

STATEMENT of the Principal Exports and Imports

Country Cloth.	Spices.	Cocoanuts.	Opium.	Tobacco.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Lac.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
5,086	..	15,000	66	605	..	...	..
80,564	..	88,332	38,362	11,981	..	...	...
1,946	...	..	...	47	..	..	12,383
36,990	..	..	...	775	...	..	3,16,251
					No.	No.	
582	1,571	11,802	47	2,061	2,619	1,520	396
40,380	21,145	96,235	19,536	3,849	53,340	1,520	5,308
					No.	No.	
350	2,846	621	...	113	7,651	29,353	6,452
22,258	32,970	5,221	..	1,351	126,630	29,353	70,384
					No.	No.	
27	2,924	19,272	118	1,179	733	148	301
1,570	88,315	174,776	114,900	23,817	7,356	98	3,229
					No.	No.	
813	2,002	16,995	...	866	1,670	20,570	6,567
40,640	19,938	165,839	...	15,692	18,203	22,738	66,083
					No.	No.	
70	1,266	10,602	19	1,914	745	408	49
4,629	15,025	106,270	13,300	20,930	33,318	598	888
					No.	No.	
1,357	3,689	8,446	..	28	7,527	25,947	2,183
..
					No.	No.	
1,755	1,268	9,186	68	5,049	1,968	1,158	296
72,062	13,397	137,310	48,840	99,908	32,476	2,155	4,144
					No.	No.	
672	602	2,344	1	5	5,430	20,511	4,438
20,495	5,516	35,170	500	84	102,913	33,231	47,143

of the Raepore District from 1863-64 to 1867-68.—Continued.

Timber & wood.	Ghee and oil.	Miscella- neous.	Total.			
20	21	22	23			
...	...	9,974	Maunds	..	...	75,178
...	..	1,32,968	Rupees	..	...	9,73,826
..	..	15,252	Maunds	..	..	9,68,118
...	..	1,46,368	Rupees	...	..	21,53,505
			Excess Value of Exports Rs.			
29,252	1	4,116	Maunds	...	..	1,00,325
			Cattle	..	...	4,139
25,962	10	74,505	Rupees	..	..	7,62,117
9,846	1,345	4,839	Maunds	..	...	7,78,537
			Cattle	...	...	37,004
14,654	13,940	70,586	Rupees	...	..	16,21,728
			Excess Value of Exports Rs.			
5,033	...	6,217	Maunds	..	..	1,04,895
			Cattle	..	...	881
22,498	..	79,420	Rupees	...	..	10,21,428
5,200	1,011	2,535	Maunds	..	...	3,65,600
			Cattle	...	...	22,240
26,300	10,749	20,131	Rupees	...	..	15,90,595
			Excess Value of Exports Rs.			
3,898	171	4,434	Maunds	..	...	1,10,181
			Cattle	..	..	1,153
7,878	4,126	52,884	Rupees	...	..	11,67,602
4,485	336	4,052	Maunds	..	..	5,00,428
			Cattle	..	...	33,474
...	..	...	Rupees	...	..	13,40,903
			Excess Value of Exports Rs.			
3,832	16	7,354	Maunds	..	...	1,28,219
			Cattle	..	..	3,126
7,664	400	80,590	Rupees	..	..	11,01,849
5,193	380	5,888	Maunds	...	..	6,36,253
			Cattle	..	..	25,941
10,108	9,800	28,418	Rupees	..	..	17,31,966

215. Of this trade by far the most important part is that between Raepore and Nagpore. This traffic follows two principal routes, one along the Great Eastern road and the other by a line about twenty miles to the north passing through the town of Khyragurh and thence by Kampta and Toomsur in Bhundara to Nagpore. Of these routes the Great Eastern road carries the great bulk of the traffic which goes direct from Raepore. The route through Khyragurh is chiefly used by the inhabitants of the North-West of the District. A large portion of the traffic to the south is carried along a route passing through Cheezgurh in the Bhundara District to the south of the Great Eastern road, branching off from the latter a little to the east of Moondeepar.

216. The trade with the Eastern coast is chiefly carried by a route running South-East through Fingeshur and the North-East of the Bindra Nowagurh Zemindarees, whence it turns due south through the valley of Khurjar, and thence through Joonagurh and Jeypore to the coast. This route is joined in the Jeypore State by another running south from Sehawa, along which a great deal of the traffic passes.

217. The trade with Jubbulpore is not as yet of much importance to the District generally, and but little of the produce except that of a portion of the North-West of the District follows this route. The two principal lines along which this traffic is carried are that by the Chilpee Ghat in the Belaspore District by Bidira to Mundla, and that over the Moisor or Peepardhar Ghats in the Gundye and Lohara Suhuspore Zemindarees of this District, and thence by the village of Bher, about ten or twelve miles to the south of Mundla to Jubbulpore.

218. Besides these routes others less frequented are those through Balod and Downdee in the Downdee Lohara Zemindaree to Wyragurh on the Wein Gunga in the Chanda District, and that viâ Dhumturry and Kakair to Bustar and the Godavery.

219. The export trade, though it has increased largely in late years, has by no means reached the limits of the production of the country. The area under cultivation of wheat and rice, the two principal exports are, exclusive of the Feudatory States, for which no statistics exist, 168,181 acres of wheat and 1,042,508 acres of rice, yielding about 1,177,267 maunds of wheat and 11,004,030 maunds of clean rice. Even supposing that one seer of clean rice per head is daily consumed by each inhabitant of the Khalsa and Zemindaree estates (a very liberal allowance, considering that half the population are under 14 and that a very large proportion live principally on Kodo) there will, after making a deduction for seed at the rate of 60 seers of paddy per

acre, remain 1,528,319 maunds (54,585 tons) of rice available for export, while of wheat, of which there is scarcely any consumption within the District there will be at least 100,000 maunds (35,714 tons) which can be exported exclusive of the produce of the Feudatory States. The average exports of the last five years from the whole District, including the Feudatory States as shown by the Trade returns, are 170,296 maunds (5,082 tons) of rice and 314,689 maunds (11,238 tons) of wheat, or only about a seventh of the quantity which the District could spare, for the States of Nandgaon, Khyragurh, and Chooeekudan could supply nearly a third of the produce of the Khalsa lands.

220. The trade however as carried on now, has probably reached a limit at which it will be stationary or nearly so for many years—as the expenses of export are so great as to require a very high price at the selling market to compensate the dealer for his risk even if he purchase at extraordinarily low rates. Thus at present the average rates of carriage to Nagpore or Jubbulpore are 15 Rupees per cart or 3 Rupees per bullock, each cart will carry about 16 maunds and each bullock about 3 maunds. Thus taking the cart-load of 16 maunds the cost of load and expenses will be as follows :—

Cost of load of wheat or rice	..	..	16 Rupees.
Cart hire	...	..	15 „
Contingencies	...	..	2 „
<hr/>			
Total.....	33	Rupees.	

So that to realise a profit of 10 per cent. the grain must be sold at about 17 seers for the Rupee, and even if by giving advances, or owing to a large harvest, he gets the grain at the very low price of 1 Rupee for 2 maunds of clean rice (the lowest average price during the last five years) he must still sell at not much less than 24 seers per Rupee to realise his profit, and the same calculation will hold good with bullocks, while the demand for carts and bullocks caused by any very great extension of the traffic would so raise the rates of rice as to very soon absorb any extra profit which might be obtainable from a great rise of prices in the exterior markets.

221. But though the limits of profitable trade for dealers have been nearly reached, the same cannot be said of that carried on by the ryots; and those who have carts and bullocks of their own and leisure time to spare can afford to sell their grain at much lower rates than professional dealers, and it is therefore in the trade carried on by them that any great increase in the exports is to be looked for. Already many ryots are their own exporters, and as the people advance in wealth the number will probably increase yearly.

222. Education can scarcely be said to have as yet made any sensible progress in the District and though the 58 schools now in existence with a daily attendance of 2,355 pupils show a great advance upon the total blank which existed ten years ago when there was not a school in the District, yet a great deal of up-hill work remains to be done before any sensible impression can be made on the prevalent mass of ignorance. ✓

VIII. EDUCATION. Small number of Schools. 223. This ignorance affects not only the agricultural but also the land holding classes, out of whom not a fourth can read and write, nor is there any respected and influential literary class whose example would act as a stimulus to the people. I have spoken to a great number of the malgoozars on the subject but they none of them seem to see that education can be of any use to a people whose chief occupation is agriculture, and till it can be shown to pay, education will make but little progress. It is to be hoped that the Settlement now made will do something to supply the required motive power by forcing the malgoozars to keep accounts more accurate than those kept under the rough and ready system formerly prevalent.

224. The general condition of the people till within the last few years may be shortly described as one of rude plenty and comparative comfort combined with utter stagnation—one which almost realised a state which some philosophers have considered as the ideal of happiness. They knew little of the value of time, the division of labour, or the perturbations of trade. Each family had sufficient to support life without exhausting labour, and the wealthiest had little to boast of in point of comfort over his poorer brethren. Debt was only a luxury for a few hardy speculators, and among the land holding population there were very few who owed anything to speak of, as they had no recognised right in their villages and were liable to be turned out at any time by the Mahratta Government; no one would lend them any thing on the security of their lands, and though their cattle were generally numerous yet they represented too small a value in money to allow of debts being contracted on such security, and when a malgoozar was in want of money his only resource was to give up his village, sell the greater number of his cattle, and take to cultivating on a small scale. The few landed proprietors who are in debt are men introduced lately under the Mahratta rule, and who have contracted debts in their capacity of traders, not as land holders.

IX. GENERAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE. 225. With regard to the ryots similar causes operated, and though many ryots got seed grain from the malgoozar for which they paid twenty-five per cent. interest, yet these debts pressed but lightly on them, and as they were generally paid in grain were almost always settled at the end of each harvest. At present, as far as ✓

can be ascertained, about one-third of the ryots borrow seed grain, but most pay from year to year and there are few or none who have old accounts pending.

226. Under these circumstances with an industrious population free from debt, well supplied with grain and enriched beyond all former example by several years of a trade more active than has been hitherto known, Raepore has much to hope and little to fear for the future. Except the isolated position of the District there is nothing to hinder its progress, but at present where there is so much scope for improvement within its limits this hindrance will not be much felt, and it can wait in patience for the day when it will be brought nearer to the outer world and when perhaps it may find itself called on to supply to necessities of manufacturing centres yet to be created for the development of the metallic wealth of the hills of Central India.

CHAPTER IV.

IV.—OPERATIONS PRELIMINARY TO SETTLEMENT.

DEMARCATION OF BOUNDARIES.

227. The demarcation of village boundaries in the Raepore District has presented little or no difficulty. Demarcation of village boundaries easy. The litigation was of the simplest description, and the large limestone slabs found in most rivers and nullahs made capital boundary marks.

Square platforms of stone or brick have been built at all the trijunction points, and trees have been planted near the corners of each platform, so that its position will always be easily recognised even if the platforms should disappear.

228. The demarcation of jungle wastes has been a much more difficult matter than that of the village lands. Difficulty of demarcating jungle plots. Mode of demarcation finally adopted. These wastes are for the most part arid tracts of rocky and almost unculturable soil, only valuable for their jungle produce. It was clearly not worth while to incur any great

expense in marking the boundaries of such plots in a country remote and difficult of access, and therefore the two most effectual means of demarcation, the erection of masonry pillars, and the cutting of broad lines through the jungles, were found to be impracticable. Among the sand-stone and gneiss formations of the jungle tracts large slabs similar to those used to demarcate the village lands were not procurable, and small stones were useless in the thick forest. Wells were tried as a means of marking the trijunction points, but in most places the soil was too rocky, and where they could be dug they were found to be soon filled up by falling leaves and rubbish. The mode of demarcation finally adopted was that of erecting square platforms of stone cemented with mud from three to three and a half feet high at the trijunction points, while for the intermediate marks pyramids of similar construction were made.

229. In some very arid tracts, especially in parts of the Dhum-turry and Sehawa jungles, even this last method was found to be impracticable owing to the difficulty of procuring water, and in place of the stone platforms and pyramids, large logs four feet high were placed in the centre of a frame work of stakes and the intervals filled up with earth, rammed hard. It remains to be seen how

long these latter marks will last, but I believe that if looked to they will be fairly durable and even when altered in shape by successive rains and the attacks of white ants they will always be conspicuous objects.

