 15 miles, Rs. 750; Multai to Bordai, 17 miles, Rs. 850—Total, Rs. 3,700.

‡ Rs. 68. 8. a month=Rs. 205. 8. for three months.



8. Thus the total expenditure during the current financial year may be estimated as under :—

	Rs.
Relief works - - - - -	40,000
Poor-house - - - - -	2,200
Miscellaneous - - - - -	300
Total - - -	<u>Rs. 42,500</u>

Towards this amount, the Deputy Commissioner estimates that he can raise about 3,000 rupees from private charity and contributions from Court of Wards' estates (to be devoted to poor-house relief). The balance to be provided by Government is therefore 40,000 rupees only.

I have, &c.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

### APPENDIX A.

#### RELIEF WORKS.—DISTRICT BETUL.

Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Work to be done.	Rate per Mile.	Total Cost.	Portion to be undertaken in current Year.
1. Badnur to Harda <i>via</i> Chieholi.	48	Raising from village track to Class II. and muramming as Class II.	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 1,44,000	
2. Badnur-Ellichpur -	48	Do. do.	3,000	1,44,000	A section of 10 or 12 miles.
3. Collecting a full year's supply of metal for the Betul-Dhar Road.	-	Estimates forthcoming shortly		- -	Up to value of Rs. 10,000.

The Executive Engineer estimates that each of works Nos. 1 and 2 will employ 4,800 coolies for eight months, at a wage of 2 annas a day. I have proposed a lower wage, so that more than this total could be employed for the sum estimated as the total cost. It will not be possible to complete both (or either) of these roads with the labour and funds estimated for (4,000 labourers and 1,22,000 rupees) but sections of both could be completed.

In accordance with Public Works Department, Circular No. 270-6673, dated the 24th instant, I propose starting with: (a) collection of metal on the Betul-Dhar Road, as a test on the demand for relief in the northern distressed area, commencing at Dhar; and (b) collection of muram and embanking of a section of ten or twelve miles, starting from Betul, of the Badnur-Ellichpur Road. Expenditure during the remainder of financial year to be calculated on the basis of 40,000 rupees being available for the two works.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner

No. 36. C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 34-C. of this day's date, I have the honour to report as follows on the agricultural prospects, &c., of the Chhindwara district.

2. In this district there is a great difference between the state of affairs in the Sausar tahsil and that which prevails in the Chhindwara tahsil. In the Sausar tahsil a few showers fell in September which improved prospects there greatly. The proportion of the kharif to the rabi cropped area in the Sausar tahsil is roughly 4 to 1, and three-quarters of the cropped area is under *juari*, *tur* and cotton. The Deputy Commissioner estimates the *juari* crop in the Sausar tahsil at 10 annas. *Tur* is reported to be better than *juari*. The cotton crop will be a fair one. Add to this the fact that the tahsil has been fortunate in its crops for some years past, and it will be seen that there is no reason for considering the general outlook in the Sausar tahsil to be unfavourable. Some scarcity will be felt in the jungly tracts of Ambasa and Khamarpani, where kodo and kutki are the crops that are sown: but these tracts are scantily populated. The cutting and watching of *juari* and *tur* and the picking of cotton will provide employment. In the spring the Government forest can, if necessary, be thrown open for the collection of mohwa and chirongi. A sum of Rs. 3,000 will be spent during the hot weather and rains on the repair of the Nagpur-Betul road which passes through the lower corner of the tahsil. No special measure of relief beyond the opening of the forest will, so far as at present appears, be required, therefore, for the people of the Sausar tahsil.

3. The cropped area of the Chhindwara tahsil is sown in ordinary years with kharif and rabi in the proportion of 2 to 3: but this year, owing to the small out-turn of the last wheat crop, and the consequent dearness of seed-grain, *juari* has been sown very largely, and the kharif and rabi areas are very nearly equal. The proportion in which the various kharif crops have been sown and the estimated out-turn for each are given below:—

Crop.	Proportion to the Total Kharif Area.	Estimated Out-turn.
	Per Cent.	
Juari - - -	25	6 annas.
Jagni - - -	25	2 „
Kodo - - -	16	Nil.
Bhadeli kutki - -	8	8 to 10 annas.
Katiki - - -	6	Nil.
Makka - - -	5	6 annas.
Rice - - -	3	2 to 4 annas.
Tilli - - -	3	6 annas.
Other crops - -	9	{ <i>Urad</i> and <i>mung</i> 2 annas. { <i>Sama</i> 8 annas (but little was sown).

In the Chowrai and Linga Revenue Circles, in half the Umreth and one-third of the Amarwara Revenue Circles, the proportion of the normal rabi area that has been sown is from one-half to three-quarters. The seed has germinated, but some of the young plants have already withered.

In the remaining two-thirds of the Amarwara Circle and half the Umreth Circle, the proportion sown is from one-quarter to one-half. Only half the seed sown appears to have germinated.

The above particulars indicate that while, owing to the early kutki crop having been a fair one, and to makka and sama having yielded an appreciable out-turn there should be no widespread distress at present; there is a probability that there will shortly be

considerable distress in the Chhindwara tahsil on account of the shortness of the kharif crop, and of the small area sown, or successfully sown, with rabi. The harvesting of jauari and tilli will furnish some employment this cold weather, but the labouring classes are already beginning to feel the pinch of hard times, and will feel it still more acutely in the spring. Except in a restricted area, the crops in the Chhindwara district have of late years been favourable, and there is no reason to suppose that the cultivators will, as a body, be in want of food. The distress in this tahsil will not be due so much to the scarcity of food-grain as to the fact that the wage-earning classes, and some of the poorer or less provident cultivators, will be without the means to purchase it.

4. Information received from the Eastern Jaghirs, viz., Harrai, Gorpani, Sonpur and Bhattiagarh, indicate that the crops have failed here in a worse degree than in the Chhindwara tahsil. The crops most widely sown were kodo, late kutki and jangi, and these have entirely failed. The other Jaghirs, viz., Pagara, Pachmarhi, Gorakghat, Almod and Bhardagarh, are better off. Jagni has done well in places, and, till lately, dew has fallen. There is distress, however, in the part of the Pagara Jaghir below the ghâts which borders on the Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur districts.

5. The area in which distress will shortly have to be dealt with is, therefore, roughly speaking, the Chhindwara tahsil and the Jaghirs to the north of it. According to Famine Statement C. the number of persons for whom employment on relief works is to be found in the event of serious famine in the district, generally, is 18,000. The population of the Sausar tahsil is less than one-third of the total population of the district, and the Deputy Commissioner considers that the total number of persons for whom work will have to be found is 10,000. I think that this estimate is a fair one, especially when it is considered that some of the population of the Jaghirs will find subsistence in the forests, and that the district, as a whole, has not suffered much from bad crops of late years. In framing the following estimate of the numbers that may be expected to come on the works in each month of the current year, I take account of the fact that, owing to the failure of the kodo and late kutki crops, distress is more immediately imminent in the affected area than in the Narsinghpur district (where the total number to be relieved has been set down at the same figure).

	Number of Labourers.	Cost.
		<i>Rs.</i>
December - - - - -	4,000	13,140
January - - - - -	6,000	19,710
February - - - - -	8,000	26,280
March - - - - -	10,000	32,850
		Total Cost - Rs. 91,980

Prices in this district being lower than in the Narsinghpur, I have adopted Rs. 0. 1. 9. as the average wage. If work is started in the middle of next month the total cost up to the end of March may be taken at Rs. 95,000. If relief is prolonged to the end of August, there will be a further outlay of Rs. 1,65,000 (in round numbers), so that a total expenditure of nearly 2½ lakhs must be provided for in the scheme of works.

6. In the Appendix to this letter will be found the scheme of works proposed. The Chhindwara-Narsinghpur-road, the construction of which is much called for in the general interests of the district, passes right through the affected tract in one direction; and the Chhindwara-Multai-road traverses it in the other. The plans and estimates of the latter and those for the first 31 miles of the former are ready, and both roads should, in my opinion, be constructed as Class II. or Class I. throughout.

7. Work should be started on the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara-road at once. As a second test work, the construction by the Court of Wards of the tank (already sanctioned) at Pagara should be conducted on relief principles. If people are found to come in to these works in any numbers, the metalling of the Singanama-Belgaon-road should be commenced.

8. The minor works which the Deputy Commissioner suggests consist of (a) field embankments in the Amarwara Revenue Circle, where the suitability of such embankments has been acknowledged by the people, and (b) a tank at Ranikhera, half way on the road between Matkuli and Delakhari. For 20 miles there is no water on this length and considerable inconvenience is caused to traffic. The work of field embankment will be most suitably undertaken in the hot weather. The Ranikhera tank is estimated to cost Rs. 5,000, and will employ about 250 persons.

9. Poor-houses may be established at Chhindwara and Amarwara. One of the missionaries at Amarwara is a physician, and already gives help to starving people. The Deputy Commissioner has given no estimate of the number of inmates. He states that for the time being beggars are finding support in private charity. I, therefore, take the same figures as I have adopted for the Betul district, and set down the number of persons to be provided for in poor-houses up to the end of March as Rs. 200, at a cost of Rs. 2,200.

10. There appears to be no need for children's kitchens; and I do not consider that gratuitous out-door relief will be required during the current year. For "Miscellaneous" expenditure I provide Rs. 300.

11. The total expenditure to be incurred during the current year, therefore, stands as under:—

	Rs.
Relief works - - - - -	95,000
Poor-houses - - - - -	2,200
Miscellaneous - - - - -	300
Total - - -	97,500

Towards this sum the District Council have appropriated Rs. 9,000. The sum obtainable from private subscriptions to poor houses may be set down at Rs. 1,000, and the Pagara Court of Wards will contribute Rs. 7,000 as the cost of the Pagara tank. The sum to be provided by Government may be set down at Rs. 90,000 therefore.

I have, &c.,

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

#### APPENDIX A.

(To letter No. 36-C, dated October 31, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department.)

#### Scheme of Relief Works—District Chhindwara.

Order.	Name of Road or Work.	Length in Miles.	Detail of Work.	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total each Road.	Number of People per day for Eight Months.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1	Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road from (Section A) Border to Khodari.	6	Construction and murruming.	4,000	24,000	—	—	
-	(Section B) Khodari to Harrai.	12	Construction and murruming.	4,000	48,000	—	—	As Class II. Road.
-	(Section C) Harrai to Khapa.	16	Construction and murruming.	3,500	56,000	1,28,000	4,266	
2	Narsinghpur Chhindwara Road Border to Khapa.	34	Metalling, average 6-ins.	2,000	68,000	68,000	2,266	Raising to Class 1.
3	Singanama-Belgaon Road	46	Metalling - - -	2,000	92,000	92,000	3,066	Raising to Class I.
Total - - -		—	—	—	—	2,88,000	9,598	

Work to be started on collection of metal for the Singanama-Belgaon Road and on construction of Section C. of Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road (Harrai to Khapa).

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

No. 37 C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the  
SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL  
PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34 C, of this day's date, I have the honour to report on the agricultural prospects, &c., of the Narsinghpur district.

2. The following is the estimate of the outturn of the kharif crops in this district. It is subject to revision on receipt of the detailed statement of the results of crop experiments ordered.

	Annas.
Rice - - - - -	6
Juari - - - - -	6
Kodo - - - - -	6
Cotton - - - - -	10
Til (early) - - - - -	9
Til (late) - - - - -	4
Kutki - - - - -	Nil.

It is estimated that the area sown with rabi crops will not exceed 45 per cent. of the normal area.

3. The shortness of the kharif crops has affected all parts of the district more or less, but it has most seriously affected the hilly tracts along the southern and northern borders of the district. The inhabitants of these tracts are never far removed from poverty, and depend almost entirely on the kharif harvest for their subsistence. Generally it may be said that the rich embanked land, in which rabi crops have been chiefly sown, are to be found only in a belt of country about 12 miles broad, running right through the centre of the district from east to west, with the railway line intersecting it. If the rabi crop is a fairly good one, the distress within this belt of well-cultivated country will be nominal only. For the purpose of the present letter, which is concerned with the probable expenditure on relief-works during the current financial year, it may be taken that the distress to be dealt with is confined to the hilly tracts on the northern and southern borders.

4. Famine Statement C shows that in the event of serious famine in the district at large it would be necessary to provide work for about 30,000 persons. The population of the area in which there is likely to be distress during the current year is about one-third of the total population of the district. It is probable, therefore, that work will, by the close of the year, have to be found for about 10,000 persons. It is unlikely that this total will be reached otherwise than gradually; and though it is impossible to make a precise forecast, I think it probable that the maximum will be arrived at by a gradation such as that shown below :—

	Persons.
December - - - - -	2,000
January - - - - -	4,000
February - - - - -	8,000
March - - - - -	10,000

Many of the inhabitants of the affected area are Gonds, who do not readily betake themselves to work on roads. They will find what subsistence they can in the jungles, and will only come to labour in the last resort. There is not much in the way of food to be found in the jungles at present, but there are jungle products (such as grass, leaves, dry-wood and harra) to be collected and brought for sale. I am of opinion that it will

not be till January and February that the stress of want will drive these people to our relief-works. Taking the same average rate of wage as I adopted for Hoshangabad—2 annas a day—the cost will be—

	Rs.
December - - - - -	7,500
January - - - - -	15,000
February - - - - -	30,000
March - - - - -	37,500
Total - - - - -	90,000

In order to provide for outsiders—wanderers from Bhopal, Saugor and elsewhere—I would put the figure at one lakh. This is the cost up to the end of the financial year. If it is found necessary to continue to maintain 10,000 persons on relief-works for the five months following (*i.e.* up to the end of August) an additional sum of Rs. 1,87,500, or nearly three lakhs in all, will be required.

5. In Appendix A to this letter are set out the relief-works which it is proposed to undertake. They are all road works, no other large works being feasible in the affected areas. The roads selected all pass through the hilly country to the north and south, and are useful lines of communication, having been taken from the District Road Scheme. As in other districts, I propose to make roads of the two higher classes only, for the reasons given in my letter on the Hoshangabad district.

6. I have no minor works to propose. The District Council is now carrying out ordinary repairs to roads as test works. The Deputy Commissioner is making inquiries on the subject of field embankments; but it is unlikely that this form of employment will be largely available in this district, as opinions are not unanimous as to the utility of such works. With regard to poor-houses, the District Council has already established one at Narsinghpur, and a second one will be opened at Gadarwara, where an old serai is available for the purpose. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that each will have not less than 500 inmates. I am inclined to think that the numbers will not reach 500 till March, and that 350 may be taken as the average number of occupants of each poor-house from December to March. The cost of food at 1 anna 6 pies a day may be taken at Rs. 1,950 a month, in round numbers, for both institutions, or Rs. 8,775 for the four and a-half months commencing on the 15th proximo. To this must be added cost of establishment, on the Hoshangabad scale, Rs. 616 *plus* Rs. 300 for repairs and contingencies. The total cost of the two poor-houses for four and a-half months may be set down as Rs. 97,000. For gratuitous relief outside poor-houses, and for miscellaneous expenditure, I make the same provision as in the case of Hoshangabad.

7. To sum up, the total amount that may be expected to be required for famine relief in the Narsinghpur district during the current year is as under :—

	Rs.
(1) Relief-works - - - - -	1,00,000
(2) Poor-houses - - - - -	9,700
(3) Gratuitous relief outside poor-houses - - -	1,000
(4) Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,000
Total - - - - -	1,11,700

8. I have not yet received the Deputy Commissioner's official reply to my letter calling for information on the basis indicated in Mr. Craddock's letter No. C. 449, dated the 22nd instant, but I learn from a demi-official letter from Mr. Phillips, that the District Council are unable to contribute anything towards the above total, and that not much can be expected from subscriptions. I am of opinion that Rs. 5,000 should be obtainable by subscription to poor-houses from private persons and court of wards estate. The balance to be provided by Government for famine expenditure in the Narsinghpur district during the current year is, therefore, a little over one lakh (Rs. 1,06,000).

I have, &c.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

## APPENDIX A.

To letter No. 37C., dated October 31, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,  
Revenue Department, Central Provinces.

## Scheme of Relief-Works—District Narsinghpur.

Order.	Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Details of Work.	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total of each Road.	Equivalent Number of Coolies of 2 annas per diem average.	Number of People per Month for Nine Months.	Amount required for 1896-97.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1	Old Bombay Road, Narsinghpur to Kareli.	8	Raising 1' above surface of country and repairs to crossings. Metalling 9" - -	1,350 3,600	10,800 28,800	- 39,600	- 3,16,800	- 1,173	-	III-A. raised to Class I.
2	Old Bombay Road, Kareli to Gadawara.	35	Raising above surface of country 1' and repairs to crossings, &c. Metalling 9" - -	1,350 3,600	47,250 1,26,000	- 1,73,250	- 13,86,000	- 5,133	-	III-A raised to Class I.
3	Narsinghpur to Sankal.	15	Construction - - Metalling 9" - -	1,750 3,600	26,250 54,000	- 80,250	- 6,42,000	- 2,304	-	To Class I.
4	Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road, Singhpur to Border.	7	Construction - - Kankaring - - Raising to Class I, 9" metal.	1,800 4,000 3,000	10,800 4,000 21,000	- - 35,800	- - 2,86,400	- - 1,061	-	As a Class II. Class II to I.
5	Raising road from Chota - Chhindwara to Srinagar, from III-A to II.	7	Raising and muramming.	3,100	21,700	-	-	-	-	From III-A to II.
	Road from Srinagar to Border of Seoni.	5	Constructing and muramming.	3,500	17,500	39,200	3,13,600	1,162	-	New road, Class II.
6	Gadawara to Salichowka towards Pagara.	17	Constructing and muramming.	3,500	59,500	59,500	4,76,000	1,763	-	Class II, new road.
7	Gadawara to Sankhera.	13	Constructing - - Muramming - -	- Actual estimates. 900	30,568 11,700	- 42,268	- 3,38,144	- 1,253	-	Raising from III-A to II.
8	Barman - Tendukhera Road.	15	Metalling 9" - - Completing - -	3,000 -	45,000 8,000	- 53,000	- 3,04,000	- 1,570	-	Completing as III-B and raising to Class I.
9	Narsinghpur-Lakhnadon Road.	26	Metalling 9" - -	3,000	78,000	78,000	6,24,000	2,230	-	Raising III-B to I.
10	Metalling the following Class II Roads:—									
	Narsinghpur-Singhpur	4½	Metalling - -	2,000	9,000	9,000	72,000	266	-	Raising to Class I.
	Kareli - Amgaon.	3½		2,000	7,500	7,500	60,000	222	-	
	Kulri - Bohani	4		2,000	9,000	9,000	72,000	266	-	
	TOTAL - - -					6,26,368	-	18,403	(Coolies for nine months.)	

Work to be started on item 8, metalling the Barman-Tendukhera Road.  
Work to be started on item 9, metalling the Narsinghpur-Lakhnadon Road.  
Work to be started on item 6, muramming Gadawara-Sankhera Road.

No. 41-C. Dated Camp, November 1, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34-C of yesterday's date, I have the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects of the Nimar district.

2. Until the present season, the Khandwa and Burhanpur tahsils of this district have been fairly well off as regards harvests. The Deputy Commissioner's report on the probable out-turn of the kharif crops is deficient in detail, and there is not time to procure further information before the date prescribed for the submission of this letter. His statement is that: "The present kharif harvest (much the more important one), though injured by the early stoppage of the rains, cannot, I think, turn out less than an eight-anna one, as a general average."

In the Harsud tahsil, which was constituted at the commencement of last month, and includes an area transferred from the Harda tahsil of the Hoshangabad district, seasons have not been so good as in Khandwa and Burhanpur, and the present kharif prospects are perhaps only about six annas in the rupee. The Deputy Commissioner's report gives no information as to the rabi sowings.

The rainfall returns show that the Burhanpur tahsil received some good showers of rain in September, but that in the rest of the district rain ceased with the end of August. Cotton, which is an important crop in this district, suffers less than other crops from an early cessation of the rains; but much cannot be expected of the rabi crops under the circumstances. The conclusion at which I arrive is that the Nimar district is, both on account of its previous history and its present prospects, better off than the other districts of this division. Such distress as there may be will be mainly caused by high prices, though the cultivators in the ryotwari tract in the Harsud tahsil will probably be in straitened circumstances on account of the shortness of the crops and the poor prospects of the rabi.

3. According to Famine Statement C, the number of persons to be employed on relief works, in the event of the whole district being overtaken by serious famine, is 12,000. No such catastrophe is at present in view. On the information before me, I do not think that we need contemplate having to provide employment for more than 3,000 persons at the most. This maximum would probably not be arrived at by more rapid stages than those indicated below:—

		Monthly cost of wages at 2 annas a day.	
		Rs.	
December, 500 persons	- - -	1,875	
January, 1,000 persons	- - -	3,750	
February, 2,000 persons	- - -	7,500	
March, 3,000 persons	- - -	11,250	
Total for four months		- - -	<u>24,375</u>

The total cost of providing work at 2 annas per day (the rate adopted in the case of the adjoining district of Hoshangabad) for this number of coolies, from December to the end of March, will be Rs. 24,375.

In Appendix A to this letter will be found a scheme of work which provides employment for between 3,000 and 4,000 persons for eight months. If test works show that the above estimates are likely to be realised, I propose to commence work on: (a) a section of the Harsud-Kaliam road, and (b) the Ajanti Canal in January.

4. The Deputy Commissioner is of opinion that private charity will supply the funds required for a poor-house, should one become necessary, before the end of the current year.

5. The District Council are able, by re-appropriation, to provide a sum of Rs. 5,000 for relief works. They will thus be able to bear the cost of the test works to be carried out in the current month and in December. The sum which Government is asked to provide, should the test works in question show that the estimate given above of the number of persons to be provided with employment is correct, is Rs. 20,000 in round figures.

I have, &c.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.



## APPENDIX A.

[To Letter No. 41C., dated November 1, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department, Central Provinces.]

## Scheme of Relief Works—District Nimar.

Order.	Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Details.	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total of each Road.	Number of People for Eight Months.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1	Raising Khandwa-Mobghat Road to Class 1.	3½	Muram soling and metalling.	Rs. -	Rs. 6,122	Rs. 6,122	204	Estimate in Stage III.
2	Extending Ajanti Canal of Khandwa Waterworks Embankment and waste weir earth-work.	-	As per Stage III. Estimate.	-	7,500	7,500	250	
3	Harsud-Kalam-Bamgarh - Khandwa Road :							
	Harsud to Kalam.	6	Estimate in Stage III.	-	28,000	-	-	} New road.
	Kalam to old border.	4	Surveyed - -	7,000	1,750	-	-	
	Old border to Bamgarh.	11	Under survey - -	19,250	1,750	-	-	
	Bamgarh to Khandwa.	9	Surveyed - -	12,150	1,350	-	-	
	Raising road from Class III. B. to II.	40	Muramming - -	900	36,000	1,02,900	3,410	Class III. A. to III. B. All to Class II.
	Total - - -			-	-	1,15,922	3,860	

Work to be started on the Harsud Kalam Road, and on No. 2 in January, if test works opened in November and December show that relief works are necessary.

No. 4729.—Dated Nagpur, November 28, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE NERBUDDA DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 34-C to 37-C, dated October 31, and No. 41-C, dated November 1, reporting on the agricultural prospects of the districts of the Nerbudda Division, and the measures of relief which it is proposed to take. The Chief Commissioner has also had under consideration your subsequent letter No. 67-C, dated November 14, forwarding the reports of the Deputy Commissioners on which your conclusions and proposals were based, your letter No. 66-C of the same date, forwarding a programme of relief-works which you have arranged, in consultation with the Chief Engineer, to undertake during the remaining portion of the current financial year, and your letter No. 72-C, dated November 19, showing the distribution of the sum of one lakh of rupees allotted for immediate requirements to your Division. Before proceeding further I am to explain that this sum was not intended by the Chief Commissioner to be the limit of expenditure on famine relief in the Nerbudda Division up to April 1 next. That limit will be fixed by the necessities of the case as they may be found to exist, and the amount provisionally allotted will be supplemented by whatever sum is necessary to secure the paramount object of saving life. Your last letter divides the lakh between the four districts of Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, Betul and Chhindwara (Nimar being left to provide its relief expenditure from district funds), and conveys sanction to an expenditure of Rs. 24,000 in these four districts for the month of December. But it should be understood that neither you nor the Deputy Commissioners are tied down to this limit, and that the Chief Commissioner is ready (with the approval

of the Government of India) to provide whatever sum is required for the effectual relief of distress.

2. Taking the districts of your Division from west to east, the Chief Commissioner finds that in Nimar the Deputy Commissioner estimates the outturn of the kharif crops (which cover five-sixths of the cropped area of the district), at 8 annas all round. This estimate was put forward on October 31, and is subject to correction on further information, which you have doubtless called on Mr. Walker to supply when the harvest is reaped, and the outturn has been better ascertained. In the Harsud tahsil, which comprises the Charwa ryotwari tract lately transferred to the district from Hoshangabad, the outturn is not expected to exceed 6 annas. With the exception of this tract, the district (which has had good harvests of recent years) is considered unlikely to suffer severely from scarcity, although distress will doubtless be caused by high prices. You anticipate that employment may have to be found for some 3,000 persons by March next, but this total will be gradually reached, and at 2 annas a day (a high rate of wages for famine relief when women and children are included) you estimate that Rs. 24,375 is the sum which may have to be provided for affording work for them; of this the District Council can give Rs. 5,000 by re-appropriation, and Rs. 20,000 (in round figures) will thus have to be found from Government Funds. For poor relief you anticipate that private charity will provide.

For relief work you submit a scheme containing three projects, viz: (1) raising the Khandwa-Mohgat Road to Class I, costing Rs. 6,122; (2) extending the Ajanti canal of the Khandwa Waterworks, Rs. 7,500, and (3) the Harsud-Kaliam-Bhamgarh-Khandwa Road, estimated to cost Rs. 1,02,300. These works would employ 3,860 people for eight months. The scheme forwarded with your letter No. 66-C, dated November 14, however, provides only for No. (2) of the above, costing Rs. 7,500, and the first section, 16 miles, of the Harsud-Kaliam Road, costing Rs. 28,000, and of the Rs. 35,500 thus furnished only Rs. 5,000 (the whole of which the District Council can provide) is estimated to be required in the financial year 1896-97. If your anticipations are correct it will not be necessary to make any special grant of Government Funds to this district for the current year. The Chief Commissioner has not heard what has been the result of the test works which you have directed to be opened, but assumes that you will report at once if any acute distress, calling for expenditure beyond the amount thus allotted, should declare itself. Meantime Mr. Lyall sanctions administratively the three projects mentioned as works suitable for famine relief, and authorises work being started upon them should the necessity declare itself. He observes that they are all in the northern portion of the district, and that no work is provided for the Burhanpur tahsil. He assumes that you have satisfied yourself that none is required there.

The recent rainfall in this district is understood to have been very light, and in any case, the rabi area being unimportant and the kharif crops harvested or ripe, it could not be expected to make much difference in prospects.

3. *Hoshangabad*.—In this district the prospects of the western portion, including the Harda and Seoni tahsils (with the exception of the Charwa parganna in the former), are reported to be fair. The rabi has been largely sown, and so far has survived, and has doubtless benefited by the late rain. The kharif, represented by jowari and tilli, occupies about a fourth of the cultivated area, and Mr. Lyall understands that jowari has done better than was expected, and that at least an eight-anna crop of this grain and of tilli may be anticipated. The two eastern tahsils, Hoshangabad and Sohagpur, are, however, in a much worse condition, and the Chief Commissioner learns with regret from a recent report from the Deputy Commissioner that in the latter the people have already been reduced to a severe degree of distress. The kharif area is here much larger than to the west, and the crops, except jowari, which is now expected to yield from 6 to 8 annas, have been a failure. A large proportion of the rabi area is unsown, and although the wheat sown has germinated, it is reported to be withering in many places from want of moisture. The tract has already suffered in recent years from failure of harvests, which has contributed to cause much despondency among the cultivating classes. The labourers, Mr. Crump reports, are already in a state verging on starvation, and beggars (many of whom come from Bhopal) are very numerous. The late rainfall was here very light, and not much benefit to the rabi is anticipated.

You propose, in your letter No. 34-C of October 31, the following measures of relief:—

- (1.) The completion of the road schemes of the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils;

- (2.) The raising to Class I. of the Harda-Handia Road ;
- (3.) The stacking of supplies of metal on the Piparia-Pachmarhi and Itarsi-Betul Roads ;
- (4.) Procuring, through the orders of the Government of India, work on the portion of the Indian Midland Railway which lies between the Hoshangabad Railway Station and the Nerbudda, where a new alignment has been proposed ; this, it is said, would employ 1,000 men for three months ;
- (5.) Digging of fields in Court of Wards estates for the eradication of káns grass ;
- (6.) The opening of poor-houses at Hoshangabad and Sohagpur.

You have already sanctioned the last step by telegraph ; and you propose for the two poor-houses an establishment costing Rs. 137 a month. This the Chief Commissioner sanctions. You expect to spend on the poor-houses Rs. 9,700 before the close of the present year. Whatever expenditure is necessary will be provided, and you are authorised to incur it.

The digging of káns grass, referred to above under head (5), will, the Chief Commissioner understands, be provided for from the funds of estates under the Court of Wards.

Enquiry will be made through the Public Works Department regarding the work referred to under head (4).

As regards the other works proposed, you calculate that about 5½ lakhs may be required for expenditure in the coming nine months, but for the remainder of the current financial year you estimate that Rs. 1,42,000 only will be required. Your estimate provides for the employment of numbers rising from 5,000 in December to 20,000 in April. Much depends on the out-turn of the rabi harvest, but the Chief Commissioner is not inclined to question your estimate of the numbers needing relief, and rather fears that it may be found under the mark in the earlier months of the distress.

In your letter No. 66-C., dated the 14th November, you have revised your estimate of works to be at once taken in hand. The works above enumerated under head (3), *i.e.*, the collection of metal for the Piparia-Pachmarhi and Itarsi-Betul Road (as far as Dhar), are retained, but of the Hoshangabad-Sohagpur Road programme only the Piparia-Sandia, the Piparia-Sobhapur, and the Tigaria-Dularia roads are included, and the Harda-Handia Road is also provided for in the Harda tahsil. The total estimated cost of these works is put down at Rs. 1,69,900, of which Rs. 51,650 is expected to be incurred during the remaining months of the current year. The Chief Commissioner understands that these estimates (which he has approved in the Public Works Department) do not include provision for hutting, conservancy, and medical arrangements, and that some addition will be necessary on this account. And he fears, looking to the accounts since received of the prevalence of distress in the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils, that they may not sufficiently provide the employment which is required. If this proves to be the case, no time should be lost in drawing up a supplementary programme for sanction as soon as indications are observed that the distress is increasing. Of the funds required, you estimated that the District Council Budget could provide Rs. 22,000, while from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 10,000 might be expected from private charity. According to your letter of the 31st October, this left Government to provide about Rs. 1,25,000 for the current year. The reduced programme of works subsequently forwarded (which however, as above indicated, requires some expansion) would make the account stand thus :—

	Rs.
1. Relief works - - - - -	51,650
2. Poor-houses - - - - -	9,700
3. Gratuitous relief - - - - -	1,000
4. Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,000
Total - - - - -	63,350
Deduct—	
	Rs.
District Fund monies - - - - -	22,000
Private charity - - - - -	10,000
	32,000
Balance - - - - -	31,350

The Chief Commissioner fears that this is somewhat below the amount which may be expected to be required in the Hoshangabad District, and will be ready to grant any further sum which may be necessary.

4. *Narsinghpur*.—In this district the parts where distress is present are the hilly portions along the northern and southern borders, which are peopled by the poorest classes, chiefly of aboriginal race, who depend mainly upon the kharif harvest, which has generally failed. The centre of the district, a tract about 12 miles broad, through the middle of which the railway runs, contains the richest land, and if the rabi harvest, aided by good rain, yields a fair out-turn, it is expected that there will not be much distress in this area. The Chief Commissioner hopes that this estimate of the situation is a sound one; but he fears from what he has heard that the power of the people of the Narsinghpur district to resist distress has been considerably reduced, owing to the prevalence of unfavourable seasons during a series of past years, and that it may be necessary to make a larger provision for relief expenditure in it than is contemplated.

The proposals in your letter No. 37-C., dated the 31st October, provide for the employment of 10,000 persons in March, rising from 2,000 in December. At the rate of two annas a day (a rather large estimate, as already pointed out), the cost of relief in work or poor-houses would be Rs. 90,000, or, to provide for outside wanderers, about one lakh. You have already authorised the opening of two poor-houses, at Narsinghpur and Gadawara, and provide Rs. 9,700 for them, and for other relief purposes you set down Rs. 2,000, making a total for the district of Rs. 1,11,700, of which only Rs. 5,000 is expected to be met from private sources, nothing being available from District Funds.

The revised programme of works for this district, submitted with your letter of the 14th November, gives works costing to complete Rs. 1,57,518, and provides only Rs. 40,000 for expenditure during the current year. The Chief Commissioner has sanctioned this programme in the Public Works Department, but fears that it will probably have to be increased in view of the prospect of distress becoming more acute. The charge of the district has just changed hands. Mr. Lyall trusts that you will impress on the new incumbent the necessity of watching the progress of the distress with the utmost care, and of having ready a programme of additional work which can be put in hand immediately experience shows it to be required. The late Deputy Commissioner, it is understood, thought that in the east of the Narsinghpur district there was some scope for tank-making and the embankment of land; he also mentioned to the Chief Commissioner the eradication of káns grass by systematic digging as a useful agricultural work. The Chief Commissioner hopes that you will ascertain whether loans under the Land Improvement Act could be utilised in these directions, and work thus provided for the people in their villages.

5. *Betul*.—The report from this district contained in your letter of the 31st October indicates a good deal of uncertainty as to the situation. The district, like Nimar, has enjoyed a series of good seasons, and it was believed by the late Officiating Deputy Commissioner that there was a considerable quantity of grain in stock, probably enough to last for a year, in the level and more fertile portions. Much of the area is, however, mountainous and broken, inhabited by Korkus and Gonds, and wholly dependent on the kharif. Among these it is to be feared that distress is very probable, and special provision requires to be made for them. In the south a considerable portion of the labouring classes is accustomed to emigrate to Berar during the cold weather for work in harvesting, and this year they must have been disappointed of this resource. The Betul-Itarsi Road (and its continuation into Berar) is also a thoroughfare, like that from Jubbulpore to Nagpur, along which many wanderers are found to travel, and special attention will have to be paid to it to guard against deaths from starvation. Until the situation further develops, and the out-turns of the kharif and the prospects of the rabi are more clearly known, our attitude as regards this district must be one mainly of expectation, but we should be prepared for eventualities should they arise.

You propose, in your letter of the 31st October, to provide work for 1,000 persons in December, increasing to 4,000 in February and March, and reaching 5,000 from April to August. Assuming lower prices in Betul than elsewhere, you put the wage per head at 1 anna 9 pie per diem, and you calculate that for nine months a total of Rs. 1,22,000 will be required, not more than Rs. 40,000 of which will fall in the current year. The District Council can contribute only Rs. 5,000, of which Rs. 3,700 will be spent on test works and the balance on tools and poor-house expenditure. One poor-house at Badnour is proposed, costing about Rs. 2,200 for three months. With Rs. 300

for miscellaneous, the total comes to Rs. 42,500 for the current year, of which about Rs. 3,000 may be met from charity.

The works proposed are (1) the road from Badnur to Harda *via* Chicholi, which will afford labour in the northern mountainous tract; (2) the Badnur-Ellichpur Road, which will give work in the south; and (3) collection of a year's supply of metal for the Betul-Itarsi (Dhar) Road.

Your subsequent revised programme for Betul includes only the second and third of the above works, and contemplates the preparation of estimates for work amounting to Rs. 80,630, of which only Rs. 15,000 will be spent before the 31st March 1896. This has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, but he is inclined to doubt whether, if distress declares itself in an acute form in the northern mountainous tract among the Korkus and Gonds, it will not be necessary to take in hand the Badnur-Harda road *via* Chicholi.

6. *Chhindwara*.—In this district it was expected in October that the Sausar or southern tahsil would escape severe pressure, with the exception of the jungly tracts of Ambassa and Kamarpani, and that, except the opening of the forests, no special relief will be required by the people of this portion of the district. In the Chhindwara tahsil things were much worse. The outturn of the kharif had been very poor, the rabi area had been contracted owing to larger kharif sowings than usual, and of the normal rabi area about one-half only had been sown, while germination had been defective, and some of the wheat had withered after germination. The Chief Commissioner, however, understands that the recent rain has been heavy in Chhindwara, and it is probable that some of the area hitherto unsown, or which has failed after sowing, may still be occupied by a crop. This part of the district has hitherto had good crops, and distress is likely to be restricted to the wage-earning classes.

North of the Chhindwara tahsil lies the belt of mountainous and barren country forming the Jagirs. Here the population is almost wholly aboriginal, and depends upon the autumn crops of kodo, kutki and jagni, all of which have entirely failed in the eastern Jagirs, while those to the west have done a little better. Distress in this tract is certain, and it will be general. Relief has therefore to be provided for the labouring poor in the Chhindwara tahsil and for the Gond population in the Jagirs. You estimate that beginning with 4,000 persons in December, the number of applicants for employment may reach 10,000 in March, and that at 1 anna 9 pies a day, Rs. 91,980 may be required by the end of March, or if work is started earlier Rs. 95,000. You provide for two poor houses, at Chhindwara and Amarwara, the latter to serve the eastern Jagirs and to be in charge of the Missionaries there, at a cost of Rs. 2,200. You consider that no gratuitous out-door relief will be immediately required, and your total estimate reaches Rs. 97,500. Of this the District Fund will contribute Rs. 9,000, private subscriptions Rs. 1,000, and the Pagara Court of Wards Rs. 7,000, leaving about Rs. 90,000 for Government to provide.

The Public Works proposed are (1) the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road, three sections, (2) the Singanama-Belgaon Road, and (3) a tank at Pagara.

Your revised estimate of the 14th November includes these same works, but estimates only Rs. 75,000 for work upon them, excluding the Pagara tank, and provides only Rs. 20,000 for the current year. This has been sanctioned in the Public Works Department, but the Chief Commissioner doubts whether, unless the late rain has greatly changed the prospects of the district, the revised estimate will suffice. He relies upon you to watch carefully the progress of the relief works when started, and to extend the programme if required.

He observes that some works of land improvement are contemplated in this district in field embankments in the Amarwara circle, while a drinking water tank is to be made at Ranikhera. I am to say that if the former works are feasible and likely to be profitable, the Chief Commissioner thinks they had better be taken in hand at once, as village works are more suitable for ill-clad people in the winter (which is severe in the uplands) than large works under the Public Works Department, inasmuch as they can obtain shelter in their villages, while on the latter they are likely, unless expensively huted, to suffer from exposure. There will be money available for advances under the Land Improvement Act if required by malguzars willing to carry out such improvements, and Mr. Lyall would wish the Deputy Commissioner to ascertain as soon as possible whether they can be undertaken and to what extent.

7. The Chief Commissioner believes that the above remarks and orders deal fully with all the points contained in your letter; if you require his decision in regard to any other questions, they should be submitted as soon as possible. I am to ask that before

the end of December a report may be submitted for each district, giving a fuller account of the situation, the out-turn and prospects of the harvests, the numbers for which relief will be necessary, and the estimated expenditure on providing it. The report should include an account of the measures of relief and the expenditure upon them undertaken up to the date of its submission.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST, Chief Secretary.

No. 8676.—Dated Nagpur, November 7, 1896.

From A. H. L. FRASER, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN accordance with the request contained in your letter, No. C-447, dated the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to forward separate Notes on the prospects of each district in this Division, along with copies of the Deputy Commissioners' reports alluded to in the Notes.

2. I also forward an abstract of the expenditure anticipated, showing the sources from which funds are expected. I may say that in all districts there has been a prompt and generous response to the calls made on public benevolence for assistance. I think, however, that the sums actually promised for Bhandara and Balaghat are for eight months. If, however, more than what has been promised is required, I have the assurance of Rao Bahadur Yado Rao that he will help me further in Bhandara. The estimates may, therefore, be accepted.

3. In regard to the estimated expenditure, I would note that the estimates made may be regarded as the worst that we expect up to April 1 next. I have not, however, felt justified in cutting down the Deputy Commissioners' figures further than I have done. I understand that we are to relieve distress with a distinct determination that not a single death from starvation which we can prevent shall take place. It would, in this view, be a very serious thing to have less money than we require.

4. At the same time I think it quite probable that in Chanda the only Government works required this year may be half the Warora-Patalla Road and two-thirds of my estimate for the Chanda-Katori Road. That would give (Rs. 5,400 + 5,600) Rs. 11,000 for this district in column 2 of my abstract. I have said in my Note that probably Rs. 6,750, in round numbers Rs. 7,000, may suffice under this head for Wardha. But the Kondhali people may need more help towards the end of the year. In Nagpur I think that there is little doubt that the Khapa-Patansaongi Road, the length of metalling on the Umrer Road and half my estimate for the Kalmeshwar-Katol Road will probably suffice. This would give (Rs. 9,216 + 10,000 + 6,784) Rs. 26,000 for Nagpur. In Bhandara I think we might safely cut Rs. 8,000 off the Tumsar-Rampaili Road and Rs. 3,300 off the Phulchur-Arjuni Road. This would reduce the figure for that district from Rs. 66,300 to Rs. 55,000. I should not like to cut down the figure for Balaghat to less than Rs. 90,000. This would give Rs. 1,89,000 for the total of column 2. I think it possible also that the Government expenditure on gratuitous relief might be reduced without risk, say by Rs. 18,000, if the works are started promptly; this would give a total demand of Rs. 2,29,000 from Government in the Division.

5. From this has to be deducted the following sums which can be paid by District Councils:—

	Rs.
Chanda - - - - -	3,370
Wardha - - - - -	1,000
Nagpur - - - - -	9,500
Bhandara - - - - -	7,600
Balaghat - - - - -	—
Total - - - - -	21,470

This leaves a net demand for Government assistance of about two lakhs for the current year.

6. It will be noted that my Notes show the following totals for advances under the Land Improvement Act :—

		Rs.
Chanda	- - - - -	5,000
Wardha	- - - - -	—
Nagpur	- - - - -	25,000
Bhandara	- - - - -	25,000
Balaghat	- - - - -	50,000
Total	- - - - -	1,05,000

or, say, in round numbers, one lakh.

I have, &c.

A. H. L. FRASER, Commissioner.

#### ABSTRACT.

Name of District.	WORKS.				GRATUITOUS RELIEF.				TOTAL EXPENDITURE.				Remarks.
	Government.	Private.	Total.	Men.	Government.	Private.	Total.	Men.	Government.	Private.	Total.	Men.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	
Chanda	19,800	10,000	29,800	2,400	3,300	1,500	4,800	800	23,100	11,500	34,600	3,200	Rs. 5,000 for tanks now in use.
Wardha	12,000	—	12,000	1,450	—	6,000	6,000	600	12,000	6,000	18,000	2,050	—
Nagpur	33,516	75,000	1,08,516	10,000	10,000	25,000	35,000	4,000	43,516	1,00,000	1,43,516	14,000	He has Rs. 5,000 takavi.
Bhandara	66,300	52,000	1,18,300	11,000	15,000	10,000	25,000	3,000	81,300	62,000	1,43,300	14,000	He has Rs. 7,500 takavi.
Balaghat	98,000	60,000	1,58,000	12,000	30,000	6,000	36,000	4,000	1,28,000	66,000	1,94,000	16,000	Rs. 5,000 on ryotwari tanks and Rs. 8750 on takavi now being used.
Total	2,29,616	1,97,000	4,26,616	36,850	58,300	48,500	1,06,800	12,400	2,87,916	2,45,500	5,33,416	49,250	

#### WARDHA PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The Deputy Commissioner's Report is contained in his letters No. 6624, dated the 12th ultimo, and No. 6985, dated the 30th ultimo. His view is briefly this:—"Cotton will probably be fair to poor, juari, in good land, the same. Wheat and linseed will be practically failures, giving only a 4-anna crop. The affected area north of the line will be the Kondhali and part of the Keljhar parganas, *i.e.*, the hilly part of the district where the soil is poor."

The prospects for the rabi area south of the line are bad. "The very general opinion is that little relief will be required in this district before February."

There will be great difficulty in realising revenue, but not much real distress.

2. There is some acute distress among a few people at Wardha now, but these are for the most part strangers from other provinces, or from other districts of this province. They are mainly from Rewah, Bhandara, and Balaghat. These have come for work in Berar, and have been turned back. They will require gratuitous relief for the weak, and work for the able-bodied. There will also, I think, be some distress among the people of Kheljar and Kondhali. This can be relieved later on in the season, to a certain extent, by forest produce. But some work seems to me to be necessary at once.

3. I would propose at once to start the collection of metal for the Warda-Paunar road. This is five miles long. The work is necessary in view of the waterworks. It is conveniently situated for relieving such distress as seems to exist. The collection of metal would employ 750 men for three months, and would cost about Rs. 6,750.

4. This would probably suffice for the current year. If not, there is in reserve the last eight miles of the Pulgaon-Arvi road, which has to be metalled. The collection of metal would keep employed 1,200 men for three months. It would cost about Rs. 11,000. If the two works be required, a round sum of Rs. 18,000 may be taken as necessary. But Rs. 12,000 is quite a safe estimate.

5. Besides this a sum of about Rs. 6,000 will be required for the gratuitous relief of people unable to work. This will be wholly met by private charity.

A. H. L. FRASER,

Dated November 7, 1896.

Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

No. 6624. Dated Wardha, October 12, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, WARDHA, to the COMMISSIONER,  
NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Report called for in Secretariat letter No. C.-377, dated October 1, 1896, a copy of which was forwarded under your endorsement No. 7748, dated October 3, 1896.

2. The main line of the railway almost exactly marks the division of the areas of the kharif and rabi crops. North of the line in the higher and poorer soils of the Arvi tahsil is grown the juari and cotton, while the richer plain of the southern half grows the wheat and linseed. There is, however, a rich strip of black cotton soil all along the banks of the Wardha River on which juari is grown.

The rain practically ceased at the end of August. Since then it has been very hot, and the ground has become baked. The kharif crop of juari, however, on the moisture-retaining black soil will pull through, but the juari in the Kondhali pargana, where the land is generally kbardi and bardi, will probably turn out a 4-anna crop at the most.

A little rain now would save it, and, what is more, would give another bumper cotton crop. If no rain falls, the affected area north of the line will be the Kondhali, and part of the Keljhar parganas; that is, the hilly part of the district where the soil is poor.

The same may be said of a small area round Pohna in the south, where juari is largely grown.

The outlook, however, for the tract south of the line is not pleasant. The crop is almost entirely a rabi one of wheat and linseed. The linseed has already been sown and the plants have germinated, but they will not be able to stand the heat much longer. Wheat will be very poor.

Last year the rain ceased early, but there were showers at the time of the Dasera which saved all the crops; at present the ground is too hard and dry even for sowing. The only other crop is tilli, which is largely sown in the south-east corner of the district. This should turn out fairly well. To sum up, cotton will probably be fair to poor, juari in good land the same; wheat and linseed will be, practically, failures, giving only a 4-anna crop. The staple food of the poorer classes is juari, and there will be sufficient of that crop, I hope, to require no importation, although prices are nearly certain to rule higher than usual.

3. As regards relief works, I can fall back on road construction, if necessary. Roads are required in each tahsil; as to funds, I can throw over the sanitary works provided for by the district council. This will give me Rs. 5,225. This body also propose to spend Rs. 10,000 in raising the Wardha-Waigaon road in class, so I shall have at least Rs. 15,225 at my disposal. I do not, however, at present anticipate any general scarcity of food. There will be great difficulty in realising rents and revenue again in the Hinganghat tahsil, but I believe that will be all.

4. Your orders regarding crop experiments will be carefully followed.



No. 6985. Dated Wardha, October 30, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, WARDHA, to the COMMISSIONER,  
NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your endorsements No. 8296, dated October 24, 1896, and No. 8329, dated October 24, 1896, regarding famine relief works.

2. I have for some weeks been making careful inquiries, and I find it is the very general opinion that little relief will be required in this district before February. No test works have yet been started. The condition of things at present is as follows:—

3. Food is being distributed gratis by three or four gentlemen in Wardha itself. The total number of people in receipt of these doles is about 400, of whom 100 are beggars who are always in receipt of relief, and perhaps 50 are Mahars of Wardha and the surrounding villages, who are out of work.

The balance consists of strangers wandering through the district from Balaghat and Bhandara. It will not be until the rabi harvest that relief work will be required.

4. Now, supposing that we have 300 people in the poorhouse, I calculate the cost of providing for them to be Rs. 900 to Rs. 950 a month.

Out of this Rs. 400 will be supplied by private charity. I have already over Rs. 300 a month guaranteed for eight months. But many of these people are able and willing to work, and for them I propose that the Public Works Department should start metal collection for the Pownar road as a test relief work. The cost, however, of this will be estimated by the Public Works Department.

The district council have already asked for a grant of Rs. 10,000 to raise this road, and you have approved of it.

5. The minor works under district agency for the current year have already been taken in hand. Most are completed, and only a few hundred rupees will be available.

6. Poorhouses and children's kitchens and gratuitous relief. I do not think that poorhouses and children's kitchens will be needed this year.

If the metal collection is started as suggested, the charitable relief should be sufficient for those who are unable to work.

7. Miscellaneous expenses will be very small; Rs. 200 should suffice.

8. As I have stated above, very little remodelling of the district council budget is possible. The large road works were started directly the rain stopped, and I then gave orders that the roads should be finished by November.

9. Charitable donations I expect to bring in Rs. 400 a month.

10. Works of improvement by private persons. Under this head I can hold out no hopes at present. Irrigation practically is non-existent in this district, and is not appreciated. The few tanks there serve no useful purpose.

11. I have just visited Arvi, and have made inquiries at Hinganghat, and from both places I have ascertained that there will be very little local distress until after the harvest. I therefore propose that, for the present, we should content ourselves with starting stone-breaking as a test work. It is very unlucky that all the gitti to be employed next year by the Municipal Committee of Wardha has already been prepared. This would have given a certain amount of work.

---

#### NAGPUR PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The Deputy Commissioner's views are set forth in his letter No. 7440-327, dated the 3rd instant. Briefly they are these: "I think that no serious distress need be anticipated in the Katol or Nagpur tahsils, except near Kondhali and along the Wardha border. \* \* \* \* So also in Ramtek no serious distress is anticipated, except in Dongartal and part of Bhedgarh, and also in the neighbourhood of Tarsa. In all, except the last-mentioned quarter, the throwing open of Government jungle will go far to mitigate the distress. In Umrer the case is more serious owing to failure during the

preceding years. \* \* \* \* One great cause for anxiety is the condition of the weaving classes."

2. I have discussed this report with the Deputy Commissioner. The provisions of Section 105 of the Famine Code are receiving attention. Inquiry is being made as to how far special relief can be given to the Koshtis in accordance with that section.

3. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that about 4,000 people will require gratuitous relief. This may be an over-estimate. But in view of what has already occurred in respect to the influx of destitute and helpless people into Nagpur, I am not prepared to cut it down, for there are also a number of Koshtis and poor labourers belonging to the district who will require relief ere long. The Deputy Commissioner estimates the cost of gratuitous relief at Rs. 35,000, and believes that the well-to-do among the citizens (who have come forward well) will meet Rs. 25,000 of this demand, leaving Rs. 10,000 to Government.

4. There are some important improvements which may be made by the Bhonsla and Sausthanik Estates, and by Ahilaji Rao's and Krishan Rao's Estates. In the case of the last two the debt instalments would have to be postponed. Nearly Rs. 40,000 are available under this head. The Deputy Commissioner also anticipates that about Rs. 10,000 will be spent from their own funds by landowners, and about Rs. 25,000 of takavi utilised in land improvements. This makes a total of about Rs. 75,000 from Court of Wards, private funds, and takavi.

5. Besides this, the Deputy Commissioner considers it necessary to estimate for the following works :—

- (I.) The Khapa-Patansaongi road, six miles long, which is most urgently required for the labouring class (including Koshtis) of the region round about Khapa, where there are many large villages. It is estimated that the work of earthwork, excavating muram and collecting metal, will keep 768 men employed for six months. For the four months of the current year the cost would be Rs. 9,216. This road has to be aligned, and that should be done at once.
- (II.) Metalling two lengths of the Nagpur-Chanda road, through the Umrer tahsil, viz., (1) a length of eight miles a little west of Umrer, which has not yet been metalled; and (2) the length from Umrer eastward to Bhiwapur (15 miles), which would link on to the Bhiwapur-Pauni road in the Bhandara district. Collecting metal for these works would support 1,725 men for six months. The first length would occupy 600 men for six months. This might be taken at 1,200 men for three months, the second length being left out of account for the current year. This would cost Rs. 10,800. This work can be started as soon as possible to be a test relief work.
- (III.) The metalling of the Kalmeshwar-Katol road should be kept ready to start when required to relieve the Kondhali tracts and also Jalalkhera. It is 24 miles long, and would employ 1,800 men for six months collecting metal. At most two and a half months might be required this year, costing Rs. 13,500.

November 7, 1896.

A. H. L. FRASER,  
Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

No. 7440-327. Dated Nagpur, November 3, 1896.

From E. R. K. BLENKINSOP, Esq., I.C.S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,  
NAGPUR, to the COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit a brief report on the condition of the Nagpur district, as directed by Secretariat letter No. C. 447, dated the 22nd October 1896, and received in this office on the 24th idem. The more general information called for in Secretariat letter No. C. 377, dated the 1st October 1896, and received in this office on the 5th idem, is supplied as a necessary preliminary to the financial question. The report is drawn up under Section 14 of the Famine Code.

## A.—SCARCITY ANTICIPATED, WITH REASONS.

2. The complete cessation of the rains during the greater part of September and the whole of October, coupled with the high rates prevailing in other districts and provinces, and consequent exports, caused a rapid rise in the prices of all kinds of food-grains. Juari, the cheapest food staple, is and has for some time been selling at 11 seers and 14 chittacks to the rupee at head-quarters, and at slightly better rates in the district. At one time, owing to the rioting, and, afterwards, to the grasping nature of the retail sellers, prices were still worse. The prices of food staples are 50 per cent. above the normal. I do not anticipate a further rise in prices, but the failure of the kharif crops in light soil, and the effect of the drought on the rabi sowings, preclude all possibility of any permanent amelioration. It has been impossible, in the time at my disposal, to obtain exact information as to the area that has fallen out of cultivation, but the following estimates of out-turns are based on reports from tahsildars and revenue inspectors, and after careful consultation with my Superintendent of Land Records. The tahsildar, Nagpur, has not yet submitted a report, probably on account of press\* of work, but I have seen the Nagpur Revenue Inspectors.

Estimates of Tahsildars are for the whole tahsil, without distinction of soil, and so in most cases of revenue inspectors.

*Ramtek*—Revenue Inspector's Circle Tarsa—

Irrigated rice	- - - - -	8 annas.
Unirrigated	- - - - -	2 „
Juari	- - - - -	8 „
Cotton	- - - - -	8 „
Wheat, grain and linseed	- - - - -	4 „ if no rain.

## Proportion of Crops in this Circle—

Wheat	- - - - -	8 annas.
Linseed and juari	- - - - -	2 „ each.
Rice	- - - - -	1 „
Others	- - - - -	3 „

There is practically no cotton.

## CIRCLE RAMTEK.

Irrigated rice	- - - - -	8 annas.
Unirrigated	- - - - -	2 „
Juari	- - - - -	8 „
Makkai	- - - - -	14 „
Kodo and kutki	- - - - -	1 „
Tur	- - - - -	8 „
Wheat	- - - - -	Nil, if no rain.
Linseed	- - - - -	No anna estimate, but apparently 4 annas, if no rain.

## CIRCLE KHAPA.

Juari	- - - - -	8 annas, and if it rains, 16 annas in good soil; light soil crops ruined.
Tur	- - - - -	12 annas.
Cotton	- - - - -	12 „
Til	- - - - -	12 „ or more.
Wheat	- - - - -	4 „ or less, if no rain.
Linseed	- - - - -	4 „
Gram	- - - - -	8 „ if no rain.

Kharif crops most important, and no fear of famine.

## ESTIMATES OF TAHSILDAR.

*Ramtek*—

Irrigated rice	- - - - -	6 annas.
Unirrigated	- - - - -	1 „
Juari	- - - - -	8 „ if no rain, 4 annas.
Tur	- - - - -	8 „ „ 2 „
Cotton	- - - - -	6 „ „ 2 „
Til	- - - - -	8 „
Rabi—Total failure unless there is rain.		

It should be remembered that these estimates cover the light soils, where the ruin is already complete.

\* He has been ... supplies for the ...

## CIRCLE BELA.

*Umrer.*—The Inspector gives his estimates according to soils, but expects failure of all crops, and gives a circle estimate for all important crops of 4 annas.

## CIRCLE UMRER.

Out-turns 8 to 6 annas, except in 44 villages, where the failure will be complete, if there is no rain.

## CIRCLE KUHI.

Inspector anticipates that tenants will be unable to pay the first kist even; one-quarter soil under rabi crops uncultivated.

Rice 4 annas.

Juari 8 annas in good soil; in poor soil complete failure.

Tahsildar estimates as follows:—

678 villages—

26 have Government forests.

62 fair.

291 fair if rain, if not 4 annas.

41 poor if rain, if not 3 annas.

258—2 annas even if rain.

*Katol.*—The Katol estimates are not worth quoting; I think they take a much too despondent view of the situation.

*Nagpur.*—Detailed reports not received.

*Whole District.*—The opinion of the Superintendent of Land Records is that juari, cotton, and linseed, will give a good out-turn in good soils. Til very good. Irrigated rice 6 to 8 annas; unirrigated lost. Tur 8 to 12 annas. Gram 4 to 6 annas and wheat 6 to 8 annas if dew falls. I think myself that no serious distress need be anticipated in the Katol or Nagpur tahsils, except near Kondhali and along the Wardha border. Possibly also near Mohpa.

So also in Ramtek no serious distress is anticipated, except in Dongartal and part of Bheugarh, and also in the neighbourhood of Tharsa. In all, except the last-mentioned quarter, the throwing open of Government jungle will go far to mitigate the distress. In Umrer, the case is more serious, owing to failure during the preceding years. I think the Kahi Inspector is too despondent, but the Bela Circle is badly hit; the malguzars will probably be unable to meet the revenue demand, but on that point it is impossible to speak with any certainty at present. One great cause for anxiety is the condition of the weaving classes. I am credibly informed that the price they get for their cloth barely covers the outlay. The Empress Mills, having a large stock of cloth, of which they cannot dispose, contemplate closing the mills, or at any rate turning off a large number of hands. This is the period of singast, during which no marriages are celebrated, and the demand for cloth diminishes immensely. The condition of the poorer weavers is very bad and has been so for some time. At Nagpur itself, there are nearly 20,000 Koshtis and 1,500 Momins. The weaving class forms an important element at Umrer and Khapa.

3 (b). I have already dealt with this point, but will tabulate.

## AREA LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED.

*Katol.*—The hilly country especially on the Wardha border and north of the Kalmeshwar-Katol Road.

*Nagpur.*—The hilly country towards Bori and Bazargaon.

*Ramtek.*—Dongartal and part of Bheugarh. The neighbourhood of Tharsa, Khas Khapa.

*Umrer.*—Baila Circle very bad; test works also necessary in distressed parts of the other two circles.—Khas Umrer. The weaving classes of Nagpur, Umrer, and Khapa.

4 (c). This is fully set forth in the District Scheme of Roads and Famine; I cannot abstract this in so short a report, but will deal with the subject further under head "f."

5 (d). Accurate information under this head is being obtained through patwaris; I can at present only supply the areas under each crop last year, with the estimated outturn. It is, however, universally believed that malguzars have large stocks of grain. The malguzar of Naikund, near Ramtek, admitted 300 khandis of grain of sorts. Juari was selling at Katol at 18 to 20 seers to the rupee till a fortnight ago; but the rate rose with a bound to 13 or 14 seers to the rupee. This was probably due to visits from Nagpur agents, with a view to purchasing large quantities.

Figures for 1895-96, with increase or decrease on previous year :—

#### Kharif.

Rice Transplanted.		Rice Broadcasted.		Juari.	Juari-Tur.	Tur.	Cotton.	Cotton-Tur.	Til.
Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.						
13,000	16,000	100	6,700	1,38,500	2,22,000	43,000	34,600	86,600	13,700
Same	Same	Same.	+ 1,700	+ 29,000	+ 20,000	- 1,200	- 500	- 20,000	+ 4,000

#### Rabi.

Wheat pissi.	Wheat, other kinds.	Gram.	Linseed.	Til.	Lakh.
1,14,000	2,21,000	24,000	1,19,500	24,300	39,500
- 14,000	- 2,000	- 17,500	- 24,500	+ 15,000	- 15,500

The anna outturns were as follows :—

Rice	8 annas.
Juari	16 "
Cotton	16 "
Tur	12 "
Wheat	10 "
Gram	10 "
Linseed	12 "
Til	16 "

6 (e). From the figures given on reverse under head "d," the supply in the district should be ample.

7 (f). From the figures given under head "d," it would appear that there should not be any serious distress, but this is not the case; the anna estimates cover averages of 20 annas in good parts and 4 annas in poorer parts, and though a great many malguzars and tenants must be very well off, the malguzars and tenants of the poorer parts are not, and in those parts those who live from hand to mouth will feel the pinch severely. Every year, when crops fail locally, tenants leave their fields and go to Berar to labour. This year Berar has to look after itself, and immigrants are being turned back.

8. I think, therefore, that it will be absolutely necessary to open test works in all the localities listed under "b." The work, however, should be distasteful and severe, at any rate at first, in order to gauge accurately the extent of the need; it has been pointed out that collection and breaking of road metal is the most suitable work for this purpose; but this implies metal roads.

Works that would gauge the necessity in affected parts are :—

	Rs.
1. Raising the class of the Khapa-Patansaongi Road	8,100
2. Ramtek-Salwa (new road, Schedule C., No. 10)	22,750
3. Veltur to Dongargaon (Schedule C., No. 15)	- 22,000
4. Nand to Bela and Bela to Bori (Schedule C., Nos. 7 and 8)	- 41,625
5. Kanholi to Bori (Schedule C., No. 20)	- 17,500
Total	- 1,11,975

9. The Secretary, District Council, has supplied me with a list of roads. Nos. 3, 5, 6 in his list are the same as 1, 2 and 3 above, and perhaps No. 1 in his list should take precedence of all other proposals; he thinks the District Council may be able to contribute from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 20,000. I attach his letter to this report; the proposals as to roads and funds, therefore, may be definitely settled on the advice of the executive engineer. With regard to other projects, the Tahsildar, Umrer, reports that a large tank might be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 4,000, at Dlhurkheda, near Umrer. This would, he says, irrigate 10 or 20 surrounding villages, and give a good income from singara. This work would have to be undertaken by Government, as no one will undertake it.

10. Between Sawarkhanda and Salwa another tank might be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 5,000. He says that it would irrigate all rice-producing villages within five miles. Gajafar Hussain may undertake this.

The Tahsildar, Ramtek, proposes to improve the tank at Deolapar. It lies in Government forest. He gives no details as to cost or benefit to be derived.

Mr. Nedham noted in his camp diary, dated January 12th, 1896, Sukli, that a well-to-do tenant, Tanba Kalar, had offered to make a large tank if the land to be submerged, belonging to the Bhonsla Estate, were made over to him. It is estimated that a large tank might be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 10,000. The Bhonsla Estate only propose to allot Rs. 4,000\* to relief works in this district, and Rs. 9,000 in other districts; but I think this scheme deserves further consideration.

11. In addition to these projects, or, rather, in preference to them, I have instructed Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, the Superintendent Land Records and his assistant to encourage private enterprise to the utmost, and to direct all who have not funds for improvements to apply for loans. The works I have suggested are tanks, embankments, stone walls to keep out cattle, and clearing of land. In the course of a fortnight I hope to have a good deal of detailed information on this point. I am issuing a printed letter to malguzars and well-to-do tenants, urging them to undertake such works, as labour will be cheap, and promising sanads of exemption at the next settlement. I propose also to see malguzars, resident at Nagpur, personally. So long as the ryots are not forced to leave their villages, the distress will not be so poignant.

12. In Nagpur Khas, as you are aware, the first work to be undertaken is the filling up of part of the Jumma Talao. The Bhonsla Estate will improve large tanks in the neighbourhood, and the Saasthanik Estate has also in view improvements at Paldi, and a garden near Nagpur. At the same time that these works commence a poorhouse will be opened, supported by private charity.

13 (g). On the question of ways and means, it is extremely difficult to form even the vaguest estimate. The municipality calculate on Rs. 3,000 coming to the poorhouse on the very day it is opened; this will include the immigrants from other districts at present supported by private charity at Sitabuldi. They number already 1,500 or more; and as the distress increases, and the information spreads, this number may be enormously increased. Nagpur is, of course, a wealthy city, and should do its best to lighten the burden in less wealthy parts; but I cannot pretend to estimate the extent of the burden which it is undertaking in receiving wanderers from every part. I have already said that I think the distress is less felt, so long as people remain at their villages, and if relief works and charitable relief are started in all affected districts there will be no hardship in returning these wanderers to their homes. If this is approved I would allot a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the purpose of providing each traveller with five days' subsistence on the road. Allowing jari at 11 seers to the rupee, this sum would provide for the return of some 10,000 persons; and I do not think that this figure would be exceeded, as the news would be quickly spread. Leaving aside these travellers, I estimate, after consulting some of the leading natives, that in Nagpur itself we shall have to provide ultimately for some 4,000 on works and 1,000 gratuitous. If, however, the relief is made sufficiently distasteful, this figure may not be arrived at for some months; relief will have to be provided for at least 10 months, viz., till the end of August next—roughly, 300 days. The estimate may be reduced to 3,000 per diem (work and gratuitous), and at 10 to the rupee (which leaves a small margin for management); this gives Rs. 300 per diem, or a total charge of Rs. 90,000. Total for Nagpur, Rs. 95,000. At least Rs. 45,000 of this should be provided from private charity, and the balance must be supplied by a loan raised by the municipality. I should add that the first week of relief works may produce

\* Already allotted—Sonegaon, Sakardarra, Indura.

results which will considerably alter my estimate. At present I have practically nothing to judge by.

14. *Kamptee*.—The Cantonment Magistrate, Kamptee, reports that no special measures of relief are necessary.

*District*.—On information received from Revenue inspectors, the Superintendent of Land Records estimates that the following numbers will come on relief in the different tahsils:—

	No.
Ramtek - - - - -	8,700
Umrer - - - - -	5,000
Nagpur - - - - -	5,000
Katol (no estimate) I should estimate -	2,000
Total - - -	20,700

I think these are high estimates, and especially so the Ramtek figure. If Government jungle is thrown open, I would reduce as follows:—

	No.
Ramtek - - - - -	3,000 (to include Khapa).
Umrer - - - - -	5,000 (to include Umrer).
Nagpur - - - - -	1,000
Katol - - - - -	1,000
Total - - -	10,000

15. These must be provided for, for some eight months, or 240 days; but I should not expect the whole number to come on relief at once, if the work is sufficiently distasteful. I would reduce the daily average to 7,500; that is allowing for 4,000 or 5,000 to start, and reaching the maximum 10,000 about the end of February.

This gives a total demand of  $7,500 \times 24 = 180,000$ . I must again say that there is very little to go on, and that the opening of relief works may cause a considerable alteration in the estimate.

16. I have as yet no information to enable me to estimate for poor-houses and children's kitchens, but I hope that owing to the favourable character of last season, no relief measures will be necessary, beyond providing labour and wages, in the affected parts.

17. The sums available to meet this demand are at present trifling, viz. :—

	Rs.
<i>District Council</i> .—16,000 (or Rs. 20,000) as per Mr. Bapu Rao's letter attached.	
<i>Court of Wards</i> .—33,000. This will necessitate in three estates non-payment of debt, and extension of the period. I propose to take three-fourths of debt instalment for relief, and one-fourth for failure of rent.	
<i>Bhonsla Estate</i> .—4,000. I hope that this figure may be increased, as this estate has only estimated Rs. 13,000 altogether for relief.	
Total - - -	53,000
Balance - - -	1,27,000

Of this balance, Rs. 43,500 might be provided through the Public Works Department for raising the Eastern or Bhandara-road to Class I. So also the road from Khapa to Patansaongi might be raised to Class I. or Class II., at a cost of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 11,000.

Total through Public Works Department, say Rs. 54,000. The remaining sum of Rs. 73,000 or, say, Rs. 75,000, must be provided for by a loan raised by the District Council. I estimate roughly that possibly Rs. 10,000 may be spent through private enterprise; and Rs. 50,000 if takavi loans can be made to that extent. These sums, however, will be spent in driblets—village by village—and will merely suffice to keep people from resorting to relief works, and will not diminish the numbers already estimated for. This sum of Rs. 60,000, if provided, will give employment to people in their villages at the lowest minimum rates, and should maintain, allowing for men, women, and

children, 16 persons to the rupee.\* The same standard of work could neither be expected nor enforced by the malguzars.

Number thus provided for, for say six months, allowing for delay in making the loans =  $\frac{2,000 \times 8}{3} = 5,333$ . I would suggest that the Municipality, Nagpur, the District Council, and the Court of Wards, should first open relief works to test the value of these estimates. If they are not excessive, the following sums would have to be provided by Government :—

	Rs.
	54,000 through Public Works Department.
	50,000 for takavi loans.
Total - - -	1,04,000

If the loans to the Municipality and District Council were provided by Government this figure would be further increased, viz. :—

	Rs.
	50,000 Municipality.
	75,000 District Council.
	1,25,000
Add	1,04,000
Total - - -	2,29,000

This figure, however, provides in Nagpur for ten months' expenditure, and in the district for eight months' expenditure, and I think that for the five months, from November till March 31, the end of the financial year, Rs. 1,00,000 will afford sufficient relief.

18. In conclusion, I would suggest that the allotment of takavi loans will be greatly facilitated if the Deputy Commissioner is given final authority to enter in the wajib-ul-arz such terms as he deems just and fair regarding the use of water in any tanks repaired or constructed. If this power is not granted, the work may be greatly hindered and delayed.

A case in point :—

A tank in Mauzah (A) is used only for watering A's cattle; if repaired it would irrigate fields in Mauzah (B). The malguzar of (B) might be ready to spend money on it if he could get the water, but (A) might not agree to this.

19. I have stated that Kamptee requires no special measures, but that was from my remembrance of the closing portion of a letter from the Cantonment Magistrate. He says, however, that more than 1,000 are already being provided for by private charity, and I think it would be as well to add at least this number to the estimate of relief, say 600 on relief, 100 gratuitous, and 300 for the poor-house. They might be brought over to Nagpur and employed on the Eastern-road. Detailed information has been asked for.

---

No. 528-120. Dated October 29, 1896.

FROM THE SECRETARY, DISTRICT COUNCIL, NAGPUR, TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR.

WITH reference to your letter No. 7236-364, dated the 27th instant, inquiring as to what alterations the Council have decided to make or have in contemplation to make in their budget for the current year in view of the present scarcity in the district, I have the honour to inform you that the meeting of the Council will take place on November 1, next, when the question above referred to will be settled, and the final result communicated to you without delay.

---

\* No charge for supervision or shelter.



2. If the Council would approve, the following works provided for in the current year's budget might, in my opinion, be stopped in order to have funds available for relief works, as directed in Section 18 of Chapter III. of Central Provinces Famine Code.

Name of Work.	Amount available.
	Rs.
1.—Reconstruction of School Building at Mandhala, Umrer tahsil - -	1,168
2.—Koradi Road, Nagpur tahsil - - - - -	1,000
3.—Repairs to Dumri Road, Ramtek tahsil - - - - -	1,500
4.—Khapa-Patansaongi Road, Ramtek tahsil - - - - -	1,000
5.—Construction of Serai at Chandpa, Umrer tahsil - - - - -	1,500
6.—Construction of Serai at Gumgaon - - - - -	500
7.—Construction of wells according to sanitation scheme - - - - -	1,280
8.—Fairs - - - - -	900
9.—Miscellaneous works - - - - -	652
Total - - - Rs.	9,500

3. I find that Rs. 11,775 have been provided for maintenance and repairs to District Council roads in charge of the Public Works Department. This department had advised expenditure of only Rs. 2,145 up to end of June last, leaving a balance of Rs. 9,630 to be spent. It is not known how much out of this balance has been spent since, and this may therefore be ascertained from that department; whatever balance may remain unspent on this account, can, I think, be also utilised on relief works.

4. The estimated opening balance on April 1 next, as entered in the next year's budget, is Rs. 11,450. Under the standing orders, the minimum of working balance at the end of each financial year is fixed at Rs. 5,000. Deducting this amount from the estimated opening balance, there would remain a balance of Rs. 6,450 available for relief works. This will of course necessitate the stoppage of certain new works proposed to be taken in hand in the year 1897-98. In this calculation it will be seen that it has been assumed that there will be no falling off in the estimated receipts under the several heads for the current year.

If the Council agree, I think about Rs. 16,000 may be made available for relief works. Looking to the financial condition of the Council, it cannot in my opinion be expected to make a larger contribution.

5. The distress in the interior of the district, especially in the rice-growing parts, is so acute and widespread that the expenditure of Rs. 16,000, or even Rs. 20,000, on relief works will afford very inadequate relief to the poor people. Unless this amount is largely supplemented by Government contribution, and relief works are started at various centres in the district, the distress will not be alleviated to any appreciable extent.

6. In view of their order of urgency, as set forth in the road scheme, their importance as routes of traffic and their proximity to the affected areas, I would suggest that the following roads be taken in hand as relief works :—

1.—*Great Eastern Road.*—This will give work to people from portions of the Nagpur, Ramtek and Umrer tahsils. This road stands first in the order of urgency in the class of roads to be raised.

2.—*Katol to Jallalkheda.*—This will provide work for the north-western portion of the Katol tahsil. It is next in order of urgency.

3.—*Khapa-Patansaongi.*—This will give work to people from portions of the Ramtek and Katol tahsils. This is third in the order of urgency in the existing roads to be raised in class.

4.—*Chimur via Nand to Umrer.*—This road passes through rice-producing tracts of the Umrer tahsils and will afford relief to the southern and western portions of the tahsil. It is fourth in order of urgency in the class of roads to be raised.

5.—*Salwa to Ramtek.*—This road stands first in the order of urgency in the class of new lines of roads proposed. It will give relief to portions of Nagpur and Ramtek. It will connect Ramtek to the railway station.

6.—*Veltur to Dongargaon on Nagpur-Umrer Road via Kuki.*—This will give relief to the northern and eastern portions of the Umrer tahsil. It is second in the order of urgency in the new lines of roads proposed.

7.—*Katol via Kondhali to Border.*—This is third in the order of urgency in the new lines proposed. It will render relief to the south-eastern portion of the Katol tahsil.

The work to be done in connection with these roads will consist of (1) earth-work where necessary for formation and foundation of the roads, and (2) collection of muram and gitti. It is no use taking in hand works requiring professional skill and artizanship, and the works should only be confined to ordinary road-making, &c.—such as collection of muram, metalling and such other simple processes, where the majority of the people affected will be able to work.

#### CHANDA PROSPECTS, 1896.

The Deputy Commissioner's report is contained in his letters, No. 5715, dated the 20th ultimo, and No. 6053, dated the 31st ultimo. I have since discussed the matter with him. The early cessation of rain has caused bitter disappointment, and will lead to short harvests, especially in regard to the rabi crops. The demand for grain from other parts of India will also cause high prices to prevail. There will be some trouble, no doubt, in realizing revenue. But it is not anticipated that there will be widely prevailing scarcity. At present there is no urgent need, except, perhaps, in the zamindaris to the north-east of the district. Later on there probably will be trouble, which can be only partially relieved by the forests.

2. It is probable that the zamindars as a whole will be able to look after their own people. But the Deputy Commissioner will take up at once the Rajnandgaon-Panabaras road in the extreme north-east of the district for the length which passes through the Ambagarh-Chauki Zamindari. This length is 14 miles, and it would keep 1,820 men employed for six months. It would cost, as a relief work, 21,600 rupees up to the end of the current year (four months). It is very urgent, and should be aligned at once. The zamindari is well able to afford it; and would be much benefited by it if the Feudatory Chief of Rajnandgaon would do his part. The road might be placed under the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh Feudatories.

3. There is little, if any, distress expected in Sironcha, which has fair harvests, and is far remote from the other tracts in India from which the great demand comes. I am inclined to think, then, that it will not be necessary to take up the Sironcha tanks at present. But tank work should be taken up in the ryotwari tracts of the Chanda and Warora tahsils. The Deputy Commissioner mentions the tanks Janona and Janala; but I understand that what is required for the latter is mainly masonry work. This will not do much as a relief work, for so much of it must be skilled labour. The Janona tank and the tanks of Ghorpeth and its neighbourhood would, however, be most useful relief works. There are a number of old tanks which have become silted up, and which might be repaired, deepened, or enlarged. The Deputy Commissioner will take this up at once. He has five thousand rupees on hand to go on with.

4. Besides these, the Deputy Commissioner has in view the following relief works, in case necessity should arise:—

- (I) Warora-Patalla road, eight miles to be metalled. This road is in Public Works Department charge (Class II.), and could be begun at once. The collection of metal would keep 1,200 men employed for three months, which would cost 10,800 rupees.
- (II) Constructing a Class II. road from Chanda by Kotari to Markunda. The earthwork and muram excavation would employ 2,381 men for six months. The section Chanda to Kotari would employ 1,000 men. This would probably suffice for the worst view of the current year, costing for the three months about 9,000 rupees.
- (III) The Deputy Commissioner has also the collection of metal for the Mul-Garbchiroli road. This would employ 1,500 men for six months, costing, for the next three months, 13,500 rupees. I do not think that this will be needed during the current year.

5. Besides this the Deputy Commissioner expects landowners to spend about 5,000 rupees of their own money, and to utilise 5,000 rupees more advanced under the Land Improvement Act in the construction and repair of tanks.

6. Finally, he expects that the gratuitous relief of the helpless will cost about 4,800 rupees during the current year; and of this he expects to realise about 1,500 rupees from private contributions.

A. H. L. FRASER,

Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

Dated November 7, 1896.

---

No. 5715. Dated October 20, 1896.

FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHANDA, TO THE COMMISSIONER,  
NAGPUR DIVISION.

WITH reference to your letter No. 7748, dated the 3rd instant, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

Collecting information for this district when the Tahsildars have to be consulted is a tedious business for want of communications, and this must be my excuse for not complying with your telegram of the 17th until now. As it is, I have received no information from Brahmmapuri.

The prospects of this district depend entirely upon whether we get rain within the next three weeks. If we do, then the district is safe. If we do not, relief works will be necessary.

The light rice which is sown on high land has been seriously damaged, and if we get a 2-anna to 4-anna out-turn it is all we can expect. The irrigated rice, which is estimated to be 67 per cent. of the whole, is still safe, and, with rain, should result in a 10-anna out-turn; without rain, nothing higher than a 4-anna to 6-anna yield can be expected.

As regards juari, which is the second in importance of the food crops of the district, the same remarks apply. With rain even up to the middle of November, the harvest should be a fair one; but without, I fear there will be little grain left to garner. From the Assistant Settlement Officer's report on the subject, I gather that half of the area usually given over to rabi crops has already been sown, and that one-fourth more has been ploughed and ready in case rain falls. For the remaining portion nothing can now be done without rain.

Til and cotton have up to date both fared well, and whereas rain would benefit the former, the latter, *i.e.*, the "bani" cotton would suffer. This, however, would be immaterial, as it forms but a small proportion of the cultivated area of the district.

Speaking generally, therefore, and with the information I have at present to hand, I should say that there is no immediate cause for anxiety.

Prices have gone up considerably, and the Baniyas are exporting grain freely, which will, of course, tighten prices still further; and I am now engaged in collecting statistics on this subject, in order to find out, if possible, what amount of food-grain we have in the district.

In the event of relief works becoming necessary, the following parganas will be the first to require attention:—(1) Sironcha, (2) Ghote, (3) Ghatkul, (4) Wairagarh, including the zamindaris. For the first three the Chanda-Sironcha road, and the ryotwari and malguzari tanks will, I think, afford sufficient work to ensure the safety of the people. For Wairagarh, owing to the Tahsildar's report not being to hand, I am unable to make any proposals beyond the repairs of tanks. As to the zamindaris, I have written to all the zamindars separately, and the road scheme sanctioned for these Estates under the Court of Wards will provide work for a large number of hands.

In Chanda we will have the ryotwari tanks of Junona and Janala to fall back upon, the Chanda-Sironcha road and the metalling of the Mul-Garchiroli road, should it become necessary to relieve distress in this portion of the tahsil.

In Warora I would recommend as relief works: the Warora-Chimur road, work upon which has already been commenced by the District Council, and the making of a road between Madheri and Warora. This, with tank repairs, would, I think, be sufficient.

In conclusion, I may say that this report is drawn up hurriedly, on hurriedly-obtained information, and although the Tahsildars themselves take a much more gloomy view of the prospects of the district, I am inclined to think that for the present, at any rate, their reports are not borne out by facts.

No. 6053. Dated Chanda, October 31, 1896.

FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHANDA, TO THE COMMISSIONER,  
NAGPUR DIVISION.

FROM the Secretariat letter forwarded under your endorsement No. 8296, dated the 24th instant, I gather that what is required is an estimate of what it may be necessary to undertake in the way of relief works should the crops fail entirely, and distress become general throughout the district.

As I have said before in previous letters on the subject, I do not anticipate this state of affairs; but it is possible, and it is therefore expedient to be prepared for the worst.

With this object in view, I have now the honour to place before you a scheme of relief works which will, I think, embrace all parts of the district in which distress may be expected.

On receipt of your endorsement last Sunday, I convened a special meeting of the District Council for Tuesday, and discussed the proposals set before us. By a re-allotment of District Council funds (*vide A.* in the statement) we can get a balance of 3,370 rupees exclusive of the allotments already made to Tahsildars for the ordinary cold weather repairs to roads.

This I have decided not to touch, as it will afford a means of testing as to where the scarcity prevails.

*B.*—Contributions which may be expected from private charity amount, roughly, to a sum of 10,000 rupees as shown in the statement. This is purely approximate and can be nothing else. It is based on what is expected to be collected in Chanda khas.

*C.*—The same remarks apply here concerning the subscriptions which may be realised from malguzars and other men of means.

The total estimated balance available under all heads will then be 58,070 rupees. This may seem a very small sum, and it no doubt will be, when compared with other districts, but it must be remembered that for the last four years we have been subjected to a succession of bad harvests, and that as a matter of fact we possess no wealthy men of any sort or description. I have not included the zamindars in this calculation, but I have addressed them all on the subject of the coming scarcity, and if they will only look after their own tenants we shall not require money from them. The matter is, however, receiving my attention. Turning now to the expenditure, the first heading is works to be placed under the control of the Public Works Department.

In drawing up this plan of operations I have considered two things, (1) the Revised Road Scheme of the district, and (2) the locality in which distress may prevail. The two new roads I would propose are:—

- (1) Sindewahi-Nandgaon-Chimur.
- (2) Markanda-Sironcha.

Both of the above are included in the Revised Road Scheme, and are in every way important.

*To be raised in Class—*

The Mul-Gunjiwahi-Mendki-Brahmapuri road will afford work to a very populous tract.

Between Chanda and Markanda distress is likely to be felt at a very early date. Warora-Shegaon-Chimur, Warora-Patala, and Warora-Madheri, are the road works I propose to relieve the distress in the Warora tahsil. Garchiroli-Injiwari-Armori and Brahmapuri, and Armori-Wairagarh-Injiwari, I would only take in hand if it becomes necessary to find employment for the people living in the Zamindari area.

I attach a tracing showing the various roads for facility of reference.

*Minor Works under District Agency.*

The Sironcha-Gogulaku road runs for a distance of 130 miles through the lower taluks, a sparsely populated area, and to raise this in class would mean an expenditure of 1,02,000 rupees. I therefore propose to ask only for 5,000 rupees for necessary repairs; and I think as the juari crop last year was a bumper one, and there is little facility for export, this amount will meet local requirements. The metalling of the Mul-Garehiroli road is an important work, and taps a populous tract.

Next on the list comes work on ryotwari tanks. As you are aware, I have already submitted an estimate for this work, but I have increased it now to 10,000, to cover the tanks in all villages whether the repairs are *absolutely* necessary or not.

Roads under the Public Works Department will, of course, be supervised by that Department, but for other works there is, at present, only one Sub-Overseer and three maistries. It will be necessary then to have at least two more overseers attached to the district, one to assist in the supervision of the general work under this head, including repairs to malguzari tanks, and the other for the special charge of ryotwari tanks.

*Poor-houses and Kitchens.*

I must confess that I am at a loss to estimate for expenditure under this head. I have tried several means, as for instance taking a percentage of the population of the district, and allowing the minimum rate per head, according to the Famine Code, but the figures are so appalling that I hesitate to put them down, until I receive further instructions on the point. I have had no experience in famine work, but I cannot think that any large expenditure on these very desirable institutions, where famine actually exists, will be necessary in this district.

For the present I have issued orders to arrange to open one in the head-quarters of each tahsil, should it become expedient to do so. It will, however, be on a small scale for the next few months, and will only expand in the event of the total failure of the rabi crops.

*G.—Gratuitous relief outside workhouses.*

Here again I am quite in the dark, and have put down roughly 10,000 rupees as my requirements.

*H.*—I have also put down 10,000 rupees under the head "Miscellaneous."

The total expenditure will therefore amount to 2,07,824 rupees, Receipts, 58,070 rupees: Balance, 1,49,754 rupees.

Secretariat Letter No. C-447. Dated, October 22, 1896.

Commissioner's endorsement No. 8296. Dated, October 24, 1896.

## ESTIMATED FAMINE RELIEF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

ITEMS.		Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<b>RECEIPTS.</b>			
A.			
Amount available by re-allotment from District Fund budget - -	8,140		
Deduct allotments made to Tahsildars for roads and sanitation - -	4,776	3,370	
B.			
Expected to be collected by public charity:—			
From Warora - - - - -	2,282		
„ Chanda Tahsil, including Chanda Khas - - - - -	3,000		
„ Brahmapuri - - - - -	2,000		
„ Sironcha - - - - -	2,000		
Balance available at Warora by subscription for tank repairs - -	718	10,000	
Carried forward - - - - -		13,370	

ITEMS.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
<b>RECEIPTS—continued.</b>		
Brought forward - - - -	Rs. 19,970	Rs.
<b>C.</b>		
Expected to be contributed by private persons from private sources for works of improvement :—	Rs.	
From Chanda Tahsil - - - - -	2,000	
" Chanda Khas - - - - -	1,000	
" Warora Tahsil - - - - -	2,000	
" Brahmapuri Tahsil - - - - -	2,000	
" Superior proprietor, Sironcha - - - - -	2,000	
" Lower Taluks - - - - -	1,000	
" District Fund, Sironcha - - - - -	1,000	
Court of Wards Estates :—		
Ambagarh Chowki - - - - -	8,000	
Panabaras - - - - -	2,300	
Gewardha - - - - -	2,200	
Available under Takavi :—		
Land Improvement - - - - -	6,000	
Agriculturists - - - - -	15,200	
Total - - - -	44,700	
<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>		
<b>D.</b>		
<b>WORKS UNDER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.</b>		
<i>To make New Roads III-A.</i>		
Sindewai-Nawagaon-Chimur, 24 miles, at 100 rupees per mile - -	2,400	
Markunda-Sironcha, 89 miles, at 100 rupees per mile - - -	8,900	
<i>To raise in Class.</i>		
Mul-Gunjewahi-Mendki-Brahmapuri, III-A to III-B, 42 miles, at 786 rupees per mile - - - - -	33,012	
Chanda to Markunda, III-A to III-B, 41 miles, at 786 rupees per mile	32,226	
Brahmapuri-Armori-Wairagarh-Garchiroli, III-A to III-B, 36 miles, at 786 rupees per mile - - - - -	28,296	
Armori-Wairagarh Injiwara, III-A to III-B, 15 miles, at 786 rupees per mile - - - - -	11,790	
Warora Shegaon-Chimur, III-A to III-B, 33 miles, at 150 rupees per mile - - - - -	24,800	
Warora to Patola, II to I, 7½ miles, at 800 rupees per mile - -	6,000	
Warora to Madheri, III-A to III-B, 12 miles, at 786 rupees per mile	9,400	
Total - - - -		1,56,824
<i>Minor Works under District Agency.</i>		
<b>E.</b>		
Improvement of the Sironcha-Gogubaka road - - - - -	5,000	
Metalling Mul-Garchiroli road, 20 miles, at 800 rupees per mile -	16,000	
Ryotwari Tanks - - - - -	10,000	
		31,000
<b>F.</b>		
Poor-houses and Children's Kitchens - - - - -		
<b>G.</b>		
Gratuitous Relief outside Poor-houses - - - - -		10,000
<b>H.</b>		
Miscellaneous - - - - -		10,000
Total - - - -	58,070	2,07,824
Additional grant to be provided for <i>plus</i> the sum to be estimated for Poor-houses and Children's Kitchens - - - - -		1,49,754

## BHANDARA PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The Report of the Deputy Commissioner will be found in his letters, No. 3455, dated the 14th ultimo, and No. 3642, dated the 4th instant. I have discussed the question fully with the Deputy Commissioner.

2. The situation may be briefly stated thus: "The worst portions of the Tirora tahsil are said to be the Amgaon and Bijili parganas and the unirrigated portion of the Kamtha parganas (both towards Balaghat in the north), and towards Dawa in the Sakoli tahsil in the south; also the southern portion of the Tirora pargana towards the Gaikhuri range. In the Bhandara tahsil, the Ambagarh and Chandpur parganas and the Pawni haveli tract, south and south-west of the Wainganga, are likely to suffer most. The worst parts of the Sakoli tahsil are the Partabgarh pargana in the south and the southern portion of the Kamtha pargana (the country between the eastern road and Dawa) in the north. It is in these tracts that some measures of relief are necessary."

