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Read—

Report on the Revenue Administration for the year 1873-74, furnished by Mr. W. MACKWORTH YOUNG, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, and received 21st October 1874.

REMARKS.—The report was received in a printed form on the 21st October, upwards of two months earlier than its predecessor, and, having regard to the elaborateness of the statistical returns and the variety of the subjects treated of, has been submitted with creditable promptitude.

2. The agricultural prosperity which marked the year 1872-73 continued during 1873-74. The rain-fall, save in the Dehli and Hissár Divisions, was generally seasonable and sufficient. Both spring and autumn crops were above the average, and that under the sickle at the close of the year 1873-74 was the largest known for years; and, notwithstanding the abolition of the Income Tax, the Imperial Revenues (exclusive of Canal income, which was credited to a separate account) increased from Rs. 3,41,27,418 to Rs. 3,45,89,418.

3. With regard to those branches of the revenue under the special control of the Financial Commissioner, the demand on account of *Land Revenue proper* rose from Rs. 1,88,47,364 to Rs. 1,90,10,843, an increase of Rs. 1,63,479, of which amount Rs. 52,795 were on account of lapses of revenue assignments and Rs. 96,173 on account of revision of assessments.

The collections amounted to Rs. 1,88,20,576, or 99 per cent. of the demand, and of the balance all but Rs. 88,167 was nominal; and of the latter sum Rs. 47,497 are classed as recoverable.

4. In reference to balances a narrative is given (in paragraph 8 of the report) of the fiscal history of the Sirsa district for the past six years, from which it appears that, owing to successive seasons of drought between 1868-69 and 1871-72, balances to the amount of Rs. 1,51,788 occurred, of which the sum of Rs. 21,363 was remitted and the rest suspended. At the present time, in consequence of the favorable harvests of 1872-73 and 1873-74 all arrears demanded have been paid up, save Rs. 12,405. The statement is instructive, as showing the ease with which deferred demands of bad years are made good in years of plenty, and the inexpediency of pressing revenue collections in unirrigated tracts in unfavorable seasons: much must depend in tracts so situated upon judicious revenue management by district officers.

5. The *Fluctuating Land Revenue* decreased from Rs. 5,87,895 to Rs. 3,94,909, but of the total decrease of Rs. 1,92,986 the sum of Rs. 44,967 is nominal, Rs. 29,514 are due to remissions of increased assessments in the Gujranwálah district, and Rs. 59,571 to decrease in water-advantage revenue, resulting, however—not from diminished demand for water in consequence of the favorable season, but—simply from a matter of account credits due to 1873-74 having been taken to 1872-73.

6. The *Miscellaneous Land Revenue* shows an increase from Rs. 6,10,305 to Rs. 6,39,200, owing to increased receipts from grazing dues and other items. Part of the increase in grazing dues was in consequence of a revision of the system under which these dues are levied from Powindah traders on account of the camels which compose their kafilas. The revision, besides resulting in increased receipts amounting to Rs. 6,219, is said to be most acceptable to the Powindahs, and the arrangement reflects credit on Lieutenant-Colonel Munro, the Commissioner, who suggested it, and on Captain Macaulay, who carried it into effect.

7. The Revenue was realized with ease. The number of collection warrants issued slightly increased, but this was owing mainly to the operation of the new rules under the Land Revenue Act, which permit of land revenue due to Government assignees being collected by ordinary revenue process and the service of warrants upon individual defaulters at the instance of lambardárs; and in the Gujrat district the increase was occasioned by discontinuance of a system of quartering peons on villages in default, which has been rightly abandoned in favor

of that authorized by law. The number of cases in which property was distrained decreased from 48 to 19, and there was not a single case of sale of lands, or sequestration of profits, or transfer of lands from insolvent to solvent sharers; but His Honor observes that in 48 cases recourse was had to personal detention of defaulters. The total number of cases was not large, and confined chiefly to a single district under settlement, and the average term of detention was 5 days only; still the slightest tendency to increase in this form of coercive process requires to be strictly watched.

8. *Excise*.—Excise shows a decrease from Rs. 4,22,613 to Rs. 4,18,569, the result partly of the defective wording of a contract for retail vend at Lahore, and partly of inefficient supervision at Dehli; but the receipts from still-head duty show a slight advance, the result not of increased consumption, but of increased care in taxing spirits according to their strength. The arrangement sanctioned in last year's Review by which licenses for the sale of spirits manufactured in the European method are put up to auction appears to have been successful, and should be continued. The explanation contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the report in reference to the small amount of consumption of spirits in the Punjab as compared with other provinces appears to His Honor to be satisfactory. From the remarks contained in paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to notice that close attention is being paid to the strict realization of still-head duty; he concurs in the opinion that no rule prohibiting the dilution of spirits by vendors should be prescribed. The experimental adoption of the Bengal system of excise in the Amritsar division, referred to in paragraph 31 of the report, has been discontinued under recent orders. The increase in the receipts from *Intoxicating Drugs and Opium* from Rs. 3,99,140 to Rs. 3,99,517 is not such as to indicate that the high rate of duty charged on spirits is encouraging the use of more noxious stimulants.