230. Before undertaking measurements in the District it was found necessary to teach the Putwarees the use

II. MEASUREMENT.
Instruction of Putwarees.

of the plane table and compass, and accordingly a school for this purpose was organized in March 1863, and continued during the hot weather and the rains. By the beginning of the cold weather of 1863-64 all the Putwarees, 79 in number, had learnt the principles of mensuration, but it required a full year of regular work before the greater number of them had acquired much aptitude, and as there was only a small staff of Ameens there was not much work got through till the working season of 1864-65.

231. The method of survey adopted was that known as the Punjab system, and measurements were made in English acres, as no local bigha was known to the people, and though they had attained wonderful accuracy in determining the area of land according to seed sown, yet the difference between the kundee of rice and the rubbee land made it impossible to adopt it as a standard.

232. The measurement of the District was begun in November 1862, and was finally completed in May 1868. During these six years time 9,648 square miles were measured, giving an average of about 1,600 square miles yearly, but as during the first two years, owing to the ignorance of the Putwarees, the work progressed slowly, and only 720 square miles were finished, so that for the last four years the average area measured has been over 2,200 square miles yearly, measured by a staff of Ameens and Putwarees averaging 85 in number.

233. The quality of the measurements is I think, I may fairly say, as good as could possibly be expected. The maps correspond almost exactly with those of the Surveyors, and I have rarely found the distances more than a link or two out in those villages I have tested. There are mistakes I have no doubt, but I have been astonished at the accuracy with which the innumerable small rice fields have been delineated in most of the maps, and I have found those made by the Putwarees in no way inferior to those of the Ameens.

234. But though the maps agree with the Survey measurements yet the areas as extracted in the Settlement papers show very considerable discrepancies when compared with those of the Survey and in 8 per cent. of the villages in that part of the District when the Survey has been completed, the area in the Settlement papers is more than 10 per cent. less than those of the Surveyors. The cause of this dis-

Areas as compared with those of the Revenue Surveyors. Discrepancies owing to excessively small size of fields.

crepancy is the excessively small fields into which the greater number of the Raepore villages are divided, all of which must be measured and delineated separately, as no ryot even holds two contiguous fields.

235. As an instance of this excessive sub-division, Mohra, a large village in the Raepore Pergunnah, may be taken.
 Instance of excessive sub-division. The area of the village as shown in the Settlement papers is 2,684 acres, and the number of fields measured and shown on the map is 8,040.

Out of this whole area 647 are waste and have been measured in 23 blocks, leaving for the 2,037 acres of cultivation 8,017 fields, giving about one rood as the average size of each field, and as the area of the fields under rubber crops is seldom less than one acre, the area of most of the rice fields is below this average. With trustworthy surveyors the areas might have been taken out correctly on the spot at the time of measurement, but with the half educated Ameens and Putwarees it would have been impossible to do this without an amount of supervision which it was perfectly impossible to give without materially delaying the completion of the Settlement, and the only way in which an approximately correct area could be obtained was by taking out the areas on the map with talc squares during the rainy season.

236. This is but an unsatisfactory mode of working even when the fields are of considerable size, and in spite of careful testing it was found to be impossible to do more than make a rough guess at the areas of each of these diminutive fields, as shown on a scale of two acres to the inch, an error of a few poles in each field could not be detected, and these errors accumulated to a large amount when spread over so many separate numbers; and considering the difficulties of the work I would submit that the success attained is as great as could have been expected. I hope that in Dhumturry, where the fields are much larger than those of Raepore, Simlah and Lowan, the percentage of error will be found to be much below what has been found in the tracts hitherto surveyed.

237. I may further remark on this point that in every instance where there is important difference between the Survey and Settlement areas the latter are less than the former, and that consequently the error has not resulted in over assessment, while the revenue fixed at Settlement is so largely in excess of that formerly paid, that it cannot well be raised more at present, so that Government practically suffer no loss.

238. The general principles laid down for the decision of proprietary right cases were those given in Section II. of the Settlement Code. They may be shortly summarised as follows :—All fixed rights, claims and interests, however they should have grown up, should be recognised, proprietary right being conferred on such claimants as were shown to possess the best rights, and that in villages where the malgoozars had possessed only an occasional and interrupted right the old ryots who had held the fields since 1840 should be declared proprietors of their holdings, paying their revenue through the malgoozar who was to receive a suitable allowance for the charges of collection.

III. PROPRIETARY RIGHT ENQUIRIES.

General principles followed in proprietary right enquiries.

where the malgoozars had possessed only an occasional and interrupted right the old ryots who had held the fields since 1840 should be declared proprietors of their holdings, paying their revenue through the malgoozar who was to receive a suitable allowance for the charges of collection.

239. As the Talooqdaree system of the District had been quite broken up and the representatives of the old Talooqdars had almost all disappeared, the Gountias or village malgoozars were the only class that possessed any prescriptive rights at all. The villages in most instances owed their existence to the Gountia, and when he disappeared or ceased to provide the ryots with grain, the village quickly became depopulated. For many years they had been considered solely responsible for the Government revenue, and though there was an idea among the ryots that the malgoozar could not take from them more than the Government revenue, this idea, as shown in a former portion of this report, owed its origin to a reminiscence of the position of the Gountias under the Talooqdaree system, and was maintained principally because the low prices and want of trade had rendered the levy of anything like rent impossible, and the infringement of the rule had begun to be common before the commencement of the Settlement.

240. As the ryots had in almost all cases been settled in their villages by the Gountias, their rights were clearly not superior to those of the men who had given them their holdings, and who had in most instances supplied them with the means by which they had prosperity, and consequently in the great majority of the villages of the District the malgoozars were declared proprietors. Of the greater number, 373 villages, where the malgoozars had only held an occasional or interrupted right, many were recently founded, and the term of the ryots residence was, subsequent to that of the malgoozar; while in villages, founded before 1840, which had passed into the hands of new Gountias, few of the ryots, owing to the custom of changing their fields, fulfilled the conditions of having held their lands since 1848, and it was only in villages in the south of the District, where the custom of distributing the fields had not been observed, that there were any ryots found entitled to proprietary rights.

241. It however appeared to be inequitable that certain ryots should merely from observing a custom which had prevailed from time immemorial in the District be deprived of rights to which they would have been entitled, and consequently the Government of India, upon the representations of

Relief afforded to ryots who had lost claim to proprietary rights by changing their fields.

Mr. G. Campbell, Chief Commissioner, ruled that all old ryots who would otherwise have been entitled to rights, but who had lost them from having changed their fields, should be declared ryots with rights of occupancy holding at fixed rates, and consequently those who could, except for this custom, have been declared proprietors, have received equivalent rights under another name.

242. Besides the village malgoozars there were found at the time of Settlement two other classes of land holders in the District, known as Tahootdars and Zemin-dars. The Tahootdaree tenure was one created by the Mahratta Government, and the Tahoot-

Description of Tahoot-daree tenure.

dars were in fact holders of clearance leases. The tracts made into Tahoots were generally wild and remote, and they were granted for terms of years varying from three to ten years, but the leases contained no clause entitling the holder to a renewal of the grant, nor was such renewal allowed as a rule.

243. At the time of Settlement there were four Pergunnahs in the District held by Tahootdars, namely, Seerpoor, Lowan, Khullaree and Sebawa. Of these, Lowan had been held by the present lessee since 1848 A.D., Seerpoor since 1843, A.D., while Khullaree and Sebawa had only been held since 1858 A.D.

Pergunnahs held by Tahootdars. Results of enquiry as to Tahootdar's rights.

Enquiries showed that the expense and trouble of clearing and populating the villages founded since the lease of the Pergunnah, had fallen upon the sub-lessees, who had received loans of grain and money for the purpose from the Tahootdars, but as all these loans were given at 25 per cent. interest the Tahootdar cleared a profit by the operation and incurred no expense. To ignore the rights of these sub-lessees was impossible, and the case of the malgoozars of the older villages was still stronger, as most of them had held their villages from a time long before the tenure of the Government lessee.

244. Upon these facts being represented to the Chief Commissioner he ordered that the proprietary right enquiries should be made in each village of these estates, and that each case should be decided on its own merits; that the Tahootdar should receive full proprietary right in all villages which he had

Orders of Chief Commissioner with regard to proprietary rights in Tahootdaree estates.

managed directly or in which he had claims superior to those of the sub-lessees; but in all other villages recently founded such partial rights as he appeared to be justly entitled to should be awarded to him, and in

old established villages the rights of the old malgoozars alone should be recognised, except in villages where the Tahootdar had expended a special amount of capital on improvements.

245. When enquiries under these instructions were begun in Khul-laree and Sehawa, the Tahootdars declined to accept any rights unless they were declared superior proprietors in all villages,—a demand which being clearly inadmissible was not acceded to. In Lowan out of 336 villages the Tahootdar received partial rights in 90, and full proprietary rights in 24 villages of the Pergunnah; while in Seerpoor, out of 42 villages the Tahootdar received full proprietary rights in 31 villages, and partial rights in 7 villages. As the Lowan Tahootdar was not able to prove that he had expended one sixpence in the improvement of the villages founded by sub-lessees after he had acquired the Pergunnah, his exertions being entirely confined to bringing in “Thikadars” and lending them money and grain, a malikana of 10 per cent. on the juma, assessed on all villages founded since he got the lease, was considered a sufficient reward for his exertions. In Seerpoor, the Tahootdar was shown to have taken a more direct part in the management and clearing of some of the villages in which a subordinate proprietary right had been awarded to the sub-lessees, than had been done by the Tahootdar of Lowan, and consequently in four of these villages he was declared entitled to sums varying from one half to one-third of the net profits, while in the remaining three he only got 10 per cent.

246. The Zemindaree estates had always been held upon a peculiar tenure. They paid to the Government a much smaller proportion of their profits than was paid by the khalsa malgoozars, and were always allowed to collect the Pandree and Abkaree dues as part of their assets, and Government, though it never relinquished the right to do so, had seldom interfered in the internal management of their estates. Many of these estates had descended from father to son through a long line of ancestors, and in all of them the tenure of the Zemindar was far older than that of all but a very few of the oldest khalsa malgoozars, and very much exceeded that of any of the sub-lessees holding villages under them. But though the rights of these sub-lessees were by no means so strong as those of the Zemindars, yet in cases where they had founded the villages held by them or had expended money on them and had remained in possession for a long term of years, they had clearly acquired rights which were entitled to recognition.

247. In enquiring into these cases the general principles followed were those laid down in the Chief Commissioner's Memorandum of the 16th December 1864 on Thekadaree tenures in the Nursingpore and Hoshungabad Districts. The documentary evidence as to those tenures was very meagre, as the names of sub-lessees in Zemindaree villages had never been recorded.

in the District office, and it was almost useless to search the Zemindaree offices for records dating more than three or four years back ; but as the statements of the claimants were rarely disputed, the cases were in practice decided without much difficulty, chiefly because there were so few in which the sub-lessee claimed to have held for more than ten or twelve years at the most.

248. The system that had generally been practiced in these estates was about the worst it is possible to conceive. Leases were granted from year to year, the longest term being for three years, and at the end of the lease it was only renewed, provided that no one appeared who offered more for the village, or that the lessee consented to out-bid all other claimants.

Bad system of leases in Zemindarees.

249. Under such a system the sub-lessee had no chance of making money or of avoiding loss, unless he could retain ryots in the village, or unless he had enough plough cattle to cultivate any quantity of land that might be thrown on his hands by absconding ryots. If he were dependent on his ryots his tenure was usually a short one, for he could get little or nothing out of them beyond the amount he had agreed to pay the Zemindar, and he was lucky if he got that ; but if he were in a position to be independent of his ryots, he generally managed to make a good thing of his bargain as he always took care to have a large area of land in his own hands which would yield him a profit in any case, and any thing paid by the ryots was so much clear gain.

Position of sub-lessees in Zemindarees.

250. As a consequence of the position of the malgoozars, the ryots paid little or no rent and rapidly grew rich owing to the high prices of the last few years, and as soon as they had got a little money together their first thought was to get a village. As the ryots of the khalsa villages on the borders of the Zemindarees were equally ambitious, a brisk competition for villages set in, which resulted in a large increase to the Zemindar's revenues, but effectually prevented the growth of rights arising from long occupancy ; and out of the 697 villages of the 15 Chuteesgurhee Zemindarees only 18 malgoozars were found entitled to subordinate rights, but a few more will probably be eventually added to this number.

Results of enquiries as to subordinate rights in Zemindarees.

251. In each of these villages a fixed revenue has been assessed, and a provision will be inserted in the sunnuds given to the Zemindars, binding them to take no higher revenue from the sub-lessee during the term of Settlement.