3. In the first place, the forests should as far as possible be thrown open for the consumption of fruits and edible roots by the poor. This may necessitate a modification of the contract for mohwa collecting; and orders should therefore be passed soon. The forests should also be thrown open for grazing free to all except Banjaras, Gaolis, and owners of large herds. The forest officer says this would cause a loss of revenue not exceeding 1,000 rupees, that plenty of grazing is available, and that the relief would be very great. The loss of revenue is small, because the ordinary grazing dues have been nearly all collected already. In the second place, zamindars should be constrained to do all they can for their own people. The zamindar of Kamtha is most willing to open his forests, and do all he can. The zamindar of Amgaon is not. Great pressure should be brought to bear upon recalcitrants.

4. In regard to gratuitous relief to the helpless, the Deputy Commissioner estimates that about 4,000 persons will require to be supported at a cost of about 36,000 rupees. Of this sum, he expects to realise about 11,000 rupees from charity. I think that his estimate is a little above the mark for the current year. Probably 25,000 rupees will be required this year, of which 10,000 rupees may be raised by charity, leaving 15,000 rupees for the Government to pay.

5. In regard to private works, it is expected that the Court of Wards will spend about 12,000 rupees in works of great utility in parts requiring relief, that landowners will similarly spend 15,000 rupees of private funds, and utilise about 25,000 rupees of takavi on land improvements. I have found a good number of malguzars willing to spend their money. They realise that this is a year when labour will be cheap, and that this expenditure will benefit them as well as the people. This gives a total of 52,000 rupees for private works.

6. Besides this, the Deputy Commissioner estimates for the following works:—

(I.) Tumsar-Rampaili road to be raised to Class I. It is 27 miles long, and a very important line, connecting also with the Balaghat district where there is trouble. The work, if begun at both ends, would relieve the whole north-west of the Bhandara district, and also part of the south-west of Balaghat. It would employ 2,000 men for eight months; and would cost for four months of this year 24,000 rupees.

(II.) The Phulchur-Gorgaon-Dawa-Arjuni road. This would be a most useful road connecting the Great Eastern road and the south of the district with the line of rail. It would, if begun at both ends, relieve the Kamtha pargana and the Sakoli tracts. It is 26 miles long, the earthwork, muram excavation, and collection of metal would employ 3,380 men for six months. For three months the cost would be 30,420 rupees. It has to be aligned, and should be ready for 1st January. It can wait till then if takavi is promptly given, and the zamindars help us. I think 20,000 rupees would probably suffice for the current year.

(III.) Amgaon to Kulpa, two miles, in the Bhandhara district. This is a very important road to a very good bazar, and connecting with the Kulpa-Lanji road in Balaghat. The work would support 520 men for three months, and would cost in the present year 4,680 rupees.

- (IV.) Pauni-Bhiwapur road, 8 miles. It would connect with the Nagpur-Chanda road at Bhiwapur and open out the Pauni *haveli*. It will probably be required in January. It would employ 800 men for six months, costing 7,200 rupees in the current year. It has to be aligned; and this should be done as soon as possible.

A. H. L. FRASER,

Dated November 7, 1896.

Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

No. 3454. Dated October 14, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BHANDARA, to the COMMISSIONER,  
NAGPUR DIVISION.

WITH reference to secretariat letter, No. C. 377, dated the 1st instant, received under your endorsement No. 7748 of the 3rd idem, I have the honour to report as follows on the agricultural prospects of this district.

2. The peculiar character of the current year's rainfall has had a detrimental effect on the prospects of both kharif and rabi crops in more than one way. On the one hand the exceedingly heavy fall during July and the early part of August caused some damage to juar; from many places, too, reports have been received of tank embankments having burst through stress of water, and thus much water, which would have been of inestimable value later on, was wasted. On the other hand, the almost total cessation of rain since the close of August has caused the common rice sown on bardi land and that growing on high ground to dry up almost entirely; similarly ploughing and sowing operations for the rabi crops have been much retarded; what has been sown and germinated is now drying up for want of moisture.

3. Rice is by far the most important crop in this district. Common rice, sown on bardi soil and on high ground, which has not had the benefit of tank irrigation, is practically a total failure; the same remark applies to a small portion of the better sort of rice, which though sown in the vicinity of a tank, has not been thoroughly irrigated, owing to the scarcity of water. Any rain that may fall now cannot save the common rice, though it may improve the other. The outturn of common rice is estimated at from *nil* in the Bhandara tahsil to about two annas in the rupee in the Tirora and Sakoli tahsils. The outturn of the better sort of rice, which has been insufficiently irrigated, is estimated at about 4 annas in all three tahsils; a good shower now would probably raise the outturn to six or eight annas. On the other hand, the best sort of rice which has been well irrigated and which is still receiving tank water, will yield a good outturn; it is estimated, according to the amount of irrigation received, at from eight to 12 annas in the Sakoli tahsil and from 12 to 14 annas in the Tirora tahsil; the latter estimate may also be accepted for Bhandara.

4. Juar is not very largely sown in this district; it is practically confined to the Waingana valley and to some parts of the Sakoli tahsil. This crop was damaged by excessive rain in August, and is now drying up for want of moisture. The outturn is estimated at about eight annas. The remaining kharif crops are of little importance.

5. Turning now to the prospects of the rabi crops, much depends upon whether rain falls within the next three or four weeks or not. Large areas usually sown with rabi crops are now lying fallow, and there is no hope of their being cultivated unless rain falls. Even then, some of the rabi crops, such as popat, kultha, and urud will not be able to be sown as the time for sowing has passed. Wheat, gram, and linseed may be sown, but the out-turn of crops sown so late will not be large. On the other hand the early sown rabi crops, which are now springing up, are drying up for want of moisture, and will be a comparative failure if rain does not fall very soon. If timely rain falls, the out-turn is estimated at from 8 to 12 annas in Tirora, and about 8 annas in the Sakoli tahsil, otherwise the out-turn is not expected to exceed 2 annas. The same remark applies to the Bhandara tahsil, where, however, the area under rabi crops is small.

6. It is now necessary to see what parts of the district will be most affected by the probable failure of kharif and rabi crops respectively. Tracts where the crops were



comparatively good last year will naturally suffer less than those where the crops have been poor for the last three years. In the Tirora tahsil the Mundhri (Kardi) pargana, lying to the east of the Wainganga, between the river and the Gaikhuri range, in Bhandara tahsil the Chauras or Wainganga valley portion of the Pauni pargana, and in Sakoli the well-irrigated parts of the Sangarhi pargana, all had fairly good crops last year. However complete the failure of the current year's crop may be, these tracts are not likely to suffer so much as others. Moreover, since last year's rainfall was almost identical in character with the current year's fall, the same causes which led to the crops being fairly good in these tracts last year operate this year also; the prospects of the crops are better here than elsewhere, though in the Chauras much depends on rain within a short time. In the Tirora tahsil the prospects of the Rampaili pargana north of the Wainganga are also reported to be fairly good.

7. The rest of the district suffered a good deal last year, owing to the deficient out-turn of the rice crop. As regards present prospects, the worst portions of the Tirora tahsil are said to be the Amgaon and Bijli parganas on the east, and the unirrigated portion of the Kamtha pargana, both towards Balaghat in the north and towards Dawa in the Sakoli tahsil in the south; also the southern portion of the Tirora pargana towards the Gaikhuri range. In Bhandara tahsil the Ambagarh and Chandpur parganas, and the Pauni *haveli* tract, south and south-west of the Wainganga, are likely to suffer most. The worst parts of the Sakoli tahsil are the Partabgarh pargana in the south, and the southern portion of the Kamtha pargana (the country between the eastern road and Dawa) in the north.

8. It is in these tracts that some measures for relief will most probably be necessary if rain holds off much longer; in the unirrigated portions of these tracts rain will make no difference, and relief measures will be necessary in any case. If no rain falls at all, relief may be necessary in the Chauras also.

9. As regards the form of relief to be adopted, I would invite attention to the prescribed Famine Statement C, submitted with this office letters Nos. 1541 and 1649, dated the 30th April and 7th May 1896 respectively, which gives the number of persons who could be provided for on roads and other works, sanctioned and unsanctioned. I would, however, remark that the Tumsar tank referred to therein has already been practically completed, and that the metalling of the Bhandara circuit road has had to be indefinitely postponed for want of funds. Many of the roads entered in Famine Appendices IV. B, IV. C, and IV. D will serve as relief works. In the Bhandara tahsil, work on the Tumsar-Katangji road would relieve distress in the Ambagarh and Chandpur parganas; the Pauni-Bhuyar road could serve as a relief work for the Pauni *haveli*; if measures for relief are required in the Chauras the Kardha-Adyar-Pauni road is available. In the Tirora tahsil, work on the Amgaon-Baila (in Balaghat) road, and on the Amgaon-Satgaon road, with an extension to Deori-Kishori on the Great Eastern road, would relieve the Amgaon and Bijli parganas; the latter road, though useful, would, however, only pass through a small portion of the distressed tract. A better line would be from Phulchur to Dawa and Dawa to Sakoli; this would relieve the southern portion of the Kamtha pargana and the most distressed portion of the Sakoli tahsil; in the alternative, work on the existing Phulchur-Sakoli road, which, however, does not actually pass through the middle of the worst tract, would, no doubt, attract many labourers. For the northern portion of the Kamtha pargana a road from Rajegaon (on the Gondia-Balaghat road) to Beni on the banks of the Wainganga would afford relief. The residents in the southern portion of the Tirora pargana would find relief on a road from Tirora to Chorkhamara. The Tumsar-Rampaili road passes through country which is not reported to be specially distressed, but work on this road would, no doubt, attract labour from Ambagarh, Chandpur, and Tirora parganas. For the relief of the Partabgarh tract a road from Kasari, an important bazaar in the Chichgarh zamindari, to Sakoli, *via* Nawegaon, is suggested. Many of these roads have already been proposed to be constructed or raised in class, the reasons for which have been fully detailed in previous correspondence.

10. But before embarking on any scheme of relief works, it seems necessary to ascertain to what extent distress actually exists in the district. For this purpose a test relief work, with wages fixed at rates slightly below the ordinary market price of labour, is required. At the present price of grain, 10 seers per rupee, the wages for relief workers of Class C (able-bodied persons not accustomed to labour) would be R. 0. 1. 7. for males, and R. 0. 1. 6. for females. The latter rate appears high. R. 0. 1. 6. for males,

and R. 0. 1. 3. for females, would, I think, be a reasonable rate to fix for a test relief work. The present market rates of labour are about R. 0. 2. 0. and R. 0. 1. 6. respectively. For the purpose of starting a test relief work the deepening of the Tumsar tank and the Gondia tank appears to afford sufficient employment. The President, Minor Municipalities, informs me that the Committee are prepared to spend Rs. 500 on the work at Tumsar; the work at Gondia has been estimated to cost Rs. 2,000, of which Rs. 1,000 has been contributed by the Zamindar of Kamtha. These works would not afford employment to a very large number of people, but people from the adjacent villages would, no doubt, flock to the work. Taking the number, character, and status, &c., of these people into consideration, and comparing the prospects of the tracts from which they come with those of the other tracts mentioned above, it ought to be possible to form some idea as to the necessity of relief works elsewhere. I therefore propose to have these works started as soon as possible under professional supervision.

11. However useful roads may be as a means for providing employment for a large number of people, they do not, except to a limited degree, tend to prevent scarcity in the future. In this district at least the means of communication are nowhere so deficient as to isolate any tract especially liable to scarcity from the more fertile parts. Failure of crops is directly due to deficient irrigation; any work that tends to increase the irrigated area is far more useful as a preventive of famine than any road can be. If zamindars and malguzars can be induced to construct tanks in villages which have suffered for the last two years from scarcity of water, they will at once give employment to many distressed labourers, and at the same time afford their tenants the means of preventing the recurrence of such a calamity. A few zamindars and malguzars will, no doubt, be prepared to construct such works at their own expense; such are the Zamindar of Kamtha and the Malguzar of Limba in the Tirora tahsil; in Bhandara, Asaram, Patel of Bamni, Khusali, Patel of Dongri, Rama, Patel of Mahakepar and Raoji, Patel of Bhuyar. Others might be willing to take a loan from Government for this purpose. If this suggestion is approved of, further enquiries will be made, and lists drawn up of persons willing to take takavi for this purpose. The present balance in hand is only Rs. 1,033 under the Agriculturists Loans Act, and Rs. 950 under the Land Improvement Loans Act; a special allotment would, therefore, have to be made to the district for this purpose.

12. I have also the honour to forward copy of a letter, No. 537, dated the 30th September, from the Secretary, District Council, to my address, in which he proposes that, in view of the distress prevailing among the labouring classes, the Local Government be moved (a) to throw open the Government forests for the removal of dead firewood and grass by head-loads, (b) to allow mohwa, gulli, and other edible fruits to be gathered free, and (c) that certain works be taken in hand at once. To take the third point first, it is necessary to remark that the only funds available are 7,000 rupees sanctioned for the Pauni-Kardha road; if, as seems probable, there is no necessity for constructing this road at present, it will be for the District Council to consider how best to spend this money. The Bhandara waterworks have also been sanctioned, and are to be commenced shortly; the other works mentioned in the letter have already been referred to above.

13. The other suggestions of the District Council have been discussed with the tahsildars, the divisional forest officer, and the zamindars of Kamtha and Amgaon. The annual receipts from the sale of dead firewood are said to be about 2,000 rupees. It is suggested that people should now be allowed to pick up this wood free and sell it in the nearest bazaar. It is doubtful whether this would benefit people in the interior of the district, where there could not be any large demand for firewood; the only people who would gain would be those living in the vicinity of towns, but even here the demand for firewood would be reduced, owing to hard times, while at the same time the supply would be largely increased; the value of a head-load would thus be trifling, and would not repay the labour of collecting and bringing it for sale. The same arguments apply to the proposal to allow grass to be removed free by head-loads. It would, moreover, be very difficult to exercise sufficient check over the people collecting grass and firewood to ensure that the privilege was not abused by persons who were not intended to be included in it. I do not, therefore, recommend that this suggestion be complied with.

14. The proposal to allow mohwa and other edible roots and fruits to be removed free is more practical, and would, no doubt, afford relief to the poorer classes. It would involve a loss to Government of about 3,600 rupees, which is the sum for which the

contract for the collection of minor forest produce has been leased out for the current year. I propose that this proposal be approved of and the sanction of the Local Government applied for. It has been suggested that if this concession is granted by Government, zamindars and mulguzars should give the same permission to their tenants. Rao Bahadur Indraraj Bhan, zamindar of Kamtha, has willingly agreed to this, but the zamindar of Amgaon has expressed his inability to forego any part of his income from mohwa (which he estimates at 2,000 rupees) unless a corresponding concession is granted to him regarding takoli. This is, of course, out of the question. It is, however probable that many zamindars and mulguzars will agree to allow their tenants free mohwa, if the Government forests are also opened for this purpose; the high price of mohwa—seven or eight rupees a khandi instead of two rupees as usual—will, however, no doubt afford an inducement to some to sell all they can.

15. It has also been proposed by the Secretary, District Council, that bamboos should be allowed to be removed free of charge, and that free grazing should be permitted. With regard to the first suggestion, it is only necessary to say that the arguments adduced against the proposal to allow firewood and grass to be removed free apply equally here, and that it would mean the useless sacrifice of a considerable item of revenue without corresponding advantage to the persons for whose benefit the concession was to be made. Free grazing, on the other hand, might be allowed in the open forest; it would not be allowed in grass birs which have been sold nor in the closed areas. The open areas can afford sufficient grazing for all cattle that are likely to resort to them.

Banjaras, Gowlis, and other owners of large herds would not be allowed free grazing, nor would the concession apply to people of other districts; it would be confined to the cattle of *bonâ fide* agriculturists. It is estimated that the grant of this concession would involve a loss of about 1,000 rupees to Government.

---

No. 537. Dated Bhandara, September, 30 1896.

From the SECRETARY, DISTRICT COUNCIL, BHANDARA, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BHANDARA.

OWING to the failure of rain at the close of the season, the paddy crops growing on the fields which have no tanks for irrigation purposes are drying up. Consequently the price of rice in the district has risen; therefore considerable distress prevails amongst the labouring classes in the district. I therefore beg that you will kindly recommend to the Local Government to have the Government forest in the district thrown open for removing and picking up of dead firewood and grass, so that the poor people may, by selling these, earn their livelihood.

2. As there is now no chance of rain, most probably the rabi also will suffer and the distress will be more keenly felt. I would therefore suggest for your consideration, that the Government forest may be thrown open for picking mohwa, gulli and other edible fruits, so that the people may not die from starvation.

3. To enable the labouring classes to earn their livelihood, I would suggest that the following works might be taken on hand immediately:—

- (1) Kardha to Pauni-road, for which 7,000 rupees have been sanctioned.
- (2) Bhandara water works.
- (3) Deepening of Tuunsar tank.
- (4) Construction of Gondia tank or well.
- (5) The general repairs of roads under the District Council.

---

No. 3642. Dated Bhandara, November 4th, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BHANDARA, to the COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the probable expenditure in this district on famine relief from 15th November 1896 to 31st March 1897, as requested

in Secretariat letter No. C. 447, dated the 22nd October 1896, received under your endorsement, No. 8,296 of the 24th idem.

2. Before going into actual figures, I desire to state that I offer these statistics with considerable hesitation and great doubt as to their accuracy. The whole question of famine relief in the district depends, to a large extent, on the amount of rainfall, if any, within the next month or two; even if it is assumed that no rain will fall, still the actual number for whom relief will be required must necessarily be a matter of guess work; so long as this fundamental factor remains undetermined, it is impossible to estimate, with any pretence to accuracy, the expenditure likely to be incurred. I would, however, add that even if the future proves as disastrous as it now threatens to be, I believe the necessary expenditure will not be found to have been underestimated in the following figures.

3. Famine Statement C,\* which must, I presume be taken as the fundamental basis in this inquiry, shows 30,000 as the maximum number of persons for whom relief may be required daily in the event of serious famine; columns 4 to 7 of this statement and the covering letter give details of the works on which 29,000 persons could be employed for a period of three months. This figure (30,000) has been arrived at in accordance with instructions contained in Revenue Department circular letter No. 4,670, dated the 9th November 1895, by taking 25 per cent. of the totals of side-heads 37 (field labourers) and 388 to 396 (road and general labourers) of Table XVII-B of the Census Report, Part II. The total number of persons included in these side-heads is 118,909, viz., 33,617 males and 85,292 females; classifying them by age according to the proportion obtaining in the district as a whole, I find that only 46,888 (viz., 12,768 males and 34,120 females) are between the ages of 20 and 50; and there are 18,843 children between the ages of 10 and 20; the rest are either under 10 or over 50 years of age and cannot, therefore, be taken into consideration as labourers.

4. From the fact that the totals of columns 4 to 7 of Statement C. are supposed, as far as possible, to equal the figure in column 3, I presume that the 30,000 persons referred to are all able-bodied labourers fit for work. Columns 4 to 7 show how 29,000 of them can be employed. With reference to column 4, it is necessary to remark that the Tumsar tank is now practically complete, and as no new work has since been sanctioned, the figure in that column must be nil. This then leaves work for 28,000 adult male labourers. In famine relief work the number of women and children is, I believe, invariably greatly in excess of that of men; this is in itself not surprising, considering that the labouring population are apportioned as follows, viz., 20 per cent. adult males, 55 per cent. adult females, and 25 per cent. children of both sexes over 10 years of age. Assuming a woman to do two-thirds of a man's work, and a child to do one third, I find that the works entered in columns 5 to 7 of the statement would provide employment for three months for about 43,000 persons in the proportion of 8,600 adult males, 10,750 children, and 23,650 adult females.

$\left\{ 23,000 \times \frac{100}{10 + 55 \times \frac{2}{3} + 25 + \frac{1}{3}} \right\}$  The period we are at present considering, however, is one of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  months; the number of persons who could be supported for this longer period could be only two-thirds of the above or, say, 28,700 (5,700 males, 15,800 females, and 7,200 children) out of a total of 65,731 of the labouring classes between 10 and 50 years of age. Considering that distress is not likely to spread with equal severity over the whole district, and that the maximum number is not likely to require relief until towards the close of the period under consideration, I am inclined to consider the above estimate too high. As a daily average for the next four and-a-half months, I would not recommend the adoption of a higher figure than 20,000; this would represent 4,000 adult males, 11,000 adult females, and 5,000 children between 10 and 20; they would perform work which, under ordinary conditions, would be done by about 12,000 able-bodied male labourers.

5. The next point for consideration is the cost of maintaining these 20,000 persons for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  months. This, of course, depends largely on the price of grain. For the present I assume an average rate of nine seers per rupee. Taking a fair proportion of labourers of A., B., C. and D. Class (A., 10 per cent.; B., 30 per cent.; C., 40 per cent.; and D. 20 per cent.); and assuming they are paid wages at the rates laid down on page 54 of the Famine Code, I find that 1,000 male labourers would cost about 116 rupees per day, and 1,000 female labourers would cost 108 rupees; for children I assume an all-round rate of nine pies each, this brings the cost of supporting 1,000 children to 46 Rs. 14a. 0p. per

\* Submitted with this office letter, No. 1649, dated 7th May 1896.

day. Thus the daily wages of these 20,000 people would amount to 464 rupees (for 4,000 males) plus 1,188 rupees (for 11,000 females) plus 234 rupees (for 5,000 children), total 1,886 rupees, or say, 1,900 rupees. This would come to 57,000 rupees per month, or 2,56,500 rupees for the period from 15th November to 31st March.

6. These figures leave out of consideration the case of children under 10 years of age, and aged persons over 50. According to the district average of 31 per cent. and 13 per cent. respectively, these should be 37,712 children and 15,457 persons over 50 years of age among the labouring classes. It is difficult to say how many of these will require relief. No doubt a large proportion of the children will be supported by their parents on the works, although, as a matter of fact, the famine wage is not supposed to support more than the person actually receiving it. But we must be prepared to relieve a large number of children whose parents will not be able to support them even if they do not actually abandon them. Indigent persons are even now in many cases getting rid of their children by selling them to more prosperous persons; as distress increases the number of such purchasers will naturally diminish. In the case of old and infirm labourers probably a large proportion will have to be supported by charity; they are the first to be abandoned by their relatives when the pinch of want is felt. Assuming that only 15 per cent. of the aged, and less than 10 per cent. of the children, will have to be supported by charity, this gives over 2,300 aged, and 3,400 children. The monthly cost of supporting an aged pauper can certainly not be less than two rupees, for children I assume a rate of one rupee. The monthly cost of supporting these aged persons and children will then amount to about 8,000 rupees, or 36,000 rupees for a period of 4½ months.

7. Gratuitous relief to persons in their own houses is, I presume, to be discouraged, and is not likely to be necessary except in extreme cases. I estimate the amount of expenditure under this head at 1,000 rupees for the whole period.

8. Miscellaneous expenditure (such as allotments to the police for forwarding wanderers to poor-houses) is not likely to be large; a sum of 1,000 rupees should, I think, be sufficient.

9. The total estimate of expenditure is thus as follows :

	Rs.
(a) For relief of men, women and children on works - -	2,56,500
(b) For gratuitous relief of children and aged in poor-houses and children's kitchens - - - -	36,000
(c) For gratuitous relief to persons in their own houses -	1,000
(d) Miscellaneous purposes - - - - -	1,000
Total - -	2,94,500

10. It now remains to be seen from what sources this expenditure is to be met. Beginning with Head (a), I will first take the case of private persons starting works of improvement (such as tanks, &c.) either from their own funds or from Government loans. The number of persons who would spend their own money is not large; the Settlement Officer estimates the amount such persons would spend at about 13,000 rupees. Complete lists are not yet available for the whole district, but in the Tirora tahsil people are said to be able to spend 10,000 rupees on these works. On the whole I do not think it would be safe to estimate expenditure under this head at more than 15,000 rupees for the whole district. Applications for loans, on the other hand, are likely to be numerous, and a large sum may be expended in this way, more especially if the rate of interest is reduced or altogether remitted. The Settlement Officer informs me that he could distribute 20,000 rupees in a week, and "the people would be crying for more." On the whole, I think an estimate of 35,000 rupees would not be excessive under this head. If, however, the rate of interest is not to be reduced, I would not estimate more than 25,000 rupees. This, with the 15,000 rupees to be provided from private funds, would raise the expenditure to 40,000 rupees. According to the figures given in Paragraph 5, this sum should suffice to support about 16 per cent. of the persons requiring relief for a period of 4½ months.

11. Turning now to other works, I find that in Famine Statement C., the construction of the Bhandara waterworks is said to be able to afford employment for 4,000 labourers for three months. This seems to me to be a high estimate. I understand that

the amount provided in the estimate for expenditure on unskilled labour is only 25,000 rupees. According to the figures above given, this should be sufficient to support about 10 per cent. of the persons requiring relief, *i.e.*, 2,000 (400 men, 1,100 women, and 500 children) for a period of 4½ months. But the work is not a suitable one to be undertaken as a famine relief work, nor are any measures for relief likely to be necessary in the immediate vicinity of Bhandara. It will be better therefore to leave this work out of consideration.

12. Sixteen thousand eight hundred persons still remain to be provided for at a cost of 2,16,500 rupees. Of this amount, I estimate that the District Council will be able to contribute not more than 8,000 rupees towards the cost of such works as the Gandia tank, the metalling of the Bhandara Circuit road, and the construction or improvement of some of the roads entered in Famine Appendices IV.-B. and IV.-D. The only heads from which money can be re-appropriated is from the provision of 7,000 rupees for the construction of the Paunikardha road, and 1,075 rupees from village sanitation. This leaves a sum of 2,08,500 rupees to be provided by Government.

13. With regard to the sum of 36,000 rupees which has been estimated to be required for the relief in poor-houses and kitchens of the aged and of children, it is difficult to say what proportion of this sum can be met by public charity. For the last month or two poor-houses, supported entirely by private subscriptions, have been in existence at Tumsar, Tirora, and Gondia, in this district, and 200 or 300 persons have been supported at each place. At Tumsar and Gondia, however, these poor-houses have been closed during the last few days for want of funds; that at Tirora is also said to be likely to be closed soon. During the next few days I hope to visit all these places, and draw up subscription lists, in which people will bind themselves to contribute a certain sum monthly for the next four or five months. Similar action will also be taken in Bhandara. In the absence of any information as to the amount people are likely to subscribe, it is somewhat difficult to frame an estimate under this head. I do not, however, think it would be safe to count on subscriptions amounting to more than 2,500 rupees per month; for the period under report this would represent an expenditure of 11,000 rupees, leaving a sum of 25,000 rupees to be contributed by Government.

14. The expenditure under heads (c) and (d) (paragraph 9) will be defrayed by Government; the money will be distributed through the police.

15. The above figures may be exhibited in the following tabular statement:

STATEMENT showing probable Cost and how to be Met.

C O S T.									H O W T O B E M E T.							
On Works.		On Gratuitous Relief.				Miscellaneous.		Total.	On Works.			On Gratuitous Relief.		Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.	
No.	Cost.	In poor-houses and kitchens.		Otherwise.		No.	Cost.		Private Persons.	Bhandara District Council.	By Government.	By Private Persons.	By Government.	By Government.	By Government.	Other-wise.
		No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.											
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.											
20,000	2,56,500	5,700	36,000	?	1,000	?	1,000	2,94,500	40,000	8,000	2,08,500	11,000	26,000	1,000	2,35,500	59,000

\* Includes allotment under Land Improvement Loans Act of 25,000 rupees.

16. With reference to paragraph 2 of the letter under reply, it is only necessary to add that of the total expenditure shown under head (a) in paragraph 9, 2,16,500 rupees will be spent on works to be carried out on estimates prepared by the Public Works Department. As far as I know there are no Public Works Department works to be carried out, but the works already referred to (*viz.*, Bhandara waterworks, metalling of Circuit-road, construction and repairs of roads in famine Appendices IV. and IV. D.) will all be carried on on Public Works Estimates. The balance, 40,000 rupees, will be spent on minor works, such as embankments, tanks, wells, &c., under district supervision. There are no minor works under the district council of sufficient importance to be considered in this connection.

17. The works on which I would recommend a start being made are (1) the Tumsar-Rampaili road, to be raised to Class I.; (2) the construction of a Class I. road

from Amgaon towards Kulpa in the Balaghat district, of which about two miles would be in this district; (3) the raising of the Sakoli-Phulchar road to Class I., or, in the alternative, the construction of a new Class I. road from Phulchar *via* Goregaon and Dawa, to the Great Eastern road near Arjuni; and (4) the construction of a Class I. road from Pauni to Bhiwapur. According to Famine Appendices IV. and IV.-D., these works would give employment to 3,620, 350, 4,680, and 1,450 labourers respectively for four and a-half months, giving a total of 10,100. Considering the large proportion of women and children included in the figure of 16,800 given in paragraph 12, I believe the above works will be found to give employment to all those who will seek relief up to the close of the current official year.

#### BALAGHAT PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The views of the Deputy Commissioner and Settlement Officer on this subject are set forth in the Deputy Commissioner's letter, No. 3,403, dated the 28th ultimo, and its annexure. This district will suffer more than any part of the division. The opening of the forests for the collection of edible roots and fruits, and (if possible) for free grazing for agricultural cattle, will be a great boon, especially in the Behir tahsil and in the south-west of the district. The latter also will be much helped by the liberal grant of takavi, for there are a number of landowners willing to spend money in the south-west. Acute distress has, however, already begun in the Behir tahsil and in the Lanji tracts on the south-east of the district.

2. I have discussed the matter, since receiving the report, with the Officiating Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Hallifax), and the Settlement Officer (Mr. Mayne), and also with the late Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Chitnavis). It is estimated that about 4,000 people may require gratuitous relief, at a cost of about 36,000 rupees for the current year. Of this, about 6,000 rupees may be expected to be met by charity, leaving 30,000 rupees to be met by Government. I believe that this estimate will be found to be excessive if relief works are promptly started. But I do not cut it down.

3. It is anticipated that landowners will spend about 10,000 rupees of their own money in tank construction and repairs, and that about 50,000 rupees can be utilised as takavi; total, 60,000 rupees.

4. Besides this, the following works are estimated for :—

- (1.) The Burha-Behir direct road to be made and have muram collected. It is estimated in the famine schedule at 5,377 men for six months; call it 4,600 men for seven months. This would cost under ordinary conditions about 55,000 rupees, but must be set down for Behir at 65,000 rupees for the four months of the current year. It would meet the wants of the Behir people of all parts; for they are easily moveable. The project is, I understand, ready, and ought to be begun at both ends without delay.
- (2.) Lanji to Kulpa (and one mile more towards Amgaon Station, *i.e.*, to the boundary) 16 miles. This is a very distressed tract, and a most important line of communication. The Road Scheme Famine Schedule (Appendix IV. c.) shows this as employing 2,176 men for six months. Labour is ready to hand; and the alignment should be taken in hand at once. The work is urgently required on both sides of the border, but especially on the Balaghat side. Taking 2,200 men for three and a-half months in the current year gives 23,100 rupees, say 23,000 rupees.
- (3.) The Lalbarrā-Waraseoni-Rampaili road has been aligned and could be begun when required. It continues the Tumsar Rampaili road. The Deputy Commissioner believes that it is required this year, and should be started as soon as possible. It is 20 miles long (including five miles in the Bhandara district). It is estimated to employ 2,600 men for six months. If the Waraseoni to Rampaili section were at once taken in hand, it would employ about 800 men for four months, at a cost of 9,600 rupees, say 10,000 rupees. That (with the forest relief and private tank construction above referred to) would probably suffice for the current year.

(4.) The Deputy Commissioner is also of opinion that the survey of the Balaghat-Lanji road should be taken in hand in case of need.

5. The Deputy Commissioner is at present utilising the allotment for tank construction in the ryotwari tracts.

Dated November 7, 1896.

A. H. L. FRASER,  
Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

---

No. 3403. Dated Balaghat, October 28, 1896.

From H. F. HALLIFAX, Esq., I.C.S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,  
BALAGHAT, to the COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in paragraph 1 of Secretariat letter, No. c. 377, dated the 1st instant, forwarded under your endorsement No. 7,748 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a report, drawn up by the Settlement Officer and myself in consultation, on the agricultural prospects of the district, and the measures for relief which it appears to us advisable to take. The report follows the lines laid down in Section 14 of the Famine Code, 1896.

2. An extensive series of crop experiments is being conducted by the District and Settlement staff. The results will be communicated as soon as the rice harvest is completed.

---

REPORT on the Agricultural Prospects of the Balaghat District for the year 1896-97,  
and the Measures for Relief which it appears advisable to take.

A.—The rainfall this year has so far been very similar to that of last year, with the exception of there having been no rain in October; and, as was the case last year, the early cessation of the monsoon has caused immense damage to the rice, by far the most important crop in the district. Last year's drought led cultivators to take greater care in the matter of repairing their tanks and securing an adequate supply of water; but the irrigated area forms so small a portion of the total area under rice, and of the area recorded as irrigated so small a portion has received anything like an adequate supply of water owing to the smallness of the tanks, that over a considerable area the outturn will be very low indeed, lower considerably than last year's, when the crops received a couple of inches of rain in October. Further, urd lakhadi and linseed in the black and brown soil tracts, comprising half of the lowlands of the district, form, by far, the most important second crop. These are sown "utera," that is broadcast among the standing rice, at the close of the monsoon, and require, for successful germination, moderate rain in September. Last year the area double-cropped, which is practically coincident with the area under these three crops, declined by 71 per cent. in the portion of the district which has come under attestation, and this year there appears to be a similar decline below normal in the "utera" area. Very slightly over one-quarter of the amount sown in a normal year has germinated, and the plants that have come up are stunted for want of moisture. Last year's October rain enabled nearly the normal amount of wheat and gram to be sown. This year the sowings have decreased to a large extent, and over considerable areas where these crops have been sown they have failed to germinate. The tur crop is so far good, and even if no rain comes will give a fair outturn, but the area under tur is very small. Makkha has given a bumper crop in the Baihar tahsil, and has for the time materially relieved the distress of the aboriginal inhabitants, who subsist largely on it. The harra (myrobalan), which last year gave a bumper crop, is a failure this year, and a large number of Gonds and others of the less civilised tribes who find employment for a couple of months every year in collecting harra, are this year without their usual employment. Kodou-kutki, which are of fair importance in the uplands of the district, have been somewhat damaged by the drought.

The following is an estimate of the outturn of the rice crop:—

*Balaghat Tahsil.*—Irrigated land (one quarter, or a little more, of the total area), 10 annas. Good and fair unirrigated land (one-half of the total area), six annas. Poor



irrigated land (one quarter, or a little less, of the total area), one to four annas, say three annas. Average for the Balaghat tahsil, six to seven annas.

*Behir Tahsil.*—Irrigated and fairly good unirrigated land (one quarter of the total area), nine annas. High-lying unirrigated land (three-quarters of the total area), three annas.

Average for the Baihar tahsil, four to five annas. The damage done, especially in the Balaghat tahsil, varies widely, often from field to field. Alongside a field bearing a fair crop are not rarely to be found fields in which the crop is so absolute a failure that the cultivator cuts a portion merely as fodder, and allows his cattle to graze over the remainder. As a rule the malguzars and well-to-do tenants hold practically all the good land, and though none of them can find the year a profitable one, some few may escape with only slight loss. But the case of the poorer tenantry is very different. With most of them the irrigated or low-lying area, if they have any, bears a very small proportion to the total of their holdings, and the malguzars having taken the lion's share of the water for irrigation. Many of their nominally irrigated fields have received only a single allotment of a few inches of water. Their harvest will therefore be quite inadequate to carry them on for the next year.

Even if the rabi crop were to turn out to be as good as last year's (which is extremely unlikely), the condition of the people would be such as to cause grave anxiety. Few of the malguzars are men of substance, and although they live comfortably enough in ordinary years, they have no large reserves. The partial failure of last year's harvest coming on the top of several years in which the crops have been below the normal, has nearly exhausted the resources of all but a small handful of well-to-do men. The absence of large money-lending firms, and the consequent tightness of capital, renders it difficult for the landlords of the district to obtain money save on ruinous terms, even if they mortgage their villages, where they have not done so already. Although the rents of the districts, which are comparatively light, were mostly collected last year, the interest due to malguzars by their tenants was not nearly so fully paid up, and the repayment of the principal of loans was rather the exception than the rule. Hence, complaints were numerous last hot weather that the malguzars were refusing to make the customary advances to their tenants, and this year the same evil will appear in a greatly aggravated form. Unless, therefore, large takavi advances are made to malguzars, they will, as a body, cease to perform their essential duty of agricultural capitalist, and many of them, being pressed by their creditors, will become hopelessly embarrassed.

The tenants of the Balaghat tahsil were hard hit last year, but with the exception of the aboriginal tribes they were able to retain their holdings, though with considerable difficulty. The Gond tenantry of the Balaghat tahsil absconded in large number, and mainly on their account the occupied area in the tahsil shows a decrease of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. This figure is below the mark, as many fields have been left in the names of tenants who will probably not return. In the Baihar tahsil the bulk of the tenantry is little above the level of the labouring classes, and with them the distress is more acute. The Baihar tenants, however, almost all live in or near large stretches of jungle, and can provide for themselves in time of scarcity better than the Gonds and other servants in the lowland villages. Still, the tenant area has decreased in Baihar by 9 per cent., a figure which does not include all the actual cases of abandonment of holdings. Many of these labouring classes in the Balaghat tahsil, finding that the malguzar or other person employing them was reducing his staff, absconded to the Berar or elsewhere in search of work, or emigrated to the Assam tea gardens. A certain number drifted into the most important villages in the district, and died there of starvation or disease due to want of food.

*B.—Area and Population likely to be affected.*—Few villages are without a tank of some sort, but in few of them does the irrigated area extend to half the village, and in none has every tenant got irrigated or low-lying land. The distress is then universal throughout the district, but varies from village to village. For the inhabitants of a few villages, where the outturn is well above the average of the district, or the malguzar is well off and does his duty by his tenants, no measure of relief will be necessary. Villages of this kind are, however, few and scattered, and it may therefore be said that relief works are necessary over the whole district, that is, they should be accessible to the distressed tenants and labourers of every village. The uplands are worse off than the lowlands both in the outturn of the crop and in the possession of capitalists, but they are thinly populated, whereas in the lowland tracts the population is as dense as in any part of the Central Provinces. The poorest portion of the district is the eastern half of the Baihar tahsil, comprising the Raigarh and Bhimlat parganas. Tauks are fewer and the

cultivators less intelligent. The harvest has been a greater failure there than in any other part of the district, and special efforts will have to be made to prevent the whole tract relapsing into waste, as the tenants are of migratory habits. The following statement shows the area of each tahsil of the district, the population and the density to the square mile :—

	Population at last Census.	Area recorded in Village Papers.	Population per Square Mile.
	No.	No.	No.
Balaghat khalsa - - - - -	209,360	652	321
Ditto zamindari - - - - -	87,179	666	131
Total - - -	296,539	1,318	225
Baihar tahsil - - - - -	86,792	909	95
BALAGHAT DISTRICT - - -	383,331	2,227	172

*C.—Character of Communications.*—The communications are good in the lowlands and bad in the uplands. In the west of the district, Katangi, the chief town of the pargana of that name, is connected by a fairly good road with Tumsar on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The centre of the Balaghat tahsil is within easy reach of the metalled road from Gondia (Bengal-Nagpur Railway) to the district head-quarters. The south-east of the Balaghat tahsil runs to within four miles of Amgaon Railway Station and the north-west is connected by a good road with Balaghat, an important trade centre in the Seoni district. Fair cart-tracks connect all the villages in the lowlands with the principal lines of road during the open season. In the uplands of the Balaghat tahsil, which consist mainly of jungle, there are hardly any roads, nor is there any need for them. In the main plateau of the Baihar tahsil communications from village to village are mostly good, but there are no metal or muram roads, and the tract as a whole is shut off from the outside world. The approaches to it are difficult ghats, with the exception of one good road with an excellent ghat at Bhondwa, but this is a circuitous route for reaching the Balaghat tahsil or the railway, and is mainly of use to the western portion of the uplands only. The upper plateau (Raigarh) is still worse off in the matter of communications. The Bhesan ghat by which one ascends from the lower plateau is a difficult one, and Raigarh is more accessible from Manla by the Motinala road than from any part of the Balaghat district.

*D.—The condition of the Grain Stocks.*—Trustworthy information as to the extent of the grain stocks in the district is not forthcoming. There was a considerable scarcity of seed-grain last June. The net cropped area of 1895-96 is 12 per cent. below that of the previous year, and it is probable that this year's figures will show a still larger decrease. Few of the tenants had any appreciable stocks of grain left for food purposes last hot weather, and juari was steadily imported from Gondia. As soon as the roads were practicable after the monsoon closed, the imports again commenced, but high prices at Gondia and elsewhere have temporarily checked them. Last year the high prices obtainable for rice caused a good deal of it to be exported, but this year there is no probability of any considerable export as prices show no sign of falling, though a large portion of the rice has been harvested.

*E.—Sources from which supplies of Food may be obtained.*—It is hoped that food will be obtainable in sufficient quantities from the stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway through which the exports from this district ordinarily go—Tumsar, Gondia, and Amgaon. Unless the failure of harvests is as great there as in Balaghat, the Seoni and Mandla districts will supply grain for the north-west of the Balaghat tahsil and the north of the Baihar tahsil. The east of the Baihar tahsil ordinarily gets its supply of grain in time of need from Kaloti in Raipur.

*F.—Proposed measures of Relief.*—The following are the roads on which work might be started. They are arranged in order of urgency, regarded as measures of relief :—

- (i.) Baihar to Balaghat.

- (ii.) Baihar to Motinala. This passes through the worst tract and will provide work for the north of the Bhimlat and the whole of the Raigarh pargana. Work for the south of Bhimlat will be found in the construction of ryotwari tanks.
- (iii.) Baihar to Mandla (*via* Boda).
- (iv.) Lanji to Kulpa. This would require to be completed in the Bhandara district to Amgaon. It would be of great service both as a relief work and as a means of communication to the Lanji pargana and the Bhadra zamindari, and might well be metalled.
- (v.) Balaghat to Bhondwa. This has been surveyed.
- (vi.) Lalbarra to Rampaili (*via* Waraseoni).
- (vii.) Balaghat to Lanji. This road will be of considerable use for traffic through the lowlands, and no other relief work can be found that will so effectively provide employment for the large area through the heart of which it passes. It has not been surveyed.

Nos. (i) and (vi) are believed to have been surveyed. The papers are with the Executive Engineer, Plateau Division. Nos. (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vii) are III-A. roads, and might all well be raised in class to Class II. if the survey can possibly be pushed through in time.

The Lanji-Kulpa road would be of immense service to Lanji and Bhadra, and would be a feeder-road for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. In the Baihar-Motinala road the Bhesan ghat may cause some difficulty, and a survey of it would be advisable, if the survey of the whole road cannot be completed in time. It is impossible for the district authorities to estimate with anything like correctness the amount of money required to carry out these works. This is the business of the Public Works Department. No estimates of the probable cost are given in the Famine Appendices. For tanks there is a sum of 5,000 rupees already sanctioned for ryotwari villages, and work is to begin at once at Bansuli, Basimkhar and Parsatola in the Baihar tahsil. A proposal for the construction at Baihar of a tank for a small sum has already been submitted to the Commissioner. A very few malguzars may be induced to start embanking tanks in their villages. Last year the Settlement Officer managed with considerable difficulty to get about 4,000 rupees spent by malguzars and well-to-do tenants in providing work in this manner. If tanks be constructed and repaired on a much larger scale, a number of persons will be supplied with work at their own doors, and a considerable amount of relief afforded, but the malguzars will require substantial assistance from Government. They are not willing to take loans, foreseeing the difficulty they will have in repaying them. Loans on very easy terms might, however, be accepted. They would have to bear little or no interest, repayment of the first instalment would have to be postponed for a year or two, and, in some cases, repayment of some part of the principal might be remitted. From 20,000 rupees to 50,000 rupees could without much difficulty be spent in this way, provided that the terms of repayment are easy. Besides these tanks to be built by the malguzars, there are several places in which tanks could be constructed or in some cases repaired, so as to irrigate several villages each. There is no hope of any malguzar undertaking the work even with the assistance of a Government loan, and it might well be undertaken by Government. If the other measures fail to provide adequate employment, further reports and estimates on this point will be submitted. In Baihar the present three ryotwari tanks will not suffice. Projects for more tank construction will be drawn up and submitted later.

The question of advances for seed-grain is not so urgent as that of advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act, as no rabi sowings can be effected now, but substantial provision will be required under this head next year, very far exceeding any amount that has ever yet been required in this district. It will be absolutely necessary to suspend all repayments of takavi due this year. A poor-house has been started at Balaghat, at which some 150 or 200 persons are fed daily by private subscriptions. So far the subscriptions only just exceeded 100 rupees per mensem. As this was miserably inadequate, subscriptions are now promised to the extent of about 500 rupees per mensem for eight months from 1st November. At Lalbarra and Waraseoni two poor-houses were started, in each of which about 60 persons received two small meals daily. Both these houses have been closed for want of funds. Efforts will now be made to re-open them, and also to systematise gratuitous relief at other places. Further report on this subject will be submitted later.

No. 4415. Dated Nagpur, November 16, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER  
CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE NAGPUR DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 8676, dated the 7th November, in which you report on the prospects of distress in the districts forming your Division, and submit proposals for dealing with it where it is expected to occur. The Chief Commissioner, since his return to Nagpur, has had the advantage of being able personally to discuss the matter with you, and I am now to convey the following remarks and orders on your report.

2. The time has not yet arrived for forming a definite estimate of the out-turn of the kharif harvest as a whole, still less of the probable results of the rabi. In parts of the Division where juari is an important crop it is still uncut, and a good deal of the rice still remains to be reaped: tur (or arhar) is only now coming into flower, and on the whole does not promise badly. It is only when the whole kharif harvest has been cleared off the ground, and extensive crop experiments have been carried out for the purpose of controlling the general estimates of out-turn, that a satisfactory approximation to the actual results of the harvest can be arrived at. As regards the rabi, the land placed under wheat, Mr. Lyall understands, is not much less than the normal area, and germination has not so far been unsatisfactory. Rain in November or December would greatly affect the prospects of this important crop, and there is at present no reason to fear that we shall not have the ordinary cold weather rains. The linseed is reported to have already succumbed to drought, but the gram (though this is not a very important crop here) may be expected to fare like the wheat if rain falls at the usual time.

3. Notwithstanding these uncertainties, however, on the issue of which the future will mainly depend, the situation already presents features which are likely to be permanent. It is certain that the rice harvest, especially in Balaghat and Bhandara, will be very poor over wide areas, and that the people of the tracts where it is the main staple will be much straitened for food. The great rise of prices, due rather to the demands for export than to apprehensions arising from local failure, has everywhere produced much distress among the poorer classes, which can only be met by affording them employment at wages which will enable them to live. Of the five districts of your Division, you anticipate with some confidence that there will be no severe distress in Wardha and Chanda. In Nagpur there are parts of the district, especially Umrer in the south, along the Wardha border in the north-west, and the hilly parts of the Ramtek tahsil in the north-east, where pressure is expected; but the main part of the district, the Katol tahsil and the country about the capital, does not appear likely to cause anxiety. In Balaghat and a large portion of Bhandara, on the other hand, you expect acute distress, especially in the former district, where the need of immediate relief is most urgent.

4. Your estimates of relief expenditure likely to be required up to the 1st April next, taking an outside figure, amount to 5,33,416 rupees, of which you expect that Government will have to meet 2,87,916 rupees, the balance, 2,45,500 rupees, coming from private sources (48,500 rupees for gratuitous relief and 1,97,000 rupees for works of improvement in private estates). You think, however, that the demand for assistance from Government might without risk be cut down to 2,29,000 rupees, of which 21,470 rupees can be met from local funds, leaving 2,07,530 rupees to be provided from Provincial resources.

The Chief Commissioner, after discussing the matter with you, thinks that your estimate may be accepted as a sufficient working basis on which to proceed, and has much pleasure in acknowledging the care and foresight with which you have prepared it. He also desires to acknowledge the liberality with which, especially in the districts of Nagpur and Bhandara, private charity has come forward to meet the emergency.

5. Turning now to particular districts, he finds that in Wardha the metalling of the Wardha-Paunar road, five miles long, has already been started as a test relief work. The work is estimated to cost about 6,750 rupees, and will employ 750 men for three months. This work is approved. The only other work proposed in this district is the metalling of the last eight miles of the Pulgaon-Arvi road, which will cost about 11,000 rupees, and afford employment for 1,200 persons for three months. This work will not be taken in

hand unless experience shows that it is required. You are accordingly authorised to start it when you consider it necessary to do so. In this district nearly all the distress that at present exists is among immigrants, chiefly from Balaghat and Bhandara, who have as usual gone to Berar for the annual harvest work, and have been turned back in consequence of there being no employment available there. These will be relieved by private charity.

6. In Nagpur such distress as exists is at present due partly to the same cause as in Wardha—the return of disappointed immigrants to Berar, who only require to be fed and enabled to reach their homes, and partly to the throwing out of work of the weaver population (Koshtis and Momins) on account of the competition of the weaving mills and the low price of cloth. The cost of relief to these classes, so far as it is gratuitous, will be largely met by public charity, and the Chief Commissioner approves of your appropriating 10,000 rupees to this object.

In this district many useful works of agricultural improvement, which will afford much employment, are expected to be taken in hand, partly from the funds of estates under the Court of Wards, partly from the private resources of land-owners, and partly from advances under the Land Improvement Act. For the last-mentioned purpose you ask for a grant of 25,000 rupees, which the Chief Commissioner hereby sanctions.

To meet the distress in the Umrer tahsil you propose to take in hand the metalling of two lengths of the Nagpur-Chanda road, one of eight miles from Umrer westwards, and the other of 15 miles from Umrer to Bhiwapur. The first length you suggest should be started at once as a test relief work. These proposals are approved. In the north of the district you propose the construction of a metalled road, six miles long, from Patansaongi on the Nagpur-Chhindwara road to Khapa, an important mart where there are many distressed Koshtis. This road has to be aligned before work can be commenced, and the Secretary in the Public Works Department will be asked to have this done as soon as possible.

In the north-west, the metalling of the Kalmeshwar-Katol road, which has already been constructed, will be kept in reserve, as a work to afford relief in case of its being required in this direction. It will also serve the northern portion of the Arvi tahsil of Wardha, should relief be needed there.

7. In the Chanda district it is not expected that pressure will become severe anywhere before January next. In the Khalsa portion of the district some work on ryotwari and other tanks (for which the Deputy Commissioner already has an allotment of funds), and the collection of metal on the Warora-Patalla road, will provide all the employment which seems likely to be necessary; but you ask that the survey and alignment of the Chanda-Kotari-Markanda road (the first section of the southern road towards Sironcha) may be put in hand at once to provide for possible eventualities. The Chief Engineer will be requested to have this taken in hand as soon as possible. For gratuitous relief it is thought that 3,500 rupees will suffice for the remainder of the current year.

In the zamindaris the population, except in the north-eastern corner in the Ambagarh Chauki zamindari, is exceedingly sparse, and it is probable that the zamindars will be able to meet the requirements of their estates. You desire, however, that the Rajnandgaon-Panabaras road, of which 14 miles pass through the Ambagarh-Chauki zamindari, should be aligned at once, in order that its construction may be proceeded with as soon as possible at the cost of the zamindari; and you suggest that it should be put in charge of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, and that the Feudatory Chief of Rajnandgaon should be addressed with reference to the construction of that part of it which passes through his State. This matter has been separately referred by you, and the Chief Commissioner has accepted your proposals, and referred them to the Public Works Department for examination and further orders.

8. The Bhandara district is one of the two in which most distress is anticipated, chiefly in the north-east, (the Tirora tahsil), the east (Sakoli tahsil), and the south (Pauhi-haveli). Test relief works will immediately be opened at Gondia and Tumsar in the first-mentioned tract. The Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, will be requested to open the forests for the collection of fruits, mohwa and edible roots by the poor, and for free grazing to all except Banjaras, Gaolis, and professional cattle breeders who own large herds. The Chief Commissioner understands that it will be possible to make arrangements by which the privilege of gathering mohwa free for home consumption will not interfere with its collection for commercial purposes, which will still be leased as usual. Mr. Lyall has heard with gratification that the Zamindar of Kautha has liberally opened his zamindari forests in the same manner as the Government forests will

be opened ; and he trusts that upon the matter being properly represented to him the Zamindar of Amgaon will also do the like.

For gratuitous and poor-house relief you estimate that 25,000 rupees may be required, of which 10,000 rupees will be raised by private charity, leaving 15,000 rupees to be defrayed by Government.

This is a district in which much useful expenditure on tank construction and repair is possible, and you ask that, in addition to the amounts which will be contributed from private funds and Court of Wards Estates, 25,000 rupees may be put at your disposal for land improvement loans. The Chief Commissioner sanctions this allotment.

As regards works for the relief of those seeking employment, you consider that the road from Phulchar on the line of Railway *via* Gorgaon and Dawa to Arjuni on the Great Eastern road should be aligned at once, so as to be ready by the 1st January. The Chief Engineer will be asked to make arrangements for this being done.

Next to this in importance as a relief work you place the metalling of the Tumsar-Rampaili road, already constructed. This you intend to employ as a test work at Tumsar. Your proposal is sanctioned.

Another road which you desire to have surveyed as soon as possible, both for the relief of the north-east corner of Bhandara and the south-east portion of Balaghat, is the Amgaon-Kulpa-Lanji road. And in the south, you propose that the road from Pauni to Bhiwapur should be aligned, so as to be ready (in connection with the work on the Umrer-Bhiwapur line in the Nagpur district) early in January. The Chief Engineer will be asked to arrange accordingly.

9. Balaghat is the district in your Division which gives cause for most anxiety ; acute distress has, it is stated, already set in in the Behir tract above the ghâts, and in the Lanji tract to the south-east. The people consist largely of aboriginal races of poor physique, who have no reserve resources, and readily succumb to distress ; and the district has, in 1895 and the early part of the current year, already passed through a time of severe pressure. The failure of the rice crop has been general, the district being protected to a much less degree than Bhandara by tank irrigation.

You recommend the opening of the forests for the collection of edible fruits and roots, and for free grazing for agricultural cattle. This proposal is sanctioned. You consider that 30,000 rupees may be required from Government for gratuitous relief for the helpless poor, 6,000 rupees being met from private charity.

For works of agricultural improvement you have already made some provision from the allotment made on this account to your Division, and you ask for a further grant of 35,000 rupees, which the Chief Commissioner hereby sanctions.

For employment for the able-bodied poor, you propose that the Burha-Behir direct road, the project for which is, you understand, ready, be started at once at both ends. To this the Chief Commissioner agrees. He understands that you have already opened work on this road as a test relief work.

Next, to meet the demand for labour in the south-east, you place the Lanji-Kulpa road, already referred to, against Bhandara. This should be aligned at once, and the Chief Engineer will be asked to arrange for this being done.

Thirdly, the Lalbarra-Waraseoni-Rampaili road project is ready, and a portion of it has, you understand, already been started as a test relief work. You think that this road might stand over for the present, till it is seen how far the land improvement work, to be carried out from loans, provides employment in this locality for the people. To this the Chief Commissioner agrees.

Mr. Lyall understands that you do not at present press for the survey of the Balaghat-Lanji road, the fourth in the list given in your memorandum.

10. The Chief Commissioner has already, in my letter No. 4302, dated the 11th instant, placed at your disposal a grant of a lakh of rupees for famine relief purposes in your Division. The orders now given will enable you to distribute this sum, under the provisions of Article 137 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, among the districts of your Division.

This letter further places at your disposal a grant for Land Improvement Loans of 85,000 rupees as follows:—

	<i>Rs.</i>
Nagpur District - - - - -	25,000
Bhandara District - - - - -	25,000
Balaghat District - - - - -	35,000

When relief operations have been started and the situation is further developed, you should report again in good time should the necessity of a further allotment of funds become apparent.

I have, &c.  
H. H. PRIEST,  
Chief Secretary.

No. 8739. Dated Nagpur, November 25, 1896.

From COLONEL J. A. TEMPLE, Esq., COMMISSIONER, CHHATTISGARH DIVISION, to  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,  
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

WITH reference to Secretariat letters Nos. C-380 and C-350, dated respectively the 1st and 22nd October, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter No. 6445, dated the 18th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur, on the agricultural prospects of his district.

2. It will be seen that he anticipates little or no scarcity in the Khalsa portion, and that pressure, caused by the high prices of grain in other centres, may be expected to be relieved by the construction of tanks by Gaontias themselves.

3. The situation in the zamindaris of Phuljhar and Borasambar is not so satisfactory. But these estates are under the Court of Wards and have funds available. A further report is promised regarding them when the Deputy Commissioner has visited them himself.

4. The worst part of the district is the so-called zamindari of Chandarpur-Padampur. This estate is, however, not really a zamindari at all. The villages are all settled with the Gaontias as in other parts of the district, the difference being that they pay their revenue to the zamindar or talukdar instead of to Government. Consequently the tract may, I think, be treated as part of the khalsa area. I asked the Deputy Commissioner to give me more precise information as to what relief would be required there, and now forward copy of his reply with a sketch map.

5. He recommends that the road between Dabra and Kursia Railway Station (13 miles) be constructed, if necessary, as a famine work, the total cost being, at 2,000 rupees a mile, 26,000 rupees. Three other roads are also suggested, but I do not think that they would be equally useful, nor indeed that they will be necessary. But steps have been taken to have the survey of these roads carried out by the Public Works Department Sub-Divisional Officer.

6. The estimate for the district will be as follows:—

	<i>Rs.</i>
Works under Public Works Department - - - - -	26,000
Minor works under District Agency—approximately - - - - -	1,000
Poorhouses and children's kitchens (very doubtful) - - - - -	3,000
Gratuitous relief (very doubtful) - - - - -	500
Miscellaneous - - - - -	500
Total - - - - -	31,000
<i>Deduct—</i>	
Re-appropriations by District Council - - - - -	3,400
Private charity - - - - -	3,900
Total - - - - -	7,300
Balance required for Provincial Funds - - - - -	23,700

A further sum of from 12,000 rupees to 15,000 rupees may be expected to be required as takavi, but as this will be all recoverable, it is not entered as chargeable to Provincial Funds.

I have, &c.

J. A. TEMPLE, Colonel,  
Commissioner.

No. 6445. Dated November 18, 1896.

From R. A. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., I.C.S., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SAMBALPUR, to the COMMISSIONER, CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

WITH reference to your letter No. 8089, dated the 30th October 1896, forwarding certain letters from the Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, calling for a detailed report as to the agricultural prospects of the district, I have the honour to reply as follows.

The district is a very long and straggling one, and I have only just completed a rapid tour of nearly 200 miles through all the typical portions.

I forward herewith a map of the district, which will show at a glance the area affected by the scarcity.

2. The rainfall this year was very excessive. The average rainfall in the Sambalpur District is between 50 and 60 inches. This year it was considerably over 80 inches. The rain entirely ceased early in September.

The staple crop of the district is, of course, rice. The rice on the high lands called *at* is reaped at the end of August and early in September. Consequently the *at* crops were generally not affected by the early cessation of the rain. *At* lands are generally held by the poorer classes of tenants, so that though the outturn from *at* lands is always meagre, in this particular, at all events, the poorer tenants have not been at the mercy of the unfavourable season.

Of the other three classes of soil—*bahal*, *berna* and *mal-bahal*—lands are always irrigated; *mal* and *berna* lands may or may not be irrigated.

The Sambalpur District is famous for its tanks. The rich portion of the district is that where the natural formation is a succession of undulating hills and valleys which lend themselves readily to the making of tanks.

The people are adepts at placing their embankments in such a way as just to catch the gentle drainage of a sloping piece of land without endangering their strength by subjecting them to the danger of being carried away by heavy floods. It is just where this undulating character of the soil exists, and has been taken advantage of for the building of tanks that the crops have escaped the evil effects of the drought. But for the tanks the drainage would have been universal. As it is, the regions which have suffered have been, first, the level portions of the district, which do not offer the same natural advantages for the making of tanks; secondly, land lying under the hills on which both crops and embankments have been washed away by heavy floods; thirdly, jungly tracts, where however suitable the soil may have been for the building of tanks, the people have been too poor to do so; and fourthly, tracts bordering on the large rivers (especially the Mahanadi) where crops have been washed away wholesale by the floods. In such tracts as usual the people resorted to the transplanting of rice over the area devastated by flood, but owing to the cessation of the rain the transplanted crop died before coming into ear. There has been one cause of damage which seems to have been nearly universal throughout the district—a small winged insect called *bamha*, which fattens on the milk of the growing ear. Fortunately the insect is very local in its ravages; one field only out of a large number will often be found to have been attacked. The damage, however, from this insect has been infinitesimal as compared with that caused by the floods and drought.

The accompanying map will show at a glance that the area affected is after all a limited one.



Crop experiments show that irrigated rice has not suffered at all. In fact many of the irrigated crops I saw could not have been finer. Crop experiments are, I think, somewhat a fallacious method of gauging the outturn of a village as far as rice is concerned. Deprived of water, unirrigated crops at a certain stage die off very rapidly, and it is just a question whether the crop will ripen before this stage is reached. As a consequence it is not infrequent to find half the unirrigated crops in a village flourishing and half absolutely withered.

Before proceeding to deal in detail with the various portions of the district, I will deal with the minor crops of the district. These, I regret to say, have failed to a considerable extent owing to the drought. Fortunately these crops hold a very subordinate place in comparison with rice, and though the loss of these crops will interfere undoubtedly with the comfort of the people, it does not seriously affect the question of famine.

Nowhere have I seen til yielding more than a six anna crop. Urad and kulthi have failed to a still greater extent. Mung, which depends less on rain than on dew, will give from 8 to 10 anna crop. None of these crops are ripe yet, so I have been unable to carry out any crop experiments upon them.

The following table shows the proportion which the area under these crops bears to that under rice throughout the khalsa portion of the district:—

	Acres.
Rice . . . . .	489,412
Urad and Mung . . . . .	39,433
Kulthi . . . . .	11,801

### 3. I will now take the various portions of the district in detail.

I think it may safely be said that none of the tracts to the east of the Mahanadi give any cause for anxiety. I saw a good deal of this part of the country in October when a portion of the crops had been cut, and from personal observation and from reports I have received, I should put down the crops throughout this portion of the district at 12 to 13 annas. The whole tract is well supplied with tanks and is, in my opinion, the most consistently prosperous part of the district. Crossing the river the crops at Attabira, Bargarh, Remanda, Bheran and Sohella are certainly not worse than 12 annas, in many places better.

At Attabira coarse rice was selling at 18 seers to the rupee. A crop experiment on irrigated and manured mal land gave a return of 2,500 lbs. of unhusked rice to the acre, the standard laid down for such soil in the Revenue Book Circular being 900 lbs.

At Remanda rice was selling at 16 seers to the rupee, at Bheran at 17 to 18 seers.

Two crop experiments at Bheran gave the following results:—

	Lbs.
Mal, unirrigated and unmanured . . . . .	500
Berna ditto . . . . .	1,800

the standard being 700 lbs. and 1,200 lbs. respectively.

The Zamindar of Barpali admitted a 14 anna crop of rice all over his zamindari. A crop experiment on unirrigated and unmanured mal gave a return of 580 lbs. to the acre, and rice is selling at 18 seers to the rupee.

At Bargarh rice is selling at 17 seers to the rupee. A crop experiment at Bargarh on unirrigated, but manured, mal gave a return of 980 lbs.

The crops in Bijepur are reported to be much the same as those of Barpali.

4. We have now dealt with the whole of the part of the district unaffected by drought, and it would be well here to say what I know about the grain stocks in this portion. This is the second bad year in succession which the district has suffered, but, speaking generally, the same portions of the district escaped the scarcity last year as have escaped it this year. A large export in grain is undoubtedly going on. In October of this year 34,000 maunds of rice were sent away by train as against only 2,000 in the same period in the previous year, but it must be remembered that this grain comes from a very large area. Sonpur, Patna and Kalahandi are all sending grain to the railway. If the grain was only being exported from the Sambalpur District, prices

would already have been much more affected than they have been. Gaontias are, I believe, in general, fully aware of the importance of keeping sufficient grain in the district for the year's consumption and also for seed-grain next year. Sambalpur is bordered for a considerable distance by States hitherto untapped by the railway, and grain being exported now from these tracts would be arrested in Sambalpur if there was any real scarcity.

From inquiries I have made, however, I am confident that there are and will remain ample grain stocks in the district for the needs of the year.

Taking at random the statements of five Patwaris of the Bargarh Circle, I find that there are grain stocks in the following proportion of their villages:—

*Bargarh Circle.*—Out of 5 villages, stocks in 3 amounting in all to 1,100 purugs or about 5,500 maunds (old rice).

*Sarsara Circle.*—Out of 4 villages, stocks in 2 amounting to 450 purugs or 2,250 maunds (old rice).

*Patarla Circle.*—Out of 5 villages, rice in 4 villages amounting to 750 purugs or 3,750 maunds (old rice).

*Khutpali Circle.*—Out of 5 villages, rice in 3 villages amounting to 370 purugs or 1,850 maunds (old rice).

*Deogaon Circle.*—Out of 8 villages, rice in 8 villages amounting to 950 purugs or 4,750 maunds (old rice).

These figures leave out of consideration the stores of rice kept by tenants for their own consumption, and only refer to stocks to be used in grain lending. They are irrespective of the new rice.

These Patwaris and the Revenue Inspectors of the Circle are unanimous in saying that these stocks are for the present being kept intact until at all events the returns of the present harvest have been ascertained. This circle may be taken as a specimen of the rest of the prosperous parts of the district. There is, I think, no fear of a general depletion of stocks here.

5. The first signs of bad crops were to be seen in the villages to the south of the Barapahars, and within three or four miles of the hills. The soil here is bad, the villages are jungly, and the crops have been subject to severe floods. The map will show the whole of this tract as giving a 4 to 6 anna outturn.

The following villages in this tract are the worst off:—

Bengitora	-	-	4 annas	
Raotpara	-	-	6 "	
Kajuria	-	-	4 "	
Tala	-	-	4 "	} In the Kharsel Zamindari.
Banjipali	-	-	4 "	

A crop experiment in Raotpara on unirrigated, but manured, mal land gave a return of 1,350 lbs. A large proportion of the rice in Raotpara had withered altogether.

I do not think it will become necessary to open any special relief-works in this tract. It borders on villages which have escaped the scarcity. Gaontias of prosperous villages are fully aware of the advantages of the cheap labour which the scarcity will bring, and with a very little encouragement, which I shall not fail to give them, will provide labour for destitute villages by digging tanks in their own. I am addressing a general letter to all Gaontias bordering on distressed tracts to this effect. The Gaontia of Raotpara has consented to take a takavi loan and repair a tank in his village, and the Gaontia of Bengitora to build a tank at his own expense. I have ordered the Tahsildar to camp through this portion, and see if he can make arrangements for the digging of more tanks.

There is one splendid relief-work which might be undertaken if the scarcity really becomes acute here, which I do not apprehend,—a road up the Kajuria ghât into the Barapahar forests. This can be kept in reserve.

6. Proceeding into the Barapahar Range I found that crops had suffered severely throughout the Lakhanpur valley. In Lohara-Behera hardly any crop had been reaped at all owing to floods. It is proposed to make this a forest village, and to draft into it villagers turned out of a number of villages to be afforested this year. There is an old tank out of repair in the village which, if put in order, will bring a large tract into cultivation, and supply land to a large number of ousted villagers. I propose that this

tank should be repaired by the Forest Department at the cost of 500 rupees. This will afford work to several villages where crops have failed. I have addressed the Conservator on the subject.

The villages here are poor and there are large grain stocks at Butli and Lakhanpur. The population of the Lakhanpur valley is only some 7,000.

There is not, and never has been, any export from this valley, and rice is selling at 20 seers to the rupee.

The Gaontias of 12 villages agreed to make tanks—

Lakhanpur	-	-	-	} Without takavi.
Katikhoj	-	-	-	
Babibira	-	-	-	
Gourpali	-	-	-	
Chal	-	-	-	
Tilaimal	-	-	-	
Chakramal	-	-	-	} With takavi.
Khola	-	-	-	
Uttam	-	-	-	
Banjipali	-	-	-	
Lethar	-	-	-	
Lelar	-	-	-	

A crop experiment at Lakhanpur gave the following results :—

Mal unirrigated and unmanured - - - 124 lbs.

I think there will be no necessity for relief-works in the Lakhanpur valley if the Gaontias act up to their promises.

7. The population of the Ambabona Circle is about 15,000. The outturn here is generally from 6 to 10 annas. Grain is selling at Ambabona at 16 seers to the rupee. Considerable export is going on. There are grain stocks in about one-third of the villages. Many of the villages are poor and jungly.

The Gaontias of the following villages have agreed to build tanks at their own expense :—

Malipali, Ruchida, Narangpur, Sambalpuri, Jharpuli, Kaunpalla, Beherapali, Dwari, Tarakona, and Dolapali ;

and the following Gaontias if takavi is given to them :—

Gountiapali, Barangkot, and Machmulda.

The most important of these works is the tank at Dwari. The village belongs to Bairagi Dora, a rich money-lender, and he has consented to repair a bund which will put a large stretch of land under water and give irrigation to seven or eight villages.

The Ambabona district will be carefully watched, but at present I am of opinion that no relief-works will be necessary.

8. We now come to that portion of the district where the crops have been the worst, the Padampur-Chandarpur Zamindari. This is a splendid property owned absolutely by Babu Harihar Singh, Zamindar.

He ought, of course, to be in a position to assist his own people, but unfortunately he is heavily in debt. He has, however, the power to sell or mortgage outright any of his villages, and has told me that he is quite willing to do so if necessary. It is a question how far Government, with severe demands upon its resources in other directions, can meet the needs of a zamindari which should have the best resources at its command in the whole Province.

The population of Padampur is 19,000, of Chandarpur 61,000, and of Malkhorda, a small zamindari to the west of Chandarpur which has also suffered severely, 7,500.

In Padampur the villages along the river bank have all suffered severely from floods. The Revenue Inspector is now engaged in drawing up estimates of grain stocks, and outturn in Padampur.

From what I saw I think it will probably be necessary to open relief-works on a small scale here in March. The road from Padampur to Jangaon Railway Station would be the best relief-work. It was reserved as a road at the recent settlement, and the Patwaris can easily peg it out in accordance to their maps. Grain is selling at Padampur at 20 seers to the rupee in spite of a large export.

The condition of the Chandarpur zamindari is the most serious of all. Out of 177 villages, crops in 77 villages are under four annas, and only in 15 of these villages are there grain stocks. There are considerable grain stocks in about 30 of the other villages of Chandarpur. Chandarpur is so near the railway that supposing its grain stocks were depleted, grain could be very easily imported. The villages all round the border of Chandarpur have especially suffered.

In Malkhorda out of 20 villages 11 have suffered seriously. In the rest there have been good crops. There are good stores of rice in some five or six of the Malkhorda villages. The zamindar of Malkhorda himself has some 1,500 maunds.

The main road from Bilaspur to Sambalpur passes through Malkhorda and Chandarpur. Already the head constable of Dabra thana, which is situated on the road, tells me that some 50 or 60 persons pass along the road daily emigrating from Bilaspur into Sambalpur on the look-out for work. I myself passed strings of Bilaspur carts coming into Sambalpur to seek work in the sleeper trade.

All this is undoubtedly a sign of severe distress in Bilaspur. If relief works are opened in Chandarpur many persons will undoubtedly come to them from Bilaspur. I shall take steps to relieve needy immigrants at Sambalpur if such appear. There can be no doubt, I think, as to what works should be taken up as relief in Chandarpur and Malkhorda. The system of roads mapped out by Mr. Nethersole and reserved as roads at the settlement should be given effect to. At present the road system in Chandarpur is very defective. The proposed roads run from Chandarpur-Dabra and Malkhorda to Khursia Station. If more relief works are required tanks can always be dug.

The zamindars of Chandarpur and Malkhorda are calling in all their Gaontias and ascertaining which will dig tanks in their villages.

The Revenue Inspector has already furnished me with a list of such Gaontias in Chandarpur, but it is at present a somewhat meagre list, and a little pressure from the zamindar will soon improve it, I have little doubt.

It is very difficult to form an estimate of how many persons will demand relief. It is possible that in Padampur 500 persons may require relief from March onwards, and in Chandarpur 2,000 or 3,000 from a month earlier. It is quite possible, however, that the destitute may find employment in the timber trade, which has developed enormously of late.

9. As regards means, the Chandarpur zamindar has promised 300 puris of dhan, value about 1,200 rupees, and I have no doubt the Malkhorda zamindar will also assist.

The District Council is unfortunately in a state of bankruptcy, and I do not see how it can provide more than 2,500 rupees, and that only by curtailing ordinary road repair.

What is wanted is a liberal supply of land improvement loans. As far as I can see, I can easily lend 10,000 rupees or 12,000 rupees for the digging of tanks in the two tahsils.

A liberal supply of loans for seed grain will also be required to provide the people with grain for the next harvest, say, 4,000 rupees in each tahsil.

The road relief work in Chandarpur and Padampur should be considered as work under the Public Works Department. It will be sufficient if poorhouses and children's kitchens are established at Dabra and at Padampur, possibly, also at Ambabhona and Lakhanpur later on, though I do not think this will be necessary. Centres for gratuitous relief may also be established at the same places as necessity arises. It may become necessary to open such institutions later on at Sambalpur town for the relief of immigrants.

I roughly estimate the sum which may be spent—

- (1) On the Chandarpur-Padampur Road, as 6,000 rupees ;
- (2) On minor works under District Agency. (It may be necessary to open some tank works at Sambalpur, to relieve immigrants, though I do not apprehend distress in the actual vicinity of Sambalpur.) I put down 1,000 rupees for this purpose ;
- (3) On poorhouses and children's kitchens, 3,000 rupees ;
- (4) Gratuitous relief outside poorhouses, 500 rupees ;
- (5) Miscellaneous, 500 rupees.

I do not see how the District Council can provide more than 2,500 rupees, unless it should close some of its schools. If this is done it could provide, say, 4,000 rupees.

I estimate the amount to be collected by private charity as 1,500 rupees, excluding what the zamindars of Chandarpur and Malkhorda will give. I think it would be much better to direct the stream of private charity into the digging of tanks rather than to ask wholesale for cash subscriptions.

The major portion of the relief I look to in the digging of tanks by Gaontias and well-to-do persons in their villages. It is impossible to say how much will be done in this way, but from the readiness with which such persons have come forward with offers to dig tanks I am sure the sum will be no small one.

I estimate the requirements of the district under head "Land Improvement Loans" at 12,000 rupees, and under head "Agriculturists' Loans" at 8,000 rupees.

I have said nothing so far about the zamindaris of Phuljhar and Borasambar, where there is considerable scarcity. These are both Court of Wards Estates, and have ample balances in hand. Road works on a large scale are being carried on in both these zamindaris, and I propose that these should be converted, when necessity arises, into relief works. I am now about to visit these zamindaris, and when I have seen the state of things will be in a better position to judge of what steps are necessary for relief.

The influx of immigrants from Bilaspur along the Bilaspur-Sambalpur road will be carefully watched. It is for these persons, I believe, that relief will first have to be afforded. Test-works will be opened as soon as they are found necessary.

As I am in camp I have asked the Secretary, District Council, to add a note showing in what way the budget of the District Council can be altered to provide for famine relief.

#### NOTE on Road Proposals in the Chandarpur-Padampur Parganas.

This is in ordinary years a very rich portion of the Sambalpur District, but suffers very badly for want of communications.

The accompanying map shows the roads which I propose should be this year opened out as famine relief works.

The most useful road, and the one which should be first undertaken, is that between Dabra and Kursia Railway Station. About 13 miles of this falls within Chandarpur and two or three miles in Raigarh. The road could easily be built as a second-class road for 2,000 rupees a mile. I estimate the cost of this road for the portion passing through Chandarpur at 26,000 rupees.

I propose that this road should be surveyed at once, and have asked the Executive Engineer to depute the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sambalpur, for the purpose.

Test relief works will first be opened on this road. I will write to the Political Agent asking that the small portion of this road falling in Raigarh may be undertaken in connection with the work on one side of the border.

The next important road is that from Padampur to Jamgaon. About six miles of this falls in the Sambalpur District, and the rest, some four or five miles, in Hemgir Zamindari, in the Chota Nagpur Division. The portion of the road falling in the Sambalpur District would be about six miles. At 2,000 rupees a mile, this would cost 12,000 rupees.

The next road of importance would be that from Chapora to Kursia, of which about 13 miles would fall in the Sambalpur District—cost 26,000 rupees. Some three or four miles would fall in the Raigarh District.

A minor piece of road would be that between Lapos and Sugda, nine miles—cost 18,000 rupees.

The total length of the whole system of roads would be—

	Miles.	Cost at 2,000 rupees per mile.
Dabra-Kursia - - - -	13	26,000
Padampur-Jamgaon - - - -	6	12,000
Chopara-Kursia - - - -	13	26,000
Lapos-Sudga - - - -	9	18,000
Total - - - -		<u>82,000</u>

I certainly do not for a moment think we shall be called on to provide relief-works to anything like this extent.

I should propose commencing with the Dabra-Kursia and Padampur-Jamgaon roads, which will afford relief to the parts where scarcity exists.

SAMBALPUR, }  
The 23rd November 1896.]

R. A. B. CHAPMAN,  
Deputy Commissioner.

---

No. 4775. Dated Nagpur, November 30, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 8739, dated the 25th instant, forwarding a copy of letter No. 6445, dated the 18th idem, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur, in which he reports on the agricultural situation in his district, and submits proposals for the relief of the distress in places where it exists, by opening the Dabra-Kursia Road as a test-work in the first instance.

2. This proposal has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. As regards gratuitous relief, I am to say that Mr. Lyall considers that it should, as far as possible, be provided by private charity.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,  
Chief Secretary.

---

No. 4988. Dated Nagpur, December 16, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to invite the attention of the Government of India to this Administration's letter No. 2161, dated June 13, 1896, dealing with the agricultural situation in these Provinces up to that time. Owing to the peculiar character of the monsoon rainfall of the current year, the situation has, instead of improving, become very much more serious, and even on the most favourable view of the outturn of the spring crops, it is certain that there will be severe distress, especially in the northern and central parts of the Province, and that large expenditure will be necessary in connection with famine relief.

2. I proceed to show the circumstances which have resulted in the present situation, to state what has been done to meet such distress as exists, and to forecast, as far as is now possible, the prospects of each district and the measures which will be necessary for the effective relief of the agricultural and labouring classes.

The main features of the rainfall of 1895 were described in paragraph 5 of the letter already referred to, and until quite recently the course of the rains this year very closely resembled that of 1895. In June and July there was plentiful rain in all districts of the Province, while in August the fall was unusually heavy—heavier, indeed, than it had been in the previous year. There had been nearly everywhere sufficient breaks to allow of sowing and weeding being carried on, and, though the heavy rain of August had damaged the rice in some parts, there seemed every hope of an unusually plentiful autumn crop. With the end of August, however, the rain abruptly ceased, and September was practically rainless in nearly all districts of the Province. It was only in Raipur (5·18 inches distributed over four weeks) and Sambalpur (5·67 similarly distributed) that there was good rain throughout that month, while in Nagpur, Chanda and Damoh there was fair rain in parts of each district. Elsewhere there was practically none, the scanty local showers which fell in places being of no benefit to the standing crops. October was entirely rainless throughout the Province, and when the first half of November had passed without further showers, prospects were exceedingly gloomy. Not only had the early and high-lying rice, as well as the lesser millets which form the main food of the poorer classes, been ruined by the early cessation of rain, but there seemed every likelihood that the further course of the seasons would resemble that of the previous year;

that there would be no cold weather rains, and that, except in embanked and irrigated lands, the spring crops would fail even more entirely than the autumn crop had done. But the very heavy rain in the earlier monsoon months had left the soil charged with moisture. In spite of two months' drought the spring crops germinated with a fair degree of success wherever they had been sown, and week after week passed without their showing (except in a few places) serious signs of withering. At last, on the 22nd November and the two following days rain came, and fell in all parts of the Province. In the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, as well as in Damoh, Mandli and Seoni in the Jubbulpore Division, and in the Chhindwara District of the Nerbudda Division, the fall was general and fairly plentiful. The prospects of the crops which had already germinated were greatly improved, and the land was sufficiently moistened to allow of further sowings, which were taken in hand in all these districts; even in the other districts, with the sole exception of Saugor, Hoshangabad, Betul, and Nimar, where the fall was very slight and scattered, the rain was sufficient to improve very materially the previous situation; standing crops were benefited, and though the fall did not, in many places, suffice to allow of further sowings, it diminished the fears of a failure in the fodder supply. It must also be noted that this most timely fall removed the fear that this year's season would resemble that of 1895-96 in having no winter rain. There is now (it may reasonably be hoped) every prospect of further rain at the usual time during the cold weather, and in most districts the outturn of the spring crop, on the restricted area sown, ought, so far as any forecast is possible at this early stage, to be at least an average one.

3. Turning now to the actual outturn of the autumn crops and the prospects of those of the coming spring, it will be well, in the first place, to review briefly the harvest results of the previous year: the power of the poorer classes to resist failure being obviously much less when the failure extends over more than one year. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the letter of last June the outturn of the crops of 1895-96 was dealt with in detail, and in paragraph 7 these results were summarised. It will be seen that only in five districts were the harvests of that year fair or good (Nimar, Chhindwara, Wardha, Nagpur, and Chanda, those in the last three districts following on poor harvests in previous years), while in the remaining 13 they were poor or bad. In 10 of these the crops of previous years had been much below the average, while in the three districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh, the previous two years' crops had not merely been below the average, but had been so bad as to cause widespread agricultural distress. In the annexed table the districts are again shown in the same order, columns being added to show the per centage outturn of the crops of 1895-96, the ratio of the rabi to the kharif area in each district, the probable outturn of the present kharif, the proportion of the rabi area sown, the proportion which has germinated, and the prospects of the spring harvests:—

DISTRICTS.	Average Outturn of past Three Years (100 = full crop).	Average Outturn of worst Two successive Years in the past Three.	Average Outturn of 1895-96 (full crop = 100).	Average anna Outturn of current Kharif.	Proportion of Kharif to Rabi Area.		Proportion of Normal Rabi Area sown.	Proportion Germinated.	Present prospect of Spring Crop.
					Kharif.	Rabi.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.		7.	8.	9.
<b>A. DISTRICTS.</b>									
Nimar - - -	72	71	76	7 to 8	87	13	50	25	Poor.
Chhindwara - - -	77	76	--	5	58	42	87	69	Good.
<b>B. DISTRICTS.</b>									
Wardha - - -	58	53	70	8	60	40	87	95	Good.
Nagpur - - -	63	57	75	8	50	50	87	75	"
Chanda - - -	49	48	60	8	66	34	75	75	"
<b>C. DISTRICTS.</b>									
Raipur - - -	79	77	54	4	69	31	25	75	Good.
Bilaspur - - -			39	5	64	36	81	81	"
Sambalpur - - -			70	10	98	2	20	50	"
Betul - - -			67	65	48	4	61	39	75
Mandla - - -	71	69	43	3	67	33	25	87	Good.
<b>D. DISTRICTS.</b>									
<b>I.—Poor.</b>									
Seoni - - -	62	61	59	4	48	52	60	90	Good.
Narsinghpur - - -	60	54	67	6	37	63	50	50	Fair.
Hoshangabad - - -	58	49	59	5 to 6	27	73	75	96	Poor to fair.
Bhauara - - -	53	50	49	6 to 7	63	27	85	90	Good.
Balaghat - - -	57	52	48	3	75	25	25	75	"
<b>II.—Bad.</b>									
Jubbulpore - - -	55	48	45	5	48	52	66	87	Good.
Damoh - - -	47	43	41	6	46	54	60	100	Fair.
Saugor - - -	47	35	47	5 to 6	38	62	31	100	Bad.

4. The situation of the several districts may now be considered in detail, the succession given in preceding table being followed as most convenient for the purpose of comparison. In Nimar and South Chhindwara, the kharif crops were fair, juar, which is largely grown in both districts (one-third of the total cropped area in Nimar, and a little less than one-fourth in Chhindwara), yielding 8 annas. In the Chhindwara Tahsil of the latter district, however, and in the Jagirs to the north of it, where the people depend largely on the lesser millets, the kharif outturn was very scanty, and the total average kharif outturn of the district is estimated at only 5 annas. In Nimar the spring crops are quite unimportant, but in Chhindwara, where 42 per cent. of the cropped area is under rabi, prospects have been much improved by the recent rain, and sowings have been resumed. Neither of these districts, as a whole, gives cause for serious anxiety, though the poorer classes in the Chhindwara Tahsil, in the Jagirs to the north of it, and in the new Harsud Tahsil of the Nimar district, will certainly need Government assistance. The 1,600 square miles of country, which form the Chhindwara Jagirs, are a mass of hills and forest inhabited by Gonds and Korkus, who mix very little with the population of the plains, and the scattered nature of whose villages makes it specially difficult to ascertain their necessities or to organise relief. Special care will be needed in dealing with these people and the similar population in Mandla and parts of Betul.

5. As regards the B. Districts—Wardha, Nagpur, and Chanda—where last year's crops were good, but those of the two previous years poor, juari, which occupies between a third and a quarter of the total cropped area in all three districts, has yielded well in good soils, and the outturn of the kharif is estimated generally at from 8 to 10 annas. In all three districts the rabi area is also important, being 34 per cent. of the total in Chanda, 40 in Wardha, and 50 in Nagpur. The recent rain has enabled sowings to be resumed, and though, owing to drought in September and October, less than the normal area has been taken up, the prospects of the growing crops are hopeful. No general distress is anticipated, but relief will be necessary in the Umra Tahsil and some portions in the north of Nagpur, where a poor kharif crop has followed past poor harvests, and in the north-east zamindaris of Chanda.

6. In the C. Districts—Raipur, Bilaspur, and Sambalpur (forming the Chhattisgarh Division), Betul and Mandla, where last year's harvest (except in Sambalpur) was poor, but those of the two preceding years good, there is no cause for anxiety (except in one isolated tract in the north-west) in Sambalpur. The main rice crop has yielded 10 to 12 annas in good soils, and the outturn of the early reaped rice was also good. Rabi is quite unimportant here, being only 2 per cent. of the total.

Both in Bilaspur and Raipur the kharif has been a very poor one, averaging about 4 annas, except in the Dhamtari Tahsil of the last district. In both these districts, especially in Bilaspur, the rice crop of the previous year (1895-96) was also unfavourable, and there will be considerable distress in the southern part of Bilaspur and the northern half of Raipur. In both districts, however, over 30 per cent. of the total cropped area is under rabi, and the prospects of this crop have been greatly improved by the recent rain. In Betul the rabi is the chief harvest of the level portions of the district, while the hilly tracts depend almost entirely on the kharif. The early sown kharif (some three-eighths of the whole) has yielded tolerably well, 8 to 10 annas, while the outturn of the late sown varies from 2 to 6 annas. Only some 60 per cent. of the usual rabi area was, however, originally sown, and the recent rainfall has been too scanty and scattered to materially improve prospects. It is not, however, anticipated that there will be severe general distress, but there will, no doubt, be considerable suffering all through the upland tracts and among the poor who have no stocks to fall back on, and who have this year been deprived of their usual harvest earnings.

In Mandla the situation is serious; kodon, the most important kharif crop (covering about half of the total area under these crops) and the chief food of the aboriginal population, has yielded from 1 to 4 annas. Kutki, which covers one-eighth of the kharif area, has been an entire failure, while rice, which occupies about one-fourth of the kharif area, has only yielded from 4 to 6 annas. More than two-thirds of the population of this district depend upon kodon and kutki; the harvests of the past year were poor, and the people, who are mainly aborigines, are unaccustomed to lay up any store against possible accidents of season. The prospects of the rabi have, it is true, been improved by the recent rain, but this harvest is not an important factor in the agricultural situation here. Prospects in this district are certainly bad.

7. The D. Districts (Seoni, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Bhandara, Balaghat, Jubbulpore, Damoh, and Saugor), where up to the current year harvests had, for some years, been



poor or bad, have next to be dealt with. It is here (and in Mandla) that the situation is most serious.

In Seoni the kharif crops have been very seriously injured by drought. Even irrigated rice yielded only four annas, while on the unirrigated area the yield was practically nothing. The kodon crop failed, and juar only gave a fair crop on the richer black soils. More than half the cropped area of this district (52 per cent.) is normally under rabi, but even allowing for further sowings after the recent rain, only 60 per cent. of this area has been sown, and though the seedlings are doing well, there will be nothing like a full crop. Past years' crops have been poor in this district, and severe distress is anticipated, especially in the Lakhnadon Tahsil, where kodon, which is the staple crop, was an utter failure.

In Hoshangabad three-quarters of the western half of the district, except in the Charwa Pargana, are under rabi, but in the east and north there is a considerable kharif area. The people in the latter tract have been much impoverished by three bad years, and except juari which has yielded eight annas, the present year's kharif has been a failure. Heavy exports have caused high prices all along the railway line, and in those parts of the district in which the kharif is important it is feared that there will be much distress. The recent rain did not reach this district except in scattered showers, and has not materially benefited the rabi. Even in the richer areas of the district the outlook is therefore not altogether favourable, while in the eastern tahsils and in the Charwar tract there will probably be general distress.

In Narsinghpur the rabi area consists of a belt of land about 12 miles broad running from east to west through the centre of the district. Of this area 50 per cent. has been sown, and half of this is said to have germinated. The recent rain has not, so far, been sufficient to allow of further sowings, though it has somewhat improved the prospects of the standing crops. Of the kharif crops, rice has yielded six annas, kutki four, and kodon six. The kharif out-turn, as a whole, is estimated at six annas. In the hilly tracts to the north and south of the district the people depend chiefly on the lesser millets, and are mostly poor. The scanty crops of this year, combined with past bad years and the high prices of all food-grains, will cause considerable suffering among these classes, and work will have to be provided for them. Even in the richer rabi area the outlook is gloomy. The failures of past years have exhausted resources; only half the normal area has been sown, and germination has been defective. Distress may, therefore, be expected over the greater part of the district.

In Bhandara, rice is by far the most important crop. High-lying rice has, owing to the early cessation of rain, been a failure, while on the better situated soils the out-turn has been from five to six annas. On irrigated land, on the other hand, which in this district is nearly half of the total rice area, the out-turn is estimated at from 8 to 14 annas. As regards the rabi, 37 per cent. of the total cropped area, large tracts were, owing to the early cessation of rain, left unsown. But sowings have been resumed now that general rain has fallen; 85 per cent. of the normal area is said to have been put under crop, and a fair out-turn may be expected. The situation in the greater part of this district cannot therefore be considered as serious, but it is anticipated that there will be distress among the poorer classes in the thinly populated forest tracts in the south-east and in the northern portion of the district. Here the chief food crop is rice, grown on poor unirrigated soil. This crop has yielded little or nothing either in the present or last year, and there are no stocks for the people to fall back upon.