9. *Local Rates Cess*.—No difficulty was experienced in the collection of this cess, and it is clear from enquiries which have been made recently from every district in the Province that any dissatisfaction which may have existed in reference to its levy in the first instance has now subsided, and that the people are beginning to appreciate the direct benefits resulting from its imposition.

10. The state of the *Salt and Customs Revenue* was very satisfactory, showing an increase from Rs. 90,67,827 to Rs. 96,67,226, or 6½ per cent.; while expenditure increased by 2 per cent. only. His Honor is glad to note that, in accordance with his desire, the inconvenience caused to traders conveying sugar across the Indus customs line owing to delay in procuring passes from the Multán Collectorate has been obviated by opening new weighing posts. He concurs with the Financial Commissioner in the opinion that the administration of this branch of the revenue has been economical and effective.

11. *Canals*.—The demand for canal water rate decreased from Rs. 15,58,633 to Rs. 14,99,569, but the decrease occurred on the Western Jamna Canal alone, and is attributed to an idea prevailing in the Dehli district that lands unirrigated at the time of settlement would be recorded as unirrigated, and liable to reduced rates of assessment. The loss resulting from this erroneous impression is to be regretted; but such abstention from irrigation at time of settlement has occurred elsewhere, and, as measures were promptly taken to remove the impression, the diminished irrigation need not be regarded as otherwise than temporary.

The improving of the alignment of the Western Jamna Canal in view to prevent recurrence of the disastrous inundations referred to in paragraph 54 has been the subject of careful consideration, and sanction has been given to the construction of the necessary works. The Lieutenant-Governor observes with pleasure that the measures decided upon at Derah Gházi Khán in January last for regulating the administration of canals in that district have given satisfaction.

12. *Stamps*.—Notwithstanding a reduction in the sale of process fees, the total gross receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 23,46,468, the largest figure ever reached, the result, His Honor observes, of increased sale of non-judicial stamps—a favorable sign.

13. It is noticed by His Honor with much satisfaction that, in consequence of the instructions issued by this Government authorizing Deputy Commissioners to pay sums awarded in compensation for *land taken up for public purposes* on their own authority and irrespective of budget provision, the settlement of compensation cases has been far more prompt than heretofore. The Lieutenant-Governor attaches the greatest importance to the speedy adjustment of such claims.

14. Paragraphs 77 to 82 of the report give the returns of *Land Revenue assignments* in this Province. From these it appears that in the Punjab the revenues of 7,538 square miles, amounting to about one-sixth of the total land revenue of the Province, are alienated to 131,066 individuals or institutions, and that more than half of the amount is assigned in perpetuity. His Honor draws attention to these figures, not as in any way disapproving the policy which dictated these liberal assignments, but that an idea may be formed of the extent and importance of the classes to which they have been made. The welfare of these classes depends in no small degree upon the adequacy of land revenue assessments, and any measures involving undue reduction of the Government share of the profits of cultivation affect not only the income of the State, but of 1 out of every 145 persons in the Punjab, or, roughly speaking, 1 out of every 30 families—and these the most influential—in the Province.

15. The large decrease in the amount of *Takkávi Advances* since the introduction of the rules under the Land Improvement Act (XXVI. of 1871) is at first sight disappointing, seeing that the object of the rules was to facilitate, and not to impede, the grant of loans. The Financial Commissioner is disposed to attribute the decrease to (1) the novelty of system, (2) the seasonable rainfall, and consequent prosperity. His Honor hopes that this may prove to be a true explanation, but the working of the rules must be carefully observed, and if, as is asserted by some district officers, the demand for interest is found in practice to deter applicants from loans, and thus to stay the progress of agricultural improvement, the amendment of the rules in this particular will be taken into consideration. His Honor is glad, however, to notice that in the newly-settled frontier districts of Pesháwar and Hazára advances continue to be taken more freely than before.

16. The report on the *Punjab Treasuries*, His Honor is glad to perceive, is much more favorable than that of last year; but there were four cases of defalcation of stamps, of which one at least was due to lax treasury management.

17. The information regarding the progress of *Paper Currency* is imperfect, owing to the non-receipt of returns hitherto furnished by the Accountant-General. This is to be regretted. Should the returns not be obtainable in future, His Honor will be glad if the Financial Commissioner will, as proposed, prescribe a return to be furnished by district officers for the purposes of his report. Such information as is afforded appears to indicate that currency notes are held in increasing favor, but chiefly for the purposes of remittance. The attention of the Government of India will be called to the remarks of the Accountant-General on the subject of remitting new silver coin to the Punjab.