Revenue to be paid by sub-lessees with subordinate rights fixed for the term of Settlement.

252. In some few of the khalsa villages, claims for rights were made by sub-lessees, but as the great majority of villages were held by small proprietors only holding one or two villages these claims were very few, and with the exception of the sub-proprietors in the Pergunnahs which had been held by Tahootdars, there were only thirteen villages in which subordinate proprietary rights were awarded. In these villages 50 per cent. of the profits have been awarded to the sub-proprietors.

253. In all estates, except those belonging to Zemindars where the rule of succession is that of primogeniture, shares have been conferred on collaterals. Before the grant of proprietary right, shares in villages had not been recognised, though it was generally the custom for the brothers of the Gountea to get portions of the seer lands; these were in some cases held rent-free in lieu of a share in the profits, and were sometimes assessed at the rates current in the village, the assessment forming a portion of the total on which the profits were calculated and divided among the shareholders. All claims to shares have been enquired into on three different occasions, at the time of the proprietary right enquiry, when the records of right were made, and when the parchment sunnuds were distributed; and numerous claims made on direct application of the claimants have also been decided. So that there is I think little chance that any future claimants will appear. In many cases claimants have chosen rather to continue to hold land rent-free in lieu of a share, than to take on themselves the responsibilities of share-holders. All such cases have been recorded.

254. The Government waste lands of the District have been taken from the village areas, according to the instructions of the Waste lands' Circular No. 72, dated 23rd December 1862, and divided into 264 plots, covering an area of about 1,033,520 acres or nearly 1,615 square miles. Of this area only 351,526 or about 52 per cent. is culturable. These are almost all situated in the east and south of the District, and lie in the hilly tracts surrounding the fertile lands of the valleys of the Seonath, Mahanuddee and their tributaries.

255. As the waste land rules were declared not to be applicable to the Zemindarees (it was only in the Khalsa tracts they were enforced, as the measurements in the District had not begun when the rules were issued), great exertions were made to cultivate all available waste in the more open parts of the Districts, before the rules, which allowed in each village from 100 to 200 per cent. of waste land in excess of the cultivation, could be put in force; and consequently there were very few villages in

the fertile portions of the District where the waste land was found to be in excess; and in several of the villages where there was a small excess found, it appeared better to allow it to be retained by the malgoozar at a moderate revenue, than to detach from the village to which it had always belonged a small plot of land which was not of sufficient size to form a new village, and it was only in cases where there was some valuable jungle on the waste land which it appeared desirable to preserve, that I enforced these rules in the open country.

256. As owing to the exertions of the malgoozars and ryots almost all the land in the fertile part of the country

But few good culturable waste land plots, owing to activity recently displayed in clearing away jungle.

had been cleared and cultivated before the measurement was finished, there are but few waste land tracts that afford any attractions to the settler. There are some fertile tracts in Lowan to the west of the Mahanuddee, and in the hill valleys to the east of the river; but as a rule the soil of these plots is only a thin crust covering the bare rock, or is composed of laterite and gravel, and they consequently are of little value except for their jungle produce, even the culturable soil being poor. In a former portion of this report the products of the District forests have been given, and they need not be recapitulated here. The forests are of but little value for timber, and it is in the miscellaneous produce and grazing dues that profits must be sought, at all events until the lapse of time and care has increased the quantity of good timber available.

V. MAAFEES.

Result of Maafee inquiries.

257. There were but very few claims to maafee lands in the District, and of the few that were made the greater number were found to be invalid. The result of the enquiries is shown in the annexed table:—

Name of Tehseelee.	In perpetuity.											
	Villages.					Plots.						
	Number of villages.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Juma.	No. of plots.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Juma.		
					Rs. a. p.					Rs. a. p.		
Raepore	13	24,707	3	5	3,319 0 0	2	466	1	7	124 13	0	
Droog	3	3,474	1	21	524 0 0	1	100	0	0	17 5	0	
Dhumturry ..	0	0	0	0	0 0 0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	
Simgah	3	3,545	1	13	631 0 0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	
Total...	19	31,727	1	39	4,484 0 0	3	566	1	7	142 2	0	

Name of Tehseelee.	For one or more lives.								
	Villages.					Plots.			
	Number of villages.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Juma.	No. of plots.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.
					Rs.				Rs. a. p.
Raepore	23	14,937	3 15		4,086	12	344	0 2	74 11 0
Droog	7	6,381	3 37		930	5	116	2 29	21 0 0
Dhumturry ...	13	15,412	2 35		3,573	1	240	3 6	51 0 0
Simgah	1	432	0 13		46	3	75	1 12	20 8 0
Total ...	44	37,164	2 20		8,595	21	776	3 9	167 3 0

Name of Tehseelee.	Resumed.								
	Villages.					Plots.			
	Number of villages.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Juma.	No. of plots.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.
					Rs.				Rs. a. p.
Raepore	7	10,311	0 9		1,506	10	214	1 22	72 9 0
Droog	1	1,436	1 19		237	9	301	2 12	99 7 0
Dhumturry ..	5	4,495	2 9		1,229	2	75	0 4	17 13 0
Simgah	1	992	0 20		96	2	38	2 31	20 5 0
Total ...	14	17,235	0 17		3,068	23	629	2 29	210 2 0

The above tables do not show the results of the inquiries as to the validity of the claims advanced with regard to eleven villages of Sehawa as the particulars of these claims were only reported just before this report was sent in, and orders about them had not consequently been received.

CHAPTER V.

V.—SETTLEMENT.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

258. When I first joined the Settlement at the end of 1864 I found the Droog Pergunnah the only one ready for assessment, and I accordingly began my enquiries there. Before my arrival, Lieutenant Ducat, Officiating Settlement officer, had inspected 46 of the villages of the Pergunnah, and collected a good deal of valuable information, which he placed at my disposal. The information as to rent rates collected by Mr. Ducat showed discrepancies between neighbouring and similar villages which were utterly irreconcilable with the existence of any general Pergunnah rent rate, and the subsequent personal enquiries made by myself showed that there was in fact no rent rate generally recognised, each malgoozar taking from his ryot whatever he could get.

259. But though there were no standard rates found to exist, it was of considerable importance to find out the actual amount paid in each village, but this I found to be no easy task, as the ryots would rarely admit that they paid more than the Government revenue, and the Putwarees' papers were utterly untrustworthy. Suits for arrears of rent were very rare, though the few cases I found were valuable, as showing the highest rates paid. After long and toilsome enquiries made on the spot in every village in the Pergunnah, I came to the conclusion that the rents varied from 12 annas to 4 annas, the average rate being between 6 and 7 annas per acre.

260. Rent rates so low as this could be no guide whatsoever to assessment, and the revenue paid by each village was equally valueless, as under the mode of assessment pursued by the Maharatta Government described in para. 65 of this report, the highest revenue was assessed on the least influential malgoozars, and little or no regard was paid to the resources and capabilities of separate villages; and from the want of data for arriving at a trustworthy conclusion on the subject these inequalities had never been redressed in the Summary Settlements which had been made since the country came under British rule. As the revenue paid was only $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas per acre of cultivation, it was clear that it could be largely increased, but the difficulty was to discover the standard by which to regu-

late the new assessments. In the absence of all other guides, the only standard that appeared available was an average rate. In order to ascertain what this should be, I examined the revenue of all the villages I had inspected, and found that there were some villages which showed signs of suffering from over-assessment when the revenue exceeded 5 annas per acre of cultivation.

261. As in an average village with 600 acres of cultivation the profits of the proprietor, taking a rental of 6 annas per acre, would be only about 40 rupees after paying the Government revenue of 5 annas per acre, and though if he cultivated the average area of about 100 acres these profits would amount to about 300 rupees more, yet they were dependent upon the contingencies of fair harvests, and the absence of cattle disease, unless the malgoozar was possessed of capital. The very low prices which had prevailed in the District up to a few years before the Settlement had rendered all accumulation of capital impossible to the vast majority of the landholding classes, and consequently, without a considerable rise of rents, even a 5 annas rate would, in the majority of villages, be more than could be paid.

262. As however in spite of the District traditions rents clearly showed a tendency to rise, I considered that it might be assumed that when the obstacles which restricted this tendency were removed, an average rate of 8 annas per acre of cultivation might be paid throughout the Pergunnah, this being a rate which was admittedly paid in many villages where the rental had been recently increased.

263. With a rent rate of 8 annas an acre an average revenue rate of 6 annas per acre was clearly admissible, as the profits on the rental would, when added to those given by the large areas cultivated by the malgoozars, give them at least 50 per cent. profit, even after allowing a large deduction for cesses; moreover this rate would give an increase of nearly 40 per cent. on the present revenue, and it appeared at first to be unadvisable to raise the revenue in any greater proportion.

264. Adopting therefore an average rate of 5 annas, I assumed as a further guide average rent rates of one rupee per acre on irrigated land, 14 annas on first class, 10 annas on second class, 7 annas on third class, and 2 annas on fourth class soil. The other guides prescribed in the General Assessment Statements I discarded, as of no value in the peculiar case of the Raepore District, seeing that the revenue rates proposed did not amount to more than one eleventh of the net value of the average produce, and that the plough rate if calculated on the admitted number of ploughs per village would be valueless, as the

ploughs varied according as the village calculations were made in 4 bullock or 8 bullock ploughs, while if the average area was taken the plough rate was in practice no more than a soil rate. In subsequent assessments I found the number of plough cattle in a village to be a valuable guide in ascertaining whether the area under cultivation could be increased at once or not, but this was not till a late period of the Settlement, and in my first assessments I did not see the question in the light it appeared to me afterwards.

265. As before I came to Raepore I had seen very little Settlement work of any kind, I had to form my experience as I went on, and at first in my Droog Settlements I did not, in assessing the villages, pay sufficient attention to the area of waste land in each village, and to the probability of its being soon brought under cultivation. But as it was clear that if a landholder did not choose to cultivate land when he had the means of doing so his negligence was no reason for leaving the fallow unassessed, in subsequent assessments I adopted the plan of assessing one or two annas per acre on the good culturable soil of villages, where there was a large area of 1st and 2nd class waste land which was likely to be brought under cultivation in the next two or three years, but as this mode of assessment did not seem altogether satisfactory, I finally adopted average rates on the malgoozaree area amounting to 2 annas and 6 pie per acre in the poorer and 4 annas in the better classes of villages.

266. As the highest possible limits of assessment were very little in excess of the lowest, there was no necessity for adopting a division into chucks, as the soil rates, combined with the average rate, and a consideration of the population, the character of the cultivation, and the situation of each village, were amply sufficient guides to assessment, and rendered a classification of the villages as a check against over assessment unnecessary.

267. Besides the assessment of the khalsa villages, that of the Zemindarees and Feudatory estates had to be made. Of the Zemindaree estates there were three classes,—the first consisting of those where the villages were measured field by field; in this class were the Zemindarees of Goonderdehee, Purporee, Sahuspore, Lohara, Gundye, Silhetee, Burbuspore, Thakoortola, Wurarband and Khojee. In the second class were the jungle Zemindarees of Lohara, Fingeshur, Nurra, Soormar, Kowrea, and Deoree. In these, the cultivated land and jungles were measured separately in large blocks, and no record was made of the holdings of each cultivator. The third class consisted of the wild and remote tracts occupied by the Khurriar and Bindra Nowagurh Zemindarees, where the cultivation was so scanty and scattered, and the total area so large as to render it impossible to measure them except at a cost which it was considered inexpedient to incur.

268. In assessing the villages of the two first classes of Zemindarees, much the same principles were adopted as those followed in assessing the Khalsa villages, and owing to the absence of data no village assessment at all was attempted in the Bindra Nowagurh and Khurriar estates, the revenue of the Zemindaree being assessed on the average income, as ascertained from an examination of the accounts in the Zemindar's Office, checked by the inspection of the estates.

Assessment of Feudatory Estates.

269. As none of the Feudatory estates were measured, the assessments were made on similar principles to those adopted in Kurriar and Bindra Nowagurh.

270. As the District assessments were made by Pergunnahs, I will now proceed to state the nature of the assessment made in each separate Pergunnah. As stated above, the first assessed was Droog. The Pergunnah lies to the extreme west of the Khalsa, and is watered by the Seonath with the Tendoola and Korkura, its tributaries, besides other small nullahs. The surface is generally undulating, so that except those on the river banks, each village contains as a rule a certain amount of high lying and low lying soil. The villages generally cover a large area, owing to the large quantity of poor and stony soil, and consequently though cleared and settled for ages the Pergunnah is not so populous as some other parts of the District, but the cultivation is superior to that found in most parts, and the ryots and malgoozars generally well to do.