In Balaghat, again, rice is by far the most important crop, occupying two-thirds of the total cropped area, only 31 per cent. of this being irrigated. On the irrigated land the out-turn is estimated at 9 to 10 annas, but on the unirrigated (69 per cent. of the whole) it will not be more than four to six annas in the Balaghat Tahsil, and two to three annas in Baihir, the large upland area forming the northern portion of the district. Over the whole district it is estimated at not more than three annas. There have been several successive bad years in this district, and the bulk of the population is very poor, and has no reserves of any kind. Considerable distress already prevails, and it is certain that this will become more acute with each succeeding month, especially in the Baihir Tahsil. Recent rain has improved rabi prospects, and may enable cultivators to sow more land with gram and pulses; but, in view of the fact that the ordinary rabi area is only 25 per cent. of the total, this cannot materially alter the general situation.

8. The three remaining districts—Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh—have suffered severely from bad harvests for the last two years, and large measures of relief in the way of revenue remission and famine works have been found necessary. All

three are to a preponderating extent rabi districts, though less markedly so than Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur. This harvest was poor last year in Saugor and in those parts of Jubbulpore which lie outside of the rich plain known as the *haveli*. It was also very poor in Damoh. The kharif crop was very scanty in all three districts.

In Jubbulpore the kharif crop, chiefly rice, kodon, and kutki, has again failed in the parts of the district where distress was previously most serious, the out-turn being estimated at from three to six annas. Rabi sowings have also been much restricted, only two-thirds of the normal area having been sown. In the rest of the district the *haveli*, where there is much embanked land, the kharif has not been so bad, and, with the aid of the recent rain, a good rabi out-turn is expected. Owing, however, to the successive failures of the past three years, there will be much distress, especially in the Murwara or northern tahsil, where the people chiefly depend on the kharif harvests.

In Saugor the kodo crop was very poor, and the kharif out-turn, as a whole, is estimated at five to six annas.

A very large proportion of the rabi area, estimated at 70 per cent., has, partly in consequence of want of seed, and partly owing to failure of rain, remained unsown, and, as the recent rain was not at all general in this district, the prospects are most unfavourable. Much distress already exists here, and severe pressure must be anticipated in all tahsils. Indeed, there is no district in the province where the outlook is so gloomy, or where such acute and general distress is probable.

In Damoh there was some useful rain in September, and the kharif crop has been generally better than it was last year, except in parts of the Hatta Tahsil, where it was poor. The rabi sowings were restricted to a much smaller area than in the previous year (60 per cent. of the normal), but the recent rain, though not heavy, has been fairly general, and what has been sown is doing well. Distress here will not, it is anticipated, be general, but there will be considerable need for relief in the south-west of the Damoh Tahsil and in the north of Hatta.

9. Summarising these details, it may be said that there will be some measure of distress among the labouring poor and the smaller cultivators in all districts except Sambalpur, and that there will be acute distress in the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Mandla, and Balaghat, and among the poorer classes in the Nerbudda Valley districts (with the possible exception of Nimar), in Damoh, Seoni, Chhindwara, Betul, Bhandara, Raipur, and Bilaspur. The extent and intensity of this distress greatly depends, except in Balaghat and Mandla, on the out-turn of the rabi crops. But in Saugor, although it is essentially a rabi district, sowings have been so greatly restricted that the rabi out-turn must in any case fall very far short of the normal, and cannot materially alter the present situation. Elsewhere the recent general rain has much benefited these crops, except in Hoshangabad, where there has been a very slight and scattered fall; but the area sown is still, in most districts, owing to the drought in September, considerably less than the normal, and some degree of damage had been done to the growing crops by the premature cessation of the monsoon. Hence anything like a full rabi crop cannot be hoped for even under the most favourable weather conditions. It has been already noticed that the power of resistance possessed by the poorer classes in face of harvest failure greatly depends on whether the bad crop comes on the top of previous good harvests or is one of a succession of bad ones. The unfortunate feature of the present situation is that in two of the worst districts, Saugor and Balaghat, the present unfavourable season has been preceded by others scarcely more favourable. In both these districts stocks have been exhausted and the resources of the people overtaxed in meeting the calamities of previous years, and it is on this account that the situation in them is so grave. The same considerations apply to the distressed areas in Jubbulpore and Damoh. In Mandla, harvests were fairly good up to 1895-96, but in that year the yield of the chief crops was poor, and there has been a good deal of distress throughout the summer and autumn. Moreover, the bulk of the people are poor and thriftless, and have no stocks of any kind. The same is the case with the greater part of the cultivators on the poorer soils of the other districts, and any considerable failure even of one year's crop is sufficient to reduce them to great distress.

I am further to observe that the distress which has resulted from the widespread failure of the autumn crops will, in most of the affected tracts, be only very partially alleviated by the reaping of the rabi harvests. The great majority of the classes who in these provinces will suffer most are almost entirely dependent on the autumn crops—rice, juar, and the lesser millets. Nearly all their land is cropped with these grains,

and when these fail, as they have this year almost everywhere failed, the most plentiful out-turn of wheat and gram is, apart from its effect in lowering the general price of food-stuffs, of little or no benefit to the people. Harvest labour will, no doubt, be a resource for a few, but in most cases distress must continue and grow more severe until the progress of the monsoon rains allows of their special food-crops being again sown and reaped. The Chief Commissioner therefore thinks that we must be prepared to face continued and general distress until well on in July or August. With favourable rains and a really good autumn harvest the distress would probably diminish towards the close of the rains, when the early crops ripen and field work becomes available for the labouring poor. It may then gradually disappear with the beginning of next cold weather. But in some parts, notably Saugor, Jubbulpore, Balaghat, and parts of Damoh, past years have been so bad, and the people are so depressed and impoverished by the calamities of successive seasons, that it will, in Mr. Lyall's opinion, take at least a year of renewed agricultural prosperity to make the poorer classes independent of Government relief. This, he thinks, is the utmost that can be said. We know too little of the resources of the people in times of need, and of the extent of the stocks they may have to fall back upon, to enable us to make even an approximate estimate of the numbers that will have to be relieved. All that Government can do is to have provision ready for a maximum number. But the Chief Commissioner thinks that it is quite useless to attempt in this letter any exact statistical forecast regarding the probable numbers to be relieved, when sufficient data for such statistics are admittedly not available.

10. Apart from the actual out-turn of the crops, the most important factor in determining the intensity of such agricultural distress as has to be dealt with in these provinces is the price of ordinary food-grains, and it seems desirable to forecast, as far as this may be possible, what the course of prices is likely to be during the next few months. On this point, however, it is, the Chief Commissioner thinks, unsafe to base conclusions as to the probable course of prices this year exclusively on a study of the prices which ruled in the later cold weather and hot weather months of 1895-96. Last year there was practically no rain after October, and there are strong reasons for thinking that, until the November rains of the current year, dealers were fixing prices on the assumption that the cold weather months of 1896 would resemble the same period in 1895; that there would be no winter showers; and that the coming rabi crop would, in most part, be a total failure. Prices were still further hardened by large exports to the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, due to similar anticipations in those provinces. These anticipations have, however, not been fulfilled. There has been general rain in the present month, and it seems not improbable that there will be further rain before the standing crops ripen. So far, then, as can now be foreseen, the rabi out-turn on such land as has been sown will be nearly, if not quite, up to the average. In these circumstances it seems not improbable that the present very high prices will not be maintained, that they will gradually get lower as the rabi prospects improve, and that they will eventually be not higher than they were last year.

The statement which accompanies this letter shows for the last three years the prices of wheat and rice in each district on the 15th November, and also shows for the two years 1894 and 1895 the prices of the same grains on the 15th of each month up to April. It will be seen that the prices of these grains at present are at least 50 per cent. higher than they were on the same date last year, and a scrutiny of the figures for previous months shows that they have been steadily rising since September, the rise between the 31st October and 15th November, between which dates the hoped-for Diwali rains did not fall, having been considerable in nearly all cases. If these exceedingly high prices are maintained, they will materially aggravate the severity of the situation, but, as has been pointed out, they will probably fall now that there has been general rain, and will get gradually lower as the prospects of the spring crops become more certain.

It must also be remembered that with the enormous extension of railroads which has taken place in recent years, and the remarkable cheapening in ocean freights, the prices of all universal necessities, such as food-grains, have ceased to be dependent, except in a few isolated districts, on local circumstances. In these provinces they depend on general harvest prospects and on general demand quite as much as on local harvests and on local demand. The rain which fell here extended over the greater part of India, and has, over large areas, improved prospects to an even greater extent than they have been improved here. This should largely diminish the demand for export from these provinces, and the knowledge that in a few months grain will, in some parts, be plentiful, should have a strong effect in lowering prices here. It must also be recollected that even a

slight rise in price is sufficient to check export abroad, and the fact that such export demand cannot be calculated on will also tend to cheapen all food-grains.

All these anticipations are of course conditional on sufficient winter rains; but provided these do not fail the Chief Commissioner sees no reason to think that prices will, in the hot weather months, be much above the level of the last season.

11. Such being the general situation in these provinces, it remains to state the measures which the Chief Commissioner has so far taken to cope with the anticipated distress, and what further measures will, so far as can be judged, be necessary to meet the probable future development of events.

As has already been indicated, agricultural prospects up to the first week in September were very bright, and it was only when this month passed without rain, and when the weather signs were such as to indicate that the monsoon had prematurely ceased, that anxiety regarding the agricultural outlook began to be felt. But by the end of September there seemed cause for serious anxiety. The early-sown rice then ripening was rapidly being ruined, the remaining kharif crops were suffering from want of moisture, and rabi sowings could not, owing to the hardness of the soil, be taken in hand. Consequently on the first of the following month a letter (copy of which I am to forward) was sent to all commissioners asking them to submit without delay a report on the agricultural prospects of their division, stating where distress was likely to occur, and what measures of relief it would be advisable to take. They were further instructed to arrange for numerous crop experiments both on early-sown and late-sown soils, and to report the results when complete.

As the weeks passed without rain it became more and more certain that, in view of the poor harvests of the previous year, grave and general distress would have to be dealt with; and on the 22nd October the Chief Commissioner again addressed all commissioners of divisions (*vide* letter No. C. 447-450, dated the 22nd October 1896, copy attached) asking them to submit concise estimates of probable famine relief expenditure up to the end of the present financial year. This estimate was to show probable requirements for—

- (1) Works under the Public Works Department, or to be carried out on estimates prepared by that Department.
- (2) Minor works under district agency.
- (3) Poorhouses and children's kitchens.
- (4) Gratuitous relief outside poorhouses.
- (5) Miscellaneous.

They were also asked to state what part of this total could be provided from local funds or from private charity.

The Chief Commissioner also addressed the Government of India (letter No. C. 451, dated the 23rd October 1896) stating how matters stood, and asking for a provisional special grant of five lakhs of rupees for expenditure on famine relief. This grant was sanctioned by the Government of India in Mr. Sly's letter, No. 1979-27-13, dated the 31st October 1896, and has been distributed as follows in the different divisions:

Jubbulpore	- - - - -	Two lakhs.
Nagpur	} - - - - -	Each one lakh.
Nerbudda		
Chhattisgarh		

The interval before the receipt of the reports called for from Commissioners was occupied in the issue of circular orders to the several heads of departments, directing them to arrange for the instruction of their subordinates in the duties imposed on them in time of scarcity by the provisions of the Famine Code. The Chief Commissioner also arranged conferences with the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore divisions. These took place on the 15th October and 3rd November respectively, and the opportunity was taken of ascertaining the general situation in each district and indicating the lines to be followed in dealing with distress.

Early in November Mr. Lyall proceeded to Nagpur and discussed the situation there with the Commissioner and local officers. In Chhattisgarh the area to be dealt with was so large, and detailed local experience seemed so essential, that the Chief Commissioner thought it advisable to depute the Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, Mr. Carey, who had been in charge of the settlement operations in the Raipur district, to make a rapid tour through the most distressed parts of that district, and to assist the Deputy Commissioner with his great local experience. Mr. Carey's conclusions were embodied

in a memorandum (copy of which I am to forward) which proved of very great assistance in organising a scheme of relief for this district. On the 20th November, Mr. Lyall visited Raipur, and fully discussed the situation with the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners of the division. The conclusions arrived at at this conference were embodied in a Memorandum which is submitted for the information of the Government of India.

12. The first reports of the Commissioners of Division on the districts under their control (with the exception of those from Chhattisgarh) were received by the beginning of November, and are submitted with this letter. In the Nagpur Division the situation was sufficiently clear to allow of orders being passed at once (*vide* Secretariat letter No. 4415, dated the 16th November 1896, copy enclosed), and work in the districts of that division is now proceeding on these lines. In the Nerbudda division some further information had to be awaited, but orders have now been passed (*vide* letter No. 4729, dated the 28th November 1896, copy enclosed). In Jubbulpore, sanction was given at the conference held on the 3rd November to all necessary preliminary measures being taken, but the Chief Commissioner had to await the preparation of a complete list of the larger relief works proposed before passing final orders on the Commissioner's reports. A copy of these orders is now submitted (*vide* Secretariat letter No. 4951 A., dated the 11th instant). As regards the Chhattisgarh division, Mr. Carey's memorandum, already referred to, was made the basis of the orders issued for the Raipur district. These orders will be found in paragraphs 1 to 10 of the notes on the Raipur conference, appended to this letter. Similar orders with regard to Bilaspur will be found in paragraphs 11 to 17 of the same document.

In Sambalpur a very full and complete report has been submitted by the Deputy Commissioner (*vide* his No. 6,445, dated the 18th November 1896, copy appended), and orders (copy also submitted) have been passed on this. It will be seen that preliminary arrangements have now been made throughout the Province; that in the Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, detailed instructions have been issued, and that it is only in Raipur and Bilaspur that the particular methods to be followed in the organisation of relief have not been completely worked out. A programme of relief works under the Public Works Department has, however, been drawn out for those districts, and work has been started in all cases where the local officers considered this necessary. But in Raipur and Bilaspur, as indicated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Carey's Memorandum, our main reliance will, at least in the earlier months of the scarcity, be placed on local works carried out from Land Improvement Loans; and although a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been placed at the Commissioner's disposal to commence with, it is hoped that much larger sums will be applied for and met from the grant of 10 lakhs for such loans for which, in my letter No. 4697, dated the 26th November 1896, the Chief Commissioner has asked the sanction of the Government of India. The importance of completing all arrangements as early as possible has been impressed on the Commissioner of the Division, and it is hoped that the arrangements in this division will very shortly be as complete as the care and thoroughness with which local officers have dealt with the question have enabled the Chief Commissioner to make them elsewhere.

I am to enclose copies of the programmes framed for each division in the Public Works Department for large relief works, which will, in accordance with the system so successfully adopted in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, be administered in that Department; it will be seen that in each case the programme includes a list (Statement A.) of works calculated to meet any possible development of distress, and a selection (Statement B.) out of the larger list of works which, it is thought, will suffice for present requirements, and which it has been arranged to put in hand at once.

The appended statement gives the estimates submitted by Commissioners showing their probable requirements up to the end of the current financial year, and also their estimates of the contributions which may be expected from local funds and private charity. It will be seen that the total sum which will be needed from Government is put at, approximately, 14½ lakhs of rupees. From the nature of the case, however, Mr. Lyall does not think that these figures can be taken as more than a rough preliminary estimate of what will be required. It has often been remarked that famine relief operations are "fruitful in surprises." The estimate may fall short in one district, and be found in excess of necessities in another. Immigration from one part of the Province to another, or from native states into British territory, may swell the numbers in any particular district above what is anticipated. For these reasons the Chief Commissioner deprecates too strict criticism of the figures. He has already, in the Nerbudda Commissionership and in Raipur, raised the figures of Column 3 (works under the Public Works Department) above the totals included in the programmes of works in the light of information received since these were framed.

13. It will, the Chief Commissioner thinks, be unnecessary to trouble the Government of India with a detailed account of the schemes of relief which have been approved for each district, but it seems advisable to state generally the lines on which it is proposed to organise relief measures both as regards the provision of work for those able to labour; for the relief of those whom hunger or weakness may render temporarily incapable of work, and, finally, for the helpless members of the community who are unable to move from their homes, and to whom aid must be given in their villages. As regards relief-works, those to be first taken in hand are, wherever this may be possible, village works, such as the deepening of existing tanks, excavation of new tanks, making field embankments, or eradicating kans grass. In the Chhattisgarh Division, especially in Raipur and Bilaspur, it is reported that there are but few villages in which there is not scope for further tank construction or field embankment. Rice is the staple crop here, and the widespread and extensive failure of this crop in the current and preceding years, owing to the absence of artificial irrigation, has made the people especially alive to the importance of the storage of water. A good deal of this work will, it is expected, be carried out by the well-to-do out of their own funds, but there are many others who, though willing and anxious to secure their villages against future failure of rain, have not the money available to do this. In these cases takavi advances will be most useful, and to meet these and other similar demands, Mr. Lyall has asked the Government of India, in my letter No. 4697, dated the 26th November 1896, to sanction an additional grant of 10 lakhs of rupees under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The greater portion of this sum will, it is anticipated, be spent in the Chhattisgarh Division, but there is also scope for similar work in Nagpur, Bhandara, and Balaghat in the Nagpur Division, and to a limited extent in Jubbulpore, and in Chhindwara and Seoni on the Satpura Plateau. Even in the wheat districts of Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur it is now reported that there is some scope for further field embankment, and the Chief Commissioner is confident, as he has already stated, that the sum asked for can be usefully allotted before the end of March.

There are, in Mr. Lyall's opinion, strong and practical reasons for an extensive scheme of village works in the present circumstances of these Provinces. Failure of rain has not hitherto been a usual feature in the local agricultural economy; even now it is hoped that the distress is purely temporary, and that with the advent of the next monsoon the people will once more be able to take up their ordinary occupations. Under these conditions the main thing to be done is to keep the people on their land, and to provide sufficient work and food for them near their homes to prevent their throwing up their holdings before better times come round again. If in securing this end we can at the same time help in ensuring the land from the consequences of future drought, the work becomes doubly valuable, and the Chief Commissioner is desirous that wherever such works are practicable they should be set in hand without delay. It may be added that they are an invaluable complement to centres of gratuitous relief. The main object of these centres is to provide food for those whom weakness and hunger may have temporarily rendered unable to labour, and to permit of their recovering their strength for regular work. In such cases suitable local labour must be provided, and the proposed village works will precisely meet this want. The opening of village works in all localities where scope for such works exist will therefore be the first stage in the organisation of a system of relief.

It has, however, been already pointed out that there are considerable areas of the provinces, especially in the northern districts, where distress will be severe, but where there is little or no scope for village works. It is also impossible to start such works in the hilly uplands of the plateau districts or in the poor and sparsely-peopled parts of Balaghat, Hoshangabad, or Narsinghpur. Moreover, as distress deepens and the number to be relieved grows, such works will be quite insufficient to meet the demand for remunerative labour. To meet these circumstances a detailed programme of large road works has, as already stated, been drawn up in the Public Works Department, after careful consultation with district and divisional officers, and has been approved by the Chief Commissioner. Where local works are insufficient, the more important of these works will be started at once, and further works will be taken up as the need for them is pointed out by local officers.

It may be observed that no unmetalled roads are included in this scheme, labour on such roads being found to be generally, in this province, money thrown away. The more useful existing roads are to be raised in class, new feeder roads constructed, and metal collected for existing roads. Metal can usefully be prepared and stacked in large quantities, and work of this nature can be easily supervised and measured. The Chief Commissioner therefore anticipates that it will have to be very largely relied on, especially in the rains, when earth-work becomes impossible.

All large works will be under the Public Works Department, and the Chief Commissioner has ordered that payments are, as far as possible, to be in the hands of a responsible official not below the rank of a Naib-Tashildar. In this he has followed the course adopted in the North-Western Provinces by the Government of Sir A. MacDonnell, whose recent Resolution on the Bundelkhand scarcity of 1896 has proved and will prove of great value to himself and his officers in the present juncture. He has also arranged for the issue of instructions for the guidance of officers in charge of such works on the lines of those issued in the North-Western Provinces in the printed rules of the 1st December 1896, and the Chief Engineer has been requested to communicate direct with the Public Works Department in the North-Western Provinces with a view to settle any doubtful points as to the adaptation of those rules to our circumstances here.

13. As an aid to small and large works, and to afford some immediate relief to the poorer classes and aborigines, who are accustomed in times of scarcity to resort to the forests for food, Mr. Lyall has ordered the opening of the forests for the extraction of edible roots, mohwa and fruits, in all cases where local officers may declare this to be desirable. He has also allowed free grazing to agriculturalists where want of fodder was otherwise anticipated.

For the provision of gratuitous relief, a beginning has been made by establishing poor-houses at all centres where any general distress is anticipated, and their number will be increased as necessity arises. These will be supplemented, where more extensive distress makes this advisable, by more numerous relief centres brought nearer the homes of the people, and with local relief works attached to them wherever this may be possible. As distress spreads and becomes really acute, it will eventually be necessary to organise village relief on the basis of lists drawn up by Mukaddams and Patwaris; but as yet this has been taken in hand only in a few of the districts where the situation is most serious.

With respect to advancement for Land Improvement Loans it may be remarked that in addition to the usual allotment, a further sum of 1,80,000 rupees was made available by reappropriation from local loans. This has now been distributed, and as there are large further demands from the districts of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, the Chief Commissioner has, as has already been pointed out, recently asked for a further allotment of 10 lakhs of rupees for this purpose.

14. As regards the sum which will be required for the general purpose of famine relief, it is yet difficult to form a satisfactory estimate. The forecasts of expenditure prepared by Commissioners were based on the assumption of a poor or bad rabi harvest. On the other hand the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think that in some cases, especially in parts of the Nerbudda Division and in the Raipur and Bilaspur Districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, the probable extent of the distress was, in the first instance, considerably underestimated. The total estimate up to the 31st March next is roughly 14½ lakhs of rupees, and the Chief Commissioner thinks that 10 lakhs of rupees, in addition to the five lakhs already granted (*vide* Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department letter No. 1979—27—13, dated the 31st October last), is the least that he should ask for in present circumstances for relief purposes up to the close of the present financial year. The Government of India may be confident that whatever sum is granted will be spent with the utmost regard to economy and efficiency, and that no expenditure will be sanctioned that is not actually needed for the relief of distress. Where the object in view is the saving of life and the maintenance of the cultivating classes or their land, no reasonable expenditure can be said to be wasted. Moreover, the scarcity which has to be dealt with is, as has been already indicated, a quite abnormal event in the history of these Provinces. It is not, so far as previous experience enables any conclusion to be arrived at, likely soon to recur, and if relief is organised in a sufficiently liberal and comprehensive manner to keep cultivators on their holdings and the labouring classes in their villages, it may be confidently anticipated that with a cycle of favourable seasons the Provinces will rapidly recover their former prosperity. The Chief Commissioner trusts, therefore, that the Government of India will sanction the grant now asked for.

15. There still remains for discussion the important question of the extent to which Revenue suspension and remission may become necessary, but the Chief Commissioner thinks that it will be best to defer any detailed treatment of this subject until the out-turn of the kharif crops is more fully known in detail and the prospects of the rabi are more certain. Collections for 1895-96 were in general punctually made, in spite of the trying circumstances of that year, and, except in the Jubbulpore Division, where the measures

of suspension and remission detailed in this Administration's letter, No. 2283, dated the 27th June 1896, were found necessary, but little difficulty was experienced in realisation. There were, however, short collections in the Hoshangabad and Chhindwara Districts, but in the remaining districts of the Nerbudda Division and in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions the demand has been collected in full.

Provided that rabi prospects continue good, the mere fact that the kharif out-turn has been bad would not in itself justify general suspension, though it is certain that considerable measures of suspension will be necessary in numerous cases in areas where the kharif harvest greatly preponderates over the rabi.

The dates of the kharif instalments of land revenue in these Provinces vary from the 1st February in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions to the 10th February in the Nagpur Division and the 1st March in Chhattisgarh. The rents of privileged tenants are payable 15 days, and those of ordinary tenants one month, before the dates of the revenue instalments. There is thus some time to elapse before orders as to suspension or remission of revenue (which will in all cases be coupled with conditions as to a corresponding suspension or remission of rents) need be passed. Mr. Lyall is on the point of starting for a detailed visitation of all the distressed districts of the Province, and he will on arrival in each carefully consider the question of what orders are necessary in communication with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and arrange for the submission of proposals upon a systematic basis.

As at present advised, the Chief Commissioner thinks it likely that considerable suspensions and some remission will be necessary in Saugor and Damoh and in parts of Jubbulpore. Some degree of suspension will also probably be needed in Mandla, Balaghat, and the Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad districts, as well as in the worse-off parts of Betul, Seoni, Chhindwara, Raipur and Bilaspur. But it is impossible to make any reliable forecast on this point at present, and its detailed treatment will be taken up separately later on, when the situation is more accurately known.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,  
Chief Secretary.



STATEMENT A.—Showing the Prices of Wheat and Rice in each District on the 15th November for the last Three Years, and for the Two Years 1894-95 on the 15th of each Month up to April.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Prices of Food-Grain on 15th November.		PRICES OF FOOD-GRAIN, 1895-96.								
	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	15 January.		15 February.		15 March.		15 April.		
			Wheat.	Rice, Common.	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	
<b>JUBBULPORE DIVISION :</b>											
Saugor - - -	1894	11-23	9-41	19-01	11-06	14-54	11-06	14-54	11-06	11-11	11-06
	1895	11-76	11-05	11-23	9-41	11-76	11-05	11-76	11-05	11-76	11-05
	1896	7-49	7-60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Damoh - - -	1894	10-30	13-00	20-0	14-19	16-10	12-0	12-76	10-0	12-75	10-0
	1895	11-25	11-25	11-75	10-80	12-50	12-50	12-50	12-50	12-50	12-50
	1896	8-00	8-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jubbulpore - - -	1894	12-00	14-00	18-0	15-0	16-50	14-50	14-75	14-0	15-75	14-0
	1895	12-25	13-25	14-0	15-25	13-0	14-25	13-50	14-50	15-0	15-50
	1896	8-75	8-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mandla - - -	1894	15-00	15-00	20-0	15-0	-	-	18-50	17-0	18-0	13-0
	1895	15-00	13-00	15-0	17-0	16-0	-	15-0	14-0	16-0	12-0
	1896	9-00	10-00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seoni - - -	1894	16-59	13-36	25-0	13-57	24-88	13-57	24-88	13-57	20-36	13-57
	1895	14-45	11-48	16-59	-	16-0	12-80	16-0	12-80	16-59	12-80
	1896	8-96	8-00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NERBUDDA DIVISION :</b>											
Narsinghpur - - -	1894	13-00	9-13	19-20	11-23	18-0	9-13	16-0	9-13	14-0	9-13
	1895	13-08	9-19	13-0	9-13	13-0	9-13	13-0	9-13	13-0	9-13
	1896	8-00	8-00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoshangabad - - -	1894	14-23	10-25	19-7	11-86	17-66	11-86	16-35	11-86	16-35	11-86
	1895	13-80	11-87	14-72	11-28	14-72	11-28	14-72	11-28	13-27	11-25
	1896	8-00	7-52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nimar - - -	1894	14-22	13-06	17-07	12-47	16-0	12-47	17-07	12-47	18-28	12-47
	1895	14-22	12-47	15-06	13-06	14-22	13-06	15-06	13-06	16-0	13-06
	1896	8-53	8-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Betul - - -	1894	16-00	9-82	20-57	10-80	20-57	10-80	20-57	10-80	18-0	10-80
	1895	14-04	10-28	14-40	9-82	14-40	9-82	15-43	9-82	15-43	9-39
	1896	9-00	7-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhindwara - - -	1894	12-67	10-91	16-89	11-43	15-20	11-43	11-43	11-43	16-89	10-0
	1895	11-70	10-00	12-67	11-43	13-82	11-43	15-20	10-0	13-82	10-0
	1896	9-50	6-66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NAGPUR DIVISION :</b>											
Wardha - - -	1894	14-55	10-00	16-0	10-0	16-0	10-0	17-77	10-0	16-0	10-0
	1895	14-54	10-00	14-55	10-0	14-55	10-0	14-55	10-0	16-0	10-0
	1896	8-42	8-00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagpur - - -	1894	15-62	11-25	18-75	12-50	18-75	12-50	18-12	12-50	16-87	12-50
	1895	14-37	10-50	15-0	12-50	14-37	11-87	14-37	11-87	16-25	12-50
	1896	8-12	8-12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chanda - - -	1894	13-50	12-50	16-50	14-66	17-60	14-66	16-0	12-80	16-0	12-57
	1895	14-77	12-80	-	-	13-50	15-0	13-50	15-0	14-80	15-0
	1896	9-62	8-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bhandara - - -	1894	15-00	12-50	17-50	13-25	18-75	13-25	17-50	12-50	17-50	12-50
	1895	15-00	12-50	15-0	12-50	13-25	12-50	16-0	12-50	17-50	12-50
	1896	8-75	8-75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balaghat - - -	1894	11-00	16-00	16-0	16-0	17-50	17-50	17-80	15-0	16-0	16-0
	1895	11-00	11-00	11-0	16-0	11-0	16-0	12-50	16-0	12-50	12-50
	1896	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>CHHATTISGARH DIVISION :</b>											
Raipur - - -	1894	18-56	17-05	26-55	18-26	26-55	17-50	26-55	18-25	25-56	18-25
	1895	15-00	15-00	-	-	17-0	15-75	18-56	17-05	20-56	19-37
	1896	9-50	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bilaspur - - -	1894	17-75	18-00	28-40	20-90	24-62	18-0	26-62	20-09	22-43	18-0
	1895	15-49	14-64	18-93	14-64	17-75	18-0	17-75	18-0	18-93	18-0
	1896	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sambalpur - - -	1894	14-00	17-50	21-0	16-69	21-0	16-69	20-13	17-50	20-13	17-50
	1895	13-00	16-00	14-75	19-69	15-31	18-37	18-50	18-37	18-62	19-26
	1896	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

STATEMENT B.—Showing Estimate of probable Famine Relief Expenditure in the Central Provinces up to the 31st March 1897.

DISTRICT.	Works under the Public Works Department.	Civil Works under Local Officers.	Works carried out by Private Agency.	Poor-Houses, Children's Kitchens, and Gratuitous Relief.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	DEDUCT—			Net Expenditure to be met by Government.	
							Contributions from Local Funds.	Contributions from Private Persons.			Total.
								For Works.	For Charitable Relief.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
<b>JUBBULPORE DIVISION :</b>											
Saugor - - -	1,05,400	10,000	4,000	30,000	2,000	1,51,400	-	4,000	2,000	6,000	1,45,400
Damoh - - -	49,800	7,000	1,000	17,000	3,000	77,800	-	1,000	500	1,500	76,300
Jubbulpore - - -	1,05,600	60,000	3,000	30,000	4,000	2,02,600	6,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	1,90,600
Mandla - - -	61,700	38,000	2,000	15,000	4,000	1,20,700	-	2,000	1,500	3,500	1,17,200
Seoni - - -	49,300	5,000	2,000	3,500	1,000	60,800	-	2,000	2,500	4,500	56,300
Total - - -	3,71,800	1,20,000	12,000	95,500	14,000	6,13,300	6,000	12,000	9,500	27,500	5,85,800
<b>NERBUDDA DIVISION :</b>											
Narsinghpur - - -	65,000	25,000	-	10,700	1,000	1,01,700	-	-	5,000	5,000	96,700
Hoshangabad - - -	70,700	35,000	-	15,000	1,000	1,21,700	22,000	-	10,000	32,000	89,700
Nimar - - -	15,000	5,000	-	5,000	300	25,300	5,000	-	-	5,000	20,300
Betul - - -	40,000	10,000	-	4,000	300	54,300	-	-	3,000	3,000	51,300
Chhindwara - - -	30,000	15,000	7,000	4,000	300	56,300	9,000	7,000	1,000	17,000	39,300
Total - - -	2,20,700	90,000	7,000	38,700	2,900	3,59,300	36,000	7,000	19,000	62,000	2,97,300
<b>NAGPUR DIVISION :</b>											
Wardha - - -	12,300	5,000	-	6,000	200	23,500	1,000	-	6,000	7,000	16,500
Nagpur - - -	49,500	5,000	75,000	32,000	400	1,61,900	9,500	75,000	25,000	1,09,500	52,400
Chanda - - -	17,700	4,000	10,000	3,800	200	35,700	3,400	10,000	1,500	14,900	20,800
Bhandara - - -	66,000	8,000	52,000	20,000	1,000	1,47,000	7,600	52,000	10,000	69,600	77,400
Balaghat - - -	79,500	12,000	60,000	27,000	2,000	1,80,500	-	60,000	6,000	66,000	1,14,500
Total - - -	2,25,000	34,000	1,97,000	88,800	3,800	5,48,600	21,500	1,97,000	48,500	2,67,000	2,81,600
<b>CHHATTISGARH DIVISION :</b>											
Raipur - - -	1,43,400	18,000	5,000	6,000	1,000	1,73,400	2,000	5,000	10,000	17,000	1,56,400
Bilaspur - - -	85,400	18,000	5,000	8,000	500	1,16,900	12,000	5,000	7,500	24,500	92,400
Sambalpur - - -	30,800	1,000	-	3,500	500	35,800	3,400	-	3,900	7,300	28,500
Total - - -	2,59,600	37,000	10,000	17,500	2,000	3,26,100	17,400	10,000	21,400	48,800	2,77,300
<b>GRAND TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>10,77,100</b>	<b>2,81,000</b>	<b>2,26,900</b>	<b>2,40,500</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>18,47,300</b>	<b>80,900</b>	<b>2,26,000</b>	<b>98,400</b>	<b>4,05,300</b>	<b>14,42,000</b>

No. 111—27—23 F. Dated Calcutta, January 4, 1897.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Priest's letters No. 4697, dated the 26th November 1896, and No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896, containing reports upon the agricultural situation in the Central Provinces; and in continuation of my telegram of the 25th instant to communicate the following remarks.

2. After a careful examination of the subject, your conclusions are that there will be some measure of distress among the labouring poor and the smaller cultivators in all districts except Sambalpur, and that there will be acute distress in the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Mandla and Balaghat, and among the poorer classes in the Narbuda Valley districts (with the possible exception of Nimar), in Damoh, Seoni, Chindwara, Betul, Bhandara, Raipur and Bilaspur. These conclusions are fully accepted by the Government of India, and the latest returns of the numbers on relief works show that there is a considerable demand for labour at famine wages, and that these works have been started no earlier than the circumstances demanded.

3. The Government of India notice that you do not consider that the distress is as yet sufficiently acute to necessitate the organisation of relief circles and village-to-village inspection. The situation will doubtless be carefully watched, and the provisions of Chapter IV. of the Famine Code put into force as soon as it is necessary. One feature that unfortunately distinguishes the present scarcity from those that have preceded it, is the extraordinary rise in the price of food from the very first threatenings of failure; and this fact (more especially when, as you point out is the case in many of your districts, the resources of the people have been exhausted by previous bad seasons) renders village and house-to-house relief necessary at an earlier stage than in previous famines.

4. You consider that the information available is not sufficiently precise to enable you to form even an approximate estimate of the numbers that will have to be relieved. I am to invite your attention to paragraph 75 of the Famine Commission Report, in which you will find some indications that may be of assistance to you. In other Provinces, a rough approximation to the maximum numbers likely to require relief, based upon percentages of the population which vary with the varying conditions of the districts, has been found useful as affording a general basis for the scheme of relief works to be provided.

5. It is estimated that a sum of ten lakhs will be required for direct expenditure on the general purposes of famine relief, in addition to the expenditure of five lakhs already authorised in my letter No. 1979, dated the 31st October last, and the Government of India accept this estimate.

6. You also ask for a grant of ten lakhs of rupees for advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act. It is proposed to make these loans principally in the Chattisgarh Division as supplementing the expenditure to be incurred directly by Government upon the larger famine relief works. The principles upon which such loans are admissible at the present juncture have already been discussed in connection with similar proposals from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Bengal; and I am to forward, for your information, a copy of the correspondence noted below.\* These papers explain the principles upon which the Government are prepared to make advances to landlords and others for village relief works, and upon which alone they can sanction such advances in the Central Provinces. It is at present impossible for the Government of India to provide funds for ordinary Land Improvement Loans as distinct from the relief of distress. It is noticed that your present estimate for direct expenditure upon famine relief in Chattisgarh is three lakhs only, and as far as can be judged from the information given in your letters, it seems possible that the full ten lakhs of rupees for

\* Letter from Government of Bengal, No. 5,183, dated 12th December 1896.

Letter to Government of Bengal, No. 8 F, dated 22nd December 1896.

Letter from North Western Provinces and Oudh Government, No. 432, dated 16th December 1896, with Enclosures.

Letter to North Western Provinces and Oudh Government, No. 45 F, dated 24th December 1896.

which you apply cannot be usefully applied for the relief of distress under the limitations now laid down.

7. The Government of India accordingly sanction the expenditure of five lakhs of rupees in advances, subject to the conditions :—

- (1) That none of the money is spent in advances when relief works are not required ;
- (2) that the money is spent only in affording relief to those for whom it would otherwise be necessary to provide relief in other ways ;
- (3) that it is all brought to account as famine relief expenditure in the first instance ; and
- (4) that only so much is recovered as represents roughly the value of the work done.

If, after this explanation of the principles upon which such advances should be made, you still find that the whole of the ten lakhs of rupees is required, the Government of India will consider any further application which you may wish to make.

8. The effect of these orders will thus be to raise from five lakhs to twenty lakhs of rupees, the limit of expenditure upon famine relief operations which was fixed in Mr. Sly's letter No. 1979 of 31st October 1896.

---

Extract from "Times of India," Weekly Summary, January 30, 1897.

#### THE SCARCITY IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Mr. H. H. Priest, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, writes:—In your correspondent's letter on the scarcity in the Central Provinces, which appears in your issue of the 19th January, there are several, I am sure quite unintentional, misstatements, which, I trust, you will allow me this opportunity of correcting. I give the statements I refer to and the corrections in parallel columns :—

#### *Quotation.*

(1) "As in other parts of the Central Provinces relief was not officially undertaken in earnest till the beginning of December. It was on the 5th of last month that the local poorhouse was put on Provincial Funds."

(2) Your correspondent gives statistics of numerous deaths, and adds "Government ought to be aware of what is going on."

(3) "With these perfectly awful facts before us, and knowing that twenty or fifty little places as bad as Kutni can be found, may the question not be asked: Is this state of things to be accepted as inevitable?"

#### *Reply.*

The local poorhouse has been supported by Provincial Funds since May last, and has been open to all who chose to resort to it since that time.

Government, as your correspondent himself points out, is well aware of what is going on, but is quite unable to prevent the death of starving wanderers who are brought to the poorhouse in the last stage of emaciation. In most cases these are immigrants from the Native States of the Baghelkhand Agency, the border of which is only eight or ten miles from Murwara. Out of 583 inmates of the poorhouse at the end of December only 154 belonged to the Jubbulpore District, the remaining 429 all coming from Native States or the North Western Provinces.

Kutni (or Murwara) is a municipal town of over 9,000 inhabitants, and is on the Great Southern Road from Upper India. It is also a railway junction and a trade centre, however it is close to the border of Native

And are we to look forward calmly to months of it to come as there have been months of it in the past? The only local authorities are the Tahsildar and the Hospital Assistant, and they seem particularly kind to the perishing paupers. But they have little experience and less authority to spend money, which, since the 5th December, is Government money, and to initiate radical reforms. The district officers are the men to lay down peremptory orders and then see for themselves how they do. I know the district officers are worked off their feet. But so are the Tahsildar, and Extra Assistant Commissioners, and Deputy Collectors throughout the famine tract. It is a time of hard work. I am working harder than I have worked for some years. Besides, there are officers specially set apart to do famine duties. One of them might leave his statistics, tables, returns, registers, and reports, and keep the people from perishing."

(4) "First the people ought to be fed twice a day, as they used to be when the poorhouse was first opened, though the allowance of food was not as large then as it is now under Government. When the Deputy Commissioner was here two days ago, he expressed a wish that the people might be fed twice a day, but some difficulty was raised, and the committee are to meet to-morrow to consider whether it is practicable to act on the Deputy Commissioner's suggestion. Meanwhile a dozen more, perhaps, will die and another dozen become ready to die."

(5) With respect to the remarks of your correspondent as to the poorhouse inmates being allowed to wander about, strict orders were issued some time ago to prevent this in all poorhouses. The completion of the necessary walls and enclosures sufficient for the rapidly increasing population of these institutions must, however, take some time.

States. It is thus a main resort of starving wanderers, and there are certainly not twenty or fifty places like it in the Central Provinces. Indeed, apart from the large towns, and Bina in the Saugor District, there are none.

Beyond having poorhouses open to all, relief centres in the surrounding country, large and small works for those able to labour, orders to the Police to conduct starving wanderers to the poorhouses, and house-to-house relief in villages; all of which measures are fully organised in the Murwara Tahsil, it does not seem that anything more can be done.

I may add that as regards the competency of the local authorities, the Tahsildar is an experienced official, and has full authority to spend whatever money is needed for relieving distress.

As regards "radical reforms," your correspondent says that the paupers are well and kindly cared for, and indicates no reform except as to meals and the stricter confinement of inmates, which I shall refer to immediately. I may add that the poorhouse is regularly visited by the Civil Surgeon of Jubbulpore, an officer of great experience. There are no famine officers employed "in preparing returns." All famine officers are employed in organising and supervising measures of relief.

This matter is, as the attached circular will show, in the hands of the poorhouse Committee. In this respect the rule in the North Western Provinces has been followed, and the same latitude left to local usage. I may add that emaciated persons are treated as invalids, and specially dieted with easily digestible food.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, in the Revenue Department, No. 574, dated Nagpur, February 1, 1897.

### RESOLUTION.

For some time past the harvests in several districts of these provinces have been deficient, but the most severe failure of recent years occurred in 1894 in the districts of Saugor and Damoh, where the wheat and linseed crops were almost totally destroyed by a visitation of rust, which also caused heavy losses in the district of Jubbulpore and in the eastern portion of the Nerbudda Valley, as well as considerable damage in other parts of the provinces.

Relief measures were found necessary in the two districts most affected, and these took the shape of the opening of the forests, large revenue suspensions, road works and liberal takavi advances, so that by the end of 1894, in spite of the fact that the autumn crops were poor, signs of distress had very materially abated.

A resolution was issued by Mr. Woodburn on the 26th January 1895, and published in the "Central Provinces Gazette" of the same date, containing an account of the measures taken to combat distress in these two districts.

The Chief Commissioner now desires to put on record an account of the seasons which followed the failure of 1894, and of the measures taken to alleviate the consequent distress in the districts most affected by bad harvests.

### THE YEAR 1895.

2. At the time when Mr. Woodburn's resolution of January 1895 issued it was known that the autumn crops of 1894-95 had, owing to the excessive rain of October and November 1894, been much below the average. The spring crops then in the ground were, however, most promising, and had these crops fulfilled the expectations formed, distress would quickly have become a thing of the past. The Settlement Officer of Saugor and the Deputy Commissioner of Damoh were, however, directed to report fully on the condition of their districts, and the results of the previous year's failure. While this information was being collected, and as the season wore on, rust again made its appearance with the most disastrous results. Saugor partially escaped, but the damage caused in the open portion of Damoh and the rich embanked lands of Jubbulpore was very serious.

The Commissioner of Settlements made a tour of inspection in Saugor and Damoh, and reported favourably on the situation in the former district, but considered that the outlook in Damoh gave some cause for anxiety.

The precaution was then taken of again opening the forests in both these districts, so as to assist the people until the spring harvest should be reaped. Crop experiments were ordered to be conducted, and the Commissioner of Settlements and the Commissioner of Jubbulpore were asked to submit a joint report on the outturns of the crops in both districts, with a view to determining the measures which might be necessary in the shape of suspensions and remissions of the land revenue.

At the same time a small test work on minimum wages was started in the neighbourhood of Damoh, in order that it might be judged how far distress, which the Deputy Commissioner reported to have again abated with the reaping of the grain crop, still existed.

3. Meanwhile, the reports of the Settlement Officer, Saugor, and the Deputy Commissioner, Damoh, regarding the effect of the previous year's failure on these districts were received. The information which they had collected showed that the large land revenue suspensions and the liberal takavi granted in the previous year had been of the utmost benefit to the agricultural classes.

In Damoh the decrease in the cultivated area was under 3,000 acres, or only 0.54 per cent. on the area cultivated in the preceding year; while in Saugor the comparison showed that the area under cultivation had actually increased by 2½ per cent. Wheat, it is true, had largely given way to gram and juar, but this substitution of food crops for a crop chiefly grown for export was not a serious feature, and was of itself calculated rather to increase than diminish the local food supply.

The annual reported rate of mortality had risen in 1894 from 30 to 42 per mille in Saugor, and from 31 to 42 per mille in Damoh, as compared with that of 1893, but it was not larger than had often been recorded in unhealthy years. Stamps and registration returns showed that there had been a substantial increase in mortgages of agricultural property, and some increase in crime. But while all the above statistics indicated that there had been some stress, they were, none of them, of an alarming character, and the maintenance of cultivation proved indisputably that up to that time the people had not lost heart, and that with normal harvests they would quickly recover. The future depended upon the seasons, and, unfortunately, the crops of 1894-95 were very far from good.

4. In May 1895 the Commissioner of the Division, Mr. Anderson, and the Commissioner of Settlements, Mr. Carey, submitted their joint report on the crops of the Saugor and Damoh districts. As regards Saugor, their report was to some extent reassuring. The kharif crops had not failed totally: kodon yielded seven annas, rice eight annas, and juari four annas; while of the spring crops wheat was six annas (against one anna in 1894), and gram and masur, covering in the aggregate 22 per cent. of the cropped area, gave yields of 10 and 12 annas respectively. The average outturn of all crops taken together was about 40 per cent. of the full, equivalent to half a normal outturn. The money value of the year's yield was estimated to be 69½ lakhs of rupees, against 39 lakhs in the preceding year. On the whole the season had not been out of the common in view of the normal vicissitudes of an Indian district, and, but for the failure of the previous year, would not have occasioned any anxiety. At it was, however, it was decided to collect the demand according to the old settlement, to remit the one-third of the suspended instalment of 1894 due for collection in 1895, and, as a measure of relief to the poorer classes, to keep the forests open during the year for the free collection of edible products, dry wood and grass, and to allow the free grazing of all cattle belonging to agriculturists.

The rainfall during June, July, and August was extremely favourable, and it was only in September that the early cessation of the monsoon once more raised apprehensions of distress. The account of affairs subsequent to September belongs to the year 1896, but at the close of the revenue year, in October 1895, the Deputy Commissioner of Saugor was able to write that the condition of the cultivating classes had given no cause for anxiety. They had been obliged to subsist on the cheaper food grains, but they had not been pinched for food. Of the labouring classes he could not speak quite so well, but he recorded that their condition had much improved with the harvesting of the spring crops, and that large numbers had obtained employment by selling head-loads of wood and grass in the towns. The times were hard, but no necessity for special relief works was considered to exist, though private charity was employed in the towns for relieving such poverty-stricken persons as congregated there, mainly from the neighbouring Native States.

5. In Damoh the joint report showed that the losses had been largely concentrated in the rabi-growing tracts; on the other hand, in the hilly parts of the district, inhabited by the poorest population, where kharif crops predominate, the crops had been decidedly better than in Saugor. Rice had yielded 12 annas, kodon nine annas, and juari seven annas. The spring crops were, however, very poor indeed throughout the district; wheat and its mixtures, covering 30 per cent. of the cropped area, had given an outturn of only four annas, and though gram and masur yielded 10 annas and six annas respectively, these two crops together occupied only 12 per cent. of the cropped area.

The autumn crops were, it was reported, sufficient to feed the population during the earlier months of the year, but there was a serious diminution of harvest earnings from the spring crops, and something more in the way of relief for the poorer classes seemed necessary than was thought sufficient for Saugor.

Accordingly, on the recommendation of these officers, relief was given to the cultivating classes in the affected or rabi-growing tracts by remitting the whole of the suspended arrears of the previous year, and by a further suspension of half the current instalment. The forests were continued open as in Saugor up till the 15th October, free grazing for agriculturists' cattle being included in the privilege. At the same time, as has already been stated, a test work on the minimum wage was opened in the neighbourhood of Damoh, in order to gauge the extent of distress among the labouring classes. This work was opened on the 16th April and was closed on the 18th of May. The numbers had reached 1,130 on one day, but they fell directly some ordinary road work on contract terms was started by the Public Works Department. On one day, indeed, a local holiday, the numbers dropped from 700 to 132. The condition of the

labourers on this work, which was inspected by the commissioner of the division, was found to be good. Under all these circumstances the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Woodburn, considered that ordinary road works would meet the necessities of the case. The numbers on this road work rose to 1,500 and subsequently to 2,000, but showed no tendency to further increase.

Metal collection for the road from Damoh to Hatta was provided, throughout the rains, for the employment of those who could not obtain work in their villages; but from the periodical reports received from the local officers it appeared that those of the labouring classes who could not get regular work preferred to supplement such earnings as they obtained from temporary employment by begging, and declined to go to the road work provided for them.

At the same time poor-houses were maintained by private charity from April to October in Damoh and Hatta, and for two months at Patharia. The average daily number of paupers supported in these poor-houses was 465, and the amount expended on their support was just under Rs. 3,600.

So far as the year ending 30th September 1895 was concerned, the monsoon had been, until the last part of September, favourable, and the lower classes had not been so pinched as to induce them to leave their villages in search of employment.

In October the deputy commissioner wrote: "I have received no authentic reports of death from starvation. Though such cases have abounded in police reports, they have been invariably found on inquiry to be due to causes other than hunger." At the same time it is certain that many persons of the labouring classes, who preferred to beg rather than to work, led a precarious existence and suffered much privation.

6. In the Jubbulpore District, the tracts in which the autumn and spring crops respectively predominate are well defined. In the rich "haveli" or level tract rabi crops occupy 72 per cent. and kharif 28. In the remainder of the district autumn crops occupy 61 per cent. of the cropped area. The autumn crops of the year were very fair. Rice and kodon, together covering 34 per cent. of the cropped area of the district, yielded 11 and 13 annas respectively, and til gave an eight-anna outturn. This practically secured the kharif circles of the district, and gave material assistance to the rabi tract. With the spring crops, however, it was far otherwise; wheat and its mixtures, covering 30 per cent. of the cropped area of the district, yielded only three annas, and gram covering 11 per cent. only six annas. Masur and linseed failed. The brunt of these losses, however, fell upon the richest tracts of the district, and it was felt that if relief was given to the cultivating classes in the shape of suspension of revenue and rents, the time of stress would be tided over. Accordingly, the deputy commissioner was given discretion to suspend two-thirds of the rabi instalment in the affected villages, and the sum actually suspended by him amounted to three lakhs of rupees. For the employment of labourers whose harvest earnings had been curtailed some road work was started, and several malguzars took the opportunity of carrying out small works in their villages to keep their labourers together.

The amount expended on road construction and repairs from District Funds during the year 1895-96 was Rs. 64,000, apart from the ordinary expenditure met from the Public Works Department Budget on account of maintenance of roads directly managed in that department.

This, combined with agricultural operations, for which the monsoon rains were favourable, gave employment to the labouring classes, though it appears certain, as was remarked by the deputy commissioner in his annual revenue report, that these classes had to endure much privation.

7. The only other districts in which there had been apprehensions of scarcity were Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad. Here also the forests were thrown open, and private charity provided relief in the chief towns. The deputy commissioners took measures that road work should furnish employment. The amounts spent from District Funds on road repairs and construction during the year 1895-96 in these two districts were Rs. 33,000 and Rs. 42,000 respectively. The settlement officer of Hoshangabad and the deputy commissioner of Narsinghpur carefully examined into the necessity of any measure of revenue suspension, but their reports showed that no formal measure of suspension was justified by the character of the harvests.

In these districts, also, the poorest classes underwent privation, but there was no acute distress and no crowding to road works. The poor-houses, supported by private charity, were largely filled by wanderers from across the border of the Bhopal State.

In other districts of the provinces the spring crops were deficient, but the rice crop was generally plentiful, and there was no cause for apprehension of any scarcity of food, or real distress among the poorer classes.



8. As regards the year ending the 30th September 1895, it may be said, therefore, that cause for anxiety has been concentrated in the three districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh, but that there had been no abandonment of land, cultivation had been well maintained, and prices had been kept down by large imports of food grain from Chhattisgarh and elsewhere; while the crops on the ground gave good promise, and agricultural operations during the rains had been in full swing. Wherever road works had been started to afford employment to the labouring classes, there had been no such influx of workers as to indicate any widespread distress, although those who preferred begging to work had, no doubt, undergone serious privation. The death-rate had risen in the affected districts, but not to an extent which justified alarm.

The approaching autumn harvest held out promise of an ample food supply and employment to all, and strong hopes were entertained that distress would soon disappear.

#### THE YEAR 1896.

9. But the anticipations formed were once again disappointed. The rainfall in the latter part of September 1895 had been partial and scanty, especially in the districts which had suffered so much in the past, and when October went by without rain, it became evident that the autumn crops must be far below the average, and that the rabi sowings would be curtailed for want of moisture. At the end of October, it is true, rain fell over the south of the province, but the northern districts received nothing. General instructions were accordingly issued pointing out the necessity of numerous crop experiments and requesting early information as to the extent of the rabi sowings. The reports from time to time received showed that over the greater part of the provinces, such crops as juar, tur, cotton, and til had given good outturns, rice in the southern districts had been to a large extent protected by irrigation, while in Chhattisgarh, where the damage to the rice crop had been serious, the people had been enjoying excellent crops for several seasons past, and were in a position to support the losses of a single year. The area in which distress was again concentrated was the Jubbulpore Division, and especially the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh.

In these districts the autumn crops, though very poor, were calculated to supply the labouring classes with food for a few months; and the construction of the Saugor-Katni Railway was expected to meet the needs of these classes until the spring crops were ready to be cut.

Such was the state of affairs at the time when Mr. Lyall took over charge of the Administration in December 1895, from Mr. Woodburn. It was known that much depended on the character of the spring harvest, but that danger was ahead, and not immediately present. On the 28th December the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore reported that he had been over all the tracts where the autumn crops had failed, and he thought that the yield was five annas all round. He had seen numbers of the people of the poorest classes, but there was no evidence of any actual distress or starvation anywhere. In the Murwara tahsil, work on the railway was to commence from the 1st January, and road work would be again taken up in the other tahsils.

The reports and diaries received about this time from Saugor and Damoh were to a similar effect. They spoke of no present distress, but anticipated a time of difficulty when the rabi crops had been cut. Much difficulty was expected in the matter of rent and revenue collection. The Commissioner marched through Mandla and Seoni, but at that time he found that distress had not declared itself in these districts, where the harvests of the preceding years had been much better than in the other districts of the Division.

The proposal received in January to suspend two-thirds of the February instalment of revenue and rent in the kharif-growing circles of Jubbulpore was at once sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, and received the approval of the Government of India. The revenue thus suspended amounted to about a lakh of rupees. About this time a period of bright cold weather with heavy dews caused a very material improvement in the condition of the spring crops in the northern districts of the Provinces. In February cases of severe want and some deaths from starvation were reported to have occurred along the Damoh-Jubbulpore road among the persons travelling down the road in search of employment, and the Commissioner placed funds at the disposal of the police to enable them to feed starving wanderers and pass them on to places where work was available or gratuitous relief was being distributed.

The Chief Commissioner arrived at Jubbulpore at the end of February, after visiting all the head-quarter stations of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions.

The only district in these two Divisions where cause for anxiety existed was Balaghat, and particularly the Behir tahsil of that district. Later on, at the instance of the Commissioner, a sum of Rs. 5,000 was allotted for tank work in ryotwari villages in that tahsil, but only 46 people were, with difficulty, collected, and this test work was abandoned. The forests were, however, opened in the Behir tahsil to the free collection of edible produce, as an aid to the aboriginal castes, by whom these uplands are mainly inhabited, and who subsist largely on mohwa for a considerable portion of the year.

10. With the Chief Commissioner's arrival in Jubbulpore complete arrangements were made for the full examination of the situation so far as it had then developed. The Commissioner of Settlements accompanied the Commissioner of the Division to Katni or Murwara\* (where a large influx had taken place of persons from Native States attracted by the news of railway construction), in order to ascertain what measures were necessary in that tahsil which had suffered most, and the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor and Damoh were summoned in to a conference. On the information obtained from local officers, it was decided to regularly constitute the poor-houses in Jubbulpore and Murwara, hitherto maintained by private charity, aiding them with Government funds as soon as the subscriptions collected had been expended. Tank work was to be started in Murwara in connection with the poor-house there, the arrangement being that persons too weak for work should be fed up in the poor-house, and should then be transferred to light work in the town until they were strong enough to go on to the railway works at that time in progress at a distance of 12 miles from Katni. It was calculated that their harvest earnings would keep the labourers for about a month, and these were supplemented by opening the forests to the free collection of mohwa, edible fruits and roots, a measure which was ordered forthwith in all three districts. A scheme of road work was to be at once taken in hand to meet the pressure which was certain to follow the exhaustion of the harvest earnings and the mohwa food supply; and private enterprise in the shape of tank improvement and construction was to be encouraged.

Both in Damoh and Saugor the Deputy Commissioners considered that the railway would afford sufficient employment to all as soon as the harvesting was over, but they were directed to arrange for the opening of poor-houses immediately the need arose, as well as for the commencement of road work in the parts of their districts furthest removed from the railway.

The returns of the poor-house supported by private charity in Jubbulpore confirmed the impressions of the Deputy Commissioner that the period of pressure had not yet come. It had been opened in the previous September, and the numbers had since dwindled, as the following figures show:—

	Number of Inmates.
September 1895	673
October "	641
November "	526
December "	198
January 1896	191
February "	166
March "	102

The numbers of people who came wandering in from the bordering Native States aggravated the situation, especially in Murwara. A census was taken of these persons in Murwara. Of the inmates of the poor-house, then 150 in number, only 64 belonged to the Central Provinces, and of 518 beggars in the town 289 only belonged to the Central Provinces. This is merely an illustration of the extent to which wanderers from outside have throughout migrated into the Provinces in search of labour. The influx of these persons was a contributory cause of the increased mortality in the Murwara tahsil throughout the year.

11. The line of action having been thus determined on at Jubbulpore for the three districts most affected, the Deputy Commissioners were instructed to compile as soon as possible complete returns of the harvest out-turns in their districts, so as to enable a decision to be arrived at as to the proportion of the land revenue to be suspended or remitted in them.

---

\* Murwara is the name of the northernmost, or Vindhyan, tahsil of the Jubbulpore District, and also of its head-quarters town, containing a population of 9,463; Katni is the name of a river which flows by the town of Murwara, and has been adopted by the East India Railway Company as the name of their station at that place.

In the meantime the forests were thrown open in the Lakhnadon tahsil of Seoni and in the Mandla district, and the same precaution was adopted in the districts of Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, and Betul, where, although the crops had been far superior to those of the Jubbulpore Division, it was thought advisable to help the labouring classes and the dwellers among the hills and jungles, whose crops on the high-lying lands had been poor. In the remaining districts, where crops had been short, the local officers were warned to keep a vigilant watch for any signs of distress, to encourage land improvement by landholders, and to give employment in Court of Wards estates. The action taken in the Behir tahsil of Balaghat has already been referred to. The subsequent history of the distress in the year ending September 30th, 1896, is mainly confined to the districts of the Jubbulpore Division.

12. In describing the progress of events in the Jubbulpore Division up to the close of September, it will be convenient to state generally that the opening of the monsoon of 1896 was favourable, the very heavy rain in Jubbulpore in August being the only special feature. The areas sown with autumn crops were abnormally large, the people being anxious to obtain an early food supply. The maize and early millets which ripened at the close of August and the beginning of September yielded full crops, and up to the middle of September the prospects were all that could be desired. In the three districts of Jubbulpore, Damoh, and Saugor, especially in Damoh, the work on the Saugor-Katni Railway was the most important aid in meeting the demand for labour. But the details of the crop out-turns for the season 1895-96 and of the measures of revenue suspension and relief require to be described district by district.

#### JUBBULPORE.

13. To commence with Jubbulpore. During April, about 3,000 persons were employed on the railway; the mohwa crop and other forest produce was of the greatest assistance to the poor; but tank work was started in Murwara, and road work in the Sehora and Murwara tahsils, giving employment to about 2,000 people. The numbers in the Jubbulpore poor-house rose from 96 to 162, and in Murwara continued at about 150.

The District Council allotted about Rs. 30,000 for road works, and Government grants were subsequently given for the two poor-houses.

The final reports on the crops of the district were received in May. It was found that in the rich Jubbulpore *haveli*, where moisture had been well retained, the rabi out-turn averaged 12 annas, and in the remainder of the district six to eight annas on a largely diminished area.

It was accordingly decided to recover the year's demand in the *haveli*, deferring any attempt to collect the arrears of the previous year. In the rest of the district, where the out-turns were only about a third of the normal, two-thirds of the June instalment was suspended in addition to the suspension of a similar proportion of the February instalment sanctioned in January. The total sum suspended amounted to over two lakhs, or two-thirds of the revenue, in the tracts most affected. It seemed clear that the people of the *haveli* would not need relief, but that efforts to supply employment should be concentrated in the eight circles where the crops all round had only been a third of the normal.

The following table will show at a glance how the numbers employed on the railway and road and tank works, and those supported in poor-houses, fluctuated up to the end of September:—

Fortnight ending	Average Numbers employed.			Numbers supported in Poor-houses.
	Railway.	Roads and Tanks.	Total.	
9 May - - -	5,000	3,377	8,377	334
23 " - - -	4,800	5,154	9,954	473
6 June - - -	4,894	4,582	9,476	464
20 " - - -	3,183	4,311	7,494	575
4 July - - -	2,527	3,102	5,629	1,004
18 " - - -	2,951	3,430	6,381	1,482
1 August - - -	2,578	3,875	6,453	2,088
15 " - - -	1,976	3,715	5,691	2,222
29 " - - -	1,900	4,048	5,948	1,894
12 September - -	2,295	4,609	6,904	2,048
26 " - - -	2,000	3,691	5,691	1,776

With the advent of the monsoon, agricultural labourers returned to their villages in many cases, while, on the other hand, the persons who had been begging in the district and who preferred this to work, crowded into the towns and filled the poor-houses. The Municipal Committee of Jubbulpore started works for the employment of these people, but at the same time, though particular roads were temporarily closed in the interior, others were opened, and if the people had only chosen to come to the works, employment would have been provided for them. At one time works of one kind or another were available in 20 different places in the district. Even in August, the month of the heaviest rainfall, work was in progress in 11 places. Moreover, as a special measure of relief to the poorer classes, persons bringing head-loads of wood from the Government forests for sale in Jubbulpore were exempted during the rains, and subsequently from the payment of tolls at the ferries over the Nerbudda and Gour rivers.

The numbers contained in the above statement refer to those employed or relieved at organised works or poor-houses. A great deal of indiscriminate charity was administered by private individuals, but owing to the resulting distribution of uncooked food to debilitated persons who were incapable of assimilating it, this probably rather increased than diminished the mortality consequent on the prevailing distress.

#### DAMOH.

14. The statistics collected in this district showed that there had been a large falling-off in the area cropped, and the crops of both seasons gave all-round outturns of about five to seven annas only. The failure of the millets in some of the poor portions of the district was the most serious feature, but, leaving these aside, the crops, though very deficient, were in some respects slightly better than in the preceding year in the rabi-growing portions of the district. The value of the normal produce on a normal area is computed at 62 lakhs of rupees. The value of the year's produce at normal rates was estimated as 23½ lakhs. It was therefore resolved to remit all the suspended revenue of the previous year, as well as half of the revenue demand of the year.

The prompt remission of revenue sanctioned was a liberal concession designed to put heart into the people, and the Deputy Commissioner had instructions not to press unduly the collection even of the unremitted half.

The opening of the forests was a further help to the people, and the railway supplied this work to as many as sought it. Road work was opened as a test of the demand for employment in the north and south of the district, but the people would not come to the work in any numbers. Advances were given to the police to bring in indigent wanderers, but the paupers frequently deserted from the poor-house when sent there. They much preferred, as they had done in the preceding year, to wander about begging rather than to subject themselves to the restraints of the poor-house, or the labour of road works. It was frequently reported that indigent persons in the neighbourhood of the railway declined to go there when directed. Often as many as 33 per cent. of the labourers at work on the railway were persons from outside the Province.

The advent of the monsoon drove a certain number into the poor-houses for shelter, and lowered the numbers at work on the roads and railway. Many sought agricultural labour in the villages, and reports received showed that a fair amount of agricultural work was obtained, as well as employment, such as monsoon repairs to houses. But competition no doubt made wages low.

The extent to which the people spontaneously sought work will be seen from the following statement :—

Fortnight ending	Numbers Employed.		Total.	Numbers in Poor-houses.
	Railway.	Roads.		
9 May - - -	10,000	186	10,186	118
23 " - - -	16,000	616	16,616	246
6 June - - -	18,401	600	19,001	338
20 " - - -	14,713	428	15,141	360
4 July - - -	12,522	252	12,774	497
18 " - - -	11,805	206	12,011	650
1 August - - -	10,865	193	11,058	746
15 " - - -	7,092	112	7,204	842
29 " - - -	9,439	118	9,557	828
1 September - - -	10,047	42	10,089	767
26 " - - -	8,930	41	8,971	985
10 October - - -	8,298	12	8,310	758

Apart from the works just named, there were some ordinary Public Works Department roads, and some Municipal tank work at Damoh, for which numbers are not returned. But these figures most clearly indicate that the railway met the demand for work. The test-works opened in the parts of the district further from the railway attracted absurdly small numbers. On the other hand, wanderers from Native States, or from Saugor, and persons who preferred begging to working, found their way or were sent by the police into the poor-houses.

At the close of August a second poor-house was opened at Hatta, and paupers who came from the Hatta Tahsil were drafted into it.

#### SAUGOR.

15. In Saugor the examination of crop areas and outturns showed that the area cropped had fallen 16 per cent. below the area cropped in the previous year, the Khurai Tahsil having been most seriously affected. On the other hand, the autumn crops had been much better than in the previous year, and had given an all-round yield of six to eight annas, juar being a 10-anna crop. Of the spring crops, wheat and gram were fair in Saugor and Rehli, poor in the Banda Tahsil, and miserable in the Khurai Tahsil. In this tahsil the outturns were only about 28 per cent. of the full; in the others they exceeded half the full.

In the Khurai Tahsil large concessions were obviously necessary, and two-thirds of the June instalment were remitted at once, as well as all old suspended arrears. In the rest of the district remission of all arrears was granted, and where the new settlement was in force 20 per cent. of the demand was remitted. The Deputy Commissioner was further given discretion to extend indulgence in all cases where it seemed called for.

The above concessions were framed on a consideration both of the current and past harvests, and of the actual rent collections which the malguzars had made from their ryots. It was believed that the railway would afford sufficient work in the Saugor and Rehli tahsils, but the Deputy Commissioner had instructions to provide help in the shape of road work for the Khurai Tahsil, and in Banda if required. He was also to establish poor-houses directly the need arose.

On the 9th of May the Deputy Commissioner reported that the food supplies available from the forests would soon be exhausted, and that the labouring population would need help. He was starting road work in Khurai, and would start work in Banda also shortly. He added that 6,267 persons had been employed on the railway.

The statement below shows the extent to which the labouring population of the district availed themselves of the employment provided for them :—

Fortnight ending	Numbers Employed on—			Supported in Poor-houses.
	Railway.	Roads, &c.	Total.	
9 May - - -	6,267	—	6,267	—
23 " - - -	9,240	1,395	10,635	—
6 June - - -	7,087	1,564	8,651	—
20 " - - -	6,403	1,994	8,397	—
4 July - - -	4,272	1,545	5,817	829
18 " - - -	4,770	1,195	5,965	1,017
1 August - - -	4,545	1,206	5,751	843
15 " - - -	4,166	991	5,157	1,106
29 " - - -	5,150	876	6,026	1,057
12 September - - -	6,004	880	6,884	1,119
26 " - - -	6,650	934	7,584	1,338
10 October - - -	6,707	784	7,491	1,448

Road work was in progress on four different roads, but as soon as the rains began the numbers on these dwindled, and the same thing occurred in the case of the railway, except that when the rains ceased the numbers employed began slowly to increase again.

In June, when the Deputy Commissioner reported that beggars had begun to congregate in large numbers in the towns, a poor-house was started at Saugor, a local work, the levelling of the Railway Gauj, being opened in connection with it, so that the able-bodied beggars and persons who were discharged as strong from the poor-house could be drafted on to it. A fortnight later a poor-house was opened at Khurai, and paupers who had collected at Bina were on two occasions conveyed by rail to the Khurai poor-house, or provided with municipal work in that town. Here also, though to a less degree than

in Damoh, the people went off to their villages in the monsoon and preferred to beg and pick up what they could by occasional labour than to come on the railway or Government work. Many of the poor picked up a living by collecting head-loads of wood and grass in the jungles and selling them in the towns. It would no doubt have been better had the Deputy Commissioner opened the poor-houses some time earlier, but, before these were regularly organised, charitable relief was given to the distressed persons collected in the sarais.

#### MANDLA.

16. In this district the preceding year's crops had been good or fair, and serious distress was not anticipated in the early part of the year.

The sparse population of the district, and the fact that the people largely consist of aboriginal classes who even in normal years depend largely on the forests for their support, made it unlikely that they would suffer as much distress as the people of the neighbouring districts. But in March the Deputy Commissioner reported that the kharif crops had been only about half the normal, and that the millets which form the chief food of the aboriginal castes had yielded only six annas and in some places less. The rabi crops had been only six annas on an average, on a very restricted area, and he recommended that the forests should be thrown open for the free extraction of mohwa and edible products. This was sanctioned, and his further proposal to prepare for the opening of road works, if required, was also approved.

The first fortnightly report dealing with the condition of the people up to the 9th of May was encouraging. Though cholera had caused high mortality, no acute distress was reported, and the opening of the forests had been much appreciated by the people. In some localities of the district the condition of the labouring classes was normal. In the next fortnight there were signs that distress was increasing, and road work was undertaken, but cholera prevented a real start being made till the 2nd of June. Three special roads were started in addition to some ordinary Public Works Department work, and tank work was also begun in two places.

The following figures indicate the progress of the demand for employment. At first Gonds would not come on road work at all, and for a long time no one came from any distance, but gradually the numbers increased. No regular poor-houses were opened in the district, but charitable relief was given in Mandla and some of the large villages, and the police were directed to bring persons in an emaciated condition to centres on the road work, where they could be fed up till they were strong enough to work :—

Period.	Number Employed on Roads.	Gratuitously relieved from Public Funds.
Fortnight ending 20 June - - - -	338	—
” ” 4 July - - - -	1,410	—
” ” 18 ” - - - -	2,092	16
” ” 1 August - - - -	2,284	28
” ” 15 ” - - - -	2,997	76
” ” 29 ” - - - -	3,340	141
” ” 12 September - - - -	4,216	159
” ” 20 ” - - - -	2,963	206
” ” 10 October - - - -	2,072	171

The Deputy Commissioner had it widely proclaimed throughout the district what works were open for those in want of employment.

The numbers on road works steadily rose as the season advanced; but towards the end of September many returned to their villages. There was far less wandering about of beggars in this district than in other parts of the Division; the police and mukaddams were, however, given orders to forward all such to places of relief attached to the works. A poor-house was started by private subscription in Mandla in August, and the Church

Missionary Society fed a number of persons in Mandla, but it was difficult to induce people to come to places of relief.

Deaths from starvation began to be reported in August and September, some of which were investigated, and in many of the cases the reports proved incorrect, but there was no doubt that many persons who had subsisted on indigestible food in the jungles and would not come on the works had fallen victims to bowel complaints. Prices rose, and at one time there was a fear that private trade could not import food grains. The Deputy Commissioner was authorised to encourage importation by advances, but eventually food was imported without resort to Government aid.

#### SEONI.

17. In this district the crops were not nearly as bad as in the rest of the Division; the rains of 1895 did not cease till September 16th, and rice and the millets gave very fair yields. It was not anticipated that there would be much distress, but in April it was reported that the people in the northern half of the Lakhnadon Tahsil, a part of the country which, in character and population, resembles Mandla, were beginning to be pinched for food. The rabi crop had been a poor one, and the aboriginal population, who depend at this time on their harvest earnings, had suffered in consequence. A number of organised grain raids had taken place, and though most of the persons engaged in these raids were not in any distress, still they afforded some evidence of want in the neighbourhood. The forests were thrown open for the free collection of edible produce, and arrangements were made for opening road work in the tract of country immediately affected. Some malguzars were induced to undertake tank work either from private capital or with the aid of takavi advances.

Work was opened in May, and on the 3rd June 743 persons were employed, but the numbers were most capricious, and during June they fluctuated within two or three days from 908 to 340.

In July special arrangements were made for giving small seed advances through the patwaris to enable the aboriginal cultivators to sow their millets. By this time the numbers on the road had declined, the daily average being about 400 only. About 100 paupers and orphans were maintained at poor-houses supported by private charity at Seoni and Lakhnadon. By the end of August the numbers had again fallen to about 350, the number of those receiving gratuitous relief being about the same as before. A similar number were employed on private tanks, and the Municipal Committee of Seoni found work for about 160 people. By the end of September numbers on the road had fluctuated between 399 and 65. The average number on the road at the end of the first week in October was 126 only.

Gratuitous relief was given to a few people at Seoni, Lakhnadon, and Barghat. The mortality in Seoni was very high during May and the monsoon months, a result mainly due to a severe epidemic of cholera which prevailed at that time.

If judgment be formed from the extraordinary fluctuations in the numbers of labourers on the road work, their condition, as testified to by the Commissioner of the Division, and the appearance of the prisoners in the jail as well as of those concerned in the grain raids, and if regard be paid to the character of the previous harvests, the only conclusion is that the distress in this district was far less severe than in any other part of the Division.

#### *Prices of Food-grains.*

18. The course of prices during the period under review in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division has been an important factor in the situation. The best way of showing these is to take, first, the average prices of the five years which preceded the serious failure of 1894, and thereafter to take the prices prevailing on the following dates:—

- 15 August - Mid rains. Prospects of kharif uncertain.
- 15 November - Beginning of cold weather. Prospects of kharif harvest and of rabi sowings known.
- 15 February - Close of cold weather. Kharif only brought to market and prospects of rabi known.
- 15 May - - Middle of hot weather. Rabi crops brought to market.

The following statement deals with the prices of wheat, rice, and gram. Details are added in the case of the year 1896 for the prices prevailing on the 31st August, and the 15th and 30th September, as it was about that time that a general rise took place in consequence of the unfavourable reports from all parts of India:—

*Retail Prices in Seers per Rupee.*

PERIOD.	SAUGOR.			DAMOH.			JUBBULPORE.		
	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.
Average prices of five agricultural years, 1889-90 to 1893-94.	13½	9½	16½	16½	12½	20¼	14½	13½	19
Highest prices during the above period.	11½	9¼	12½	14	10	16	12½	9¾	17
Date of the above -	(Nov. 1891.)	(Aug. 1889.)	(Feb. 1892.)	(Aug. 1889.)	(May 1894.)	(Nov. 1891.)	(Nov. 1891.)	(Aug. 1889.)	(Aug. Nov. 1889.)
Lowest price during that period.	16½	11½	24¾	18½	13½	26	17	15½	23½
Date of the above -	(Nov. 1889 Feb. 1890.)	(Nov. 1890.)	(Nov. 1893.)	(Nov. 1893.)	(Aug. 1891.)	(Nov. 1893.)	(May 1890.)	(Feb. 1891.)	(May 1894.)
15 August 1894	11½	9½	19	10½	9¾	15	14½	13½	19
15 November "	11½	9½	19	10½	13	15	12	14	17¼
15 February 1895	11½	11	17½	12½	12½	15½	13	14½	16½
15 May "	11½	11	18½	12½	12½	18½	14½	16	19½
15 August "	11½	11	17½	11½	11½	15	12	14	17
15 November "	11½	11	19	11½	11½	15	12½	13½	14½
15 February 1896	11½	11	16½	10½	12½	15	12½	15½	16½
15 May "	11½	8½	16½	10½	10	15	14	13½	17½
15 August "	11½	8¾	13½	10½	8½	11	12½	12	13
31 August "	11½	8½	13½	9	8½	11	12	11½	13
15 September "	8½	8½	10½	8½	8	11½	11	11	12½
30 September "	8½	8½	9	8½	8½	10	9	9½	11

The above figures show that until the last week of August 1896, or first week of September, in Saugor or Jubbulpore, there was no such rise in prices as to indicate severe hardship on this account among labourers for cash wages.

In Damoh, which was dependent for its surplus supplies on imports by road, the heavy rains of July and August took effect somewhat earlier.

Towards the end of August the unfavourable reports of the crop prospects in the neighbouring Provinces began to have their effect on local prices even before any local failure was anticipated. The drought of September, which extended to these Provinces, and especially to the Jubbulpore Division (where the area protected by irrigation is quite trifling), and the general threatenings of harvest failure, brought matters to a climax, and prices bounded up, not only in this Division, but over the whole Province. It was from this period that the gravity of the situation developed itself.

Up to August, then, prices, though ranging high, could hardly be said to have reached scarcity rates.



In Saugor wheat remained almost throughout only 13 per cent. dearer than the normal price of the five years preceding the period of failure; gram was as cheap as or cheaper than the average for most of that time.

Rice, which is always imported in Saugor, ruled lower than the normal until the hot weather of 1896, and then only rose to about 12 per cent. above it.

Similarly in Jubbulpore, before September 1896, wheat never rose higher than 12 seers per rupee, and generally fluctuated between  $12\frac{1}{2}$  and 14 seers as against a normal price of  $14\frac{3}{4}$ .

Rice until August 1896 was consistently cheaper than the average; while the price of gram, though higher than the normal except for short periods, never rose to any serious degree until the same date.

In Damoh, on the other hand, want of railway communication gave fuller effect to the shortness of the local food supply. Wheat, after rising to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  seers, or 37 per cent. above the normal in 1894, cheapened slightly with the harvest of 1895, but with the failure of 1896 it again reached the pitch of 1894, and finally in August 1896 it rose to 9, and by September to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  seers. Gram in this district was 25 per cent. dearer than the average, and continuing at that figure till the middle of the hot weather of 1896, it underwent a still further rise, reaching 40 per cent in August and finally 50 per cent. in September above the normal price. In this district the ordinary food of the people, except the aborigines, who depend, as elsewhere, on the small millets, is a mixture of wheat and gram called *birra*; the average price of these two grains therefore indicates the prevailing rate of the food supply.

Rice, however, which is of considerable importance in Damoh, approximated closely to the normal price till the middle of the hot weather of 1896, when it also rose 25 per cent. above the average, fluctuating in September at a rate from 37 to 50 per cent. higher than the normal. Yet even in this District it was not till the opening of the monsoon reduced importation of grain that prices rose to an extent which indicated serious scarcity.

The failure of wheat brought about a considerable extension of *juari* cultivation in Saugor and Damoh. Price quotations regarding this millet are irregular, but up to the end of August 1896 it was available in Saugor at prices varying from  $17\frac{1}{4}$  to 15 seers per rupee. In September the price varied from  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to 12. In Damoh 13 to 15 seers were to be had during the first half of 1896, and in the rains the price varied between 11 and 12 the highest rate reached for a short time being  $10\frac{3}{4}$  seers.

In Mandla and Seoni no such detailed examination of prices is needed. Up to the middle of 1895 prices were quite normal in these two districts. After that date there was some rise, but, until the rains of 1896 broke, 14 to 15 seers of wheat, 12 to 13 seers of rice, and 15 to 17 seers of gram were obtainable for the rupee.

During the rains in Mandla wheat rose to  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , 11, 10, and finally in September to  $8\frac{1}{2}$ , rice to 11, 10, and 8, and gram to 13,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , and 10 seers respectively.

In Seoni, however, the rise was only marked in September, when wheat advanced from 13 to 12, and then to  $10\frac{1}{4}$ ; and gram from 13 to  $12\frac{1}{4}$  to 11. Rice became dear at the opening of the rains ( $10\frac{3}{4}$ ), but cheapened in August to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , reverting to  $10\frac{3}{4}$  in September. Prices in this district never rose to the high pitch reached in other districts of the Division.

#### Mortality Statistics.

19. The mortality which has taken place during the past seasons in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division has been the subject of comment in the public press, and has been affirmed by some to be due to the want of adequate measures for the relief of the people. That the mortality has been high cannot be gainsaid, but abnormal seasons are generally abnormally unhealthy, and, during part of the year cholera claimed many victims. The best way of gauging the significance of the vital statistics is to eliminate from the returns all deaths due to cholera and small-pox, and the following tables show the mortality in each of the districts of this Division when this elimination has been effected. (Murwara, though only a subdivision of Jubbulpore, is shown separately because it lies in a separate physical area, the Vindhya, and is separately treated in the vital statistic returns published monthly in the Gazette.)

The year in each case is taken from one kharif harvest to the next, and the ratios are deaths per mille per annum, obtained by multiplying the monthly rates per mille by twelve :—

Month.	Saugor.			Damoh.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
October - - - - -	35·69	62·81	68·45	36·27	54·99	62·58
November - - - - -	34·23	70·09	50·84	38·33	60·96	55·77
December - - - - -	31·25	55·85	49·59	34·94	51·34	49·53
January - - - - -	31·64	53·27	52·93	30·59	36·45	48·75
February - - - - -	30·50	50·17	53·19	26·35	31·99	54·28
March - - - - -	39·79	42·32	36·87	32·69	33·87	53·33
April - - - - -	39·49	41·33	44·92	36·08	32·91	56·92
May - - - - -	39·87	41·53	49·87	47·39	38·44	50·34
June - - - - -	28·00	31·88	49·98	31·25	31·33	57·34
July - - - - -	30·37	37·07	66·17	28·37	42·71	78·20
August - - - - -	44·82	59·57	92·70	38·81	49·98	128·14
September - - - - -	48·53	67·45	98·17	44·15	51·70	138·05
Total - - -	36·16	51·13	59·47	35·43	43·05	68·93
All causes including cholera and small-pox - - - - -	38·62	53·34	67·29	36·26	43·86	79·92

Month.	Jubbulpore.			Murwara.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
October - - - - -	38·29	52·36	56·11	34·48	50·13	41·82
November - - - - -	37·91	54·01	43·92	35·31	46·39	40·43
December - - - - -	32·50	42·39	37·14	30·24	35·10	42·17
January - - - - -	24·90	31·92	36·95	28·94	30·19	49·30
February - - - - -	20·94	28·14	34·97	27·54	26·24	74·44
March - - - - -	34·55	34·66	29·10	29·43	29·22	21·95
April - - - - -	48·34	42·32	48·42	38·49	36·43	53·72
May - - - - -	45·22	47·18	40·22	51·86	43·00	37·14
June - - - - -	31·89	30·77	32·98	34·07	31·85	46·47
July - - - - -	27·11	32·22	49·69	28·87	28·12	58·31
August - - - - -	35·80	37·64	85·92	42·44	30·19	98·53
September - - - - -	41·42	51·66	97·19	43·00	36·89	108·24
Total - - -	34·90	40·44	49·37	35·43	35·31	56·04
Total including deaths from cholera and small-pox - - - - -	35·62	41·28	56·11	36·74	36·21	58·40

Month.	Mandla.			Seoni.			Whole Central Provinces.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
October - - - - -	38·29	45·19	46·35	38·52	35·05	56·96	35·00	46·26	48·67
November - - - - -	37·33	38·47	42·15	33·95	37·80	47·80	34·58	42·16	40·59
December - - - - -	33·17	30·37	35·04	30·32	34·15	43·01	35·00	34·62	39·34
January - - - - -	27·43	23·33	33·38	24·21	25·02	38·96	29·09	27·14	38·75
February - - - - -	25·53	20·33	36·88	23·08	22·53	32·79	25·90	26·13	39·76
March - - - - -	50·66	24·72	40·37	28·24	24·01	40·78	39·29	27·77	38·50
April - - - - -	32·63	21·78	33·35	41·37	26·51	35·25	45·22	28·29	36·10
May - - - - -	38·75	24·93	39·64	44·44	26·67	49·59	39·58	31·27	37·57
June - - - - -	31·54	25·50	57·23	26·41	25·69	39·07	28·21	27·45	29·71
July - - - - -	25·60	23·99	67·60	20·62	28·31	49·36	26·11	28·72	35·75
August - - - - -	33·94	33·33	125·06	25·38	43·89	80·59	37·51	41·13	56·49
September - - - - -	37·52	39·00	102·92	35·31	52·72	69·27	43·36	47·40	57·13
TOTAL - - -	32·69	29·26	55·08	30·99	31·86	48·62	34·90	34·03	41·53
All causes including cholera and small-pox - - - - -	33·84	29·67	70·84	31·11	33·05	59·45	35·62	36·63	47·99

20. These statistics show very clearly how in all years there is a marked increase of deaths in the months of August, September, and October, a feature which is common to the whole of the Provinces and to all seasons, normal or abnormal. This rise occasionally extends to November, after which the death rate remains low until July or August.

An examination of the details will at once show that in Jubbulpore, Mandla, and Seoni, no extraordinary death rate is observable until July 1896 in the case of Mandla, and until August 1896 in the case of the other two districts.

The same may be said of Murwara if February 1896 (death rate 74.44) be excluded. In Saugor and Damoh, where the failure of 1894 was so severe, the death rates were high in the unhealthy months of 1894 and 1895, but invariably fell with the cold weather and through the hot weather, if not to normal figures, at least to an extent which precluded any idea of famine. In them also the serious and rapid increase of mortality began in July 1896.

The only instances in which special comment is necessary are the mortality of February 1896 in Murwara and the death rates in all districts from July or August 1896.

In the case of Murwara there was a large influx of destitute persons from neighbouring native states who came in search of employment, in addition to local beggars from other parts of the district. A widespread rumour had prevailed that work would be begun on the railway in October, and in November the numbers who collected were large. The railway work was not actually started till the beginning of January, and this period of enforced idleness probably accounts for the weak state of health to which many of them were reduced before employment was available. Many of the beggars even then preferred to hang about the town of Murwara and the neighbouring villages, picking up what they could until the rabi harvest was ripe, to going on a distance of 12 miles to the railway works. Others were not strong enough to work on the railway, and many fell easy victims to fever and bowel diseases. A good many also died on the railway works at that time, the contractors having supplied inferior grain. The railway authorities intervened, and some contracts were cancelled. The opening of work in several places in the tahsil, following the harvest earnings and the mohwa crop, at once lowered the death rate to more normal figures.

The heavy mortality in the division during the months of August and September is much to be deplored, but it arose from causes difficult to control. With the advent of the monsoon, the labourers on the roads and railway began leaving for their villages to seek employment on agricultural operations; while wandering beggars who were unwilling or unable to work crowded into the towns for shelter. Competition for labour reduced the earnings of those who obtained agricultural employment, and high prices threw them into further distress. These continued on in their villages in the hope of better times when the kharif crops should ripen. Exposure and insufficient food during the abnormally wet month of August induced fevers and dysentery. Then followed an unusually unhealthy September, when doubtless, as the drought began to declare itself, the cultivators who would ordinarily have given food or employment tightened their hands and pockets, and the distress then assumed a more aggravated form. With the open weather of September some returned to the works, others too weak for work struggled into the towns, but many continued on. But the progress of the distress was necessarily a gradual one, and its effect could not be immediately apparent.

Vital statistics cannot be collected and compiled from day to day, nor do deaths of this kind make themselves so soon known as deaths from epidemics. They are gradual, distributed over the whole area, not sudden and concentrated in particular localities. The death rates computed at a rate of so many per mille per annum look most formidable in a statistical statement, but the highest rate of all (138 in Damoh in September) means during the month 11 or 12 deaths only per 1,000, or two or three deaths in a village of 250 souls; that is to say, one or two deaths only above the normal in a village of that size. All this time work was available in the interior of the district, and gratuitous relief was being given in poor-houses, but the people did not come to such relief in any considerable numbers. It may be said without fear of contradiction that the people themselves were as much deceived as the officers of the Government by the prospects of a good kharif; they preferred to struggle on till the time of plenty came, and it was not till late in September that the prospects of a good crop were definitely dissipated.

The reluctance to come on work was nowhere more marked than among the aboriginal castes of Mandla, Seoni, and Damoh. Residing as they do in hilly and forest country, where it is almost impossible to find any local village works of improvement which can be undertaken, there is no resource but to offer them road-work in the hilly districts. This was done in Damoh, but they would not come; this was done in Mandla, but they

the numbers were very small. The experience now gained seems to show that a test work is of little use where aboriginals are concerned. Distress must have reached an acute stage before they will leave their forests to work on the roads.

But in addition to these causes mortality was undoubtedly swelled by the wandering spirit which took possession of the labouring poor. Discharged from a poor-house they would often not go to work, but would resume their begging habits, consume uncooked food, and before long many died or found their way back again to the poor house in a condition worse than when they originally entered it.

With the continued drought in October, bringing with it one more harvest failure, scarcity and distress entered into an acute stage, and it became necessary to extend relief measures and bring into full operation the provisions of the Famine Code both in this Division and in many other parts of the Provinces. The present review, however, deals with the period ending the 30th September last, and the history of the current period of acute and widespread distress, and of the measures taken to relieve it, can only be satisfactorily dealt with when the time of stress has passed and the full effects of the successive failures of crops are known.

21. The policy of the Administration has throughout been to keep the cultivators on their lands by liberal suspensions and remissions of land revenue, accompanied by a corresponding suspension or remission of rents, and to give freely takavi advances for seed and cattle, as well as free grazing in the districts where losses were most continuous. This is the surest means of supporting the agricultural labourers, to whom the ryot, having saved his rent and received an advance, is better able to give employment. For the labouring classes themselves the opening of the forests afforded a supply of food to supplement agricultural earnings during the intervals which elapse between the principal agricultural operations, and further aid was provided in the shape of extra employment on road works.