18. The amount of *Revenue Business* disposed of during the year was in excess of the year preceding, but nevertheless the pending file decreased from 7,003 cases to 6,907. Looking at the large amount of work in the Ambálah, Siálkot, Ferozpur and Ráwalpindi districts, and its increase during the year, the state of the pending file in those districts was very creditable. The average duration of appeals in the Amritsar and Pesháwar Divisional courts was high, but the pending file has been reduced. The great increase in the number of cases for disposal in the court of the Financial Commissioner is noticed.

19. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs with the Financial Commissioner in considering that the *proper instruction and training of patwáris* is a matter of extreme importance but until lately much neglected; he has therefore fully approved of and sanctioned the proposal for the establishment of patwáris' schools in rotation in every district in the Province, and anticipates much practical benefit from the measure.

20. The financial management of estates under the Court of Wards, as set forth in paragraphs 111 to 113 of the report, was successful. The conduct of the Ambálah Court of Wards School by Mr. Robinson, the Superintendent, was in some respects satisfactory, but the educational progress of the wards was not favorably reported on by the Inspector of the Circle; the management and supervision of the estates of Rája Jai Chand and Rai Dhalip Singh of Kúlu reflect credit on Lieutenant-Colonel Paske, the Deputy Commissioner of Kángra.

21. The working of the *Punjab Tenancy Act* has been separately reviewed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and the subject need not therefore be considered at length in this place. His Honor concurs generally in the opinion of the Financial Commissioner that the Act has worked well. It has resulted in no wide-spread contention between proprietor and tenant. On the contrary, the litigation which has taken place under its provisions is very limited, and, though the working of the Act has brought to light some minor defects, its main provisions appear to require no amendment.

22. The progress in *Settlement Operations* appears to have been generally good, save in the districts of Karnál and Dehli, where, however, there were special difficulties to be overcome. His Honor is glad to endorse the high commendation passed by the Financial Commissioner upon the manner in which Mr. Fryer has conducted to a satisfactory conclusion the important settlement operations in the district of Derah Gházi Khan, and in which Captain Hastings and Captain Wace have performed the no less difficult task of effecting a satisfactory settlement in Pesháwar and Hazára. The work achieved by these officers not only in matters of assessment, but in adjusting long-standing land disputes, in recording accurately the status and liabilities of all connected with the soil, and generally in reducing to order the chaos of undefined rights and interests heretofore prevailing in those unsettled tracts is a great one, and the result of their labours has already become apparent in rapid increase of cultivation and enhanced expenditure on agricultural improvements.

23. The *Statistics* given in Part IV. of the Report afford remarkable evidence of the prosperity of the Province, and of increased agricultural and industrial activity. It appears that since the year 1868-69, the increase in cultivation amounts to 3,824 square miles, and that of this increased area 634,444 acres, or nearly 1,000 square miles, are irrigated and secured from drought, and that, though the gross assessment has increased from Rs. 2,17,09,288 to Rs. 2,20,88,201, the incidence of assessment per cultivated acre has, by reason of extended cultivation, decreased from Re. 1-1-3 to Re. 0-15-7, or by about 10 per cent. Again, according to the returns given in paragraph 153, there appears to have been a most satisfactory development of industry in the last 5 years. The total number of manufactures, large and small, increased during the same period from 371,978 to 483,216, and the estimated value of the out-turn from Rs. 3,77,33,675 to Rs. 5,30,64,223, and, although the figures can be regarded as no more than an approximation of the truth, there can be no doubt there has been a large and general increase of industrial activity.

24. On the other hand, if the statistics of stock given in paragraph 135 are reliable, it would appear that in respect to horned cattle the Punjab has not yet recovered from the terrible scarcity of 1868-69, 1870-71, when it is known that thousands of cattle perished.

The decrease in the number of horses, as shown in the returns, is, in His Honor's opinion, very doubtful, as also the alleged decrease in the number of carts. The increasing success of cattle fairs, noticed in paragraph 136, is satisfactory.

25. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that the return of proprietary tenures shows more accuracy than in the preceding years, and that attention has been paid to the remarks contained in the Review of the Revenue Report for 1872-73; but much remains to be accomplished before the statistical returns can be considered satisfactory, and District Officers must not relax their efforts to improve their accuracy year by year.

With regard to the large diminution of tenants-at-will in 1873-74 as compared with 1868-69, His Honor is disposed to doubt the conclusion of the Financial Commissioner that it must be attributed mainly to the increasing desire on the part of proprietors to retain their lands under their own cultivation. It appears to His Honor to be more probable that the tenants have gone into the labor market.