General description.

II.—KHALSA PERGUNNAHS.

DROOG.

Statistics and assessment.

271. I began my inspection of the Pergunnah in December 1864, and sent up my proposals for its assessment, in the following April. The number of villages was 223, covering an area of about 254,479 acres or about 391 square miles. The population 59,393 or about 152 per square mile. Of the total area, about 93 per cent. was culturable, and of this latter about 60 per cent. was cultivated. Of the cultivated area about 62 per cent. was 1st and 2nd class soil, about 29 per cent. 3rd class, and the remainder 4th class soil. The revenue given by soil rates and the sayar profits of 2 annas per tree on muhwa trees, was 41,917 rupees, and the revenue assessed was 42,703 rupees, an increase of 11,919 rupees on the former revenue of 30,784 rupees; but as this increase included 830 rupees assessed as the value of revenue free villages which had not formerly been included in the revenue calculations, the actual increase in the payments of the malgoozars was only 11,089 rupees or about 36 per cent. The rate per acre of cultivation was 4 annas 10 pie, and that per acre of malgoozaree was 2 annas 11 pie.

272. Though this assessment was as light as could well be expected yet it was at first pronounced by the people to be more than they could possibly pay, and it was predicted that all the ryots would sooner decamp than pay such rates. But after the first out-burst of disapprobation, they soon began to see things in a different light, and though there was a good deal of doubt as to the expediency of raising the rents, an operation which it was believed would entail an increase of assessment, yet after some difficulty these doubts were appeased, and the deduced rental increased from 29,370 rupees to 70,074, or about 8 annas per acre of cultivation. What the actual increase was, it was impossible to say exactly, as the returns, given in the Putwarres' papers showing a rental less than the revenue, were clearly false.

273. The Dhumda Pergunnah lies immediately to the north of Droog, and is on the whole similar to it, except the north-western portion where, instead of rice, which is the staple crop of Droog, wheat and Urhur occupy the greater portion of the soil, and in many villages the only Khureef crop grown is kodo. The Pergunnah is traversed through its whole length by the Seonath, which divides it into two nearly equal parts, and running eastward forms the northern boundary of the eastern division. To the east, the Karom forms the boundary between Dhumda and Raepore, and on the west of the Seonath the soil is watered by the Soorie and Am rivers with their tributary nullahs. In the space between the Seonath and Karom there is a large nullah, a tributary of the latter river, running from south-west to north-east, and watering a wide and fertile valley.

274. This Pergunnah was inspected by me in November 1865, and as soon as I had finished the inspection of the villages, I sent in my proposals for its assessments. The total number of villages is 275, the area is about 325,258 acres or about 508 square miles, and the population 82,810 or about 163 to the square mile. Of the total area, 94 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable area about 57 per cent., a somewhat smaller proportion than in Droog, is cultivated. Of the soils 119,780 acres or about 62 per cent. were found to be first and second class, and 39,148 acres or about 22 per cent. third class soil. The revenue given by soil rates was 52,473 rupees, and that assessed was 56,873 rupees, at a rate of about 3 annas per acre on the culturable, and 5 annas and 3 pie on the cultivated area. This slight excess over the Droog rates was partly owing to the assessment of the good fallow soil in those villages where such assessment seemed to be justifiable, and partly to the larger population and greater prosperity of many of the Dhumda villages. The new assessment was only about 25 per cent. in excess of the former revenue, and it was followed by a

rise of rents from a nominal rental of 52,042 rupees to 1,07,821 rupees or from 4 annas 10 pie to 9 annas 11 pie per acre.

275. This Pergunnah occupies only a small tract of country to the north of that of Dhumda, from which it is separated by the Seonath. It is watered by the

DEORBYJYA.

General description,
statistics, and assessment.

Ghogwa and Sareeghat nullahs, which flow through the centre of the Pergunnah, and contains 71 villages. It is a very fertile tract, and a large area of the land is occupied by Rubbee crops; 88 per cent. of that under cultivation is sown with wheat, urhur, oil seeds and gram, and 38 per cent. with rice. The total area is about 60,514 acres or about 94 square miles. Of this, about 94 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable area about 61 per cent. is cultivated. Of the cultivated soil about 88 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class soil, and the population was found to be 15,957 or about 169 to the square mile. The Pergunnah as a whole is superior to Dhumda in soil and population, and therefore it was considered that it could bear a somewhat higher assessment. The revenue given by soil rates was 11,521 rupees, and the actual assessment made was 11,848 rupees, at a rate of 5 annas 1 pie upon the cultivated and 3 annas 3 pie upon the culturable area. This was about 48 per cent. in excess of the former revenue of 7,788 rupees, but though the increase exceeded that of the Pergunnahs previously assessed, yet as the rate was but little in excess of that imposed on the Droog and Dhumda Pergunnahs, while the soil was very much superior, the excess was not more than the Pergunnah could easily bear, and this expectation was justified by the rise in rents which increased from a nominal rental of 9,141 rupees to 23,617 rupees, or from 3 annas and 5 pie to 10 annas and 5 pie per acre of cultivation.

276. This Pergunnah is similar and in many respects superior to that of Deorbyjya. It lies north of Dhumda and Deorbyjya, and is separated from the

NOWAGURH.

General description, sta-
tistics, and assessment.

Dhumda and Simgah Pergunnahs by the Seonath, and from the Belaspore District by the Huhap. With the exception of a small portion in the centre, almost the whole of the soil is black and fertile. The number of villages is 139, and the total area is about 130,359 acres or about 204 square miles. Of this about 94 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable area, about 63 per cent. is cultivated. Of the cultivated soil about 88 per cent., as in Deorbyjya, is 1st and 2nd class, and Rubbee crops were largely grown, wheat occupying 20 per cent. of the cultivated area. The population was found to be about 152 to the square mile, the total number being 31,115. As the cultivated land in Nowagurh was in proportion to the total area of the Pergunnah somewhat in excess of that in Deorbyjya, and as the fallow soil was somewhat superior in quality, it was considered that Nowagurh would pay a somewhat higher rate of revenue. The revenue given by soil rates was 26,074 and that assessed was 26,711, at a rate of 3 annas 5

pie per acre of culturable, and 5 annas 5 pie per acre of cultivated area. This was an increase of 66 per cent. over the former revenue, and on the revision of rents the rental rose from the nominal sum of Rs. 18,820 to Rs. 54,433, or from 3 annas 10 pie to 11 annas 1 pie per acre of cultivation.

277. This Pergunnah, which was assessed next to those of Nowagurh and Deorbyjya, forms portion of the Droog Tehseelee, and lies in the very centre of the District, between the Pergunnahs of Droog and Balod on the west, and Raepore and Dhumturry on the east. The Karom forms

PATUN.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

the eastern boundary of the Pergunnah which is watered by numerous nullahs all flowing into that river. The soil as in Droog is undulating, and a large quantity of that not cultivated is very poor soil. It contains 139 villages, and covers an area of about 146,401 acres or about 228 square miles. Of this area about 93 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable area about 58 per cent. are cultivated; of the cultivated soil about 61 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class, and 31, 3rd class. Rice occupies 53 per cent. of the cultivated land and the population amounted to 43,802 or about 191 to the square mile. Though the soil was inferior to that of Nowagurh and Deorbyja, yet as the population was much denser and the cultivation better, owing to the large number of Koormees and Telees, who are the best cultivators, I considered that the revenue of Patun should be about the same as that in those Pergunnahs. It was accordingly assessed at a revenue of 28,166 rupees, at a rate of 3 annas 2 pie per acre of culturable and 5 annas 3 pie per acre of cultivated area,—an increase of 1,215 rupees on the revenue given by soil rates, and of 34 per cent. over 20,997 rupees, the revenue formerly paid. The rental after assessment increased from a nominal sum of rupees 26,950 to rupees 57,655, or from 3 annas 11 pie to 10 annas 8 pie per acre.

278. This Pergunnah lies to the south of Droog, and consists of two distinct portions, a very fertile tract to the north watered by the Kurom, Tendoola, and

BALOD.

Division into a cultivated and jungle chuk.

Korkura rivers with their tributary nullahs, and a wild tract of low lying rocky hills and jungles to the south.

279. The greater part of the north-eastern division of the northern tract lying to the east of the Tendoola is occupied by the Gondurdehee Zemindaree. In the extreme northern portion of this tract lying along the boundary of the Droog Pergunnah

General description of the cultivated chuk.

there is some hard soil, but throughout the rest of the tract the soil is almost all first class of the finest quality, equally adapted for the growth of rice and wheat, and producing year after year two crops with almost unfailing regularity.

280. The number of villages in this portion of the Pergunnah is 213, and the total area 276,786 acres, or about 28½ square miles. Out of the total area about 94 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable area about 74 per cent. are cultivated, and of the cultivated area 84 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class soil. The principal crops are rice and gram, the former occupying 54, and the latter 28 per cent. of the cultivation. The population is stated as 79,213 persons, or about 183 to the square mile. The above figures show the great superiority of this tract to those previously assessed; but as the revenue paid before settlement was only 24,201 rupees, or about 2 annas 4 pie per acre of cultivation, and the soil rates give a revenue of 42,190 rupees or an increase of 78 per cent. the revenue assessed was rupees 42,343.

281. This assessment only gave a rate of about 4 annas per acre of culturable, and of a little less than 5 annas per acre of Lightness of assessment. 4 pie per acre of cultivation, a rate which though higher than what had been assessed on any other Pergunnah, hardly represented the great superiority of this tract over those that had been previously assessed, as it was quite equal in soil to Nowagurh and Deorbyjya, and superior to those tracts in the density and character of its population, as the bulk of the Balod people consisted of Hulbas, Telees and Kullars, whereas the great majority of the Nowagurh and Deorbyjya ryots were Chumars. At a later period I would have proposed a somewhat higher revenue for the tract, but at the time of assessment the proposed increase was so largely in excess of any that had been before imposed, that I doubted the expediency of raising it to any higher amount.

282. The southern and hilly tract of Balod contains 104 villages. It consists of two distinct portions, one of which contains 91 villages directly attached to the General description of the jungle chuck. the rest of the Pergunnah, while the second and much smaller tract contains only 14 villages, and lies apart about three or four miles to the west of the main tract, and is surrounded on all sides by the Lohara Zemindaree. The whole tract is generally hilly and barren, the only fertile spots being the banks of the nullahs, flowing through the numerous hill valleys, but these are for the most part narrow and encumbered with rocks, and the tract is of little value for agricultural purposes. The smaller tract lying below the Dullee hill in the upper part of the valley of the Jugera, a tributary of the Tendoola is fairly fertile, but it has only been recently cleared, and still contains a great deal of jungle.

283. Out of the whole area of 171,865 acres, equal to about 269 square miles, 77,393 acres, or about 120 square miles were excluded as excess waste, leaving an area of 94,472 acres to be assessed. Out of this area, only 72,108 acres or about 78 per cent. were culturable, and of the culturable area only 54 per cent was cultivated. The cultivated soil was fair, 60 per cent, being first and second class, though a large portion of this was second class soil of an inferior quality, while the greater part of that, still un-tilled, was very poor soil. The population was 17,955 or about 68 to the square mile, and the majority of the inhabitants were wild Gonds and Hulbas of migratory habits. Water was scarce in most villages, there were few tanks for irrigation, and the wild animals destroyed a considerable portion of the crops. As such a tract as this could not pay so high a revenue as the more fertile and populous tracts in the open country, I only used half rates in assessing it. The revenue from soil rates and sewaye came to 6,203 rupees, giving a rate of about 2 annas 6 pie per acre of cultivation, but as even this rate seemed higher than what the wilder villages could pay, the total revenue assessed was only 5,838 rupees or about 2 annas 4 pie per acre of cultivation, giving an increase of about 198 per cent. upon the revenue previously paid, which was 1,959 rupees.

284. This Pergunnah is situated in the extreme south-west of the

SUNJAREE.

General description,
statistics, and assessment
of the cultivated chunk.