It was not the desire of the Administration to pauperise the population or discourage self-help, and gratuitous relief was, during 1895, left to private charity, but from March and April 1896, as distress increased, poor-houses supported from public funds were organized, and additional road and tank works were arranged to supplement the extensive scope for employment which the construction of the Saugor-Katni Railway afforded.

In the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, during the period 25th April to the 10th October, the aggregate of the maximum numbers who availed themselves of these special means of employment amounted to 45,000, while the maximum supported at the various poor-houses amounted to 5,000 persons. The number of individuals who at some time during this period received employment or support was, of course, very much larger.

22. It is not easy to distinguish the cost to Government of the various measures of relief. Until the Famine Code was formally brought into operation, the sums expended under the direct head of "Famine Relief" had been trifling, and it is difficult to separate the ordinary from the extraordinary expenditure involved in the various public works carried out by the Public Works Department and from District Funds. But the following statement shows the amount of land revenue foregone by the State, the expenditure on district roads during the period under review, the loss of revenue entailed by the opening of the forests, and the amount of takavi advanced in the Jubbulpore Division, as well as the direct grants made for famine relief:—

YEAR.	Suspension of Land Revenue.	Remission of Land Revenue.	Expenditure on Construction and Repairs of District Roads.	Direct Grants for Famine Relief.	Loss of Revenue in the Forest Department.	Total of Columns 3 to 6, plus Revenue Suspended but not yet Remitted (Column 2).	Takavi Advances.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
	Revenue Year.		Financial Year.		Forest Year.		Financial Year.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894-95 - - -	4,30,339	3,04,456	46,849	73,417	40,000	4,64,722	6,54,815
1895-96 - - -	2,04,887	6,19,303	98,837	1,055	68,000	5,52,313	1,43,114
April to September 1896			32,825	40,293	* 22,000		1,36,979
TOTAL - - - Rs.	6,35,226	9,23,759	1,78,511	1,14,765	1,30,000	16,44,035	9,34,908
Of which not yet remitted.	2,97,000	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* Approximate figures.

If one lakh of rupees out of the expenditure entered in column 4 be counted as ordinary expenditure, which would have been incurred whether or not scarcity existed, it appears that during the past two years the Administration has contributed in one shape or another about  $15\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs to the relief of distress, while making itself responsible to the Imperial Government for advances, with interest on them, to the extent of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs. The remissions and suspensions of revenue, which carried with them proportionate relief in the case of rents, meant that the cultivating classes were excused from a payment of over 20 lakhs of rupees, and counting in the takavi advances, these classes have benefited to the extent of 30 lakhs, while over four lakhs have been expended in giving further employment or food to the labouring population.

23. This review would be incomplete did it not make mention of the officers who were charged with the administration of the districts of the Jubbulpore Division during this long period of difficulty and anxiety. The charge of the Division was held by Mr. F. C. Anderson from April 1894 to April 1895, by Mr. L. K. Laurie from April to November 1895, and again by Mr. Anderson from the last date to the present time. The chief anxieties of the period were concentrated during the second incumbency of Mr. Anderson, and the Chief Commissioner desires here again to express (as he has already done in the Revenue Review for the year 1894-95) his grateful sense of the unremitting labour and watchfulness which that officer has devoted to meeting the difficulties as they arose. The task was the more severe as deaths, departures owing to ill-health, and the depleted state of the ranks of the Commission in consequence of retirements, compelled the Administration to put in charge of important districts officers, sometimes very junior, who were ill-acquainted with them, and needed much direction in the conduct of operations for meeting the distress. The Division has been peculiarly unfortunate during the year 1896 in the number of its casualties.

In Jubbulpore the late Mr. A. C. Duff was in charge throughout the period, except from March to September 1896, when he was compelled to take leave in consequence of a severe attack of influenza. His successor, Mr. O. G. Arthur, a very promising officer, had hardly taken charge when he fell a victim to an attack of cholera while enquiring into the distress and visiting the railway works in the north of Jubbulpore; and the Chief Commissioner was compelled to cancel furlough which had already been promised and call Mr. B. Robertson from Nimar to hold charge till Mr. Duff should return. Mr. Lyall has already publicly expressed his sense of the great loss which the Government has sustained by the untimely death, on the 5th January 1897, of Mr. Duff, whose knowledge of, and sympathy with, the people in his charge were invaluable to the Administration.

In Damoh, the late Mr. Burn was in charge of the district throughout the period until the middle of August last, when failing health compelled him to take short leave; he visited Kashmir, and there fell a victim, on 26th September 1896, to enteric fever. During his absence, until the return of officers from furlough in November placed a senior man at his disposal, the Chief Commissioner was compelled to entrust the charge of the district to a junior civilian of only three years' service.

In Saugor, Colonel T. W. Hogg was in charge for the whole period, except for one month's privilege leave which he took, in consequence of ill-health, in July. He retired in November last, and his health for some weeks prior to retirement was very indifferent.

In Maudla, Mr. Aley Muhammad has administered a difficult charge with much activity and efficiency throughout 1896.

In Seoni, the transfer of Mr. Robertson from Nimar to Jubbulpore made it necessary to move Mr. Walker to the former district in March, and to entrust Seoni to Mr. Jowers, an officer of five years' service. Mr. Jowers' health broke down in September, and he too had to be replaced by a still more junior officer until the return of a senior man from furlough.

(True Extract.)

R. H. CRADDOCK,  
Third Secretary.

---

**ORDER.**—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, that copies be forwarded to the Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture and to the Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, and Deputy Commissioners of the Jubbulpore Division.

R. H. CRADDOCK,  
Third Secretary.

No. 849. Dated Nagpur, February 12, 1897.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed, with reference to my No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896, to submit the following further report regarding the prevailing scarcity in these Provinces.

2. The Chief Commissioner has now satisfied himself, by personal inspection, of the condition of the districts where distress is most serious. He has also arranged, in greater detail than was possible when he last wrote, the scheme of relief operations to be adopted in each district. Moreover, the further information which has reached him, combined with his own observation in the affected areas, has led him to modify on one or two points the view of the situation in the several districts of the Province which was given in paragraphs 4 to 9 of my former letter, No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896. For these reasons he deems it desirable to report on the situation in each district as it now presents itself to him; to specify the areas affected and their general circumstances; to indicate the scheme of relief which is in operation; to show the number and classes of people who have been and are in receipt of relief; to forecast, as far as the data now available permit, the probable future duration and extent of the distress, and to estimate the aggregate numbers who will be in need of relief.

The following statement shows, for the districts where distress exists, the numbers in receipt of relief on the 23rd January last, their classification, and the nature and number of relief works provided:—

Serial Number.	District.			Affected Area.		Numbers in Receipt of Government Relief.		Total.	Percentage of Persons Relieved to Total Population of Affected Areas.	Number of Relief Works opened.	Number of Relief Centres.	Number of Government Poorhouses.
	Name.	Total Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Area.	Population.	On Relief Works.	Gratuitously Relieved.					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1	Jubbulpore - - -	3,909	748,146	3,909	748,000	70,178	13,373	83,551	11.6	11	16	4
2	Saugor - - -	4,007	592,000	4,007	592,000	24,345	7,327	31,672	5.3	4	10	5
3	Damoh - - -	2,831	326,000	2,831	326,000	17,894	2,466	20,360	6.2	12	7	4
4	Seoni - - -	3,206	370,767	1,766	200,000	5,566	553	6,119	3.2	13	6	2
5	Mandla - - -	5,056	339,373	5,056	339,000	12,621	257	12,878	3.8	6	17	2
	Total - - -	19,009	2,376,286	17,569	2,205,000	150,604	23,976	154,580	7.0	46	56	17
6	Nagpur - - -	3,832	757,862	524	95,500	1,662	877	2,539	2.6	6	-	2
7	Bhandara - - -	3,968	742,850	1,750	390,000	6,760	1,162	7,922	2.2	4	-	4
8	Balaghat - - -	3,139	383,331	3,139	383,000	4,093	1,330	5,423	1.4	6	-	3
	Total - - -	10,939	1,884,043	5,413	868,500	12,515	3,369	15,884	1.8	16	-	9
9	Hoshangabad - -	4,749	529,945	3,794	375,000	27,140	5,735	32,875	8.7	8	-	2
10	Narsinghpur - -	1,916	367,000	1,916	367,000	14,451	1,891	16,342	4.4	5	-	3
11	Nimar - - -	3,358	253,486	-	-	452	273	725	-	2	-	1
12	Chhindwara - -	4,630	407,494	2,000	135,000	3,436	1,337	4,773	3.5	2	15	3
13	Betul - - -	3,828	323,196	2,389	128,000	6,510	751	7,261	8.9	3	-	1
	Total - - -	18,481	1,881,121	10,999	1,005,000	52,289	9,987	62,276	6.2	20	15	10
14	Raipur - - -	11,724	1,584,427	4,000	710,000	6,319	1,034	7,353	1.2	3	-	5
15	Bilaspur - - -	8,341	1,164,000	8,341	1,164,000	4,483	1,326	5,809	1.4	3	-	4
	Total - - -	20,065	2,748,427	12,341	1,874,000	10,802	2,360	13,162	0.7	6	-	9
	GRAND TOTAL -	51,394	8,990,035	45,422	5,952,500	208,210	29,692	245,902	4.1	88	71	45

In view of the great importance as regards the present distress of the outturn of the coming spring crops, a statement is also given, showing for each district the area under

rabi crops for the last three years; the average area of these years; the area now under these crops according to the latest available data, and the anticipated outturn in each case.

It should be observed that these figures must not be accepted as final, as the patwaris' papers showing the areas in detail are not filed until the 1st April. They may, however, be regarded as the best provisional estimate now obtainable:—

DISTRICT.	Area under Rabi Crops during			Average of Columns 2, 3, and 4.	Area under Rabi during 1896-97.	Percentage by which Column 6 Exceeds (+) or is Less than (-) Area in Column 5.	Estimated Outturn of Rabi Crop, 1896-97, in Annas.
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	* Acres.		
Saugor - - - -	680,542	641,262	527,551	616,452	164,860	-73	† 4
Damoh - - - -	350,181	317,939	237,206	301,775	113,166	-62	8
Jubbulpore - - - -	712,816	629,892	455,994	599,567	399,711	-33	11
Mandla - - - -	210,367	199,396	126,120	178,628	44,657	-75	12
Beoni - - - -	428,685	374,875	280,241	361,267	240,000	-33	12
Wardha - - - -	381,378	357,808	323,641	354,276	309,991	-13	8
Nagpur - - - -	614,319	615,316	539,102	589,579	515,881	-13	8
Chanda - - - -	378,069	232,566	337,890	316,175	237,131	-25	8
Bhandara - - - -	488,102	397,407	300,980	395,496	355,946	-10	11
Balaghat - - - -	162,323	145,447	126,651	144,807	37,000	-74	6
Narsinghpur - - - -	408,103	405,700	353,149	388,984	292,858	-48	8
Hoshangabad - - - -	802,946	771,070	750,204	374,740	595,081	-23	6
Nimr - - - -	74,639	68,561	59,236	67,479	50,609	-25	4
Betul - - - -	272,802	268,222	244,107	261,710	196,232	-25	8
Chhindwara - - - -	286,051	299,265	260,922	282,079	211,999	-25	10
Raipur - - - -	1,036,948	975,258	568,245	860,150	430,075	-50	6
Bilaspur - - - -	721,990	646,813	337,223	568,675	106,627	-81	12
Sambalpur - - - -	12,844	10,490	10,360	11,231	-	- (Rabi crop unimportant.)	
Total - - - -	8,023,105	7,357,287	5,838,822	7,073,070	4,211,874	-41	8

\* Estimates only.

† Estimate for wheat.

The appended Table A. also shows the way in which the numbers in receipt of relief have changed from week to week since the beginning of December.

3. I proceed to report in detail on the circumstances of each district, beginning with those of the Jubbulpore Division, where the distress is most serious. In the Jubbulpore District the parts most severely affected are the whole of the Murwara or northern tahsil, and parts of the Schora or central tahsil, in the north and east, and the southern half of the Jubbulpore or southern tahsil in the west and south. The area of this tract is 2,459 square miles, and the population 368,000, or half the total population of the district. Even, however, in the remaining part of the district, including the rich plain of 1,111 miles (population 244,270) known as the Haveli, the bad rabi crops of the two years 1894 and 1895 have much reduced the circumstances of the people, and here, as elsewhere, general high prices must cause distress among the poor. The total affected area is thus identical with the whole area of the district, and covers 3,909 square miles, with a population of 748,000.

Turning next to the scheme of relief which has been adopted for this district, it may be observed that the failure of the kharif crop in the parts of the district where distress had previously been most severe, made it necessary to anticipate the opening of large works by some more summary methods of relief, and, at the conference held at Jubbulpore in the beginning of November last, the Commissioner was authorised to open relief-centres at the more important villages throughout the affected tracts. The object of these centres, as explained in Revenue Department Letter, No. 4950, dated the 11th December 1896, was to relieve starving wanderers by the provision of food, and, by arranging for local labour of a not too arduous kind in the immediate neighbourhood of each centre, to enable such of them as had, owing to hunger and weakness, been rendered temporarily incapable of sustained work to regain their strength. As soon as they were considered strong enough they were to be passed on to large works under the stricter supervision of the Public Works Department. In the special circumstances of the Jubbulpore Division, where, as has just been noted, the failure of the autumn crops fell with especial severity on a population previously reduced by two years of scanty harvests, this method of relief proved most useful. The simple mechanism of the relief-centres allowed of their being opened promptly; while the starting of large relief works and the organization of village relief would necessarily have taken some

time. They were started during November; were at once largely resorted to, and are now in operation at 16 places throughout the affected tracts (*viz.*, at six places in the Jubbulpore Tahsil, five in Sehora, and five in Murwara).

The Chief Commissioner took an early opportunity of pointing out that these relief-centres were essentially of a provisional nature, and that when once village relief had been effectively organised and sufficient works opened, the necessity for them would largely disappear. In a recent circular letter dealing generally with gratuitous relief (*vide* paragraph 3 of Circular Letter, No. 214, dated the 15th January 1897, copy enclosed\*), he has again laid stress on this point, which he regards as one of much importance. In addition to the 16 relief-centres, there are poor-houses at the three tahsil head-quarters, and at Katangi, on the northern road to Damoh, where the Chief Commissioner, on a recent visit, found a large number of people from the Native States of Bundelkhand, and from the North-West Provinces, many of them in a very emaciated condition.

For those able to work, seven large works under the Public Works Department, all road works, have been started, and it was believed until recently that these would suffice to provide work for all who needed it, at a not too great distance from their homes. The numbers on works, owing largely to extensive immigration from the Native States of the Baghelkhand Agency, have, however, during the last few weeks, risen very rapidly, especially in the northern or Murwara tahsil. The district has now been divided into two sub-divisional charges; it is intended shortly to form a third, and a number of large works will be increased to keep pace with the constant flow of applicants for labour which has to be dealt with. The Katni extension of the Indian Midland Railway also provides work for large numbers of the able-bodied. A scheme of subsidiary local works, to be partly carried out from Government funds, and partly with the aid of the special famine loans recently sanctioned by the Government of India, is now being elaborated, and numerous works of this kind, at convenient centres, will be started as soon as possible. Three tanks have already been begun. For the hill and forest tract in the south-west corner of the district arrangements have been made to construct three tanks and a forest road through the agency of the Forest Department.

The bulk of the people on the works are agricultural and other labourers, and some of the smaller cultivators. On the large works recently opened some of the better class of cultivators are to be found, but the Chief Commissioner considers that, unless a really adequate task is exacted, and a bare subsistence wage given, there will, even in the absence of any acute distress, be numbers of agriculturists willing and ready, at a season when there is no field work, to add to their scanty means by coming on Government works. As the exaction of task work grows more systematic, and when field work again begins, the numbers of workers drawn from these classes will in all probability rapidly fall off. Cases of emaciation are rare on the works, the main signs of poverty being inadequate and ragged clothing, but in the poor-houses, and at relief-centres, there are numerous very bad cases. Most of these are, however, beggars or pilgrims who only come on relief as the last resource when alms or food are no longer procurable.

For the relief of the agricultural classes the whole of the kharif instalment of land revenue has been suspended throughout the most severely affected area. In the rest of the district from half to two-thirds of that instalment has been suspended.

It may be added that for the effective supervision of famine relief work in this district, a European officer has been placed in charge of each tahsil: a covenanted Assistant in each of two tahsils, and an Assistant District Superintendent of police in the third. A special medical officer has also, with the sanction of the Government of India, been appointed to superintend the medical and sanitary arrangements on all famine works and in poor-houses. Arrangements have now been made for the deputation of three more European supervising officers to cope with the rapidly increasing work, especially in the northern tahsil.

Village house-to-house relief has also been organised, as well as similar relief in towns, which will be arranged for by the municipal committees with the help of Government officers. For the relief of the respectable poor in the town of Jubbulpore itself, who are averse from coming forward to ask for Government aid, a special committee has been formed, which is carrying on operations with the aid of private funds.

A special difficulty in arranging for famine relief in this district has arisen from the large number of frequently emaciated immigrants from Native States, who swell the ranks of relief workers, and crowd into poor-houses and relief-centres. At the end of December no less than 83 per cent. of the inmates of the Murwara poor-house consisted of such immigrants, and there are similarly large numbers wherever measures of relief have been started. The Political Agent, Baghelkhand, has recently assured the Commissioner of

\* Not reprinted.



the Division that adequate measures of relief have now been adopted in the Agency itself, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that the immigration may diminish. Of this, however, there is at present no symptom. Most of these wanderers arrive at the poor-houses and relief-centres in a very reduced state, and the frequent deaths among them have largely contributed to the high rates of mortality which have been such a serious feature of this district during the past months.

The reality and extent of the distress in Jubbulpore can best be gauged by a consideration of the aggregate numbers in receipt of relief since the beginning of December last. In the beginning of that month the total numbers were 12,829; by the middle of the month they had exceeded 20,000; and on the 26th stood at 42,000. Since then they have steadily and largely increased, the total numbers now in receipt of relief being over 90,000, or more than 12 per cent. of the total population of the district (=748,000). The stoppage of immigration from Native States, and the harvest work which will be available in February and March in getting in the rabi harvest, should, however, diminish these numbers; while from April to June the free opening of the Government Forests will, if the mohwa crop is abundant, cause a still further fall. The bulk of the people who are in receipt of Government relief much prefer resorting to the jungle and living on mohwa and other edible forest produce, to the sustained labour of a famine-work, and the Chief Commissioner anticipates that here, as indeed in all districts where mohwa is plentiful, this will result in a marked falling off in the numbers in receipt of relief during the hot weather months. Indeed, if the crop is a full one, many will lay up stocks to last them through the early monsoon months, and will probably return to their homes until the autumn harvest can be reaped. In view of these considerations, Mr Lyall thinks that the numbers in receipt of relief will probably reach their maximum by the end of this month, and, including those in receipt of village house-to-house relief, he would estimate 70,000 as the average number who will need relief from the 1st February until the end of September, or say 17 million units.

With respect to rabi prospects, the outlook in the restricted area sown (now stated as two-thirds of the normal) was reported as good in my letter of December last. The further rain at the end of December, and during the current month, has still further improved matters, and an out-turn of 11 annas is at present anticipated.

As regards prices, those of wheat and gram, the staple food-grains of the district, are slowly but steadily cheapening. At the beginning of December wheat stood at 8 and gram at 10. For the last three weeks wheat has stood at 9 and gram at 11. As the present prospects of the rabi become more assured, a further fall is probable; but here as elsewhere in the Central Provinces, the governing factor in prices is the prospect of the rabi harvest in Upper India, to which export of food grains is still going on from Jubbulpore. There is no cause for anxiety as to deficiency of food stocks in any part of this district.

4. In Saugor, the most seriously affected tracts lie along the south-western and south-eastern borders of the district, in the north-west corner, and in the Shahgarh pargana in the extreme north-east.

The early cessation of the monsoon confined rabi sowings to a third of the area of the previous year, while the kharif outturn has nowhere exceeded four annas: past years have been very bad, and the Chief Commissioner considers that there is no part of the district in which distress will not be felt. The whole area of the district, 4,007 square miles, with a population of 592,000, should therefore be treated as affected for the purposes of famine relief. The general circumstances of this district are similar to those of Jubbulpore, though there is less immigration from Native States. Here also relief-centres have been established at 10 places in the tracts most seriously affected; while, to meet the demand for work, four large road-works have been opened, one in each tahsil. Here, as also in Jubbulpore and Damoh, the extension of the Indian Midland Railway to Katni supplies labour for the able-bodied. As regards local works, it may be remarked that in this district there is but little scope for these, but the construction of three large tanks is proposed; while for the Khurai Tahsil, where acute and general distress exists, special famine loans are to be granted for the embankment and submersion of fields for the purpose of eradicating *káns* grass. Poor-houses have been established at each of the four tahsil head quarters, and at Shahgarh, in the extreme north-east of the district. Village house-to-house relief has also been arranged for in all tahsils, and is now regularly distributed. The condition of the people on the works is reported to be fair, there being but few cases of emaciation. Relief workers are chiefly drawn from the labouring classes, but there are some tenants and a few petty landowners, co-sharers in small villages, on some of the works.

At the beginning of December there were 2,000 persons on relief works, and over 1,000 in receipt of gratuitous relief. By the end of that month the number of workers had reached 15,000, those in receipt of gratuitous relief having increased but slightly. Early in January there was a marked increase under both heads, and according to the latest returns there are nearly 27,000 on relief works, and nearly 13,000 in receipt of gratuitous relief. Two additional covenanted Assistants, and one Assistant Superintendent of police, have been appointed to supervise the famine charges into which the district is divided, and a special medical officer has, with the sanction of the Government of India, been placed in charge of all sanitary and medical arrangements connected with famine.

The forests in this district will not attract such large numbers as in Jubbulpore, nor will harvesting on the greatly restricted rabi area afford much labour. Moreover, immigrants are not numerous. The Chief Commissioner considers that no perceptible decrease in distress can be hoped for until the early autumn crops are reaped, and that we may expect to have from 25 to 30,000 people needing relief until the end of September. This would give, say, six million units for that period.

The rain in December and January has somewhat improved rabi prospects; but, as has been stated, the out-turn on the greatly restricted area must be so small that it cannot materially alter the situation.

The prices of the staples, wheat and gram, hardened in the latter part of December. They have now again fallen slightly, and are slightly cheaper than at the beginning of November, wheat being at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  and gram at 10 seers per rupee.

There is still considerable export of grain to Upper India from this district, which points to stocks still being available, but if there is a good rabi harvest in the North-Western Provinces, and in the remaining wheat districts of these Provinces, this will, no doubt, later on give place to extensive import. No insufficiency of food supplies is anticipated by the local officers.

5. The Chief Commissioner's personal observation in the Damoh District, and the further and fuller reports which have reached him since my letter of December 16th was written, have convinced him that the account of the situation in that district, at the end of paragraph 8 of that letter, gave an unduly favourable impression of the present condition and prospects of this part of the Province. The rabi crop of 1894 was an utter failure; that of 1895 was little better, while the early cessation of the autumn rains of 1895 gave an equally scanty harvest in the spring of 1896. The kharif crop of 1895 was scarcely better than the rabi; and while this crop in the present year was, in the southern tahsil, somewhat better than that of 1895, it was almost an utter failure in the north, where the people are very poor, and are almost entirely dependent for food on rice, juari, and the lesser millets. The proportion of the rabi area sown was also considerably over-estimated by the local officers in their report of December, and it is now certain that the sowings do not cover more than half of last year's area. The successive calamities of past year's have exhausted the resources both of tenants and malguzars, and the district will need very careful treatment if it is to recover the prosperity which it formerly enjoyed.

For the period from the middle of August to the beginning of November, owing to casualties among officers in the Jubbulpore Division, the district was unavoidably placed in charge of a young and inexperienced officer, who could not be expected fully to read and understand the signs of distress. It is true that such distress as existed has certainly grown rapidly worse since the failure of the autumn crops declared itself, but even before that time it must have been considerable. The condition of this district previous to the failure of September has been set forth in paragraphs 14, 18, and 19 of the Chief Commissioner's Resolution, No. 574, dated the 1st instant, dealing with the proceedings of 1895 and 1896 in regard to famine in the Jubbulpore Division, to which I am to refer the Government of India. The Deputy Commissioner now in charge of Damoh has had previous experience of the district as Settlement Officer, and the Chief Commissioner is confident that everything that is necessary is now being done.

It was formerly reported that the distressed area was confined to the south and south-west of the district, and to the north of the Hatta Tahsil. No doubt these are the areas where the scarcity is most severe; but, for the purpose of famine relief, the Chief Commissioner considers that the whole district, which extends over 2,831 square miles, with a population of 326,000 persons, should be regarded as distressed. Here also relief centres have been opened at seven places in the most distressed tracts; three large road works have been started, two in the north and the third in the south, and nine local works are in progress. There are poor-houses at the two tahsil head-quarters, and at two other places on main roads from the west and south, which are much frequented by

wanderers. A scheme of local works, to be undertaken partly from Government funds and partly with the aid of special famine loans, is being worked out for those tracts where no scope for large works exists, and house-to-house relief in villages has been organised. It may be added that, for the able-bodied, abundant work is provided in the construction of the Saugor-Katni extension of the Indian Midland Railway. The general condition of the people on the works is reported as low, many of the able-bodied having gone to work on the railway. The bulk of those in receipt of relief are labourers, but there are a few petty landholders, co-sharers in small villages, and a sprinkling of tenants. Relief has been given to the agricultural classes by the entire remission of the kharif instalment of land revenue throughout the district.

The numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, which stood at under 6,000 in the middle of December, rose to over 12,000 by the end of that month and now considerably exceeds 20,000. In considering these numbers it must be remembered that the population of this district is only half that of Jubbulpore, and that a large number of persons find employment on the railway. Even, however, after allowing for this, the Chief Commissioner does not consider that the maximum number has yet been reached, and thinks that, after making the necessary deductions for withdrawals, owing to the possibilities of getting food in the forests, and to harvest and other field labour becoming available, provision should be made for about 20,000 people from February to the end of September, or (say)  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million units in all. The prospects of the rabi on the area sown are at present fair to good, and an average crop is expected in most parts of the district.

The prices of the staple food grains, wheat and gram, are much the same as in Saugor, and have shown only slight fluctuations since the beginning of November. They then stood at eight and ten seers per rupee respectively. Their present price is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and 10. Owing to there being no railway to Damoh import is difficult during the rains, and prices tend to rise towards and during the monsoon months. But with good rabi harvests in Upper India, general prices should fall considerably during March and April, and a considerable import may be expected. Scarcity of food grains is not anticipated, but here, as also in Saugor, and probably in Jubbulpore, large advances will be necessary for the purchase of seed-grain.

6. In Seoni there is no such general distress as in the three districts which have just been dealt with. The crops of 1893-94 yielded 71 per cent. of a full crop; those of 1894-95, 63 per cent.; while it was only in 1895-96 that both kharif and rabi were poor. In 1896 some 40 per cent. of the normal rabi area remained in the first instance unsown; but after the rains of November further sowings became possible, and the area now under spring crops is not, it is estimated, much short of the area sown in the previous year.

It is thus only in the Lakhnadon or northern tahsil, and a comparatively small tract in the south-east of the Seoni or southern tahsil, where the people are almost entirely dependent on the out-turn of the autumn crops, that any acute distress is anticipated. The affected area extends to 1,766 square miles, with a population of 200,000, or 54 per cent. of the total population of the district.

For purposes of relief there are three large road works, under the supervision of the Public Works Department; two in the Lakhnadon or northern tahsil, the other traversing the distressed tract of the southern tahsil. There are also six relief centres, four in the northern and two in the southern tahsil. Smaller local works have also been started at ten places, and there are two poor-houses at the two tahsil head-quarters. The question of house-to-house relief in villages has been considered, but it was decided that no such measure is yet needed. Three forest roads are being constructed as relief works; one in the southern tahsil, and two in the north-east and north-west respectively of the northern tahsil.

Throughout the affected area the forests have been opened to the free extraction of mohwa, edible roots, fruits and head-loads of grass and fuel.

One of the large works was recently inspected by the Chief Commissioner, and he did not observe a single case of emaciation. Most of the workers were labourers and petty cultivators, not, as yet, in actual distress, but very glad, in this period of high prices and absence of demand for labour, to earn a regular daily wage. Even in the poor-houses cases of emaciation were not frequent, and with good harvests in the current year the Chief Commissioner does not think that this district will give cause for serious anxiety. It may be added that the kharif instalment of land revenue has been suspended throughout the affected area.

The numbers in receipt of relief rose from 2,000 in the beginning of December to nearly 4,000 at the close of that month. In the beginning of January they reached 6,500, then decreased to something over 4,000, and have now again risen to over 7,000. Looking at the present excellent prospects of the rabi crop in the greater part of the southern or Seoni Tahsil, the Chief Commissioner does not think that a monthly average of more than 5,000 need be provided for, and he would fix the figure for this district for the period 1st February to 30th September at, say, one million units.

Rabi prospects are at present good. As already indicated, the greater part of the normal rabi area has been sown, and both the early and late sown crops are doing well. In his recent journey from Seoni to Chhindwara the Chief Commissioner passed through village after village of splendid wheat land where the cultivators freely admitted that they looked forward to a full crop. Unfortunately, after he left the district, on the 21st January, a destructive hail-storm visited a portion of this tract and did some, though local, damage to the nearly ripe wheat. The estimated rabi out-turn for the whole district is not less than 12 annas.

The prices of food-grain reflect the state of the crops. Rice, of which the harvest was very poor, remained nearly steady since the beginning of November at 10 seers the rupee and has only recently fallen to nine seers, while wheat has gone down from just over eight to 10 seers per rupee. As the prospects of the rabi become more assured the price of wheat will probably show a still further fall, and no anxiety need be felt as to the sufficiency of food stocks in this district.

7. As regards Mandla, it was pointed out in paragraph 6 of my previous letter that the situation here was serious. The autumn crops of 1896 were practically an utter failure, and both the kharif and rabi of the previous year were poor. More than half of the population are aborigines who are altogether without resources, and the number of mohwa trees is not sufficiently large in Mandla to warrant our anticipating from that source so much relief as in the three northern districts of the division. Moreover, it is generally believed that the aboriginal population are especially averse to leaving their homes for Government works.

The whole district may be considered as distressed in a greater or less degree, and, except in a small tract in the north and west, in and around Mandla itself, the distress is acute. The distressed area thus extends to 5,056 square miles, with a population of 339,000 persons. To meet the peculiar circumstances of the district, and with regard to the large extent of the distressed area, it has been thought advisable to have more numerous relief centres than were found necessary elsewhere, and the number at present open is 17. There are also four large road works under the Public Works Department and two local works under civil officers, as well as three forest roads in those tracts where other modes of relief are not possible. There are poor-houses at both the tahsil headquarters, and house-to-house relief in villages is now being rapidly organized.

It is further expected that a large number of local works of improvement will be carried out with the aid of special famine loans, and the construction of 10 tanks as local famine works from Government funds has already been sanctioned.

The whole district has now been divided into four famine charges, two for each tahsil, a responsible officer of the rank of tahsildar being placed in charge of each. A European Assistant Superintendent of police has also been posted to Mandla to assist in the supervision of famine works.

The Chief Commissioner inspected one of the large Public Works Department works, and also visited a relief centre and the Mandla poor-house. The average condition of the aboriginal population of Mandla is at no time good, their food being scanty and frequently unwholesome. The recent bad times have made matters worse, and the condition of the people generally is poor. Starving wanderers are not, however, often met with, nor are cases of actual emaciation at all frequent, except in poor-houses. Meanwhile all is being done that can be done, and the adequacy of the arrangements made was gratefully acknowledged by the people during the Chief Commissioner's recent visit to Mandla.

The numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, which were just over 5,000 at the beginning of December, had reached nearly 8,000 by the end of that month. Numbers are still steadily rising, and have now reached 15,000. Harvest labour may give employment to some, but the rabi area in the affected tracts is so small that this will not perceptibly diminish numbers. On the other hand, the local officers believe that many more will flock on to the works as soon as they become fully known, and they consider that numbers will go on rising, with possibly some slight fluctuations at harvest time, until the early monsoon crops are reaped. The Chief Commissioner thinks,

therefore, that 30,000 should be taken as the daily average from 1st February to 30th September, giving a total for that period of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million units.

The present prospects of the rabi crops are excellent, and have been much improved by the showers of December and January. But, as already remarked, the out-turn of these crops cannot materially affect the general situation.

Prices here are rising. At the beginning of November the prices of the staple grains (wheat and rice) were 10 and 11 seers per rupee respectively. They now stand at nine and eight seers, and food stocks are reported to be very scanty. The attention of the Commissioner has been already drawn to the correspondence regarding the import of grain into Bengal which was forwarded with your letter No. 4-F., dated the 6th January 1897, and he has been asked to consider whether any special arrangements may be needed later on for the supply of food-grains in Mandla. The inaccessible character of a great part of this district, the absence of local traders, the poverty of the people, and the fact that there are no local food stocks, make it not improbable that Government help in some shape will be needed to secure a due supply of food-grains during the rains. At present there is no reason to fear failure of supply so long as the people are put in funds by the opening of a sufficient number of relief works. The measures necessary for supply during the monsoon months will, no doubt, need anxious and careful consideration, but for this there is ample time.

8. Summarizing the situation in the Jubbulpore Division, it may be said that the whole division, with the exception of the southern half of Seoni, is affected by distress, and that the affected area extends over 17,569 square miles, with a population of 2,205,000. On the 23rd January 154,580 persons, or seven per cent. of this population, were in receipt of Government relief, and up to the 30th September, up to which date a continuance of Government relief measures will be necessary in all parts of the affected area, it may be estimated that 31 million units will need relief.

9. In the Nagpur Division it is only in three districts that distress now exists otherwise than quite locally, and in only one of these, Balaghat, is the distress general or acute. From Chanda no distress is reported except in the remote zamindari of Ambagarh Chauki, in the north-west of the district, and bordering on the Nandgaon Feudatory State. In Wardha, where a poor-house was opened and a test work started, it was found that only a few immigrants from other districts came to the poor-house, and that the demand for work at the famine wage was very small. The poor-house has accordingly been closed, and the work will be continued as an ordinary work. In view of the good out-turn of juari, which in this district covers nearly half the kharif area, and with a favourable rabi, of which there now seems every hope, there will probably be but little need for further direct famine relief here.

In Nagpur the greater part of the district gives no cause for anxiety, but there is a demand for labour and some degree of scarcity among the poorer classes in two small tracts in the north-west, two similar small tracts in the south-east, and a somewhat larger area in the north-east corner of the district. There is, further, some distress, owing to high prices and absence of demand for labour, among the poorer classes of the town population of Nagpur and Kamptee, especially among the labourers and weavers. The affected area, as so defined, may be estimated at 524 square miles, with a population, taking only 10 per cent. of the population of Nagpur City as affected, of 95,500 people.

As regards measures of relief, there are poor-houses at Nagpur and Kamptee, with an average population, during December, of nearly 1,800 persons, more than three-fourths of whom were women and children. Works (stone-breaking and earthwork), one under municipal supervision and the rest under Public Works Department supervision, were started during December at six places, five in the Nagpur Tahsil and one near Umrer in the south-east. At first sufficient strictness in the exaction of a task was not shown, and numbers rapidly rose to over 5,000. Under more systematic management numbers have steadily gone down, and there are at present only a little over 2,000 on the works. Rupees 25,000 were granted last December for land improvement loans. A certain amount of labour is thus provided. Neither relief centres nor village house-to-house relief have been found necessary, and a recent careful report by the Deputy Commissioner, based on personal observation of the distressed tracts in the north-west and north-east, shows that there is, as yet, no wandering and no cases of emaciation. All that he considers to be needed is sufficient work for those who are fit for labour, and, in the more remote parts, the opening of the forests to the extraction of edible products. Rabi prospects in this district are at present good; the price of the staple food (juar), which in the beginning of November stood at 11 seers per rupee, went down in the first half of January to 15 seers, and it is now selling at  $13\frac{1}{2}$  seers per rupee. After allowing for

harvest labour and relief in the wilder tracts by the opening of the forests, the Chief Commissioner doubts whether, after February, there will be any necessity for relief works, except on a limited scale, and in those parts of the district where the people are mainly dependent on the out-turn of the autumn crops. Even, however, if a high estimate be taken, he does not think that provision need be made for more than an average of 2,000 a day or, say, half a million units between February 1st and the end of September.

10. The situation in Bhandara, though even there distress is by no means general, is more serious than that of Nagpur. The whole of the northern half of the district, with an area of 1,750 square miles and a population of 390,000, may be regarded as more or less affected by scarcity, though acute distress is confined to a track of about 500 square miles in the extreme north-east, bordering on Balaghat and north of the railway line. This particular part of the district is, however, it should be observed, more thickly peopled than any other, and has a population of 165,000 persons.

Besides poor-houses at the tahsil head-quarters of Bhandara and Sakoli, at Tumsar, a municipal town, and at Gondia, on the northern road to Balaghat, there are four large road works under the Public Works Department distributed throughout the affected area. After careful discussion it has been decided that neither relief centres nor village relief are, as yet, necessary; though the police and village mukaddams have had special orders issued to them with regard to the dieting and forwarding to poor-houses or relief works of starving wanderers.

A number of local works are being undertaken by malguzars either with their own funds or with the aid of takavi loans, and the Deputy Commissioner estimates that at the close of December these were giving employment to 2,000 persons.

In December last a grant of Rs. 25,000 was made for land improvement loans, and this is now being supplemented in the more distressed tracts by an allotment from the grant for famine loans. This will supply useful village labour, for which in this district ample scope exists in the construction of irrigation tanks. The Deputy Commissioner inspected all the works and the greater part of the distressed area during December and again in January. He found the condition of the people to be but little below normal, the few cases of emaciation being those of residents of Balaghat, who had gone to Berar for harvest labour and were returning thence without having obtained it. The forests of this district have already been opened to the free extraction of fruits, mohwa, and edible roots. Free grazing has also been sanctioned to all except Banjaras, Gaolis and professional cattle dealers. The numbers in receipt of relief in this district have fluctuated considerably—a result largely due to the fact that before work was fully organised strict tasks were not exacted. Even after the introduction of systematic tasks, however, the numbers now exceed 10,000, as compared with 4,600 at the beginning of December.

The rabi area is 37 per cent. of the total cropped area, and nearly all of it has been sown. Harvest labour will thus give employment to considerable numbers, while the opening of the jungles will give relief during the hot weather months. Still, looking at the fact that the affected area is chiefly a rice tract, and that the crops of the past three years have been bad, there will probably be considerable distress until the end of September. Estimating the average monthly number at 6,000 per diem, the Chief Commissioner thinks that provision should be made for the relief of 1½ million units up to the end of September.

The staple food in this district is common rice, and it grew steadily, though slowly, cheaper from the end of November until the middle of January; since when it has again risen. In the middle of November it was selling at 8½ seers per rupee; it is now being sold at 10 seers. No scarcity of food stocks need be anticipated in any part of this district.

11. It is in the Balaghat district that the distress is most general and severe in the Nagpur division. The rice crop, which is the main food-grain of the district, was a complete failure; the lesser millets also yielded badly, and the rabi area, always unimportant in this district, was still further diminished this year owing to the early failure of the monsoon rains. The general situation of the district and the area and intensity of distress are well described by the Deputy Commissioner as follows:—

“The distress is universal throughout the district, but varies from village to village. For the inhabitants of a few villages where the rice out-turn is well above the average of the district, or the malguzar is well off and does his duty by his tenants, no measures of relief will be necessary. Villages of this kind are, however, very few and scattered, and it may therefore be said that relief-works are

necessary over the whole district, that is, they should be accessible to the distressed tenants and labourers of every village.

“The uplands (*i.e.*, the Northern or Behir Tahsil) are worse off than the lowlands, both in the out-turn of the crop and as respects the number of resident capitalists, but they are thinly populated, whereas in the lowland tracts the population is as dense as in any part of the Central Provinces. The poorest part of the district is the eastern half of the Behir or northern tahsil. Tanks are fewer and the cultivators less intelligent. The harvest has been a greater failure there than in any part of the district, and special efforts will have to be made to prevent the whole tract relapsing into waste, the tenants being of migratory habits.”

The whole district, covering an area of 3,139 square miles with a population of 383,000, must thus be regarded as affected by scarcity; the northern tahsil, where distress is most severe, having an area of 909 miles with a population of 87,000, chiefly aborigines. To provide relief for this district four large road works have been started under the supervision of the Public Works Department; two in the northern, with three relief camps on one of them, and two in the southern tahsil, while two tanks have been excavated in the northern tahsil under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. Some 6,000 people are now being employed on these works. There are also poor-houses at Balaghat and Behir.

Early in December a special grant of Rs. 35,000 was made for land improvement loans in this district, and a further considerable allotment will be made from the grant of five lakhs recently sanctioned by the Government of India for famine loans. There is ample scope in this district for tank work, only 31 per cent. of the rice area being protected by irrigation, and local works will be particularly useful here, especially in the northern tahsil, as tending to keep a naturally migratory population in their villages.

In the northern tahsil the opening of the jungles to the free extraction of mohwa, edible roots, and fruits will afford much relief during the hot weather months, and will probably considerably diminish the pressure on the famine works until the monsoon breaks.

The physical condition of the largely aboriginal population of the Behir or northern tahsil where distress is most severe is never very satisfactory, and is especially low in times of scarcity, such as have to be dealt with at present. Cases of emaciation are frequently met with both in the poor-houses and on the works, and it is probable that house-to-house relief in villages will have to be organised almost immediately.

The situation here, indeed, is very similar to that of Mandla, and similar precautions and similar sustained and careful supervision will be needed in both cases.

The numbers in receipt of relief have so far shown no marked fluctuations. Early in December they reached 5,000, and it is only recently that they have exceeded 6,000. The decrease during the last few weeks is nominal only, as it is due to a transfer of Balaghat workers to work within the Bhandara border.

In this as in other tracts where the distress results from a failure of the autumn crops, and where the rabi area is inconsiderable, distress must, however, grow more severe with each succeeding week, and, even allowing for the opening of the forests in the hot weather months, the Chief Commissioner does not consider that it would be safe to estimate for less than a daily average of at least 10,000 persons, or, say, 2½ million units from 1st February up to the end of September.

The price of common rice, which is the staple food here, remained steady from the beginning of November to the middle of January at 9 seers per rupee. During the last two weeks it has again risen, but with a good rabi harvest throughout Upper India, and allowing for large imports of rice from Burma, there may be a slight fall later on, and, in any case, no further rise is probable until the rains. In the monsoon months, however, transport, especially to the remote uplands of Behir, will become difficult; prices will certainly rise, and it may here, as in Mandla, be necessary that Government should step in to secure a supply of food-grains where private agency fails. There is still, however, ample time to consider this question, and private trade will not be interfered with unless such a course be found absolutely necessary to provide food for the people.

12. Summing up the situation in the Nagpur Division, it may be said that the area affected by scarcity is 5,413 square miles, with a population of 868,000 persons. The numbers in receipt of Government relief on the 23rd January amounted to 15,884 persons, or nearly 2 per cent. of the population of the distressed area. It is only, however, in Balaghat, and, though certainly to a less degree, in the north-east of Bhandara, an area of 3,639 square miles, with a population of 548,000 persons, that



distress is severe. The numbers for whom relief will have to be provided up to the end of September may be estimated at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million units.

13. In the Nerbudda Division it may be said, generally, that there is a keen demand for labour, but no severe local distress, except among the aboriginal tribes of Hoshangabad (Gonds and Korkus), in the Chhindwara Jagirs, a tract of 1,600 square miles to the north of the district of that name, and in the west and north of Betul. There is also, as must be expected, considerable distress everywhere among the infirm and aged poor whom the hard times deprive of their usual alms.

In Hoshangabad the affected area consists practically of the whole of the two eastern tahsils, Hoshangabad and Sahagpur, the southern and northern borders of the two western tahsils and the Charwa pargana in the extreme east. In all these areas, kharif predominates over rabi, and this crop was, in the current year, generally very poor. Acute local distress is not yet reported, except in the hill and forest areas in the south and south-west, but there is a keen demand for labour at the famine wage, and cases of emaciated wanderers are to be found among the inmates of poor-houses, and among the aboriginal Gonds and Korkus who only come on Government works when forced by absolute destitution to do so. The affected area, as described above, extends over 3,794 square miles, with a population of 375,000, amounting to 70 per cent. of the total population of the district.

The shape of the district is long and narrow, and the demand for labour has been met by opening work under the supervision of the Public Works Department on five lengths of road, running, roughly speaking, north and south, four being in the two eastern tahsils, and one in the north of the western tahsil. The only part not yet provided for is the south-west corner, but this is a tract of hill and forest sparsely inhabited by Gonds and Korkus. A proposal is however under consideration for opening a forest road through this tract, and also for opening work under the supervision of the Public Works Department on the road joining the head quarters of the Betul District, with the western tahsil of Hoshangabad.

Here, and indeed throughout the distressed areas of the province, the police have received stringent orders to diet and forward distressed wanderers to the nearest poor-house or relief work, and similar instructions have been issued under Section 33 of the Central Provinces Famine Code to village mukaddams. Special concessions with regard to the rate on bamboos and articles made from bamboos have been made to relieve the forest tribes, and free grazing has been allowed to agriculturists. The realization of the kharif instalment of land revenue has been suspended throughout the two eastern tahsils, discretion being given to the Deputy Commissioner to suspend elsewhere in cases where he thinks this necessary. Poor-houses have been opened at Hoshangabad and Sahagpur. On the occasion of its inspection by the Chief Commissioner in December, nearly half the inmates of the Hoshangabad poor-house were found to be immigrants from Bhopal, and the condition of the remainder did not strike him as indicating any widespread or acute distress in the district. The general condition of the labourers on one of the large works, also inspected by Mr. Lyall in December, was distinctly good, and the same observation has been made by local officers who have inspected other works. The observation in the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, Circular No. 3-F, dated the 24th January 1896, that "at any time when work is slack, thousands of labourers will be attracted by a Government work on which remunerative employment is offered," appears to the Chief Commissioner to be applicable to a great part of Hoshangabad. Many of the labourers come for a few days, earn a rupee or two, and then return to their homes, and it is probable that a considerable number of those who come on to the works are not actually in need of famine relief, and would not suffer perceptibly if the relief were to be withdrawn. In other cases, more especially where work is provided near the homes of the aborigines, who even when pressed by hunger are most reluctant to leave their villages, the urgent need of relief is very clearly apparent from the low condition of the workers, and any contraction of work would at once result in a great increase of suffering, and probable mortality. The question of relief centres and village relief has been carefully considered for this district, but it has been decided that neither of these measures is as yet necessary. Here as elsewhere, however, village relief will be started in all localities where the circumstances of the bulk of the people are so reduced as to make it impossible for them to support the helpless resident poor.

The prospects of the rabi crop, which covers three-fourths of the whole cropped area, have been improved by the rain of December, but are still far from good. In the rich wheat tract of the western (Harda) tahsil, the out-turn is not estimated by the Deputy Commissioner, who has recently inspected the crops, at more than six annas, and the



prospects elsewhere, except in the central portion of one tahsil (Seoni), are similar. It is noticed, indeed generally, that the rain of December and January has done most good to the later sown crops, while those which were sown early in the hardened soil of October have been much less benefited.

The numbers in receipt of relief, which at the beginning of December were under 8,000, had exceeded 23,000 by the end of that month, and have now reached 36,000. These numbers will doubtless be reduced when the rabi comes to be reaped, and when the mohwa crop gives food to the aboriginal population. A stricter insistence on the performance of an adequate task ought also, in the special circumstances of parts of the district, to tend materially to diminish numbers on some of the works. On the other hand, the Deputy Commissioner anticipates that there will be the usual immigration of labourers from the Satpura districts for the rabi harvest, and that in consequence of the restricted sowings and scanty crops of this year they will find but little employment, and will consequently swell the numbers on Government works. In view of all these considerations, it will be advisable, Mr. Lyall thinks, to make provision for a daily average of, say 25,000 people for the period ending 30th September, giving an aggregate of, say 6,000,000 units for these eight months.

The prices of juar and wheat, which are the staple food grains of this district, have shown frequent though slight fluctuations, but both grains are now a seer per rupee cheaper than they were in the first half of December. The good crop of juari in the Nagpur Division, if it is later on combined with a good rabi harvest in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, should, moreover, materially cheapen both these food grains, and with the facilities of communication which this district possesses there is no reason to fear either insufficiency of food stocks or unduly high prices.

14. The situation and circumstances of the Narsinghpur district are in the main similar to those of Hoshangabad. Here also a scanty autumn crop has followed on three previous poor years, and the poorer classes, who depend largely on the kharif, and who for the last three years have been deprived to a considerable extent of their usual harvest earnings in the spring, are in want of food and work.

The affected area consists of a belt of hill and jungle skirting the northern and southern borders of the district, with a narrow strip on the western border running from north to south. The inhabitants of the villages on the banks of the Nerbudda towards the centre of the district are also said to be feeling the effects of a series of bad years. Even, however, in the richer central plain, there is some degree of distress among the labourers and poorer cultivators, and a keen demand for work. The Deputy Commissioner now considers that the whole district should be regarded as more or less affected by scarcity. The extent of the affected area is thus 1,916 square miles, with a population of 367,000 persons.

A careful and interesting report on the situation and prospects of this district has recently been submitted by the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Younghusband), and I am to submit it, together with the forwarding letter of the Commissioner of the Division, for the information of the Government of India.

The scheme of relief here is similar to that adopted in Hoshangabad, and consists of five road works under the supervision of the Public Works Department, chiefly feeder lines running north and south to the railway. Two of these are in the western and three in the eastern tahsil. Neither in this district nor in Hoshangabad is there any scope for local works. There are three poor-houses, two at the tahsil head quarters, and the other at Chhota-Chhindwara (or Ghotigaon) on the railway line to the east of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reports that he is now organising village house-to-house relief, but he has not yet submitted his detailed proposals. It seems unlikely that relief of this kind will be needed except in isolated localities where the circumstances of the inhabitants have been especially reduced. So far, the dieting of starving wanderers by the police and village mukaddams has been found sufficient. The forest concessions made in Hoshangabad with regard to bamboos, articles manufactured from bamboos, and tree grazing, have been extended to this district also. The condition of the people on the works and in the affected area generally is reported to be normal. Wandering has not begun, and cases of emaciation are, except among the inmates of the poorhouses, rare. From the notes of inspecting officers which have reached him, the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think that the remarks which he has made with regard to a certain proportion of the classes in receipt of relief in Hoshangabad apply here also. Of the large numbers who come on to the works a good many are not yet in actual distress,

and a careful localisation of works in areas actually distressed, and a steady insistence on an adequate task, are no less necessary here than in that district.

The Chief Commissioner has recently visited the Narsinghpur district. His experience is that there is considerably less distress here than in Hoshangabad. He inspected two large works, but did not observe, except in a few cases, any symptoms of previous privation. There are, however, numerous small cultivators on the works both here and in Hoshangabad who, if labour were not provided, would speedily sink into utter destitution. The same remark applies with even greater force to the large bodies of agricultural and other labourers who throng to the works.

The rabi prospects on the restricted area sown, which is now estimated at about half of the normal, have been somewhat improved by the rain of December and January, and are now reported to be fairly good, though recent hailstorms have caused considerable damage locally.

The numbers in receipt of relief have, in this district, risen very rapidly. At the beginning of December the total just reached 1,000; by the end of that month it exceeded 8,000; and the latest returns show over 20,000 in receipt of Government relief.

The Chief Commissioner does not consider that these numbers will be very materially exceeded. Harvest labour may lessen them for a time, and the lower range of prices which a good rabi crop in the North-Western Provinces and Punjab may be expected to bring with it will also tend to relieve distress. There must, however, be a good deal of suffering among the poorer classes, who live in tracts mainly cropped with kharif, until the kodo, kutki and makka are once more reaped in August and September, while even on the rabi area the poor harvests of past years, combined with restricted sowings and a scanty crop in the current year, must continue to cause considerable distress. The Chief Commissioner would therefore be inclined to estimate for a daily average of about 20,000 persons until the end of September, and thinks that provision should be made for say five million units for that period.

Prices here have been steadier than in Hoshangabad: juar now sells at 11½ seers per rupee against 9 seers in the beginning of November, while wheat and gram have remained steady at 9 and 10 seers per rupee for the last six weeks.

15. In the Nimar district there has so far been even less distress than was anticipated. A number of the weavers in the town of Burhanpur have been thrown out of work by the absence of demand for cloth, but this is probably as much due to the fact that the current year is a "*singhast*" year, when no marriages are celebrated, as to any effect of scarcity. Juar, it is true, which is the staple crop of the district, yielded only half of a full outturn, but the crops of the three previous years were above the average, and no distress is reported among the agricultural classes in either the central (Khandwa) or western (Burhanpur) tahsil. In the Harsud or eastern tahsil (till October last a portion of Hoshangabad), where the crops of previous years had been bad, distress was anticipated among the aboriginal tribes, of whom the population largely consists, but a test work which has now been open for some time has failed to attract more than a small number of workers.

It will probably suffice for the present to provide a local relief work at Burhanpur, and to relieve out-of-work weavers (if they can be induced to accept such relief) under Section 105 of the Central Provinces Famine Code: to have a poor-house at Khandwa, and to keep open the test work in the Harsud or eastern tahsil. The police have also been provided with funds for the relief of starving wanderers. The Chief Commissioner visited the Khandwa poor-house on the 1st instant. The persons contained in it, some 60 in number, were almost without exception foreigners from Bhopal, Indore, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and a few from other districts of the Central Provinces; many of them had come as pilgrims to Nasik and Onkar Mandhata, and had spent their funds on the way. He has also seen Burhanpur, where the poor-house was practically empty. So far, no part of this district can be regarded as affected by scarcity, and it will merely be treated as under observation.

16. It was stated in paragraph 4 of my previous letter of December that the Chhindwara district as a whole gave but little cause for serious anxiety, though special measures of relief would be needed for the 1,600 square miles of rugged country on the north known as the Jagirs. Since then prospects in the southern or Sausar tahsil, as well as in all the level portion of the northern tahsil, have been still further improved by the rain of December and January, and the present prospects of the spring crops are said by the people—and Mr. Lyall's personal observation confirms this view—to be excellent. After considering the full and careful reports of the officiating Deputy Commissioner

(Mr. Ryves), a copy of which, with the Chief Commissioner's remarks and orders thereon, is submitted for the information of the Government of India, and after a visit to the district, the Chief Commissioner thinks that the only tracts where Government relief will be necessary are the Jagirs to the north, the Amarwara Pargana immediately bordering on the Jagirs to the east, and a tract of hilly country, also bordering on the Jagirs, to the west. The extent of the affected area, as thus defined, is some 2,000 miles, with a population of 135,000, or one-third of the total population of the district.

The measures of relief proposed for this district fell under two heads (a) relief works proper and (b) the special measures of relief which have been found necessary to meet the peculiar circumstances of the Jagirs. The main relief works for the Jagirs are two roads, running north-west and north-east from Chhindwara respectively, and two large tanks, one paid for from estate funds and carried out as an ordinary work for able-bodied people, and a second which is to be carried out as a famine work on the principles adopted for works executed with the aid of famine loans. All these works are now in progress. Other similar tanks are being arranged for by the Jagirdars themselves. For the tracts south of the Jagirs, local works with the aid of famine loans are to be at once arranged for in the east, while to the west an existing road to Betul is to be improved from district council funds, the work being carried out on famine-code principles.

The partial failure of the mohwa crop of 1896, coupled with the scanty outturn of kodo and kutki last autumn, has already reduced numbers of the resourceless aborigines who inhabit the Jagirs to so great an extent as to make them incapable of work until they have, for a time, been fed and looked after. To provide for such cases the Jagirs have been divided into four relief circles, with 15 relief centres in charge of patwaris and other local officials, where gratuitous relief in kind will be given to those who are unfit for work. The necessity for these arrangements will diminish as those who have been incapacitated by hunger regain their strength, and will probably altogether cease with the ripening of the mohwa crop in March and April, provided, that is, that this crop is a good one. Apart from these special measures for the Jagirs, poor-houses have been established at the head-quarters of the district, and at the chief village of the Amarwara tract to the east and immediately under the Jagirs where distress has declared itself. The Chhindwara poor-house was inspected by Mr. Lyall. Cases of great emaciation were few, and neither the number nor the appearance of the inmates gave reasons for thinking that distress was either acute or widespread. The Government forests in this district had not previously been opened for the extraction of mohwa, edible roots and fruits, but this has now been arranged for. The Jagirs, however, which are mainly forest tracts in the private possession of the Jagirdars, have long been free to the aboriginal races which inhabit them. The relief which the forests afford is chiefly confined, it may be observed, to the hot weather months.

The numbers in receipt of relief in this district have until recently, when relief measures on the Jagirs have been fully organised, risen steadily, but not very rapidly. In the middle of December the total stood at about 1,000; by the 9th of January it was nearly 4,500, while recent returns show a total of more than 11,000. If, however, the mohwa crop yields well, and if the rabi harvests are as good as they now promise to be, they will give food, labour, and considerably cheaper prices. In these circumstances the Chief Commissioner doubts whether provision need be made for more than an average of say 5,000 a day for the next eight months; this, indeed, is an outside estimate, and is equivalent to about one and a quarter million units until the end of September.

The price of juar, the staple food of this district, shows curious fluctuations. Early in November it was selling at 12 seers for the rupee; after the rain of November it sank to 16½ seers, and since then it has been slowly rising, owing chiefly to exportations to the Nerbudda Valley. At present it is selling at 13 seers per rupee. With the fairly good juar crop of the Nagpur Division and Berar, and with cheaper wheat, it is unlikely that prices will go much higher than this. Indeed a somewhat lower price may be fairly anticipated from March or April. In the Southern Tahsil, and in that part of the Northern Tahsil which lies below the hills, there is thus no cause for anxiety as to insufficiency of food supply. In the Jagirs, however, import is well-nigh impracticable during the rains, and if the mohwa crop even partially fails, it may be necessary to adopt special measures for the import of food into these tracts to meet the demand in the monsoon months. The attention of the Commissioner of the division has already been drawn to this matter, and he has been asked to consider it with special reference to the recent instructions of the Government of India on this subject.

17. The circumstances of the Betul district generally resemble those of Chhindwara. In the level country in the east centre, and part of the north of the district, where rabi

crops predominate, there is no perceptible distress, nor with the present good prospects of the spring crops is any scarcity anticipated. In the wide belt of hill and forest country which surrounds the district on all sides except the east, where the population is largely aboriginal and where the people are mainly dependent on kharif crops, which proved in 1896 an almost entire failure, there is already considerable distress. This tract covers an area of 2,389 square miles, with a population of 128,000, or 40 per cent. of the total population of the district. Here, as in Chhindwara, a good mohwa crop will no doubt do much in the way of relief, and good spring crops will give a certain amount of labour both here and in the Nerbudda Valley Districts and in Berar, where numbers of people from Betul are in the habit of going at harvest time. Even allowing for this, however, considerable measures of relief are needed, and here, as in the Jagirs of Chhindwara, a special organisation will be required to provide for those members of the aboriginal population of the hill and jungle country on the northern, western, and southern borders of the district, whom a bad mohwa crop and a deficient autumn harvest in 1896 have made incapable even of the lightest labour. The relief measures so far adopted are three large roads, each under the supervision of the Public Works Department, and radiating from the head-quarters town to the north-west, north-east, and south respectively. These roads pass through the heart of the affected tracts in each direction, and will, it is believed, furnish work for all who need it. An officer with previous famine experience has recently been deputed to arrange the special measures of gratuitous relief which are required for remote tracts. His report is now under consideration, and no time will be lost in organising relief centres on similar lines to those which are being followed in the Chhindwara Jagirs. In some specially circumstanced tracts of the distressed area it will further be advisable to organise village house-to-house relief. There is but slight scope in this district for local works affording suitable employment for family labour, but it is hoped that an allotment from the amount sanctioned for famine loans may be usefully applied here in the construction of tanks, and perhaps for kacha wells also.

Except in the more remote hill and forest villages, where, as in Chhindwara, the failure of the kharif accentuated the distress resulting from a previous scanty yield of mohwa, the condition of the people is at present fairly normal. Some 4,000 workers were recently examined by the civil surgeon, and he reported them, with only two exceptions, to be well nourished. No wandering has yet been reported among residents of the district, and cases of emaciation are rare. In the more remote tracts, however, the general condition is low, and it is necessary that relief centres and village relief should be organised without delay. The Deputy Commissioner is now doing his utmost to effect this. The numbers in receipt of relief increased very slowly during December, when it is probable that the poorer classes were still subsisting on the produce of their scanty autumn crops, and even at the end of that month were still below 2,000. Since that time, however, the total has been going up more rapidly, and at present exceeds 12,000. With a good mohwa crop and with harvest labour in the district itself, the Nerbudda Valley Districts, and in Berar, there should be some decrease in numbers; but, on the other hand, distress among those who are without resources and who have no food supplies, must grow and add to the numbers in need of relief until another autumn crop can be reaped. Provision should therefore be made, the Chief Commissioner thinks, for an average of about 7,000 people, or say for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million units, up to the end of September.

The price of juar, the staple food grain, has slowly but steadily risen since the end of November, and now stands at 10 seers per rupee. The juar crop of the past autumn was, in this district, poor, varying from six to eight annas. Moreover, importation has not yet begun. The Deputy Commissioner anticipates, however, that a good rabi crop will affect the price of this grain also, and that it is not probable that it will rise much higher.

18. Summarising the situation in the Nerbudda Division, it may be said that it is only in Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur that distress is at all general, and even in these districts the chief form in which it shows itself is in a keen demand for remunerative labour. In Chhindwara there is some acute distress in the Jagirs to the north, and the tracts immediately bordering on them, while in Betul some two-fifths of the population of the large hill and forest area are affected by scarcity, which, however, except in the more remote forest villages, is certainly not acute. In Nimar there is at present no distress, except among a few score of weavers in the town of Burhanpur, and among the aboriginal population of the eastern tahsil. The total affected area covers 10,100 square miles, with a population of 1,005,000. On the 23rd January there were 62,276 persons in receipt of Government relief, or 6 per cent. of the population of the

distressed area. It is estimated, that for the period from 1st February to end of September, provision should be made for the relief of 13½ million units.

19. In the Chhattisgarh Division distress is confined, as was shown in my previous letter, to the Raipur and Bilaspur districts. No distress is at present reported from Sambalpur, and it is not probable that any special measures of famine relief will be found necessary there, except perhaps in a small tract in the north-west corner of the district bordering on Bilaspur.

In the Raipur district, such distress as exists has resulted from a failure, except in the Dhamtari or southern tahsil, of the rice crop, which occupies more than two-thirds of the total cropped area of the district, following on a similar failure in the previous year. Prior to 1895-96, the harvests in the districts had, however, been for a series of years uniformly good, so that with a good harvest in the present year the distress should disappear.

The affected area comprises the whole of the Khalsa portion of the district north of the great eastern road, a small tract to the west of the district and south of that road in the southern tahsil, and the nine Zamindaris forming the western boundary of the district from north to south. In no part of this area was the out-turn of the recent rice crop more than four annas, while in many parts it did not exceed two annas. The parts where distress is said to be acute are the north-east corner of the district and a small tract of country to the west of the district in the north of the drug or eastern tahsil. The affected area, as thus stated, covers an area of 4,000 miles, with a population of 710,000, nearly half the total population of the district.

As regards relief measures, the arrangements are still not so complete as the Chief Commissioner would desire to see them, and he has reason to fear that neither the Deputy Commissioner nor the Commissioner has yet acquired that grasp of the situation which is essential to the organisation of a complete and practical scheme of relief. This is the more disappointing, as the Chief Commissioner had, at the conference of November, laid down all the necessary points for their guidance, leaving it to them to work out the arrangements in detail. Some allowance must, no doubt, be made for the large areas and population involved, the difficulty of communications, and the fact that any scarcity on a large scale is a novel feature in the economic history of the district. It must also be remembered that a series of previous good years have left behind them large surplus stocks, and that though the rice crop of 1896 was scanty, it, in most cases, yielded a sufficient out-turn to supply the people with food for two or three months at least. In these circumstances, the question of relief has not the same urgency here as it has in the northern part of the province or in Balaghat, where bad harvests fell on a people already suffering from a succession of unfavourable seasons. Mr. Lyall has, however, now furnished the Deputy Commissioner, in a letter copy of which I am to forward, with detailed instructions as to what he is to do, and it is hoped that arrangements will shortly be completed there on the same precise and practical footing as in other parts of the province.

Meanwhile, the tracts of greatest distress in the north-east and north-west have been provided for by three roads under the supervision of the Public Works Department, and a fourth road is being started for the distressed tract in the southern tahsil. The Deputy Commissioner has also arranged in personal consultation with the Zamindars for relief measures in those areas on the western border. Moreover, extensive arrangements have been made for the grant of land improvement and famine loans, 80,000 rupees having been recently sanctioned for this purpose, in addition to 20,000 rupees previously allotted for ordinary land improvement loans. Finally, registers for those entitled under Section 34 to the Code to gratuitous relief in their homes have been prepared throughout the most distressed area, and five poor-houses have been opened, two at tahsil headquarters in the two northern tahsils, and the three others at large villages in the heart of the most severely distressed tracts.

It is clear, however, that this is not enough. It is probable that relief centres are needed in localities where the conditions have been specially unfavourable, while house-to-house relief in villages which is now being organised will have to be put into operation in all cases where the circumstances of the villages have been so much reduced that they are unable to support their local poor.

The forests in the north-eastern and eastern portions of the district have been opened for the free extraction of mohwa, edible roots, and fruits, and rates on grass, firewood and building wood have been materially lowered for the poorer classes. Similar concessions will be made elsewhere as soon as they are reported to be necessary.

The Deputy Commissioner has also been given discretion to suspend the kharif instalment of land revenue up to a limit of two lakhs of rupees within the affected area.

So far, the numbers that have resorted to the relief works show no indication of widespread distress, nor do they even show that there is a keen demand for labour at a famine wage. During December they did not exceed 3,000, and, according to the latest returns, the total number falls short of 11,000. The scanty crops of last autumn are now, however, being rapidly consumed, and in the greater part of the district there are no forests to give relief, nor is harvest labour available except to a very moderate extent. On the other hand, however, until a year ago harvests have been unusually good; the settlement is a very light one, falling at about six annas per acre, and the profits of rice cultivation must, in past years, have been very considerable. There are numbers of malguzars, and even of tenants, who will be ready and willing to use the cheap labour now available in carrying out works of improvement, especially irrigation tanks, and there are numbers more who will gladly carry out such works with the aid of famine loans. The Chief Commissioner has, on several previous occasions, pointed out that this is the most useful form that famine relief-work can take in Chhattisgarh, and it is on these works that he wishes the Deputy Commissioner chiefly to rely. This fact, however, and the absence of detailed or reliable information as to stocks in distressed areas, make it peculiarly difficult to form an estimate of the numbers who are likely to stand in need of direct Government relief during the next eight months in Raipur, and any such estimate must be almost entirely largely conjectural. From such information as is before him, the Chief Commissioner considers a daily average of 20,000 to be a probably not unduly low estimate. This would necessitate provision being made for, say, 4½ million units up to the end of September.

So far, the classes who frequent the works are labourers and petty agriculturists. Throughout Chhattisgarh, where the smaller cultivators depend entirely on rice, it is their regular custom to leave their villages in search of work as soon as their rice crop has been reaped, and to return again to their homes in June. The presence of men of this class on the works is therefore no symptom of special distress. The general condition of the people is reported to be fairly normal, and cases of wandering owing to want have not yet been reported.

The course of prices also gives no apparent ground for anxiety. The price of wheat and rice has remained almost steadily at 10 seers per rupee since the beginning of November, and a good rabi harvest will no doubt tend to cheapen both grains. Stocks, with certain local exceptions, are believed to be sufficient, and communications throughout the affected area are good. There is thus no reason to fear any insufficiency of food supply.

As regards the prospects of the rabi, it is stated that not more than one-fourth to one-third of the normal rabi area has been sown, the loss being chiefly in "utera" or spring crops sown broadcast in rice fields after the rice has been cut. What was sown has germinated well, and prospects are at present favourable. The outturn of the rabi cannot however, except by contributing to lower prices, perceptibly affect the general situation, and distress must continue until a good autumn crop brings general relief.

20. In Bilaspur more than four-fifths of the total kharif area and about half the total cropped area of the district is under rice. The outturn of this crop has been tested by a large number of crop experiments made in all parts of the districts. These give an average of about four annas for the whole district, the western or Mungeli Tahsil showing the most unfavourable results, with an average of little more than three annas. In the central or Bilaspur Tahsil the outturn averaged over four annas, while in the eastern or Janjgir Tahsil it was above five annas. It may be mentioned that the rice crop varied in the same way in 1895-96, it being worst in the western tahsil, and best in the eastern, the Bilaspur Tahsil holding a place midway between the two. Previous to 1895-96 harvests throughout the district had for some years, as has been noticed in Raipur also, been exceptionally good. The part now chiefly affected by scarcity is, as might be expected from the above facts, the western or Mungeli Tahsil, especially in its northern and western half. In the Zamindaris bordering on it the situation is similar. There is also distress in the north-west of the Bilaspur or central tahsil, and in the part of that tahsil south of the Sheonath river and bordering on the Raipur District. The eastern tahsil is not, as a whole, severely affected, though there are villages in it where some distress is reported. The Deputy Commissioner accordingly thinks that the whole district, with an area of 8,341 square miles, and a population of 1,164,000 persons, should be regarded as affected by scarcity.

In the full and interesting report on the situation which the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Cooke) has submitted, and a copy of which, with the Chief Commissioner's orders on it, is forwarded for the information of the Government of India, he points out that rice cultivation, in good years, is particularly profitable; that large stocks have been laid up in previous prosperous times, and that the people have, so far, by no means exhausted their resources. In his recent tour through the affected tracts he observed no cases of wandering as a consequence of distress, nor did he come across any cases of emaciation in villages. Here, as in Raipur, migration in search of work in the spring and summer months is a regular custom of the smaller cultivators. The Deputy Commissioner met many such groups of migrants, but in no case did they wish to go on relief-works, or show the slightest sign of distress. Test works opened in November failed to attract labourers. It is only in the present month that two large road works under the Public Works Department have been opened in the distressed tahsils, and that poor-houses, supported by Government funds, have been found necessary.

For the relief of the cultivating classes, the Deputy Commissioner has been authorised to suspend up to one-third of the current kharif instalment of land revenue throughout the affected area.

In the large zamindari estate of Pandaria in the north-west, which is under Government management, relief-works were started in November, but the numbers who have hitherto availed themselves of them have been small, though they are now growing larger. It is probable that when the scanty rice crop has been consumed and now that field labour in rice harvesting is no longer available, distress in this district may increase, but there is no reason to suppose that it will at any time be acute, except in detached localities where the agricultural conditions have been specially unfavourable. It is to ascertaining and arranging for such localities that the chief attention of the Deputy Commissioner, and the Covenanted Assistant, who has, since the beginning of December, been placed on special duty in this district in connection with the scarcity, must be directed, and the Chief Commissioner believes that the local officers fully understand what is needed in this matter.

As was pointed out in my former letter, our main reliance in Bilaspur, as in Raipur, must be placed on small works, chiefly irrigation tanks, carried out by malguzars and the better class of tenants, either with their own funds or, in the more distressed tracts, with the aid of famine loans. The Deputy Commissioner reports that numerous such works are now in progress, and that both he and the Assistant Commissioner on special duty are arranging for many more. He adds that the cultivating classes have taken to heart the lesson which the premature cessation of the monsoon rains in the past two years might have been expected to teach them, and that they are now eager to carry out these irrigation works, the value of which has been so fully proved by recent experience. There can, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, be no more useful form of famine labour than such works afford, and if they can be made sufficiently numerous to provide labour for all who need it, they would be much preferable to road works. These latter can be much more cheaply and effectively done in ordinary times; they take the people away from their homes and do not effect that insurance against future scarcity which the construction of irrigation tanks secures. The local officers will therefore be instructed, as has, indeed, already been done, to do all they can to encourage malguzars and tenants to execute such works. A grant of 70,000 rupees from famine loans, in addition to 20,000 rupees for land improvement loans granted in November last, has recently been made in Bilaspur, and it is believed that this can be usefully distributed before the end of the year.

As regards the numbers who will need Government relief, it is hoped, in view of the circumstances which have just been stated, that the need for large works will not be great. For an estimate of numbers to be made with any approach to accuracy more experience is necessary than is yet available in Bilaspur, but the Chief Commissioner considers that, to take a high limit, more than a daily average of 10,000 will not need Government relief, and that if provision be made for two million units up to the end of September it will be sufficient. Such an estimate, however, is obviously almost entirely conjectural, and the actual number on large works must chiefly depend on the number of local works which can be arranged for.

The price of rice, the staple food in this district, which stood at nine seers for the rupee in the beginning of November, fell to 11 seers at the end of December, and remained at that price until the middle of January. These prices led to considerable exports, which have recently had the effect of hardening prices, the most recent returns again showing only nine seers for the rupee. Exports will thus be checked, and the Deputy Commissioner



does not anticipate any further rise. Indeed it is not improbable that a good wheat-crop in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab may cause a slight fall.

21. The situation in the Division may be summarised by saying that there is some measure of distress in the northern half of Raipur and in the western zamindaris of that district; also in the greater portion of Bilaspur, especially in the west and north and in a small tract to the south. The affected area covers 12,341 square miles, and has a population of 1,874,000, of which  $6\frac{1}{2}$  million units may be estimated as likely to need Government relief to the end of September. On the 23rd January there were 13,162 persons in receipt of Government relief, or only 7 per cent. of the population of the affected area.

In consequence of previous good years and large food stocks, there is as yet, so far as is known, no very acute distress in these two districts, and it is hoped that by giving timely work in sufficiently numerous places, the occurrence of any such distress may be entirely avoided. In both these districts our chief reliance must, as has already been stated, be placed on local works, chiefly irrigation tanks.

22. Reviewing the situation in the province as a whole, it may be stated that the affected area covers 45,000 square miles with a population of six million persons. There were on the 23rd January in this area 246,000 persons, or 4 per cent. of the population of the affected tracts, in receipt of Government relief, and it is estimated that from the beginning of the current month until the end of September relief will be required for 61 million units.

There is acute and general distress in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, with the exception of the southern half of Seoni, and also in Balaghat in the Nagpur Division. Here distress must continue until well on in the autumn. In the wild forest and hill country of Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, and Betul there is also severe distress among the aboriginal tribes. This will, however, diminish with a good mohwa crop and will certainly not become more severe. Next to these, as regards the degree of general distress, may be placed the level portions of the Nerbudda valley districts of Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur and the northern half of Bhandara in the Nagpur Division. Throughout this area scarcity is certainly being felt, but, so far, this chiefly shows itself in a keen demand for labour, and in some suffering among the infirm and the aged who cannot, as in ordinary times, depend upon the charity of those who are better off. Here large relief-works combined with poor-houses and some measure of village relief will, however, it is hoped, do all that is needed until October to prevent further suffering and to relieve such as now exists.

Further, in Raipur and Bilaspur—and circumstances are similar in a small part of Nagpur—there is a certain degree of scarcity, but, so far, the people have been chiefly living on their autumn crops or on the wages of local labour, and Government relief has scarcely been called for. The necessity for some measure of Government relief has now, however, begun, but it is hoped that the large number of local works of improvement which are to be carried out either from private funds or with the aid of famine loans will in nearly all parts meet such distress as exists, and prevent it from increasing.

The province may thus be divided into :—

- (a) Tracts where distress is general and severe (Jubbulpore Division, except the Seoni Tahsil in the district of the same name, Balaghat, and parts of Hoshangabad, Chhindwara and Betul). Area 25,891 square miles with a population of, say, 2,951,000.
- (b) Tracts considerably affected by scarcity with a general demand for labour at a famine wage, but where there is little or no distress except among the aged or infirm who are at all times unable to work (the greater part of Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur and the north of Bhandara). Area 7,621 square miles with a population of 1,187,000.
- (c) Tracts where the staple crop has failed, and where, now that present stocks are exhausted, scarcity is beginning to be felt (Raipur and Bilaspur, a small detached area on the east of Chanda, and part of Nagpur). Area 20,797 square miles with a population of 2,876,000.
- (d) Tracts at present unaffected by scarcity (Wardha, the east of Chanda, the south of Bhandara, the greater part of Nagpur, the south of Chhindwara and Seoni, part of Betul, Nimar and Sambalpur). Area, 32,297 square miles with a population of 3,770,000.



23. As regards the duration of the distress in these provinces, the Chief Commissioner is unable to add anything to what was said in paragraph 9 of my letter No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896. The most important immediate factor in determining the future development and extent of distress is the outturn of the spring crops, not only in the Central Provinces, but throughout India. As regards these provinces, it will be observed that the tabular statement embodied in paragraph 2 of this letter gives the rabi area of the current year as 40 per cent. below the normal, while in some of the richest rabi districts, notably in Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur, the prospects of the crop are far from good. There has, the Chief Commissioner understands, been a similar, though, owing to irrigation, a less marked curtailment of the rabi area in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, and however good the crops on the areas sown may be, they cannot, looking at the great depletion of stocks which has been caused by a series of bad years, and by the recent scanty autumn harvest, suffice to lower prices to the normal level, or to give even that ordinary measure of relief to the poorer classes which is afforded by harvest labour, and by the savings which are possible from liberal harvest wages. There will doubtless, as has already been indicated in detail, be some decrease at harvest time in the numbers of relief workers, while the mohwa crop, provided it is a good one, will attract large numbers to the forests until the monsoon breaks. But such diminished harvest wages as are earned will soon be exhausted, while the advent of the rains will drive the people back from the jungles into poor-houses or on to works. While, therefore, some measure of decrease in numbers may be estimated from March to the end of May, Mr. Lyall anticipates that in the beginning of June, numbers will again rise at least to their present figure, if not above it, and that these numbers will, even after making all due allowance for the demand for agricultural labour during the monsoon months, remain at about that figure until the early autumn crops can be reaped in late August and September. He is therefore arranging to provide relief for at least a daily average of 200,000 persons up to the end of September. The development of events after September depends on the character of the monsoon rains, and it would be useless to attempt any prediction on this point, until the character of the rains is known.

24. In paragraph 13 of my letter of the 16th December, the Chief Commissioner indicated the general lines on which he proposed to organise famine relief in the affected tracts. In my present letter the actual arrangements which have so far been made in each district have been shown in some detail. The experience which has now been gained tends to show that the organisation of famine relief, must, if it is to be effective, be made with strict reference to local conditions, and to the previous agricultural history of each distressed tract. Where distress is acute, and where previous bad years have exhausted resources, numerous large works under the Public Works Department, combined with poor-houses and rural relief centres for wanderers, and those temporarily unfit for labour, and with village house-to-house relief for those who are chronically helpless, have proved necessary. In less distressed tracts, the provision of work for all who need it, combined with orders to the police and mukaddams to forward wanderers to the nearest work or poor-house, has been found sufficient, while in remote parts of the province, consisting of inaccessible hill and forest, and largely inhabited by aborigines, whom only absolute want will induce to leave their homes, it has been found advisable to provide gratuitous relief and light labour at convenient and fairly numerous centres close to their homes. Finally, in tracts like Chhattisgarh, where distress is more or less localised to villages or groups of villages, a system of local works with a few larger works, combined with village relief in the more distressed areas, is found to be most suitable.

In paragraph 3 of your letter No. 111—F., dated the 4th January 1897, it was observed that the Chief Commissioner did not consider that the distress, when he wrote on the 16th December, was as yet sufficiently acute to necessitate the organisation of relief circles and village-to-village inspection; and it was pointed out that the great rise in price of food-grains, combined with the exhaustion of resources in several districts owing to a succession of bad seasons, might make this form of relief necessary at an earlier stage than would otherwise have been the case. In this connection, the Chief Commissioner desires, however, to point out that the question of arranging for village relief had by no means been overlooked by him, and that in Revenue Department circular letter No. 4526—4528, dated the 20th November 1896, a set of detailed rules directing the preparation of village registers under Section 34 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, and ordering the opening of relief centres wherever such method of relief might seem to be necessary, was circulated to all Deputy Commissioners. Under Section 35 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, however, it rests with Commissioners of

Divisions to decide when it may be needful to start village relief, and the Chief Commissioner did not think it advisable at that early stage to interfere with this discretion. The question was, however, fully considered during November and December for all districts, and registers under Section 34 were prepared during these months for all distressed parts of the province. It is only, however, in the Jubbulpore Division, where distress is far more acute and general than elsewhere, that it has been found necessary to organise this form of relief throughout the affected areas.

The largely increasing numbers of famine-stricken people in poor-houses, and the consideration of the difficulty there must be in returning them to their homes when the famine is over, have, however, recently led the Chief Commissioner to give special attention to the proper place of village and poor-house relief respectively in a comprehensive famine scheme. His views on the subject coincide to a large extent with those expressed by Sir A. MacDonnell in a circular which was forwarded to the Chief Commissioner with your letter No. 7—32-2, dated the 18th January 1897. Mr. Lyall thinks, however, that some provision for dependents on all famine works is essential to effective relief, and that it is neither humane nor economical to take such people away from relatives or friends on the works and return them to their villages. He further thinks that those who have no real homes to go to, such as the beggars who infest bazaars and railway centres, can best be provided for in the poor-house, which is also the only place where emaciated wanderers from Native States or from distant parts of India can find a home until they are strong enough for work. For these reasons he is unable to accept, in its entirety, Sir A. MacDonnell's conclusion that famine relief can be reduced to two branches—relief works and village relief. Mr. Lyall's views on the subject are given in the following extract from my letter, No. C-229, dated the 2nd February 1897, to the address of the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh :—

The high death-rates in some parts of the district which are given in paragraph 12 of Deputy Commissioner's letter appear to indicate with some certainty that, though the general condition of the people may be fairly normal, there are in some parts numerous cases of real distress and destitution which call for special measures of relief. The form of relief which best meets these conditions is village relief, as prescribed by Section 34 of the Famine Code. Timely help, if given to the classes of people referred to in that section, in their homes, prevents wandering and consequent death; assures the recipients of such comfort as their homes afford; and, above all, brings home to the residents, in a way that no other methods of relief can, the responsibility of each village for the maintenance of its own poor. If such people are allowed to wander off to poor-houses it will be extremely difficult, when distress ceases and good times return, to send them back to their villages and to enforce on the residents the duty of supporting them. On the other hand, if they are, from the commencement, retained and relieved in their villages, the better off residents will, when Government relief is withdrawn, be in nearly every case ready and willing to support these poor people as they had done previous to distress setting in. The duty of supporting their poorer neighbours so long as they have the means is one which is fully admitted by all natives of India, and it is the greatest mistake for Government to do anything, except under the compulsion of circumstances, to weaken this idea. It will not, however, probably be necessary to organize village relief throughout the whole of the Bilaspur District. Judging from the Deputy Commissioner's account of the present circumstances of his district, there must be many parts where the duty of relieving the village poor can be safely left, as it has hitherto been, in the hands of the residents. But in all localities where the death-rate during the last few months has been high, or where local officers report any cases of wandering from village to village, or of emaciation observable in villages, house-to-house relief under Section 34 of the Code should at once be organised. The aim of a complete system of famine relief is to provide, for all able to labour, sufficient work, at a wage large enough to keep them in health. On these works provision is also made for such helpless people as are dependent on the workers, and cannot be properly looked after except by members of the family to which they belong. As regards all other people whom age or illness has rendered permanently helpless, arrangements are to be made for relieving them in their homes. "Poor-houses should be reserved for starving immigrants and wanderers. Even these should, unless age, or blindness, or physical infirmity, has made them permanently incapable of work, be sent to relief-works as soon as a proper and adequate diet has given them sufficient strength. The permanent population of a poor-house should be limited to chronically helpless people who have no home to go to."

25. The question of the funds required for expenditure on famine relief up to the end of March, which was referred to in paragraph 14 of my letter of December, is being separately dealt with, but the Chief Commissioner desires to take this occasion of pointing out the great difficulty—a difficulty which was referred to at the close of paragraphs 10 and 12 of the letter just referred to—of making any estimates of probable expenditure until relief measures have been organised in all distressed areas, and until they have been in actual operation for some time. As an illustration of this difficulty, I am to instance the case of the Jubbulpore Division, where there had been some previous experience of local scarcity, and where the Commissioner (Mr. Anderson), a particularly careful officer, had been for some years in charge of the division, and was intimately acquainted with all its circumstances and local history. I am to give below his estimate, submitted last November, of the numbers of persons which he and his Deputy Commissioners, three of whom were also experienced officers with a detailed knowledge of their districts, thought would be likely to be in need of relief during the four months succeeding the submission of their reports:—

Jubbulpore	-	-	-	-	-	17,300
Saugor	-	-	-	-	-	12,500
Damoh	-	-	-	-	-	7,200
Seoni	-	-	-	-	-	3,750
Mandla	-	-	-	-	-	10,250
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>51,000</u>

The actual numbers in receipt of relief considerably exceeded this even by the beginning of January, and on the 30th January, the latest date for which complete figures are available, these numbers were as follows:—

Jubbulpore	-	-	-	-	-	99,956
Saugor	-	-	-	-	-	42,173
Damoh	-	-	-	-	-	25,840
Seoni	-	-	-	-	-	7,244
Mandla	-	-	-	-	-	17,394
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>192,607</u>

That is, by the end of last month, numbers had risen to nearly four times the figures estimated for in November, and it is certain that they must remain very much above the estimated figure for some time to come.

It is true that the numbers in receipt of Government relief in the three northern districts of this division, and especially in Jubbulpore, have been very largely swelled by the influx of immigrants from Native States; but a consideration of the figures for the Nerbudda Division, where this cause has operated to a much less extent, will further prove how useless prediction is, unless based on actual experience. Here also careful estimates based on local figures were submitted at the end of October. The average numbers which it was supposed would need relief were given as follows. The numbers actually in receipt of relief on 30th January are added for comparison:—

	Estimated.	Actual.
Hoshangabad	12,800	35,781
Narsinghpur	9,300	22,801
Nimar	2,500	953
Chhindwara	8,000	9,094
Betul	3,500	12,627
Total	<u>36,100</u>	<u>81,256</u>

It was thus only in Nimar that numbers were under-estimated, while in Hoshangabad the actual numbers are three times the estimate, and in Betul nearly four times.

The Chief Commissioner does not ascribe these very large discrepancies between facts and forecasts to any want of care or local knowledge on the part of the officers who made the estimates. The result is, indeed, only what must be anticipated in a province where there had been no previous experience of a widespread famine or of an extensive system of famine relief. It was for this reason that Mr. Lyall refrained in his report of December from making any estimate of the numbers likely to need relief until he had some reliable data to go upon. The actual statistics of relief which are now submitted each week from the distressed districts have given some data for such an estimate, and in my Circular Letter, No. 5123, dated the 30th December 1896, copy of which I am to submit for the information of the Government of India, further data were called for, which will, the Chief Commissioner trusts, enable him to forecast his probable requirements for that year with some approach to trustworthiness.

But in view of the figures which have been given above, the Government of India will understand that the estimate given in the letter of December, of 15 lakhs of rupees as sufficient to provide relief up to the end of March has proved altogether inadequate, and an application for a further grant of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs is now being made.

26. With reference to paragraphs 6 and 7 of your letter, No. 111-F., dated the 4th January 1897, in which a grant of five lakhs of rupees was made for the purpose of famine loans in these Provinces, I am to append copy of a letter No. C-109—112, dated the 17th January 1897, which was addressed to all Commissioners of Divisions on receipt on the 16th January, of the final orders of the Government of India regarding these loans. The form of agreement appended to that letter has been legalised by a Notification under Section 10 of the Land Improvement Loans Act, and allotments to divisions have been made as follows:—

	Rs.
Nagpur - - - - -	1,50,000
Jubbulpore - - - - -	1,45,000
Nerbudda - - - - -	20,000
Chhattisgarh - - - - -	1,50,000
Total - - - - -	<u>4,65,000</u>

The remaining 35,000 rupees will, it is anticipated, be needed in Chhattisgarh. In a recent letter to the Government of India, No. C-138, dated the 20th January 1897, the Chief Commissioner has pointed out the necessity, in addition to these special famine loans, of granting land improvement loans on ordinary terms in tracts which are under observation, but where there is as yet no general or severe distress. The grant of such loans on a fairly liberal scale is, Mr. Lyall thinks, essential if a large additional expenditure on direct famine relief is to be avoided. In the same letter stress was also laid on the necessity of similar advances for seed grain under the Agriculturists Loans Act, and more recently the Chief Commissioner has been obliged to ask (and has received) telegraphic sanction to a special grant of three lakhs during the current year for seed advances in Balaghat and Chhattisgarh. Mr. Lyall is confident that even if there should hereafter be short recoveries on such loans, or failure in particular cases to pay interest, such losses will be more than made up by the more rapid recovery of normal prosperity which the grant of the loans will secure.

27. Regarding the suspension of land revenue referred to in paragraph 15 of my letter of December last, a separate and full report will shortly be submitted as soon as the applications from all districts have been dealt with. Meanwhile, the appended Table B. shows the amounts suspended or remitted in the several Districts of the Province up to the date of this letter.

I have, &c.  
H. H. PRIEST,  
Chief Secretary.

TABLE A.

	NAGPUR DIVISION.									JUBBULPORE DIVISION.														
	NAGPUR.			BHANDARA.			BALAGHAT.			JUBBULPORE.			SAUGOR.			DAMOH.			SEONI.			MANDLA.		
	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December 5th	4,909	585	5,494	4,323	293	4,616	4,752	588	5,340	9,146	3,683	12,829	845	1,252	2,097	287	1,383	1,620	722	137	859	5,373	180	5,553
" 12th	4,700	585	5,284	5,054	59	5,113	4,754	559	5,313	11,203	4,004	15,207	2,157	1,028	3,185	411	530	941	1,893	176	2,069	7,138	150	7,283
" 19th	3,310	2,300	5,610	7,109	524	7,633	5,100	426	5,526	23,230	4,921	28,151	11,740	1,389	13,129	5,087	837	5,924	1,893	176	2,069	8,000	180	8,180
" 26th	4,017	1,164	5,181	6,262	719	6,972	4,758	559	5,317	36,809	5,777	42,577	15,130	1,236	16,366	7,500	850	8,350	3,497	307	3,804	7,782	169	7,951
January 2nd	3,288	920	4,208	7,100	524	7,633	4,909	823	5,732	51,521	7,129	58,650	24,509	3,110	27,619	11,057	1,315	12,372	6,107	480	6,587	7,600	207	7,810
" 9th	2,102	810	2,912	9,744	1,173	10,917	4,005	653	4,658	53,951	11,959	65,910	22,512	3,905	26,507	14,632	1,681	16,313	5,898	511	6,409	13,974	374	14,448
" 16th	2,255	1,068	3,323	7,129	1,211	8,340	5,130	949	6,079	64,764	13,324	78,088	21,330	5,905	27,235	13,195	1,665	14,860	3,871	474	4,345	14,306	369	14,765
" 23rd	1,662	877	2,539	6,760	1,162	7,922	4,003	1,330	5,423	79,175	13,373	92,548	24,345	7,327	31,672	17,894	2,466	20,360	5,566	553	6,119	12,021	257	12,278
" 30th	1,312	830	2,142	9,118	1,448	10,566	3,535	1,662	5,197	84,763	7,027	92,390	26,960	9,616	36,585	18,923	2,595	21,518	6,364	546	6,910	14,260	772	15,032

TABLE A.—continued.