26. The important subject of *Transfers of Land*, which was referred to in paragraph 21 of the Review of last year's report, has been carefully considered by the Financial Commissioner, and His Honor is obliged to him for the detailed information contained in this report. The matter, having formed the subject of a separate proceeding, will not be treated at length in this review. It need only be observed that from the statistics here furnished it would appear that sale of land in execution of decree of court is almost unknown in the Punjab; that voluntary sales of land amount only, on an average, to about one acre per square mile, and mortgages to two per square mile of assessed area per annum; that only one proprietor out of 334 parts with his land in the year, and that the proportion of mortgages is only 1 to 133. His Honor therefore concurs with the Financial Commissioner that, so far as this Province is concerned, there is no case at present for exceptional legislative interference and for increasing the restrictions already placed upon the sale of land, as the extent to which land is being transferred does not amount to, nor indeed nearly equal, what might be reasonably expected in a time of prosperity and high credit, when land is yearly increasing in value, and has now reached the unprecedented amount of 28½ years' purchase of the Government assessment. But the subject will be carefully kept in view, and an endeavour will be made to obtain more complete returns.

27. Proceeding to the *Report of the Commissioners*, His Honor will be glad if the Financial Commissioner will consider the suggestion of the Commissioner of Hissár to take steps to encourage the improvement of the Baudh breed of bullocks, and, with reference to the remarks about the excellence of the breed of Bikanír sheep, arrange to purchase and distribute some rams of this breed. His attention is also called to paragraph 90 of the report of the Commissioner of Lahore regarding the value attached by the people of Lahore to Hissár bulls, and to paragraph 77 of the report of the Commissioner of Amritsar regarding the supply of Hissár bulls to the Siálkot district.

28. Extracts from paragraph 87 of Colonel McMahon's report on the subject of the rohira tree (*Tecoma undulata*) will be considered in the Forest Department; and an extract of paragraph 35 of the report of the Commissioner of Dehli on the subject of the slate and stone quarries of Gurgáon will be sent to the Department Public Works.

29. With reference to the remarks contained in the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Muzaffargarh regarding the necessity for the improvement of the inundation canal system in that district, His Honor is fully sensible of the importance and urgency of the matter, and is now anxiously awaiting a report from the Financial Commissioner as to the propriety of the Government assuming as early as practicable the control and management of these canals.

30. The remarks of the Commissioner of the Deraját Division on the subject of the Tomandárs of the Derah Gházi Khán district appear to His Honor to be judicious. He concurs with him in considering that, while these border Chiefs should be treated with the greatest liberality and consideration, care must be taken not to exalt them with too high notions of their own importance, and not to fallow our appreciation of Biloch chiefs to cause us to ignore the interests of Biloch tribesmen.

31. *Conclusion.*—As in the past year, so in regard to the year under report, His Honor has reason to be satisfied with the Revenue Administration. The officers, though frequently over-burdened with important judicial duties, have, as a rule, worked with energy and success. Revenue business was well in hand, and, considering how little time an officer can have at his disposal for doing anything beyond the discharge of his obligatory duties, the amount of attention paid to arboriculture, local improvements, and other matters not comprised in the

routine of office work was creditable. These satisfactory results are due in no small degree to the efficient supervision exercised by the Financial Commissioner. A glance at the headings of this report shows how varied and important are the subjects with which he deals. His labour and responsibility have been largely increased of late by the extension of Settlement operations, but he has proved himself fully equal to the task, and, so far as His Honor himself is concerned, the burden of superintendence has been greatly lightened by the entire confidence he reposes in Mr. Egerton's great experience, sound judgment, and moderation. The office of Financial Commissioner was held temporarily during the year by Mr. P. S. Melvill, now Judge of the Chief Court, who officiated for Mr. Egerton between January and April 1873. To this officer also His Honor is greatly indebted for the able manner in which he discharged the duties of the office during the period of his temporary incumbency. His minutes on the Peshāwar and Derah Ghāzi Khān settlements were of especial value. From January to March 1874 the office of Financial Commissioner was held by Mr. Gore Ouseley, to whom His Honor's acknowledgments are also due.

ORDER.—Ordered that the Report, with the above remarks, be printed and circulated as usual.

Also, that the remarks be published in the Supplement to the *Punjab Government Gazette* for general information.

By order of the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor,

T. H. THORNTON,

Secretary to Government, Punjab.

1110 1/2
No. ~~1110~~

FROM

W. M. YOUNG, ESQUIRE,

Offg. Secy. to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb.

TO

C. M. RIVAZ, ESQUIRE,

Officiating Secretary to Government Panjáb.

14th September
Dated Lahore, ~~the 16th August~~ 1874.

SIR,

I am desired by the Financial Commissioner to submit the Annual Revenue Report, 1873-74. Report on the Revenue Administration of the Province for the year 1873-74.

2. The office of Financial Commissioner was held by Mr. P. S. Melvill from the 1st to the 24th of April 1873, by Mr. R. E. Egerton from the 25th April 1873 to the 23rd January 1874, and by Mr. Gore Ouseley from the 29th January to the 31st March 1874.