District to the west of Balod; it also contains a jungle and cultivated tract, the cultivated tract lying to the north, and hills and jungles occupying the south of the Pergunnah. The northern tract occupies the greater portion of the area intervening between the Korkura and Seonath rivers, and with the exception of a ridge of hard soil running from south-east to north-west through the tract, and forming the watershed between the two rivers, the soil is generally exceedingly fine. The number of villages is 61, and the total area is 50,200 acres, or about 98 square miles. Of this area about 93 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable area about 80 per cent. is cultivated and of the latter area 80 per cent. is black soil. The total population is 15,193, or about 195 to the square mile. The revenue was rupees 6,829 or about 2 annas 11 pie per acre of cultivation. The soil rates gave a revenue of 11,486 rupees, and that assessed was 11,495 rupees, at a rate of 3 annas 11 pie on the culturable and 4 annas 10½ pie on the cultivated soil, giving an increase of little over 60 per cent.

285. The jungle tract is similar to that of Balod, contains 72 vil-

General description,
statistics and assessment
of the jungle chunk.

lages and covers an area of about 79,112 acres, or about 124 square miles. Of this, about 22,347, equal to nearly 34 square miles, were excluded as excess waste, leaving 56,765 acres to be assessed. Of this area only about 65 per cent. is culturable, and of

the culturable soil nearly 69 per cent. was cultivated. The cultivated soil is fair, about 55 per cent. being first and second class soil, and 36 per cent. third class. The total population was 10,642 or about 86 to the square mile, but as in Balod the people were migratory in their habits, water scarce, and wild animals numerous, consequently a very light revenue was all that could be assessed. That already paid was 1,510 rupees or not quite one anna per acre of cultivation, and that assessed was 3,452 rupees, at a rate of 1 anna 6 pie on the culturable, and 2 annas 2 pie on the cultivated area, being an increase of about 131 per cent. on the former revenue.

286. This Pergunnah lies to the north of the District in a bend of the Seonath, which separates it from the
 SIMGAH. Nowagurh Pergunnah on the west, and the
 General description and statistics. Belaspore District on the north. The Pergunnah contains 150 villages, covering an area of about 163,232 acres or about 258 square miles.

Out of this area two plots covering an area of 2,900 acres were separated as excess waste, leaving 160,332 acres to be assessed. Of this area, about 93 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 53 per cent. is cultivated. The soil is not generally as good as that of most parts in the District, and especially in the centre of the Pergunnah there is a good deal of rocky land of little value for agricultural purposes; a large portion of the tract has only been recently cleared of jungle, and there is still a good deal of light jungle in many of the villages. Of the cultivated soil about 56 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class soil, and 28 per cent. 3rd class. The staple crop is rice, and Rubbee crops are only cultivated to a small extent. The population is 40,421, or about 156 to the square mile.

287. The revenue of the Pergunnah before assessment was only
 Assessment. 12,511 rupees, or about 2 annas 6 pie per acre of cultivation, and though the Pergunnah was somewhat inferior to those adjoining it, yet considering that the cultivation was but little inferior to that of most parts of the District, that most of the villages had tanks and a fair water supply, and that a good deal of the jungle was valuable as yielding thatching grass, the revenue could clearly bear a large increase. The revenue given by soil rates was rupees 21,523, and that assessed was rupees 23,786, the rate of increase being 90 per cent., though the revenue rate was only 2 annas 7 pie per acre of culturable, and 4 annas 11 pie per acre of cultivated soil.

288. This Pergunnah which is much the largest in the District lies to the south of Simga, and is watered by
 RAEPOR. the Karom and its tributaries, of which the two
 General description and statistics. principal are the Sogra and Kunhan nullahs, as well as by the Mahanuddee, the former river forming the western and the latter the eastern boundary of the Pergunnah for a considerable distance. The soil of the

Pergunnah is generally undulating ; in the centre the area of hard rocky soil is considerable, though even these uplands are separated by fertile valleys ; while to the east and west there are broad plains of very rich and fertile black soil.

The number of villages in the Pergunnah is 637, and the total area is about 727,698 acres, or about 1,138 square miles. Out of this area, 7,544 acres were excluded as excess waste, leaving 720,154 acres to be assessed. Of this area about 92 per cent. is culturable and of the culturable soil, a little more than 53 per cent. was cultivated, and of the cultivation about 61 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class, and about 30 per cent. 3rd class soil. The population was recorded as being 169,985, or about 149 to the square mile. The greater number of villages had been cleared and peopled for centuries, and almost all were very well provided with tanks. The soils were in reality more productive than would appear at first sight, as 3rd class soil lying near a tank, and well supplied with moisture, will yield as fine or even better rice crops than ordinary first and second class soil. As a large majority of the villages had, in addition to these advantages, those derived from their neighbourhood to the Raepore market ; and as the proprietors were as a rule men of considerable means, it appeared that the Pergunnah, though not much more fertile than that of Singah, would bear a somewhat higher assessment, especially as they had been accustomed to pay a somewhat higher rate.

289. The revenue paid by the Pergunnah before assessment was rupees 81,610 or about 3 annas 8 pie per acre of cultivation, and that given by soil rates was 102,760. The revenue assessed was 1,25,583 rupees or 22,776 rupees in excess of that given by soil rates, and 53 per cent. in excess of that formerly paid.) Part of the increase was due to the large number of Mookassa villages, of which the value had not been formerly entered in the returns ; but even excluding this the increase was nearly 50 per cent. ; but as the rate was only 3 annas per acre of culturable and 5 annas 8 pie per acre of cultivated area, it did not, when the circumstances noted in the preceding paragraph were taken into consideration, together with the previous experience gained from the rapid rise of rents in other parts of the District, appear to be more than the tract could easily pay, and subsequent experience has justified the expectation.

290. These tracts, which lie to the east of the Singah and Raepore Pergunnahs, were divided for assessment purposes into two chuks, one containing the cultivated villages of Lowan and Seerpore, and the other the jungle tracts of the two former Pergunnahs, together with the whole of Khullaree ; with the exception of the Kusdol Talooqua of Lowan, a small tract containing 28 villages lying to the east of the Mahanuddec. The whole of the first tract lies to the

**LOWAN, SEERPORE,
AND KHULLAREE.**

General description and statistics of cultivated chuk of Lowan and Seerpore.

west of that river. The total area is about 298,495 acres, or 463 square miles; out of which 5,943 acres have been excluded as excess waste, leaving 292,552 acres to be assessed. Of this area nearly 96 per cent. is culturable; of the culturable soil nearly 47 per cent. is cultivated, 49 per cent. of the cultivation is 1st and 2nd class, and 45 per cent. 3rd class soil.

The population is about 193 to the square mile, a rate considerably in excess of that in the adjoining tracts. The villages are for the most part well provided with tanks, and though in the north-west of the Pergunnah there is a good deal of hard stony soil, yet the greater part of the tract is admirably adapted for the growth of rice. There are few villages in which there is not some jungle affording good grazing for cattle, and in a very large number there are large quantities of thatching grass which makes the jungle very nearly as valuable as cultivated lands; in fact a tract of thatching grass in the Simgah Pergunnah belonging to Government has let at auction for two consecutive years at a rate of nearly 8 annas per acre, or more than is paid by all but a very few villages in the District.

291. The Lowan and Seerpoor Pergunnahs had, up to the time of assessment, been held by Tahootdars, the revenue paid for Lowan being rupees 8,386 and for Seerpoor rupees 875. The admitted receipts from

Assessment.

the village malgoozars in this chuk alone amounted to rupees 20,663, exclusive of payments in kind, which came to about 30 per cent. more. (The revenue rate thus paid to the Tahootdar was, taking the admitted sums, about 2 annas 6 pie per acre of cultivation; but if the value of the payments in kind were added, and those of the subordinate Tahootdars of Kusdol and Pungaon who held 38 villages at merely nominal rates, deducted, the average rate paid by the remaining malgoozars was somewhat over 3 annas. (The revenue assessed on the chuk was 41,433 rupees or about 100 per cent. in excess of that taken in money by the late Tahootdar) but, after adding the produce of the payment in kind, in reality the increase did not average more than 57 per cent. on the majority of the malgoozars. Considering the great capabilities of the tract and the value of its jungle I considered that the rate of 2 annas 1 pie per acre of culturable and 5 annas 4 pie per acre of cultivated soil was the least that the proprietors could be fairly called on to pay.

292. The greater part of the tract to the east of the Mahanuddee containing the jungles of Lowan, Seerpoor and

General description of jungle chuk of Lowan and Seerpoor and of Khullaree.

Khullaree, is very wild, and the whole is hilly. In Lowan and Seerpoor, with the exception of a narrow strip of good soil lying along the banks of the Mahanuddee and the remote valley of Raitoom to the extreme east of the District, the whole country is one mass of hills only broken by narrow valleys. In Khullaree the area of good soil is considerably larger than in Lowan and Seerpoor, and in the

valleys of the Korar, Kesho, and Bugdie nullahs, there are a considerable number of populous and flourishing villages, while the jungles yield large quantities of lac, muhwa, and grass.

293. The tract contains 211 villages, and its area is about 420,992 acres, or about 657 square miles. Of this area, Assessment. 249,031 acres, or about 390 square miles were deducted as excess waste, leaving 171,961 acres

to be assessed. Of the assessed area, about 91 per cent. is culturable, though a very large portion of that still uncultivated is exceedingly poor soil. Of the culturable soil only about 25 per cent. is cultivated, and of the cultivation 22 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class, and 63 per cent. 3rd class soil. The population stated was 20,876, or about 31 to the square mile of total, and 78 of the assessed area. The payments of the village malgoczers to the Tahootdars before the assessment were rupees 3,750, exclusive of payments in kind; and the revenue assessed was rupees 8,723, at a rate of nearly 11 pie per acre of culturable and 3 annas 5 pie per acre of cultivated land. Considering the prosperity of a large number of the Kullaree villages, and the value of the jungle produce, this appeared to be the lowest rate that could be imposed on the tract.

294. This little Pergunnah lies to the south of Khullaree, and the east of Raepore and Dhumturry, from which Pergunnahs it is separated by the Mahanuddee.

RAJIM.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

It is exceedingly well provided with water, as the Pairi flows through the centre of the south portion of the Pergunnah, the Sarungee nullah along its eastern border, and water is everywhere near the surface. The soil of the Pergunnah is as a rule exceedingly rich, yielding large crops of rice followed by a second crop of gram, peas, linseed, &c., and the villages among the most prosperous in the District. There are 84 villages in the Pergunnah, and the total area is about 112,495 acres or about 175 square miles, out of which 8,009 acres were excluded as excess waste, leaving 104,486 acres to be assessed. Of the assessed area nearly 90 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 50 per cent. is cultivated; of the cultivation 67 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class, and 31 per cent. 3rd class soil. The population stated was 27,472 or about 168 persons to the square mile, and the revenue paid before assessment was only 7,214 rupees or about 2 annas 5 pie per acre of cultivation. That assessed was 17,018 rupees, an increase of 120 per cent., but one which was fully justified by the excellence of the soil, the flourishing state of the villages and the general prosperity of malgoczers and ryots. The rate was only 2 annas 11 pie per acre of culturable, and 5 annas 10 pie per acre of cultivated area.

295. This Pergunnah, which lies south of Raepore, is next to Raepore the largest in the District. It, like Balod,

DHUMTURRY.

Cultivated and jungle
chuks of Dhumturry.

which adjoins it on the west, contains two tracts of very different character; namely, a black soil tract in the north containing the most populous and fertile villages in the District, and a jungle tract in the south with low rocky hills, and but little good cultivation, except in a few villages in the valley of the Mahanuddee and its tributaries the Seendhoree and Dorkee nullahs.

296. The black soil tract contains 359 villages, and the area is about 333,329 acres or about 521 square miles.

General description and
statistics of cultivated
chuk.

Of this about 92 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 63 per cent is cultivated; of the cultivation, 77 per cent. is first and second class soil, more than one half being first class. The population stated was 103,813, or about 199 persons to the square mile. There is no tract in the District where the villages are so populous, and none where the tanks are more abundant, while the affluents of the Karom and Mahanuddee supply abundance of water for irrigation purposes. Wells are everywhere easily dug, as the water is rarely more than 18 or 20 feet from the surface; and the greater part of the cultivated soil yields two crops yearly. Another advantage possessed by the tract is that the greater number of the villages are held by large and wealthy proprietors, men who are well able to improve their property and spend capital on it.

297. In assessing the tract I used higher soil rates than I had used throughout the rest of the District, taking

Assessment.

8 annas as the revenue rate for first class, 6 annas for second, and 4 annas for third class soil; and even higher rates might have been assessed, if it had not been for the low rental which had prevented the poorer malgoozars from accumulating capital; and though these were in a minority in Dhumturry, yet the general level of the assessment had to be kept low to meet their case. The revenue paid prior to assessment by the villages of the chuk was 46,185 rupees, and that assessed was rupees 77,437, giving an increase of 59 per cent. on the former revenue of the malgoozaree villages, not including that assessed upon those held free of revenue. The rate was somewhat over 4 annas per acre of culturable, and 6 annas 5 pie per acre of cultivated soil.