	NERBUDDA DIVISION.															CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.						WHOLE PROVINCE.		
	HOSHANGABAD.			NARSINGHPUR.			NIMAR.			CHHINDWARA.			BETUL.			RAIPUR.			BILASPUR.					
	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December 5th -	7,069	717	7,786	550	494	1,044	439	-	430	1,086	90	1,176	1,713	66	1,779	2,090	75	2,165	-	175	175	43,254	9,718	52,972
12th -	630	230	860	650	512	1,162	310	152	462	517	90	607	1,713	-	1,713	2,179	161	2,340	-	191	191	43,313	8,427	51,740
" 19th -	13,030	1,404	14,434	1,148	619	1,767	547	209	756	928	175	1,103	1,073	-	1,073	3,240	639	3,879	-	232	232	85,543	14,031	99,574
" 26th -	21,256	2,088	23,344	3,577	789	4,366	352	123	475	2,561	290	2,851	1,837	-	1,837	5,102	1,109	6,211	-	392	392	120,431	15,563	135,994
January 2nd -	20,278	2,350	22,628	7,333	1,397	8,730	568	303	861	2,392	513	2,805	2,935	-	2,935	8,564	2,082	10,646	360	381	741	158,429	21,534	179,963
" 9th -	22,345	3,183	25,528	9,615	1,526	11,141	438	229	667	3,765	648	4,413	4,601	112	4,713	6,483	858	7,341	2,583	824	3,407	174,848	28,536	203,384
" 16th -	24,363	5,238	29,601	12,487	1,816	14,303	680	268	948	4,387	1,098	5,485	6,118	548	6,066	6,084	821	6,905	2,072	1,090	4,062	189,161	35,844	225,005
" 23rd -	27,140	5,735	32,875	14,451	1,891	16,342	452	273	725	3,436	1,337	4,773	6,810	751	7,561	6,319	1,034	7,353	4,483	1,326	5,809	206,210	30,692	236,902

TABLE B.

SUSPENSIONS of Kharif Land Revenue Instalment sanctioned up to  
February 10th, 1897.

No.	DISTRICT.	Demand on account of Kharif Land Revenue Instalment.	AMOUNT.			Balance.
			Suspended.	Remitted.		
		<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	
1	Balaghat - - -	98,112 12 7	98,112 12 7	—	—	
2	Jubbulpore - - -	3,31,650 - -	2,63,391 - -	- - -	68,259 - -	
3	Saugor - - -	1,77,177 - -	1,12,736 - -	- - -	64,441 - -	
4	Damoh - - -	1,47,812 - -	- - -	1,47,812 - -	—	
5	Seoni - - -	56,491 - -	41,558 2 -	- - -	14,932 14 -	
6	Mandla - - -	52,785 - -	33,261 - -	- - -	19,524 - -	
7	Hoshangabad - - -	1,00,008 - -	66,869 - -	- - -	33,139 - -	
8	Raipur - - -	4,22,712 11 2	2,00,000 - -	- - -	2,22,712 11 2	
9	Bilaspur - - -	2,87,185 3 5	80,000 - -	- - -	2,07,185 3 5	
	TOTAL - - -	16,73,933 11 2	8,95,927 14 7	1,47,812 - -	6,30,193 12 7	

TABLE A.—continued.

—	NERBUDDA DIVISION.															CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.						WHOLE PROVINCE.		
	HOSHANGABAD.			NARSINGHPUR.			NIMAR.			CHHINDWARA.			BETUL.			RAIPUR.			BILASPUR.					
	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gra-tuitous.	Total.
December 5th -	7,069	717	7,786	559	494	1,044	439	-	439	1,086	90	1,176	1,713	66	1,779	2,090	75	2,165	-	175	175	43,254	9,718	52,972
12th -	630	230	860	650	512	1,162	310	152	462	517	90	607	1,713	-	1,713	2,179	161	2,340	-	191	191	43,313	8,427	51,740
" 19th -	13,039	1,404	14,443	1,148	619	1,767	547	209	756	928	175	1,103	1,073	-	1,073	3,240	639	3,879	-	232	232	85,543	14,031	99,574
" 26th -	21,256	2,088	23,344	3,577	789	4,366	352	123	475	2,561	290	2,851	1,837	-	1,837	5,102	1,109	6,211	-	392	392	120,431	15,563	135,994
January 2nd -	20,278	2,350	22,628	7,333	1,397	8,730	558	303	861	2,292	513	2,805	2,935	-	2,935	8,564	2,082	10,646	360	361	741	158,429	21,534	179,963
" 9th -	22,345	3,183	25,528	9,615	1,526	11,141	438	229	667	3,765	648	4,413	4,601	112	4,719	6,483	858	7,341	2,588	824	3,407	174,848	28,536	203,384
" 16th -	24,363	5,238	29,601	12,487	1,816	14,303	680	268	948	4,387	1,098	5,485	6,118	548	6,666	6,084	821	6,905	2,972	1,090	4,062	189,161	35,844	225,005
" 23rd -	27,140	5,735	32,875	14,451	1,801	16,342	452	273	725	3,486	1,337	4,773	6,810	751	7,501	6,319	1,034	7,353	4,483	1,320	5,809	206,210	39,692	245,902



TABLE B.

SUSPENSIONS of Kharif Land Revenue Instalment sanctioned up to  
February 10th, 1897.

No.	DISTRICT.	Demand on account of Kharif Land Revenue Instalment.	AMOUNT.			Balance.
			Suspended.	Remitted.		
		<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>
1	Balaghat - - -	98,112 12 7	98,112 12 7	—	—	—
2	Jubbulpore - - -	3,31,650 - -	2,63,391 - -	- - -	68,259 - -	- - -
3	Saugor - - -	1,77,177 - -	1,12,736 - -	- - -	64,441 - -	- - -
4	Damoh - - -	1,47,812 - -	- - -	1,47,812 - -	—	- - -
5	Seoni - - -	56,491 - -	41,558 2 -	- - -	14,932 14 -	- - -
6	Mandla - - -	52,785 - -	33,261 - -	- - -	19,524 - -	- - -
7	Hoshangabad - - -	1,00,008 - -	66,869 - -	- - -	33,139 - -	- - -
8	Raipur - - -	4,22,712 11 2	2,00,000 - -	- - -	2,22,712 11 2	- - -
9	Bilaspur - - -	2,87,185 3 5	80,000 - -	- - -	2,07,185 3 5	- - -
	TOTAL - - -	16,73,933 11 2	8,95,927 14 7	1,47,812 - -	6,30,193 12 7	- - -

## NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE, No. 4000 S., dated October 26, 1896.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the Resolution \* of this Government, No. 3945 S.—1-58, dated 20th October 1896, and in doing so to call special attention to paragraph 19 of that Resolution. In connection with the remarks therein having reference to the Sunday wage, I am to ask whether the Government of India will give the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner discretion to withhold the Sunday wage when circumstances seem to him to render such a step advisable.

---

No. 2187—5-42, dated Calcutta, November 24, 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4000 S., dated 26th October 1896, with which you forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a Resolution, dated the 20th idem, on the recent famine operations in the North-Western Provinces, and ask that discretion may be given to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner to withhold the Sunday wage when circumstances seem to him to render such a step advisable.

2. The Governor General in Council has perused with the greatest interest the valuable and instructive Resolution which accompanied your letter. He fully recognises the admirable work that has been done; he desires to express his obligations to Sir Antony MacDonnell and to all who have worked under him for the efficiency combined with economy with which the operations have been conducted; and he cordially endorses all that the Lieutenant-Governor has said in praise of those officers who bore the brunt of the burden. He proposes, however, to defer any discussion of the results which have been arrived at until famine operations have been finally closed in the North-Western Provinces.

3. On two points only do the orders of the Government of India appear to be required at present. In paragraph 2 of the memorandum which accompanied my letter No. 1146—24-1 of 5th August 1895, the North-Western Provinces Government was requested to substitute for the rule contained in paragraph 78 of its draft Famine Code, which neglected, in the adjustment of the relief wage, variations in the price of grain not amounting to 10 per cent., a ready-reckoner based upon that attached to the Punjab Code, which showed the actual variations which should be taken into account, and the changes in wages which would result from them. His Honour now proposes to revert to the old rule that no change in wages should be made when prices vary by less than 10 per cent., and to add to it a new rule that no such change should ordinarily be made save with the previous sanction of the Commissioner. The Government of India approve of these proposals.

4. The second point is the Sunday wage, which the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to discontinue on the ground that its payment leads to abuses, and that the labourers earn

during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day. It must not be overlooked that the change, of which approval has been conveyed in the preceding paragraph, permits of a possible reduction of 9 per cent. in the effective value of the daily wage; and the Government of India view with some apprehension a further reduction of one-seventh in its amount. The scale of relief has designedly been reduced to what was believed to be the lowest safe point, and has indeed been attacked in more than one Province as already insufficient; and they are not satisfied that it will be wise to render possible its diminution by nearly one-quarter of its total amount. They fully appreciate the practical inconvenience of the present rule, and agree with His Honour that it would be well to alter it. But they are inclined to think that the abolition of the Sunday wage should be accompanied by a corresponding increase in the dietary scale upon which the week-day wage is calculated, so as to leave the total for the week unaltered. I am therefore to request that the matter may receive further consideration.

---

No. 2412.—5-51, dated Calcutta, December 10, 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE, to the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, SCARCITY DEPARTMENT, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

I AM directed to convey the acknowledgments of the Governor General in Council for the admirable survey of famine prospects in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, which is contained in your letter,\* No. 196—S-73, of the 23rd November 1896. The letter calls for no orders; but I am to address you upon a point connected with the remarks in its 20th paragraph regarding the utilisation of village relief works in famine operations, about which the Government of India feel some uncertainty.

2. I am to ask that they may be favoured with an explanation as to whether, and if so, in what manner, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has applied, in the case of village relief works, the famine tests of task and wage which are prescribed by the Famine Code. They understand that work done in this manner costs less than any other form of relief; but this does not necessarily involve that more people are relieved by a given expenditure; and they are uncertain how, in the absence of a strict labour test, which it must apparently be almost impossible to enforce, it is possible to ensure that the money is spent in extending relief only to those who are really in need of it.

3. I am to explain that the Governor General in Council is aware how fully Sir Antony MacDonnell is alive to the importance of this point. He realises, moreover, that work which is paid for in part by the landlords may well be a less expensive form of relief than work which is done wholly at Government expense, even if the former is carried out under somewhat less strict conditions than the latter. But His Excellency in Council is desirous of commending to the attention of other Local Governments and of Native States the experience of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as to the advantages of village works over larger relief projects. In these cases it will be often impossible to recover any portion of the cost from the people; and it is for this reason that the Government of India are anxious, before moving in the matter, to obtain further details regarding the system of village relief works adopted in the North-Western Provinces.

---

\* *Vide* C. 8302, p. 47.

No. 484 of 1896. Dated Allahabad, December 19, 1896.

From the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH,  
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND  
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the monthly Famine Statements A. and B. for these provinces, which give an account of relief operations up to November 28, 1896, in districts formerly recognised as distressed. Since the submission of the last report, the districts of Allahabad, Jaunpur, and Sitapur have been added to the list. For these districts the prescribed maps are submitted. Although distress is most severe in the coloured portions the uncoloured portions are also suffering, though at present not severely. Other districts are in an unsatisfactory state and under close observation, and it will probably be necessary before long to convert the test works in operation there into relief works under the Code in some at least of them, and to add such districts to the present lists. In future months an additional and extra-Code Statement (C.) will be submitted, showing the extent and character of relief operations in districts under observation.

I have &c.

T. W. HOLDERNESS,  
Secy. to Govt., N.-W.P. and Oudh.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly Famine Statement A. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

District.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on the last Day of the Period under Report.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of One or more Principal Food Grains in aera per Rupee.								Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Millets.		Pulses.		For the Period under Report.	For the corresponding Period of the previous Year.		
														Juar.	Other.	Gram.	Other.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	
Allahabad:																					
Banda - - -	3,061	705	3,061	705	4,744	12,152	1,088	13,182	31,106	17,138	-	-	-	-	-	9½ to 8½	10½ to 9	Not available (see separate mortality statement for October).			
Hamirpur - - -	2,280	513	2,280	513	-	2,741	-	1,407	4,148	6,023	7½	10½	8½	11½	-	9½	7½	6.13	2.81		
Allahabad - - -	2,852	1,549	2,852	1,549	3,311	2,762	1,798	1,493	{ 9,364 +951 }	8,506	7½	10½	9½	10½	12	9½	7½	1.90	1.94		
Jhansi - - -	3,587	683	3,587	683	1,825	2,109	-	3,130	7,064	1,624	7½	-	-	10½	-	9	-	Not available (see separate mortality statement for October).			
Benares:																					
Jalaun - - -	1,479	396	1,479	396	4,844	3,283	1,492	662	10,281	3,480	-	10	8	11	10½	9½	7	3.01	2.57		
Jaunpur - - -	1,550	1,205	270	214	5,056	2,210	395	468	8,138	2,448	7½	11½	9½	-	-	9	9	1.84	2.00		
Lucknow:																					
Rae Bareilly - - -	1,752	1,037	1,752	1,037	1,830	6,400	-	3,432	11,671	2,961	-	11	-	9½	-	-	11	Not available (see separate mortality statement for October).			
Sitapur - - -	2,255	1,075	675	304	1,734	1,655	430	267	4,086	121	8½	-	9	10½	15	9	9	- ditto.			
Hardoi - - -	2,325	1,113	2,325	1,113	3,173	1,740	585	1,963	7,460	1,781	8½	10½	9½	10	-	9½	9	- ditto.			
TOTAL - - -	21,150	8,336	18,290	6,514	26,517	35,070	5,788	26,003	94,320	39,082	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

\* Employed on village works.

8 X

REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY FAMINE STATEMENT A. FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING  
NOVEMBER 28TH, 1896.

Private Relief, Village and Poorhouse Relief.

*Bánda*.—There is little private relief afforded in the district. The total numbers of persons relieved under Chapters V., X. and III. of the Code were 9,672, 4,579, and 847, respectively, against 4,910, 5,054, and 1,012 in the preceding month. The numbers have increased in consequence of the general prevalence of distress. Seven poorhouses were open during the period under report. The total number of inmates on the last day of the period was 3,159 against 1,847 on the last day of the previous month.

*Hamírpur*.—A few well-to-do persons in places distribute doles to numbers of beggars. A resident of Rath has arranged to employ *parda nashin* women in cotton ginning. There were five poorhouses open on 28th November, which, with the famine hospitals attached to them, provided relief for 2,533 people; 1,493 persons were in receipt of outdoor relief in villages, exclusive of 107 destitute *parda nashin* women; 583 persons were relieved by employment in spinning and weaving.

*Allahabad*.—There are three poorhouses open under official management, and three more will shortly be opened. The numbers on relief in the poorhouses are rising. Alms in the form of grain are distributed by the wealthier inhabitants of Allahabad, and a fund of over 22,000 rupees has been raised by local subscription for the more systematic relief of distress in the city. An influential committee has been formed to administer the fund, which will be supplemented by a monthly grant-in-aid from the Government. In the interior of the district some small poorhouses have been opened by zamindárs.

*Jhánsi*.—A Committee has been formed for arranging private relief in the city. A poorhouse, the fourth in the district, was opened at Mau.

*Jalaun*.—Very little is being done in the way of private relief. There are four poorhouses open in the district. Village relief has been organised in two tahsils, and will be commenced from the 1st December. In the other tahsils similar arrangements will shortly be completed.

*Jaunpur*.—The Mahárája of Benares and other large landowners have made considerable advances to their tenants for wells and seed grain. The Rája of Jaunpur is spending 500 rupees in clearing and deepening a tank. Thákurain Sunao Kunwar, of Singramau, has applied to Government for an advance to be spent similarly. One poorhouse has been opened, towards which private persons have subscribed 200 rupees. The attendance at this poorhouse on 28th November was 149. Lists of *parda nashin* women in need of relief are under preparation.

*Rae Bareli*.—There are two poorhouses in the district, the inmates of which numbered 158 on 28th November. The cost is being defrayed from Government funds, supplemented by private subscriptions.

*Sitapur*.—Two committees have been formed for arranging private relief—one at Sitapur and one at Khairabad. Lists of respectable women in need of relief are being drawn up in Sitapur; in Khairabad they number 120. Subscriptions amounting to 845 rupees have been realised. Two poorhouses have been opened, the inmates of which number 250.

*Hardoi*.—No general relief from private funds has been organised, but clothing is supplied to inmates of poorhouses from private charity. There are four poorhouses in the district, and action has been taken under Chapters IV., V., and X. (Articles 124 and 125) of the Famine Code.

General Character of Relief Works.

Owing to there being ample occupation for the people in sowing the *rabí*, they did not come on relief works during the month in large numbers. The relief works in progress practically consist of specially repairing and raising existing roads, and constructing new roads. These works are managed by the Public Works Department partly in the spirit of, and partly under the strict letter of, the regulations of the Famine Code. Some large tanks in the Allahabad Division are also being improved, the work being managed as a relief work. Lists of small village works under Article 65 (b) of the Code for the

relief of the agricultural population in the vicinity of their villages have been prepared. The management of these works will be entrusted to the landowners of the villages which will benefit thereby, on a system by which the landlord and the Government jointly contribute to the cost.

#### Physical Condition of the People.

*Bánda.*—There was no improvement in the circumstances of the labouring classes, and the physical condition of many when they come to the poorhouses or on relief works shows that they have suffered from extreme privation. There is probably some exaggeration in this, but the physical condition of the labourers on relief works is fair. In parts of the district the *juár* crop has proved unexpectedly good, and this accession of food supplies has slightly improved the condition of the cultivating class.

*Hamírpur.*—The death rate shows a decrease, but is still high. Malarial fever has been prevalent. The extent to which the coarse grains of the *kharíf* harvest were eaten without the usual admixture of good grain, and the exceptional heat of September and October, are said to have led to an unusual amount of illness. The physical condition of the people is described as indifferent. The Lieutenant-Governor, who is now going to Hamírpur, will cause a special inquiry to be made into the causes of the high mortality of the month.

*Allahabad.*—The condition of the poorer classes in the three trans-Jumna tahsils is daily becoming worse, recent arrivals on the relief works being in an extremely reduced state. Village relief has been begun. In the other tahsils (especially north of the Ganges) matters are at present less serious, but it has been found necessary to prepare for starting a relief work north of the Jumna.

*Jhánsi.*—The physical condition of the people is reported as generally good. The high mortality is probably due to cholera, which was prevalent in this district. Inquiry will be made.

*Jalaun.*—The condition of the people continued to be fair. The new *kharíf* grain coming into the market with the harvesting of the *kharíf* crops tends to lighten distress a little.

*Jaunpur.*—Except in one pargana, the condition of the people is fair.

*Rae Bareli.*—The physical condition of the People is reported not to be satisfactory, owing to high prices of food grains.

*Sitapur.*—Judging by the comparatively small number of enfeebled persons on the relief works, the condition of the people is fairly good.

*Hardoi.*—The condition of the people is not satisfactory.

#### DEATHS FROM STARVATION.

No deaths directly due to starvation are reported except from Rae Bareli, where 25 are said to have occurred. The Rae Bareli cases, however, have not been verified, and inquiry has been ordered. If verified, they will be included in subsequent returns. It is very improbable that the deaths were directly due to starvation in this district.

#### FOOD STOCKS AND IMPORTATION OF GRAIN.

*Bánda.*—Supplies are sufficient and importations continue. There is no fear of food stocks running short of present requirements.

*Hamírpur.*—The *juár* coming into market has made food stocks sufficient, and imports are checked. *Juár* is even being exported, and so will not have the effect of lowering prices, as it would have had had it all remained in the district.

*Jhánsi.*—Food stocks sufficient, *juár* from the new crop being plentiful. Importation continues.

*Jalaun.*—Food stocks continue to be sufficient. Importations were less than during October.

*Jaunpur.*—Food stocks sufficient. Prices are high, but show no tendency to rise.

*Rae Bareli.*—Food stocks, which are sufficient for local consumption, are supplemented by imports.

*Sitapur.*—The markets seem fairly well supplied. Grain is being exported, but no importations are being made. Prices have not changed materially.

*Hardoi.*—It is believed that supplies are sufficient in the towns and large villages, and imports of peas and maize are reported. In the small villages the grain stocks are said to be rapidly running short. The poorest classes are utilising seeds of wild grasses as food, as is customary when prices are exceptionally high.

#### GENERAL CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE AFFECTED AREA.

*Bánda.*—The prospects of the district are altered only in the fact that the rain which has fallen in other districts will tend to lower prices in this district also. The germinated crops have in a few moist tracts been placed out of immediate danger of drought. The rainfall was too slight in the district as a whole to materially improve the situation.

*Hamírpur.*—The recent rain has been heavy and of great value in the north-east and west of the district, and it is hoped that nearly all the rabi area will be sown there. This means more demand for labour as well as a better prospect of food hereafter. In the east and south of the district the rain was insufficient for sowings. The kharif harvest will shortly be over, and the numbers on relief must rise rapidly.

*Allahabad.*—Prospects are bad in the portion of the district south of the Jumna, where the rabi sowings are small and where the kharif was very poor; and they are not much better in the tract between the Jumna and the Ganges. No rain fell in the district in November.

*Jhánsi.*—The rabi has germinated very well, and much more has been sown than was anticipated.

*Jalaun.*—A slight shower of rain fell in the district on the 21st, but was of practically no benefit, not soaking the ground to a depth of more than an inch, which is said to be insufficient for sowing purposes. The outlook as regards the rabi crop, therefore, continues gloomy in the extreme.

*Jaunpur.*—The specially affected area, which, however, is only the northern fringe of the district, is so largely dependent on the rice crop that in it little change for the better can be expected till the next rains.

*Rae Bareli.*—The condition and prospects of the affected area are not satisfactory. The rabi, so far as it has been sown, has, however, germinated satisfactorily and promises well. Irrigation, ploughing, and sowing of fields are in active progress.

*Sitapur.*—The rain in November has done good, and put some confidence in the people. A very considerable area has been sown, and germination is good.

*Hardoi.*—General condition of the people is said to be unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the recent rain, by providing labour on agricultural work, would temporarily retard the increase of distress; but the numbers on relief works are daily increasing. Rabi sowings, however, are still in progress, and the prospects of the crop are reported to be distinctly favourable.

#### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

In all districts the wages paid on relief works and in gratuitous relief have been fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, having regard to the prices current of staple food grains. The classification of labourers, however, is imperfect, a very unnecessarily large proportion being classed under A. The truth seems to be that there are very few labourers of that class on the works. This imperfection is in process of rectification.

---



NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly Famine Statement B. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

District.	Maximum Number (Daily Average for Three Months) for whom Relief is Estimated to be required in Case of Serious Famine.	Number of Persons (Daily Average for Three Months) for whom Relief was provided in the last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be provided on Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st November 1896.			Advances since 1st November 1896 up to end of month under		Revenue Suspended since 1st November 1896.
		Date of Publication of Programme.	On Large Works.	On Others.	On Large Works.	On Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Rupees in Thousands.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Allahabad :												
Banda - - - - -	100,000	1st November 1896.	240,000	8,000	227,000	8,000	28th November 1896.	Rs. 48,764	Rs. 16,370	Rs. 1,158	Rs. 2,375	—
Hamirpur - - - - -	75,000		147,000	5,000	137,000	6,000		8,446	11,909	4,943	5,749	—
Allahabad - - - - -	150,000		(a)84,000	50,000	82,000	50,000		10,462	4,862	4,020	32,668	6,76,
Jhansi - - - - -	80,000		104,000	8,142	100,000	8,142		7,602	656	—	4,087	—
Jalaun - - - - -	60,000		115,000	20,914	100,000	17,115		14,740	4,887	80	2,437	—
Total, Allahabad Division - - -	465,000		680,000	93,050	646,600	89,257		88,014	38,674	10,207	47,216	0,70,
Benares :												
Jaunpur - - - - -	60,000	1st November 1896.	55,000	—	54,000	—	28th November 1896.	12,033	1,401	2,000	7,000	—
Total, Benares Division - - -	60,000		55,000	—	54,000	—		12,033	1,461	2,000	7,000	—
Lucknow :												
Rae Bareil - - - - -	100,000	1st November 1896.	(a)67,000	4,000	62,100	4,000	28th November 1896.	19,554	1,719	55,000	6,000	—
Sitapur - - - - -	100,000		108,000	67,586	106,790	67,586		4,691	386	3,400	5,023	—
Hardoi - - - - -	110,000		(a)97,000	11,000	35,352	8,600		10,208	4,455	35,509	45,850	1,25,
Total, Lucknow Division - - -	310,000	—	212,000	82,586	204,242	80,186	—	34,413	6,560	93,909	56,873	1,25,
Total, North-Western Provinces and Oudh - - - - -	835,000	—	957,000	175,642	904,842	169,443	—	134,460	46,695	106,176	111,089	8,01,

(a) Column 4.—In Allahabad, Rae Bareil, and Hardoi more works have been arranged for, and a sufficient programme will be published in December. Columns 11 and 12.—The following advances were also made in connection with the present scarcity during October :—

	Banda.	Hamirpur.	Allahabad.	Jhansi.	Jalaun.	Jaunpur.	Rae Bareil.	Sitapur.	Hardoi.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Under the Land Improvement Loans Act - - - - -	—	7,896	3,087	6,000	7,835	7,500	58,730	46,785	59,830
Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act - - - - -	34,000	2,247	24,807	145	36,000	500	53,185	20,180	33,210

Column 13.—Permission has been given to Commissioners of divisions to suspend land revenue, as they find it necessary, to a much larger amount than is shown in this return. The return takes account of land revenue actually suspended during November.

## SEPARATE MORTALITY STATEMENT.

DISTRICT.	Monthly Death Rate.	
	For October 1896.	For the corresponding Period of the previous Year.
Bánda - - - - -	3.98	3.45
Jhánsi - - - - -	7.38*	3.63
Rae Bareli - - - - -	1.96	2.01
Sitapur - - - - -	2.90	2.72
Hardoi - - - - -	4.43	3.66

\* The cause of this high death-rate is under inquiry : cholera prevailed in Jhánsi recently.

No. 551 of 1896. Dated Allahabad, December 30, 1896.

## RESOLUTION.—SCARCITY DEPARTMENT.

THE Lieutenant-Governor, having now completed a tour of inspection through the Bundelkhand districts (during which he visited some large relief works and inspected several poorhouses and orphanages), and having conferred in each district with the divisional and district officers, and the superintending, executive, and district engineers as to the relief methods in operation, and as to the extent of relief which is likely to be required from now until the setting in of the next monsoon, and as to the adequacy of the preparations made for affording this relief, desires to record the following observations.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets to find that the circumstances of the four districts of Bánda, Hamírpur, Jhánsi, and Jalaun have not, excluding a few isolated tracts favoured by physical peculiarities or by exceptional falls of rain, been materially improved by the rain of November. The facts as to the rabi sowings up to date have been ascertained, and the sowings are now practically completed. The percentage of the area sown for rabi this year to the normal rabi area of past years in each district is—

	Per Cent.
In Bánda - - - - -	25
„ Jalaun - - - - -	30
„ Hamírpur - - - - -	47
„ Jhánsi - - - - -	50

and while in much of the area actually sown the seed has germinated well, and the young crops, though backward, are healthy and vigorous, a not inconsiderable portion is urgently in want of rain and will yield little, unless rain falls at an early date. In any case it is obvious that the prospects are extremely gloomy in Bánda and Jalaun, and gloomy in the other two districts.

3. The order in which the districts are placed above indicates the relative degree to which each is distressed. The worst district of the four is Bánda, and the best off is Jhánsi. In Bánda it may be said there is no part of the district in which distress is not severe and general. In Jhánsi acute distress is localised in certain tahsils and portions of tahsils.

4. The effect of a succession of bad years comes with accumulated force on these districts, which, as compared with the rest of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, are naturally poor and unproductive. The capital and the credit of zamindárs and the cultivators are at the lowest ebb, and the exceptionally helpless and large labouring population would be without employment and without food but for the Government relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore not surprised to find that the pressure on these works has begun at least two months earlier than last year, and that

there are at the present time on the relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief nearly twice as many persons as in April last. In the Banda district 12 per cent. of the entire population are already in receipt of relief, and the Lieutenant-Governor is quite satisfied that no expenditure is being incurred which is not absolutely necessary. Indeed, as will subsequently appear, he thinks that more might have been done in the way of village relief without running any risk of unnecessary expenditure. Everything indicates that during the next six or seven months the State will be called upon to relieve more than double the number of people who were relieved in these districts this year in the course of the scarcity operations which were nominally closed in September last. In those operations the total number relieved (reduced to units relieved for one day) was  $18\frac{1}{2}$  millions. It will not be safe, having regard to the growing pressure, to count on less than 40 millions of units (for one day) as likely to require relief in Bundelkhand during the present scarcity, and the number may even exceed that figure. This is equivalent to 25 per cent. of the population for three months. In the Banda district alone his Honour would not be surprised if one-third, or even more, of the population came on relief. It is the worst famine of the century in Banda.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor's attention has accordingly been directed to ascertaining that the establishments and the relief programme of each district are sufficient for the probable calls upon them. The first question with which he has had to deal is as to the organisation of relief circles and the appointment of a proper number of circle inspecting and relieving officers. The most convenient circle unit is the revenue circle of the supervisor kánungo, and no necessity for sub-dividing this unit in any district presented itself to the Lieutenant-Governor. It was the unit adopted last year; and the officers and people are accustomed to it. But although the supervisor kánungo (helped of course by the patwaris) has been able up till now to carry on his regular duties and discharge the functions of a relief circle officer, he cannot be expected to do so in the circumstances of great pressure now to be anticipated. Authority has accordingly been given to each Collector to appoint to each circle an additional or assistant kánungo on pay of Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month. The pay of these temporary officials will be charged to famine relief, but it will be discretionary with the Collector to employ them as famine relief circle officers, or to transfer to them the regular duties of the supervisor kánungos, and thus set the latter free for famine work. The additional kánungos should be preferentially appointed from among the patwaris of the district. The Lieutenant-Governor understands that there will be no difficulty in selecting men, and that they will be appointed within a week. The fact of their actual appointment should be reported.

6. In tahsils in which distress is general and severe (and all the tahsils of the Banda district answer to this description) the tahsildár will require an additional naib tahsildár to aid in circle inspection and other famine relief duties. Authority is accordingly given to the Commissioners of the division to make such temporary appointments as he finds it necessary. The additional naib tahsildár's pay will be fixed by the Commissioner at Rs. 40 or Rs. 50, and will be charged to famine relief. To such officers, if not previously in Government service as naibs or kánungos, the orders contained in G. O. No. 5746, dated 21st December 1896, Financial Department, granting a consolidated local allowance of 20 per cent. on pay, would not apply. The appointments should preferentially be made from the kánungo staff of the district, the place of the promoted kánungo being filled from the patwári staff as in the previous case. But discretion is allowed Commissioners to appoint other suitable men when this course seems to them to be clearly the better plan. These naib tahsildárs will be quite distinct from the persons of a similar standing who are being deputed by the Board of Revenue under the orders of the Government in the Public Works Department to act as paymasters on the large relief works. The Board of Revenue will continue to be charged with these last-mentioned arrangements. The tahsildár will continue to control the inferior officers in regard to famine relief: and the tahsils will continue to be grouped into sub-divisional or relief charges under the general control of the gazetted officers who now administer them, and whose numbers have been materially strengthened.

The above orders as to the temporary appointment of naib tahsildárs supersede to some extent the orders conveyed by G. O. No. 416, S.—58, dated 13th December 1896, to the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division, where it was said that, having regard to the requirements of the Public Works Department for naib tahsildárs, it was impossible to give any district for poorhouse and circle relief purposes more than a very limited number of additional naib tahsildárs. This was the case as regards the supply of such officials through the Board of Revenue. The procedure enjoined in this letter of temporary local appointments made by the Collector from his district staff provides a way

out of this difficulty without trenching on the reserve maintained by the Board of Revenue for the requirements of the Public Works Department.

7. The circle inspection staff thus strengthened should be able to inspect every village in the relief circle once every ten days, and the Lieutenant-Governor regards this as a fundamental necessity. The agency for the actual distribution of village relief to persons on the lists prepared under Chapters V. and X. of the Code may vary from district to district at the discretion of the Collector; in some places it may be respectable zamindárs or village panchayets; in others where such agency is not available it may be patwáris, but it is essential that the lists should be examined, supplemented and corrected at frequent intervals in each village by the circle officer. The circle officers should be required to keep a diary for the information of the tahsildár, the sub-divisional officer, and the Collector under such heads as the Collector may prescribe.

8. His Honour has already requested the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals to place at the Commissioner's disposal a medical officer of the status of Civil Surgeon for the sanitary inspection of relief works, relief hospitals, and poorhouses in the Allahabad Division.

9. In all four Bundelkhand districts the Lieutenant-Governor found that village relief had been started, but as much progress had not everywhere been made as his Honour had expected. It is imperatively necessary that special attention should be paid to this subject. With regard to the numbers who may eventually be brought on the lists, the Lieutenant-Governor noticed some hesitation on the part of local officers, and some uncertainties as to how far they might go. A good deal would in each case depend on the extent to which the indigent and beggar class had drifted to the poorhouses. But if the poorhouses are kept within the limits prescribed by Article 111 of the Famine Code, the Lieutenant-Governor, without wishing to prescribe a standard, may say that in a really distressed tract, especially if there are towns in it with respectable classes of reduced means, 3 per cent. of the total population would probably be found to be not an excessive limit. Of course his Honour does not prescribe this or any other figure as a limit to be worked up to. The numbers to be relieved under Chapters V. and X. must depend on the actual facts.

10. Poorhouse relief has in all districts been properly organised, and the only direction on this point which is needed is that the population of the poorhouses should be kept down by systematically drafting off to relief works all persons capable of work, and to their villages as recipients of village relief all those who have homes and are unable to work.

11. The programme of large famine relief works in each district is adequate, and the organisation of the Public Works Department is sufficient for present actual requirements. But it will probably soon cease to be so. More overseers and work agents are required. On this point action will at once be taken in the Public Works Department.

12. The relief works which the Lieutenant-Governor visited were well conducted. The recent orders\* for the management and control of works under the Public Works Department had not been fully carried out owing to an unnecessary delay, for which the Public Works Department was not responsible; but no harm was done. The rules are now in force.

13. In the Banda district the Public Works Department are elaborating plans for a number of large irrigation reservoir, or tank works, which will supply an excellent series of relief works suitable for the hot weather, while materially benefiting the district, which, above all things, stands in need of irrigation. His Honour was able to see such a work in progress in Hamirpur, and to satisfy himself as to its utility as a relief work as well as to its subsequent usefulness.

14. Another matter to which the Lieutenant-Governor's attention was much directed during the conferences was as to the place which "village works" under Article 65 (a) of the Code, of the nature of tanks and embankments, should occupy in the programme of famine relief. The general feeling of the local officers was in favour of the policy of keeping works of this class to the later stages of the famine, when at the height of the hot weather and on the near approach of the rains it is desirable to bring the people back to their villages. It was thought that "village works," whether managed by the Public Works Department or entrusted to zamindárs, would in this respect prove very useful. But there was also a very clear pronouncement of opinion that a strong backbone of

\* Government Resolution No. 18 P. W., dated 5th December 1896.

large public works must be maintained throughout. With these conclusions the Lieutenant-Governor concurs. His Honour has now received Minutes of the Conferences between Mr. Palmer, Superintending Engineer on special duty, and the Divisional and District Officers of the Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions on the subject of rules for the control and management of these village works, and the principles and procedure which have been reached at these conferences are substantially those which have independently occurred to the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Palmer is now engaged in preparing a set of rules, and when they have been revised by his Honour and issued, it will be well that two or three small village works should be started in each district at an early date with the object of ascertaining whether the rules are practical and meet all the requirements of the case, and whether the method of relief they are intended to systematize fulfils the hopes entertained in regard to it, both as regards economy in expenditure and effectiveness as regards the relief of distress. Our future action, so far as village works are concerned, will be a good deal influenced by the results of these experiments.

15. The Lieutenant-Governor's orders regarding the Cawnpore district, which he found in much better condition than Bundelkhand, are embodied in the Minutes of his Conference with the local officers, which have been separately recorded.

16. In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to express his strong appreciation of the energy and discretion with which officers of every grade are facing the difficulties which beset them. To the Collectors of the Bundelkhand districts his Honour's thanks are due in a more especial degree.

ORDER.—Ordered that copies of this Resolution be forwarded—

- (1) to the Commissioner, Allahabad Division, for communication to the Collectors of the Bundelkhand districts and the issue of necessary subsidiary orders;
- (2) to all Commissioners of divisions, North Western Provinces and Oudh (except Meerut and Kumaun), for information and guidance on the points applicable to their divisions, and to all Collectors of districts in those divisions;
- (3) to the Secretary to this Government, in the Public Works Department, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information and issue of necessary orders in regard to paragraph 11;
- (4) to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, for the information of the Government of India;
- (5) to the Secretary to this Government, in the Financial Department, for issue of necessary orders to the Accountant General;
- (6) to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information.

By order, &c.

T. W. HOLDERNESS,  
Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh.

---

No. 75—S. of 1897. Dated Allahabad, January 9, 1897.

From the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH,  
to all COMMISSIONERS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS, NORTH-WEST  
PROVINCES AND OUDH (EXCEPTING MEERUT AND KUMAUN).

SIR,

I AM directed to enclose, for your guidance and for the guidance of District Officers in your division, a copy of rules which the Lieutenant-Governor has found it advisable to issue regarding the organization of the village relief system under Article 54 and Chapter X. of the Famine Code. The object of these rules is to ensure that in districts declared to be distressed every village should be treated with the view of accounting for every individual resident therein, and that no case which ought to be relieved in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Code escapes notice. The rules apply to those districts only which have been officially recognised as distressed. In districts which are still under observation the systematic and careful inquiry which the rules require is presumed to be unnecessary. But, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Code, even

in these districts indigent people may have been brought on the *patwáris'* lists, and some of these lists, from the number of entries on them, may suggest to the District Officer the necessity of following the procedure laid down by the rules in exceptional cases. Should such cases present themselves, he should not hesitate to deal with them in the spirit of the rules. As stated above, these rules require that the case of every individual resident of the village must be separately considered in the framing and revising of these lists. This procedure is possible for rural villages with the organization now established in the distressed districts, as the inhabitants are usually of the labouring and cultivating class who make no objection to meet the relief officers on these terms. But it is not possible for the district relief agency to pass in review the entire population of cities or towns. This must be done, where serious distress prevails in a city or town, in a less obtrusive way by the municipal or town authorities working in conjunction with unofficial committees. The number of such towns and cities is not great. For practical purposes they are enumerated in Table V., Part II. of the Census Report. This is the procedure successfully adopted in Lucknow, Allahabad, and other large cities, and there seems to be no necessity for disturbing their arrangements.

2. The enforcement of the village relief system in accordance with these rules will have an important bearing on the population of the poor-houses, and possibly on the numbers of dependants attending relief works. During his tours the Lieutenant-Governor has observed that many persons have been received into poor-houses and were relieved as dependants on works who, under the full working of the village system as now explained, ought, so long as they are unable to work, to be relieved at their own homes. It will, therefore, be the business of every Collector of a distressed district to sort out the inmates of his poor-houses and the dependants on relief works and, subject to proper provision for protection and food during the transit, to send them to their homes and bring their names on the village lists for relief. In treating dependants in this way care must be taken that children are not separated from their parents, and that families are not broken up.

3. In this way it is to be expected that the population of poor-houses and the number of people who seek relief as dependants on roads will diminish, and that the relief system will consist of two great forms,—first, relief on works for all in need of relief who are able to labour, and, second, relief at their homes for all unable to labour, but in need of relief.

I have, &c.

T. W. HOLDERNESS,

Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh.

#### PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING VILLAGE RELIEF UNDER CHAPTERS V. AND X. OF THE FAMINE CODE.

##### Preliminary.

It is presumed that in all districts in which the existence of distress is formally recognised the village lists mentioned in Article 54 have been prepared by the *patwáris*, and that relief is being given by circle officers on the basis of those lists. But inquiry has shown that the lists have not always been prepared in a satisfactory manner. The following instructions are accordingly issued with a view of securing the amplification and verification of the lists, and of determining the mode of payment and the amount of the relief:—

##### Rules.

1. The circle officer, before visiting a village, shall intimate to the landlord, or his local agent, his intention of visiting the village on a certain date, and request him either to be present in person or to depute his *kárin*. He should also request that people living in outlying hamlets may be assembled in the main village on the day fixed.

2. On arriving at the village, the circle officer will assemble the *patwári*, the village headman, the landlord's local agent, the *chaukidár*, and the respectable inhabitants, and will call for the *patwári's* list prepared under Article 54 of the Code. These lists will form the basis of the subsequent procedure.

3. The circle officer will then proceed to ascertain the population of the village, with details of the numbers present and absent, with such information as he can get as to the causes of absence of individuals.

4. The portion of the population present may be divided into two classes :—

- (a.) *parda nashins* ;
- (b.) all other persons.

5. The circle officer will carefully consult the persons mentioned in Rule 2 as to whether any *parda nashins* are in need of relief, and should be brought upon the list under Chapter X. He will also bring upon that list any old or infirm men of the higher castes who are unable to work and are in want.

6. The circle officer will then muster and examine all the persons of the village who are not *parda nashins*. They will fall into three classes :—

- (a.) well-to-do people not needing relief ;
- (b.) people needing relief, but able to work ;
- (c.) people needing relief and unable to work, either from physical weakness or having young children or sick people to look after.

Class (c) will be mostly women and children.

7. The circle officer will direct persons of class (b) in the preceding rule to the nearest relief work. He will bring class (c) persons on his list.

Persons who, in the circle officer's opinion, are temporarily incapacitated for labour by sickness or privation will be granted relief for such time only as the incapacity exists. Such cases must be inquired into whenever the village is visited by the circle officer.

8. The lists so framed under Chapters V. and X. will be made over to the *patwári* of the village, who shall be bound to produce them for the inspection of any circle officer subsequently visiting the village.

9. The relief distributed will be in money. The distributing agency will be, as determined by the Collector, either—

- (a.) the landlord ;
- (b.) the headman or other respectable resident of the village or of an adjoining village ;
- (c.) the *patwári*.

10. A sufficient sum to afford the prescribed relief for 20 days shall be made over to the distributor by the circle officer. The distributor is authorised to give relief to all persons on the list prepared by the circle officer, and, in urgent cases in which starvation is imminent, to persons not on the list pending the next visit of the circle officer.

11. The circle officer's list shall be tested and revised as often as may be possible by the naib tahsildár, the tahsildár, and the sub-divisional officer.

12. Each village should be visited, as far as possible, once in 10 days by the circle officer or other superior relief officer, whose duty it will be to scrutinise the lists, muster the recipients (not being *parda nashins*), remove from the lists persons who have become fit for work, and bring on the lists the names of other persons eligible under the preceding rules.

13. A dated ticket, bearing a serial number corresponding to that in the nominal list, should be given to each person entered on the list, showing the relief to which he or she is entitled, and the name of the person from whom such relief is to be received.

14. The relief to be distributed will be that prescribed for "dependants" by the ready reckoner appended to the rules for Public Works Department works circulated with Public Works Resolution, No. 18, dated December 5, 1896, with the following additions :—

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) for children between 12 and 16,</li> <li>(2) for children between 7 and 12,</li> </ul> | } | <p>The rate shown for labouring children of these ages in the ready reckoner according to the price of grain prevailing at the time.</p> |
|---|---|--|

15. While no limit is prescribed for the exclusion of necessitous cases, it is only in a very distressed tract, and for a limited period, that the numbers on these relief lists should exceed 3 per cent. of the population. In tracts which are not very distressed 3 per cent. of the population may be ordinarily regarded as a maximum limit.

WEEKLY CROP REPORT: TABULATION SHEET FOR SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 2, 1897.

STATEMENT showing Number of Persons in receipt of Relief in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh on January 2, 1897.

I.—DISTRESSED DISTRICTS.

Serial Number.	DISTRICT.	Numbers on Relief Works.		Numbers in Poor-houses.	Numbers Relieved otherwise.	Total.	Number of Relief Works Open.	Number of Poor-houses.
		Workers.	Depen- dants.					
1	Bánda - - -	67,140	18,192	5,299	7,481	98,112	9	7
2	Cawnpore - - -	11,915	2,910	1,576	2,031	18,462	2	4
3	Hamirpur - - -	15,056	3,592	3,547	2,693	24,888	4	5
4	Allahabad - - -	59,184	23,601	6,707	5,422	94,914	8	5
5	Jhánsi - - -	11,329	2,075	2,047	1,069	16,520	3	4
6	Jalaun - - -	17,704	4,663	1,013	3,351	26,731	5	4
7	Jaunpur - - -	14,825	3,919	485	104	19,333	7	3
8	Lucknow - - -	14,251	1,658	2,079	8,442	26,430	5	3
9	Unao - - -	8,028	961	1,031	347	10,367	4	4
10	Rae Bareli - - -	21,351	6,930	1,567	1	29,849	5	2
11	Sitapur - - -	18,190	2,617	347	160	21,314	6	2
12	Hardoi - - -	20,425	6,527	3,529	8,443	38,924	6	4
	TOTAL - - -	279,428	77,645	29,227	39,544	425,844	64	47

II.—DISTRICTS UNDER OBSERVATION.

Serial Number.	DISTRICT.	Numbers on Test Works.	Numbers in Poor-houses.	Numbers Relieved otherwise.	Total.	Number of Test Works Open.	Number of Poor-houses and Kitchens Open.
1	Muttra - - -	3,399	156	-	3,555	1	1
2	Agra - - -	4,807	247	-	5,144	6	3
3	Farukhabad - - -	1,174	807	-	1,981	4	3
4	Mainpuri - - -	77	77	90	244	1	1
5	Etáwah - - -	4,846	61	718	5,625	1	1
6	Etah - - -	1,000	116	480	1,596	9	2
7	Bareilly - - -	518	110	-	628	1	1
8	Bijnor - - -	251	453	-	704	1	4
9	Budaun - - -	668	106	-	774	3	1
10	Moradabad - - -	107	134	-	241	3	2
11	Sháhjahánpur - - -	733	858	698	2,309	4	3
12	Pitibhit - - -	-	396	-	396	-	3
13	Fatehpur - - -	199	803	135	1,137	3	1
14	Benares - - -	318	604	-	922	2	3
15	Mirzapur - - -	1,400	795	-	2,195	4	1
16	Gorakhpur - - -	2,024	3,117	-	5,141	9	5
17	Basti - - -	515	670	-	1,185	5	4
18	Azamgarh - - -	9,627	1,075	8	10,710	7	4
19	Kheri - - -	230	19	-	249	1	2
20	Fyzabad - - -	1,943	1,096	84	3,123	4	3
21	Gonda - - -	2,163	1,480	-	3,643	4	3
22	Sultánpur - - -	2,661	702	536	3,899	7	4
23	Partágarh - - -	3,632	428	-	4,060	6	3
24	Bara Banki - - -	10,763	811	-	11,574	9	7
	Total - - -	53,165	15,121	2,749	71,035	95	65



No. 222 of 1897, dated Allahabad, January 20, 1897.

FROM THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES AND  
OUDH, TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE  
AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the monthly Famine Statements A. and B., for these provinces, which give an account of relief operations up to 26th December 1896 in districts formally recognised as distressed. Since the submission of the last report, the districts of Cawnpore, Lucknow, and Unao have been added to the list, and the prescribed maps for these districts are accordingly submitted. Distress has also been declared in parts of the districts of Agra, Etawah, Gorakhpur, and Bara Banki since the close of the period under report. These districts will be included in Statements A. and B. for the current month. The additional extra-Code Statement C., referred to in the last report, is attached. It contains particulars in regard to the relief operations in 25 districts which were under observation during the period under report, though not officially recognised as distressed.

2. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals in his recent tours has paid special attention to the condition of the inmates of poorhouses, the labourers on relief works, and the prisoners in the jails of the districts he visited. He has recorded the result of his observations in the form of a note, a copy of which is submitted for the information of the Government of India.

I have, &c.

T. STOKER,

Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces and Oudh.

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.

Division.	DISTRICT.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population, in Thousands, of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on the Last Day of the Period under Report.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of One or More Principal Food Grains in Sérs per Rupee.								Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.
						Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	TOTAL.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Millets.		Pulses.		For the Period under Report.	For the corresponding Period of the Previous Year.		
															Juar.	Other.	Gram.	Other.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.		
Allahabad	Cawnpore	2,363	1,210	1,210	462	-	3,521	-	3,855	7,376	5,125	7-81	10-87	9-15	10-31	8-62	9-62	10-62	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		2	
	Bánda	3,061	705	3,061	705	6,285	29,780	594	22,851	59,510	27,295	-	-	-	-	-	-	9-21	9-78	-	-	
	Hamírpur	2,289	513	2,289	513	-	7,318	-	8,257	15,575	9,804	7-97	9-87	8-43	9-87	8-08	9-25	9-78	-	-	-	
	Allahabad	2,852	1,549	2,852	1,549	14,387	5,378	2,988	1,803	24,559	14,889	7-81	10-25	9-12	10-06	11-50	9-75	7-87	3-36	1-85	-	
	Jhánsi	3,587	683	3,587	683	204	4,711	-	8,771	13,686	2,986	7-87	-	-	10-87	-	9-68	7-93	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Jalaun	1,477	396	1,477	396	3,585	6,550	1,381	2,196	13,712	8,402	7-84	9-71	8-25	9-37	-	8-87	7-08	3-29	2-64	2	
TOTAL, Allahabad Division		15,629	5,056	14,485	4,908	24,461	57,258	4,963	47,736	135,441	68,501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Benares	Jaunpur	1,550	1,265	271	214	178	9,482	-	1,148	10,806	4,617	7-56	10-50	9-12	-	-	9-87	9-12	2-11	1-93	2	
	TOTAL, Benares Division		1,550	1,265	271	214	176	9,482	-	1,148	10,806	4,617	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lucknow	Lucknow	967	774	967	774	-	3,061	550	6,178	10,389	9,277	8-25	11-25	9-25	11-50	8-75	9-75	10-50	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Unao	1,736	953	1,327	798	-	5,172	-	400	5,572	1,511	8	-	8-68	-	-	9	-	2-6	1-8	-	
	Rae Bareli	1,752	1,037	1,752	1,037	981	9,091	-	7,428	16,900	7,009	-	10-75	-	9	-	-	10-75	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Sitapur	2,255	1,075	983	449	-	7,032	-	446	7,478	1,551	8	11-50	11	11	10	9	8	-	-	-	
	Hardoi	2,325	1,113	2,325	1,113	304	9,686	941	5,185	16,116	10,915	8-50	10-50	9	10	9-25	9-25	9-50	-	-	1	
	TOTAL, Lucknow Division		9,035	4,952	7,354	4,171	685	34,642	1,491	19,637	56,455	30,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH		26,214	11,273	22,110	8,693	25,322	101,382	6,454	68,521	202,702	103,381	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	

\* Employed on village works.

REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY FAMINE STATEMENT A. FOR THE FOUR WEEKS  
ENDING 26TH DECEMBER 1896.

Private Relief, Village and Poorhouse Relief.

*Cawnpore.*—There are four poorhouses open in the district. The total number of inmates on the last day of the period under report was 3,059. Village relief was commenced during the month, but only on a small scale; it is being developed during the current month.

*Bánda.*—Private relief is confined to indiscriminate doles to beggars by a few well-to-do persons in Bánda city. The total numbers (reduced to units of one day) of persons relieved under Chapters V., X., and XIII. of the Code during the period under report, were respectively 132,016, 34,409, and 862. Seven poorhouses were open, in which the total number of persons on the last day of the period under report was 5,024, against 3,159 on the last day of the preceding four weeks.

*Hamírpur.*—A few persons still distribute private relief in the shape of doles; others have provided clothing for recipients of relief. A charitable relief fund has been started, to which Rs. 870 has been subscribed. There have been five poorhouses open during the period under report, the number of inmates on 26th December being 2,397, exclusive of 723 persons in famine hospitals. One thousand one hundred and seventy-eight persons were in receipt of outdoor relief, including 122 *parda nashin* women. Steps have been taken to further extend the system of village relief.

*Allahabad.*—Detailed village-to-village inquiries resulted in the listing of 4,722 persons who merited relief at their homes, and relief was actually given to about 1,000 of them. This is apart from the work of the Allahabad Special Charity Committee, referred to in the last report, whose funds from private subscriptions have now reached Rs. 26,000. House-to-house inquiries have been in progress through the city, with the result that about 2,400 people were granted relief a few days after the close of the month. About 2,000 people were indebted to private charity for a small daily dole of grain. At the end of the period under report the four poorhouses which have been established contained 6,522 inmates, notwithstanding that nearly 4,000 persons were drafted from them on to relief works. Six more poorhouses are in course of construction.

*Jhánsi.*—Relief has been given in the city to such persons as cannot go to the poorhouses and relief works. The monthly expenditure on this branch of relief is estimated at about Rs. 800. Four poorhouses are open. The number of inmates in that at Jhánsi is increasing, though those who become fit for work are being regularly drafted on to the relief works.

*Jalaun.*—There are four poorhouses open in the district. Village relief has been organised in all four tahsils of the district. The number of people receiving outdoor relief is being added to as occasion demands.

*Jaunpur.*—The tank project referred to in last month's report as being contemplated by Thákurain Sunao Kunwar of Singramau is now in hand, and 580 persons are employed on it. Two more poorhouses have been opened. Relief is being given to *parda nashin* women at their homes.

*Lucknow.*—In the city of Lucknow a committee has been formed, and funds collected from private sources to the extent of Rs. 31,000. From this fund, which has been further supplemented by a grant of Rs. 10,000 from Government, about 6,500 people are relieved. Three poorhouses are open; the number of inmates on the last day of the period under report was about 1,800. Village lists have been prepared, and arrangements have been made to give effect to this branch of relief on an adequate scale from 1st January 1897.

*Unao.*—Private organisations in two towns relieve about 1,000 people daily. There are four poorhouses in the district. About 75 per cent. of the inmates are supplied with blankets from private subscriptions.

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.

Division.	DISTRICT.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population, in Thousands, of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on the Last Day of the Period under Report.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of One or More Principal Food Grains in Sérs per Rupee.								Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.
						Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	TOTAL.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Millets.		Pulses.		For the Period under Report.	For the corresponding Period of the Previous Year.		
															Juar.	Other.	Gram.	Other.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.		
Allahabad	Cawnpore - - - - -	2,363	1,210	1,210	462	-	3,521	-	3,855	7,376	5,125	7-81	10-87	9-15	10-31	8-62	9-02	10-62	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		2	
	Bánda - - - - -	3,061	705	3,061	705	6,285	20,780	594	22,851	59,510	27,295	-	-	-	-	9-21	9-78	ditto		-		
	Hamírpur - - - - -	2,289	513	2,289	513	-	7,918	-	8,257	15,575	9,804	7-37	9-87	8-43	9-87	8-68	9-25	7-12	ditto		-	
	Allahabad - - - - -	2,852	1,549	2,852	1,549	14,387	5,378	2,988	1,803	24,559 +1,023	14,889	7-81	10-25	9-12	10-06	11-50	9-75	7-87	3-36	1-85	-	
	Jhánsi - - - - -	3,587	683	3,587	683	204	4,711	-	8,771	13,686	2,986	7-87	-	-	10-87	-	9-68	7-93	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Jalaun - - - - -	1,477	396	1,477	396	3,585	6,550	1,381	2,196	13,712	8,402	7-34	9-71	8-25	9-37	-	8-87	7-08	3-29	2-64	2	
TOTAL, Allahabad Division -		15,629	5,056	14,485	4,908	24,461	57,258	4,963	47,786	135,441	68,501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Benares	Jaunpur - - - - -	1,550	1,265	271	214	176	9,482	-	1,148	10,806	4,617	7-56	10-50	9-12	-	-	9-87	9-12	2-11	1-93	2	
	TOTAL, Benares Division -		1,550	1,265	271	214	176	9,482	-	1,148	10,806	4,617	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lucknow	Lucknow - - - - -	967	774	967	774	-	3,661	550	6,178	10,389	9,277	8-25	11-25	9-25	11-50	8-75	9-75	10-50	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Unao - - - - -	1,786	953	1,327	798	-	5,172	-	400	5,573	1,511	8	-	8-68	-	9	-	-	2-6		1-8	
	Rao Bareli - - - - -	1,752	1,037	1,752	1,037	381	9,091	-	7,428	16,900	7,009	-	10-75	-	9	-	-	10-75	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Sitapur - - - - -	2,355	1,075	989	449	-	7,032	-	446	7,478	1,551	8	11-50	11	11	10	9	8	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-	
	Hardoi - - - - -	2,325	1,113	2,325	1,113	304	9,686	941	5,185	16,116	10,915	8-50	10-50	9	10	9-25	9-25	9-50	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		1	
TOTAL, Lucknow Division -		9,035	4,952	7,354	4,171	685	94,842	1,491	19,637	56,455	30,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
TOTAL, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH		26,214	11,273	22,110	8,693	25,322	101,382	6,454	68,521	202,702	103,381	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	

\* Employed on village works.

REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY FAMINE STATEMENT A. FOR THE FOUR WEEKS  
ENDING 26TH DECEMBER 1896.

Private Relief, Village and Poorhouse Relief.

*Cawnpore.*—There are four poorhouses open in the district. The total number of inmates on the last day of the period under report was 3,059. Village relief was commenced during the month, but only on a small scale; it is being developed during the current month.

*Bánda.*—Private relief is confined to indiscriminate doles to beggars by a few well-to-do persons in Bánda city. The total numbers (reduced to units of one day) of persons relieved under Chapters V., X., and XIII. of the Code during the period under report, were respectively 132,016, 34,409, and 862. Seven poorhouses were open, in which the total number of persons on the last day of the period under report was 5,024, against 3,159 on the last day of the preceding four weeks.

*Hanárpur.*—A few persons still distribute private relief in the shape of doles; others have provided clothing for recipients of relief. A charitable relief fund has been started, to which Rs. 870 has been subscribed. There have been five poorhouses open during the period under report, the number of inmates on 26th December being 2,397, exclusive of 723 persons in famine hospitals. One thousand one hundred and seventy-eight persons were in receipt of outdoor relief, including 122 *parda nashín* women. Steps have been taken to further extend the system of village relief.

*Allahabad.*—Detailed village-to-village inquiries resulted in the listing of 4,722 persons who merited relief at their homes, and relief was actually given to about 1,000 of them. This is apart from the work of the Allahabad Special Charity Committee, referred to in the last report, whose funds from private subscriptions have now reached Rs. 26,000. House-to-house inquiries have been in progress through the city, with the result that about 2,400 people were granted relief a few days after the close of the month. About 2,000 people were indebted to private charity for a small daily dole of grain. At the end of the period under report the four poorhouses which have been established contained 6,522 inmates, notwithstanding that nearly 4,000 persons were drafted from them on to relief works. Six more poorhouses are in course of construction.

*Jhánsi.*—Relief has been given in the city to such persons as cannot go to the poorhouses and relief works. The monthly expenditure on this branch of relief is estimated at about Rs. 800. Four poorhouses are open. The number of inmates in that at Jhánsi is increasing, though those who become fit for work are being regularly drafted on to the relief works.

*Jalaun.*—There are four poorhouses open in the district. Village relief has been organised in all four tahsils of the district. The number of people receiving outdoor relief is being added to as occasion demands.

*Jaunpur.*—The tank project referred to in last month's report as being contemplated by Thákurain Sunao Kunwar of Singramau is now in hand, and 580 persons are employed on it. Two more poorhouses have been opened. Relief is being given to *parda nashín* women at their homes.

*Lucknow.*—In the city of Lucknow a committee has been formed, and funds collected from private sources to the extent of Rs. 31,000. From this fund, which has been further supplemented by a grant of Rs. 10,000 from Government, about 6,500 people are relieved. Three poorhouses are open; the number of inmates on the last day of the period under report was about 1,800. Village lists have been prepared, and arrangements have been made to give effect to this branch of relief on an adequate scale from 1st January 1897.

*Unao.*—Private organisations in two towns relieve about 1,000 people daily. There are four poorhouses in the district. About 75 per cent. of the inmates are supplied with blankets from private subscriptions.

*Rae Bareli.*—There are two poorhouses in the district, and the number of inmates is increasing. Relief under Chapter V. is being given in one tahsíl, and under Chapter X. in two tahsíls. Advances have been given to police officers for relief under Chapter XIII.

*Sitapur.*—Private relief at Khairabad has been exhausted, but at Sitapur the committee referred to in last month's report continues its work. Two poorhouses were open, the number of inmates on 26th December being 300.

*Hardoi.*—As reported last month, private subscriptions are utilised in supplying the inmates of poorhouses with clothing. Lists of persons requiring relief under Chapters V. and X. have been prepared, and relief is administered through *kánúngos*, zamindárs, and members of municipal boards. Village relief has been considerably extended since the period covered by this report. There are four poorhouses, one at the headquarters of each tahsíl.

#### General Character of Relief Works.

In all districts all large relief works in operation are under the management of the Public Works Department, and are conducted in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code. The task and gang system is in force, and the wage is regulated in accordance with the price of the ordinary food grains of the people, being also graduated, as regards maxima rates, by the extent to which the prescribed tasks are performed by the workers. Children and adults who are unable to work, but who form part of the family of a worker, receive gratuitous relief in the form of a subsistence wage as "dependants." As a general rule, relief works consist of road work, but the deepening and improving of tanks within a reasonable distance of a road project is always carried on *pari passu* as part of the project. In some districts employment is being given through the agency of landholders by means of village works executed by means of advances from Government, which will be partly recoverable, and which are made on conditions that secure that work is given at fair wages to those classes of persons who are most in need of employment.

#### Physical Condition of the People.

*Cawnpore.*—The people employed on the relief works are reported to be in a better condition than might be expected.

*Bánda.*—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works and of the inmates of the poorhouses is fair, but there are undoubted signs of want and privation.

*Hamírpur.*—The health of the district has been fair, but the labouring classes are generally in a weak condition, and there have been a number of deaths from exposure, due to exceptional cold. Steps have been taken to hut the labourers on works. The population of the poorhouses is exceptionally unhealthy and emaciated.

*Allahabad.*—The people who come on to the relief works are generally in very poor condition. The works during the month were practically confined to the southern portion of the district bordering on Bundelkhand; the crop failure here has been general and severe, and there is much privation.

*Jhánsi.*—The physical condition of the people appears, on the whole, to be fairly good, but the mortality continues high. This, though ascribed to the unusual prevalence of malarial fevers, possibly indicates a reduced vitality and lower standard of living.

*Jalaun.*—The people admitted to poorhouses are generally in an emaciated condition. Those who have been some time on the relief works, however, exhibit a marked improvement on their appearance when the works were first started.

*Jaunpur.*—In the seriously affected portion of the district the general condition of the people is poor, but elsewhere it is fair, except in the case of the lowest classes, many of whom are in bad condition.

*Lucknow.*—The condition of the people is fair, as timely measures were taken to meet the distress.

*Unao.*—The condition of the people on the relief works is good. A favourable indication is that the number of women on the works does not largely exceed that of the men.

*Rae Bareli.*—The condition of the low caste people is not satisfactory.

*Sitapur.*—The condition of the labouring classes shows signs of some privation; but that of the cultivating class is fairly good. The people who come on the works are, on the whole, neither emaciated nor unhealthy. Many belong to the decent class of agriculturists, who, having sown their fields and temporarily exhausted their resources, come on the works while yet in good condition.

*Hardoi.*—There is much emaciation throughout the district among the labouring classes, but the death rate for November was below that of the same month in 1895. The average physique of the people on the works is very distinctly below that of persons on the relief works of the adjoining district of Sitapur. This district is severely distressed, and relief measures have been very largely extended.

#### Deaths from Starvation.

Two deaths are reported in Cawnpore, two in Jalaun, two in Jaunpur, and one in Hardoi. In Cawnpore one was of a child which died from want of nourishment owing to the illness of its mother, and the other was that of a person supposed to have come from Bundelkhand, who was not known in the place where his body was found. In Jalaun one person died shortly after admission to the poorhouse, though every effort was made by the hospital assistant to save him: no particulars regarding him could be discovered. The second, a wanderer from a native state, was found lying dead on the road near a bordering village of the district. The two deaths in Jaunpur were of wanderers whose names and residence were unknown. They appeared to have been coming to the relief works and to have died on the way. The death at Hardoi was of an old man of 70, who refused to go to the poorhouse. From enquiry it has been ascertained that of the 25 deaths reported last month from Rae Bareli, three or four were possibly due to starvation, though even of these there is no certainty.

#### Food Stocks and Importation of Grain.

*Cawnpore.*—Food stocks are sufficient for ordinary purchasers. Grain is being imported.

*Bánda.*—The larger markets are well supplied and importations continue. There is no fear of food stocks running short at present.

*Hamírpur.*—Food stocks and fodder are sufficient.

*Allahabad.*—The district is importing by rail sufficient grain to feed daily at least one-third of its population. Local stocks, outside the city and the large marts, are said to be low, especially in the south, where the only means of transport is by pack bullock. But, except in the extreme south, where the population is sparse, the district is well served by the railways, and trade is active.

*Jhánsi.*—Food stocks are ample.

*Jalaun.*—Food stocks, which are dependent on importation, continue to be sufficient.

*Jaunpur.*—Food stocks are sufficient, but prices, though stationary, are very high.

*Lucknow.*—Food stocks are sufficient. Importations are dull at present, but it is expected that quantities of rice will shortly be imported from Burma.

*Unao.*—Food stocks are sufficient, and grain is also being largely imported.

*Rae Bareli.*—Food stocks, supplemented by import, are sufficient for local consumption.

*Sitapur.*—Large bázárs and large villages are reported to be well supplied; smaller ones not so. Grain is being exported.

*Hardoi.*—Grain is being imported. The stocks are said to be deficient in the smaller villages, but this requires verification.

### General Condition and Prospects of the Affected Area.

*Cawnpore.*—Agricultural prospects were improved by the rain which fell at the end of November, and have since been further improved by rain at the end of December. In the canal tract and outside it, on irrigated lands, the rabi crops are good. But the area (77 per cent.) sown in the district is considerably less than the average area, and the late sowings on unirrigated lands are backward.

*Banda.*—The prospects of the district remain practically unaltered, except that the Christmas rains in other districts may tend to lower prices. The slight rain which fell in the district in December was beneficial to the germinated rabi crops, but did not admit of any extension of the very short area sown. The area sown is only one-fourth of the normal, and the district is in a prostrated state. Relief measures in Banda are extensive.

*Hamirpur.*—Rain fell on December 24, and also, after the close of the period under report, on the 29th and 30th. The rain has benefited the crops already sown, but has not operated to extend the area under cultivation. A good crop may be expected in the area sown, which is 46 per cent. of the normal area.

*Allahabad.*—This district has received no rain, either in November or December, in any appreciable quantity. The rabi area sown is only 38 per cent of the normal for the whole district, and in the extreme south there is virtually no crop at all. The southern portion of the district must continue to be a cause of great anxiety, and a very large proportion of its population will require relief during the next six months.

*Jhansi.*—The standing crop is in good condition, and gives promise of a good out turn. But it represents only 37 per cent. of the average rabi area of the district.

*Jalaun.*—The rain of the 28th and 29th was beneficial to the standing crops, though the hail which accompanied it did damage in a few villages. Some more land is being sown where the rainfall was good, but this will not add appreciably to the cropped area, which is only 27 per cent of the normal. The district is nearly as badly off as Banda.

*Jaunpur.*—The recent rain hardly touched this district, and only in the extreme south did any appreciable quantity fall. It is, however, well irrigated, and has sown 78 per cent. of the normal rabi area. The crops that have not yet been irrigated are showing signs of failing, and the arhar and peas in some places have been badly injured by frost. The distressed area is confined to a rice-growing tract where the rice crop failed.

*Lucknow.*—The recent rain has greatly improved the prospects of the district.

*Unao.*—The rabi crop, which is 59 per cent of the normal, promises well.

*Rae Bareli.*—There has been no great change in the affected area, but the rabi promises well. It is 63 per cent. of the normal area.

*Sitapur.*—In the last week of the month there was general rain, which benefited the crops and gave heart to the cultivators. Irrigation work is suspended in some parts of the district, and the cultivating class, as well as the labouring class, are coming on to the relief works. This may be expected to continue until the rabi is ripe. Nearly 70 per cent. of the normal area has been sown.

*Hardoi.*—The people, especially labourers and small agriculturists, are very badly off. Until the rabi harvest there is certain to be a large and continued increase in the distress. The prospects of the rabi have been improved by the recent rain, but the area is reported only 52 per cent of the normal. Extensive relief measures have been established.

### Changes in Rates of Wages.

The wages are fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Code, having regard to the prices current of staple food grains. The classification of the labourers is, however, still imperfect in some districts, an unnecessarily large number being classed under A. This is being rectified.



NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly Famine Statment B. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.

Division.	DISTRICT.	Maximum Number(daily average for three months) for whom Relief is Estimated to be Required in Case of Serious Famine.	Number of Persons (daily average for three months) for whom Relief was Provided in the last Programme of Relief Works.		Number for whom Relief can be provided or Works Remaining on Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure since November 1, 1896.			Advances since November 1, 1896, under--		Revenue suspended since November 1, 1896.	
			Date of Publication of Programme.	On large Works.	On others.	On large Works.	On Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.		Agriculturists' Loans Act.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Allahabad	Cawnpore	70,000	November 1, 1896.	95,000	8,558	93,014	8,558	December 26, 1896.	Rs. 7,198	Rs. 818	Rs. 4,091	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 2,00,
	Banda	100,000		240,000	8,000	200,000	8,000		1,36,763	39,622	2,598	3,225	2,80,
	Hamirpur	75,000		147,000	6,000	120,000	6,000		29,330	23,259	5,521	10,580	1,87,
	Allahabad	150,000		84,000	50,000	* 119,800	50,000		56,157	3,312	4,026	32,568	6,76,
	Jhānsi	80,000		104,000	8,142	90,000	8,142		29,190	2,509	—	0,401	—
	Jalaun	60,000		115,000	20,914	* 120,000	17,115		35,778	1,397	510	5,767	—
	Total, Allahabad Division	535,000		785,000	101,614	743,714	97,815		2,74,416	70,917	16,746	73,631	13,52,
Benares	Janapur	60,000	55,000	—	* 69,000	—	20,393	3,951	2,150	7,000	—		
	Total, Benares Division	60,000	55,000	—	69,000	—	20,393	3,951	2,150	7,000	—		
Lucknow	Lucknow	60,000	60,000	—	57,800	—	7,682	12,407	10,354	78,182	—		
	Unao	51,000	51,000	8,979	51,000	8,979	3,843	804	20,000	38,000	3,50,		
	Rao Bareil	100,000	67,000	4,000	54,700	4,000	50,545	7,058	63,000	7,000	—		
	Sitapur	100,000	108,000	67,586	100,700	67,586	21,375	1,145	3,400	5,023	—		
	Hardoi	110,000	37,000	11,000	*46,500	*11,400	57,574	14,202	36,046	46,211	1,25,		
	Total, Lucknow Division	421,000	323,000	91,565	310,700	91,965	1,21,019	36,516	1,47,800	1,74,416	4,75,		
Total, North-West Provinces and Oudh		1,016,000	—	1,163,000	193,179	†1,123,414	180,780	4,15,828	1,11,384	1,56,606	2,55,047	18,27,	

\* Including new projects sanctioned since the issue of last programme. † Column 6.—Since December 26 this supply of works has been increased by additions to the district programme. Columns 11 and 12.—The following advances were made in connection with the present scarcity in October.

	Cawnpore.	Banda.	Hamirpur.	Allahabad.	Jhānsi.	Jalaun.	Janapur.	Lucknow.	Unao.	Rao Bareil.	Sitapur.	Hardoi.
Under the Lands Improvement Loans Act	Rs. 1,749	Rs. Nil.	Rs. 7,896	Rs. 3,037	Rs. 6,000	Rs. 7,835	Rs. 7,500	Rs. 10,354	Rs. 2,349	Rs. 58,730	Rs. 46,785	Rs. 59,930
Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act	14,408	34,000	2,247	24,807	145	36,000	500	78,182	2,130	53,185	20,180	33,210

Z 4

177

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly (Extra-Code) Famine Statement C. for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, December 26, 1896.

D I S T R I C T. 1.	Test Relief Works under Civil Officers.				Test Relief Works under Public Works Department.				Poor-house Relief.				Other Gratuitous Relief.			Remarks. 17.
	2. Number open during Period under Report.	3. Number of Labourers on last day of Period under Report.	4. Expenditure during Period.	5. Expenditure from out-set to date.	6. Number open during Period under Report.	7. Number of Labourers on last day of Period under Report.	8. Expenditure during Period.	9. Expenditure from out-set to Date.	10. Number of Poor-houses open during Period under Report.	11. Number of Inmates on last day of Period under Report.	12. Expenditure during Period.	13. Expenditure from out-set to Date.	14. Number in receipt of Gratuitous Relief on last day of Period under Report.	15. Expenditure during Period.	16. Expenditure from out-set to Date.	
Dehra Dún . . . . .	2	291	Rs. 902	Rs. 3,634	-	-	Rs. -	Rs. -	-	-	Rs. -	Rs. -	-	-	-	
TOTAL, Meerut Division . . . . .	2	291	902	3,634	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Muttra . . . . .	-	-	-	2,123	1	3,948	3,682	3,682	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Agra . . . . .	17	573	1,393	6,477	8	3,938	863	926	2	226	650	1,527	2,870	4,226	4,274	* Two test works closed on 11th and 18th December respectively.
Farukhabad . . . . .	2	918	368	1,140	-	-	-	-	2	701	1,000	2,719	-	-	-	
Mainpuri . . . . .	-	-	-	-	1	103	84	84	1	100	491	911	-	-	-	
Etawah . . . . .	-	-	-	-	3	3,502	3,516	3,678	1	61	154	344	1,624	938	938	
Etah . . . . .	*3	134	275	1,185	-	-	-	-	1	88	196	417	708	441	441	
TOTAL, Agra Division . . . . .	22	1,625	2,096	10,925	8	11,491	8,145	8,368	7	1,176	2,431	5,918	5,202	5,605	5,653	
Bareilly . . . . .	-	-	-	-	1	542	976	1,906	1	122	528	2,477	166	250	250	
Bijnor . . . . .	-	-	-	-	1	214	62	62	4	446	644	1,428	-	-	-	
Budaun . . . . .	3	662	1,226	4,315	-	-	-	-	1	85	160	341	-	-	-	

10108	Moradabad - - - - -	1	120	210	230	-	-	-	-	2	97	179	575	4	1	1
	Shahjahanpur - - - - -	4	967	1,325	5,812	-	-	-	-	3	721	1,538	9,025	793	309	309
	Filibhit - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	395	1,081	2,801	245	14	14
	TOTAL, Rohilkhand Division - -	8	1,749	2,761	10,357	2	756	1,038	1,968	14	1,865	4,130	16,647	1,208	663	663
	Fatehpur - - - - -	8	107	106	950	-	-	-	-	1	723	1,569	1,858	93	27	27
	TOTAL, Allahabad Division - -	8	107	166	956	-	-	-	-	1	723	1,569	1,858	93	27	27
	Benares - - - - -	-	-	-	-	4	73	12	260	3	430	1,823	1,823	145	164	164
	Mirzapur - - - - -	4	†109	†39	†39	-	-	-	-	†1	776	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL, Benares Division - -	4	109	39	39	4	73	12	260	4	1,206	1,823	1,823	145	164	164
V V	Gorakhpur - - - - -	2	1,610	1,344	1,344	-	-	-	-	5	2,720	5,439	6,289	-	-	-
	Basti - - - - -	4	225	544	620	-	-	-	-	4	700	2,490	4,376	-	-	-
	Azamgarh - - - - -	4	781	834	1,166	1	201	439	439	4	972	2,980	4,770	9	3	3
	TOTAL, Gorakhpur Division - -	10	2,616	2,722	3,130	1	201	439	439	13	4,392	10,909	15,436	9	3	3
	Kheri - - - - -	2	231	154	154	-	-	-	-	‡2	19	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL, Lucknow Division - -	2	231	154	154	-	-	-	-	2	19	-	-	-	-	-
	Fyzabad - - - - -	1	1,042	581	753	3	404	1,200	1,200	3	834	929	929	605	499	499
	Gonda - - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	1,073	1,278	1,278	3	1,280	2,336	4,460	-	-	-
	Sultánpur - - - - -	2	909	895	3,016	2	205	48	48	4	623	1,133	2,303	388	494	494
	Partábgarh - - - - -	2	1,565	2,094	2,321	3	478	280	500	3	220	382	1,288	-	-	-
	Bara Banki - - - - -	15	8,289	10,881	14,196	2	609	130	130	5	508	943	1,430	-	605	605
	TOTAL, Fyzabad Division - -	20	11,805	14,451	20,286	12	2,769	2,938	3,158	18	3,465	5,723	10,410	993	1,508	1,508
	TOTAL NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH - - - - -	76	18,533	23,231	49,481	27	15,290	12,570	14,191	59	12,846	20,585	52,091	7,650	8,060	8,108

† Maintained from private subscriptions.

‡ Both maintained from private subscriptions.

‡ The figures in columns 3, 4, and 5 against Mirzapur relate to only one of the four test works shown in column 2. Figures for the remaining three works have not been submitted.

## SEPARATE MORTALITY STATEMENT.

District.	Monthly Death Rate.	
	For November 1896.	For the corresponding period of the previous Year.
Cawnpore - - - - -	2·37	2·31
Bánda - - - - -	4·12	4·31
Hamírpur - - - - -	6·13	2·81
Jhánsi - - - - -	5·86	3·47
Lucknow - - - - -	2·26	2·44
Rae Bareli - - - - -	2·37	2·29
Sitapur - - - - -	2·64	3·74
Hardoi - - - - -	2·76	3·22

Note on the Condition of Prisoners, Inmates of Poorhouses, and people employed on Relief Works in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

SINCE November 30, 1896, I have visited 16 districts and have inspected 17 jails and 21 poorhouses and relief works.

2. In my inspection of jails I have paid especial attention to the condition of recently admitted prisoners, and, with comparatively few exceptions, they were in a healthy state. They had evidently not allowed themselves to suffer much before applying for jail relief.

3. In the poorhouses the inmates were largely of the beggar class and suffering more from disease than from want of food. The arrangements for the shelter and feeding of these people, as a rule, left nothing to be desired.

4. On relief works I saw very few people in at all a reduced condition. At Orai, in the Jalaun district, I noted that, although those at work "could not be considered high class labourers, they were with few exceptions fairly well nourished and capable of a fair day's work," while the food supplies with one exception were of good quality. At the Ikdil-Kálpi Road relief work, in the Etáwah district, employing 5,100 people, they appeared to be generally in good condition and capable of a fair day's work. I saw no one who appeared to have suffered from want of food. At the Karchana Road relief work, in the Allahabad district, which I visited four days ago, the people, though somewhat underfed in appearance, were, as a rule, healthy and capable of a fair day's work. The daily wage was, in my opinion, sufficient.

5. What impressed me especially when visiting the various relief works was that in no case had the starting of these works been deferred too long, so that when the people came to them they were quite capable of doing good work. The food arrangements were excellent, and the only difficulty at first appeared to be the providing of sufficient shelter for such large bodies of people; but this difficulty was being surmounted.

W. P. WARBURTON, M.D., Surgeon Colonel,  
Inspector General of Civil Hospitals,  
North-West Provinces and Oudh.

## B E N G A L

CALCUTTA, 10th December, 1896.

RESOLUTION—No. 5133.

READ—

- (1.) Notes made on his tour in Bihar by the Honourable Mr. Finucane, Revenue Secretary to this Government, between November 23rd and December 5th, 1896.
- (2.) Notes of the Proceedings of a Conference held at Muzaffarpur on December 4th and 5th, 1896.
- (3.) Letters from the Commissioner of Patna, No. 625-G., dated November 19th, and No. 669-G., dated December 7th, 1896.

Read again—

Notes of Proceedings of a Conference held at Sonapur on November 20th, 1896.

Report of the Commissioner of Patna, No. 609-G., dated November 11th, 1896, drawn up in accordance with Section 9 of the Famine Code.

At the Conference held at Sonapur on November 20th, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, in summarising the results of the discussion that had taken place on impending scarcity in the Patna Division, said that as the Commissioner and local officers were of opinion that it would be undesirable for the Lieutenant-Governor personally to visit the affected areas at that time, he would refrain from doing so, but would leave behind him the Honourable Mr. Finucane, the Revenue Secretary to this Government, who would visit the various districts with Mr. Bourdillon, the Commissioner, and that both of them would discuss with district officers the relief works necessary, the area and organisation of relief circles, the tasks of work to be demanded, the rates of wages to be given, and various other details of famine-relief administration. The Commissioner was, unfortunately, owing to temporary ill-health, unable at that time to go on tour; but Mr. Finucane, accompanied by the district officers, moved rapidly over the tracts in which the failure of the winter rice crop is greatest, and distress imminent and likely to be severe. He laid the results of his observations before a Conference held at Muzaffarpur on the 4th and 5th December, at which there were present Mr. Bourdillon, the Commissioner, Messrs. Hare, Macpherson and Carlyle, Collectors of Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Darbhanga, Mr. Stevenson-Moore, Settlement Officer, Mr. Russell, Sub-divisional Officer of Sitamarhi, the Honourable Mr. Glass, C.I.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to this Government in the Public Works Department, Mr. Mills, Inspector of Local Works, and Mr. Sealy, District Engineer of Champaran.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that Mr. Finucane's tour has been most useful, and is much indebted to him for the care and thoroughness with which he has gone into the questions that came before him. The results of the deliberations of the Conference are summarised in their recommendations annexed to this Resolution, on which the Lieutenant-Governor now desires to record the following observations and orders:—

*Area affected in the Patna Division.*

It appears that the rice crop is very seriously short, and in some tracts almost a total failure, throughout the non-irrigated parts of the rice-growing areas of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Champaran.

The following statement shows the areas estimated by the district officers to be more or less severely affected in these districts. In some of the areas shown in the statement distress is already beginning to be felt, and in the rest it will certainly be felt more or less generally a little later on. In the former areas it is proposed to form relief charges at once, and in the later as necessity arises. The following table also shows the number

of relief charges and circles which it is proposed to create, and the number of relief charges proposed to be created at once and later on :—

DISTRICT.	Area likely to be ultimately affected.	Population of the affected Area.	Number of Superintendents' Charges.		Number of Circles.	
			Ultimately to be Formed.	Now to be Formed.	Ultimately to be Formed.	Now to be Formed.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	Sq. miles.					
Champanan - - - -	2,589	1,469,308	11	4	55	9
Muzaffarpur - - - -	1,851	1,660,000	12	6	85	33
Darbhanga - - - -	2,044	1,720,000	8	5	57	24
TOTAL - - - -	6,484	4,849,308	31	15	197	66

*Establishment proposed for administration of Famine Relief.*

It is proposed to appoint a superintendent of relief of the rank of a gazetted officer to each charge, having an area of 200 to 300 square miles, and a population of about 250,000 persons, with a staff of circle officers or inspectors, and clerical and other establishment as noted below.\* The number of circle officers in a superintendent's charge is to be so regulated that each circle officer will have an area of about 30 to 40 square miles, with a population of about 25,000 to 30,000 persons. The proposed establishment is large, especially in Muzaffarpur, where the number of charges proposed by the Collector may probably be reduced, but the Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the scheme so far as present requirements are concerned, for his Honour is clearly of opinion that a strong and efficient establishment is necessary at the early stages of a famine, in order to make sure that relief works are properly organised and undertaken, as soon as they are required, in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, that lists of deserving objects of gratuitous relief are drawn up after house-to-house visitation and enquiry, as contemplated by Sections 31 (a) and 41 to 43 of the Code, and that respectable women and others who are unable to labour and are ashamed to beg, and have nobody to maintain them, are not allowed to die in their homes for want of food.

3. In all the areas for which it is now proposed to organise relief charges, rice is the predominating, and in some of them almost the only crop grown, and serious failure of that crop must necessarily mean severe and protracted distress. It is to be remembered that while in rabi-growing tracts a good rabi crop will replenish the food supply in April, in rice-growing areas, on the other hand, food supplies will not be replenished till the next bhadoi harvest in August and September, and in these latter tracts credit is contracted and alarm felt sooner, while distress lasts longer than where hopes of early relief may be entertained from rabi crops.

4. The Conference for these reasons recommends that relief charges should be organised immediately in areas where the failure of the winter rice is greatest and distress is beginning to be already felt, and that afterwards, as the necessity for them shows itself, relief charges be created in the remaining tracts in which the failure of crops has not been actually so great.

The Lieutenant Governor accepts the recommendation of the Conference on this point.

* Clerical and other staff for each Superintendent—	Rs.	For each Circle Officer or Inspector—	Rs.
A clerk on - - - -	30	One muharrir on - - - -	12 to 20
A muharrir on - - - -	20	One peon - - - -	6
One orderly on - - - -	6		
	<u>56</u>	Petty establishment to be selected from applicants for relief.	

The comparatively slight expense that will be entailed by the early appointment of an adequate relief staff where distress is likely to be acute will be recouped many fold later on, not only in saving life, and guarding the classes dependent in ordinary times on private charity and others, from getting into a state of weakness and emaciation, but also in preventing the waste of money and confusion that may arise if large bodies of people were suddenly to rush on to relief works before the staff necessary to classify them, and to exact the tasks, and to distribute the maximum and minimum wage prescribed by the Code, is prepared to receive them.

5. It is proposed to appoint 15 superintendents of relief and 66 circle officers at once. Of the superintendent's charges, five can be filled up from the existing staff of Government officers in the Division, and every effort will be made by the Appointment Department to fill up at once some of the other charges by Assistant Superintendents of Police of some standing from other parts of Bengal.

The Conference recommend that the remaining charges should be manned by indigo-planters (if their services can be obtained) with local knowledge and experience of the country and people, on salaries of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per month, with horse allowance of Rs. 100, and that superintendents of relief who are Government servants be allowed, in addition to their ordinary pay, a horse allowance of Rs. 100 per month.

Having regard to the facts, that a great strain is already placed on the administration of these Provinces by the employment of a large number of officers on settlement and survey work, that distress more or less severe is apprehended in nearly all districts, that it is consequently impossible to weaken the normal staff in districts outside Bihar, that it is improbable that other Provinces will be able to lend any of their officers, and looking especially to the advantages secured by the employment on famine duty of gentlemen of active habits, local knowledge and experience, the Lieutenant Governor is anxious, if the Government of India have no objection, to secure the services, for famine relief, of as many suitable indigo-planters as can be procured and may be required. Young assistants of a few years standing with an adequate knowledge of the language would be the kind of agency to be sought for.

It is, however, to be clearly understood that non-official gentlemen who may be employed as Superintendents of relief charges, in the way proposed by the Conference, are for the period of such employment to be regarded as Government servants, that they are to be exclusively engaged on famine duty, that they are to be liable to be employed in any part of Bihar at the discretion of the authorities, and that they are to be subject to the same discipline and control as Government servants.

6. The Indigo Planters' Association have offered to give the services of its members in their respective neighbourhoods, as circle officers, under the Superintendents and free of charge. The Lieutenant Governor thankfully accepts the offer, but here again it is necessary that it should be clearly understood that these gentlemen should perform the famine duties which they voluntarily undertake, under the same rules and conditions as to submission of returns and accounts and supervision of relief works and distribution of gratuitous relief, as other circle officers who are paid by Government. A small clerical establishment may be allowed them for the compilation of returns and accounts if found to be necessary.

Suitable candidates to fill up the remaining number of circle officers, who are to be paid, can, the Commissioner reports, be obtained locally on a pay of Rs. 50 with Rs. 25 horse allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorised to entertain these officers as they may be found to be required.

7. It is believed that the arrangements, as regards establishment, now authorised, will be amply sufficient to meet present requirements. By the time when it becomes necessary to extend the organisation of relief charges and circles, it is probable that a large number of officers will be set free, say, by the end of February, from survey and settlement work, and will thus become available for employment on famine relief, so that it will not, it is hoped, at any time become necessary to draw very largely on the regular staff of other districts, which is already as small as it can safely be.

*Provision of tents, treasure-chests, &c.*

8. In paragraph 11 of the memorandum\* of the proceedings of the Conference, it is recommended that each superintendent of relief should be furnished with a tent for himself and a *pal* for his servants, and each circle officer with a *pal*. The Military Department will be asked if they can lend the requisite number of tents and *pals* on

\* Not reprinted.

indent from the Commissioner; if not, the Lieutenant Governor will sanction their purchase.

9. His Honour sanctions the purchase of treasure-chests as proposed in paragraph 12 of the memorandum—one for each Superintendent, to hold Rs. 10,000, and two for each Circle Officer, one of iron to hold Rs. 500 in silver, and another of wood to hold the same amount in copper.

*Accounts.*

10. The Lieutenant Governor also accepts the proposals contained in paragraph 13 of the memorandum, namely, that sums available for expenditure on relief works by District Boards should, with the consent of the Boards, be placed to the credit of the Collector. It is certain that the District Board funds will have to be largely supplemented by Government, and it is obviously desirable that there should be uniformity from the outset, in the method of keeping famine accounts, and that the delays attendant on the cumbrous procedure of estimates and sanction by the Boards at meetings which it may not be possible to convene in due time, should be avoided. The Boards should, however, be consulted and their wishes met, so far as possible, in the allocation of their funds to the particular works on which they may desire to expend them. The transfer will only be made for the purpose of facilitating the keeping of accounts in a proper and uniform manner.