3. The Statements No. V (Income Tax) and No. VIII (Stamps) are omitted from the Appendices to this Report. No income tax was levied during the year, and the supervision of the Stamp Revenue has been transferred to the Superintendent of Stamps (subject to the general control of the Financial Commissioner), whose report will be separately submitted.

4. The undermentioned Returns, which were last submitted in 1868-69, are again due this year, five years having elapsed :—

No. XXV.	(Imperial I. A. 1).	Area, cultivated and uncultivated.
„ XXVI.	(Do. I. D.).	Population.
„ XXVII.	(Do. I. E. 2).	Surveyed and assessed area.
„ XXVIII.	(Do. III. F).	Mines and Quarries.
„ XXX.	(Do. III. D. 2).	Stock.
„ XXXI A.	(Do. III. E. 2).	Labor.
„ XXXIII.	(Do. I. E. 3).	Tenures held direct from Government.
„ XXXIV.	(Do. I. E. 4).	Do. not held do.

Two new Statements are added :—

No. XLI.	Cattle Fairs.
„ XLII.	Enhancement of rent payable by tenants with rights of occupancy.

5. **General Summary.**—The total Revenues of the Provinces under the various heads appertaining to the Revenue Administration, as compared with the previous year, were as follows :—

No.	Detail.	1872-73.	1873-74.
		Rs.	Rs.
1	Land Revenue Proper	1,88,65,063	1,88,60,280
2	Tribute	2,80,465	2,80,465
3	Fluctuating and Miscellaneous	12,34,663	10,76,606
	Total Land Revenue	2,03,80,191	2,02,17,351
4	Excise (Spirits)	4,84,473	4,80,815
5	Do. (Opium and Drugs)	3,99,140	3,99,517
6	Income Tax	2,74,751	...
7	Local Rates Cess	13,85,109	13,97,902
8	Customs and Salt	90,67,827	96,67,224
9	Stamps	23,02,515	23,46,468
	Total	3,42,94,006	3,45,09,277

Hence, notwithstanding the abolition of the income tax, the Revenues of the year exceeded those of the previous year by Rs 2,15,271. The income from canal-owners' water-rate is not included, being separately credited in the Public Works Department.

PART I.—FISCAL.

6. **Land Revenue.**—The demand on account of Land Revenue proper rose from Rs. 1,88,47,364 in 1872-73 to Rs. 1,90,10,843 in 1873-74, the increase being Rs. 1,63,479. The alterations in the rent-roll were as follows:—

	Increase.	Decrease.	Net Increase or Decrease.
Lapse or grant of Revenue-free lands	63,396	10,601	+ 52,795
Revision of Assessments	1,20,652	24,479	+ 96,173
Alluvion or Diluvion	73,216	67,599	+ 5,617
Lands released or occupied by Government	4,600	1,909	+ 2,691
Assessment of wastes... ..	1,388	...	+ 1,388
Progressive Jamas	4,888	...	+ 4,888
Other Items	88	161	- 73
Total	2,68,228	1,04,749	+1,63,479

The increase is due principally to the excess of lapses of Revenue-free grants over the amount of new grants and to revision of assessments. The

grant of new Revenue-free tenures involved a charge to the State of little more than one-twelfth of the amount gained by lapses, as Rs. 5,500 of the amount shown as new grants represents merely a transfer of villages effected, in order to consolidate the jagir of Sardar Bhagwan Singh in the Gurdaspur District. The lapses occurred principally in the Ambalah, Jalandhar, Amritsar, and Lahore Divisions. During the year further lapses occurred to the extent of Rs. 80,366, principally in the same Division, which were not brought on to the rent-roll, and appear in Statement III as Fluctuating Revenue.

Of the increase due to revision of assessment, Rs. 30,418 was obtained from the revision of Settlement in the Mamdot Ilāqa and the Muktsar Tahsil of the Ferozpur District, and Rs. 80,024 from that of the Hazara District, against which must be set a decrease of Rs. 6,109 from the same cause. The increase of Rs. 9,464 due to the Revised Settlement in the Montgomery District is almost counterbalanced by a reduction of Rs. 8,891 in other villages.

The assessment of new alluvial lands slightly exceeded the losses by diluvion.

7. The collections on account of the current year amounted to Rs. 1,88,20,576, or 99 per cent. of the demand. Besides this Rs. 39,704 were collected on account of previous years, making a total of Rs. 1,88,60,280, or Rs. 4,783 less than last year.

8. The balances amounted to Rs. 1,90,267 as compared with Rs. 1,08,375 the previous year. Of this amount, however, Rs. 1,02,100 is nominal. Recoverable balances amount to Rs. 47,477, of which Rs. 26,545 is due to the Peshawar District, Rs. 5,622 to Derah Ismail Khan, and Rs. 8,610 to Sirsa. The Peshawar collections are said to have been retarded by delay in the preparation of the new rent-roll in the Settlement Department. The arrears in the Derah Ismail Khan consist of Rs. 2,642 due from certain villages in the Tank Ilāqa, where an unequal distribution of the water under the management of the Nawab has resulted in a partial failure of crops. The remaining, Rs. 2,980, consists of balances for grazing dues in the Thal villages, some of which have suffered from drought.