298. The jungle chuk contained 108 villages, and covered an area of about 190,391 acres or about 297 square miles.

General description, sta-
tistics, and assessment of
jungle chuk.

Of this area 123,920 acres, or about 193 square miles, were excluded as excess waste, leaving 66,471 acres to be assessed. Of this area, 85½ per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil nearly 34 per cent. is cultivated, and the remaining soil is almost all very poor.

Of the cultivation about 28 per cent. is first and second class, and about 52 per cent. 3rd class soil. The population stated was 11,986, or about 115 to the square mile of the assessed area, for the most part concentrated in the valley of the Mahanuddee and its tributaries. The revenue paid before assessment was rupees 1,440, and that assessed was rupees 3,065, an increase of 110 per cent. on the former revenue, but only a rate of 10 pie on the culturable and 2 annas 7 pie on the cultivated area.

299. This is the wildest and most remote tract in the district, lying to the east of the Dhumturry Pergunnah and extending southwards to the borders of SEHAWA. Bustar and Jeypore. Almost the whole of the Pergunnah is a mass of hills and jungle, and General description. about half of the area is occupied by a sâl forest. Almost the only soil valuable for agricultural purposes is that in the upper valley of the Mahanuddee, which rises in the Pergunnah near its eastern boundary and crosses it from east to west. In this valley there is a considerable area of fertile soil, and some fifty or sixty fairly prosperous villages.

300. The whole area of the Pergunnah is about 465,472 acres or about 727 square miles; but of this area about Statistics and assessment. 370,122 acres or about 578 square miles have been excluded as excess waste, leaving only 95,350 acres to be assessed. Of this, about 94 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil only about 24 per cent. is cultivated; of the cultivation about 45 per cent. is first and second class, and 47 per cent. third class. The population was only 10,891, or about 14 per square mile of the whole, and about 73 per square mile of assessed area. On such a tract, which was separated by about 50 miles of dense jungle from any market, little or no revenue could be assessed, and that total assessment was only 3,092 rupees, or 43 per cent. in excess of the 1,792 rupees formerly paid, exclusive of the 588 rupees assessed on mokassa villages. The rate of the newly assessed revenue was only about 6½ pie per acre of culturable and 2 annas 8 pie per acre of cultivated area, as low a rate as could be assessed.

301. Of these estates a considerable number contained considerable areas of waste; and though the waste land rules were not enforced in their limits, it appeared that the State was not bound to forego all the profits which might accrue on these tracts from the rapidly increasing value of jungle produce, and it was consequently declared that a specified portion of the revenue assessed on those Zemindarees where there were extensive jungles, should be declared liable to revision after three years.

III. ZEMINDAREES.

Assessment of jungles in Zemindaree estates.

302. This estate is situated in the northern portion of the Balod Pergunnah, and is intersected by the Tendoola, which flows through it from south to north. The

GONDURDEHEE.

General description of estate.

soil is generally exceedingly fertile, the area under cultivation extensive, and the population large; but a large proportion of the cultivated land is sown with "Kodo" and other inferior crops, and the villages are not as a rule so well built, and have fewer tanks than those adjoining them in the Khalsa. This is owing to the embarrassed circumstances of the Zemindar, who has for many years paid a revenue, which, though small, considering the present state of his property, must have been paid with difficulty in former years, when prices were low, and landholder's profits small. Considering his embarrassed circumstances, the state of his property is highly creditable to him.

303. The area of the estate is about 49,332 acres or about 77 square miles, and the number of villages is 54.

Statistics and assessment.

About 93 per cent. of the soil is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 69 per cent. is cultivated. Of the cultivation, nearly 71 per cent. is 1st and 2nd class soil, and the population stated was 15,559, or about 202 persons to the square mile. The collections made by the Zemindar, including Pandree and other cesses, were previous to assessment 9,662 rupees, and I assessed the villages at rupees 11,412. As, however, almost all the villages were held by sub-lessees without rights, the Zemindar's collections would most probably exceed that amount, as competition would enable him to let his villages at more than half the admitted rent-roll, on which my assessment was based. His immediate revenue I therefore calculated at something over 13,000 rupees, and this probably will, before many years are over, be increased to 16,000 or 17,000 rupees; but considering the embarrassments of the Zemindar it did not appear that even with this increase of income he could pay an enhanced revenue, and pay off his debts, and consequently the revenue hitherto paid by the estate, 4,290 rupees, was retained.

304. This little Zemindaree contains 22 villages, 17 of which occupy a small strip of country lying to the west of the Dhumda Pergunnah, and the remaining five

PURPOREE.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

are scattered among the Khalsa villages of Dhumda. The whole estate is clear of jungle and under cultivation. The whole area of the estate is about 20,447 acres, or about 32 square miles; of this area about 95 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 65 per cent. is cultivated; of the cultivation nearly 86 per cent. was first and second class soil, and the population stated was 4,728, or 148 persons to the square mile. The villages of the Zemindaree were assessed at 4,346 rupees, or at a rate of nearly 3 annas 7 pie per acre of culturable, and 5 annas 5 pie per acre of cultivated soil. The Zemindar's income as ascertained from the Zemindaree papers was before the assessment

4,079 rupees, and it was estimated that after assessment it would increase to rupees 6,150; but even with this increase of income it appeared the revenue hitherto paid by the Zemindar, amounting to 1,750 rupees, was sufficient, considering the slender resources of the estate, and no increase was assessed on the estate.

305. This Zemindaree lies in the extreme north-west corner of the District, to the south of the Kawurdha estate belonging to Belaspore. It contains 78 villages, and covers an area of about 88,245 acres or about 137 square miles. Out of this area, there are about 57 square miles of hilly country, forming a portion of the Meikul range of hills which bounds the District on the west; and the remaining 80 square miles form a plain of the richest possible soil, yielding magnificent crops of wheat, urhur, and cotton. This plain is intersected by numerous nullahs affording abundant facilities for irrigation, and studded with flourishing and prosperous villages; and the estate is altogether the most valuable and flourishing of all the Zemindarees of the District.

306. Of the total area of the inhabited villages of the estate, exclusive of the jungle wastes, and inclusive of the eight villages among the hills, about 87 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 79 per cent. is cultivated. Of the cultivation more than 90 per cent. is first and second class soil. The population stated was 18,148 or about 137 persons to the square mile taking the whole area of the estate, but in the plain villages the average was about 226 to the square mile. The income of the Zemindar as stated in the accounts submitted to me was 8,518 rupees from all sources, but this I believe to have been considerably understated. I assessed the villages at 13,161 rupees, but as this only represented about half of the estimated rental this by no means represented the income the Zemindar would derive from the land. Taking the receipts from villages managed directly by himself, as well as the payments of the sub-lessees, I calculated that the land revenue receipts would be at least rupees 16,074, and those from Sewai rupees 2,490, making a total income of 18,564 rupees; and as the competition for leases of the very valuable villages of the estate was very keen, it was more than probable that in a few years his income would exceed 22,600 rupees. The takolee hitherto paid by the Zemindar had been rupees 1,478, and this I proposed to increase to 5,450 rupees. The Settlement Commissioner however considered that this increase was too great, and assessed the revenue at 4,500 rupees, including 100 rupees on account of the excess waste.

307. This estate lies to the south of that of Sahusporc Lohara, and covers a somewhat larger area, and like it contains a considerable area both of plain

GUNDYE.

General description.

and hill country. The plain villages though exceedingly flourishing and fertile are not quite so good as those of the Sahusporc estate, as the Soorie and its tributaries the Khurria and Nerbudda, which flow through Gundy, bring down a larger deposit of sand than the smaller and more gently flowing nullahs of Sahusporc. The jungles, however, of Gundy are very much more valuable than those of the neighbouring Zemindaree, and besides the promising plantations of young teak described in para. 195 of this report, contain large quantities of bamboos and timber of the common sorts; and there are mines of iron and red ochre among the hills.

308. The estate contains 77 villages, and the whole area is about 96,876 acres or about 151 square miles; but of this, only about 40 square miles are situated in the plain country below the hills, while an equal area is occupied by the valuable villages

Statistics and assessment.

in the valleys below the ghats. Excluding 8,581 acres of the uninhabited tracts among the hills, but including the hill villages where there was any cultivation, 63,981 acres, or about 72 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil nearly 49 per cent. is cultivated, but the greater part of that left waste is very poor soil belonging to the hill villages. Of the cultivation about 64½ per cent. are first and second class, and about 26 per cent. third class soil. The total population is 17,591 or about 116 persons to the square mile of the whole area, though in the plain country it is nearly as dense as that of Lohara Sahusporc. The total income of the Zemindar as shown by the accounts furnished to me was 13,510 rupees; but this was somewhat understated, and the actual receipts were about 14,688 rupees, including 12,898 rupees realised from the villages. I assessed the villages at 11,476 rupees, and estimated the income of the Zemindar after assessment at 15,600 rupees. Upon these calculations I based my proposals for increasing the revenue from rupees 810 to 4,700 rupees. The Settlement Commissioner however considered that this assessment would be too high, and would not leave a sufficient margin for errors in the calculation of the Zemindaree assets, which were in fact only approximately ascertained, and he consequently fixed the assessment at rupees 4,000, including 100 rupees on account of the excess wastes.

309. This little estate, which originally formed part of that of

SILHETEE.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

Gundy, lies to the south of Lohara Sahusporc, between it and Gundy. There are 23 villages in the estate, of which only 9 are in the plains. The whole area is about 33,697 acres or about 52 square miles, of which 40 square miles are hill and jungle. Of the whole area about 5,620 acres are culturable, and of the culturable area about 41½ per cent. is cultivated, the uncultivated soil being for the most part

rocky soil among the hills. Of the cultivation about 78 per cent. is first and second class soil. The population stated is 3,963 or about 76 to the square mile, but in the nine plain villages the average is 254 to the square mile. The income of the Zemindar as gathered from his accounts amounted to 3,317 rupees, and I assessed his villages at rupees 2,803. After assessment I estimated his revenue at 4,200 rupees, and proposed 1,050 rupees as the tukolee to be paid by him, that formerly paid being 598 rupees. These proposals met with the general sanction of the Settlement Commissioner, who fixed the tukolee at 1,000 rupees, of which amount 25 rupees was assessed on the excess wastes.

310. This estate, like that of Silhetee, was formerly part of Gundyee, and contains twenty-one villages, eleven of which are in the plains, and ten in the hills, situated in the northern part of Gundyee. The area is 21,362, acres or about 33 square miles ; of which 7,631 acres form the area of the plain villages. **BURBUSPORE.** General description, statistics, and assessment. Only about 59 per cent. of the soil is culturable, and about 58 per cent. of the culturable land is cultivated. The population stated is 1865 or about 87 to the square mile, and even in the plain villages it is only 135 to the square mile. The estate, even if properly managed, would never be so valuable as Silhetee ; but under the present Zemindar, who is extravagant and grasping, it has fallen into a bad state ; nor will it revive till he acts more equitably with his sub-lessees and allows them some of the profits of the villages, instead of seizing the whole collections as he has hitherto done. The receipts of the Zemindar amount to about 3,754 rupees, which is not a larger sum than the Zemindaree should pay under proper management, as at present the sub-lessees are afraid to realise full rents from their ryots for fear they should run away, and leave them alone to satisfy the Zemindar's demands. I assessed the villages at 2,500 rupees ; and as there was little chance of the Zemindar being able to realise from the estate for some years to come, more than he has done hitherto, it was not considered advisable to assess the estate at more than 930 rupees, 922 rupees having been the revenue previously paid. Of the revenue 10 rupees was the amount fixed on the excess wastes.