11. Sir Alexander Mackenzie agrees (paragraph 14 of the memorandum) that for all major works carried out under the Public Works Department agency, accounts should be kept under the Public Works departmental system, and that for all other accounts the Collector is to be responsible. He is also of opinion that in order to avoid keeping Sub-divisional Officers tied down to their offices, and to enable them to move about freely and supervise all relief work in their respective sub-divisions, they should be merely disbursing officers, and not officers of account.

The Accountant General will be asked to depute an officer to Bihar to confer with the Commissioner and Collectors, and to arrange the details of the account system on the lines indicated.

*Contributions for well-sinking (paragraph 16 of the Memorandum).*

12. It is proposed, in order to encourage the extension of the sowing of rabi crops, and especially of food rabi crops, such as barley, potatoes, chena and khesari, for the sowing of which it is not yet too late, and to secure the rabi that has been sown against possible failure from want of rain, that a contribution of one rupee should be given by Government for each kutchra well sunk after the date of notice, up to a limit of two lakhs of rupees over the whole Division. The cost of these wells is only about Rs. 2-8 each. Every well sunk now, in suitable land, will not only add largely to the food-supply of the country in March and April, but will also save Government later on from expenditure on wages of cultivators on relief works, who by securing and extending their rabi crops will *pro tanto* be enabled to keep longer away from relief works. The Lieutenant Governor therefore sanctions the proposal, and hopes that vigorous steps will be taken to give effect to it. The expenditure incurred in this way may be charged to famine relief. It is said that in some tracts the raiyats are unwilling to irrigate their lands from wells or to sow rabi crops where they have not hitherto been accustomed to do so. The Lieutenant Governor believes that the apathy of the raiyats and their unwillingness to help themselves in this way are exaggerated; and that if prompt steps are taken to give effect to the orders regarding well-digging already passed, and now repeated and emphasized, much good can still be done in this direction.

It may, no doubt, be a fact that in certain parts of Bihar the conditions of the soil, sub-soil and water are such that well-irrigation may prove injurious, and that as regards such parts caution is necessary. Samples of the soils and water referred to have been sent to Dr. Leather, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, whose opinion will be communicated to the local officers on the earliest possible date.

*Advances for purchase of grain imported from beyond the seas (paragraph 17 of the Memorandum).*

13. It was brought to the notice of the Conference that many gentlemen of position, local knowledge and experience in Bihar, are of opinion that stocks, especially in the more inaccessible places, are likely to become depleted before private trade could supply



the local deficit, and it was suggested for consideration whether, without in any way interfering with private trade, Government might unobjectionably advance money, at moderate interest, for the purchase of grain imported from Burma or elsewhere, which might be sold or distributed locally without any interference on the part of Government. The Commissioner recommends that the suggestion be accepted "as the last bulwark against depletion of stocks in out-of-the-way places," on the condition that grain for which loans are made is in the first instance imported from beyond the seas, and purchased in Calcutta or other distant markets, and that full and adequate security is forthcoming for the repayment of the loans. The Commissioner is also of opinion that such advances should only be made to well-known men who may be trusted not to compete with local bunniahs. In 1873-74 Government sanctioned arrangements whereby, in places likely to be in want, and in which there were not thought to be traders to import food, advances might be made—

- (a) To zamindars, planters, or others, on the condition that they would import grain from a distance and sell it, as near as possible, at cost price, all expenses included ;
- (b) To traders and others of safe and responsible character, at a moderate interest of 6 per cent., who were to import grain from a distance without any conditions as to the rate or manner of selling it.

Proposals such as were sanctioned under head (a) in 1873-74 clearly involve interference with private trade, and cannot now be entertained ; but there appears to the Lieutenant Governor to be no strong objection to advances of money by Government at reasonable interest (say 6 per cent.), and on adequate security, for purchase in Calcutta of grain, imported or to be imported from beyond seas, and sale or distribution of it in remote areas, provided the persons to whom such loans are given are allowed to sell or otherwise dispose of it at their discretion, and at their own risk. The only conditions which it would be necessary to stipulate for would be (1) that supplies are drawn from districts beyond those in which scarcity extends or is apprehended (in the present instance all India), and (2) for occasional inspection of grain invoices (chalans), in order to verify that the persons to whom advances are made do really import grain into the inaccessible tracts, and that it was obtained originally outside Bengal or other provinces threatened with scarcity. No maximum or minimum limit need be put on the amounts of such loans, nor need any distinction be made as to the class of persons to whom such loans may be made, as long as they can give security for repayment with interest at any time up to the end of 1897 that Government may demand repayment. If the conditions of the loan should be violated the amounts advanced might be realised at once, but otherwise they would not be recovered before the end of 1897.

The question appears to be more one of finance than of interference with trade. It will be submitted for the orders of the Government of India, but meanwhile if, pending receipt of the orders of the Supreme Government, the Commissioner or district officers receive any definite applications for loans for the purpose indicated, they should submit them for the orders of Government.

*Charitable Relief Committees (paragraph 18 of the Memorandum).*

14. The question of the creation and functions of charitable relief committees is under the consideration of the Government of India. The trustees of the Bengal Distress Relief Fund have been requested to place at the disposal of the Accountant General the funds on their hands, for distribution among Commissioners and Collectors to meet the immediate wants of those who are in need of gratuitous relief.

*Relief Works (paragraphs 19 to 27 of the Memorandum).*

15. Sir Alexander Mackenzie approves the suggestion that the Honourable Mr. Glass, who has had large experience of famine relief works, should draw up scales of work to be done by individuals and gangs for various classes of soils and varying conditions of lead and lift, and his Honour desires that the scales thus drawn up should be generally adhered to by local officers. The task of work to be demanded being fixed, collectors can, under the Commissioner's control, determine the daily wage to be given under the provisions of the Famine Code.

The Lieutenant Governor agrees that the major works mentioned in paragraph 20 of the Memorandum should be placed directly under the officers of the Public Works Department, and be administered by an entirely separate staff. They should not, however, be carried out on piecework by contractors, but as relief works under the rules prescribed in Sections 89 to 96 of the Famine Code. Ordinarily only able-bodied labourers should be employed (Section 89) on them, but the wages of the labourers who are employed should be regulated by the provisions of Chapter VII., Sections 101 to 106 of the Code, as regards the maximum and minimum wage. Section 52 (4) of the Code prohibits the carrying out of any famine relief work by contract.

16. An officer of the Irrigation Department has been directed to proceed to Bihar at once, as suggested by the Conference (paragraph 20). He should first examine the possibility of the irrigation schemes already suggested in North Madhubani, and afterwards of the other schemes proposed in North Bettiah and Muzaffarpur. Another officer of experience is also being deputed to examine the country generally with a view to the elaboration of other schemes.

17. The Lieutenant Governor approves the proposals of the Conference for expediting the taking up land for the proposed railway lines,\* to the survey of which the sanction of the Government of India has already been received.

18. The proposals made in paragraph 24 of the Memorandum regarding the establishment required for supervision of relief works is approved, but his Honour thinks that one, or at the outside two, civil hospital assistants ought at first to be sufficient for each superintendent's charge. Many of the labourers on relief works will return daily to their homes, but where large numbers are congregated in one work and do not return daily to their houses, one civil hospital assistant and sanitary arrangements may be required for each camp with 3,000 persons at work; for small works a visiting hospital assistant and one central hospital in each charge ought to suffice. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, in communication with the Commissioner, will be requested to make the necessary arrangements for giving effect to these orders.

The arrangements indicated in paragraph 26 of the Memorandum as to supply of baskets, kodalis, medical stores, including permanganate of potash and chloride of lime, &c., are approved.

*Advances for Tanks and other Village Improvements (paragraph 27).*

19. The Conference suggest that advances should be given by Government, free of interest, in the distressed areas to zamindars, middlemen, substantial raiyats, and traders, for excavation in their own villages of tanks and execution of other petty works.

The Lieutenant Governor considers that it would be desirable to give advances freely for such works, provided that care is taken that the works for which they are given are really executed, and that the money advanced is not spent on purposes other than those for which it is advanced, and that the works are really improvements which are likely to add to the supply of water for drinking or irrigation purposes. This object might be attained by making such advances in instalments, the later instalments not being paid till the Government officers are satisfied that the sums previously advanced have been properly spent.

It is probable that a saving to the State would be ultimately effected by making such advances to persons who, from religious or charitable motives, or in order to perpetuate their names, are now willing to excavate tanks, but have not the necessary funds available. Even if the whole of the amounts so advanced are not ultimately recovered, what may be realised will be so much saved, for in any case the tanks, if not made by such persons, would probably have to be made as relief works at the expense of the State. Before advancing Government money for tanks, care should be taken that the sites of tanks proposed are selected and approved by the officers of Government with due regard to levels, so that it may be possible to connect them with rivers by *pynes* or channels, and thus to have them flushed with water when it is required, and so made permanently useful for purposes of irrigation and consequent prevention or mitigation of future scarcities from drought. This is an object which should be carefully borne in mind in connection with all relief works of this class in North Bihar.

\* Nos. 2 and 8, Barragnia-Bagaha and Sakri-Joynagar.

The rules for making advances under the Famine Code (Section 200) do not, however, permit of advances or loans being given without interest. The Government of India will be asked whether they are willing to relax, during the present and following year, the rules under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Acts, in areas affected by scarcity.

20. In connection with this subject the attention of all officers is invited to Section 77 of the Tenancy Act, which empowers raiyats at fixed rates and occupancy raiyats to make improvements [in which term are included tanks and wells, water channels for irrigation, and storage and supply or distribution of water for the purposes of agriculture, or for the use of men and cattle employed on agriculture] without the consent of the landlord, where the landlord is unwilling to execute them himself. Instances have come to the notice of Government in which raiyats were desirous to execute such works, but were prevented from doing so because the landlords refused consent, though unwilling themselves to make them. If the provisions of the law in this respect are made widely known, it is possible that many works will be voluntarily undertaken by private persons which would otherwise have to be done at the expense of Government.

21. As to the question whether the people should be drafted off at the early stages to the major works, as suggested in paragraph 27 of the Memorandum, a reference will be made to the Government of India.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is himself disposed to think that when villagers take advances for relief works to be executed in their villages, at their own expense, they may be left to decide for themselves whether they will carry them out at the early or later stages, as they think fit, but that in case of works executed at the public expense the people should at the earlier stages be provided with work near their homes; and that as soon as they have become accustomed to the system of work and payment, and have acquired confidence in the officers under whom they are employed, the able-bodied may be drafted off to the major works in the manner prescribed in Sections 72 to 75 of the Code.

22. The Lieutenant Governor notices with pleasure that in the areas over which Mr. Finucane travelled, with one or two exceptions, no complaints were made by the raiyats of their being pressed by their landlords for payment of rent, but, on the contrary, that it was admitted by the raiyats that no attempts were being made to realise from them now rents which they are manifestly unable to pay.

23. In conclusion, Sir Alexander Mackenzie trusts that the arrangements now sanctioned will be sufficient and suitable for effecting what is the paramount aim of famine relief, namely, the saving of human life, while they will at the same time, it is hoped, be adequate to guard against unnecessary waste of public money; and his Honour has every confidence in the ability and determination of the Commissioner, the district officers and their subordinates, with the willingly-promised aid and co-operation of the non-official community, European and Native, to attain these most important objects.

24. The Memorandum of the proceedings of the Conference, with the Revenue Secretary's diary, are published with this Resolution for general information.

By order of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal,

E. M. KONSTAM,  
For Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

## DIARY No. 4154.

No. 5183, Agri. Dated December 12, 1896.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

IN continuation of my letter, No. 5134, Agri., dated the 10th December 1896, relating to the apprehended scarcity in the Patna Division, I am directed to solicit the orders of the Government of India on the following points dealt with in the Resolution of this Government, No. 5133, dated the 10th December 1896, which was submitted with my letter above quoted.

2. As will be seen from paragraph 2 of the Resolution, the total area likely to be affected in the three districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, is estimated to be 6,484 square miles. It is proposed to divide this area into superintendents' charges of 200 to 300 square miles, each charge being sub-divided into circles of about 30 to 40 square miles. The total number of superintendents' charges ultimately to be formed, is 31, and it is proposed to appoint to each a superintendent of the rank of a gazetted officer. Of this number 15 superintendents are required at once. Five of these appointments can be filled up from the existing staff of Government officers in the division, and as many more as possible will be filled up by transferring suitable officers of the Police Department from other parts of Bengal. The Muzaffarpur Conference recommended that the remaining charges should be manned by indigo planters (if their services can be obtained) with local knowledge and experience of the country and the people on salaries of 200 rupees to 300 rupees a month, with a horse allowance of 100 rupees. For the reasons stated in paragraph 5 of the Resolution, the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to accept this recommendation, and I am to request that this Government may be authorised to appoint temporarily as many suitable indigo planters, to be superintendents of relief, as may be required on the salary and allowance above-mentioned.

3. I am also to solicit the sanction of the Government of India to the payment of a horse allowance of 100 rupees a month, in addition to their ordinary pay, to such Government officers as may be appointed superintendents of relief, it being understood that they will be entitled to no travelling allowance within their respective charges, and that they keep as many horses as may be thought necessary.

4. In paragraph 13 of the Resolution submitted to the Government of India, it is pointed out that many gentlemen of position and local knowledge in Behar consider that stocks, especially in the less accessible places, are likely to be depleted before private trade can supply the local deficit; and the Lieutenant-Governor desires me to submit, for the favourable consideration of the Government of India, the suggestion of the Conference that advances of money might be made by Government at a reasonable rate of interest (say 6 per cent.) for the purchase in Calcutta of grain from over seas, and for the distribution of this grain in remote areas, it being understood that the persons to whom these loans are made will be allowed to dispose of the grain at their own risk and at their own discretion. It would be necessary to stipulate that the supplies be drawn from other countries than India, and that Government officers should be allowed to satisfy themselves by the occasional inspection of invoices that grain is really being imported into the inaccessible tracts. The Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that to make advances on these conditions would not constitute an interference with private trade, and would not be inconsistent with the principles approved by the Famine Commissioners in paragraph 159 of their report. One or more of the persons to whom such advances may be made in inaccessible tracts, might be constituted contractors for the supply of grain on relief works, &c., under Section 35 of the Code, and I am directed to request that the Government of India may be moved to sanction this proposal.

5. The Conference which met at Muzaffarpur suggested that advances should be given by Government free of interest in the distressed areas to zemindars and others for excavation of tanks and wells, and for the execution of other petty works in their own villages. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts this suggestion (paragraph 19 of the Resolution) on the understanding that care must be taken that the works for which the advances are given are really executed, and that the money advanced is not spent on purposes other than those for which it is advanced, and that the works are really required for, and suitable as, relief works, especially such as those by which the supply of water

for drinking and irrigation purposes will be increased. I am to explain that the works for which these advances are proposed to be given will ordinarily be tanks, village reservoirs for storage of water, and irrigation channels (pynes), and that they must be approved by the officers of Government before they are undertaken. The labourers to be employed upon them will receive not more than the maximum and not less than the minimum wage, calculated according to the principles laid down in the Famine Code.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is unable to authorise the grant of these advances free of interest without the sanction of the Government of India. These advances will ordinarily be made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act (XII. of 1884). Rules under that Act have been framed by the Government of Bengal, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council; a copy of which is enclosed for ready reference.\* These rules already give power to the Local Government to sanction loans at reduced rates of interest, or without interest; but the Lieutenant-Governor now requests the sanction of the Government of India to a general relaxation of the rule regarding interest. In the famine of 1873-74, Rule 35 of the rules then in force under the Land Improvement Act of that time (XXVI. of 1871) was relaxed under the authority given by paragraph 17 of the Resolution recorded by his Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 7th November 1873, by a notification, dated the 20th November 1873, of which a copy is annexed, in so far that no interest was charged on advances of less than 500 rupees till after the expiration of one year. The Lieutenant-Governor apprehends that the remission of interest for one year only would not be sufficient inducement to the parties to take such loans, and therefore proposes to go further and altogether to forego interest on these loans; but does not desire to relax generally the other conditions which now govern the grant of advances, such as the condition of repayment by instalments in five years. The Lieutenant-Governor would, however, in order to avoid unnecessary delays, give to the Board of Revenue discretion to relax these conditions in particular cases in which it may be found desirable to do so.

7. I am to add that 5,50,000 rupees have during the present year been placed at the disposal of the Board for advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, and that of this sum 4,95,917 rupees have already been allotted to districts, 2,96,617 rupees to those of the Patna Division, most of which has already been exhausted, and 54,083 rupees is all that remains to be allotted. The Government of India will shortly be moved by this Government in the Financial Department to provide the additional funds, the amount of which will be specified, necessary for the grant of loans on the principles described in the preceding paragraphs.

8. I am also to invite attention of Government of India to paragraph 21 of the Resolution regarding the desirability of drafting off labourers to the larger works at the earlier stages, and to solicit that this Government may be favoured with the views of the Government of India on the subject.

9. Finally, I am to request that the Lieutenant-Governor may be favoured with the very early orders of the Government of India on the points raised in this letter.

---

No. 8 F. 45—14. Dated Calcutta, December 22, 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., C.S., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE. FAMINE.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5183, dated 12th December 1896, in which you forward, for the sanction of the Government of India, certain proposals connected with the relief of distress in the Patna Division.

2. In reply I am to say that the Government of India approve of the proposals in paragraph 2 of that letter regarding the employment and remuneration of non-officials as superintendents of famine charges, on the understanding that the strength of existing establishments is fully utilised before persons outside them are appointed. All such

---

\* Rule 13 of the Rules under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

appointments should be reported for the information of the Government of India. The proposals in your paragraph 3 with respect to the grant of horse allowance to officials who may be appointed superintendents of relief are also approved.

3. With regard to the advances for excavation of village tanks and other similar objects which it is proposed in paragraphs 5 and 6 of your letter to make under the Agricultural Loans Act (XII. of 1884) free of interest to zamindars and others in the distressed area, on condition that the labourers employed upon them will receive neither more than the maximum nor less than the minimum wage prescribed by the Famine Code, I am in the first instance to point out that they cannot apparently be legally made under the Act in question, since that Act excludes (section 4) all the purposes specified in the Lands Improvements Loans Act (Act XIX. of 1883), under section 4 (2) (a) of which the proposed works would appear to fall.

4. I am further to explain that at the present juncture money cannot be spared for advances for land improvement in the ordinary way unless it is applied to the purpose of famine relief and expended on the principles you state, on wages to people who would otherwise drift to relief works.

It is understood that this is the intention of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, and that he will take such measures as he deems sufficient to satisfy himself that this condition is fulfilled. The whole of the money should in the first instance be brought to account as famine relief expenditure, and in no other way; though with reference to the question of recovery, which will be discussed presently, the recoverable portion of it, when ascertained, may afterwards be adjusted upon the accounts as "Advances recoverable." Any such adjustment in the way of bringing the recoverable portion under a head other than of famine relief is, however, a matter of account which can be settled later on. The object of Government in making the advances is, in the first place, famine relief, and not land improvement, and outlay should therefore be dealt with for the present as famine relief expenditure.

5. The question of recovery is a difficult one. As just remarked, the money in question is to be spent primarily for the purpose of famine relief; and the liability of the public purse for the provision of such relief has repeatedly been affirmed by Government. The Governor General in Council doubts whether we either could or should propose to a landowner that he should bear the whole cost of such relief on the ground that the work to be done will result in improvement or advantage to his estate; and the more so, because it is notorious that work done (as it is essential that this work should be done) under relief conditions is more costly than it would be if done at ordinary market rates. His Excellency in Council thinks that this excess cost at least must be borne by the State, and that the liability of the zamindar to recoup Government, whether wholly or according to a stipulated proportion, must be measured, not by the cost of the relief given, but by the real value of the work done.

6. In most cases it will probably be easy to settle roughly at the time of the advance the portion of the loan which the landowner may fairly be called on to repay, three-quarters, two-thirds, or one-half, according to the nature of the local conditions. The procedure necessary to secure the recovery of this portion by summary process it will be for His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to consider. There is, first of all, the plan of giving the entire advance under the Improvements Loans Act with a proviso that, if the work is carried out on the conditions imposed, a remission will be made of one-fourth, one-third, or one-half, as the case may be. There is the alternative of giving under the Act only so much as it is decided to recover, but this method leaves little security that the work will be executed at all. And there is a third plan of giving the loan under an agreement somewhat after the pattern attached, which is enclosed for information in case Sir Alexander Mackenzie should wish to make use of a similar document in these cases. Any question as to the legal validity of any such agreements could be very readily solved by an Act on lines similar to those of Bengal Act IV. of 1875. It is entirely for His Honour to decide what procedure he will adopt. But whatever procedure may be decided upon in this respect will, of course, be only as between the Government and the borrower, and will not affect the manner (already explained in paragraph 4) in which Government deals with the expenditure in its own accounts and with reference to its famine relief policy.

7. Subject to the above remarks, all the proposals of your letter regarding these advances are approved. It is understood that you will make a separate communication on the subject of the amount of grant to be made for the purposes indicated.

8. In paragraph 8 of your letter you ask for an expression of the views of the Government of India upon the question of the stage at which people can most conveniently be employed upon village works rather than upon large relief works. The experience of the North-Western Provinces in this matter is described in paragraph 20 of the letter dated 23rd November 1896, which was published in the "Gazette of India" of the 12th instant, and the conclusions there come to were accepted for Behar by the officers who met in conference at Muzaffarpur, in paragraph 27 of their proceedings. On the one hand, the fierce heat of May and June in Upper India is probably unknown in Bengal; but, on the other, the monsoon rains are far heavier in the latter province. And there is more fear of persons who are not really in need of relief finding employment upon village works than upon the more strictly managed relief works. But His Honour has doubtless already given full consideration to the results of the experience of the sister province and to the recommendations of his own officers; and the matter, which is one of administrative detail, must be left entirely in his hands.

9. Finally, I am to say that you will be addressed separately regarding the proposals conveyed in paragraph 4 of the letter under reply.

I have, &c.

DENZIL IBBETSON,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

---

DIARY No. 84 F.

No. 5526 Agri., dated the 28th December 1896.

From M. FINUCANE, Esq., c.s., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

IN continuation of my letter, No. 5134 Agri., dated 10th December 1896, forwarding a Resolution, No. 5133 Agri., of the same date, and of my letter, No. 5183 Agri., dated the 12th December 1896, I am directed to submit the following matter for the orders of the Government of India.

2. In paragraph 19 of the Resolution referred to, Sir A. Mackenzie recorded his opinion that it was desirable to give advances freely in the distressed areas of Bihar to zamindars, substantial rayats and others, for the purpose of excavating tanks and carrying out other petty works in their own villages; and the sanction of the Government of India was asked in paragraph 6 of my letter, No. 5183 Agri., to the making of these advances without interest. Sanction has now been granted by the Government of India.

The Maharaja of Darbhanga has sanctioned the making of large advances to his tenants for similar works of improvement; and his example will no doubt be followed by other great landowners in Bihar, as well as in the rest of these Provinces. The Maharaja intends to exact no interest on these loans from those rayats who have paid their rents regularly. Instruments executed in favour of Government to secure loans made under the Land Improvement Loans Act (XIX. of 1883) are exempted under Article 12 (a) of the Second Schedule annexed to the Stamp Act (I. of 1879), read with Clause 2 (z) of Act XIX. of 1883, and those executed under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are exempted under Article 8 (a) of Schedule II. appended to Government of India's Notification, No. 5159 S. R., published in the "Gazette of India" of the 2nd November 1895, Part I., pages 892 to 896. The advances that will be made by the Maharaja of Darbhanga and other landowners will not be made for their own profit, because, doubtless, a large proportion of the sum so advanced will finally prove irrecoverable; and Sir A. Mackenzie considers that every facility should be given them in the carrying out of this benevolent intention.

3. I am therefore to request that the Government of India may be moved, under the power vested in them by Section 8 of the Stamp Act (I. of 1879), to exempt from stamp duty instruments executed in favour of private persons for the purpose of securing the repayment of loans made in distressed areas for the objects specified in Section 4 of the Land Improvement Loans Act (XIX. of 1883), and in Section 4 (1) of the Agriculturists' Loans Act (XII. of 1884), during the continuance of the present scarcity, or say, up to the end of September 1897.

No. 104 F.—Dated Calcutta, the 4th January 1897.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Department of Revenue and Agriculture.—Famine.

SIR,

I AM directed to address you in continuation of my letter, No. 8 F., dated the 22nd December 1896, and with reference to the proposals contained in paragraph 4 of your letter, No. 5183, dated 12th December 1896.

2. That paragraph runs as follows:—

“In paragraph 13 of the Resolution submitted to the Government of India it is pointed out that many gentlemen of position and local knowledge in Bihar consider that stocks, especially in the less accessible places, are likely to be depleted before private trade can supply the local deficit; and the Lieutenant Governor desires me to submit, for the favourable consideration of the Government of India, the suggestion of the Conference that advances of money might be made by Government at a reasonable rate of interest (say, 6 per cent.) for the purchase in Calcutta of grain from over seas, and for the distribution of this grain in remote areas, it being understood that the persons to whom these loans are made will be allowed to dispose of the grain at their own risk and at their own discretion. It would be necessary to stipulate that the supplies be drawn from other countries than India, and that Government officers should be allowed to satisfy themselves by the occasional inspection of invoices that grain is really being imported into the inaccessible tracts. The Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that to make advances on these conditions would not constitute an interference with private trade, and would not be inconsistent with the principles approved by the Famine Commissioners in paragraph 159 of their report. One or more of the persons to whom such advances may be made in inaccessible tracts might be constituted contractors for the supply of grain on relief works, &c., under Section 35 of the Code, and I am directed to request that the Government of India may be moved to sanction this proposal.”

Paragraph 13 of the Bengal Government Resolution, No. 5133, of the 10th December 1896, to which reference is made in the above paragraph, is also quoted below for convenience:—

“It was brought to the notice of the Conference that many gentlemen of position, local knowledge, and experience in Bihar are of opinion that stocks, especially in the more inaccessible places, are likely to become depleted before private trade could supply the local deficit, and it was suggested for consideration whether, without in any way interfering with private trade, Government might unobjectionably advance money at moderate interest for the purchase of grain imported from Burma or elsewhere, which might be sold or distributed locally without any interference on the part of Government. The Commissioner recommends that the suggestion be accepted “as the last bulwark against depletion of stocks in out-of-the-way places,” on the condition that grain for which loans are made is in the first instance imported from beyond the seas, and purchased in Calcutta or other distant markets, and that full and adequate security is forthcoming for the repayment of the loans. The Commissioner is also of opinion that such advances should only be made to well-known men who may be trusted not to compete with local bunniahs. In 1873-74 Government sanctioned arrangements whereby, in places likely to be in want, and in which there were not thought to be traders to import food, advances might be made—

(a) To zamindars, planters, or others, on the condition that they would import grain from a distance, and sell it as near as possible at cost price, all expenses included;

(b) To traders and others of safe and responsible character at a moderate interest of 6 per cent., who were to import grain from a distance without any conditions as to the rate or manner of selling it.

Proposals such as were sanctioned under Head (a) in 1873-74 clearly involve interference with private trade and cannot now be entertained; but there appears to the Lieutenant Governor to be no strong objection to advances of money by Government at reasonable interest (say, 6 per cent.) and on adequate security for purchase in Calcutta



of grain, imported or to be imported from beyond seas, and sale or distribution of it in remote areas, provided the persons to whom such loans are given are allowed to sell or otherwise dispose of it at their discretion and at their own risk. The only conditions which it would be necessary to stipulate for would be (1) that supplies are drawn from districts beyond those in which scarcity exists or is apprehended (in the present instance all India), and (2) for occasional inspection of grain invoices (chalans), in order to verify that the persons to whom advances are made do really import grain into the inaccessible tracts, and that it was obtained originally outside Bengal or other provinces threatened with scarcity.\* No maximum or minimum limit need be put on the amounts of such loans, nor need any distinction be made as to the class of persons to whom such loans may be made as long as they can give sufficient security for repayment with interest, at any time up to the end of 1897, that Government may demand repayment. If the conditions of the loan should be violated the amounts advanced might be realised at once, but otherwise they would not be recovered before the end of 1897.

The question appears to be more one of finance than of interference with trade. It will be submitted for the orders of the Government of India, but meanwhile if, pending receipt of the orders of the Supreme Government, the Commissioner or district officers receive any definite applications for loans for the purpose indicated, they should submit them for the orders of Government."

These proposals practically amount to a scheme for the importation of food grains from abroad into India with funds to be supplied by Government.

3. The question of the importation by Government of food into a distressed tract is fully discussed in paragraphs 152 to 159 (pages 49—52) of Part I. of the Famine Commission Report. The conclusion at which the Commissioners arrived was that, save under very special circumstances which will be considered presently, the only wise course was for Government to rigorously abstain from any attempt to intervene directly in, or in any way to supersede, the operations of private trade. As has been frequently remarked, Government may be able to do more than any one trader, but it cannot do as much as all the traders of the country taken together; while the fact that it can do so much more than any one trader must render every trader unwilling to compete with so wealthy and so powerful a rival. The inevitable effect, therefore, of any attempt on the part of Government to enter the market as a purchaser or an importer on its own account is to gravely discourage, even if it does not wholly paralyse, mercantile activity; and the evil thus done is great, out of all proportion to the actual magnitude of the Government operations, since the uncertainty as to their possible nature and extent creates an apprehension which is fatal to enterprise and initiative in these matters.

4. It is true that in paragraph 155 of their report the Commissioners go on to say, "a resolution to rely entirely on the ordinary operations of trade to meet the wants of the country in time of famine must unquestionably rest, not only on the expected activity of the traders, but also on the probability of the requisite supply of food being forthcoming at the critical time." And they proceed to discuss the improbability, based upon past experience, of distress ever being so widespread in India that the unaffected tracts should be unable to supply the surplus required by those that are affected. Unfortunately, the scarcity that now threatens covers a larger proportion of the whole country than has ever been simultaneously affected in any previous famine of which the Government have particulars; and it is conceivable that under certain circumstances the food supply of the country taken as a whole may prove insufficient, and that it may be necessary to supplement it from abroad. And the difficulty of so supplementing it is one, not of sources of supply, but of time; since it will take several weeks to obtain grain from any source which can be relied upon to meet large demands.

5. But while fully recognising the importance of the question and the gravity of the situation, the Government of India are of the deliberate and decided opinion that they will best serve the end that all have in view by rigidly abstaining from interference. The mercantile community has at its disposal sources of information regarding stocks and demand that is more complete and more reliable than anything which Government can command; and it controls the only machinery by which the needs of the country can be supplied. The Governor General in Council believes that the intervention of Government as a purchaser or importer would do infinitely more harm than good, as it would cripple and discourage the agency which is best able to gauge the need, which is impelled by self-interest to anticipate it, and which alone is able to supply it effectively.

6. The functions of Government in the matter should, therefore, be confined to three directions. It should, in the first instance, place freely, fully, and promptly at the disposal of the public all the information of which it is in possession, so as to assist the mercantile community as far as possible in verifying the facts upon which their action must depend. Secondly, it must guarantee that the demand for food in the distressed tracts shall be an effective demand. The fact that there are hungry men in a district is not in itself sufficient to induce a flow of food towards that district in the ordinary course of trade; there must also be money available with which the hungry may pay for it. And this guarantee Government provides by undertaking (as it does) to find work for all who are in danger of starvation, and to pay them at rates which will suffice to buy them a subsistence ration at whatever prices may from time to time be locally current. In the third place, it should, to use the words of the Famine Commissioners, "take care that every possible facility is given for the free action of private trade in the business of the supply and distribution of food, and that all obstacles, material or fiscal, are, as far as practicable, removed." The inward rates for the carriage of grain have already been reduced on all railways, in many cases by the railway administrations themselves, in others by order of Government; and any other facility of the nature indicated that may suggest itself, or to be suggested to Government, will, as far as may be found possible, be immediately afforded.

7. In paragraph 159 of their Report, the Commissioners discuss the cases in which departure from the general principle of non-interference is admissible. They practically fall under two classes, the supply of Government relief works and the case of remote agricultural tracts where the local machinery of trade is insufficient or inactive. To these may be added, as a third class, inaccessible tracts in which, owing to the conformation or nature of the country, the carriage of supplies on a large scale presents difficulties with which local appliances are unable to cope.

8. In the first case Government is clearly bound to arrange for the supply of its own labour. Sections 106 and 107 of the Bengal Famine Code give the necessary discretion; and the following extract from instructions that have been issued in another province are suggestive as to the best mode of action:—

"The food trade on a full-sized famine relief charge is greater than that in any ordinary small Indian town, and if special facilities are given to respectable local traders they will be careful not to lose them by selling unsound food or worrying the people with needlessly frequent changes in their prices. Following the principles of the Famine Code, the undermentioned advantages can be offered, among others, in exchange for fair trading: a small grass hut for a shop situated near a drinking place, and within the range of the treasure or other guards; free carriage of grain from the nearest mart, if the trader is willing to sell at the current rates of that mart; prompt and free exchange of all his copper into silver paid into the local treasury to his credit. It is usually quite easy to find several respectable men who can understand the value of such advantages to their trade, and are willing to give honest goods and reasonably steady prices in exchange for them, so long as they are pretty closely looked after.

But it may occasionally occur that a relief work is situated in such a remote locality that private traders are unwilling to go there without other inducements than those noted above. In that case, or in similar exceptional cases requiring exceptional treatment, the collector of the district would be justified in contracting with a grain dealer for the supply of grain on the works for a stated period and on terms to be mutually agreed upon."

9. In the second and third cases it may under certain circumstances become necessary to intervene, as Government was forced to do in the Kumaon Hills in 1889; and the best modes of intervention are sufficiently indicated in paragraph 159 of the Famine Commission Report. But (except in the improbable case of local combination) the action taken should always be by way of help to local traders rather than by way of rivalry with them. As the Commissioners remark, "much caution will be required in every case lest interference should aggravate the evil which it is designed to avert, and have the effect of preventing traders from entering the market while it is being operated upon by the Government"; and the caution against the effect of such fitful intervention is repeated in paragraph 107 of the Bengal Famine Code.

10. In the tract to which your letter refers, the Government of India find no sufficient reason to believe that any part of it falls under the above description.

Portions are mentioned as "remote" and "inaccessible." But no part of the tracts affected would seem to have its centre at a greater distance than 25 miles from a railway station, while it is understood that the roads in North Bihar are no worse than the ordinary roads of the level regions of the country. Should the circumstances detailed in paragraph 159 of the Famine Commission Report as justifying intervention be found to exist in these or any other localities, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor has full discretion to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that the local supply of food shall not run short. But such action should be strictly confined to definite localities in which inquiry into local facts has convinced the Bengal Government that the danger is present and the necessity for some action in assistance of the local machinery established. When intervention is thus localised, its possible extent is at once defined, and that uncertainty is avoided which is the most fertile source of apprehension in the minds of traders.

11. In the present application the Governor General in Council finds no such limitations. The proposal is rather in the nature of a blank cheque presented for his signature. The object appears to be, not only to throw supplies into certain tracts, but also to secure importation of food-grains from outside India. It is true that the proposal is not that Government should import direct, but only that it should finance a scheme for importation; and that certain precautions, such as the charging of interest, and (in another reference) restriction upon underselling, are taken against interference with private trade. His Excellency in Council doubts whether these conditions would not either be evaded in practice or be found so vexatious as to defeat their own objects. But he is clearly of opinion that the scheme could not be carried into effect without involving such interference, or at any rate, without bearing the appearance and creating the apprehension of such interference. And the appearance in such a case would be almost worse than the reality, since, while producing all its evils, it would carry with it none of its advantages.

12. It is of cardinal importance that no action of a general nature should be taken which might in any way tend to throw doubt upon the steadfastness with which the Government of India adhere to the policy of non-intervention, or to inspire mistrust and uncertainty in the minds of the mercantile community. For these reasons the Governor General in Council finds himself unable to accede to the proposals of the Bengal Government. He differs from its opinion with reluctance, for he heartily recognises the admirable promptitude and thoroughness with which His Honour the Lieutenant Governor has examined and met the situation in Bengal. But His Excellency in Council is satisfied that the need for interference in the particular localities to which the proposals refer is not established; that, should it be established, it can be met in a very much simpler manner; and that the adoption of the principle of these proposals in this limited area might, by unsettling the operations of trade, imperil the food-supply of the entire province, if not, indeed, of every affected region of India.

I have, &c.  
DENZIL IBBETSON,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

---

Agriculture--No. 25 (Fam.). Calcutta, January 7, 1897.

From M. FINUCANE, Esq., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,  
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND  
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 104 F., dated the 4th instant, to which Sir Alexander Mackenzie has given most careful consideration.

2. As it appears to His Honour that the origin and precise scope and intention of his proposals regarding the advancing of loans by Government for the purchase and importation of food-grains into what were deemed by this Government to be inaccessible or remote tracts of Bihar have not been fully understood by the Government of India (or, perhaps, stated as fully by this Government as they might have been), I am now to explain how the proposals in question came to be made, and what their exact intention and purpose was.

3. I am at the outset to state that, even before the Government of India had themselves intimated in Mr. Sly's No. <sup>1853</sup><sub>49-3</sub>, dated 31st October 1896, their intention to refrain from interference with private enterprise in the matter of purchasing or importing grain for famine relief, Sir Alexander Mackenzie had set his face against all proposals submitted to him which appeared to be in any way likely to involve any interference with trade. This determination the Lieutenant Governor publicly expressed in my circular letter No. 7 T.—R., dated 3rd November 1896, which was communicated to all the local newspapers, thus :—

“Government, in accordance with the policy recommended by the Famine Commission, does not intend, under any circumstances, to import grain as it did in 1873-74, or otherwise to interfere with private trade, but adheres fully to the policy of saving life by opening relief works and paying sufficient wages to enable labourers to purchase food in the local markets, and also by giving gratuitous charitable relief to those who are unable to work.”

When, however, His Honour held the Conference at Sonapore on the 20th November, Mr. Lewis, who was manager of the Bettiah Raj, Sir William Hudson, and other gentlemen of local knowledge and experience, extending in some instances back to the famine of 1866, whose motives are known by this Government to be above suspicion, expressed their anxious desire to assist Government and their own tenantry in coping with impending distress, and stated that the stocks of grain in particular localities in Champaran with which they were thoroughly acquainted would soon become depleted, and that they apprehended that many people would die of starvation before private trade would begin to import into such localities.

The collector of the district, Mr. Duncan Macpherson, an officer of ability, experience, and great caution, was also of opinion that distress would be worse than in 1873-74, because “there was no stock to go on with.”\*

4. Sir William Hudson drew attention at the Sonapore Conference to the provisions of Section 79 of the Famine Code, and asked what course should be adopted in the event, which he anticipated would come to pass, of a failure of a supply of grain at relief centres in particular localities in Champaran. The collector of Champaran also inquired what action could be taken by him under Section 80 of the Code in the event of prices being forced up as relief works. It will be observed that these sections provide (Section 79) that when an officer receives orders to undertake any relief work, he is to make an estimate of the amount of food which will be required for the number of workers, and to report weekly, or oftener if necessary, to the district officer the condition of the supplies and the rates at which they are sold, and (Section 80) that if it shall appear to the officer in charge of a work that the current prices are excessive, he shall report the matter to the district officer. The collector, apprehending that such a contingency would arise in the particular localities referred to, inquired what he was to do on receipt of such reports. To these questions the Famine Code furnishes no reply. It is true that Section 106 of that Code authorises the payment of wages in grain, in exceptional cases, when the items constituting the ration cannot be procured in the local markets, and the only grain procurable is that imported by Government. The case put before the Lieutenant Governor was this, namely, what is the collector to do when it is reported to him that grain is not procurable in the local markets, and Government has not imported grain. As Government had already expressed its determination not to import, it is evident that the difficulty in the cases anticipated in Champaran could not be met by Section 106 of the Famine Code, since, *ex hypothesi*, there would be no available grain, imported by Government, from which wages could be paid in kind. The Lieutenant Governor, appreciating the difficulty, which is not, His Honour submits, provided for in the Famine Code, replied that he hoped the contingency would not arise, but that, in order to meet emergencies in the cases supposed, grain contractors might be arranged for and advances might be given to them to import grain.†

5. This question was again raised by the same gentlemen, and for the same reasons, at Mr. Lewis' house in Bettiah on the 1st December, before Mr. Finucane.‡ These gentlemen and the collector of the district said they were doubtful whether private traders would import grain sufficiently early to prevent loss of life, even though money

\* Pages 6 and 7 of the Proceedings of the Conference.

† Page 8 of the Proceedings of the Conference.

‡ In page 6 of his diary.

for the purchase of it might be given in wages on relief works. Mr. Finucane informed them that, holding the opinion they did, the importation of food for their tenantry should not be left by themselves to chance. They should make definite inquiries from mahajans of their acquaintance, and ascertain whether the latter, as a fact, would import. If so, it was said there would be no difficulty; if not, he thought they might import themselves. Mr. Lewis had already expressed his desire to import grain, and repeated his wish to do so; but as the Bettiah Raj had not funds available for the purpose, he asked again whether Government would give a loan, on adequate security, to enable him to import grain. Some of the other gentlemen of the neighbourhood made similar inquiries, and Mr. Finucane said, in reply, that, in his opinion, the giving of loans for such a purpose, on adequate security at moderate interest, would not involve any interference with private trade so long as Government made no other condition than that of obtaining sufficient security for repayment of the loan. The proposals of these gentlemen were subsequently placed before the conference held at Muzaffarpur, and afterwards submitted for the consideration of the Government of India.

6. It will thus be seen that the proposals of this Government were not meant to be proposals for giving loans for purchase and importation of grain generally, or for financing a large scheme of importation. The Lieutenant-Governor had already fully accepted and publicly explained and emphasised his acceptance of the principles stated in paragraphs 3 to 9 of the letter under reply, and entirely agrees with the views of the Government of India as stated in these paragraphs.

His Honour's proposals had reference only to particular localities described in the Resolution as "inaccessible tracts," which it was, as a matter of course, intended to define precisely, in which the Collector and other gentlemen of great local knowledge and experience had informed him that stocks would soon be depleted, and in respect of which they doubted whether private trade would step in and supply the deficit sufficiently early to prevent loss of life.

The Government of India are apparently under the impression that it was proposed to give advances for the purchase of grain up to any aggregate amount whatsoever; if this be so, I am to express His Honour's regret that his intentions were not made clearer, and to explain that the reference made in paragraph 13 of the Resolution of this Government, dated 10th December, to advances being made without any maximum or minimum limit, was to the limitation imposed in the orders of 1874 mentioned in that paragraph, by which more than Rs. 2,000 could not be advanced to any one person by the Collector, and to another suggestion made, that in no case should an advance be made for a sum of less than Rs. 50,000. As stated in paragraph 7 of my letter No. 5183 Agriculture, dated 12th December 1896, it was proposed to submit estimates showing what the exact amount required would be, and in no case was it supposed that it would be very large. At most only few applications for a limited amount were expected from particular localities of limited area in order to guard against the possibility of disaster in these localities, where the local officers and gentlemen of intimate acquaintance with local conditions and of unquestionable probity anticipated that difficulty would be experienced in providing grain for relief works, gratuitous relief, and local consumption. The Lieutenant-Governor respectfully submits that the description of his proposals given in paragraph 11 of your letter is not correct.

7. It is pointed out in the extract quoted from the Resolution of another Government, in paragraph 8 of the Government of India's letter, that "in exceptional cases requiring exceptional treatment the Collector would be justified in contracting with a grain dealer for the supply of grain on the works for a stated period and on terms mutually agreed upon." This is what, as stated in paragraph 4 above, Sir Alexander Mackenzie at the Sonapore Conference had already, before the publication of the Resolution from which the extract is quoted, suggested as the proper course to adopt, but his Honour ventures to think that action of that kind is not sufficient to meet such an emergency as was contemplated. It does not meet the case in which the supply of grain fails not alone on relief works, but in local markets generally, where, in fact, money is forthcoming for purchase of food grain, but the grain is not to be had in local markets. In such a case, even though the contractor might be able to supply grain on relief works, he would not be able to supply grain to the whole population, and would not, under the terms of his contract, be bound to do so, unless the whole population came on to such works. There appears to Sir Alexander Mackenzie to be no difference in principle between advancing money to a contractor for the purchase of grain to be sold on relief works and advancing money for the purchase of grain to be sold generally in areas where

private trade fails to supply local wants, which are the only areas under consideration. It seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that if in the exceptional cases referred to (where private trade fails) Government advances money to grain contractors for the supply of food to workers on relief works, but not to others, the effect must be to drive the whole population on to relief works, where alone they can obtain food, and thus unnecessarily to swell the numbers to be supported by the State.

It was for this reason that His Honour proposed to make advances for the importation of grain into such localities without making any restrictions as to whether it is to be sold to labourers on relief works or to others, so long as the persons to whom the advances are made import and sell at their own risk, without the interference of Government.

It is true that in a particular reference restrictions on under-selling were suggested, but they were suggested by the applicant himself, in order to show that it was not his intention to make a profit out of the transaction. To evince the reality of his apprehension that private trade would fail in the part of the district in which he is very materially interested, and to show the *bona fides* of his application, the applicant in that case expressed his willingness to sell grain which he proposed to import at cost rates or at *bunniahs'* rates, as Government might desire.

It was proposed to confine loans to persons who undertook to import grain from beyond seas solely in order to increase the local supplies without reducing the stock in other parts of India which are themselves threatened with scarcity.

8. In paragraph 10 of your letter it is said that should the circumstances detailed in paragraph 159 of the Famine Commissioner's Report as justifying intervention be found to exist in any localities the Lieutenant-Governor has full discretion to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that the local supply of food shall not run short. But such action should be strictly confined to definite localities in which inquiry into local facts has convinced the Bengal Government that the danger is present and the necessity for some action in assistance of local machinery established.

Paragraph 159 of the Famine Commissioner's Report lays down that in districts in which communications or the means of transport are defective, or generally in the event of well-ascertained slackness on the part of the local traders to prepare for an emergency, Government might give assistance *inter alia* by advancing money to merchants to lay out in trade.

These, I am to submit, are the conditions which are believed by this Government to exist in the particular tracts to which, as explained above, the proposals of the Lieutenant-Governor related.

9 As to defective communication in the Ramnagar tract in Champaran, the Collector, writing on 10th November 1896, said :—

“The western portion of the tract lying in Bagaha thana can be got at by the road from Bettiah to Bagaha *via* Parsa. The distance from Bettiah to Ramnagar, Hardih and Bagaha, is 28, 26 and 35 miles respectively. There is a road 22 miles long across the tract from Shikarpur to Bagaha *via* Ramnagar. Fair-weather tracts, badly kept up, run from Ramnagar to Harnatanr in the north-west of the tract, a distance of 24 miles, and from Hardih to Bikhathori, a distance of 18 miles. With these exceptions, the tract is without regular communications, the country to the north-east of Ramnagar being particularly defective in this respect, but in the dry season supplies could be taken on carts and pack-bullocks to almost every place where relief work might be opened, and tracts sufficient for such purposes could soon be opened out everywhere.”

And as to the slackness of trade, he wrote on the 17th December as follows :—

“There seems to be a pretty unanimous opinion that (the food supply) will be very seriously deficient, and grave doubts are expressed as to the ability of private enterprise to meet the wants of the people at the proper time. So far, however, supplies have been forthcoming sufficient to meet the local demand.”

It seemed to Sir Alexander Mackenzie that the conditions contemplated by the Famine Commissioner's Report did exist in this tract, and that though supplies were forthcoming in December, when the rice crop was being harvested, he would, in view of the opinions of those best acquainted with the local conditions, be running a very grave risk if he were to leave the supply of food for the future, in this tract, entirely to private trade; hence proposals were submitted to provide for them, which His Honour thought to be entirely consistent with the policy of the Government of India. In view of the opinions of the local officers, His Honour thought that he had sufficient grounds for thinking that there was serious danger of a breakdown in this particular tract, and therefore submitted proposals to avert such a calamity, which

he considered would not involve any interference with trade. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets that he has no information before him which would justify him in modifying the opinion that the danger still exists. On receipt of your letter, His Honour has again asked the Collector of Champaran to report on the subject, and that officer has replied by telegram that he does not think that such petty traders as exist will supply the grain required in the Ramnagar tract, that outside merchants are not likely to import there unless prices are distressingly high, that already rice sells there at 8 seers the rupee, against  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in the margin of the tract, the difference in price being far greater than the cost of carriage, and that prices are higher rather than lower, notwithstanding the rain that fell within the last week.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie hopes that the danger is not as great as is feared by the local officers, and is reluctant to press his views in opposition to those of the Government of India; but as the local officers still think the danger is real and imminent, his Honour thinks it right to invite the Government of India to reconsider their orders in view of the explanations now given.

I have, &c.

M. FINUCANE,  
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

---

No. 298—45—22. Dated Calcutta, January 20, 1897.

From T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., c.s., DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5 (Famine), dated 7th January 1897, in which you explain that the proposals of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, as conveyed in paragraph 4 of your letter No. 5183, dated 12th December 1896, have been misunderstood. The Government of India cordially acknowledge the definiteness of the Lieutenant-Governor's public pronouncement, in his Resolution of 3rd November 1896, of his loyal adherence to the policy of non-interference with private trade, and welcome his reiteration of that adherence in the present letter. They certainly understand, however, that the original proposals of the Bengal Government were of a far more general nature than those now set forth; and while they regret the misunderstanding, they think that in view of the wording of the earlier letter it was not unnatural.

2. It now appears that His Honour is of opinion that in certain parts special local circumstances exist, which justify and indeed require the active intervention of Government in order to supplement the action of local trade in the matter of food supply. And the Government of India understand that the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to have power to intervene in two distinct ways; first, by making special arrangements for the supply of grain to the workers upon Government relief works; and, secondly, by making advances when necessary to certain large zamindaris in order to enable them to purchase grain for the support of their raiyats.

3. In the first case, paragraph 8 of my letter No. 104 F., dated 4th January 1897, seems to give the necessary authority. Every effort should be made to arrange for the supply of the necessary grain through the traders of the locality, or of the immediate neighbourhood, or, if this cannot be arranged, of the central grain marts of the district. If, however, the Bengal Government is convinced in any tract, either that it is impossible to make such arrangements or that the local traders have entered into a combination to raise the price of grain unduly, then it is bound to make other arrangements for the supply of the requisite grain; and it is at liberty to make these arrangements in such manner as may seem best to it, without further reference to the Government of India. If it should become necessary for this purpose to make advances to traders for the supply of the relief workers, the advances should bear interest at a rate not lower than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.; in every case the action taken should be such as to assist and stimulate and not to supplant the ordinary course of business, and should be discontinued as soon as it appears that intervention is no longer necessary.

4. The question of loans to large zamindars, such as the Bettiah Raj, is a question

apart. In the Despatch in which they reviewed the Famine Commission's Report, the Government of India wrote:—"The fulfilment of their duties to their dependants by large landowners should be strongly insisted on;" and the Secretary of State concurred. It is the duty, as well as the interest of large landlords, to do all that can be done to assist their raiyats in struggling with the troubles that are before them; and if, in any case, such a landlord is unable to do his duty in this matter for want of funds, and the Bengal Government is satisfied that the security for repayment of an advance is sufficient, and that the advance will be *bonâ fide* applied to the relief of distress, the Government of India are ready to consider proposals for such advances. They would, however, prefer to give them in general aid of the estate's expenditure on relief, rather than for any specified purpose, such as the purchase of grain. And care must be taken, in all such cases, that money thus procured from Government is not employed to compete with local trade outside the limits within which the estate is directly interested in keeping the raiyats on their land. These remarks apply also to estates under the management of the Court of Wards, where it is specially incumbent upon Government to do for the raiyats of the estate all that a good landlord should and would do.

5. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will see that the above remarks are little more than an expansion of the previous orders which he invites the Government of India to reconsider. His Honour's proposals were, however, understood by the Government of India to be of a far wider and more general nature than he now appears to have intended. As regards the more limited sense in which the Lieutenant-Governor now explains them, I am to say that the Government of India still adhere emphatically to the general policy of non-interference with private trade. They fully recognise, however, that exceptional circumstances may arise which justify and, indeed, necessitate a temporary and local departure from this policy. These circumstances are conveniently summarised in paragraph 159 of the Famine Commission's Report. Whether, in the particular case now under consideration, or in any other similar case, these circumstances exist so as to necessitate interference, and in what way that interference, if necessary, can best be effected, are questions the responsibility of answering which must of necessity rest with His Honour. The Government of India are fully satisfied that he is at one with them as regards the main principle to be observed; and they desire, therefore, to leave him full discretion in the matter of such local exceptions to it as special circumstances may justify.

I have, &c.

T. W. HOLDERNESS,  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

---

Agriculture, No. 5259. Calcutta, December 16, 1896.

From M. FINUCANE, Esq., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,  
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND  
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Sir,

IN continuation of this office letter No. 4549 Agriculture, dated the 18th November 1896, submitting, with the remarks of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the report drawn up by the Commissioner at Patna under Section 9 of the Famine Code, and of this office letter No. 4868 Agriculture, dated 30th November 1896, submitting Mr. Bourdillon's report under Section 13 of the Famine Code for the first fortnight in November, I am now directed to lay before the Government of India Mr. Bourdillon's report for the second fortnight of November, together with the reports of the district officers, upon which the Commissioner's fortnightly reports are based, as well as a memorandum prepared by Mr. Bourdillon, in which he estimates the numbers likely to need relief and the probable expenditure upon relief works in the Patna Division.\* I am also to submit the following general report upon the prospects of the crops and the probability of distress, and the measures which are being taken to combat distress, both in that division and in the rest of Bengal.

2. Since the report of the 18th November was submitted, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has taken the opportunity afforded by the assemblage of non-official and official gentlemen at the Sonopore Fair to hold a conference, at which the outlook in Behar was discussed; the Honourable Mr. Finucane has more recently been on tour

---

\* These papers are not reprinted.



in North Behar, and was present at an official conference at Muzaffarpur. His Honour has recorded a resolution upon the notes of the tour and of both conferences; and these documents have been submitted to the Government of India, with the communications noted below.\* † Further, the orders of the Government of India on certain financial and other matters have been asked for in my letter No. 5183, Agriculture, dated the 11th December.

3. In paragraph 15 of my letter of the 18th November, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed the hope that the out-turn of this year's crops and the amount of the stocks in hand had at first been under-estimated, and the area likely to be affected over-estimated, by Mr. Bourdillon and the district officers. The number of persons likely to require relief had also, it was thought, been under-estimated. The reports now before His Honour show that, taking the division as a whole, this surmise was a correct one; but as regards the estimates of numbers who will require relief, Mr. Bourdillon explains that the number (174,000) previously given by him was intended to cover only those who will require relief during the few months following the date of his report, namely, December, January, and February, and not the much greater numbers who will need relief from March to September. The rain which fell in the districts of South Bihar (Patna, Gaya, and Shahabad) on the 22nd and 23rd November made the *rabi* crops in those districts practically safe; and assuming that the similarity between the meteorological phenomena of the present year and those of 1873-74, to which Mr. Bourdillon directed attention in his report of the 11th November, will continue, and that, as in that year, each district may expect to receive in the months of December, January, February, and March from 1'44 to 1'80 inches of rain, the Commissioner now estimates the out-turn at 16 annas in all three districts. With regard to the districts of North Bihar, he adheres to his original estimate of a 10-anna *rabi* crop in Muzaffarpur and an 8-anna *rabi* crop in Champaran, Saran, and Darbhanga.

The rainfall has had little or no effect in lowering the prices of food-grains, which are still at famine rates in the whole of Bihar, and, indeed, throughout Bengal.

4. Besides rendering the *rabi* crop practically safe in South Bihar, the rain to some extent benefited the rice crop in that part of the division; and the irrigation operations of the Sone Canals have been unprecedentedly successful, the area irrigated having exceeded the previous maximum by 11 per cent., so that for Shahabad Mr. Bourdillon is now able to estimate an out-turn of 50,35,000 maunds in place of the 24,06,000 maunds estimated in his report of the 11th November. These facts have, it may be said, practically removed from the danger of distress the whole of the Patna Division south of the Ganges, excepting only an area of 229 square miles in the Patna district, with a population (including that of three towns) of 420,092, and possibly an area in the Bhabhua subdivision, which is now being visited by Mr. Bourdillon. In North Bihar the rainfall was very slight, except only in those tracts lying along the left bank of the Ganges, in which the *rabi* crop was already practically safe. The Lieutenant-Governor considers, however, that the whole district of Saran, with the exception of a rice-growing tract of 766 square miles in the Siwan and Gopalganj subdivisions, may be excluded from the area likely to be seriously affected by distress; and that it is very doubtful whether relief works will be required in the rest of the district. It is also possible to exclude from the area likely to be affected large portions of the Hajipur subdivision of Muzaffarpur and the Samastipur subdivision of Darbhanga, or 700 square miles in the former district and 414 square miles in the latter. On the other hand, in the zone which runs along the Nepal frontier throughout the Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, and Champaran districts, which is mainly a rice-growing tract, the failure of the rice crop is now found to be even greater than was at first supposed. The general condition of this tract causes the gravest anxiety.

5. I am now to summarise the information available with regard to the particular tracts in which distress is anticipated, both in the Patna and other districts.

*Patna district.*—An area of 229 square miles, with a population of 420,092 is all that is now reported as affected in this district. This includes the towns of Patna, Dinapore and Bihar, with an aggregate population of 257,334; and the whole of the Islampur thana, and two thirds of the Dinapore and Maner thanas. These are rural tracts, having a population of 162,758, and an area of 210 square miles. They have been

\* 1. Letter No. 4748 Agriculture, dated 26 November 1896.

† 2. Letter No. 5134 Agriculture, dated 10 December 1896.

described as "affected" because of the failure to a large extent of the rice crop; but the prospects of this crop were to a certain extent improved by the rainfall of 22nd November, which also facilitated further sowings of rabi. The out-turn of the rice-crop is estimated at six annas in thana Islampur. Test relief works were opened at six places in this rura larea. None of them was largely attended, although the wages given appear to have been higher than is allowed by the Famine Code, and they have therefore been closed. Altogether it is very doubtful whether relief measures on a considerable scale will be required in this district; and certainly they will not be required until May or June. The Collector is convinced that the stocks of food-grain are sufficient, and the communications in the district which is served throughout its length by the main line of the East Indian Railway leave nothing to be desired.

6. *Saran district*.—The area affected in this district may now be reduced to a tract of about 766 square miles in the north-east, with a population of 665,830, namely, the whole of the Gopalganj subdivision, excluding the *dira* lands on the Gandak river, and the almost adjacent pargana Chowbar in the Siwan subdivision. This is a rice-growing country, and it is owing to the failure of that crop that distress is apprehended. The out-turn is estimated at two to three annas. Taking 8 per cent. of the population of this tract as being likely to require relief, the Commissioner estimates the number at 53,266. The rabi crop is here of little importance, and distress is likely to continue until a good *bhadoi* harvest is reaped: that cannot be until the September of next year, and nine months may therefore be taken as the period during which the above number will require relief.

Test relief works have been opened at two places in the Gopalganj subdivision, but they have not been conducted in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, the task exacted being much too low, and they have consequently little value as a test of future requirements. Loans and advances are being freely given both by the district authorities and the Hatwa Raj, on behalf of which the Court of Wards has recently sanctioned the purchase of 50,000 maunds of grain. Information as to the stocks of grain is not at present available, but imports are increasing, and as Saran is a district which imports largely in ordinary years, it should be better able than other districts to provide for its own requirements in the present year.

7. *Champaran district*.—The condition of this district is at present most serious. The three tracts noted below\* which are now reported as requiring immediate relief have an aggregate area of 570 square miles and an aggregate population of 271,415. They grow almost nothing but rice, and in the Ramnagar tract the soil is for the most part hard clay and unsuited for *rabi* cultivation, unless heavily irrigated. Both the *bhadoi* and *aghani* rice crops have proved an almost entire failure, and the Collector forecasts that distress will continue in all three tracts until the next *bhadoi* harvest is gathered, but will be mitigated in the Araraj and Madhuban tracts if there are fair cold-weather rains to help on the *rabi* crop. Unfortunately these latter tracts together extend over 165 square miles only, considerably less than one-third of the entire area that is acutely distressed. In the Ramnagar tract there is no hope of improvement until the next *bhadoi* harvest; special endeavours have, however, been made to encourage cultivators in sowing *rabi*. Besides these tracts, an area of 2,022 square miles—practically the whole district, except hills and jungles—has to be placed in the "less seriously affected" class; and the Collector considers that a large portion of it will require relief within a very few weeks. The Commissioner calculates that only 5 per cent. of the whole population of the 2,592 square miles is likely to be affected, and that the following numbers will require relief—13,570 persons for 10 months (in the three acutely distressed tracts), and in addition 39,466 for nine months, 13,082 for eight months, and 7,345 for six months. The information regarding food stocks is still incomplete; importation has indeed begun, but on a very trifling scale. The communications of the district are fairly adequate, except in the north-east of the Ramnagar tract, which is 50 miles removed from the Bettiah Railway terminus.

The scarcity has as yet had no decided effect upon the public health, but the north of Bettiah subdivision (the Ramnagar tract) is always unhealthy, and here the physique of the poorer classes is beginning to deteriorate. A further indication of scarcity is found in the increase of thefts and burglaries reported during the month of November, when 209 cases were reported, against 144 in November 1895.

Eight test relief works have been opened, and all but one (the site of which was ill-chosen) have been continued as permanent relief works. During the second fortnight

---

\* The Ramnagar, Araraj, and Madhuban tracts.

of November a daily average of 1,330 male units was employed on these works; the wage given was not at first calculated according to the provisions of the Famine Code, but the mistake has now been corrected. A number of works have been undertaken specially to provide employment for the needy by leading indigo-planters and by the Bettiah Raj. Advances have been made for the digging of wells, in order, as already stated, to facilitate the sowing of the *rabi* crop and to secure the *rabi* crops already sown.

8. *Muzaffarpur District*.—The area of this district is 3,005 square miles; and of this only 700 square miles can be regarded as quite safe. Of the remainder, an area of 1,851 square miles with a population of 1,660,000 is considered to require relief works from 1st January, and an area of 454 square miles with a population of 352,857 is expected to require them from the 1st April. The portion of the district that is held to be safe consists of the Hajipur thana (the very fertile tract which lies along the bank of the united Ganges and Gandak) and of scattered areas mostly in the neighbourhood of the lesser rivers. The parts most affected by distress are the Sitamarhi subdivision and the Katra Thana of the Sadar subdivision. These are mainly the Sitamarhi subdivision, almost entirely rice-producing tracts, and it is to the failure of this crop that distress is due. *Alua* (yams) have been cultivated in the Sitamarhi subdivision to a far greater extent than is usual, and a commendable effort made with much success by Mr. Russell, c.s., the Subdivision Officer, to encourage the cultivation of *rabi* by means of temporary wells. The Lieutenant-Governor has sanctioned for this purpose a reward of 1 rupee to be paid by Government for each well that is made. No considerable improvement in the condition of the district can, however, be expected before the next *bhadoi* harvest; and taking 8 per cent. of the population in the tracts affected, Mr. Bourdillon estimates that 132,800 persons will require relief for nine months, and 28,228 persons more for six months. Two test relief works were opened in November: but the numbers which attended them were very small, as employment was at the time to be found in cutting the rice crop and in preparing indigo lands, but these openings for employment have either been already closed or will be closed very soon. Scarcity does not appear as yet to have had any appreciable effect on the death-rate; and the condition of the people in this district is clearly better than in those of Champaran and Darbhanga which adjoin it on either side. It has not yet been found possible to estimate the amount of the food-stocks, but the railway statistics show that as regards such slight external traffic as exists, the imports exceed the exports.

9. *Darbhangha District*.—The crops of this district present characteristics similar to those of the adjoining district of Muzaffarpur. The northern portion, including the Madhubani subdivision, is a purely rice-producing tract, the south is a fertile *rabi* country, and the central portion unites both conditions. As in Muzaffarpur, the *rabi* crop has been benefited by the recent rain to some extent, and Mr. Carlyle, the Collector, now sees no reason why an average *rabi* crop should not be expected over the whole district south of Darbhanga town. Even in the north, the *rabi* crop is germinating better than was expected. Acute distress is expected in an area of 2,044 square miles at the end of December; this tract has a population of 1,720,000 approximately, and covers generally the purely rice-growing country in the centre and north of the district. In an area of 674 square miles, with a population of 545,000, relief works will not probably be required before the 1st March, and in an area of 203 square miles before the 1st May; but in portions of the former area, and throughout the latter, there has been a good rice crop, and possibly there may be no distress. The out-turn of rice of the whole district is not estimated at more than five annas, and the failure has been most complete in the tracts in which rice is the principal crop. Distress cannot therefore be expected to diminish until the next rice harvest. Taking 8 per cent. of the population as requiring relief from the dates above given until the next *bhadoi* harvest, the Commissioner estimates that 37,600 persons may be expected to require relief for nine months, 43,600 more for seven months, and 14,800 for five months. Three test works only have been opened so far, but relief works are now being actively organised.

A considerable excess of exports over imports still continues from the Darbhanga district, and it is feared that the people have been induced to part with much of their reserves from the *bhadoi* harvest. The information available regarding the food-stocks generally is very scanty. An indication of distress is afforded by the jail observations of the physique of convicts admitted during the month of November; 56 per cent. of the whole number were admitted in bad health, against 43 per cent. in November of 1895.

10. The three districts in which distress is most serious border on Nepal; and the tracts of those districts most acutely affected immediately adjoin the boundary. The Nepal authorities have recently forbidden exports of grain and prohibited British subjects

from crossing the frontier, whether to reap the rice harvest or to cut and sell jungle produce; and it is feared that grazing may be forbidden also. If this should be so, the consequences cannot fail to be serious; for it is reported that 60 per cent. of the cattle from the northern thanas of Muzaffarpur are taken across the frontier to graze even in ordinary years, and the custom in North Darbhanga in this respect is much the same. The Lieutenant-Governor would invite the attention of the Government of India to this action on the part of the Nepal Darbar.

11. In the foregoing paragraphs Mr. Bourdillon's estimates of the relief required in each district have been given. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has accepted them in their entirety, and considers that, far from being in any way exaggerated, they have been prepared with great care and moderation. The estimated cost has been calculated by taking what, according to the Famine Commissioners, is a very moderate percentage of the population in the areas affected, as being likely to require relief by reducing all the figures of persons employed on relief works and on receipt of charitable relief to terms of one day, and by calculating that one anna will cover the expenses of relief for one unit per one day. This rate of wage and of relief ration has been calculated at even less than the present prices of grain, but it must be remembered that if these prices rise instead of falling (as it is far from unlikely that they may do), the average daily cost will be considerably more than one anna. It was much higher in 1873-74, as the subjoined table shows, and was also higher in all the scarcities that have occurred since that time. This table shows the estimated expenditure to be incurred on famine relief in the Patna Division up to the end of September next (the period of the bhadoi harvest), calculated on the principle above described. The cost of the relief works which may possibly be required in parts of the Patna and Shahabad districts has been left out of account.

DISTRICT.	Number to be Relieved for one Day.		Cost.		Rate per Head per Diem.	
	1873-74.	1896-97.	1873-74.	1896-97.	1873-74.	1896-97.
	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs.	Rs.	A. P.	A. P.
Saran - - - -	35,647,284	14,381,820	31,53,939	8,98,863	1 5	1 0
Champanan - - -	17,187,600	19,188,600	16,30,966	11,99,287	1 6	1 0
Muzaffarpur - - -	38,970,772	40,937,040	26,81,372	25,58,565	1 1½	1 0
Darbhanga - - -	78,743,304	48,528,000	61,64,310	30,33,000	1 3	1 0
Total - - -	170,548,960	123,035,460	1,36,30,596	76,89,715	—	—

It will be noticed that with similar meteorological conditions and similar reported crop out-turns, the estimated expenditure is only about half of what was incurred in 1873-74, and does not take into consideration the loss sustained by sale of grain imported by Government in that year.

12. The following statement shows that the expenditure which it is anticipated by the Commissioner will have to be incurred on famine relief before the close of the present financial year amounts to about 22 lakhs of rupees :—

DISTRICT.	Number of Persons to be Relieved for one Day during the First Year, 1896-97.	Cost during 1896-97.	Rate per Head per Diem.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	A. P.
Saran - - - -	4,793,940	2,99,621	1 0
Champanan - - -	5,965,260	3,72,825	1 0
Muzaffarpur - - -	11,952,000	7,47,000	1 0
Darbhanga - - -	13,692,000	8,55,750	1 0
Total - - -	36,403,200	22,75,196	1 0

These estimates do not include cost of establishment, tents, implements, and various other items of famine relief administration, but on the other hand, they take no account of assistance which it is expected will be rendered by zamindars, substantial village headmen, and other private individuals in opening up relief works in their estates and villages, thus reducing the numbers to be maintained at the expense of the State.

The Lieutenant-Governor has received assurance of help of this kind, on a large scale, from the Maharaja of Darbhanga and other great landed proprietors in Bihar. His Honour has no doubt that such aid will be forthcoming, but with every desire to avoid unfounded alarm and unnecessary expenditure, Sir Alexander Mackenzie still feels that it would not be safe to say that the total amount estimated for by the Commissioner may not have to be incurred. As has been already pointed out in the Resolution referred to in paragraph 2 above, the failure of the rice crop in purely rice-growing tracts entails more severe and protracted distress than the failure of any other single harvest can do in areas which largely grow rabi and bhadoi crops. Though this Government will make every possible effort to avoid, and has taken every precaution to guard against waste, His Honour cannot feel assured that the Commissioner's estimates, high as they are, may not have to be exceeded.

13. I am now briefly to notice the prospects in the other divisions.

*Orissa Division.*—As in the Patna Division, there was some slight rain in parts of Orissa on the 24th and 25th November 1896, but not enough to do any good to the standing crops. There is, however, an easier feeling in the rice market now than before, owing to the new rice coming in, and labourers are finding employment in the fields and on railway and District Board works. Although there is no actual distress, yet in Orissa the outlook in parts of the division, like Deogan in Cuttack, and Mallood in Puri, is reported to be gloomy, and it is, according to the Commissioner, certain that relief works on an extensive scale will have to be provided in the months of March, April, and May. The budgets of the District Boards for this and the next year will be revised accordingly, but it is of great importance that the earthwork on the railway in Cuttack, Puri, and Balasore should, if possible, be continued till the beginning of the next rains.

14. *Rajshahi, Chittagong, and Dacca Divisions.*—In the Rajshahi Division certain parts of the districts of Rajshahi and Pabna are giving anxiety. The Commissioner is now on a visit to these tracts, and His Honour awaits a full report from him under Section 9 of the Famine Code. The Commissioner of the Chittagong Division anticipates a high range of prices till the next autumn crop comes into the market, which may cause some distress among the landless labourers, but no actual scarcity is apprehended in any of the districts in that division. As regards the Dacca Division, the position remains practically unchanged since the date of my last report.

15. *Presidency Division.*—The worst tract in the Presidency Division is an area of 477 square miles, with a population of 262,000, in the Satkhira sub-division of the district of Khulna. Winter rice is the only crop grown in this area, and owing to an influx of salt water in the preceding year and shortness of rainfall in this, the out-turn of the crop during the current year is estimated at only two annas, while last year there was not more than a six-anna crop. It is reported that rice is being imported from Calcutta by small local dealers, and the Commissioner, who was directed to visit the tract, found the selling price of rice to be 4·8 rupees a maund, or about nine seers the rupee. Sanction has been accorded to test works being opened in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, but the local officers have been directed to make a further careful inquiry, the results of which have not yet been reported to the Lieutenant-Governor. Certain areas, aggregating 379 square miles, with a total population of 168,571 persons, in the Sadar and Meherpur sub-divisions of the Nadia district, are also reported to have a very short rice crop. The out-turn of the aus or autumn rice crop is reported to have been not more than six annas, and that of winter rice is said to be only one anna. These estimates appeared to the Lieutenant-Governor to be too low, and the local officers have been asked to make further inquiries and submit fuller information. In Jessore also the out-turn of the winter rice crop has been very poor, and distress is likely to be felt in parts of the district. But no report under Section 9 of the Famine Code has yet been received, and this Government is not now in a position to furnish more precise information.

16. *Bhagalpur Division.*—There is at present no distress in any part of the

Bhagalpur Division, but the Commissioner writes that although the agricultural position of the division is infinitely better than it was at a corresponding period in 1873-74, and although there is no reason to despair of the rabi harvest, and money and work are still plentiful, it cannot be hoped that it will escape the distress which is impending over so many other parts of India, because of the drain on its resources and the high prices prevailing.

17. *Chota Nagpur Division.*—The out-turn of the winter rice crop in the district of Hazaribagh, previously reported at from 5 to 6 annas, is now estimated at 7 annas. Prices still continue to be very high, although they are reported to be slightly easier. Some distress, is however, apprehended, and orders have been issued for test works to be opened and charitable relief to be given where necessary. Of the other districts in the Chota Nagpur Division, Manblum and Palamau give cause for anxiety, and as a means of relief, the reserved and protected forests in the Bhota Nagpur Division, and also in the Sonthal Parganas and in Puri and Angul, have been thrown open to the public to collect mahua and other edible forest produce free of charge.

18. The tabular statements required under Section 29 of the Code are herewith submitted.

A map of the affected areas in the Patna Division is also annexed.

I have, &c.  
M. FINUCANE,  
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Monthly Famine STATEMENT A. for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

DISTRICT.	Area of the District.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Area in Column 4.	NUMBERS ON RELIEF WORKS ON LAST DAY OF MONTH.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	PRICES OF PRINCIPAL FOOD-GRAINS.						MONTHLY DEATH-RATE.		Deaths to Starvation.	
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Common Rice.	Wheat.	Barley.	Maize.	Gram.	Marua.	In the District.	In the Affected Area.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	
<i>Patna Division.</i>		Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.								Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.				
Patna - - - -	2,082	1,772	229	420	49	-	-	-	49	-	8½ to 11 -	-	-	11½ to 14 -	10 to 12 8	-	2.41	2.85	Nil.	
Bahabad - - - -	1,301	2,003	400	115	479	441	-	-	920	-	8 8	-	-	-	-	-	Not known	-	-	Nil.
Saran - - - - -	2,651	2,400	766	665	24	14	-	-	38	17	9 6	-	-	12 -	-	13 10	2.4	2.73	Nil.	
Muzaffarpur - - - -	3,005	2,712	1,851	1,660	6	-	-	-	6	-	8 8	-	-	12 8	-	15 8	2.68	2.68	Nil.	
Champaran - - - - -	3,531	1,860	570	271	620	1,639	61	85	2,405	-	9 -	9 -	9 8	12 -	11 8	-	2.91	2.95	Nil.	
Darbhanga - - - - -	3,335	2,801	2,944	1,720	287	-	-	-	287	12	10 -	-	-	13 -	-	15 -	2.01	1.92	Nil.	
<b>TOTAL - - - -</b>	<b>15,905</b>	<b>13,674</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>4,851</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3,705</b>	<b>29</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

N.B.—The statement for Gaya is blank.

Monthly Famine STATEMENT B. for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

DISTRICT.	Maximum number for whom Employment on Relief Works is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Number for whom Relief was provided in last Programme of Relief Works.		Number for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Programme on date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st April 1896.			Advances since 1st April 1896 up to end of the month under		Revenue Suspended.
		On Large Works.	On Small Works.	On Large Works.	On Small Works.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists Loans Acts.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
<i>Patna Division.</i>			For 90 days.	For 90 days.	For 90 days.	For 90 days.					
Patna - - - - -	177,030	3,240	15,123	3,240	15,123	30th November 1896	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Bahabad - - - - -	39,809	28,081	11,528	28,081	Not reported.	28th " "	1,988 2 -	Not known.	3,150 - -	14,874 - -	Nil.
Saran - - - - -	32,200	42,891	7,677	42,091	7,351	28th " "	22 5 9	5 9 2	2,154 4 -	18,712 4 -	Nil.
Muzaffarpur - - - -	86,086	7,159	79,761	7,159	79,761	Accounts not yet made up.	about 125 - -	-	300 - -	3,238 - -	Nil.
Champaran - - - - -	250,000*	41,315*	140,054	41,315*	139,407	28th November 1896	2,202 5 8	Nil.	Nil.	3,273 - -	Nil.
Darbhanga - - - - -	351,964	138,478	213,466	138,478	213,398	28th " "	537 6 9	3 10 -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<b>TOTAL - - - -</b>	<b>930,979</b>	<b>261,164</b>	<b>467,629</b>	<b>260,364</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>5,573 14 2</b>	<b>9 3 2</b>	<b>5,604 4 -</b>	<b>40,007 4 -</b>	<b>-</b>

N.B.—The statement for Gaya is blank.

\* Including railways.

## Agriculture—No. 118 Fam. Calcutta, January 15, 1897.

From M. FINUCANE, Esq., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

IN continuation of this office letters, No. 5259 Agri., dated 16th December 1896, and No. 5552 Agri., dated the 30th December 1896, I am directed to submit herewith a copy of a report from the Commissioner of the Patna Division, No. 13 G., dated the 5th—6th January 1897, with enclosures, and statements A. and B., required by Section 29 of the Bengal Famine Code, containing information regarding famine and relief operations during the four weeks ending 26th December 1896 in the districts of the Patna Division, together with the following remarks on the present position of affairs in that division. I am also directed to append, in paragraphs 11 to 15 below, a brief statement of the prospects in other divisions.

2. *The Recent Rainfall and its Effects.*—As the Government of India are aware, rain fell in all the districts of the Patna Division between 25th December and 1st January. The following statement shows the rainfall during the period at each head-quarters and subdivisional station :—

Patna	-	-	Bankipore	-	-	·23	Saran	-	-	Chapra	-	-	·21
			Barh	-	-	·22				Siwan	-	-	·41
			Bihar	-	-	·30				Gopalganj	-	-	·79
			Dinapore	-	-	·15	Champan	-	-	Motihari	-	-	·14
Gaya	-	-	Gaya	-	-	·51				Bettiah	-	-	·33
			Jahanabad	-	-	·15	Muzaffarpur	-	-	Muzaffarpur	-	-	·22
			Aurangabad	-	-	·51				Sitamarhi	-	-	·73
			Nawada	-	-	·41				Hajipur	-	-	·17
Shahabad	-	-	Arrah	-	-	·23	Darbhang	-	-	Darbhang	-	-	·09
			Buxar	-	-	·37				Madhubani	-	-	·23
			Sasaram	-	-	·36				Samastipur	-	-	·29
			Bhabhua	-	-	·35							

The rain fell in those light and broken showers which are especially beneficial to rabi crops, and, as a consequence, the Commissioner is able to repeat with greater confidence his estimate of the outturn of these crops, which was reproduced in paragraph 3 of my letter of the 16th December, and which was based on the hope of a normal winter rainfall such as has now commenced and may be hoped to continue. That estimate is repeated below\* for facility of reference. The rainfall has not, however, had the effect of lowering the prices of food-grains. These are on the whole stationary, but in Saran, Muzaffarpur, and now in Champan the price of maize has risen and approximates closely to that of rice. It is consequently impossible to reduce, but has rather been found necessary to increase, the estimates of areas likely to be affected by distress. These tracts depend for the most part upon the rice crop, and for that the recent rain was of course much too late to be of any benefit. It may be said, in short, that prospects in the division are generally unchanged since the submission of the last monthly report, but that the timely rainfall has tended to confirm the previous forecast of the rabi crop.

3. *Estimates of Areas and Population Affected.*—*Patna District.*—The area of 229 square miles, with a population of 420,092, which was reported as affected by distress in paragraph 5 of my letter of 16th December, must still be so regarded. Four test works were open in this tract during the last week of the period now under report.

*Shahabad District.*—In paragraph 4 of my letter of 15th December it was stated that the rainfall of November might possibly be found to have removed from the fear of distress an area in the Bhabhua subdivision of Shahabad, which was then being visited by Mr. Bourdillon; this area of 400 miles, with an estimated population of 115,000, was however, included in Famine Statement A. for November. This area and population have again been included in the statement now submitted; but only one relief work was open in the tract on the last day of the period under report, with 795 labourers, and it is clear that the demand for work there is not now urgent.

\* Patna, 16 annas; Gaya, 16 annas; Shahabad, 16 annas; Muzaffarpur, 10 annas; Champan, 8 annas; Saran, 8 annas; Darbhanga, 8 annas.



*Saran District.*—In paragraph 6 of my letter of 15th December, the affected area in Saran was estimated to be 766 square miles, with a population of 665,830. Mr. Earle, the collector, and Mr. Bourdillon, the Commissioner, have now raised their estimate to an area of 880 square miles, with a population of 779,705. The increase in area is due chiefly to the inclusion of certain scattered rice-producing tracts in the Sadar subdivision, but the present estimate is only provisional, pending the completion of a detailed scarcity map which is being prepared by the Settlement Department, and as such the Lieutenant Governor has accepted it.

*Champan District.*—This district continues to be the most seriously affected of all. In paragraph 7 of my letter of 15th December it was reported that three tracts (Ramnagar, Araraj, and Madhuban), with an area of 570 miles and a population of 271,415, required immediate relief; and an area of 2,022 square miles, practically the whole remainder of the district, was placed in the "less seriously affected" class. The local officers now estimate the area immediately affected at 1,242 square miles, with a population of 729,120; and the Lieutenant Governor is compelled to accept that estimate. This area is more than one-third the total area of the district, and is of the same general description as the three tracts in which serious distress first appeared; it is divisible into three well-defined portions, each of which has one of the three tracts above mentioned for its centre.

*Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga Districts.*—The estimates of area likely to be affected in these districts have not been changed since the previous month.

A revised famine map of the division is annexed.

4. *Relief Works in the Four Northern Districts.*—During the last week of the period under report there was a great and sudden increase in the numbers employed on relief works in the districts of Champaran and Darbhanga, with the result that the arrangements for the maintenance of discipline were to some extent thrown out of gear, and that the tasks exacted were consequently insufficient. Maximum and minimum wages are being paid, which are calculated in accordance with Section 104 of the Famine Code upon the prices of food-grains shown in columns 12 to 16 of Famine Statement A. hereto annexed. When the people flock in crowds to relief works there must inevitably be some confusion at first; but every effort has been made to restore discipline, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie understands that this end has now been generally attained. The Lieutenant Governor has, in my letter No. 75 Agri., dated 12th January 1897, of which I am directed to submit a copy herewith, passed orders which he trusts will secure that sufficient and, as far as possible, uniform tasks will be exacted in all the affected districts, and that the provisions of the Famine Code will be strictly adhered to in all respects. Tables of tasks prepared by the Honourable Mr. J. G. H. Glass, C.I.E., Chief Engineer to this Government, have recently been circulated. His Honour has also, in the letter of the 12th January, accepted the view of the Commissioner and collector, that, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of Saran—its dense population and the very large proportion of its adult males who are absent at work in other districts—the programme of relief should there be: first, poorhouses; secondly, charitable relief; and thirdly, large central relief works.

The number of relief works open in the four districts at the close of the period was 56, and on the 2nd January, 84; they consisted mostly of road-making and the excavation of tanks.

The mapping-out of relief charges and circles has been completed in Champaran and Darbhanga, and practically completed in Saran and Muzaffarpur. The collectors of the two former districts have had some difficulty in securing circle officers of the proper stamp.

5. *Private Relief Works.*—Private relief works were established on a large scale and at their own cost by leading indigo planters and by the Bettiah Raj in Champaran, as was reported in paragraph 7 of my letter of 16th December. A daily average of 9,165 persons was relieved at these works during the second fortnight of December. These works, which were opened temporarily in order to provide for the immediate necessities of the people, are now being replaced by works carried on at the public expense; but Government is under an obligation to the gentlemen who came forward to fill the gap before its own arrangements could be completed. In Darbhanga district relief works have been opened by the Maharaja, but returns are not yet available. In Saran the Hutwa Raj (now under the Court of Wards) has opened six works, and a few small works have been opened by zamindars in this district and in Muzaffarpur.

6. *Poorhouses and Village Relief.*—No Government poorhouses were working during the period under report, but some have been opened since its close, and more are being actively organised. They are especially needed in Saran, as has above been observed. Private poorhouses have been opened in a few places. Measures are being organised for the provision of work to artisans and women in their own homes.

7. *Charitable Relief.*—Gratuitous relief was, at the close of the period under report, being distributed to 5,214 male units in three districts of Saran, Champaran, and Darbhanga. In Darbhanga the average daily number of persons in receipt of charitable relief was 61·08 per cent. of the average daily number on relief works, and the Lieutenant Governor sees reason to fear that in that district gratuitous relief may have been given on too large a scale. The matter is being inquired into. A further contribution of Rs. 4,000 (in addition to Rs. 30,000 already sent) has been received from the Bengal Distress Relief Fund, and a sum of Rs. 500 from Syud Huzoor Meerza of Murshidabad. These sums have been sent to the Commissioner of Patna for distribution in charitable relief.

8. *Physical Condition of the People.*—No deaths from starvation are reported, and the distress has not as yet had the effect of increasing the death rate anywhere. The mortuary returns for the month of November represent the state of things usual at that season of the year. It is thought, however, that the very poor classes begin to show signs of deterioration, and this opinion is to some degree supported by the slightly inferior condition of prisoners admitted to the jails at Motihari and Darbhanga.

9. *Loans.*—Advances both for agricultural improvements (permanent as well as temporary) and for the purchase of rabi seed have been freely given in Saran and Champaran, but the returns are incomplete. The Lieutenant Governor has recently, with the sanction of the Government of India, conveyed in Mr. Ibbetson's No.  $\frac{8F}{15-16}$ , dated 22nd December 1896, issued orders relaxing for the distressed tracts the conditions upon which loans are granted under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

10. *Food Stocks and Importation of Grain.*—The general balance of the food-grains traffic in the division is now on the side of imports, which, during the fortnight ending 26th December, for the first time exceeded the exports (by 28,775 maunds). In the previous fortnight the exports exceeded the imports by 72,054 maunds. These figures are, unfortunately, it must be noted, incomplete even as regards the rail-borne trade. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has already, in my letter, No. 25 Fam., dated the 7th January 1897, placed before the Government of India his apprehension that the stocks of food in remote areas, such as the Ramnagar tract in north-east Champaran, may not be sufficient to support the population. His Honour is satisfied that the Commissioner and district officers are alive to the necessity for the most careful watching of the movements of food grains, and has, in my letters, No. 76 Agri., dated 31st December 1896, and No. 75 Agri., dated 12th January 1897, drawn their attention to the provisions of Section 35 of the Bengal Famine Code, under which they have power to appoint contractors for the supply of grain for gratuitous charitable relief, and to the orders of the Government of India, conveyed in paragraph 8 of their letter, No. 104 F., dated 4th January 1897, in which it is indicated that contractors may be similarly employed for the supply of grain on relief works in areas in which private trade may fail to do so, on the principle enunciated by the Famine Commissioners in paragraph 159 of their Report.

The following paragraphs deal with the other divisions :—

11. *Orissa Division.*—Except as regards Angul, no further communication has been received from the Commissioner of the Orissa Division since the date of the last Report of this Government; but information received from officers of the Settlement Department and other sources goes to show that the situation has not yet undergone any change for the worse. In Angul, which has been recently visited by the Commissioner, Mr. R. C. Dutt, the local stocks of food grains are considered sufficient for the requirements of the people. Exports are, however, still going on, and may cause some deficit and consequent distress among the landless classes, who, happily, do not number more than 20,000 in this part of Orissa. The Commissioner sees no reason to apprehend anything more serious than some slight pinch among these classes in April, May, and June next.

12. *Rajshahi, Chittagong, and Dacca Divisions.*—In the Rajshahi Division Rajshahi and Pabna are still the only two districts where distress requiring relief measures is considered likely to appear. In Pabna loans are being given under the Land Improve-

ment and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, and a grant of Rs. 10,000 has recently been made for this purpose. The worst tract in the district of Rajshahi is the Gangetic tract, consisting of *deara* lands bordering on the rivers Padma and Burrul. The total area is about 700 square miles, with a population of about 500,000 persons. The outturn of the winter rice crop in this area has not been more than 4 annas, but the inhabitants are, fortunately, somewhat above the average of Bengal in wealth, and during a recent visit paid by him to this tract the Commissioner observed that they were greatly and really alarmed, but that the signs of actual suffering were few. Distress may also appear in parts of another tract called the Barind, with a total area of about 500 square miles, the soil of which is stiff red clay, and where the outturn of the winter rice crop has been from 6 to 8 annas. No actual relief measures, beyond the grant of loans, were found necessary in any part of the district of Rajshahi during December 1896, but the collector intends starting relief works about the middle of the present month.

No change in the position, as regards the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, has come to the notice of this Government.

13. *Presidency Division*.—The tracts mentioned in paragraph 15 of my last report, in the district of Khulna and Nadia, have recently been visited by Mr. B. C. Basu, Assistant to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, who was specially deputed by Government to make careful inquiries as to the outturn of the crops and the condition of the people. This officer's reports, and those received from the local officers, leave no room for doubt that a part of the population of these tracts is really in distress. The Commissioner and the collectors have not yet submitted reports and statements under Part II. of the Famine Code, but these have now been called for. In the Satkhira subdivision of Khulna the re-excavation of two khals has been taken in hand by the Public Works Department, in order to afford employment to the needy, and the district board has opened works of its own. Measures have been taken for the distribution of gratuitous relief, and to ensure effective administration of famine relief, Mr. C. A. Bell, i.c.s., has been placed in charge of the Satkhira subdivision, and has been directed to give his entire attention to this work. In the Nadia district the affected area is confined to the north-west portion of the district bordering on Murshidabad. Loans are being given freely, and works have been open for some time, on which the number of labourers is rapidly rising. In Jessore the only tract in which relief is immediately needed is the north-east part of the Magura subdivision. Mr. B. C. Basu will soon visit the tract, and the local officers have been called upon to submit full reports, as required by the Famine Code.

14. *Bhagalpur Division*.—No distress has yet made its appearance in any part of the Bhagalpur Division, but there may be partial distress later on in all the districts of the division. Purnea, Malda, and Monghyr will, it is believed by the local officers, be able to meet their requirements from their own local funds. In parts of the district of Bhagalpur, and in the Sonthal Parganas, it is reported that there is likelihood of more widespread distress, which will require Government aid.