The history of the Sirsa District for the past six years has been one of deterioration and recovery, and as the latter process is now nearly, if not quite, complete, the results will be briefly reviewed.

The first symptoms of distress occurred in the year 1868-69, when out of a demand of Rs. 1,76,272, the balances amounted to Rs. 53,186, of which Rs. 12,383 had been suspended or remitted. The year was one of drought, indeed of famine. The following year an improvement took place. Of the previous year's balance Rs. 34,412 were collected. Still remissions to the extent of Rs. 13,320 had to be granted, and a balance of Rs. 9,441 was uncollected. The year 1870-71 was again unfavorable; but although a balance occurred, amounting to Rs. 14,360, still the resources of the District were able to meet a demand for Rs. 10,568 on account of previous years, and the total collections nearly equalled the current demand. In 1871-72 the crisis came; only 58 per cent. of the current demand was realized, and the call for arrears could not be met. The crops of 1872-73 were more successful; of the previous year's balance, amounting to Rs. 74,791, Rs. 61,380 were collected, while Rs. 98 of the current demand was also realized. The total collections for that year amounted to Rs. 2,36,341, or Rs. 57,202 more than the current demand. This year has been

11. The lapse of the Kheri estate, in the Ludiánah District, during 1872-73, yielding Rs. 61,583 to Government, raised the income under the heading of lapses of Revenue-free holdings in that year.

Of the decrease due to revision of assessments, the sum of Rs. 44,967 is nominal, the regular rent-roll having been increased by the amount due to the enhanced demand in the Hazará District, as noticed above. A further decrease of Rs. 29,514 is due to the remission of progressive jamás in the Gujránwála District, to which reference will be made subsequently under Settlements.

12. The income from waste lands is chiefly in the Multán Division.

13. The estates under direct management are almost all in the Derah Ismail Khán District. The decrease was occasioned by a violent descent of the Lúni Hill torrent in July, which swept away the principal dams and subbankments erected for irrigation purposes on the Gundá-púr lands, the crops of which withered.

14. Water-advantage Revenue is derived only from lands watered by the Bári Doáb Canal. The collections, as compared with last year, were—

	1872-73.	1873-74.
Amritsar	1,01,685	53,196
Gurdáspúr	35,540	44,059
Lahore	81,744	62,143

The large decrease in Amritsar is attributed to the seasonable rain-fall, which rendered irrigation less necessary. But the Deputy Commissioner has not investigated the matter, and allusion to it will again be made under the head of Canals. During the year orders have been received for the remission of the old arrears noticed in last year's Report.

The following explanation of the increase is given by the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdáspúr :—“ Although the Government ruled that the arrears of water-advantage Revenue from 1865 to 1868 were to be remitted, on enquiry it was found that in many villages the money had already been paid by the persons from whom it was originally due, and that the Lambárdárs and other influential men had realized and appropriated it to their own use. Strict orders were therefore issued for the recovery of the money from such persons, and one Zaidár, who had appropriated about Rs. 500, was prosecuted to conviction.

The decrease in the Lahore District is due to the same cause which prevailed in the Amritsar District.

15. Under the head of grazing dues, Lahore shows an increase from Rs. 4,321 to Rs. 10,385 owing to the retransfer of certain grazing lands from the Forest Department in the middle of 1872. For the past year only half the increase due to this source was shown. This year the whole proceeds have been credited to miscellaneous Land Revenue.

The decrease of Rs. 16,505 in the Sháhpúr District is due to the transfer of the rakhs of Tahsíl Bhéra to the Forest Department. In Hazará the

grazing tax has been remitted under orders of Government, resulting in a decrease of Rs. 5,691 under this head of account.

Notwithstanding this the total collections show an increase of Rs. 12,587. Those in the Multán Division are Rs. 19,407 in excess of the previous year. The system of leasing large tracts of the " Bár " land to individuals, which was previously in force in the Sháhpúr District, and has been extended to the Multán, Montgomery, and Muzaffargarh Districts of this Division, is undoubtedly more profitable to Government than the system of levying fees by enumeration. The drawbacks to the lease system have formed the subject of separate correspondence, and, pending a final solution of the question, its working is being carefully watched and provision made for remedying any real hardship which it may entail. It would be premature to pronounce at present upon the measure of success which has attended its introduction.