311. This very large estate lies to the south of Gundyee, but with the exception of some fifteen villages in the valley of the Nerbudda on the borders of Gundyee, the whole is a mass of hills and jungle, and almost entirely unculturable. The whole area is about 127,039 acres or about 195 square miles, and there are only twenty-eight villages with any cultivation or population. Of the whole area only about 40 per cent. is in any degree culturable, and the greater part of this is almost worthless. Of the culturable land about 10 per cent. is cultivated, and the population is 2,867 or about 15 persons to the square mile of the total, and 42 to the square mile of the area of the inhabited villages. The total receipts of the Zemindar as shown in the Zemindaree accounts amounted

THAKOORTOLA. General description, statistics, and assessment.

to 1,898 rupees. I assessed the villages at rupees 1,478, and calculated the future receipts from land revenue at 1,650 rupees. The Sewai revenue I put down at 600 rupees, for though the jungles alone ought to yield more than this sum, yet as the greater part of them are almost inaccessible owing to the absence of roads or water carriage, it will probably be many years before they can be properly worked. Taking the assets at 2,250 rupees yearly, I proposed 550 rupees as the revenue of the estate. It was fixed by the Settlement Commissioner at 500 rupees, 50 rupees being the amount assessed on the excess wastes.

312. This little estate consists of seven villages situated on both sides of the Great Eastern road, about sixty miles from Raepore. The whole area is only 7,233 acres or about eleven square miles. Of the total area nearly 82 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 86 per cent. is cultivated, and of the cultivation about 76 per cent. is first and second class soil. The population stated was 2,719 or about 247 to the square mile. The revenue I assessed on the villages was 1,821 rupees, and I estimated the income of the Zemindar after assessment at rupees 2,400. He had never paid any revenue for the estate, which was held as a maintenance grant from the Mahratta Government, which had confiscated the estate of Don-gurgurh, formerly held by his family; and proposals were submitted to Government for the continuance of the grant in perpetuity, but no answer had been received when the report was written.

313. This little estate is a long and narrow tract lying to the west of the Sunjaree Pergunnah, between it and the Seonath river. The number of villages is 32, and the area about 38,499 acres, or about 60 square miles. Of this area about 88 per cent. is culturable, and of the culturable soil about 42½ per cent. is cultivated. Of the cultivation 49 per cent. is first and second class soil. The population stated is 7,809 or about 130 to the square mile. In the centre and south of the Zemindaree there is a good deal of hilly and rocky ground covered with low scrub jungle of but little value. The receipts, as shown in the Zemindaree papers, are 2,901 rupees a year, and in all did not amount to more than 3,150 rupees. I assessed the villages of the Zemindaree at 3,719 rupees, and calculated that the actual income of the Zemindar would be about 5,000 rupees with proper management. This the estate had not hitherto had, as the Zemindar is a minor and wretchedly poor; the estate has been managed by his grandmother, who was quite unfit for the trust, I did not therefore consider that the Zemindar could pay a much higher revenue than at present, and proposed to assess the Zemindaree at rupees 1,370 or only 10 rupees in excess of the 1,360 rupees hitherto paid, and these proposals were sanctioned by the Settlement Commissioner.

314. This large estate lies between the Balod and Sunjaree Pergunnahs, and with the exception of eighteen villages to the north, and those situated in the

LOHARA.

General description,
and statistics.

valleys separating the hills of the estate, is almost all a mass of hills and jungle. The jungle is valuable as containing a good deal of promising young teak, and the hills yield iron which is worked to a considerable extent. The number of villages is 103, and the total area is about 167,307 acres or about 261 square miles, but of this only about 29 per cent. is culturable. Of the culturable area nearly 37½ per cent. is cultivated, and there is little of the waste which it will be worth while to bring under the plough. The population stated is 17,758 or about 68 to the square mile.

315. The Lohara Zemindar is a Raj Gond of simple habits, and has exerted himself to improve his estate, and he has always been exceedingly lenient to his ryots; consequently though the value of the property

Assessment.

had increased very largely within the last few years, yet the Zemindar's income had not increased in the same proportion, and his total receipts as shown in his accounts were only 3,767 rupees, at the very low rate of 2 annas 1 pie per acre of cultivation. The assessment imposed by me on the villages of the Zemindaree was 7,779 rupees, and I calculated the total income of the Zemindar at about 8,500 rupees, and proposed 2,000 rupees as the revenue of the estate in lieu of 572 rupees hitherto paid. This however was considered by the Settlement Commissioner to be too large and sudden an enhancement, and he reduced the Tukolee to rupees 1,500.

316. This estate lies to the east of the District, and is separated from the Rajim Pergunnah by the Surungee nullah, along the Rajim boundary, and the Suka nullah which runs through the centre of the

FINGESHUR.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

estate. There are some good villages, but nearly two-thirds of the Zemindaree is covered with shrub jungle of little value and rocky hills. The total area is about 106,505 acres or about 168 square miles; and of this, 72,148 acres are culturable. Of the culturable soil 33.91 per cent. is cultivated. The population stated is 11,296 or about 66 to the square mile. The receipts of the Zemindar as shown in his accounts were rupees 2,332, and the revenue assessed by me on his villages was 5,899 rupees, at the rate of 3 annas 8 pie per acre of cultivation. His income after assessment was estimated at 5,999 rupees, and would probably be more if it were not for the bad management of the Zemindar, who has frittered away a large portion of his resources in mokassa grants, as he is extravagant and debauched in his habits. Considering the antiquity of the tenure and the ignorance and a pathetic character of the Zemindar I did not consider that he could pay a larger revenue than 500 rupees, which I proposed as the Tukolee of the estate.

317. These estates occupy a very wild tract lying to the extreme east of the District along the Sumbulpore boundary. The whole area of the tract is about 366,618 square miles, and the tract is all more or less hilly, and almost the whole is covered with jungle. The inhabitants are the wildest of Gonds, Bhoomes, Binjwars and Kowurs, and the cultivation is little more than nominal, as the percentage of cultivated to culturable soil shows: this stood as follows in each of the estates :—

General description, statistics, and assessment.

Nurra	..	19·04
Soormar	..	12·36
Kowrea	..	5·36
Deoree	..	4·50

Of the Zemindars, the Nurra Chief is a Kowur, those of Kowrea and Soormar, Gonds, and the female Chieftain of Deoree is a Binjwar by caste. They are not in any degree more civilized than the rest of the population, and are miserably poor. The land revenue of their estates is small and precarious, though somewhat more certain in Soormar and Nurra than in Kowrea and Deoree. In the two latter estates the chief dependence of the Zemindars is on the proceeds of their jungles, which would be exceedingly valuable if held by men capable of working them, as they yield large quantities of sál timber, some teak, and very fine thatching grass, but which only yield the Zemindars the small sums of 400 rupees yearly in Kowrea and 350 in Deoree. The income of each of the Chiefs was estimated at the following amounts, the estimate being chiefly based on their own accounts :—

	Rs.
Nurra ..	304
Soormar ...	1,409
Kowrea ...	929
Deoree ...	415

As the estates required capital for their improvement it was clear that the Zemindars could not pay a much larger revenue than at present. I consequently proposed to assess the revenue at about the same sums hitherto paid, as is shown below :—

	Former revenue.	Proposed assessment.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs.
Nurra	64 1 8	60
Soormar.. ..	213 10 10	220
Kowrea	106 13 5	110
Deoree	10 4 1	20

318. This is a very wild tract, lying to the extreme south-east of the District. It is about 75 miles long, and has an average breadth of about 18 miles, and its area is about 1,350 square miles. Though there is a considerable area of fertile soil in the Zemindaree, yet it is so remote and the climate

KHURRIAR.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

so unhealthy as to give but few inducements to settlers, and the absence of roads renders the export of the jungle produce, which forms the principal value of the property, difficult. As it was not measured, no details could be given as to the area of culturable soil or of the cultivation. The number of villages was 350, but the annual income of the Zemindar as shown in his accounts was 7,894 rupees. The receipts from the jungle were only given as 316 rupees, whereas in the neighbouring and inferior estate of Bendra Nowagurh the income from this source was rupees 3,314; and this, at least, I assumed that the Zemindar might realise, making his whole income up to rupees 9,144. The Tukolee he had hitherto paid was rupees 1,600, and this was increased to rupees 2,000.

319. This Zemindaree lies between Khurriar and the Sehawa

BINDRA NOWA-GURH.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

Pergunnah in the south-east of the District, and with the exception Deobog Talooqua to the extreme south, which is fairly cultivated, and some ten or fifteen villages in the valley of the Pairi, and to the extreme north on the borders of the Fingeshur Zemindaree, the whole area of the estate is a mass of forest with a few clearings here and there, inhabited by the wild tribes of the jungle. The timber is magnificent, and an account of the forests of the estates has been given in a previous portion of this report. The length of the Zemindaree is about 68 miles, and its mean breadth about 21, the total area being about 1,450 square miles. Except here and there the soil is generally poor, and will never be worth much except as forest land. The total income derived by the Zemindar from the 330 villages of the estate, as shown in the Zemindaree accounts, was rupees 3,328, and the jungle revenue was 1,250 rupees. As the jungles were inferior to those of Khurriar, I considered that the revenue should certainly not be less than 2,000 rupees, making the total receipts 5,328 rupees, and upon this calculation his Tukolee was fixed at rupees 500, being an increase of 108 rupees on that hitherto paid.

320. This estate, which is the smallest of all the Feudatories, contains three Talooquas; the largest, that of

IV.—FEUDATORIES.

KONDKA *alias* CHOOEEKUDAN.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

Chooeekudan, lies to the south of the Gundye Zemindaree, and to the north of the Khyragurh Pergunnah of Khyragurh, and the Pandadah Pergunnah of Nandgaon. The Bhirora and Bahra Talooquas are both small tracts lying to the north of Gundye and Purporee Zemindarees. The whole tract, with the exception of a small area of jungle to the west, is extraordina-

rily fertile, and the villages very populous, and is well watered by numerous nullahs and by the Peepurea, Nerbudda and Soorie rivers. It contains 105 villages. The area could not be accurately ascertained, as there was no map of the estate in existence, but calculating the area as equal to that of the same number of similar villages in Khalsa it is about 170 square miles. The population stated is 33,484 or about 199 to the square mile of estimated area. The income of the Zemindar, including the value of grain payments, was stated in the accounts furnished by himself to be rupees 35,467, and the total Tukolee paid by him was raised from rupees 7,684 to rupees 11,000.

321. This estate contains five Pergunnahs; namely, Khyragurh, Luchna, Dongurgurh, Kholwa, and Khummrea.

KHYRAGURH.

General description.

The three first lie to the south of Choocekudan, and form a compact mass deeply indented on the western side of the Pandadah Pergunnah of Nandgaon. Of the other two Talooquas, Kholwa is a small hilly tract lying between Gundy and Lohara Sahaspore, and Khummrea is a very fertile Pergunnah lying to the extreme north of the District on the borders of Belaspore between Lohara Sahaspore and the Khalsa Pergunnah of Nowagurh. The whole of the Luchna Pergunnah, which is a very small tract, lies among the Salehtekree hills, and there is a good deal of jungle in the western parts of Dongurgurh; but with the exception of these tracts, the Kholwa Talooqua, and a small area on the borders of the Droog and Dhumda Pergunnahs, where there are some rolling uplands intersected by rich valleys, the whole of the Zemindaree lands are exceedingly fertile, and the soil for the most part black, and of the richest quality.

322. The Zemindaree contains 566 villages, and the total area, calculated in the same manner as that of Choocekudan, is about 950 square miles. The population stated was only 109,860, being only about

Statistics and assessment.

113 per square mile of estimated area; but these returns are I believe untrustworthy, as the account papers of the Zemindaree were very defective. The total income of the Zemindar, including the value of grain payments was, as stated in the Zemindaree accounts, 1,32,985 rupees; but several of the Pergunnahs were assessed on progressive jumas, and taking these and the amount of the increase on the Pathree Talooqua of Dongurgurh and on the Khummrea Pergunnah, of which the three years Settlements were about to expire, I calculated that the revenue would in 1869 amount to rupees 1,50,762; making with the receipts from jungle dues, which I estimated at 2,666 rupees, 1,53,428 rupees as the income of the Zemindar. The revenue assessed on the estate was 47,000 rupees, that formerly paid being rupees 34,881.

323. This estate, like that of Khyragurh, is separated into several divisions widely apart from one another. It

NANDGAON.

General description.

contains four Pergunnahs, Nandgaon, Dongurgurh, Pandadah and Mohgaon. Of these, Pandadah and Dongurgurh, which form nearly two-thirds of the whole estate, lie together to the south of the Khyragurh and Dongurgurh Pergunnahs of Khyragurh, extending from the borders of the Droog Pergunnah to the boundary of the Bhundara District, a distance of about 55 miles. The Pandadah Pergunnah lies to the north of the Khyragurh section of Dongurgurh, and the Mohgaon Pergunnah lies to the north of Dhumda and to the south of the Khummrea Pergunnah of Khyragurh. The estate is well managed, and in a most flourishing condition; the soil is generally remarkably fine, though not quite so good as that of Khyragurh; and there is little or no jungle in the estate except to the west of Dongurgurh and in the hilly portion of Pandadah.