15. *Chota Nagpur Division*.—It has just been reported to this Government by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division that there is no reason for any apprehension in regard to the three districts of Singhbhum, Manbhum, and Lohardaga. The districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau are still giving cause for anxiety, although in Hazaribagh some test relief works which were opened failed to attract labourers, and have for the present been closed. In Palamau some relief works recently opened are not now attended by any considerable numbers.

I have, &c.

M. FINUCANE,  
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

FAMINE STATEMENT A, for the Four Weeks ending Saturday, December 26, 1896.

DISTRICT.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Area in Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on Last Day of the Month.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Prices of Principal Food Grains.						Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Rice.	Indian Corn.	Gram.	Wheat.	Khesari.	Marua.	In the District.	In the Affected Area.	
Patna - - -	Sq. mls. 2,082	1,772	Sq. mls. 229	420	311	-	-	-	311	-	Seers. 8½ to 12	Seers. 11 to 13½	Seers. 10 to 12	-	Seers. -	-	2·11	2·84	Nil.
Shahabad - - -	1,301	2,063	400	115	610	185	-	-	795	-	9	-	-	12½	-	1·88	1·87	Nil.	
Saran - - -	2,651	2,466	880	779	613	959	636	225	2,433	2,093	S. ch. 9 11	S. ch. 10 8	S. ch. -	S. ch. -	S. Ch. 13 11	2·65	2·66	Nil.	
Champaran - - -	3,631	1,860	1,242	729	4,044	27,672	2,597	1,899	*39,796	1,395	9 4	10 13	11 2	9 0	-	9·23	9·60	Nil.	
Muzaffarpur - - -	3,005	2,712	1,851	1,060	1,277	-	-	-	1,277	-	9 0	11 0	-	-	-	2·50	2·50	Nil.	
Darbhanga - - -	3,335	2,801	2,044	1,720	17,253	-	-	-	17,253	4,312	9 0	10 10½	-	-	13 5½	2·2	2·1	Nil.	
<b>TOTAL - -</b>	<b>15,905</b>	<b>13,674</b>	<b>6,640</b>	<b>5,423</b>	<b>24,108</b>	<b>28,816</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>61,865</b>	<b>7,800</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

\* This total includes 3,584 persons not classified as required for columns 6 to 9 in the returns.

FAMINE STATEMENT B, for the Four Weeks ending Saturday, December 26, 1896.

DISTRICT.	Maximum Number for whom Employment on Relief Works is estimated to be required in case of Serious Famine.	Number for whom Relief was provided in last Programme of Relief Works.		Number for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st April 1896.			Advances since 1st April 1896 up to end of the Month, under †		Revenue Suspended.
		On Large Works.	On Small Works.	On Large Works.	On Small Works.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	
Patna - - - -	(1)	For 90 days. 2,082	For 90 days. 15,123	For 90 days. 2,082	For 90 days. 15,123	26th December 1896 - -	Rs. A. P. 1947 6 -	Rs. A. P. - - -	Rs. -	Rs. -	Nil.
Shahabad - - - -		28,081	11,528	28,081	10,849	26th " " - -	3,482 6 7	146 3 6	5,170	20,129	Nil.
Saran - - - -		42,801	7,677	42,891	7,387	26th " " - -	1,550 15 3	308 13 7	2,100	28,397	Nil.
Champaran - - - -		41,315	1,40,054	41,315	1,38,816	26th " " - -	23,922 11 4	830 5 2	300	26,442	Nil.
Muzaffarpur - - - -		7,159	79,761	7,159	79,685	Accounts not yet made up -	-	-	900	8,358	Nil.
Darbhanga - - - -		1,38,478	2,13,486	1,38,478	2,12,503	26th December 1896 - -	6,119 6 6	783 1 6	-	-	Nil.
<b>TOTAL - -</b>		<b>2,60,006</b>	<b>4,67,629</b>	<b>2,60,006</b>	<b>4,64,363</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36,022 13 8</b>	<b>2,062 7 9</b>	<b>8,470</b>	<b>83,326</b>	<b>—</b>

† These figures are incomplete.

‡ Spent on test works other than those entered in the Programme.

(1) The numbers are being examined and revised,

(2) The numbers in this column are being revised.

# PUNJAB.

DIARY No. 38 F.

No. 192. Dated Lahore, December 22, 1896.

From M. W. FENTON, Esq., REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
PUNJAB, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT  
OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

IN continuation of my letter No. 5, dated the 19th November 1896, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Report of the Punjab, for the month of November 1896.

## 2. IMPERIAL Monthly Famine Statement A, for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, November 28, 1896.

[To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next Month.]

DISTRICT.	Area.	Population, in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population, in Thousands, of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on Last Day of Month.						Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of One or More Principal Food-Grains in Seers per Rupee			Monthly Death-rate of District.		Deaths directly Due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Working Children.	Total.		Normal of Month.	Actual of Month.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
Gujrat	Sq. mls. 1,887	760	Sq. mls. 561	185	3,223	2,316	-	329	884	6,752	3,290	7½	8½	9	49	98	Nil
Hissar	3,217	776	3,763	544	391	71	1,063	-	469	1,994	Nil	-	7½	8½	See foot-note No. 53, and note on back of statement.		Nil
Karnal	2,600	683	623	241	63	496	67	90	252	898	31	-	7½	8½	Ditto	-	Nil

*Notes.*—This statement will relate to the period between the last Saturday of the previous month and the last Saturday of the month under report. Non-working adult dependants and non-working children should be shown in Column 12. If particulars to fill Columns 16 and 17 cannot conveniently be submitted for the month under report in the first half of the month following, these columns may be left blank, the figures for the previous month being given on the back of the statement.

### REMARKS to accompany Famine Statement A., for Month ending November 28, 1896.

On this page should be recorded, very briefly, information as to private relief, village and poorhouse relief, general character of relief works, physical condition of people, food-stocks, importation of grain, general condition and prospects of affected area, changes in rates of wages, and other matters which will not delay the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following month.

It should be noted to what extent any increase in the actual above the normal death-rate is due directly or indirectly to famine.

#### *Gujrat District.*

1. It has not been considered necessary as yet to start village and poorhouse relief.
2. Gratuitous relief to the old and infirm is given under Section 140 A. of the Code.
- 3 The relief works consist entirely of earthwork.
4. One road will be finished on the 2nd December, and three other roads will be finished, save the final dressing, about the same date.
5. Physical condition of relief labourers good, and of the people generally fair, distress being chiefly amongst the poorest classes.

6. Grain is imported in sufficient quantities.
7. No change in the rate of wages has been considered necessary. Grain rates have remained practically stationary.
8. Two slight showers of rain fell on successive days during the last week of November. Fall insufficient for agricultural purposes.

*Hissar District.*

1. Poorhouses have not yet been opened, nor has the gratuitous relief statement been begun.
2. For some of the larger towns a few of the richer classes distribute grain daily, but no system is observed, and the deserving do not always get relief. Deputy Commissioner has drawn up orders on the subject.
3. Several tanks have been enlarged and repaired, but the supervision was necessarily not very effective.
4. Work on the Ghaggar Canals has been started from the 3rd December.
5. The physical condition of the people is tolerably good, and no deaths from starvation have been reported.
6. The grain stocks are insufficient, and there are considerable importations.
7. The poorer classes are depressed, and are feeling the effects of want. There is very little fodder, and the cattle are in poor condition in the affected tracts. Prices are stationary.

*Karnal District.*

1. *Private Relief.*—None during the month, nor was any relief given in villages. No poorhouses were opened during the month.
2. In the beginning of October 1896 three test works were opened, but as they attracted a large number of persons, it was considered necessary to close them and start a regular famine work; and in the early part of November 1896 the raising and improving of the Karnal-Asand Road was opened. Persons of all classes from the surrounding villages, mostly of the menial class, as also a few from the Hissar and Bikanir tracts, came to the work.
3. The health and condition of the people has been good.
4. The stock of wheat and grain is not much, but is still sufficient in large and insufficient in small villages, especially in the small villages of the Karnal and Kaithal Tahsils. Agriculturists who have no canal or well crops find difficulty in obtaining grain even on loan.
5. There was little or no import or export of grain during the month.
6. Agricultural prospects are very gloomy, except in certain irrigated tracts of the affected portion of the district.  
The outturn of the present kharif has been only average on irrigated, but poor on unirrigated areas.  
As regards the next rabi, the total area sown is much below the normal. Cattle are suffering greatly for want of fodder, especially in the Nardak; and a large number of them have consequently left the district.
7. No deaths directly or indirectly due to famine have been reported during the month.

MONTHLY Death-rate for October.

							<i>Normal.</i>	<i>Actual.</i>
Hissar District	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	28
Karnal „	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	27

---

3.—IMPERIAL FAMINE STATEMENT B, for Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, November 28, 1896.

[To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next Month.]

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is Estimated to be Required in case of serious Famine.	Number for whom Relief was provided in Last Programme of Relief Works.			Numbers for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.*		Expenditure since April 1st, 1896. †			Advances since April 1st up to end of Month, under		Revenue Suspended.
		Date of Gazette.	On Large Works.	Others.	On Large Works.	Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	Rupees, omitting 000's.		Land Improvement Act. Rupees, omitting 000's.	Agricultural Loans Act. Rupees, omitting 000's.	Rupees, omitting 000's.
								On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
F E S Gujrat - -	16,800	Last programme submitted with Punjab Government letter, No. 364 S., dated 10th September 1896.	—	6,000	1,500	800	28 Nov. 1896	35·8 No expenditure during 1895-96.	4·9	1	29	39
Hissar - -	6,000	- ditto - -	8,000	12,000	5,600	4,339	- ditto -	5 No expenditure during 1895-96.	Nil.	·3 Foot-note. 1895-96 Nil.	6·2 1895-96 Nil.	13
Karnal - -	8,500	- ditto - -	8,500	10,000	7,052	12,708	- ditto -	5 No expenditure during 1895-96.	Nil.	Nil. Foot-note. 1895-96 3·2	18 1895-96 4·6	— 22

*Note.*—This statement will relate to the period between the last Saturday of the previous month and the last Saturday of the month under report.

\* Some relief works will have been more or less exhausted since the programme last prepared, and others will have been provided for entry in the programme next to be prepared. The net result should be shown in Columns 6 and 7.

† The submission of the report should not be delayed in order that accounts of expenditure may be made up to date of report.

Columns 9 to 12.—In a foot-note state the total expenditure under these columns that has been incurred and the advances that have been made during the financial year previous to that to which this statement belongs.

## B U R M A.

Dialy No. 4199.

No. 309-1 S.—14. Dated Rangoon, December 11, 1896.

From F. C. GATES, Esq., REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BURMA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

IN continuation of this office letter No. 400-1 S.—9, dated the 13th November 1896, I am directed to submit in original, for the information of the Government of India, letter No. 314-1 S.—14, dated the 10th December 1896, with enclosures, from the Financial Commissioner, containing the report on the scarcity-affected districts of Upper Burma for the month of November 1896.

No. 314-1 S.—14. Dated Rangoon, December 10, 1896.

From J. W. THOMPSON, Esq., SECRETARY TO THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, BURMA, to the REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BURMA.

IN continuation of this office letter No. 360-1 S.—14, dated 11th November 1896, I am directed to send herewith returns in forms Appendices VI. and VII. Burma Famine Code, for Upper Burma for the period of four weeks, ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

During the month the provisions of the Famine Code were extended to the whole of the Meiktila District and to the Pagan township of the Myingyan District. The areas shown as affected in Column 4 of Appendix VI. have, in the case of Meiktila and Yamethin, been largely increased, but as yet no maps have been received from the Deputy Commissioners; these have been called for and will be forwarded on receipt. It may be said roughly that the whole of the Meiktila District and the whole of the Yamethin Sub-division of the Yamethin District are affected. A map showing the area seriously affected in Myingyan is sent herewith. The district relief works in Yamethin and Myingyan were closed during the first week in the month, and during the rest of the month the earthwork on the Meiktila-Myingyan Railway was the only relief work in progress.

This work has been divided into four sections, two under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Meiktila, and two under the Deputy Commissioner, Myingyan. Relief workers from the Yamethin District are drafted on to the relief work under the superintendence of the Deputy Commissioner, Yamethin. During the month under review, practically no rain has been received in any of the three districts, with the result that the pyaung and late sessamum crops are practically total failures, and paddy also will be a very poor crop. It will be observed that the numbers on relief works have increased very largely, notwithstanding the very extensive emigration to Lower Burma which has been and is still taking place. All hope of winter crops has now been abandoned, and in the next few weeks it is probable that the maximum number who are likely to require relief will come on to the relief works, and, as far as can be seen, they will have to be provided with work till at all events next July, and possibly longer if the rains of 1897 are late or unfavourable.

2. The Chief Commissioner has been kept regularly informed of the progress of relief operations in this office letters noted below,\* and in amplification of these I am now only to make the following brief remarks, district by district:—

---

\* No. 623-1 S.—13, dated 21st November 1896.      No. 713-1 S.—13, dated 25th November 1896.  
 No. 82-1 S.—13, dated 3rd December 1896.      No. 157-1 S.—13, dated 7th December 1896.



*Meiktila.*—Large numbers have come on to the relief work from all the four townships in the district. Gratuitous relief was distributed by the Wundwin Myoók in his township. In the other townships a systematic distribution was not instituted during the month owing to the local officers being engaged on the relief works, but this will be arranged during the present month. The health of the relief workers was good, the camps were regularly inspected by the Civil Surgeon, Meiktila, and the sanitary arrangements and the supply of drinking water put on a proper footing. A hospital and two hospital assistants have been provided. The supply of food imported from Lower Burma was ample. The price of rice at the relief work was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas per Government *pyi*\* and wages were paid as fixed for this rate in Appendix XIV., Famine Code. During the earlier part of the month some difficulty was experienced regarding the supply of tools for workers, but this was promptly remedied.

*Myingyan.*—No regular private relief has been organised. Village relief was given by the Taungtha Myoók in his township. In the Pagan township the Township Officer has not yet begun the work of actual distribution. The two sections of the railway relief work in this district are each in charge of an engineer officer. The health of the relief workers is good. Sanitary and other arrangements for the health and comfort of the workers are satisfactory.

*Pigya* is still procurable locally, but its price has risen largely; ample supplies of rice, however, are being imported from Lower Burma. The price of rice on the Kyaukchaw section of the relief work is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas, and on the Sunlun section 4 annas (per Government *pyi*), and wages have been paid in accordance with these rates. Large numbers of plough-cattle have been taken for sale by emigrants to Lower Burma. Extensive emigration has taken place from all parts of the district except Salé, the inhabitants of which have found employment in the Minbu and Magwe oil-fields.

*Yamethin.*—There is now no relief work in this district. Extensive emigration to Lower Burma is taking place. Considerable numbers of relief workers have been drafted to the Meiktila relief works. The health of the people remains good, and ample stocks of food are procurable on payment.

---

\* 1-16th of 9-gallon basket.

**APPENDIX VI.**

**MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, the 28th November 1896. ( Vide Section 43 of Code.)**

DISTRICT.	Area.	Population.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on last Saturday of Month.					Numbers on gratuitous Relief.	Price of one or more Principal Food-grains in Seers per Rupee.			Monthly Death-rate.	Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Rice.	—	—		
					6.	7.	8.	9.	10.		11.	12.	13.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
	Sq. Miles.	No.	Sq. Miles.	No.							Seers. Ch.	Seers. Ch. Maize.	Seers. Ch. Peas.	Per Mille.	
Melktila - - -	3,000	207,000	1,200	70,000	—	12,616	—	—	12,616	63	8 6	17 2	14 7	1	Nil.
Yamethin - - -	5,467	208,003	909	96,025	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 6	—	—	—	Nil.
Myingyan - - -	2,774	352,037	495	46,048	253	6,676	—	13	6,942	1,116	8 7	Jowar. 11 7	15 9	2.2	Nil.

(A remarks page should be added to the statement.)  
 On this page should be recorded, very briefly, information as to private relief, village relief, general character of relief works, physical condition of people, deaths (if any) from starvation, food-stocks, importation of grain, general condition and prospects of affected area, changes in rates of wages, any observations which it may be necessary to make respecting the extent to which the increase in mortality is due directly or indirectly to famine, and other matters which will not delay the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following month. If the particulars regarding mortality cannot be submitted with Appendix VI., a separate mortality statement referring to the month previous to that dealt with in Appendix VI. should be submitted.

**APPENDIX VII.**

**MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, the 28th November 1896. ( Vide Section 43 of Code.)**

DISTRICT.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is Estimated to be Required in Case of Serious Famine.	Number for whom Relief was Provided in last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be Provided by Works Remaining on Programme on Date of Report.*		Expenditure since April 1st 189 †	Advances since April 1st up to End of Month under				Revenue Suspended.	
		Date of last Programme.	On Large Works.	Others.	On Large Works.	Others.		Date up to which Account is made up.	Rupees.		Land Improvement Act.		Agricultural Loans Act.
									On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Thousand Rupees.		Thousand Rupees.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	
Melktila - - -	20,000	—	17,772	3,100	18,466	3,100	28th Nov. 1896.	R. A. P. 28,956 12 7	R. A. P. 122 6 0	- Nil -	42	Nil.	
Yamethin - - -	20,000	26th Oct. 1896.	10,518	4,521	10,517	4,518	28th Nov. 1896.	3,853 15 8	—	- Nil -	25	Nil.	
Myingyan - - -	10,000	1st Sept. 1896.	13,416	7,965	12,793	7,966	28th Nov. 1896.	19,835 8 6	98 15 2	- Nil -	20	Nil.	

\* Some relief works will have been more or less exhausted since the last programme was drawn up, and others will have been provided for entry in the programme next to be prepared; the net result should be shown in Columns 6 and 7.

† The submission of the report should not be delayed in order that accounts of expenditure may be made up to date of report.

Revenue Department, No. 110-1 S 2. Dated Rangoon, January 8, 1897.

From the REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER to the  
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND  
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit herewith the general report regarding the districts to which the Famine Code has been applied, as required by Section 51 of the Famine Code. The first four paragraphs give an account of the economic condition of the affected tracts. The rest of the report deals with various matters, such as migration, remission of revenue, &c., which appear to call for notice.

2. The Code has been applied to the whole of the Meiktila district, to the Yamèthin subdivision of the Yamèthin district, and to the Taungtha, Pagan, and Myingyan townships of the Myingyan district. I am to give below a brief description of each district, with a brief history of it from an agricultural and statistical point of view for the last eight years.

3. *Myingyan*.—The Myingyan district has a total area of 3,737 square miles, with a population, as ascertained at the 1891 census, of 351,411. It is situated on the east bank of the Irrawaddy river, between latitude 20° N. and 22° N. The district consists generally of undulating country, the only mountain being Popa. The uncultivated portion of the district consists of stony uplands with poor laterite soil. There are no forests in the district and no perennial streams.

The statement given below shows the rainfall during the period 1888 to 1896:—

January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	Total.	YEAR.
3·81	17·08	4·83	25·72	1888
·87	23·76	3·47	28·10	1889
5·68	9·99	4·45	20·12	1890
1·34	13·22	6·59	21·15	1891
3·27	15·15	4·69	23·11	1892
4·30	18·00	9·01	31·31	1893
8·19	13·76	5·17	27·12	1894
6·03	10·38	3·10	19·51	1895
1·55	17·60	*3·68	22·83	1896

\* Up to 26th December.

Practically the whole district depends on rainfall for its crops, and in the "Analysis of districts with reference to security against famine" 183 villages, with a gross area of 934 square miles, are classed as secure in ordinary years, while 688 villages, with a gross area of 2,803 square miles, are classed as insecure.

The crops principally grown are, on the lowlands paddy, and on the uplands cotton, sessamum, jowar, maize, and bajra. Along the river bank there is a considerable area of land which is usually flooded; this produces in favourable years excellent crops of rice, peas, sessamum, and gram. The district is noted for its cotton, and there are a large number of cotton-ginning factories owned by Burmese and Chinese, at which considerable numbers of women are employed. The district is excellently situated for receiving food supplies, as the steamers of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company call at Myingyan almost daily, and all parts of it are traversed by cart tracks which communicate with the railway at Meiktila.

The statements given below show—

- (i.) The area under each of the principal crops ;
- (ii.) The collections on account of *thathameda* ;
- (iii.) The collections on account of State land rent during each of the years 1888-89 to 1895-96.

YEAR.	Rice.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Maize.	Sessamum.	Cotton.	Others.	Total Area.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1888-89	58,803	—	—	—	30,543	53,592	294,869	442,807
1889-90	60,003	—	—	—	37,043	74,085	278,321	449,452
1890-91	48,772	—	—	—	61,954	75,849	153,550	340,134
1891-92	36,776	158,143	57,369	63,897	42,933	28,233	66,943	454,294
1892-93	70,797	121,260	20,344	20,908	14,631	48,531	153,735	450,206
1893-94	70,000	150,000	10,000	15,000	68,000	48,000	39,000	400,000
1894-95	70,000	150,000	10,000	15,000	68,000	48,000	101,500	462,500
1895-96	68,371	130,000	6,330	14,000	53,000	44,000	90,400	406,101
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>483,522</b>	<b>709,403</b>	<b>104,043</b>	<b>128,805</b>	<b>382,104</b>	<b>419,290</b>	<b>1,178,327</b>	<b>3,405,494</b>

With regard to these figures it is necessary to observe that they can only be taken as roughly approximate, as the district has not yet been cadastrally surveyed and there is no Land Records agency. The only areas which are known with fair accuracy are those of the islands and alluvial lands, which are measured annually.

#### ACTUAL COLLECTIONS on account of the *Thathameda* and State Land Rent.

YEAR.	<i>Thathameda</i> .	State Land Rent.
	Rs.	Rs.
1888-89	2,86,845	20,938
1889-90	3,60,413	43,226
1890-91	4,27,172	13,035
1891-92	2,89,656	17,720
1892-93	4,67,044	33,529
1893-94	5,31,354	41,871
1894-95	5,86,228	42,177
1895-96	5,05,012	35,964

To elucidate the above statements a brief description of the character of the season and the results of the harvest is given below.

1888-89.—The harvest was above the average, but there was great loss of cattle from disease.

1889-90.—The rainfall in Pagan was below the average; in the rest of the district it was above the average, and the crops varied accordingly. In this year, too, there was heavy loss of cattle from disease, and the number left in the district was reported to be insufficient for ploughing purposes in four townships. Agricultural advances to the extent of Rs. 2,350 were made.

1890-91.—The rainfall was short and untimely, and the harvest as a consequence was poor. The stock of food-grain being insufficient for the wants of the population, large amounts were imported from Lower Burma.

1891-92.—An unfavourable season; paddy crops failed; millets produced a poor crop; but sessamum and cotton also failed and relief works had to be opened. The district was fortunately free from cattle disease. Agricultural advances amounting to Rs. 18,216 were made.

1892-93.—The harvest was on the whole fairly good, but there was some shortage in Pagan and Kyaukpadaung.

1893-94.—Crops were good, except in the north-east of the district, where the rain was too late for paddy. Agricultural advances to the amount of Rs. 4,000 were made.

1894-95.—The paddy crop was above the average, and jowar, peas, and gram were good, while cotton yielded an excellent crop.

1895-96.—The rain was insufficient and untimely, and crops were much below the average. The people were enabled to ride over the period of scarcity without relief works by drawing on their savings. Some cattle were exported, but these were probably only surplus stock. Rupees 9,296 were given as agricultural advances.

1896-97.—The season of 1896-97 has been most unfavourable. Briefly it may be said that there has been entire and widespread failure of crops of all kinds, the only crop which will be gathered being a very scanty one of jowar. If the late crops of paddy, jowar, and sessamum had been fairly successful, it might have been possible to close relief works about the end of this year, but the failure of these crops will render the continuance of relief works necessary till the 1897 crops are gathered, *i.e.*, about the end of August 1897 at the earliest. The latest reports show that parts of Kyaukpadaung and a few villages of Natogyi may have to be brought under the Famine Code. The only parts of the district which are able to dispense with relief are the greater part of Natogyi and Salè, the inhabitants of the latter township finding ample employment in the Magwe oil fields.

Large numbers of plough cattle have been taken away to Lower Burma for sale; but fodder is reported to be insufficient, except in the Myingyan and Natogyi townships.

The only food stocks available in the district are peas, the price of which has risen largely. There is, however, no difficulty in obtaining rice so long as there is money to buy it. The present price of rice (imported) is 9 seers 12 chittacks per rupee.

4. *Meiktila*.—The Meiktila district is situated to the east of the Myingyan district, and is bounded on the north by the Kyauksè district, on the east by the Shan States, and on the south by the Yamèthin district. The area of the district is 3,000 square miles, and the population at the 1891 census was 2,06,650. The Famine Code has been formally applied to the whole of the district; but the area on the east, adjoining the Shan States, consists of about 400 square miles of mountain land, with small and scattered villages dependent on hill cultivation, and is not really affected by the scarcity. The forests in the east contain *ingyin*, *pyinma*, *pyinkado*, *thitya*, *pyin*, and teak. There are other hills in the district covered with stunted timber of no value, and there is a considerable area of undulating land, with soil unfit for cultivation, covered with scrub jungle and stunted cutch. The cutch tree, which was formerly very plentiful, has been exhausted by overworking. The prevailing soil of the district is a sandy loam on the uplands, with black soil in the bottoms. There are no perennial streams, but several streams, of which the principal are the Shanmangè, Thamru, Samru, and Chaunggauk, are used for irrigation purposes, the water being diverted by means of weirs. The Meiktila and Minhla lakes are also used for irrigation, the area irrigated from the former being very considerable. The principal difference between the Meiktila and Myingyan districts as regards agriculture, is the existence in the former of considerable irrigation works, otherwise the districts are of very similar character, except that Meiktila has no alluvial or island cultivation.

The district is traversed from north to south by the Rangoon-Mandalay railway, and there is a branch from Thazi on that railway to Meiktila, the district headquarters. Food supplies can be brought to all parts by the railway and by the roads and cart-tracks which communicate with the railway.

The statement given below shows the rainfall during each of the years 1888—1896 :—

YEAR.	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	TOTAL.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1888 - - - -	1·84	28·10	6·61	36·55
1889 - - - -	1·04	25·95	5·35	32·34
1890 - - - -	9·89	14·22	5·11	29·22
1891 - - - -	2·30	14·31	7·10	23·71
1892 - - - -	11·57	17·81	3·04	32·42
1893 - - - -	5·83	15·98	14·98	36·79
1894 - - - -	3·11	19·30	7·27	29·68
1895 - - - -	9·01	18·04	8·09	35·14
1896 - - - -	1·49	25·29	1·48	28·26

\* Up to 26th December.

It will be seen from this statement that the rainfall in Meiktila is as a rule more abundant than that in Myingyan.

The crops principally grown are very much the same as in Myingyan, namely, rice, jowar, sessamum, and cotton. In years of good rainfall rice is largely grown, and in years of scanty rainfall its place is taken by jowar and sessamum on the same land. In Meiktila there are practically no spring crops, while in Myingyan there are along the river considerable areas of alluvial land sown with peas and maize and other island crops which take the place of spring crops. The statement given below shows the area under each crop for the years 1888-89 to 1895-96 :—

YEAR.	Rice.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Maize.	Sessamum.	Cotton.	Others.	TOTAL.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1888-89 - - -	34,530	-	-	-	4,220	8,242	9,617	56,609
1889-90 - - -	106,988	-	-	-	83,374	25,862	69,077	285,301
1890-91 - - -	146,276	-	-	-	2,985	-	36,039	185,300
1891-92 - - -	23,495	21,433	136	9,847	23,899	44,290	5,678	138,778
1892-93 - - -	34,560	51,840	200	1,728	38,016	24,198	22,258	172,800
1893-94 - - -	56,875	53,484	3,281	4,870	45,680	24,250	23,460	211,900
1894-95 - - -	91,895	46,603	4,047	1,278	39,992	28,215	23,539	235,569
1895-96 - - -	70,968	33,227	3,326	1,247	24,223	35,724	12,318	181,033

The Meiktila district has been cadastrally surveyed, but it has not been settled; and there is only a small Land Records staff for the assessment of water rate, and the rent on State lands, which are not very extensive, so that the same remarks apply to the areas given above as were made respecting the corresponding figures for Myingyan.

The statement given below shows the area irrigated during each of the last four years :—

	Acres.
1892-93 - - - -	30,589
1893-94 - - - -	58,220
1894-95 - - - -	51,747
1895-96 - - - -	38,038

These figures may be considered to be fairly accurate, as nearly all the irrigated lands pays water rate, which is assessed by a special staff on the basis of the cadastral maps. It will be seen that about 75 per cent. of the crops in the district are entirely dependent on rainfall, which is very capricious. In the analysis of districts with reference to security against famine, 96 villages with a gross area of 200 square miles are classed as secure in ordinary years, and 965 villages with an area of 2,800 square miles are classed as insecure.

The statement below shows the collections on account of thathameda and State land rent during each of the last eight years :—

	Thathameda.	State Land Rent.
	Rs.	Rs.
1888-89 - - - - -	2,73,336	6,986
1889-90 - - - - -	3,01,633	12,202
1890-91 - - - - -	3,08,657	10,382
1891-92 - - - - -	1,05,731	22,565
1892-93 - - - - -	1,41,345	11,184
1893-94 - - - - -	3,30,571	18,458
1894-95 - - - - -	3,49,451	24,015
1895-96 - - - - -	2,52,150	24,745

Below is given a brief retrospect of the agricultural conditions of the years 1888-89—1896-97.

1888-89.—The harvest was good and no food-grain was imported. Agricultural advances to the amount of 500 rupees were made and recovered during the year.

1889-90.—The rainfall and harvest were below the average. The cattle of the district were attacked by disease, but as Meiktila is a cattle-breeding district with a large surplus stock in ordinary years there was no scarcity of plough-cattle.

1890-91.—This was a very bad year; the rainfall was badly distributed, a long interval of drought followed the first early burst, large tracts remained uncultivated, and the food-grain raised was quite insufficient for the needs of the district. The district was practically free from cattle disease.

1891-92.—This was another very unfavourable season; the early crops failed entirely, large immigration to Lower Burma took place, and relief works had to be opened. Large numbers of cattle were sold and some land. Liberal advances, amounting to 1,10,282 rupees, saved the rest of the cattle. There was no cattle disease. The thathameda rate was reduced one-half.

1892-93.—The paddy and jowar crops were very poor, but the early sessamum was a fair crop; food had to be imported. The thathameda rate was reduced, and 31,821 rupees were given out in agricultural advances.

1893-94.—This was a good year; the paddy and cotton crops were good, but the early sessamum was only a six-anna crop. There was no cattle disease.

1894-95.—The paddy crop was above the average, sessamum was a moderate crop, jowar varied considerably in outturn, and cotton was damaged by the late rains, but on the whole this was a distinctly good year. The district was free from cattle disease, and 67,136 rupees were recovered on account of outstanding agricultural advances.

1895-96.—This was a bad year; the paddy crop was only an eight-anna one; sessamum was very poor, cotton was poor, and jowar was poor. Severe scarcity would have prevailed but for the good harvest yielded by irrigated land and the good harvests of the two preceding years. The people were able to support themselves without recourse to Government relief by sales of cattle and by drawing on their accumulated savings.

1896-97.—There has been a general failure of crops during the current year. The affected area is estimated by the Deputy Commissioner to be 1,200 square miles, or three-quarters of the plain portion of the district. The condition of affairs in this area is that the sessamum crop has failed, cotton was very poor, the yield of jowar will be very short indeed, and paddy, where it is best, will not exceed a four-anna crop. There are no reserve food-stocks, and the district has nothing to look forward to till the early crops are gathered about September 1897. There are practically no cold-weather crops grown in the district, and the little hot-weather paddy (mayin) which is grown is insignificant in amount and will not materially affect the situation. The price of rice last reported is seven seers and two chittacks per rupee, but as the stock of last year's rice is becoming exhausted and the new rice is coming into the market, it is probable that the price will fall. A fall in the price of rice will lessen the expenditure on relief works, but will have no effect on the number of relief workers, as they have no means of purchasing rice, whatever its price may be.

5. *Yamèthin*.—The portion of the present Yamèthin district with which this report deals is the Yamèthin sub-division, as the Pynmana sub-division has a good harvest and is free from scarcity. The Yamèthin sub-division was until October 1893 a separate district. The sub-division is bounded on the north by the Meiktila district, on the west by the Magwe district (Pegu Yomas), and on the east by the Shan Hills. The total area of the district is 3,000 square miles, of which 150 square miles on the west and 1,600 square miles on the east are covered with hills and jungle. The population of the sub-division in 1891 was 160,662. Between the two ranges of hills which form the eastern and western boundaries, there is a large plain diversified by slight elevations and watered by small streams. On the east there are productive forests containing teak and pyinkado, and on the west are catch forests which, however, have been exhausted by over-working and are now closed. The soil of the district varies, being clayey in some places and sandy in others. There are several large tanks or lakes in the sub-division, the principal of which are the Nyaungyan, Kyauksè, Kyein, and Inbaung, all of which are used for irrigation. The sub-division is traversed from north to south by the Mandalay-Rangoon Railway, while numerous roads and cart-tracks afford easy means of bringing food supplies to all parts. This sub-division differs from the Meiktila and Myingyan districts inasmuch as paddy cultivation largely predominates, forming about 80 per cent. of the whole. The statement given below shows the area under each crop in each of the years 1888-89 to 1895-96 :—

	Rice.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Maize.	Sessamum.	Cotton.	Others.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1888-89 - -	70,137	—	—	—	5,089	1,002	20,831	97,069
1889-90 - -	87,313	—	—	—	5,245	792	15,257	108,607
1890-91 - -	119,196	—	—	—	29,932	27,288	42,914	219,330
1891-92 - -	96,588	4,276	1,090	3,590	8,148	549	13,325	127,566
1892-93 - -	101,299	9,106	1,518	5,070	9,082	436	16,376	142,887
1893-94 - -	113,790	4,300	2,000	3,200	9,132	486	9,941	142,849
1894-95 - -	126,726	4,300	2,000	3,000	8,000	450	9,882	152,358
1895-96 - -	116,351	3,500	2,000	2,000	6,000	450	9,832	140,333

The areas are approximate, as in the case of Meiktila and Myingyan.

The statement given below shows the rainfall during each of the years 1888 to 1896 :—

	January to May.	June to September.	October to December.	Total.
1888 - - - - -	2·24	26·54	3·66	32·44
1889 - - - - -	2·89	28·36	8·93	40·18
1890 - - - - -	11·16	18·87	3·66	33·69
1891 - - - - -	1·21	18·88	11·32	31·41
1892 - - - - -	9·36	20·56	3·56	33·48
1893 - - - - -	10·19	16·65	15·26	42·10
1894 - - - - -	3·86	31·70	6·76	42·32
1895 - - - - -	9·71	17·56	6·73	34·00
1896 - - - - -	1·56	15·66	1·91*	19·13

\* Up to 26th December.

The areas irrigated in 1891-92 and 1892-93 were 44,674 acres and 48,294 acres respectively. Figures for succeeding years are not available for Yamèthin sub-division separately. The rainfall in this district is heavier than in Meiktila or Myingyan, and a considerable area is irrigated, but it is necessary to remark that, if the rainfall fails, the irrigation works also fail to a large extent as they consist of tanks fed by streams which themselves depend on local rainfall. The district is in reality more insecure than either Meiktila or Myingyan as it depends almost entirely on the paddy crop. Frequently rainfall, which is sufficient for one or more of the various crops grown in Meiktila or Myingyan, is quite insufficient for the paddy crop in Yamèthin. The cultivators, too, in this district do not attempt to grow other crops on their paddy-land, as is done in Meiktila and, if they are unable to sow paddy, or if their crop fails, they get nothing. In the "Analysis of districts with reference to security against famine," 45 villages in this sub-division are shown as quite secure and the rest (800) as secure in ordinary years. This is no doubt wrong. The whole sub-division ought probably, considering the extreme uncertainty of the rainfall, to be classed as insecure.



The statement below shows the annual collections on account of thathameda and State land rent for the years 1888-89 to 1895-96. The figures from 1893-94 onwards include the figures relating to Pinyinmana sub-division, as separate figures for Yamèthin sub-division are not available.

	Thathameda.	State Land Rent.
	Rs.	Rs
1888-89 - - - - -	2,18,189	15,522
1889-90 - - - - -	2,23,688	9,017
1890-91 - - - - -	2,91,883	14,004
1891-92 - - - - -	1,36,653	7,627
1892-93 - - - - -	1,58,651	5,519
1893-94 - - - - -	3,48,165	30,135
1894-95 - - - - -	3,68,885	33,851
1895-96 - - - - -	2,93,412	28,634

A brief agricultural history of the sub-division from 1888-89 to 1896-97 is given below.

1888-89.—The harvest was well up to the average, and paddy was exported in considerable quantities. There was, however, great loss of cattle from disease; 17,469 rupees were given out in agricultural advances, but the loans were recovered within the year.

1889-90.—The rainfall was unfavourable, and the harvest poor.

1890-91.—The crops were bad, but rather better than in Meiktila; the district was free from cattle disease; 19,630 rupees were advanced, and 11,790 rupees repaid during the year.

1891-92.—A very unfavourable season; the crops failed entirely, and there was considerable distress; thathameda assessments were reduced one-half; 88,683 rupees were given out in agricultural advances; relief works were opened and kept open till July 1892,

1892-93.—The crops in Pyawbwè township failed entirely, and there was some distress; thathameda was not levied in 73 villages, and reduced rates were generally applied; 22,726 rupees were given out in agricultural advances.

1893-94.—A bumper harvest; 1,06,400 rupees were advanced to agriculturists.

1894-95.—The paddy crop was above the average; sessamum was a moderate crop; recoveries to the amount of 87,226 rupees on account of outstanding agricultural advances were made during the year.

1895-96.—Paddy was extensively sown, owing to early rains, but the crops failed generally, except in the irrigated tracts, owing to drought, and the harvest was generally poor; cultivators who had reserve stocks lived on them, and many others were compelled to migrate; a large number of cattle were exported; 36,871 rupees were recovered on account of agricultural advances.

1896-97.—During the current year there has been a total failure of crops in the sub-division, except in a small area in the south-east corner where crops on irrigated lands are good, but this area is but a small fraction of the whole, and the crop in it does not affect the general situation. The price of rice is eight seers and five chittacks per rupee.

6. *Migration*.—The Burmese are naturally a migratory people, and large numbers come down annually from Upper Burma in November and December to reap the Lower Burma harvest. During the current year this movement of the population has assumed very large proportions, particularly from the famine-stricken tracts. Early in December it was estimated that 4,000 families had left the Myingyan district, and emigration is reported to have continued steadily since then. In the Yamèthin sub-division many villages are reported to be entirely deserted. From this sub-division large numbers have found employment in the adjoining sub-division of Pyinyama, where the season has been favourable. From Meiktila also large numbers have emigrated. The emigrants come down to the lower province by all means of conveyance—railway, on which half-fares are granted, river steamers, boats, rafts, and road.

7. *Remissions of Revenue*.—As appears from the statements given in an earlier part of this report, the great bulk of the revenue of the famine tracts consists of thathameda.

The districts being almost entirely agricultural, the failure of crops has rendered large remissions of thathameda necessary. The rate at which this tax is levied in ordinary seasons is, with few exceptions, 10 rupees a household. During the present year it has been found necessary to remit the tax entirely over considerable portions of the famine area, and to a large extent over other portions where crops have not entirely failed. The need for remissions has been rendered greater by the circumstance that the season of 1895-96 was very unfavourable, and that the savings of the people, which if the season had been favourable would have helped to support them in 1896-97, were in great measure exhausted. In the Meiktila district 245 villages have been entirely exempted from thathameda, while in the remaining 819 villages rates have, with 13 exceptions, been reduced :o from three rupees to six rupees. In the Myingyan district 714 villages have been entirely exempted; in 179 the rate has been reduced to three rupees; in 202 to from four rupees to six rupees; while in 54 villages only do the rates exceed six rupees. In the Yamèthin district 491 villages have been entirely exempted from thathameda; 165 have been assessed at rates of from three rupees to five rupees; four at rates from six rupees to eight rupees; and 33 only at the full, or 10 rupees, rate.

The following statement, which compares the collections of 1894-95, a normal year, and 1895-96, a bad year, with the estimated collections of 1896-97, indicates as accurately as is at present possible the loss of revenue which the scarcity will cause in the affected districts.

District.	Collections of Thathameda in		Estimated Collections of Thathameda in
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Yamèthin - - - - -	3,68,885	2,93,412	1,21,579
Myingyan - - - - -	5,86,228	5,05,012	75,237
Meiktila - - - - -	3,49,451	2,52,150	60,793
TOTAL - - - - -	13,04,564	10,50,574	2,57,609

8. *Agricultural Advances.*—In the scarcity of 1891-92 large expenditure was incurred in agricultural advances to enable people to buy cattle and seed. Expenditure of this kind has not been found necessary in 1896, because the character of the famine has been different. In 1891 the rains were deficient in the earlier part of the rainy season, and when rain did fall in later months advances for purchase of seed and cattle were made to enable cultivators to make late sowings. During the present year the failure of rain took place in the later months; there were consequently few opportunities of re-sowing crops on the occurrence of late rain, and the need for granting agricultural advances did not arise. In May and June next, when agricultural operations will be resumed, advances will have to be made on a liberal scale to enable the people, who will be practically without resources, to purchase seed and cattle. It is too early to make a forecast of this expenditure, as it is impossible to foresee the extent to which cattle will be sold during the next few months. The Chief Commissioner believes, however, that advances to the amount of several lakhs will have to be given when the time comes.

9. *Relief Works.*—In October last, when scarcity became acute, a few small relief works were opened as test works in the Yamèthin and Meiktila districts. After these works had been open for short time, it became evident that the area affected by famine was considerable, that the people would need relief for some months at least, and that large numbers of relief-workers would have to be provided for. At the same time, there were serious objections to opening works of the kind carried out in 1891 and 1892. Such works consisted of roads, which are not required, and of irrigation works, for the most part the digging of small tanks, which prove useless during times of drought, when they are most wanted. Moreover, the work of organization is more difficult in the case of numerous small works. In view of these considerations, the Chief Commissioner decided to close the small works and to concentrate labour on one large work. The work selected was the construction of the earthwork of the Meikula-Myingyan Branch Railway, which would, it was hoped, afford work for all needing relief. The Government of India sanctioned the opening of this work, and a Famine Relief Works Division was accordingly constituted under an executive engineer, who is subordinated to the superintending

engineer, Irrigation Circle. The work of marking out the line was begun at both ends, under the supervision of railway engineers, while the earthwork was in charge of provincial engineers. Actual work was begun at Thedaw, near Meiktila, on the 2nd November; near Taungtha, in the Myingyan district, on the 8th; near Myingyan, on the 20th; and near Mahlaing, in the Meiktila district, on the 26th. No part of the work falls within the Yamèthin district, but relief-workers from the famine area of that district are drafted to the nearest camp at which work is carried on. Relief camps under medical supervision were established at each of these four places; at Mahlaing and Taungtha camp telegraph offices also were opened. The numbers on relief works, which at first were 5,000, rose rapidly, until in the beginning of December they reached 30,000. According to the latest report (for the week ending the 2nd January) the average number employed was 24,727, while the number on gratuitous relief was 5,407.

10. The preceding portion of this report has dealt with the existing situation and with the measures taken hitherto to deal with the famine. It remains to discuss the future course of the scarcity, its probable duration and extent, and the measures which still remain to be taken. As regards the future course of the famine, the facts reported in former portions of this letter show that in the areas to which the Famine Code has been applied the yield of the cold-weather crops of 1896 will be extremely small, and no later crops will be reaped till the autumn crops of 1897. In these areas, therefore, it is now practically certain that relief works will have to be maintained until, at the earliest, August and September 1897. During May and June large numbers will return to the fields for ploughing and sowing, and will then again come on the works. If the monsoon of 1897 fails, the scarcity will, of course, be intensified, but there is little use in basing calculations on this comparatively remote contingency, as, if next monsoon fails, scarcity must prevail over almost the whole of the dry zone. It is not possible at the present time to forecast with any accuracy the numbers which would in that case require relief, or to sketch out a programme of relief operations. In this letter, therefore, it is assumed that the season of 1897 will be normal. As regards districts to which the Famine Code has not been applied, it is yet too early to estimate the extent to which scarcity will prevail during the next few months. Failure of crops has not been confined to the areas to which the code has been applied. In other parts of the dry zone, however, the failure has not been so complete as in the famine areas, and it has not yet been found necessary to open relief works. The Chief Commissioner fears that the necessity will arise about February or March. He still hopes that if relief is found to be needed in some parts, the numbers needing it will be comparatively few.

11. The future measures to be taken for dealing with the scarcity will consist of the continuation and extension of relief works and the grant of agricultural advances. The subject of agricultural advances has been dealt with in paragraph 8. As regards relief works, it is estimated that the earthwork of the Meiktila-Myingyan Railway will afford work for 24,000 persons for 33 weeks. In addition to this work, sanction has been asked\* to the commencement of collection of stone-ballast, which is found in large quantities near the line of railway. The collection of ballast will afford employment for the more able-bodied among the men, while those of feebler physique, with women and children, will continue to be employed on earthwork. This arrangement will facilitate concentration, and will render it unnecessary to move camps at short intervals of time. The actual quarrying of stone and breaking it into ballast will, it is proposed, be carried out as a famine work on famine relief principles. The carriage of the ballast from the quarries to the line cannot, however, be arranged for in this way. For this part of the work carts will be hired at ordinary rates. This arrangement will afford employment to cartmen, who would otherwise be compelled to sell their cattle at a heavy loss. It is estimated that the collection and breaking of ballast will employ 24,000 relief-workers for about six weeks. The earthwork and the collection of ballast together will afford employment to 24,000 for 39 weeks. The length of time for which these works will, as a matter of fact, afford employment depends, of course, on the number of persons coming on the works. Assuming that during November an average of 10,000 a week were employed, and during December an average of 30,000, the works will, from the beginning of January, provide for 30,000 workers a week for 25 weeks, *i.e.*, till the last week in June. It is very difficult to form a forecast of the numbers which will actually come on the works. During November and December emigration to Lower Burma has been going on. With the completion of the rice harvest in the lower province it is probable that many emigrants will return. But it

\* Letter No. 12563, dated 15th December 1896, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department.

is impossible to calculate with any approach to accuracy how many will return, or how many of those who return will come on relief works. One effect of the abnormal emigration which has lately taken place has been to largely reduce wages of labour in Lower Burma. The cost of producing the Lower Burma rice-crop has consequently been reduced, and unless prices in the Rangoon market are lower than usual—a contingency which there are no grounds for anticipating—the profits of the Lower Burma cultivator will be unusually high. He will have more money to spend, and Upper Burma emigrants may thus find employment in Lower Burma in considerable numbers during the dry weather. Again, it would be unsafe to assume that all or even most of the Upper Burmans who return from Lower Burma will come on relief works. Such earnings as they will bring back with them may enable many to dispense with relief, while others may find employment in other parts of the province. In considering this question, the migratory character of the Burman must always be borne in mind. Allowance must also be made for the diminution in the number of relief-workers which may be expected to take place when the monsoon of 1897 breaks. If the season promises favourably, money-lenders will no doubt make advances on the security of the future crop, and large numbers will be able to support themselves out of these advances, or from wages paid out of these advances. On the whole, the Chief Commissioner doubts whether the numbers coming on relief works will, on the average, be very much larger during the first eight months of 1897 than they have been during December 1896. An average of 40,000 a week is the highest estimate which he is prepared to make. On this estimate the Meiktila-Myingyan railway will provide work till the middle of May. The further works which it is proposed to open hereafter, as necessity occurs, are the Mandalay Canal scheme, the project for which has been sanctioned by the Government of India, and the Môn River canal scheme, for which sanction is being asked in the Public Works Department. The Sagaing-Alon branch railway is another work which may be undertaken if required. The survey is finished, and the plans and estimates will shortly be submitted. All these works are large works, suitable for famine relief, and capable of affording employment to large numbers of relief-workers in the affected areas. Another large work which can be undertaken is the Kanna tank on the borders of the Myingyan and Kyauksè districts.

12. In conclusion, I am to submit the following remarks on the subject of the expenditure likely to be incurred during the remainder of the famine. The estimate must necessarily be vague, as the main factors on which it depends, namely, the numbers who will come on relief works and the future price of food-grains, cannot be determined with accuracy. The expenditure will be of two kinds, namely, expenditure on relief works and expenditure on other purposes, such as gratuitous relief. As it has been decided to utilize for relief purposes large works under the control of the Public Works Department, the expenditure under the first head will be almost entirely in the Public Works Department. In a recent letter\* to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, the Chief Commissioner estimated that a sum of 10 lakhs in all would be required, counting from the beginning of the famine. This estimate was based on the assumption that relief works would be closed when the rains began. A consideration of the latest district reports, however, has led the Chief Commissioner to the conclusion, expressed in an earlier part of this letter, that works will have to be kept open till September. On this assumption the total amount expended in the Public Works Department will, the Chief Commissioner thinks, reach the sum of 12 lakhs before the famine ends. Of this amount 1,90,000 rupees, in round numbers, have been expended, leaving 10,10,000 rupees still to be spent. In the Civil Department there may be a small expenditure on local and test works; 20,000 rupees will, the Chief Commissioner thinks, cover this. In addition to expenditure on relief works money will be spent on the following purposes:—

- (a.) Employment of additional civil officers.
- (b.) Relief of dependents at works.
- (c.) Gratuitous relief afforded to persons at their homes.

The expenditure anticipated on these purposes is—

	Rs.
(a.) - - - - -	20,000
(b.) - - - - -	17,000
(c.) - - - - -	33,000

\* No. 12405, dated 11th December 1896.

The following statement exhibits the total expenditure which will, the Chief Commissioner believes, be incurred from the present date until the famine ends :—

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
	Rs.
(1.) Public works by Public Works Officers - - - - -	10,10,000
(2.) Public works by Civil Officers - - - - -	20,000
(3.) Employment of additional Civil Officers - - - - -	20,000
(4.) Relief of dependents at works, Section 106 of Burma Famine Code -	17,000
(5.) Gratuitous relief afforded to persons at their homes - - -	33,000
TOTAL - - -	11,00,000

I have, &c.

C. G. BAYNE,

Revenue Secretary.

No. 326-1., S. 2, dated Rangoon, January 15, 1897.

From C. G. BAYNE, Esq., REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BURMA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 707-1, S.-14, dated the 19th December 1896, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 174-1, S.-14, dated the 8th January 1897, from the Financial Commissioner, Burma, with enclosures, containing the report on the scarcity-affected districts of Upper Burma for the four weeks ending the 26th December 1896.

No. 174-1, S-14, dated January 8, 1897.

From the SECRETARY TO THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, BURMA, to the REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BURMA.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 314-1, S. 14, dated 10th December 1896, I am directed to send herewith returns in forms, Appendices VI. and VII., Burma Famine Code, for Upper Burma, for the period of four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 26th December 1896. During the months the provisions of the Famine Code were extended to the Myingyan township of the Myingyan district.

The only relief work in progress was the earthwork on the Meiktila-Myingyan Railway with two sections in Meiktila and two in Myingyan.

The numbers on the relief works again show a considerable increase over the figures of last month : but it is probable that the maximum has not yet been reached.

The general situation remains the same as was reported last month ; such crops as there are of paddy and jowar have been or are being reaped, but they will suffice for food for a section of the people for two or three weeks only.

The price of rice in Meiktila and Myingyan on which the famine wage is calculated has fallen owing to the new crop in Lower Burma coming in.

I am now to note briefly points of interest with regard to each affected district separately.

*Meiktila.*—Village relief has been distributed by inspectors who grant one week's relief at a time. The Deputy Commissioner is of opinion that gratuitous relief will have to be distributed more freely as the season advances and the scanty food crops of the year become exhausted. The physical condition of the people is reported to be still

fairly good. Two children died on the relief works at Mahlaing, but death was not due to starvation. The supply of rice at the relief works was ample. Wages were reduced (in conformity with the fall in the price of rice), with effect from the 28th December, after the close of the period to which this report relates. The reduction has had little or no effect on the numbers on the works, and the Deputy Commissioner is inclined to think that as the season advances the numbers on the relief works will increase largely.

*Yamethin.*—The health of the people who are left in the district is good. A considerable number of villages have been entirely deserted. No private relief has been organised; gratuitous relief is distributed in villages by the Circle inspectors. Rice is being imported in sufficient quantities. No relief work is open in the district.

*Myingyan.*—The people have been urged to assist the poor and destitute by private relief, and they are doing so to the best of their ability. Gratuitous relief in villages is being distributed by Circle inspectors, but the Deputy Commissioner, from the result of his own tours of inspection, thinks that the number to whom relief has hitherto been given, and whose names are on the register, is far below the number of those who really require gratuitous relief. The provisions of Chapter IV. of the Famine Code will be more closely followed in future.

The relief works were inspected during the month by the Financial Commissioner, the Commissioner, Eastern Division, the Superintending Engineer, the Executive Engineer, and the Deputy Commissioner.

The health of the people on the relief works and of the inhabitants of the affected tracts remains good, and no deaths have taken place directly or indirectly due to starvation. The jowar crop which is being reaped is very scanty; none will come into the market, and it is anticipated that it may afford a fortnight's subsistence to the growers of it. Ample supplies of rice are being imported. A revised map\* showing the affected area in Myingyan district is submitted herewith.

APPENDIX VI.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.  
(Vide Section 43 of Code.)

DISTRICT.	Area.	Population.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on last Saturday of Month.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of one or more Principal Food-Grains in Seers per Rupee.			Monthly Death-rate.	Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		12	13	14		
					6.	7.	8.	9.	10.		Seers. Ch. Rice.	Seers. Ch. Maize.	Seers. Ch. Peas.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12	13.	14.	15.	16.
	Sq. Miles.	No.	Sq. Miles.	No.							Seers. Ch. Rice.	Seers. Ch. Maize.	Seers. Ch. Peas.		
Meiktila - - -	3,000	207,000	1,200	70,000	-	15,952	-	-	15,952	269	8 15	12 13	13 8	1	Nil.
Yamethin - - -	5,467	208,003	909	96,025	-	-	-	-	-	388	8 6	-	-	-	Nil.
Myingyan - - -	2,774	352,037	539	60,590	21	9,701	-	4	9,726	3,672	10 4	17 13	13 8	-	Nil.

(A remarks page should be added to the statement.)

On this page should be recorded, very briefly, information as to private relief, village relief, general character of relief works, physical condition of people, deaths (if any) from starvation, food-stocks, importation of grain, general condition and prospects of affected area, changes in rates of wages, any observations which it may be necessary to make respecting the extent to which the increase in mortality is due, directly or indirectly, to famine, and other matters which will not allow the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following month. If the particulars regarding mortality cannot be submitted with Appendix VI., a separate mortality statement referring to the month previous to that dealt with in Appendix VI. should be submitted.

APPENDIX VII.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.  
(Vide Section 43 of Code.)

DISTRICT.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of Serious Famine.	Numbers for whom Relief was provided in last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report*.		Expenditure since April 1st 1896.†			Advances since April 1st up to end of Month under		Revenue suspended.
		Date of last Programme.	On Large Works.	Others.	On Large Works.	Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	Rupees.		Land Improvement Act.	Agricultural Loans Act.	
								On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
								Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
Meiktila - - -	20,000	- - -	17,722	3,100	30,351	3,100	26th Dec. 1896 - -	89,440 1 -	1399 10 9	- - -	42	-
Yamethin - - -	20,000	26th Oct. 1896	9,788	4,522	9,788	4,522	Ditto - - -	3,891 6 1	696 13 1	- - -	25	-
Myingyan - - -	10,000	1st Sept. 1896	13,416	7,966	11,291	7,966	Ditto - - -	58,781 1 10	874 15 2	- - -	20	-

\* Some relief works will have been more or less exhausted since the last Programme was drawn up and others will have been provided for entry in the Programme next to be prepared; the net result should be shown in columns 6 and 7.

† The submission of the report should not be delayed in order that accounts of expenditure may be made up to date of report.

‡ In column 20, Appendix V., for week ending 26th December, Rs. 368. 9. 8., was shown as the amount spent on gratuitous relief.

The difference (Rs. 31. 1. 1.) is due to revised figures.

## MADRAS.

No. 422. Madras, December 12, 1896.

From M. R. RY. R. V. SRINIVASIAR, AVARGAL, B.A., RAO BAHADUR, SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE SETTLEMENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE, MADRAS, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, CALCUTTA.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit herewith the Board's Report on the affected districts for the month of November 1896, prepared in accordance with the instructions conveyed in Government of India Circular, No. 5 F., dated 2nd March 1892, embodied in Section 48 of the Madras Famine Code (1896).

I have, &c.  
(signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,  
Secretary.

## MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A.

For the Period ending Saturday Evening, November 28, 1896.

DISTRICTS.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on last Saturday of the Month.		
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Deccan Districts.	Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.				
Kurnool - - -	7,514	818	1,338.5	199,982	9	1,708	4,613
Bellary - - -	5,975	900	2,166	276,160	161	13,913	759
Anantapur - - -	4,886	700	3,468	466,582	—	1,008	—
Cuddapah - - -	8,751	1,272	1,523	263,286	—	2,444	1,202
TOTAL - - -	27,106	3,699	8,495.5	1,205,950	170	19,073	6,574
DISTRICTS.	Numbers on Relief Works on last Saturday of the Month—contd.		Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Prices of Principal Food Grains in Seers per Rupee.			
	Class D.	Total.		Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.
	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Deccan Districts.							
Kurnool - - -	184	* 552 6,514	112	8.6	18.0	14.6	16.7
Bellary - - -	—	14,833	334	8.3	18.8	—	15.3
Anantapur - - -	—	1,008	80	9.5	23.2	15.9	17.9
Cuddapah - - -	—	3,646	160	9.3	19.1	15.1	15.0
TOTAL - - -	184	26,553	785	—	—	—	—

\* Particulars of classes not reported.



*Remarks.*—The area affected at the end of November is, approximately, a band running through the four districts mentioned from a little to the west of the town of Cuddapah to the frontier of the presidency in the Bellary district.

This area includes a wide stretch of black cotton soil, and, as explained in Board's Proceedings, dated 29th October 1896, No. 299, forwarded to the Government of India with G.O., No. 628, Revenue, dated 16th November 1896, much of this land had not been sown this year, whilst of the earlier crops sown, chiefly on the lighter soils, much had been ruined by drought and removed, and what still stood was being harvested with a very scanty yield, or was in a most precarious state, when rain came towards the end of the month and improved the outlook generally. Some sowings have been made with this rainfall, which averaged less than two inches over the parts chiefly affected, and was far from being distributed regularly. The rain came, however, when the usual season for sowing the late crop on the black cotton soils had long passed, and, except for a few quick-growing crops, of no great value as food producers, the crops put in are not likely to be brought to maturity, save in the event of further and later rain falling, which is unlikely.

The rain has, however, freshened up the crop that was still standing, and will probably enable the ryots to look forward to a partial cotton crop. It has also produced some growth of grass, especially in the Nallamala jungles, to which large numbers of cattle have already been driven for pasurage. On the whole, the outlook for the cattle has materially improved, and the ryots are reported to be no longer selling off their stock at nominal prices.

The price of food grains shown in the table are those for November 28th. On the 14th the rates were much higher, and after the rain fell towards the end of the month they fell very rapidly. Holders of grain, however, have not proved willing to part with their stocks, and the ryots are still afraid to bring grain to market; there being a widespread belief that the next three years will be years of disaster, and, naturally, the ryots prefer to reserve their stores for their own use. For the same reason, they are not inclined to support their agricultural labourers. Stocks are believed to be large, but the relief afforded by the above-mentioned fall in prices has been very temporary. Already, on the 5th December, rates had risen very sharply, and the price of cholom, the staple grain of the districts mentioned, had again become dearer than the scarcity rate; see following table:—

GRAINS.	Prices in Seers of 80 Tolahs per Rupee.												Scarcity Rates.
	Kurnool.			Bellary.			Anantapur.			Chuddapah.			
	On Nov.		Dec.	On Nov.		Dec.	On Nov.		Dec.	On Nov.		Dec.	
	14	28	5	14	28	5	14	28	5	14	28	5	
Rice - - -	7.9	8.6	8.7	6.9	8.3	7.8	7.4	9.5	8.8	8.6	9.3	8.0	7.9
Ragi - - -	12.6	18.0	15.0	11.9	18.8	15.2	12.6	23.2	16.9	14.6	19.1	17.0	16.0
Cholom - - -	10.9	16.7	14.1	9.3	15.3	12.2	11.4	17.9	13.2	12.5	15.0	13.2	15.0
Cumbu - - -	10.5	14.6	13.2	-	-	-	11.3	16.0	13.2	12.6	15.1	14.0	14.0

The maintenance of the low prices of November 28th was also, so far as the information available serves, impossible as long as the prices of cholom (*Sorghum vulgare*) and cumbu (*Pennisetum typhoideum*) rule so high in Western and Northern India, and as long as they so continue, profitable export will be possible with rates locally dearer than the scarcity rate level. Trade has been, so far as is known, fairly active, but of late uncertainty as to the course of prices has restricted operations, and local dealers are standing out for higher rates.

The condition of the people generally throughout the affected area is good, but some of the lower classes show signs in parts of being pinched, and, with the cessation of demand for field labour, the employers hoarding their stores of grain, and the consequent necessity thrown on these classes for purchasing grain at scarcity rates, their resources were rapidly exhausted, and that relief measures were required was abundantly shown by the numbers who resorted to the test relief works as soon as they were opened. The Commissioner has seen ample grounds in his tours for being satisfied that the pressure is already telling severely on the low castes and some of the Sudra classes. The change in the weather towards the end of the month drew away some of the relief workers, but

the numbers on works already show signs of increasing in several places. For the last four weeks the numbers employed on relief works have been :—

DISTRICT.	On November			On December
	14th.	21st.	28th.	5th.
Kurnool - - -	2,793	10,720	7,066	3,728
Bellary - - -	1,641	14,954	14,833	13,815
Anantapur - - -	1,010	2,572	1,008	423
Chuddapah - - -	4,397	6,831	3,646	4,517
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>9,741</b>	<b>35,077</b>	<b>26,553</b>	<b>22,483</b>

The numbers may be expected to increase in the early future, although for the present a certain amount of field labour may afford employment to some of the labouring class. The works were all started under the ordinary district staff, and in most cases consisted of road repairs. Land improvement loans have not so far been much availed of, but the attention of all district officers has been drawn to the advantages of this form of relief, and in some districts a large number of applications for loans are pending disposal. Wages were regulated according to the Madras Famine Code, and adjusted as often as necessary to the prevailing price of grain, no difficulty being experienced in doing this as often as the fluctuations of the market, which were rapid, demanded. Generally speaking, it has been found that ragi is now more easily procurable and cheaper than cholom, and for the most part wages have been regulated according to the price thereof. As the famine wage does not provide any margin for the support of the children of workers and infirm dependents, kitchens for the distribution of cooked food to these are being established in connection with all large works.

It having been found that at several places there are large communities of weavers whose work has been brought to a standstill by the cessation of demand, chiefly from Northern India, for their wares, schemes for employing them at their own trade have been drawn up and are being introduced. So far only at Adóni, in the Bellary district, have any weavers come on this form of relief, and there the numbers so relieved have been 1,239 on the 14th and 1,119 on the 28th November, and 972 on the 5th December. This form of relief will be extended to other places also.

No village or poorhouse relief has yet been introduced, but in Kurnool inquiries are being made and circle inspectors are being appointed to draw up the necessary list of persons to whom it may be necessary to extend these forms of relief.

The mortality returns for November are not yet available. Those for October gave the following results for the districts concerned, as compared with the average. On the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner, the average shown is that for the corresponding period of the two preceding years :—

DISTRICT.	Number of Deaths.	
	In October 1896.	Average.
Kurnool - - - - -	1,451	1,444
Bellary - - - - -	1,549	1,388
Anantapur - - - - -	1,347	986
Cuddapah - - - - -	1,920	2,343

The increase noticeable in Anantapur has occurred chiefly in the affected taluks, and most of the deaths were due to cholera. The same cause led to the excess in Bellary.

The area alluded to above all lies in the group of districts termed, for the purpose of the season reports, the Deccan districts, but it has become evident that relief measures will very shortly become necessary in parts of the Circars also. In Ganjam there has been a widespread loss of the rained paddy, on which the district chiefly depends, and much damage to other crops, owing to the almost unbroken drought that has prevailed

since September. In a less degree also, the district of Vizagapatam and the upland portion of Gódávári have been affected, and in all three districts prices are exceptionally high. They are shown below for information :—

Period.	Prices in Seers of 80 Tolahs per Rupee.								
	Ganjám.		Vizagapatam.			Gódávári.			
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.
October, average -	12.5	23.8	10.5	19.2	21.8	10.2	16.8	20.2	16.0
On November 14 -	10.3	17.2	9.2	17.1	17.7	9.1	14.2	17.2	13.3
On November 28 -	10.3	17.1	9.0	16.6	17.5	8.9	13.5	15.4	12.8
On December 5 -	10.4	17.4	9.0	17.0	17.5	9.2	14.2	16.4	12.5
Scarcity rates -	10.2	15.0	9.6	14.0	15.0	9.6	14.0	14.0	14.0

MONTHLY FAMINE, STATEMENT B.

For the period ending Saturday evening, November 28, 1896.

DISTRICTS.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Numbers for whom Relief was provided in Programme of Relief Works.			Numbers for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.	
		Date of Programme.	On Large Works.	Others.	On Large Works.	Others.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Deccan Districts.						
Kurnool - - - -	163,000	May 18, 1896	198,041	87,300	87,304	87,304
Bellary - - - -	180,000	May 18, 1896	324,615	29,800	32,136	32,136
Anantapur - - - -	141,800	July 6, 1896	143,224	31,500	34,529	34,529
Cuddapah - - - -	252,800	May 22, 1896	203,779	110,100	109,945	109,945
TOTAL - - - -	738,600	—	869,659	268,700	268,914	268,914

DISTRICTS.	Date up to which Expenditure is known.	Expenditure since April 1st up to the latest day for which figures are available.		Rupees given— On Relief Works.		Rupees given— On Gratuitous Relief.		Rupees given— Land Improvement Loans Act.		Rupees given— Agriculturalists' Loans Act.		Revenue suspended beyond the current Official Year.
		Rupees omitting 000s.		Rupees omitting 000s.		Rupees omitting 000s.		Rupees omitting 000s.				
		8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.					
Deccan Districts.												
Kurnool - - - -	Nov. 28, 1896	Rs. 7	-	Rs. 1	-	Rs. 1	-	Rs. 1	-	Rs. 1	-	
Bellary - - - -	Nov. 28, 1896	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Anantapur - - - -	Nov. 28, 1896	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cuddapah - - - -	Nov. 28, 1896	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL - - - -	—	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

\* According to revised Programme.

† Not yet

...by subsist are, it will at these rates, it would d cumbu (Pennisetum o the North West or e, and export - orth- re stocks of grain are ch they are unwilling an importation from the he rainfall of November.

No. 27.

From M.R.RY. R. V. SRINIVASAR AVARGAL, B.A., RAO BAHADUR, SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE SETTLEMENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE, MADRAS, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, CALCUTTA.

SIR,

Madras, January 14, 1897.

I AM directed to submit herewith the Board's report on the affected districts for the month of December 1896, prepared in accordance with the instructions conveyed in Government of India Circular No. 5 F., dated 2nd March 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code (1896).

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) R. V. SRINIVASAR,  
Secretary.

## MONTHLY FAMINE, STATEMENT A.

For the period ending Saturday evening January 2, 1897.

DISTRICT.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on last day of the Period.		
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Deccan.	Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.				
Kurnool - - -	7,514	818	981	182,713	-	-	3,538
Bellary - - -	5,975	960	3,278	465,600	1,190	12,240	-
Anantapur - - -	4,886	709	3,468	466,582	-	-	323
Cuddapah - - -	8,731	1,272	1,607	284,482	-	1,641	568
Total - - -	27,106	3,699	9,394	1,399,377	1,190	13,881	4,429

DISTRICT.	Numbers on Relief Works on last day of the Period—contd.		Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Prices of principal Food-grains in Seers of 80 Tolas per Rupee.			
	Turns for D.	Total.		Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.
	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	
Deccan.	Com. years :						
Kurnool - - -	18	88	9.1	15.8	12.7	15.1	
Bellary - - -	2	* 1,811	9.4	17.8	-	14.4	
Anantapur - - -	11	26	9.3	17.7	14.5	14.6	
Cuddapah - - -	-	† 4,874	9.4	17.6	14.5	14.2	
Total - - -	43	19,543	799				

\* Includes 852 weavers relieved.

† Includes 4,765 weavers relieved.

Kurnool - affected area remains almost unchanged from that alluded to in the  
Bellary - er, although, within the four Deccan districts in which it lies, the  
Anantapur - particularly affected are becoming more clearly defined. Since the last  
Cuddapah - there has been no improvement. The rainfall at the end of  
the season anticipated, proved inadequate to bring about much change in  
it prevented the extension of the area affected, and as the rainfall  
monsoon over the whole of the southern half of the Presidency,  
The increase noticeable in most of the deaths were, copious, a fair harvest over that area has been rendered secure,  
the in-coming of this has reacted in some measure in the affected  
The area alluded to prices would go on rising from December up to June, but in this  
the season reports, the hat prices may simply harden or even fall. The high prices of  
will very shortly become due to scarcity elsewhere; partly to the long drought over  
been a widespread loss of to scare amongst the ryots owing to ancient prophecies, and  
much damage to other crops of the merchants.

The first cause continues to act, but trade has not recovered from the shock caused by the rains of November, and export is not now so strong a factor in causing a rise in prices. The second cause was greatly minimised by the copious, though late, rains of November to January, in consequence of which seven threatened districts have been removed from the danger zone. For the same reason the third cause does not now operate so strongly. The ryots are taking heart, and in parts of two districts it is reported that they are bringing some of their hoards of grain for sale. The fourth cause also is not now so powerful, as the merchants begin to think that it is better to sell at a high price than wait for a higher price which they may not realise. The harvests in the four Southern and two West Coast districts are already coming in, and those in the seven districts saved will be coming in in March and April, just when prices would begin to rise high above the scarcity rate. While, therefore, it is not safe to prophesy, there are cheering features in the case which would not have been hoped for even early in December.

2. In the affected districts, the prospect of any harvest from the late sown crops is small, but in many parts a fair out-turn from the cotton crop, which was on the ground when the rain alluded to fell, is now probable, but it is already being picked at least two months earlier than usual. This, and a certain amount of cultivation under spring channels and wells, and some scanty harvests of the early-sown crops, still afford some employment for the agricultural labourers of the affected area. So far as the harvest returns of the early-sown crops have yet come in, the yield in the affected area has been very poor, and large areas have been entirely lost.

In reply to Government of India telegram No. 2484, dated 18th December, a return showing the normal area of second crop was submitted. It is not clear for what purpose the return was required, but, as a means of gauging the condition of the affected tracts, it by itself is useless, and, until the results of both first and second sowings are known, no further information can be given in respect to the crops of the current season.

3. The November rainfall caused some fresh grass to spring up, but over a large portion of the affected area black cotton-soils prevail on which the natural herbage is always scanty, whilst the ordinary pastures do not afford much grazing, as they too often consist merely of arid and stony wastes. The sowings on the arable land may, however, produce a small amount of fodder, and the outlook for the cattle is rather better than it was. The lesson of 1891-92 has not been forgotten, and everywhere more strenuous efforts have been made to save the cattle, of which large numbers have been taken to Mysore.

4. Prices during December became generally slightly cheaper, but, towards the end of the period reported on, showed a hardening tendency. The rates quoted in Table A. are those reported for 2nd January. The fluctuations since the last report are shown in the following table:—

Grains.	Prices in Seers of 80 Tolas per Rupee.												Scarcity Rates.
	Kurnool.			Bellary.			Anantapur.			Cuddapah.			
	On December		On January	On December		On January	On December		On January	On December		On January	
	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	
Rice	8.7	8.8	9.1	7.8	8.4	9.4	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.0	9.2	9.4	7.9
Ragi	15.0	15.9	15.8	15.2	16.8	17.8	16.9	17.3	17.7	17.0	17.4	17.6	16.0
Cholum	14.1	14.6	15.1	12.2	13.3	14.4	13.2	14.3	14.6	13.2	13.6	14.2	15.0
Cumbu	13.2	12.4	12.7	-	-	-	13.2	13.2	14.5	14.0	14.3	14.5	14.0

The rates for the staple "dry" grains on which the people chiefly subsist are, it will be seen, at about the scarcity rate level, and, so far as is known, at these rates, it would be profitable to export the grains—cholum (*Sorghum vulgare*) and cumbu (*Pennisetum typhoideum*)—which are commonly used in other parts of India, to the North West or the Central Provinces. Trade, however, appears to be very inactive, and exports outwards from the Presidency have so far been on a small scale. Large stocks of grain are believed to be held by the well-to-do ryots of the affected area, which they are unwilling to part with, and the merchants are at present afraid to embark in importation from the South owing to the warning given by the collapse of prices after the rainfall of November.

The following table shows, as far as the information is available, comparative figures for the receipts and despatches of food-grains from the railway stations in the affected districts during the four weeks ending 28th November and 26th December 1896, respectively:—

District.	Railway.	November.		December.	
		Receipts.	Despatches.	Receipts.	Despatches.
Kurnool - -	Southern Mahratta Railway - -	MDS. † 21,364	MDS. † 3,550	MDS. † 3,774	MDS. † 2,737
Bellary - -	Southern Mahratta Railway - -	† 51,784	† 3,087	† 7,289	† 2,071
	Madras Railway - -	54,661	11,512	10,645	11,321
Anantapur - -	Southern Mahratta Railway - -	† 7,539	† 2,351	† 3,256	† 16,672
	South Indian Railway - -	*	*	† 103	† -
	Madras Railway - -	46,128	4,955	6,431	5,581
Cuddapah - -	South Indian Railway - -	*	*	† 1,586	† 1,168
	Madras Railway - -	103,774	24,259	18,817	16,973

\* Not available.

† For two weeks only.

The falling off in the receipts of stations on the Madras Railway Company's system occurred suddenly during the week ending 5th December, and was in part due to the interruption of communication owing to breaches in the line near the southern frontier of the Cuddapah district. It is hoped that, in the future, the administration of the Southern Mahratta Railway may be more prompt in furnishing statistics so far as that line is concerned.

5. The people generally, throughout the affected area, continue in good condition, but in parts of the Bellary District the Commissioner during his inspection observed a number who showed signs of habitual under-feeding. To these, the attention of the Sanitary Commissioner, who is in the district, was drawn. That officer is now on tour of inspection in the affected area. The numbers resorting to the relief works have shown a small decrease in the month; the changes being as shown below:—

District.	Relief Workers			At Kitchens			Weavers		
	On December		On January	On December		On January	On December		On January
	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.
Kurnool - - -	3,728	4,387	3,538	141	137	88	-	-	-
Bellary - - -	13,815	14,984	13,462	299	353	950	972	943	852
Anantapur - -	423	500	334	65	60	26	-	-	-
Cuddapah - -	4,317	2,707	2,209	183	171	109	-	2,000	4,765
Total - - -	22,483	22,578	19,543	688	721	1,182	972	2,943	5,617

6. In the Kurnool district, a portion of one taluk benefited greatly by the November rainfall, and has been removed from the affected area; in another taluk, the coolies deserted the relief works at about the same time, but the reasons for this are not clear, though one was undoubtedly the distance they had to travel to and from work, and the Commissioner, who visited the work shortly before it was deserted, has grave doubts whether the desertion must not be attributed to the manner in which the work was managed. The engineer in charge of the works directing a detailed inquiry to be made have been issued. In two other taluks the works are now open, and in one of these, the numbers were decreased. In the remaining taluks works are now open, and in one of these, the numbers were decreased. In the remaining taluks works are now open, and in one of these, the numbers were decreased.

The area alluded to partly, it is reported, to some harvest work being available. In reason there has been a small decrease owing chiefly to stringent measures having been taken to get rid of idlers, and to improved organisation; but local inspection has shown the Commissioner that the number of works at present open is inadequate, and for the opening of more works have been given. For a short time also field work by some of the coolies, who are now returning to the works.

In Anantapur there is only one work open, and the people are reported to still find some agricultural employment in the fields.

In Cuddapah in one taluk there has been a considerable decrease, owing chiefly to the organisation of relief to weavers at their own trade; whilst in the other two affected taluks the decrease is believed by the Collector to be only temporary.

7. Orders have been issued by the Government placing all works in the affected districts under the charge of the Public Works Department, with strict instructions to organise and carry them out according to the rules of Appendix VI. to the Famine Code, the payments being, however, arranged for by the Revenue Department. The transfer is now being effected, but the Public Works Department in Kurnool states that it is unable to take over the works, owing to want of establishment.

No change has been made in the regulation of wages, but the Government has issued strict orders that payments are to be regulated in accordance with Rule 28 of the Appendix quoted, and the fact that this rule goes beyond the provisions of section 107 of the code has been brought to its notice.

8. Kitchens have been or are being established in connection with all works for the relief of the infirm dependants and children of workers.

9. Relief to weavers at their own trade has been organised at Adóni in Bellary, and at Jammalamadugu in Cuddapah. The schemes adopted at these places have been modelled on the lines of Appendix VII. to the Madras Famine Code.

10. No gratuitous relief, other than that given in kitchens, has as yet been found necessary.

11. The mortality returns for November last give the following results; those for December are not yet available:—

DISTRICT.	Number of Deaths recorded in November 1896.	Average.
Kurnool - - - - -	1,109	1,390
Bellary - - - - -	1,337	1,374
Anantapur - - - - -	1,104	990
Cuddapah - - - - -	1,834	2,665

In Bellary, although there is a small decrease on the whole, there was a considerable increase in two taluks. The fact that considerable emigration to Mysore has taken place must not be lost sight of. This emigration in some tracts comes to nearly one-third of the adult male population. These have partly gone for employment and partly with cattle.

In Anantapur there was a decrease in the more affected portion, and the increase elsewhere was due to cholera.

12. As to the two districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjam, regarding the condition of which anxiety still continues, it may be noticed that two test works opened at the middle of December in the latter failed to attract workers on Famine Code conditions, and that the same result followed on applying these conditions to a work in the former district during the week ending January 9th. Prices, however, continue to be very high in these districts, and there has been no improvement in their condition. Emigration is, however, active, and there is still some employment to be had in gathering the scanty harvests

#### MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT B. for the Period ending Saturday Evening, January 2, 1897.

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Numbers for whom Relief was provided in Programme of Relief Works.			Numbers for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining in Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure since April 1st up to the Latest Day for which Figures are available.			Advances given, April 1st until the end of the Month, under		Revenue suspended beyond the Current Official Year.
		Date of Programme.	On Large Works.	Others.	On Large Works.	Others.	Date up to which Expenditure is known.	Rupees, omitting 000s.		Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists Loans Act.	
								On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
DECAN.												
Kurnool - - -	163,000	May 18, 1896	128,041	87,368	126,248	87,081	Jan. 2, 1897	17	•	1	—	—
Bellary - - -	180,000	May 15, "	324,815	29,888	319,332	22,709	Jan. 2, "	48	1	1	2	—
Anantapur - -	141,800	July 6, "	143,224	34,567	142,992	34,529	Jan. 2, "	2	•	25	—	—
Cuddapah - -	253,000	May 22, "	265,779	110,170	262,280	109,048	Jan. 2, "	13	•	1	—	—
TOTAL - - -	738,000		869,859	261,923	860,849	261,264		80	1	28	2	—

• Not reported.

H H 3

## B O M B A Y.

No. 22—FAMINE OF 1897.—Bombay Castle, January 12, 1897.

From the Honourable Mr. J. MONTEATH, M.A., I.C.S., ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY  
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE (FAMINE), CALCUTTA.

SIR,

IN accordance with No. 10 of the rules circulated with the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 5—48, dated March 2nd, 1892, and Section 26 of the Bombay Famine Relief Code, I am directed to submit a report on the scarcity prevailing in parts of this Presidency. In the circumstances stated below it has been found difficult to obtain materials for a complete account of the situation at any time, and there has consequently been delay in the submission of this report, for which I am to express regret. The rain which fell towards the end of November materially altered the outlook, and rendered comparatively useless the estimates before received. It was very partial and irregular, as will be shown below, and it was consequently not easy to gauge the general effect of it. There has again been rain in the last week of December in most of the affected districts, but it also has been very irregular, and for the most part scanty, and it cannot yet be stated with any exactness how far rabi crops will be saved by it. In some other respects the materials for a complete report are still defective, but His Excellency the Governor in Council does not consider it desirable to defer further the submission to the Government of India in a compact form of such information as is available. The summaries which have been prepared every week since relief works were opened have shown in detail all occurrences affecting the condition of the people and the extent to which it has been necessary to provide relief. Copies of these statements are appended\* for ready reference.

2. The area at present actually affected lies within the Deccan and Southern Marátha Country districts of this Presidency, viz., Sholápur, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sátára, Násik, Khándesh, Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dharwár. The probable extent of liability to famine, and the normal economic condition of these districts, are shown in the following extracts from the Bombay Statistical Atlas:—

### “ SHOLAPUR.

The whole district is excessively liable to famine. The area protected by canal irrigation is estimated at under 100 square miles. The cause of famine is failure or unseasonableness of the rainfall. The population is nearly purely agricultural. Weaving is the only important industry, but it is altogether dependent on the prosperity of agriculture. Important trade centres are few. The precarious rainfall of the whole district, except Bársi, places the population in an inferior condition to that of other Deccan districts, and in so far as the season is more untrustworthy, the cultivators are in proportion more hindered from enterprise and regular rotation tillage than their Deccan neighbours.

### “ AHMEDNAGAR.

The whole district except the Dángs is liable to famine. The central belt including Jámkhed enjoys a greater immunity than the talukás of the Godávári and Bhima valleys. The causes of famine are irregular and uncertain rainfall and deficient water-supply. The large town of Ahmednagar with Bhingar contains many artizans and traders. The bulk of the population is agricultural. Weavers are numerous except in Akola, Nevása, and Sangamner. The industry is rather in the hands of classes who are not hereditary weavers, but agriculturists drawn from husbandry by the superior profits of the hand-loom. The husbandmen of Jámkhed, who have unusual facilities for grazing, are considerable dairy farmers. With the exception of these and the market gardeners the cultivating classes are poor and depressed. They are ignorant and improvident and suffer greatly from scanty rainfall and from pressure of moneylenders. The poorer husbandmen go in slack seasons to Bombay to work as labourers and carriers. Others and to their profits from tillage by carting grain, cotton, and oil-seeds.”



“POONA.

The area liable to chronic distress from failure of rains is the eastern part, which makes up half the district. The western part of the district is practically free from danger of distress caused by drought. The transition tracts lying between the rugged hilly western belt, and the open plains of the east, have a partial immunity from distress. The eastern tract has a good soil, but is badly supplied with water, and is dependent on a capricious rainfall, derived chiefly from the late or north-east monsoon. This accounts for its liability to distress. The immunity of the western belt lies in its regular rainfall, and the partial immunity of the transition tracts is due to a better water-supply in wells and watercourses from the hills, and a fairly regular rainfall, as compared with the eastern plains. The population of the eastern plains is almost purely agricultural, and indeed of the whole district, except at trade centres, like Poona, and Talegaon. The bulk of the cultivating classes are Kunbis and Mális, but numerous other castes cultivate. The rayatwári occupants are fairly off, except in the eastern plains, where they are poor and indebted.”

“SÁTÁRA.

The dry eastern part of the district is the least naturally protected area, and next to it, comes the transition tract lying between it and the hilly west. The eastern part is liable to failure of rainfall. In the transition tract the rainfall is uncertain, but the richness of its soil and its unusual facilities for irrigation, from wells and running streams, enhances its measure of immunity from the effects of prolonged drought. The total area in the district, liable to famine, may be taken not to exceed 2,000 square miles. The population is largely agricultural, but an unusual number of people are herdsmen and shepherds. The Kunbi, who is the cultivator of the district, is more conservative, and less enterprising, than elsewhere in the Deccan. Some of the poorer cultivators, and many field labourers, and others, resort yearly in slack times to Bombay for employment in the cotton mills, and at the wharves. In the east the rayats are somewhat wanting in energy and industry. Their soil is poor and their seasons precarious. Few in this tract are clear of debt. The rayat of the rich Krishna Valley has better credit and less necessity for recourse to the money lender. The number engaged in cart-traffic is particularly large.”

“NÁSÍK.

The Desh, which includes the tálukas of Málegaon, Nándgaon, and Yeola, and the eastern portions of Chándor, Niphád, and Sinnar, is most liable to distress from seasons of drought, but the degree of liability is not so great as in the districts further east. The Desh tálukas receive the tail-end of the south-west and north-east monsoons, and are thus liable to the accident of the failure of both in the same season. The transition tract, which includes most of Sinnar, Niphád, and Chándor, and parts of Báglán, Kalvan, Dindori, and Násik, enjoys the advantage of irrigation facilities to a greater extent than the western Dángs or the eastern plains. The poorest of the population reside in tracts enjoying the most trustworthy rainfall. The poor Varlis, Kolis, and Thákurs, of Peint, have not the contingency of drought to encounter. The Kumbis, and Mális, of the Desh, and the transition tracts, are, as a rule, the most intelligent and prosperous cultivators of the Deccan. The cultivators are poor and indebted in the tracts less liable to distress. In severe distress, representatives from all the manufacturing classes (weavers, Koshtis, Raugaris, &c.), will be found in the ranks of relief labourers as they are mostly in a poor condition.”

“KHÁNDESH.

As regards East Khándesh, the degree of liability to famine is very much smaller than in the Deccan. The seasonableness of the rains cannot be depended on, and thus, from time to time, much loss is occasioned. Drought is not the only cause of famine or acute distress. The liability to serious loss from the floods of the Tápti, and its tributaries, cannot be overlooked. The railway has introduced cotton presses, and ginning factories, which give employment to the people, over and above that necessarily made available by the railway company. The economic condition of the agricultural population of Jalgaon, Etadól, Savda, and Páchora, is above the average, even of

Khándesh. The cultivators are well off, and live easily in ordinary seasons, possessing fair credit. Elsewhere, except in unhealthy and thinly populated tracts, the condition of the people is decidedly good. In East and South Jámnar, the villages are small and the people poorer. The labouring population finds abundant employment, and field labour is both costly and difficult to obtain.

"As regards West Khándesh, except in the Tápti Valley, the liability to acute distress is very remote. In the four westernmost talukas a famine could only be caused by a total failure of rain. At the outside, 2,000 square miles, out of the four remaining talukas, may be said to be practically liable to famine. The degree of liability is less than that of East Khándesh, by reason of less liability to damage from floods, and failure of rainfall. But it is greater on account of more cramped communications, greater distance from the railway, and poorer normal condition of the population. Cultivators are, as a rule, poor. Without forethought, or self-restraint, they readily run into debt. Those in Sháháda, in East Nandurbár, and to a certain extent, in the plains of Taloda, and along the rivers in Pimpalner, are for the most part well off. The rest would, in the event of distress, very soon need Government assistance. Shirpur and Dhulia have some well-to-do traders. In the latter town, the cotton presses and gin factories give employment to the labouring classes, who are thereby in normal years, able to save. The population of Amalner is decidedly better off than that of Dhulia. The people are generally well-to-do. Dhulia, Pimpalner, and, in a less degree, Amalner, enjoy a special measure of protection by reason of the dams or bandhárás, which have been built on the tributaries of the Tápti."

#### "BIJÁPUR.

The whole of the district is liable to famine. Excepting small portions of Hungund, and Muddebihal, where the rainfall is more certain than elsewhere, it may be said that the liability to famine is nearly uniform throughout. The cause of famine is failure, or unseasonableness of rainfall, or both. There are no facilities for protection by large irrigation works. The population is nearly entirely dependent on agriculture; 76 per cent. are agriculturists, and 23 per cent. are engaged in crafts and industries. These are almost entirely weavers, of whom four-fifths are females. The weaving industry, which is common throughout the district, is greatly dependent on agricultural prosperity. As a rule, the agriculturists are a steady and orderly people, fairly housed, and enjoying all the necessaries of a simple life, and sufficient agricultural stock for the management of their holdings."

#### "BELGAUM.

About one-third of the district, the south-west portion, is practically secure from great distress, induced by drought, for, in that portion, the rainfall is certain, and a bad season rarely occurs. The talukas in the north-east, which depend on the north-east rains, are liable to chronic drought. The transition tract, which includes Chikodi, and Sampgaon, enjoys a fair immunity, as its rain supply is chiefly from the south-west monsoon, which can be more trusted than that of the north-east monsoon. The cause of distress is insufficiency of rains. The population is nearly purely agricultural. Weavers of coarse cotton and woollen cloths are fairly numerous, but they may be classed as dependent, indirectly though it be, on agriculture. The degree of indebtedness of the rayatwári occupants holds a position intermediate between that of the holders of Dhárwár and the Deccan. On the one hand, the cultivators are partly Lingáyets and Jains, while in Dhárwár, they chiefly belong to these industrious, self-dependent, and provident classes, but, on the other hand, the improvident Marátha husbandmen, who form the cultivating classes of the Deccan, are nearly as numerous. The land is not so heavily burdened as in the Deccan, but it is a great deal more encumbered than in Dhárwár."

#### "DHÁRWÁR.

The Mallád or the hilly portion in the west and south of the district, in which failure of the rainfall is unknown, is practically free from danger of famine. The transition tract lying between the Mallád and the Desh, plain open country in the north-east, is less liable, both in degree and in frequency, to severe distress than the Desh, which is most liable to distress from drought. Distress may be caused either by the insufficiency of the rainfall or its unseasonableness, or by both. The population is nearly purely agricultural. The land is held by small rayatwári occupants. The arable land

is principally free from. The money-lenders are not, as in the Deccan, strangers, but pátther wataundárs of the district. Well-to-do cultivators are always ready to cæir possessions by purchase of land and by mortgage with possession. The cæf of the rayatwári occupants in the Desh is decidedly good."