16. During the year the sanction of Government was received to proposals made by Captain Macatlay, Deputy Commissioner of Derah Ismail Khán, for revising the system under which grazing dues are levied from the Povindah merchants, who enter British territory, on account of the camels which compose their Káfilás. Formerly a separate rate was levied on account of the Trans-Indus and Cis-Indus Thal tracts in the Bannú and Derah Ismail Khán Districts, an enumeration of the camels, necessarily a very imperfect one, being made on the spot while they were dispersed throughout these tracts. A uniform rate of eight anas per camel has been substituted for the two unequal rates; the camels are enumerated at the mouth of the pass through which they enter British territory, and, on payment of this rate, are free to graze on either side of the Indus. The enumeration made during the year forms the basis of the grazing demand for three years, during which time no fresh enumeration will be made. The result has been an increase in the grazing fees realized in Derah Ismail Khán, amounting to Rs. 7,612. In the Bannú District the dues necessarily show a decrease but only to the extent of Rs. 1,393, leaving a net increase of Rs. 6,219. The arrangements are, notwithstanding, most acceptable to the Povindahs, owing to the removal of all restrictions and espionage after they have once entered British territory, and the demand has been paid with readiness and punctuality. Certain small ináms have been maintained to the headmen who account themselves responsible for the payment of the tax.

17. The Deputy Commissioner of Gujránwála has represented that considerable hardship is felt in the " Bár " villages owing to the keen competition for the grazing leases which are sold by the Forest Department at auction. The prices paid by speculators for these leases have arisen from Rs. 1,010 in 1863-64 to Rs. 5,700 in 1873-74. In order to recoup themselves, the lessees have recourse to expedients, which press heavily upon the people. The Financial Commissioner, after consulting with the Conservator of Forests, will report separately upon this subject. A similar complaint has been made with reference to the leases of grazing dues in the Pabbi tract of the Gujrát District, which is also under the management of the Forest Department, and in respect of which considerable remissions have been found necessary.

18. The sale of fuel shows a decrease in the Multán and Hazára Districts. In the case of the former, it resulted from an arrangement made in communication with the Conservator of Forests, by which the rates were raised to a prohibitive amount near the Railway for

obvious reasons. In Hazára the transfer of forests to the Forest Department accounts for the falling-off.

The management of the rakhs of the Derah Ghází Khán District formed one of the subjects dealt with by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor during his tour in the District. The arrangements adopted for carrying out the orders then given had yet to be finally reported when the year closed. The fuel of the Derah Ghází Khán rakhs has not been in such demand as formerly since the abolition of the Panjáb Steam Flotilla, but the demand may again arise in future years.

Gardens and groves.

19. The income from leases of gardens and groves is almost entirely derived from the Derah Ghází Khán District.

Miscellaneous.

20. The remaining items under the heads of surplus Warrant Talabánah, Saltpetre, Sajjí, Fisheries, Gold washings, Alum, Dyes, Water-mills, Fines and Fees, call for no special remark.

EXCISE.

21. **Central Distilleries.**—The receipts from license fees and still-head duty from 1868-69 to the present year were as follows :—

					License fees including European liquor.	Still-head duty.	Total.
1868-69	...	...	...	...	2,72,320	2,57,861	5,30,181
1869-70	...	...	...	...	2,58,253	1,96,499	4,54,752
1870-71	...	...	...	...	2,32,491	1,96,405	4,28,896
1871-72	...	...	...	...	2,52,894	2,46,193	4,99,087
1872-73	...	...	...	...	2,57,546	2,25,231	4,82,777
1873-74	...	...	...	...	2,50,769	2,27,644	4,78,413

22. The net income for the present year, after adding a sum of Rs. 2,402 on account of fines, &c., and deducting Rs. 62,249 for charges, was Rs. 4,18,569 as compared with Rs. 4,22,613 the previous year.

Decrease of income.

There were only two Districts in which a noteworthy decrease took place; and but for the special circumstances attending one of these, the income would have been in excess of that of 1872-73. In Lahore there was a falling-off both in receipts from license fees and still-head duty. The decrease in the latter was Rs. 12,270, or nearly 43 per cent. on the collections under the same head for the previous year. The circumstances were as follows :—

For the year 1872-73 the Deputy Commissioner took an agreement from the farmer of retail vend in special terms. He was to hold the farm for 11 months from 1st May, on the condition that the income from still-head duty did not fall short of that of the previous year. Under the terms of this agreement the farmer distilled a large quantity of spirits for which there was no sale during the year, but which paid still-head duty; at the close of the year he obtained a license for retail vend, and began to dispose of his surplus stock.

The Deputy Commissioner wished to prevent the sale of this spirit unless still-head duty should be again levied on it. His order was supported by the Commissioner, but appealed to the Financial Commissioner, who, after taking the opinion of the Government Advocate, held that in the absence of any stipulation regarding the surplus stock, still-head duty could not be levied a second time. It appeared from the record of the case that the A'bkári Dárogha proposed the insertion of such a stipulation when the agreement was drawn up, anticipating the very difficulty which subsequently arose, but the Deputy Commissioner did not adopt the suggestion. Had he done so, the loss would not have occurred.