324. The area of the estate is perhaps a little less than that of Khyragurh, and may be about 900 square miles.

Statistics and assessment.

The number of villages is 565, and the population, as stated in the census returns, which are apparently much more accurate than those of Khyragurh, is 132,561. The income of the Zemindar, as taken from his accounts, was found to be 1,03,373 rupees, against 65,000 rupees, the revenue ascertained by Captain Elliot ten years before; and the rate of increase had not stopped, as was shown by the large revenue collected in Khyragurh. As the Settlement of the Mohgaon Pergunnah expires in the year 1869, and that of the other Pergunnahs three years after, a considerable increase in the revenue was to be expected; and judging from the experience of past Settlements and the rapid rise of rents over the country, it appeared to me that the revenue in the course of a very few years after the assessments, could not fail to reach 1,40,000 rupees, including 1,000 rupees from the jungles, a less amount than that of Khyragurh. The Tukolee hitherto paid was rupees 34,714, and that assessed under the orders of the Government of India was rupees 46,000, including 333 rupees for the jungle revenue liable to revision after three years. In the case of this, and in the other Feudatory States, it was stipulated that a breach of Abkaree regulations would entail a further penal assessment fixed at 5,000 rupees in the case of Nandgaon and Khyragurh.

325. This estate occupies a very wild tract to the south of the Dhumturry Pergunnah. The area is about

KAKEIR.

General description, statistics, and assessment.

1,000 square miles, and the number of villages is 444. The income of the Zemindar, as shown in the accounts furnished by him was 9,960 rupees, and he had hitherto paid no Tukolee, that of 500 rupees formerly paid by him having been remitted by Major Agnew under the orders of Sir R. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpore in 1823, when the right to levy Sayer duties was taken from the Zemindar. The Government of India considered that the terms of the remission rendered the levy of a re-

venue inexpedient, and accordingly he has been permitted to continue to hold his estate free of tribute for the future.

V.—GENERAL RESULTS OF SETTLEMENT AND ITS COST.

Total increase of revenue consequent on the Settlement.

326. The following table shows the total revenue assessed at the new Settlement as compared with that formerly paid :—

	Revenue formerly paid.			Revenue of assessment.			Increase.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Khalsa	3,17,819	0	0	5,31,469	0	0	2,13,650	0	0
Zemindarees including Khurear and Bindra- Nowagurh	14,860	0	0	23,249	0	0	8,389	0	0
Feudatories	77,280	0	0	1,04,000	0	0	27,720	0	0
Total	4,09,959	0	0	6,58,708	0	0	2,49,759	0	0

Besides this increase there should be added the amount of the Forest revenue, which could not be collected before the excess wastes had been demarcated by the Settlement Department. The total annual increase will be about rupees 2,68,590.

327. The Settlement had up to the end of February 1869 cost rupees 3,10,923, and as the whole of the misls will not be copied out and lodged in the District Office before the end of June, it will cost altogether about rupees 3,23,000, an amount which has been already more than realised by the increased collections made during the past four years.

328. After the status and payments of the malgoozars had been determined by the proprietary right enquiries and the assessment of their villages, the next questions that had to be settled were those relating to the rights of ryots and subordinate occupiers of land. Though none of these had any right before the Settlement, yet they were, as has been shown in previous portions of this report, in this respect no worse off than the village proprietors, while many of them had equal claims to consideration with the malgoozars, from length of residence and the expenditure of money and labour in the improvement of their holdings.

VI.—OPERATIONS SUBSEQUENT TO SETTLEMENT.

Determination of status of subordinate occupiers of land.

Three classes of such occupiers entitled to rights.

329. Of subordinate occupiers of land who were entitled to rights there were found to be three classes :—

I.—Ryots with absolute rights of occupancy at fixed rates.

II.—Maliq Muqboozas.

III.—Ryots with rights of occupancy under Section 6 of Act. X. of 1859.

330. In each Pergunnah immediately after the announcement of the Settlement the Superintendent commenced enquiries as to the rights of these subordinate holders. At first, owing to the causes explained in para. 240 of this report, the numbers found to be entitled to rights were very small; but, on the receipt of the orders contained in the letter of the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, No. 131, dated 24th April 1868, declaring that the tenure of ryots who would otherwise have had rights of occupancy should not be affected by their having changed their fields according to the custom of the District, fresh enquiries were instituted.

331. For the purpose of conducting these enquiries, a special staff under the superintendence of a trustworthy Sudder Moonserim was appointed, and the rights of each ryot in every village in the District were again enquired into. Lists were prepared for each village, giving the names of the ryots, the period of their residence, and other requisite particulars, and every one of these lists was examined by me personally and fresh enquiries were made in all villages where it seemed to me that the first enquiry was defective.

332. At the close of the rainy season the District was divided into three Divisions, one of which I took myself; and of the other two, one was assigned to the Assistant Settlement Officer and one to the Superintendent, and enquiries were made as to the rights of each ryot in the presence of the malgoozar and all the inhabitants of each village, disputes adjusted, and the lists finally corrected. To each ryot who was found to be entitled to absolute rights of occupancy at fixed rates under Circulars G. and I, Appendices Nos. X. and XII. to the Settlement Code, a lithographed Pottah was given, showing the area he was entitled to hold, the rent he was to pay during the term of Settlement, and the conditions inserted in the Administration papers of the village specifying the rights to which he was entitled.

333. These conditions, as laid down in the draft clause for insertion in the Administration papers annexed to your Circular No. 14 of 1868, secured to each ryot a fixity of rent for the term of the present and all future Settlements, subject to revision at each recurring Settlement,—with rights of inheritance, mortgage,

sub-letting, and improvement of their holdings without asking the consent of the malgoozar or paying a higher rent,—the right of sale of their rights, subject to the condition that at the time of sale one year's rent should be paid to the malgoozar, and that the malgoozar should have the right of pre-emption at a fixed rate, calculated at five years' rent of the holding, together with the full value of all improvement made by the ryots, such purchase to be completed within one month after the holding has been offered for sale. For Chuteesgurh a special condition was inserted, that any subsequent change of fields made with the consent of the malgoozar, each ryot with absolute rights of occupancy should be entitled to receive a similar quantity of similar soil to that which he had formerly held, and that such change of fields should in no way invalidate his rights.

334. The result of these enquiries has been that out of the total number of 77,314 ryots in the District, 21,685 or a little more than 28 per cent., have been declared to have absolute rights of occupancy, and 4,432 ryots have conditional rights under Section 6 of Act X. of 1859, so that out of the cultivators nearly 34 per cent. have a higher status than that of mere tenants-at-will.

335. In assessing the rents of these ryots, as a general rule I fixed the rent at from 25 to 50 per cent. in excess of the revenue rate assessed on their holdings; at the lower rates, I assessed ryots who had held land in their villages for two or more generations when the aggregate period of their holding exceeded 50 years,—ryots who had expended capital in the improvement of their lands,—those who were relations of the present or former malgoozars and who held land on this account at favourable rates,—and those who had held lands since 1840 and before the connexion of the present malgoozar with the village or who had lived and held land continuously since that time, while the tenure of the malgoozar had been occasional and interrupted. All other ryots I assessed at the higher rates. In many cases, however, I found that the malgoozars at the adjustment of rents had treated these ryots leniently and had not taxed their rents even to the amount above specified, and in almost all such cases the rents fixed at the time of the first adjustment of rents were retained with the consent of both parties.

336. Of Maliq Muqboozas under Clause 14, Selection II. of the Settlement Code only 90 have been recorded in 15 villages in the south of the District, where the custom of dividing fields has not prevailed to the same extent as in other parts, while the 1,796 ryots in other parts of the District who had changed their fields, but in other respects had rights under the Clause, were declared ryots with absolute rights of occupancy at fixed rates.

337. The other Maliq Muqboozas recorded in the Settlement papers were chiefly those who had planted groves of trees, and the holders of plots of reserved Maafee land, as well as some few who had held as sub-lessees for a long period, and had improved the village, but had not held for a sufficient time to entitle them to the grant of such proprietary rights.

338. The rights of the Kotwars or village police have all been carefully enquired into, and recorded in the village Administration papers; and special record in each case has been made as to whether the incumbent is entitled to hereditary rights or not.

339. A great deal of correspondence has taken place relative to the appointment of Putwarees. As they had only been introduced into the District since the country came under British rule, it was a question whether it was advisable to continue an institution of such recent date; but, on the other hand, the ignorance and apathy of the Chuteesgurhee malgoozars with regard to everything which does not appear immediately to affect their interests, rendered it hopeless to expect that they could ever be induced to keep up the Settlement records or prepare the statistics required from them without the help of a special agency, and it was therefore finally determined to retain the former staff of Putwarees, and to increase it to such an extent as the resources of the District would permit and as was required for the efficient performance of the work.

340. Accordingly the number of Putwarees was increased from 79 to 166, and the District divided into a number of hulkas equal to that of the Putwarees. The number of villages in each hulka varied from 10 to 30, according to the area and population, and in the jungle tracts of Lawun, Khullaree, Sehawa, Dhunturry and Balod, the hulkas were even of a larger extent than that above stated, the whole Pergunnah of Sehawa constituting only one hulka. And a Putwaree has been appointed to each hulka, and a rate of 4 per cent. to be levied on the malgoozars for their maintenance.

341. In appointing the Putwarees I have endeavoured as far as possible to appoint only men who are residents in the District; and as there were few candidates of this description who had any acquaintance with Revenue and Settlement work, I took measures at the beginning of July 1863, immediately after the receipt of the sanction for the appointment of Putwarees for instructing candidates, and an experienced Moonserim was set apart for the duty.

342. Before any appointment was sanctioned, each candidate was required to measure and extract the areas of a plot of from two to three hundred acres, and upon his passing this test he was appointed provisionally to work in the Khewut, and to learn the remainder of his duties. By this means the whole of the newly appointed staff have acquired a certain knowledge of their duties, and even though it be not so perfect in all respects as that of those who have worked through the whole Settlement, yet it appears to me to be more advisable to appoint candidates of good character connected with the District than to introduce strangers who would have more technical knowledge, but who would not get on so well with the people.

343. From the time the first Settlement establishment was appointed to the District in October 1862 up to January 1864, Major Dennys and Captain Fenton the Deputy Commissioners of the District had charge of the Settlement. In January 1864 Lieutenant Ducat of the Bombay Staff Corps was appointed Officiating Settlement Officer, and he held charge till my arrival in December 1864 since which time I have held the appointment of Settlement Officer without intermission.

VIII—OFFICERS WHO
HAVE HELD
CHARGE OF THE
SETTLEMENT, AND
REMARKS ON
SUBORDINATES.

Settlement officers employed.

344. After my arrival Lieutenant Ducat served for some months as Assistant Settlement Officer, but was obliged to go to Europe on sick leave in May 1865. He was a most excellent Judicial officer and rendered me very great assistance in the decision of proprietary right cases, and it was to the admirable organization introduced by him into the Settlement before my arrival that much of the subsequent success is due.

Mr. Sinclair has served as Assistant Settlement Officer from the very first, and has had charge of the measurement establishment during the whole time. He is a very good executive officer, energetic, and zealous; and it is to his exertions that the rapid completion of the measurement is due. His Judicial work, though laboriously done, is not however so good as his executive.

The Superintendent's office has been filled as follows; by Luchmun Sing from August 1864 to September 1865; by Ali Hosain from September 1865 to May 1867; and by Jankeedass from May 1867 to the present time.

Luchmun Sing was dismissed, as incompetent; and Ali Hosain resigned. The latter was energetic and hardworking, but somewhat inaccurate, and a great deal of his work has not been found to stand scrutiny. Jankeedass, who has served as Sudder Moonserim from the

commencement of the Settlement, has now been Superintendent for two years, and has worked exceedingly well. He is thoroughly acquainted with all the details of Settlement work, and is accurate and painstaking. He has got through a very large amount of work, which I believe to be for the most, thoroughly good and deserving of future recognition.

345. In conclusion I would merely say that I hope this first attempt to record the rights of the inhabitants of the Raepore District may be in some degree successful. I cannot flatter myself that the work is faultless, as in such a large extent of country some omissions and errors must have been made; but I hope that such as these are, will be found to be trivial, and that nothing essential will be found to have been left undone or neglected.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. F. K. HEWITT,

Settlement Officer.

RAEPORE,

The 1st March 1869.