3. As regards the year, the following statement shows the rainfall in these districts in the month to November last as compared with the average fall during those months:

District.	June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896.
Sholápur	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.
Abmednagar	4 52	2 99	4 1	4 83	1 84	8 2	0 67	4 72	0 44	1 27	2 32	
Poona	4 52	3 40	6 35	3 64	2 5	6 84	0 44	4 19	0 25	1 1	1 15	
Fátára	6 51	13 93	20 62	6 53	11 40	7 64	0 83	5 17	0 59	1 17	1 23	
Násik	8 88	18 60	26 78	8 68	17 52	7 25	1 23	5 60	0 51	1 51	1 10	
Khándesh	5 31	13 1	26 67	8 7	9 79	8 93	1 41	3 70	0 59	0 91	0 32	
Bhápúr	5 75	9 20	15 55	6 2	4 45	6 68	0 36	1 92	0 2	0 52	0 26	
Belgaum	2 12	2 36	1 85	4 8	1 66	6 13	1 46	5 43	0 22	1 59	1 69	
Dhárwár	12 26	11 46	14 28	5 96	11 74	5 9	0 84	5 98	1 2	1 43	0 59	
	5 53	5 36	6 99	3 76	5 20	4 57	1 66	5 38	1 93	1 72	2 32	

A sketch map of the Central Division, showing the rainfall at the different stations from 19th to 30th November 1896, is also appended. The peculiarities of the season are that the crops dependent on kharif crops for the most part received excessive rain till about the middle of August, which proved injurious to crops and necessitated re-sowing in several places; while beyond a few scattered showers there was practically no rain during the months of September and October, when it was most wanted to bring the kharif crops to maturity, and to enable rabi sowings to be undertaken. There was, however, some useful rain in the third and fourth weeks of November, which improved the condition of the rabi crops already sown, and rendered further sowings possible in all the affected districts except Násik and Khándesh. Again, in the last week of December there was some rain in most of the affected districts. This rain would have been most useful for the crops sown in the end of November, and in the eastern talukas of Poona it is believed to have had very beneficial results, but unfortunately it fell elsewhere for the most part in places where the November rain had not been sufficient for further sowings. The season has been altogether so abnormal, the rainfall so capricious, and the effects so diverse, that an accurate idea of them can be given only by a detailed account for each of the districts in which scarcity has resulted.

#### SHOLÁPÚR.

Cultivation in this district depends mainly on the amount of rain (Navalgund taluka, and the argi petha), was somewhat late rain of August, September and October. The rainfall in the kharif crops were next to and useful for kharif sowings, but was deficient throughout practically no rabi sowings rain was far below the average, and standing kharif crops throughout the district mostly sowing was retarded. The situation grew worse in September:—

	In.	Ct.
fall measured only a few cents, and by the end of the last almost completely failed, and most of the rabi area was	-	- 3 76
In November there was rain between the 20th and 27th 58 cents at Pandharpur to 6.76 inches at Sholápur	-	- 0 51
to such rabi crops as had been sown, and enable sown in the talukas of Sholápur, Bársi, Mádha	-	- 1 94
seed and cattle were deficient. In the remaining and Malsiras rain was smaller in quantity and part have therefore been more restricted. There was not most of the rabi area was sown.	-	- 2 30
Bársi, and it is feared that without further rain the argi petha, was much improved by	-	- 2 66
of November will be small if they do not entirely fall in the week of December in these talukas		
is still wanted in the north-east		
is still precarious.		

#### AHMEDNAGAR.

The rainfall in June, July and August was generally good and of the rabi area sown in each kharif crops, and enabled rabi lands to be prepared (16 annas) out-turn and sowings ct. In September and October there was not my letter No. 10601, dated information in greater detail

the average, and in October there was practically no rain, and the kharif crops began to wither everywhere, and rabi sowing was retarded. In November there was slight rain, (1 cent to 1·27 inches), which was beneficial to wheat and gram already sown, but insufficient for any further sowing. About 1 inch 27 cents of rain fell at Dhulia on the 28th December, where, however, rabi crops are not grown.

#### BIJÁPUR.

The rainfall of June, July and August was far below the average, and insufficient for complete kharif sowings. Bijápur is, however, principally a rabi district, and depends mainly upon the later rains of September, October and November. During September the rainfall was very scanty, and the month of October was almost rainless. By the end of October the kharif crops had dried up, and the few rabi crops sown were withering, except along the banks of the Krishna. In November rain fell in general showers, mostly between the 19th and 23rd. This rain was beneficial to such jowári crops as were before sown, but was not sufficient for further sowings, except in a few places. In the last week of December there was slight rain in four tálukas and one petha, varying from 9 to 48 cents, but it was insufficient to revive the few crops sown towards the end of November, which are reported to be withering.

#### BELGAUM.

In the three tálukas of Athni, Gokák and Paragad (including Murgod petha), which are included among the affected areas, prospects were good till the end of August. But a long break occurred in September, in the last week of which only a few cents of rain fell in these tálukas. The whole of October also passed almost without any rain. By the end of October, the standing kharif crops had already withered or were withering, or where they had survived, were being destroyed by insects. In November, light showers fell throughout the district of Belgaum between the 19th and 23rd, and on the 27th. The fall in the affected tálukas, was at Paragad, 1 inch 9 cents; at Gokák, 45 cents; and at Athni, 70 cents. The fall was light, but useful to standing crops, and enabled some additional sowings to be undertaken. There was general rain on the 25th of December, except in Athni and Chikodi, varying from 14 cents at Murgod, to 1 inch 57 cents at Belgaum. More rain is needed in all the affected tálukas, but especially in Athni.

#### DHARWAR.

The situation till the middle of October in the affected tálukas, viz. : Navalgund (including Nargund petha), Ron and Gadag (including Mundargi petha), was somewhat similar to that of the Belgaum tálukas referred to above. The kharif crops were next to worthless, and were rooted out in some places, and there were practically no rabi sowings till the end of October. In November, good rain fell throughout the district mostly between the 19th and 23rd, the fall in the affected parts being :—

	In.	Ct.
Gadag - - - - -	3	76
Mundargi - - - - -	0	51
Ron - - - - -	1	94
Navalgund - - - - -	2	30
Nargund - - - - -	2	66

This rain was beneficial to the standing crops, and most of the rabi area was sown. The condition of the affected tálukas, except the Mundargi petha, was much improved by this rain. There was also some useful rain in the last week of December in these tálukas varying from 15 cents to 1 inch 99 cents, but more is still wanted in the north-east tracts (Ron, Nargund, Mundargi) where the prospects are still precarious.

4. Estimates in annas of the out-turn of kharif crops and of the rabi area sown in each of the affected districts as compared with the normal (16 annas) out-turn and sowings have been furnished to the Government of India with my letter No. 10601, dated December 23rd 16; 5. The following statement gives the information in greater detail

for the affected districts, as well as for other districts of this Presidency for which it is available :—

DISTRICT.	Average Outturn in annas, of Kharif Crops, taking the whole area sown.	Proportion of the ordinary Rabi area sown.	Proportion of the Rabi area sown, in which the seed has germinated.	Proportion of the area in Column 4, in which the Crop is still alive.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Ahmedabad - - -	—	—	—	—
Kaira - - -	—	—	—	—
Panch Maháls - - -	8	55 per cent.	80 per cent.	All.
Broach - - -	6½	95 "	-	Nearly all.
Surat - - -	12	53 "	81 per cent.	All.
Thána - - -	7½	25 "	All -	All.
Sholápur - - -	1	43 "	80 per cent.	All.
Ahmednagar - - -	4	66 "	Generally	Not reported.
Poona - - -	3	75 "	-	Not reported.
Sátará - - -	5½	66 "	Greater part	75 per cent.
Násik - - -	5½	46 "	86 per cent.	All alive in nine tálukas, and parts of two tálukas.
Khándesh - - -	6½	42 "	80 "	All.
Bijápur - - -	—	25 "	70 "	Not reported.
Belgaum - - -	6	62 "	60 "	60 per cent.
Dhárwár - - -	7*	74 "	82 "	All alive in nine tálukas, and about half in one táluks.
Kolába - - -	7	44 "	All -	All.
Ratnágiri - - -	7	76 "	All -	All.
Kánara - - -	—	—	—	—
Karáchi - - -	10	Almost whole†	—	—
Hyderabad - - -	—	—	—	—
Shikápur - - -	12	60 per cent.	All -	All.
Thar and Párkar - - -	—	—	—	—
Upper Sind Frontier -	12	70 per cent. ‡	88 per cent.	All.

\* 2 annas in the affected tálukas and 10 annas in the rest.

† Sowing was still in progress at the date of report.

‡ Sowing was still going on at the date of report.

These estimates are not based on any detailed inspection, for which there has not yet been time, but they indicate roughly how the probable outturn of food grains in the current year compares with the normal outturn. For a proper appreciation of the figures, however, it is necessary to note the proportions of kharif and rabi food crops grown in the areas affected by scarcity. The cereals principally cultivated as kharif crops in these districts are bájri, jowári and rice, while those cultivated as rabi crops are jowári and wheat. The following statement of the average area on which these crops are grown, shows how far the several districts are dependent for their food supply on kharif or rabi crops :—

DISTRICTS.	Kharif.	Rabi.
	Acres.	Acres.
Sholápur - - -	257,955	1,356,925
Ahmednagar - - -	811,922	1,226,614
Poona - - -	840,627	796,874
Sátará - - -	944,805	272,891
Násik - - -	982,266	396,355
Khándesh - - -	1,166,684	267,534
Bijápur - - -	685,626	1,214,279
Belgaum - - -	882,706	305,039
Dhárwár - - -	785,068	435,711

It will be clear from the facts and figures above given that the intensity of the distress in this Presidency depends entirely on the outturn of the rabi crops still standing. Most of these crops were sown at the end of November, long after the time at which such crops are generally sown. Some of them were benefited by rain at the end of last month, but it is feared that most of them will fail to come to maturity without more

rain. The Director of Agriculture and all members of the Agricultural Department have been desired to devote their energies to the ascertainment as promptly as is possible of the probable result of these late sowings and to the collection of other information regarding the food supply.

5. There can, however, be little doubt that the character of the season does not of itself account adequately for the large demand for relief which has already occurred in this Presidency. In the districts most liable to scarcity the rabi crops are most important, and, as already shown, it is not yet known what the out-turn of them will be. The distress has mainly arisen from the pressure on the poorer classes of the abnormally high prices which have prevailed since October last, and the failure of the kharif crops in these districts would not have caused so great a rise in price if there had been a good harvest in other parts of India. Prices, indeed, rose in Northern India while yet a plentiful harvest was expected here, for although the heavy rainfall in the end of July and beginning of August caused some damage in various places, the outlook in the Presidency as a whole was very favourable for some time afterwards, and in many places bumper crops were expected. It is believed that in these circumstances holders of stocks of grain were tempted by the higher prices resulting from the unfavourable outlook in Northern India to export to some extent. Afterwards it became evident that the prolonged absence of the later rains would injure or entirely destroy kharif crops, and render rabi cultivation exceedingly precarious, and prices rose rapidly. By the middle of November the staple grains were, in most of the affected tracts, selling at a higher rate than was reached in the last famine till the failure of the early rains of 1877 threatened a prolongation and intensification of the scarcity. The following statement contrasts the normal prices of food-grains with the average price for each fortnight since the middle of September in each of the affected districts:—

DISTRICT.	JOWARI.								BĀRI.									
	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.
	Lbs. per Rupee.																	
Sholapur	45	46½	32½	25	21½	17½	23½	21½	22½	41	35½	29½	21½	17½	14½	17½	17½	18½
Ahmednagar	42½	41½	27½	23½	20½	17½	19½	19½	20½	35½	32½	20½	20½	17½	14½	17½	17½	20½
Poona	38	40	36½	21½	18½	18½	21½	18½	20½	30½	30	27½	18½	16½	15	19½	16½	17½
Sátara	33½	34½	31½	25½	20½	20½	18½	18½	18½	31½	29½	27½	22½	18	13½	16	17	17½
Násik	43	53½	-	-	-	20½	19½	19	19½	34	28	22½	19½	16½	17	17	17	16½
Khándesh	44	38	22½	17½	19	18½	17½	18½	19	36½	29½	22	14½	16½	15½	14½	16½	-
Bijápur	45½	46½	36	27	23½	18	22½	21½	22½	43½	38½	35½	24½	21½	17½	-	19½	-
Belgaum	40½	49½	46½	29	22½	18½	27	24½	27	40½	39	31½	21½	19½	16½	21½	21½	24
Dharwár	45	54½	51½	30½	24½	16	26½	26½	26½	41½	40½	39½	29½	20½	16½	18½	18½	-

  

DISTRICT.	WHEAT.								RICE.									
	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.
	Lbs. per Rupee.																	
Sholapur	26½	26½	24½	16½	16½	14½	18½	18½	-	21½	23½	18½	17½	17½	15½	16½	16½	-
Ahmednagar	27½	26½	20½	17½	16	14½	14½	14½	-	16½	19½	18½	18½	18½	16½	16½	16½	-
Poona	23½	24	20½	16½	16½	14	15½	15½	-	20	21½	19½	16½	14½	14½	14½	14½	-
Sátara	22	26½	26½	21½	15½	14½	14½	16½	-	19½	20½	19½	17	15½	16	14½	14½	-
Násik	29½	34½	21½	20½	18½	16½	15½	15½	16½	22½	20½	20½	19	17½	17½	16½	18½	16½
Khándesh	28½	34½	19½	15½	15½	14½	14	14½	-	19	18½	15½	15½	15½	15½	13½	14½	-
Bijápur	20½	26½	21½	17½	16	14½	-	16	-	20½	22½	20½	17½	17½	16½	-	17½	-
Belgaum	29½	27½	28½	20½	16½	13½	15½	16½	-	22	25½	24½	22	17½	16½	16½	20	20
Dharwár	20½	27½	24	18½	14½	14½	14½	18½	18½	22½	24½	24½	21	16½	16½	19½	19½	21½

6. It has been stated above that it is believed the holders of stocks of grain were tempted to export to some extent, and it has been alleged that railways now carry away a large part of what would have been stored in pits if the ancient practice had been continued. There is, doubtless, some truth in the statement, but the Governor in Council is unable to believe that the custom of storing has been abandoned. It is known to have prevailed until a recent date in some of the affected districts, and there is no reason to suppose that the stocks would suddenly be exhausted. The best evidence that a considerable local supply is still available lies in the fact that on the fall of rain in the end of November there was an immediate decline in prices, and it is now reported from districts in which there had been difficulty in obtaining food for people on relief works that grain is plentiful. At the same time, as will be seen from the table above given, prices still continue very high, and throughout the Presidency the harvest has so far been considerably below the average. It has not yet been found possible to obtain any definite information regarding the actual quantity of food grains available within the Presidency, and it is doubtful whether any information which can be obtained will be trustworthy, for the stocks are generally underground and not easily capable of inspection, and the owners have the strongest motives for withholding the truth on the subject. The Director of Agriculture has, however, been desired to have detailed inquiries made in each village and to frame estimates from such statistics as are available. It may be remarked that a statement often made that the railways have induced the cultivation of exportable products at the expense of food grains does not appear to be correct. From the following table it will be seen that, on the whole, food is produced in the affected districts through which railways have been constructed since the last famine, as largely as it was before the opening of railways, and that the increase of exportable products has resulted from extension of cultivation :—

Districts traversed by	Area sown with Bajri.						Area sown with Jowari.						REMARKS.		
	1876-77.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1876-77.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1894-95.	1895-96.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			
Southern Marátha Railway.	Bijápur Branch.	Bijápur	—	218,352	167,810	360,566	289,385	311,731	—	1,333,307	1,610,749	1,557,676	1,382,401	1,381,955	Bijápur Branch of the Southern Marátha Railway opened for goods traffic on 1st August 1884.
		Dhárwar	—	7,143	7,411	6,098	4,637	4,219	—	619,018	639,402	678,342	633,147	647,234	Poona Branch of the Southern Marátha Railway opened in small sections :—
	Poona Branch.	Belgaum	—	—	124,130	143,707	193,640	163,163	—	—	774,061	789,375	601,168	630,580	Londa to Belgaum on March 21, 1887. Belgaum to Miraj on December 23, 1887. Miraj to Koregaon on May 2, 1887.
		Satara	—	—	553,214	675,094	483,563	464,449	—	—	550,419	528,673	465,759	491,406	Koregaon to Ghorpadi on November 18, 1886. Ghorpadi to Poona on October 4, 1891.
		Poona	501,525	—	745,979	646,911	652,670	623,071	132,223	—	683,755	826,965	703,377	729,656	Dhond and Manmád Railway opened for traffic in 1878 :— Dhond to Ahmednagar on March 16, 1878.
Dhond and Manmád Railway.	Ahmednagar	796,423	—	—	—	870,809	829,837	422,615	—	—	—	864,171	835,771	Ahmednagar to Manmád on April 17, 1878.	

7. His Excellency in Council understands that Madras will now be able to spare some surplus produce, and so far as he is at present able to judge, is inclined to the belief that even if the outturn of the rabi crops in the affected areas in this Presidency is poor, there will be found in the country sufficient food to keep the people alive until the time comes for reaping crops after next rains. This view is supported by an examination which has recently been made by the Director of Agriculture of the statistics of rail-borne traffic in food grains in the past five years. If it should unhappily prove incorrect, the Governor in Council feels little doubt that merchants would undertake importation from foreign countries. There is room for some apprehension, because such importation has hitherto not been needed for this Presidency, and it would take considerable time to carry out after the need for it was ascertained. But the Governor in Council cannot believe that merchants will hold aloof if a profit from importation becomes probable. Communications are excellent throughout the affected area. The greater part of it is

traversed by the G. I. P., Dhond-Mannád and Southern Marátha Railways, and local communications with the railway stations are fairly plentiful and good. It will be contrary to all experience if ports and large towns accessible by rail are not supplied by private enterprise more successfully than would be possible by State agency. The Governor in Council has accordingly steadily refused to accede to solicitations to undertake importation from foreign countries, and this policy will not be abandoned, but any aid which can legitimately be given to private trade by the publication of information regarding local stocks and other measures will be freely granted. In other respects there will be as little interference as possible with private enterprise. It was, however, reported in November last that local dealers had combined not to supply people on certain relief works at reasonable rates. The District Officers have been authorised in such cases to endeavour to make arrangements with merchants in the larger towns for the supply of the labourers and persons gratuitously relieved, or if necessary to bring grain from the larger towns and pay the wages as well as give the gratuitous relief in kind.

8. The following statement shows the areas at present considered to be affected in the several districts, and the daily average number of persons likely to require employment on relief works, as estimated by the Collectors and Commissioners :—

District.	Total Area in Acres.	Total Population.	Portion likely to be affected.	Estimated Daily Average Number of Persons likely to come on Relief Works.	REMARKS.
Sholápur - -	2,905,194	750,689	Whole district (tálukas of Bársi, Pandharpur and Sholápur less severely than others).	58,000	The estimate is for nine months, from December to August.
Ahmednagar - -	4,217,203	888,755	Whole district (tálukas of Akola, Sanzammer, Shrigonda, and Párner less severely than others).	18,000	The estimate is for nine months, from December to August.
Poona - -	3,424,059	1,067,800	Parts of all tálukas (Bhimthadi and Indápur severely affected).	12,000	The estimate is for seven months, from December to June.
Sátára - -	3,087,783	1,225,989	Tálukas of Pátan, Jávli, Sátára, Khánápur, part of Karád and Shirála Petha severely. Other tálukas partially.	11,000	The estimate is for nine months, from November to July.
Násik - -	3,720,295	843,582	Tálukas of Málegaon, Nándgaon, Yeola, Niphád, and Sinnar severely. Other tálukas partially.	10,200	The estimate is for 11 months, from November 1896 to September 1897.
Khándesh - -	5,660,900	1,460,851	All tálukas partially - - -	15,000	The estimate is for eight months, from December to July.
Bijápur - -	3,627,811	796,339	Whole district - - - -		
Belgaum - -	2,979,376	1,013,261	Tálukas of Athni, Gokak, and Parasgad (including Murgod Petha) - - - -	73,750	The estimate is for eight months, from December to July.
Dhárwár - -	2,945,832	1,051,314	Tálukas of Navalgund, Gadag and Ron, and Nargund and Mungárgi Pethas - - - -		

It will of course, however, be understood that the statement may require considerable modification, according to the outturn of the young rabi crops now in the ground. It seems probable that in the Gokák and Parasgad tálukas of Belgaum, and the Navalgund and Gadag tálukas of Dhárwár these crops will come to maturity, and in that event there will not be much distress in these areas. On the other hand, it must be remembered that in places where crops are poor, but have not entirely failed, and where in ordinary years there would have been no need for relief, the abnormally high prices press severely on persons who have no savings. For this reason it has been necessary to open relief works in the western tracts of Poona and Sátára, which have been considered immune from famine. It is moreover feared that relief may be needed in Ratnágiri and Kolába, partly because the crops are poor and the prices high, but mainly because many inhabitants of these districts who usually gain a large portion of their income from labour in Bombay have left that town owing to the plague, and programmes of works to be commenced if need arises have been prepared. The food grown in the former district is never sufficient for the whole population, which is exceedingly dense, and the imports are ordinarily paid for in some part by the earnings of members of the families outside the district.



9. The estimates of the numbers likely to require employment on relief works given above compare as follows with the average numbers of persons employed in 1876-77:—

	Present Estimate.	1876-77.
Sholápur - - - - -	58,000	43,410
Ahmednagar - - - - -	18,000	22,997
Poona - - - - -	12,000	31,767
Sátára - - - - -	11,000	22,542
Násik - - - - -	10,200	8,625
Khándesh - - - - -	15,000	3,893
Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dhárwár - -	73,750	95,382
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>197,950</b>	<b>228,616</b>

The Governor in Council regrets to be forced to the conclusion that unless the rabi crops now in the ground yield a good harvest the estimates are likely to be largely exceeded. The average numbers of persons actually employed in the several districts in the week ending 2nd instant were as follows:—

Sholápur - - - - -	40,257
Ahmednagar - - - - -	27,547
Poona - - - - -	13,064
Sátára - - - - -	19,042
Násik - - - - -	14,553
Khándesh - - - - -	6,827
Bijápur - - - - -	44,542
Belgaum - - - - -	1,999
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>167,831</b>

It will be observed that these numbers are already above the estimates in Ahmednagar, Poona, Sátára, and Násik, and that the total number now employed falls short of the maximum number estimated to require employment by some 30,000 only. The Director of Agriculture has been desired to revise the estimates after detailed inquiries regarding the probable outturn of the rabi crops and the condition of the people.

10. When there were indications of distress the collectors were instructed to open test works, making use for the purpose, as far as possible, of local fund works in progress or in contemplation. It was particularly impressed upon them that the provisions regarding tasks and wages should be strictly applied, and these instructions have been twice repeated. It has been pointed out that without strict enforcement of these conditions the test would be of no value, and that it was, on that account, even of more importance to exact full tasks on test works than on ordinary relief works. Regular relief works have not been opened until there was shown to be a keen demand for labour at famine wages. In Dhárwár the tests have not hitherto shown such a demand, and were discontinued, but in the week ending 2nd instant were resumed. In Belgaum it has so far been necessary to open relief works only in the Athni táluka, but there are test works in progress also in Paragad and Gokak. In some other places the persons employed on relief works refused to accept famine wages after the rain fell at the end of November, but since that time there has been a continuous increase in the number of people requiring employment, as shown below:—

Week ending 5th December.	Week ending 12th December.	Week ending 19th December.	Week ending 26th December.	Week ending 2nd January.
54,913	72,571	114,614	142,848	167,831

The payment of famine wages and exaction of proper tasks have undoubtedly been effectual in affording a proper indication of the intensity of the distress.

11. In all districts the bulk of the people employed are Mhárs and Mángs and members of other low castes who are in the highest degree improvident. There are, however, other agricultural labourers on the relief works, but not yet, so far as can be ascertained, a large proportion of holders of land. Amongst the first, however, to feel the pressure of very high prices were weavers and some other artizans, and in some places, at the earliest stage of the distress, they were the only people for whom relief was needed. Owing to the enormous numbers of weavers requiring employment throughout the affected areas, the possibility of providing work for them in their own craft presented difficulties which do not appear to have been contemplated when Section 151 (a) of the Bombay Famine Relief Code was framed, and an amendment of that provision has been proposed. It has been found practicable, without an organization which it would take a long time to carry out, and without the risk of dislocating for years the trade in cloth, to employ in their own craft only such weavers as cannot gain a livelihood on the ordinary relief works. Earthwork is, however, provided, so far as possible, for such of them as are not fitted for the breaking of metal. The situation in respect of the weavers is complicated by the fact that the present is the Sinhast year, during which no marriages take place in the Hindu community, and consequently the demand for the articles ordinarily manufactured by the weavers is immensely reduced.

12. It is found that in all districts except Sátára there are more women employed than men, and in some districts the disproportion is marked, as shown by the following figures:—

Districts.	For Week ending 26th December 1896.			For Week ending 2nd January 1897.		
	Men.	Women.	Proportion of Men to Women.	Men.	Women.	Proportion of Men to Women.
Sholápur - - - -	102,393	118,854	46 : 54	86,582	105,902	45 : 55
Ahmednagar - - - -	33,562	47,494	41 : 59	56,507	79,789	41 : 59
Poona - - - -	22,685	33,300	43 : 57	28,802	36,565	44 : 56
Sátára - - - -	34,240	19,775	63 : 37	56,576	34,575	62 : 38
Násik - - - -	26,546	33,642	44 : 56	31,807	39,693	45 : 55
Khándesh - - - -	7,833	21,528	27 : 73	7,763	23,906	24 : 76
Bijápur - - - -	67,993	106,219	39 : 61	78,107	121,850	39 : 61
Belgaum - - - -	3,378	4,810	41 : 59	3,560	5,277	40 : 60

The cause is probably to be found in the fact that some men continue to find employment in agriculture and in agricultural improvements, for which takávi advances have been made, but, owing to the abnormally high prices, are unable to support their wives and families, and others have probably migrated with cattle, leaving their families behind. It is perhaps to some extent on account of this disproportion that the number of children under seven years of age at the relief works is found to be very large. The percentage of them to workers in the several districts is shown below:—

Sholápur - - - -	47 per cent.
Ahmednagar - - - -	39 "
Poona - - - -	52 "
Sátára - - - -	13 "
Násik - - - -	50 "
Khándesh - - - -	42 "
Bijápur - - - -	31 "
Belgaum - - - -	34 "

Explanations have been called for on the point, and if there is found to be an abuse it will be stopped. But it has been already reported in some cases that able-bodied women of the lower castes are very prolific, and generally have several children under seven years of age, and that no children of people other than workers had been found on the works. Kitchens for these children have been opened, under Chapter IX. of the Famine Relief Code, in the district of Bijápur and parts of Poona and Sátára.

13. I am to append a copy of the \*Resolution of this Government in the Public Works Department, No. 2-F.—1569, dated 12th November 1896, laying down the principles to be observed in the selection of works for the relief of distress. The annual programmes of relief works have hitherto been found to be generally sufficient. But as the demand for relief is steadily extending and is likely to be very keen in the hot season, new works are being added to the programmes and the feasibility of several tank projects is being considered. It has also been arranged that earthworks on the portions of the Tápti Valley Railway, of which the final alignment has been determined, and on the proposed Bársi-Pandharpur Railway, which is now being surveyed, shall be put in hand as relief works in case of need, and it is hoped that the Hyderabad-Godavari Railway will also be commenced. While no distance test is applied, labour is concentrated as far as possible on large works, the recommendation of the Famine Commission that there should, when practicable, be at least one work in each subdivision being at the same time borne in mind. But if the number of labourers greatly increases, adequate supervision cannot be provided unless they are employed on larger works than are at present in the programmes, and the commencement of earth-work for the railways above specified will be essential. There are, however, classes of people who for various reasons cannot leave their homes, and instructions have been issued to employ them on small works near their homes if they need relief. The rush on the works on some occasions has been so great that difficulty has been experienced in punctually providing adequate supervision, but this defect has been remedied with little delay. The Sanitary Commissioner and his Deputies are making regular tours of inspection in the affected districts, and the condition of the labourers employed on relief works, including weavers, whose health is generally improved by outdoor labour, is reported to be satisfactory. This result is due to the fact that owing to the preparation beforehand of programmes of works, relief has been provided as soon as it was required.

14. There is a very keen demand for takávi advances in the affected districts and from the first this Government have urged the great importance of adopting this form of relief as far as is practicable. The money is for the most part expended on improvements which will alleviate distress in future, and it is expended in the most economical manner under the supervision of those directly interested in using it to the best advantage. Experience in the Southern Marátha Country in 1891-92 indicates that the great bulk of the advances will be recovered with interest, but even if a proportion of the amount is not recovered, there will be much less loss than in expenditure on inefficient famine labour. In addition to the amount of Rs. 6,27,350 allotted to the affected districts out of the original assignment of Rs. 10,03,450, the whole additional assignment of Rs. 15,00,000 has been applied for in these districts, and there is a demand for more, with regard to which the Government of India will be separately addressed. It is estimated that in the districts of Sholápur and Bijápur, and the affected tracts of Belgaum and Dhárwár, an aggregate of 140,000 persons will find employment until next rains on works executed with the aid of these advances.

15. Attention is also being given as far as possible to the maintenance and improvement of the water supply. The aid of the Municipalities and Local Boards for this purpose where they have funds available has been enlisted, while the works are carried out entirely at Government expense where, as in Bijápur, the local bodies cannot give assistance.

16. The provisions of Chapter V. of the Famine Code regarding gratuitous relief in villages have been applied wherever necessary in the affected districts, but it is satisfactory to observe that there has not yet been disclosed any extensive need for such relief. According to the latest information the numbers receiving it in the different districts were :—

Sholápur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,722
Poona	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,811
Bijápur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,274
Belgaum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103
Sátára	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ahmednagar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Násik	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

It has, however, been represented that poor-houses will soon be necessary, especially in the districts of Sholápur, Ahmednagar, Poona and Bijápur, and steps are being taken to

construct them in these places. The application of Chapter VIII. of the Famine Code to the districts of Sholapur and Ahmednagar and parts of Poona has already been authorised. I am to quote below the orders issued by this Government for the working of Chapters V. and VIII. of the Famine Code :—

“ The Commissioner will doubtless take steps to see that the provisions with regard to gratuitous relief are strictly applied. The distinction between the classes to be relieved in their villages under Chapter V., and those to be received in poor houses under Chapter VIII., should be carefully borne in mind, and great caution is needed that the poor-houses shall be managed in such a way that relief will not involve any offence to religious sentiment. The poor-house at Pandharpur seems intended for its proper purpose, and the Municipal Commissioners are entitled to credit for their recognition\* of their responsibilities in this matter. Relief of persons entitled to it in their villages under Chapter V. is not likely to offend caste scruples, but it is very liable to abuse, and very constant and close supervision is necessary. There should be a chain of checks applied through circle inspectors, relief mámlatdárs, sub-divisional officers and higher authorities to prevent the entry on the dole register of persons who are not eligible, and the demoralization which would ensue from any laxity in this respect.”

“ The collector refers to the private charity dispensed in the villages. An effort should be made to have it brought under direction and control so that it may not run in the same line with State relief. The appointment of committees who will be guided by the officers engaged on famine duty will help to the attainment of this object. If persons on the dole register or in poor-houses are also assisted by private charity, difficult complications may ensue, but private charity may appropriately be used for the provision of comforts which could not be legitimately supplied, at the cost of the State, for persons in hospitals attached to poor-houses, and for assistance to persons who are not eligible for State relief.”

17. The administration of famine relief in each of the affected districts is placed under the control of the collector, and in order to assist him the revenue and police establishments of those district have been strengthened, and relief mámlatdárs, special civil officers for relief works, and district medical officers have been appointed wherever necessary. The provisions of the Famine Code besides those mentioned in the preceding paragraph have been applied to the extent considered to be necessary in existing circumstances in all places in which relief has to be given.

18. As the failure of the later rains has also resulted in a very serious scarcity of fodder, the question of the preservation of agricultural cattle in the affected districts has engaged the special attention of Government. Large numbers of cattle have already died or been sold for slaughter, especially in the Bijapur and Sholapur districts, and the condition of cattle throughout the affected area is reported to be rapidly deteriorating. I am to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of the resolutions of this Government noted below containing the general orders issued on the subject.† All subsidiary measures taken in this matter have been summarised in the weekly statements appended to this letter. Every possible facility has been given to the cultivators to take their useful cattle to places where forage is available, takavi advances being authorised for the purpose of taking them either by road or rail, and the arrangements for the importation of fodder are intended only for such of them as must be kept in the affected districts for the carriage of grain and other necessary purposes. I am to state that while this Government recognise that for the supply of fodder in the affected districts private enterprise must be almost entirely depended upon, the situation demanded some immediate action on the part of Government. It was found there was much grass, especially in the Khándesh forests, which was likely to be burned if not promptly secured. It is also to a large extent in somewhat inaccessible places where contractors would be reluctant to go. It was, therefore, determined to get as much as possible of this grass cut, pressed, and sent down to railway stations. The special officer appointed on this duty has, however, been instructed to endeavour, as far as possible, to

\* The reference here is to a contribution of Rs. 2,500 by the Pandharpur Municipality for the maintenance of a poor-house.

† No. 8939, dated 11th November 1896. No. 9158, dated 18th November 1896. No. 10201, dated 12th December 1896. Not reprinted.

sell the grass to traders for distribution at the earliest state of the transit at which they appear to offer a reasonable price for it. As the whole quantity which can be imported will suffice for but a fraction of the cattle required to be kept in the districts, any attempt to distribute it by State agency to cultivators must fail, and there is no alternative to the disposal of it by competition. It has, however, been directed that advances may be made in kind instead of cash to cultivators who wish to have the grass for the preservation of their agricultural cattle. I am to state that the agents of the railway companies have agreed to carry fodder for cattle by rail to the affected districts at low rates. These rates are not restricted to grass carried at the cost of Government, but will apply to fodder imported into the affected districts by private enterprise. This Government are desirous of leaving the importation as far as possible to private trade and will refrain from any competition which is calculated to render that trade less effective.

19. The financial position of this Government, so far as it can be gauged at present, is explained in my letter to the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 23, dated 4th instant. The following statement shows the estimates of the expenditure likely to be incurred on famine relief as furnished by the collectors of the Central Division, and the Commissioner, Southern Division :—

	Bholapur.	Ahmed-nagar.	Poona.	Satara.	Nasik.	Khândesh.	Total C. D.	Total S. D.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Relief works - - -	18,20,000	5,57,500	3,44,425	3,75,000	4,21,875	4,80,000	39,98,800	21,00,000	(1) The items against gratuitous relief for Ahmednagar, Khândesh, Nasik and the Southern Division include Rs. 1,00,000, Rs. 15,000, Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 1,00,000, respectively, on account of dole or allowances to village servants which are separately shown in the district returns. (2) Rs. 2,75,000 have already been granted. (3) Rs. 5,00,000 are for the Wasali Water scheme, and Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000 to the Yeola and Mâlegaon Municipalities for relief to weavers. (4) Rs. 52,000 have already been granted. (5) These include Rs. 5,00,000 required next year. (6) Municipal expenditure on water-works.
Gratuitous relief - - -	3,64,600	1,82,500 (1)	2,33,219	56,250	73,281 (1)	45,000 (1)	9,54,750	4,15,000 (1)	
Contingencies - - -	2,18,400	66,000	41,331	45,000	50,525	60,000	4,81,356	2,52,000	
Water supply - - -	25,000	10,000	—	10,000	—	—	45,000	30,000	
Establishment under collectors (including travelling allowances) - - -	24,518	60,706	11,289	5,000	25,864	7,400	1,34,777	87,406	
TOTAL - - -	24,52,418	8,76,706	6,30,264	4,91,250	5,71,645	5,92,400	56,14,683	28,84,408	
Takavi advances - - -	2,98,350	4,00,000 (2)	1,00,000	1,80,000	40,000	77,000 (4)	9,95,350	12,00,000 (5)	
Local resources - - -	—	50,000	—	30,000 (6)	5,75,000 (3)	—	6,55,000	3,75,000	

For reasons already given these estimates are likely to be below rather than above the mark, unless the rabi crops yield a good harvest. As already explained in my letter referred to above, there will also be other indirect charges due to famine, such as those on account of grain compensation to Government servants, supply of fodder to the affected districts, extra police and medical establishments, &c., and provincial resources are approaching exhaustion. It will be seen that the local resources available to meet expenditure on famine relief are very small. The Dhârwar and Belgaum District local boards are already carrying on relief works at their expense, the former with the aid of a loan from Government, and the municipalities of Yeola and Mâlegaon in the Nasik district have applied to Government for loans of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000, respectively, to enable them to assist weavers in distress. The municipality of Pandharpur in the Sholapur district has contributed Rs. 2,500 for the maintenance of a poor-house at that place. The other local boards and municipalities concerned have not so far been able to take any substantial measures towards supplementing the efforts of Government to relieve distress.

20. The probable extent to which suspensions of collections of the land revenue may be necessary within the current financial year is stated in my letter to the Finance Department mentioned in the preceding paragraph. It is impossible, however, to make any accurate forecast until the probable outturn of the standing rabi crops can be ascertained. A recommendation has been made with regard to one district that in the current year the dates of instalments for collections in the rabi areas should be fixed a month later than usual owing to the lateness of the crops, and this measure may be found necessary in all the affected districts. The following are the estimates of suspensions and remissions for the revenue year ending 31st July already furnished by

the collectors. A further report will be made on this subject when the data for a forecast are more definite :

District.	Suspensions.	Remissions.	Remarks.
<b>NORTHERN DIVISION—</b>			
	Rs.	Ra.	
Ahmedabad - - - - -	—	—	In two talukas. Report for the other talukas not received.
Kaira - - - - -	30,000	—	
Panch Mahals - - - - -	—	—	
Broach - - - - -	62,500	2,000	
Surat - - - - -	—	—	
Thana - - - - -	1,44,060	—	
<b>TOTAL for Northern Division - - -</b>	<b>2,36,560</b>	<b>2,000</b>	
<b>CENTRAL DIVISION—</b>			
Sholapur - - - - -	—	—	Report not received.
Ahmednagar - - - - -	3,47,750	—	
Poona - - - - -	6,26,700	—	Rough estimate. Detailed report not received.
Satara - - - - -	5,35,300	—	
Nasik - - - - -	2,00,000	—	
Khandesh - - - - -	8,50,000	—	
<b>TOTAL for Central Division - - -</b>	<b>25,59,750</b>	<b>—</b>	
<b>SOUTHERN DIVISION—</b>			
Bijapur - - - - -	5,69,906	—	Nil in two talukas. Report for the rest of the district not received.
Belgaum - - - - -	35,000	6,500	
Dharwar - - - - -	1,15,000	—	
Kolaba - - - - -	2,00,000	—	
Ratnagiri - - - - -	—	—	
Kanara - - - - -	1,00,000	—	
<b>TOTAL for Southern Division - - -</b>	<b>10,19,906</b>	<b>6,500</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>38,16,216</b>	<b>8,500</b>	

21. In the Native States within or adjoining the affected area of British territory distress is reported to be acute only in Jath, Ramdurg and Akalkot. The following extracts from letters from the political agents show the relief measures being taken by the several chiefs, to whom the political agents have been requested to convey the acknowledgment of the Governor in Council that they are recognizing their responsibilities in this matter :—

#### KOLHA'PUR AND SOUTHERN MARA'THA COUNTRY STATES.

(Extracts from a Memorandum, dated 3rd December 1896, from the Political Agent, Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country.)

##### I.—KOLHÁPUR.

As yet there is no great distress; labourers are still employed in harvesting operations in parts of the State, and there is no demand yet for large relief works. About one inch of rain fell 10 days ago, and this has improved prospects and lowered prices. Present price of jowari is 22 lbs. per rupee. The scarcity is most severe in the Katkol and Panhala mahals. All arrangements are ready for opening relief works. The Dewan has been appointed Famine Commissioner.

##### II.—SANGLI.

There is no real distress except in the Mangalvedha and Kuchi talukas. These two talukas have an area of 462 square miles and population 62,975, and relief works are about to be commenced there. In the meantime *Tagai* is being freely given. In Shirhatti taluka the crops are good. Recent rains have slightly improved prospects everywhere. Fodder supply still fair except in Mangalvedha, where there is great scarcity. Prices vary from 34 lbs. in Shirhatti to 20 lbs. in Kuchi.

### III.—MIRAJ (SENIOR).

Scarcity is greatest in the Modnimb táluka. Elsewhere the recent rains have so improved prospects that there is no danger for the present. *Tagái* advances are being freely given. The Chief imports grain from Mysore and sells it at cost price in Miraj market without interfering with other traders. The result is to prevent a "corner" in grain. Prices vary from 32 lbs. at Miraj to 21 at Modnimb. No special relief works opened yet.

### IV.—MIRAJ (JUNIOR).

Real distress only in Kuroli petha, where relief works have been opened. In the other two pethas, especially Gudgeri, crops are fair, and there is no danger at present. Prices vary from 32 lbs. in Gudgeri to 19 lbs. in Kuroli.

### V.—JAMKHANDI.

In Kundgol táluka the crops are good. In Jamkhandi and Bidri tálukas there is distress. Relief works have been opened and support about 300 persons. Recent rains have slightly improved prospects. Price of jowári 22 lbs. at Jamkhandi.

### VI.—MUDHOL.

Rabi crops much benefited by recent rain of 2½ inches, and cold weather jowári has been sown, which will serve for fodder for cattle if it does not ripen to grain. No actual distress at present. Price of jowári 24 lbs. at Mudhol.

### VII.—KURUNDVAO'D STATES.

No real distress except in Tikota Mahál near Bijápur, where relief works have been opened. Price of jowári 24 lbs. Some lands have been sown since recent rains.

### VIII.—RÁMDURG.

There is much scarcity in this State, and recent fall of 2½ inches of rain has only effected slight improvement. Relief works have been opened and give employment to 1,200 persons. Jowári 22 lbs. per rupee.

### IX.—JATH.

The distress here is greater than elsewhere in the Agency, and prices higher owing to long distance from railway. In Jath Máhal recent rain has done some good, but in Karajgi Mahál the condition is serious. Relief works have been opened and support 600 persons at present, and *tagái* advances are being widely given. Jowári 20 lbs. per rupee.

---

### (EXTRACTS from REPORTS of other POLITICAL AGENTS).

#### AUNDH (SÁTÁRA AGENCY).

Severe scarcity is expected in the Atpadi Mahál, which is mixed up with the eastern tálukas of Sátará. A relief work has been opened there, and 348 persons are employed on it according to the latest information. The numbers are not expected to exceed 1,000 at any time. The situation has been much improved by the rainfall of November.

In the Mahál of Gundal, on the borders of the Bijápur district, the rabi crops are good, and stocks of grain are reported to be large. Relief works have, however, been kept ready, and *tagái* advances amounting to Rs. 4,000 have been made.

Grain compensation is being given to low paid public servants, and suspensions of land revenue have been ordered on a sufficiently liberal scale.

#### PHALTAN (SÁTÁRA AGENCY).

This State is better off than Aundh. In the western portion the rainfall was not quite seasonable, and some distress is expected there. Relief works sufficient to employ 1,000 persons have been provided. There are no relief works at present.

## SÁVANTVÁDI STATE.

There is no famine at present in this State, but prices of food grains range very high, and some distress may be caused among the poorer classes as the hot season approaches. Provision has therefore been made for relief works to be started in case of necessity. Inquiry is being made to ascertain if any remission or postponements of land revenue collections will be necessary. Measures have been taken to guard against failure of water-supply in the hot season.

## AKALKOT (SHOLÁPUR AGENCY).

The rainfall of November last improved the condition of crops in the northern portion of the State, and no relief measures are necessary there. In the southern parts of the State crops are in poor condition, and there is a demand for relief. Works sufficient to meet this demand have been started. A grant of Rs. 4,000 for takávi advances has been sanctioned, and cultivators are freely taking advantage of them. A large area of the State forests has been opened to free grazing of cattle and arrangements have been made for the sale of grass at a cheap rate to cultivators.

## BHOR STATE (POONA AGENCY).

The population of the State is 155,669. There is no reason to suppose that any excessive proportion will require relief. Relief works have been started, and according to the latest information 446 persons were employed on them, and 56 were receiving gratuitous relief. The Chief has arranged to open grain shops at each táluka to sell grain to poor persons at cost price and is inducing respectable merchants and grain dealers to import grain. Reserved forests have been opened for free pasturage, and the collection of forest fruits and firewood has been allowed this year free of charge.

## SAVANUR (DHÁRWÁR AGENCY).

There is no immediate prospect of distress in this state. Since the recent rainfall the condition of the rabi crops has greatly improved. There is ample provision for relief works in case necessity for starting them arises.

I have, &c.,  
J. MONTEATH,  
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

## NOTIFICATION.—REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, January 7, 1897.—No. 58-FAM. of 1897.

IN continuation of Government Notification No. 10776, dated 31st December 1896, the following Memorandum is published for general information :

During the week ending 2nd January 1897, there was slight rain in some of the affected districts, which was of some benefit, but has not materially altered the situation. More rain is now urgently required for the late sown rabi crops. The reports from the affected districts and the adjoining Native States are summarised below —

## SHOLÁPUR.

There has been rain in three tálukas : at Karmála 27 cents., at SÁNGOLA 2 cents., and at MÁLSIRAS 18 cents. More rain is urgently wanted for the rabi crops sown in November and December, which have begun to wither in parts of all tálukas except Málsiras. Grain supply is sufficient in all tálukas except SÁNGOLA and Málsiras. 6,050 people with or without cattle have emigrated from three tálukas. Semi-gratuitous relief is being given to 322 weavers. Fodder is insufficient, and there is a scarcity of water for cattle in parts. Cattle are deteriorating in SÁNGOLA ; 100 died, and 340 have been sold, and 395



sent away to other districts for grazing, Cholera has appeared in one village of Pandharpur Táluka. Prices have maintained or more than maintained the improvement reported last week. The average price of jowári is 22½ lbs. and of bájri 18 and one-fifth lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices of jowári are—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Sholápur - - - - -	23½
Mádha - - - - -	21
Karmála - - - - -	24 <sup>19</sup> / <sub>40</sub>
Pandharpur - - - - -	22 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Sángola - - - - -	21 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Málsiras - - - - -	20

## AHMEDNAGAR.

The rain reported last week fell in some tálukas only; it was neither general nor heavy. Grain supply is generally sufficient for the present. There has been some emigration from Akola and Jámkhed. The situation otherwise remains unchanged. The average price of jowári is 20 and one-ninth lbs. and of bájri 18 and nine-eleventh lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Nagar - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 20
	Bájri - - - - - 20½
Párner - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 17½
	Bájri - - - - - 17 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>30</sub>
Shrígonda - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 22
	Bájri - - - - - 16½
Karjat - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 22
	Bájri - - - - - 17 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>30</sub>
Jámkhed - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 22
	Bájri - - - - - 21
Shevgaon - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 19½
	Bájri - - - - - 16½
Kopargaon - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 19½
	Bájri - - - - - 18 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>37</sub>
Akola - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 24
	Bájri - - - - - 21
Nevása - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 19½
	Bájri - - - - - 17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Ráhuri - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 19½
	Bájri - - - - - 20 <sup>19</sup> / <sub>30</sub>

## POONA.

There has been no rain during the week under report. The rainfall reported last week was generally beneficial to late-sown rabi crops, but not enough to make any marked change in the situation. Grain and water-supply is sufficient. The average price of jowári is 20 and one-twentieth lbs., and of bájri 17 and thirteen-fortieth lbs. per

rupee. Public health continues good. Cattle are poor and fodder very scarce, especially in Indápur and Bhimthadi. The condition of cattle in Purandhar is very bad. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
Junnar - - -	Jowári - - -	-	18
	Bájri - - -	-	16
	Rice - - -	-	15½
Ámbegaon - - -	Jowári - - -	-	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>17</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	16 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	-
Khed - - -	Jowári - - -	-	20
	Bájri - - -	-	14 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	-
Mával - - -	Jowári - - -	-	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	17½
	Rice - - -	-	15 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Háveli - - -	Jowári - - -	-	21 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	18 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	16 <sup>13</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
Mulshi - - -	Jowári - - -	-	17½
	Bájri - - -	-	15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Purandhar - - -	Jowári - - -	-	20
	Bájri - - -	-	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Dhond - - -	Jowári - - -	-	22 <sup>13</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	18 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	15
Bhimthadi - - -	Jowári - - -	-	21
	Bájri - - -	-	18 <sup>22</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	14
Indápur - - -	Jowári - - -	-	21 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	20 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Poona City - - -	Jowári - - -	-	21 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	18 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
Sirur - - -	Jowári - - -	-	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
	Bájri - - -	-	16 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>20</sub>
	Rice - - -	-	14 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>

## NÁSİK.

The rainfall during the week was 9 cents at Sinnar, 14 cents at Dindori, 44 cents at Niphád, 37 cents at Cháundor, 4 cents at Yeola, 55 cents at Nándgaon, 2 cents at Málegaon, 93 cents at Bágán, and 70 cents at Kalwan. Prospects remain unchanged. Standing rabi crops are in need of rain, and prices are almost stationary: bájri being cheaper by 1 tola, and jowári by 5 tolas, and nágli being dearer by 15 tolas. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most tálukas, There has been no starvation and no disease worth notice among cattle. The condition of cultivators is normal, and of town population fair; 1,066 labourers are employed by the

Táluka and District Local Boards. The average price of bájri is  $17\frac{11}{10}$  lbs., of jowári  $19\frac{13}{15}$  lbs., and of nágli 22 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.	
Násik	Bájri	$16\frac{19}{20}$
	Jowári	$19\frac{13}{15}$
Sinnar	Bájri	$17\frac{1}{4}$
	Jowári	$19\frac{1}{2}$
Igatpuri	Bájri	$17\frac{1}{10}$
	Jowári	-
Dindori	Bájri	18
	Jowári	-
Niphád	Bájri	$16\frac{13}{20}$
	Jowári	$21\frac{1}{5}$
Chándor	Bájri	$17\frac{3}{16}$
	Jowári	$19\frac{1}{25}$
Yeola	Bájri	$17\frac{1}{4}$
	Jowári	21
Málegaon	Bájri	$18\frac{9}{20}$
	Jowári	$19\frac{1}{10}$
Nándgaon	Bájri	$19\frac{9}{20}$
	Jowári	$20\frac{3}{20}$
Báglán	Bájri	$17\frac{17}{20}$
	Jowári	18
Kalvan	Bájri	$18\frac{3}{20}$
	Jowári	$18\frac{7}{8}$
Peint	Bájri	15
	Jowári	-

## SÁTARA.

There has been rain in three tálukas : at Válva 3 cents, at Wai 31 cents, and at Mán 14 cents. Standing rabi crops are in fair condition. Water is generally sufficient. Fodder supply is fair. Cattle are in fair condition. The average price of jowári is  $18\frac{3}{4}$  lbs., and of bájri 18 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below :—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.	
Karád	Jowári	$19\frac{19}{20}$
	Bájri	$15\frac{21}{20}$
Wái	Jowári	$18\frac{1}{2}$
	Bájri	$18\frac{1}{2}$
Jávli	Jowári	$15\frac{3}{4}$
	Bájri	$15\frac{1}{2}$
Koregaon	Jowári	$18\frac{1}{20}$
	Bájri	$18\frac{33}{40}$
Mán	Jowári	$18\frac{31}{40}$
	Bájri	$18\frac{1}{2}$
Pátan	Jowári	$16\frac{3}{4}$
	Bájri	-

## SÁTÁRA—continued.

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
Khatáv - - -	Jowári - - -	-	18 $\frac{31}{40}$
	Bájri - - -	-	15 $\frac{13}{40}$
Sátára - - -	Jowári - - -	-	18 $\frac{1}{20}$
	Bájri - - -	-	16 $\frac{13}{20}$
Válva - - -	Jowári - - -	-	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bájri - - -	-	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Khánápur - - -	Jowári - - -	-	21 $\frac{13}{20}$
	Bájri - - -	-	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tásgaon - - -	Jowári - - -	-	21 $\frac{13}{20}$
	Bájri - - -	-	18 $\frac{1}{2}$

## KHÁNDESH.

The rainfall during the week was, at Dhulia 1 inch 33 cents., at Amalner 57 cents., at Parola 34 cents., at Erandol 30 cents., at Bhadgaon 69 cents., at Shirpur 44 cents., at Sávda 61 cents., at Bhusával 62 cents., at Jalgaon 38 cents., and at Jámner 56 cents. Grain supply is sufficient. Prices are steady. The kharif crops are all reaped. Rabi gram is good, wheat fair, and linseed a failure. The week's rain will benefit wheat in fields, but has done harm by washing away wheat raised in beds of streams. The condition of cultivators and cattle is good. The condition of the weavers is better than it was two months ago, and they do not go to the relief works. The demand for labour at famine rates is increasing amongst low castes and labourers in the eastern part of the district. There has been no emigration worth noticing. The average price of jowári is 19 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below :—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Dhulia - - - - -	18 $\frac{33}{40}$
Amalner - - - - -	17
Párola - - - - -	18
Erandol - - - - -	19
Bhadgaon - - - - -	19 $\frac{1}{20}$
Nandurbár - - - - -	18
Sháháda - - - - -	17 $\frac{3}{20}$
Sindkheda - - - - -	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shirpur - - - - -	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sávda - - - - -	19 $\frac{11}{16}$
Ráver - - - - -	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bhusával - - - - -	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jalgaon - - - - -	18 $\frac{1}{16}$
Jámner - - - - -	19

as be  
cultiva.

## BIJÁPUR.

There has been no rain during the week, and no sowing operations are in progress. Crops are withering except those on the banks of rivers. The state of the cattle is very bad. The condition of cultivators and of agricultural labourers is not satisfactory. The condition of weavers is bad, as there is no demand for their labour; two-thirds of the looms in Bádámi Táluka have ceased working. Grain supply is sufficient, except in Indi and Bádámi Tálukas. Water supply is decreasing. Prices have risen in Bádámi and fallen in Bijápur Táluka, and are stationary in other tálukas; the average price of jowari is 21 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below:—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Bágalkot - - - - -	22½
Bádámi - - - - -	21 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Hungund - - - - -	22
Muddebihál - - - - -	18 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Indi - - - - -	21
Bágevádi - - - - -	20 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Bijápur - - - - -	22½
Sindgi - - - - -	21
Bilgi - - - - -	20

## BELGAUM.

There has been rain in two tálukas: 21 cents. at Gokák, and 4 cents. at Parasgad. Prices are slightly lower. There has been no emigration from any táluka. Otherwise the situation remains unchanged. The average price of jowári is 24 lbs., of bájri 22 lbs., and of rice 17 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below:—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Belgaum - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 27
	Bájri - - - - - 24
	Rice - - - - - 20
Chikodi - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 21
	Bájri - - - - - 24
	Rice - - - - - 16
Athni - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 22
	Bájri - - - - - 20
	Rice - - - - - 14
Gokák - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 27
	Bájri - - - - - 22
	Rice - - - - - 18
Parasgad - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 24
	Bájri - - - - - —
	Rice - - - - - 16
Sampgaon - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 26
	Bájri - - - - - —
	Rice - - - - - 18
Khánápur - - - - -	Jowári - - - - - 24
	Bájri - - - - - —
	Rice - - - - - 18

## DHÁRWÁR.

There has been no rain. Kharif, jowári and rice harvest is in progress. Rabi crops are in fair condition. In Ron, Mundargi, and Nargund, more rain is urgently wanted. The condition of agriculturists in affected parts is fair, and of labourers and artizans middling. The state of the cattle in the affected talukas is indifferent. Food-grains and water are generally sufficient. Fodder is insufficient in affected parts. Prices have slightly fallen. There has been no emigration to Bombay. The taluka prices are given below :—

Taluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
Dhárwár - - -	Jowári - - -	26 $\frac{17}{100}$	
	Rice - - -	21 $\frac{1}{10}$	
Hubli - - -	Jowári - - -	30	
	Rice - - -	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Bankápur - - -	Jowári - - -	36	
	Rice - - -	20	
Kalghatgi - - -	Jowári - - -	31	
	Rice - - -	23 $\frac{1}{10}$	
Karajgi - - -	Jowári - - -	34	
	Rice - - -	22	
Hángal - - -	Jowári - - -	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Rice - - -	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Kod - - -	Jowári - - -	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Rice - - -	23 $\frac{3}{10}$	
Navalgund - - -	Jowári - - -	30 $\frac{11}{100}$	
	Rice - - -	19 $\frac{12}{100}$	
Gadag - - -	Jowári - - -	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Rice - - -	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Ron - - -	Jowári - - -	30 $\frac{2}{5}$	
	Rice - - -	18 $\frac{2}{10}$	
Nargund - - -	Jowári - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Rice - - -	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Mundargi - - -	Jowári - - -	27	
	Rice - - -	21 $\frac{1}{10}$	

## KOLÁBA.

The rainfall during the week was 15 cents. in Alibág and none elsewhere. The situation generally remains unchanged. The price of rice has risen by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. in Khálápur. Prices elsewhere are stationary. About 300 persons have arrived at Uran from Ratnágiri, Poona, and Sátára for labour, and about 700 from Bombay to escape the plague.

## RATNÁGIRI.

The rainfall during the week was 5 cents. at Chiplún and none elsewhere. The prices of rice have risen slightly at Chiplún and Khed, and fallen slightly at Málvan and Sangameshvar; that of paddy has risen slightly at Vengurla, and fallen slightly at Sangameshvar; that of nágli has risen slightly at Vengurla and Ratnágiri, and considerably in Dápoli, and fallen slightly in Málvan; that of wari has risen slightly at Ratnágiri, and considerably at Dápoli; elsewhere prices are stationary. There has been no demand for work anywhere. Fewer people are going to Bombay for work than are returning thence, owing to the plague. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas. Hot weather crops are fair. There is a steady import of grain into all ports.

## NATIVE STATES.

## Kolhápur and Southern Marátha Country.

There was slight rain during the week in Miraj, Modnimb, and Mudhol. Grain supply is sufficient. Cattle are dying in Jath and Jamkhandi, and diseased in Gudgeri under Miraj. Scarcity is severest in Jath, Mangalvedha, Jamkhandi, and Tikota. The price of jowári ranges from 18½ to 26 lbs. per rupee. The total muster on relief works during the week was 13,277, exclusive of 2,487 non-working children, and 92 persons were relieved in poorhouses.

## Bhor.

The rainfall during the week was 63 cents. at Bhor. The condition of people and cattle is good. Grain supply is sufficient. The price of jowári is 20½ lbs. and of bájri 17½ lbs. per rupee. The total muster on relief works during the week was 2,677, and the number on gratuitous relief 393.

## Akalkot.

There has been no rain. Grain supply is sufficient. Crops are good in the northern portion, but more rain is wanted in the southern portion. The state of the population is good. Cattle in some villages are in a miserable condition. The price of jowári is 24½ lbs. and of bájri 20 lbs. per rupee. The total weekly muster on works was 2,781.

## Phaltan.

The rainfall at head-quarters was 18 cents. Grain supply is plentiful. Crops are doing well. The condition of people and cattle is fair. The price of jowári is 22 and of bájri 19½ lbs. per rupee.

## Surgána.

There has been no rain. No relief works have been started. The Deshmukh provides gratuitous relief from his private purse. Grain is supplied to the State bazárs partly from British and partly from State villages. The price of nágli is 35 lbs. per rupee.

2. The appended statement shows the progress of relief measures during the last week. There is an increase of 24,982 in the daily average number of labourers on relief works as compared with the preceding week. Several new works have been opened to meet the increased demand for employment, and steps are being taken to provide more road and tank projects to be started as relief works in case of need. Where the rush on works in progress is great, small works are temporarily provided for such of the applicants as cannot be taken on large works at once. Allotments of Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively have been made to the Collectors of Khándesh and Ahmednagar for small works. Twelve special civil officers with establishments have been appointed for large works in Ahmednagar and Sholápur, and the staff of Circle Inspectors in the latter district has been strengthened. The appointment of Relief Mámlatdárs in the Ahmednagar district has also been authorised. District Medical Officers under Section 48 of the Famine Code have been appointed to the districts of Sholápur and Ahmednagar.

3. The daily average number of persons receiving gratuitous relief has increased from 3,811 in the preceding week to 6,916 in the week under report. The application to the Ahmednagar district of Chapters IV. (Circle Organization) and VIII. (Poor-houses) has been directed; and Rs. 10,000 for gratuitous relief in villages and an equal amount for expenditure on poor-houses have been placed at the disposal of the Collector of that district. Steps are being taken to provide poor-houses for the Bijápur District. Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 7,500 have been allotted to the Collectors of Násik and Poona respectively for takávi advances and for improvement of water-supply.

4. The agents of the railway companies have agreed to carry fodder for cattle by rail to the affected districts at low rates, which it is understood they will advertise. These rates are not restricted to grass carried at the cost of Government, but will apply to fodder imported into the affected districts by private enterprise. Government are desirous of leaving the importation as far as possible to private trade, and will refrain from any competition which is calculated to render that trade less effective.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,  
J. MONTEATH,  
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

District.	Number and Class of Relief Works.	Numbers of Persons employed on Relief Works, and Expenditure on their account.			Numbers of Non-Working Children whose Parents are employed on Relief Works, including Women in Charge, and Expenditure on their account.			Numbers of other Persons relieved gratuitously in Villages.	
		Weekly Total Number.	Daily Average Number.	Total Expenditure of the Week.	Weekly Total Number.	Daily Average Number.	Total Expenditure of the Week.	Weekly Total Number.	Daily Average Number.
Bijápur - -	13 works under Public Works Agency 6 works under Civil Agency (including 4 Local Boards and Municipal Works).	253,020	42,170	<i>Rs.</i> 26,644	82,893	13,815	<i>Rs.</i> 2,799	15,920	2,274
		14,237	2,372	1,203 (Excluding one work.)					
Sholápur - -	14 works under Public Works Agency 6 works under Civil Agency - -	192,800	32,133	19,824	99,055	16,509	3,212	12,053	1,721
		48,744	8,124	12,527 (Excluding one work.)					
Ahmednagar - -	12 works under Public Works Agency (Return for two works not received.)	165,279	27,546	16,019 (Excluding one work.)	66,050	11,008	2,215	-	4
Poona - -	4 works under Public Works Agency 1 work under Civil Agency - -	78,060	13,010	8,952	41,194	6,865	1,476	19,680	2,811
		328	54						
Násik - -	10 works under Public Works Agency	67,322	14,553	6,065 (Excluding three works.)	43,908	7,318	1,765	14 (In 2 villages.)	2
Sátára - -	5 works under Public Works Agency	114,257	19,042	15,085	15,448	2,574	604	7 (In 3 villages.)	1
Khándesh - -	8 works under Public Works Agency (Return for one work not received.)	40,862	6,827	3,906	17,602	2,933	494	-	-
Belgaum - -	2 test works under Public Works Agency. 6 Local Boards and Municipal Works under Civil Agency.	8,784	1,464	732	4,081	680	107	721	103
		3,210½	535	325					



No. 10,487 of 1896. Bombay Castle, December 21, 1896.

From J. MONTEATH, Esq., I.C.S., ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE, CALCUTTA.

SIR,

I AM directed to communicate the following facts and to make certain suggestion in connection with them for the consideration of the Government of India.

2. One of the prominent features of the present distress in this Presidency is the large number of weavers in need of relief. In some towns there are thousands reported to be in search of employment, and they are almost the only class of people on relief works in the Násik District. In other places they constitute by far the largest portion of the persons employed. Many representations have been made as to the hardship of requiring them to do labour for which they are not fitted, and it is said that the wages which they are able to earn under the provisions of the Code are insufficient to keep them alive.

3. It is clear, however, that it is not possible to employ them all in the manner prescribed in Section 151 of the Famine Relief Code. Such a measure would require the organization of establishments of a special kind, possessing some knowledge of the art and ability to test the product, beyond what is practicable. It would lock up for an indefinite period an immense amount of capital; schemes proposed for individual places involve the advance of several lákhs of rupees. Government have not accommodation for storing the cloth which would be produced, and have not the means of disposing of it in a market where it would fetch a fair price, and the vast stock of manufactured goods accumulated would surely and rapidly deteriorate. The production of cloth on behalf of Government on a very large scale would moreover dislocate the trade for several years to come.

4. It seems to His Excellency the Governor in Council that when weavers are in need of relief in such large numbers as at present the great bulk of them must be employed on the ordinary relief works, and only such as are of a physical condition which will not reasonably admit of such labour should be employed in the manner contemplated in the latter part of Section 151 (a) of the Code. This is the arrangement which this Government have had to make, the amounts allowed in several districts for working the provision being moderate, Rs. 5,000 in one and Rs. 2,000 in others. It is necessary to prevent the number demanding relief being in excess of the exigencies of the case, for all weavers whatever in the affected districts would desire to be employed in their own craft. But according to the first part of Section 151 (a) of the Code it is imperative to provide such employment. I am therefore to ask the approval of the Government of India to an amendment of that section, the first part of which should read as follows:—

“Semi-gratuitous relief by employment in their own craft may be given to such weavers as are deemed incapable of gaining a livelihood on the ordinary relief works.”

5. I am, however, to state what cannot be done by Government on a large scale might legitimately be done by Municipal bodies on a moderate scale. The members of the Municipalities could often give that supervision which Government cannot supply, and the quantities of cloth which the several Municipalities would have to dispose of would not be unmanageable. Such a measure of relief is an object for which Municipal Funds may under the law be expended. But most of the Municipalities are at present without a balance which would admit of the adoption of this measure. The Governor in Council is of opinion that in the circumstances it should be open to Government to advance money for such a purpose. But No. 4 of the rules under the Local Authorities Loan Act, 1879, makes such advances illegal. I am to suggest for the consideration of the Government of India that at any rate temporary provision should be made in the rule for loans for such a purpose as is above described. The rule in fact prevents Government at this crisis getting from Municipalities the assistance in the provision of relief which they are best fitted to give, and it might reasonably be amended as follows:—

“No loan shall be granted except for a purpose which the Local Authority desiring it is legally authorised to carry out.”

It is recognised that the Act also contemplates the borrowing of money solely for the purpose of carrying out "works," which term might be held not to include a measure of relief of the kind in question. But the Act does not distinctly prohibit loans for other purposes, and it seems to the Governor in Council that if the rule were amended in the manner suggested, Government would not be precluded from making an advance for the object in view, although possibly the provisions of the Act would not apply to such a loan. If, however, His Excellency the Governor General in Council considers it necessary for the purpose to amend the Act, I am to say that the object is of sufficient importance to justify such a step, and to suggest that the necessary amendment may be made as soon as it is possible to do so.

6. Finally, I am to point out that the matter is of great urgency, and to request that the Government of India may take it into consideration at their very earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 220 F.-79-2. Dated Calcutta, January 13, 1897.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 10,487, dated the 21st December 1896, making proposals for the relief of weavers during the prevailing distress in the Bombay Presidency, and to communicate the following remarks.

2. The Government of India agree with the Governor in Council that, when the number of weavers requiring relief is very large, it is impossible for Government to employ them all upon their own trade in the manner prescribed by Section 151 of the Famine Code, and they are therefore pleased to sanction the amendment of Section 151 (a) of the Code proposed in paragraph 4 of your letter under reply.

3. The Bombay Government have no doubt already present to their minds the danger, mentioned by Sir Richard Temple in a Minute dated 12th March 1877, in connection with the relief of weavers in the Madras Presidency, that road-work and similar rough manual labour may unfit the hands of weavers of fine cloth for their ordinary employment. It is for this reason among others that it is desirable to employ weavers as far as possible in the exercise of their own craft. But when the numbers in need of relief become so great that this is no longer possible, the risk of injuring their fineness of touch must be faced.

4. The Government of India agree, therefore, that the bulk of the weavers must be employed upon the ordinary relief works, but they are unable to reconcile with the recognised and established principles of famine relief the statement made in paragraph 2 of your letter, that "it is said that the wages which they are able to earn under the provisions of the Code are insufficient to keep them alive." The Famine Code lays down that all persons on relief works should receive at least the minimum wage prescribed by Section 111, and this wage is in itself sufficient to keep relief workers from starvation. Under the terms of Section 87 of the Code, famine relief workers cannot be fined below the minimum wage, irrespective of the quantity of work done, except for continued and deliberate refusal to perform the allotted task; while very wide discretion is allowed by Section 70 of the Code in the classification of relief workers according to their capacity for labour, and by Sections 77 and 79 (c) as to the amount of the task which will entitle them to the maximum wage. The Government of India are quite unable to accept the suggestion that the system of relief, if properly carried out, fails to afford any class what is sufficient to keep them alive; and desire to point out that it is the duty of the Local Government to see that all are enabled to earn wages that are sufficient for this purpose.

5. The Government of India recognise the advantages which would result from enlisting the assistance of Municipalities in the relief of weavers by employment in their own trade; but the Bombay Government are right in apprehending that the word "works" which is used in the Local Authorities Loans Act, 1879, cannot be extended to cover measures

of relief such as are now contemplated. They appear, however, to be mistaken in thinking that the Act does not distinctly prohibit loans for other purposes. The Government of India apprehend that this is the effect of Section 8 of the Act; and this being so, no alteration of the rules under the Act would make legal what the Act forbids. The question of amending the Act will be separately considered.

6. Meanwhile, I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Bombay Government, whether the object in view might not be secured otherwise than by formal loans. The help of Municipalities might be utilised in the management of funds allotted by Government for the relief of weavers, the cloth produced remaining the property of Government, and the recoveries being paid into the Treasury.

7. The financial responsibility of Municipalities in respect of famine relief has been repeatedly declared as part of the famine relief policy of the Government, and is, as the Government of Bombay remark, duly provided for in the Municipal Acts. The allegation of absence of accumulated balance should not be accepted as sufficient in itself to warrant the Municipalities in transferring the whole of their liability to the district boards or to the Government; as they should certainly be required to economise as far as possible in respect of their other expenditure so as to be able the better to meet the demands upon them on account of famine relief.

---

No. 51 Fam. Dated Bombay Castle, January 6, 1897.

From the HONOURABLE MR. J. MONTEATH, I.C.S., ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO  
the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT  
OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

THE Barsi Light Railway Company has applied to be allowed to construct a railway line on the 2' 6" gauge from Barsi Road Station to Pandharpur in the Sholapur District, and their application has been referred for the opinion of this Government in a Memorandum from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 1791 R.C., dated 27th November 1896, and is at present under the consideration of this Government in the Railway Department. The contemplated railway passes through a part of the Sholapur District in which distress on account of failure of crops in the present season is likely to be most severe, and it has been suggested that it will be expedient for Government to carry out the earthwork of the railway as a famine relief work as there is no other work more suitable for the employment of large numbers of labourers in the tract in question. There is every probability of the railway being constructed at an early date, and in that case the whole of the earthwork that is finally found to be suitable for the 2' 6" gauge railway if carried out by Government will be purchased at commercial rates by the Company. In the circumstances this Government have directed a survey of the projected line to be made at their own expense, except that there being no other officer available the Consulting Engineer for Railways to this Government has detached Mr. Shaw, Acting Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways, to make its survey so that the alignment may be settled to allow of the earthwork being carried out by famine labour, if it be found necessary to open the work for the purpose.

2. I am now directed to forward a report\* from the Collector of Sholapur furnishing the information required under No. 10 of the rules in Appendix I. of the revised Bombay Famine Relief Code in connection with the construction of the railway in question, and to request that you will be good enough to move the Government of India to confirm the proceeding of this Government, reported in the preceding paragraph, and to sanction the inclusion of the earthwork of the railway in the programme of famine relief works.

---

No. D.—268. Dated Camp Barsi Road, December 12, 1896.

From, L. G. DESHMUKH, Esq., ACTING COLLECTOR OF SHOLAPUR, to the  
COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL DIVISION, POONA.

REFERRING to paragraph 2 of G. R. No. 8463, dated 27th October 1896, I have the honour to report (a) that the liability of the western part of Sholapur to famine is too

---

\* Copy, with copy of the accompaniment appended.

well established to require exposition. Malsiras is known as the least favoured taluka of the district. Sangola, though improved in parts by irrigation from the Mhaswad tank Canal, ranks next to Malsiras in barrenness. Both these talukas would come within easier reach of rapid communication if a light railway were made to Pandharpur; (b) it will be a very efficient means of permanent protection against famine. Pandharpur will be directly protected, and Sangola and Malsiras indirectly and partially, as the nearest border of the two latter talukas will be about 8 or 10 miles away from the railway terminus at Pandharpur. The advantages of the line to administration cannot be altogether left out of view, and these will be great. At present the talukas of Sangola and Malsiras are cut off by a long stretch of territory, about 50 or 60 miles off, from the head-quarters of the district. With a light railway line up to Pandharpur the means of communication throughout the district will be greatly improved; (c) the maximum number of persons for whom it may be requisite this season that relief works should be provided in the event of serious famine is (1,00,000), one lakh. It is possible that this may be exceeded; (d) the number that can be provided for by works, other than the railway, is 50,000 for six months including all tank works; (e) there are no large irrigation works already surveyed suitable for relief works in this district. The proposed line will not altogether be financially a failure, as though the existing goods traffic is not large it will improve, and the passenger traffic is large already as Pandharpur is one of the most important places of pilgrimage in the Presidency. All the country to the south of Pandharpur, including the prosperous taluka of Mangalwedha in the Patwarden State, will bring their goods to Pandharpur. This will increase the goods traffic. The convenience to the public in all matters, and to Government in administration, will undoubtedly be very great. On points (f) and (g) I made inquiry with the Consulting Engineer for Railways in order to give the necessary information. I enclose a copy of his reply. I have not been able to get any information from the local officers of this district, as already stated in my letter No. 4755, dated 19th October last, quoted in the preamble to G. R. No. 8463, dated 27th idem. The cost per mile of a railway line on the light metre-gauge, like the Barsi Light Railway, is understood to be Rs. 15,000. The present distance by road between Pandharpur and Barsi Road is 31 miles. The railway alignment may, perhaps, increase it by a few miles, but leaving this consideration aside the total cost may be roughly taken at Rs. 4,65,000. One-fourth of this is Rs. 1,16,250. This sum will provide earthwork for about 13,000 men for three months.

---

No. 9312. Dated Bombay, December 8, 1896.

From the CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR RAILWAYS, to the COLLECTOR OF SHOLAPUR.

In reply to your letter No. D.—213, dated 5th December 1896, I regret to say that I am not in a position to give you the information that you require. The line has not been surveyed or estimated, and consequently it is impossible to say what the amount of earthwork in it will be, or what proportion the cost of that earthwork will bear to the total cost of the line, not more than one-fourth I should think.

2. The line, if made, will certainly be on the 2' 6" gauge as an extension of the Barsi Light Railway.

---

Letter No. 322, F. 31-2, dated January 23, 1897.

From T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., c.s., DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE (FAMINE), to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

In reply to your Letter No. 51, Famine, of the 6th instant, I am directed to inform you that under the circumstances explained, the Government of India are pleased to confirm the action of the Government of Bombay in having directed a survey to be made for a railway line from Barsi Road Station to Pandharpur in the Sholapur district, so that the alignment may be settled to allow of the earthwork being carried out by famine

labour if it be found necessary to open the work for the purpose. I am also to convey sanction to the inclusion of the earthwork of the railway in the programme of famine relief works of the Bombay Presidency.

2. It is noticed, however, that your letter does not state what arrangements are contemplated for the acquirement of the land for the proposed line, and I am to ask that this may be reported for the information of the Government of India.

---

Letter No. 192, Famine, dated January 19, 1897.

From the HONOURABLE MR. J. MONTEATH, I.C.S., ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

IN accordance with No. 2 of the rules circulated with the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 5-48, dated 2nd March 1892, and printed in Appendix II. of the Bombay Famine Relief Code, I am directed to submit for the information of that Government the Famine Report for the four weeks ending 26th December 1896, for the Sátára, Kandesh, Poona, Sholapur, and Bijapur districts of this Presidency. It is in the forms E. and F. described by Rule 6 of those rules, and the maps prescribed by Rule 7 are appended. No map has been furnished by the Collector of Sholapur, probably because the whole of the district is affected. I am to state that the reports for the districts of Ahmednagar, Nasik, and Belgaum have not yet been submitted, and supplementary statements will be forwarded as soon as they are received. A statement in Form E-I. will also be sent as soon as it is complete.

---

**MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT E. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday evening the 26th December 1896.**  
(To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next Month.)

District.	Area in square miles.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area, in Square Miles.	Estimated Population, in Thousands, of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on last Day of Month.						Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of one or more Principal Food-Grains in Pounds per Rupee.			
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Working Children.	TOTAL.		Jowári.	Bájri.	Tur dál.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	
Sátára - - - -	4,825	1,225	4,095	1,162	7,230	959	1,179	4	2,739	12,111	3,002	19.52	15.53	—	
Khándesh - - - -	10,700	1,430	10,700 but area specially affected 1,700	1,430 partly, but 250 specially.	78	1,830	2,814	667	1,577	6,968	3,015	18.00	—	—	
Bijápur - - - -	5,627	796	5,627	796	The Collector reports that these figures are approximately correct.						39,079	164,284 (aggregate for the whole month.)	21.09	15.25 (wheat.)	15.06
Poona - - - -	5,349	1,068	2,987	487	7,889	1,058	448	69	1,850	11,323	6,452	20.50	17.25	—	
Sholápur - - - -	4,542	750	4,542	750	15,013	17,512	2,798	2,172	7,678	45,168	17,599	21.85	—	—	
<b>TOTAL - - - -</b>	<b>31,043</b>	<b>5,260</b>	<b>27,951</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>38,911</b>	<b>35,082</b>	<b>12,912</b>	<b>4,218</b>	<b>23,524</b>	<b>114,647</b>	<b>194,352</b>	<b>20.19</b>	<b>16.30 (bájri)</b> <b>15.25 (wheat.)</b>	<b>15.06</b>	

C W N

271

- (a) *Private Relief.*—Nil except in Bijápur. The municipality of Bijápur has opened a relief work, and has advanced to a local committee of private persons a sum of Rs. 10,000 as contribution in aid of a grain-shop for the poor. The contribution is objectionable on legal grounds, and the municipality is being informed accordingly. The municipality of Bágalkot has also opened a relief work, and is giving gratuitous relief to destitute persons. In the Muddelihal taluka people have opened shops for the poor. In the Sindgi taluka the rich people have promised to raise a monthly subscription of Rs. 40 for the relief of the poor.
- (b) *Village Relief.*—Nine persons are relieved gratuitously in villages in Sátára and 6,394 in Bijápur. Out of the latter 90 are shetsandis. Village and poor-house relief is granted in 60 villages in four talukas of the Poona District. Village relief is also granted in 160 villages in Sholápur.
- (c) *Poor-house Relief.*—One poor-house has been opened by the municipality of Bijápur, and another by the Pañdharpur municipality.
- (d) *General Character of Relief Works.*—The relief works consist mainly of metal breaking or collecting, road making and deepening of irrigation channels.
- (e) *Physical Condition of the People* good, except that there was slight cholera in the Hungaud taluka of Bijápur.
- (f) *Deaths (if any) from Starvation.*—Nil.
- (g) *Food Stocks.*—Generally sufficient.
- (h) *Importation of Grain.*—No grain was imported into Sátára. In Khándesh it was more freely imported than two months ago. In Bijápur there was a slight importation. In Poona it was largely in excess of imports in the corresponding period of last year. In Sholápur grain is being imported from other parts of the Presidency and from His Highness the Nizám's territory. Fodder was sent to Bijápur from Khándesh, Budlápúr and Belgaum, and it is reported that it agreed with the cattle of the district.
- (i) *General Condition and Prospects of Affected Areas* in Sátára and Khándesh are fair, but in the latter district the number of people willing to work on famine wages is rising, and they will feel the pinch pretty keenly from March onwards. In Bijápur people find very little field work, but there is a large demand for takávi advances which are being granted. In Poona and Sholápur prospects point to increased stress as the year advances.
- (j) *Changes in Rates of Wages.*—The wages given are made to depend on the prices of the staple food-grains. Statements showing the rates of wages in Sátára and Khándesh are appended.

**J. MONTEATH,**  
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

**MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT F. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday evening the 26th December 1896.**

(To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next Month.)

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is Estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Numbers for whom Relief was Provided in last Programme of Relief Works.			Numbers for whom Relief can be Provided by Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure from 1st April 1896.			Advances from 1st April up to end of Month, under		Revenue Suspended.
		Date of last Programme.	On Large Works.	On other Works.	On Large Works.	On other Works.	Date up to which Account is made up.	Rupees, omitting 000s.		Land Improvement Act.	Agricultural Loans Act.	Rupees, omitting 000s.
								On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Rupees, omitting 000s.	Rupees, omitting 000s.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Sátára - - -	75,000	- -	88,272	- -	75,967	- -	26 Dec. 1896	22	2	13	-	
Khándesh - - -	45,000	22 Jan. 1896	24,000	21,000	21,306	21,000	26 Dec. „	9	1	46	8	
Bijápur - - -	108,658	5 Nov. „	66,166	7,393	55,771	7,000	26 Dec. „	60	5	1,92	-	
Poona - - -	98,642	21 Oct. „	49,105	8,346	49,105	8,346	26 Dec. „	37	5	5	1	
Sholápur - - -	100,000	17 Oct. „	86,979	20,431	85,000 (Approximate.)	20,000 (Approximate.)	26 Dec. „	83	8	21	1	
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>427,300</b>		<b>314,522</b>	<b>57,170</b>	<b>287,149</b>	<b>56,346</b>		<b>2,31</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,77</b>	<b>10</b>	

J. MONTEATH,  
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

## NUMBERS on Relief in successive weeks.

Week ending	Punjab.	North Western Provinces.	Central Provinces.	Bengal.	Burma.	Bombay.	Madras.	Rajputana.	Central India.	TOTAL.
31 October 1896	4,700	26,400	—	—	2,700	—	—	2,500	17,500	53,800
6 November "	5,900	34,000	—	—	3,000	—	—	8,000	16,000	63,900
13 November "	5,800	86,800	—	—	8,600	—	2,100	12,800	4,000	120,100
20 November "	7,600	117,000	—	2,200	8,500	1,400	12,100	8,200	4,100	161,200
27 November "	9,200	130,100	—	3,400	15,600	11,600	36,500	26,000	17,300	251,500
4 December "	10,900	158,300	—	3,500	20,300	9,900	23,400	34,800	—	263,100
11 December "	22,300	186,900	—	5,800	29,100	15,500	24,100	29,700	18,300	331,700
18 December "	24,200	256,500	15,900	11,700	29,300	84,200	25,200	29,100	18,100	494,200
25 December "	6,400	336,200	45,900	34,100	29,900	36,600	26,200	39,000	7,500	531,900
1 January 1897	11,000	347,800	71,700	59,600	31,700	49,300	26,200	37,700	Not given	635,000
8 January "	46,200	390,000	195,000	100,100	30,000	239,300	25,300	47,300	30,900	1,183,000
15 January "	61,000	663,000	146,000	162,000	30,000	168,000	27,000	40,000	35,000	1,332,000
22 January "	70,000	795,000	211,000	278,000	30,000	265,000	29,900	28,000	42,000	1,750,000
29 January "	83,000	1,024,000	242,000	318,000	32,000	292,000	34,000	20,000	41,000	2,026,000
5 February "	97,000	1,254,000	280,000	339,000	33,000	327,000	42,000	25,000	69,000	2,467,000
12 February "	96,334	1,404,536	316,613	376,068	32,436	361,698	48,163	Not given	Not given	2,750,000*
19 February "	109,000	1,529,000	307,000	435,000	29,000	358,000	55,000	2,000 (sic).	95,000	2,948,000
26 February "	118,000	1,621,000	324,000	411,000	27,000	412,000	59,000	19,000	133,000	3,141,000
5 March "	124,000	1,654,000	351,000	410,000	26,000	412,000	66,000	19,000	137,000	3,216,000
12 March "	117,230	1,551,232	335,969	459,694	23,924	417,216	70,163	Not given	Not given	3½ millions* (sic).

\* Including Native States.

N.B.—Totals do not always agree with the summation of the provincial numbers, but the totals are entered as they come from India.



**Record Office Publications. -**

- I. CALENDARS.** Imp. 8vo. Cloth. Price 15s. per vol. :-  
**CLOSE ROLLS OF EDWARD III.** Vol. I. A.D. 1327-1330. Price 15s.  
**PAPAL REGISTERS.** Calendar of entries in. Petitions to the Pope. Vol. I. A.D. 1343-1419. Price 15s.  
**GUIDE TO THE PRINCIPAL CLASSES OF DOCUMENTS PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.** Second edition. Price 7s.
- 
- III. PRIVY COUNCIL OF ENGLAND.** ACTS OF THE. New series. Edited by J. B. Dugent, M.A. Vol. XII. A.D. 1580-1581. Vol. XIV. A.D. 1586-1587. Cloth. Price 10s. each.
- 
- IV. CHRONICLES OF ENGLAND.**—Royal 8vo. Half bound. Price 10s. per vol. :-  
**St. EDMUND'S ABBEY.** Memorials of. Edited by Thomas Arnold, M.A. Vol. III.
- VI. SCOTLAND** :-  
**PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND.** Register of the. Vol. XIII. A.D. 1622-1625. Price 15s.
- VII. IRELAND** :-  
**ULSTER.** Annals of. Vol. III. A.D. 1379-1541. 640 pp. Price 10s.
- Europe by Treaty.** The map of. By Sir Edward Humelet, K.C.B. Four Vols. 1814-1891. Price 6s. 6d.
- Military** :-  
**ALLOWANCES OF THE ARMY.** Regulations for the. 1896. Price 1s.  
**ARTILLERY.** FIELD. DRILL. 1896. Price 1s.  
**ENGINEERING.** MILITARY INSTRUCTION IN. Part II. Fortresses. 5th Edition. Price 1s. 3d.  
**EQUIPMENT OF THE REGULAR ARMY.** Regulations for the. Part 2. Peace. 1896. Via. :-  
 Details: Section I. Infantry, price 4d. II. Cavalry, price 6d. III. Army Service Corps, price 6d. IV. Army Ordnance Corps, price 1d. V. and VI. Medical Staff Corps and Army Pay Corps, price 1d. VII. to IX. Colleges and Prisons, price 1d. X. Engineer, price 1s. 6d. XII. Garrison Artillery price 7s. 6d.  
**INFANTRY DRILL.** 1896. Price 1s.  
**MILITIA.** Regulations for the. 1897. Price 1s.  
**MUSKERY INSTRUCTION.** Regulations for. Lee-Metford Rifle and Carbine. 1896. Price 9d.  
**RIFLE AND CARBINE EXERCISES.** (Lee-Metford.), Manual, Firing, and Bayonet Exercises and Firing Exercise for Webley Pistol. 1896. Price 3d.  
**SIGNALING INSTRUCTIONS.** 1896. Price 9d.  
**SMALL WAR.** THEIR PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. By Captain C. E. Callwell, B.A. Price 2s.  
**TACTICS.** Modern. A Précis of. Second Edition. Price 3s.  
**VOLUNTEER FORCE.** Regulations for the. 1896. Price 1s.
- Naval** :-  
**WATCH, STATION, QUARTER, AND FIRE BILLS FOR MASTLESS SHIPS.** No. 1 size. Pocket edition. 1896. Price 1s. 4d.  
**DITTO.** DITTO, FOR MASTED SHIPS. No. 2 size. 1896. Price 2s. 6d.
- Local Government Board** :-  
**COUNTY BOROUGH, URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS,** on 1st September, 1895. Statement of. With notes, &c., showing changes on October 1896. Price 2s.  
**LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS ACT, 1896.** Regulations. 9th November 1896. Price 1d.  
**GENERAL SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.** Report on. Price 6d.  
**THE PARISH COUNCILLORS ELECTION ORDER, 1897.** No. 35,900. 63rd January, 1897. Price 3d.  
**CIRCULAR, TO CLERKS OF PARISH COUNCILS,** relating to ditto. 25th January, 1897. Price 1d.
- Home Office** :-  
**CORONERS' CIRCULAR.** 28th October, 1896. Price 1d.  
**EXPLOSIVES ACT.** Guide Book to the. 8th edition. Price 2s.  
**EXPLOSIVES.** List of. Corrected to 1st January 1897. Price 6d.
- Land Registry.** Land Transfer Act, 1875. General Instructions as to the Registration and Transfer of Land under; with the Act, Rules, and Orders, Fees and General Index. Price 1s.
- EXAMPLES OF MODES OF REGISTRATION.** Certificates, Registers, &c., &c. in use in the Land Registry. Price 2s. 6d.
- Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.,** Publications issued by the, via. :-  
**Colonies, Handbooks for.** 8vo. Wrapper.  
 No. 1. Canada. 2. New South Wales. 3. Victoria. 4. South Australia. 5. Queensland. 6. Western Australia. 7. Tasmania. 8. New Zealand. 9. Cape Colony. 10. Natal. Price 1d. each.  
 No. 11. Professional Handbook dealing with Professions in the Colonies. 12. Emigration Statutes and General Handbook. Price 3d. each.  
 No. 13 (via. Nos. 1 to 12 in cloth). Price 2s.
- Consular Reports, Summary of.** America, North and South. January, 1897. Price 2s.
- Intending Emigrants, Information for:**—Argentine Republic, price 2d. California, price 1d. Ceylon, price 1d. Maryland, price 1d. South African Republic, price 2d. West India, price 2d.
- Barometer Manual** for the use of Seamen. With an Appendix on the Thermometer, Hygrometer, and Hydrometer. Third edition. 1896. Price 6d.
- State Papers.** British and Foreign. Vol. 80. General Index (chronologically and alphabetically arranged) to Vols. 65 to 79. (1873 to 1883.) Vol. 81. 1883-1889. Vol. 82. 1889-90. Price 10s. each
- Agriculture, Board of.** JOURNAL OF. Vol. III, No. 3, December 1896. Price 6d.
- Board of Trade Journal,** of Tariff and Trade Notices and Miscellaneous Commercial Information. Published on the 15th of each Month. Price 6d. Index to Vols. 1 to 14. July 1886 to June 1893. Price 2s.
- Nomenclature of Diseases.** Third edition. Price 1s.
- Kew; Royal Botanic Gardens** :- Journals of Miscellaneous Information. Volumes for 1895. Price 3s. Monthly parts, 1897, price 4d.
- Liquor Licensing Laws Commission.** Minutes of Daily Evidence. Price (per day) 2d

FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

---

---

## FURTHER PAPERS

REGARDING

# THE FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS

IN

# INDIA

DURING THE YEARS 1896-97.

*(In continuation of [C.--8302].)*

---

---

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

---

---



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,  
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from  
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and  
52, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or  
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and  
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or  
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.