The sale of license fees for vend of native liquor in Dehli resulted in a decrease from Rs. 13,620 to Rs. 10,944. This is not satisfactorily explained. The Commissioner states regarding the Districts in his Division:—"Evidently this department of work has been very inefficiently supervised by all officials and I cannot say I have attended to the subject myself."

23. Three new stills were erected in the Lahore District, and one discontinued in Gujranwála. One was added to the number in the Amritsar District, and one abolished in Gurdáspúr. The total number of distilleries increased from 99 to 101.

24. The shops for sale of native liquor decreased from 803 to 769. This was owing to a decrease in the number in the Jhang District from 55 to 14, which the Deputy Commissioner attributes to the following cause. The number of licenses shown last year included temporary licenses at fairs; the number this year omits such special licenses.

25. The number of licenses for the wholesale vend of spirituous and fermented liquors manufactured after the English method decreased from 97 to 93, and of retail licenses from 210 to 199. The decrease was chiefly in the Lahore and Ráwalpindi Districts. In the former District the Deputy Commissioner thought the number of licenses granted in 1872-73 (13 wholesale and 24 retail) excessive. He states that these licenses are principally obtained for the sale of Rum. In Ráwalpindi a number of licenses were taken out for short periods during 1872-73 owing to the Camp of Exercise; hence the reduction in the present year.

It was stated in last year's Report that the consumption of Rum by natives was on the increase, and that native and European spirits were not competing on equal terms. It is clear that a large increase in the consumption of European

spirits has taken place from the following figures, showing the receipts from sale of licenses on this account for the last six years :—

				Rs.
1868-69	...	...	..	7,389
1869-70	...	...	...	8,558
1870-71	...	...	...	8,995
1871-72	...	...	...	12,625
1872-73	...	...	...	23,517
1873-74	...	...	...	21,102

The large increase in the duties levied on Rum manufactured at Sháhjá-hánpúr, amounting to 21·4 per cent., as shown in the North-Western Provinces Excise Report for 1872-73, supports this view.

In accordance with the orders conveyed in para. 4 of the Government Review of the Revenue Report for 1872-73, licenses for the sale of Rum during the current year have been put up to auction separately, as in the case of licenses for the sale of native spirits, and the result of this will be to remove the inequalities in the excise under these two heads, and to test the preference which is apparently shown for spirits manufactured after the English method, where the two articles come into competition. The Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Jálándhar, Mr. Barkley, has some interesting remarks on this subject, which will be found printed *in extenso* in the Appendices ; he thinks that the full license fee of Rs. 100 might invariably be demanded for permission to sell European spirits, and even recommends that the rate should be raised to Rs. 250 per shop. The results of the system of auctioning licenses for the sale of Rum above mentioned will show whether any additional measures are required to equalize the excise on the two kinds of spirit.

The receipts from license fees including fees, on spirits turned out by the Simla and Murree Distilleries on account of European liquor, increased in almost every Division, except Ambálah and Ráwalpindi, There was a decrease in the case of the Simla Distillery from 4,461 gallons, paying Rs. 11,876 duty, to 3,789 gallons paying Rs. 8,881. The decrease is attributed to larger supplies of Rum having been received from Sháhjahánpúr. Some of the decrease is also, no doubt, attributable to diminished production consequent on the still-head duty being raised to Rs. 3 per proof gallon. The out-turn from the distillery worked by the Murree Brewery Company decreased from 1,246 gallons paying Rs. 3,083 duty, to 638 gallons paying Rs. 1,641. These figures are shown in column 12 under license fees, but they will in future be shown under still-head duty, column 16.

26. It will be seen from the table which heads this notice that the receipts from license fees for the sale of native liquors in the Panjáb are in excess of those from still-head duty ; and this result affords a contrast to the Excise Returns of the North Western Provinces, where the still-head duty is nearly three times as much as the sum realized from license fees.

The average rate per gallon of still-head fees last year was Rs. 2-3. In the North-Western Provinces it was Re. 1-11 for the Districts where the Central Distillery system was in force. The explanation of this lies in the fact that the rates of still-head duty in the Panjáb are much higher. At the same time the amount of license fees owing to their being put up to auction is also much higher, and while the rate per gallon of total Excise Revenue, including license fees, was in the Panjáb Rs. 4-10, in the North-Western Provinces it was Rs. 2-5, or exactly one-half. It has been argued that the heavy incidence

of excise in the Province, coupled with the fact that the income from spirits does not increase while that from drugs shows a tendency to increase, favors the idea that a considerable amount of smuggling exists, and a comparison has been drawn between the amount of consumption of the two Provinces with reference to their respective population, from which it is inferred that the Panjáb system of excise fails to indicate the increase which might be expected when the Returns of other Provinces are consulted.

27. To this argument, to which the attention of the Financial Commissioner has lately been drawn, there are three replies.

First.—The people of the Panjáb are not much addicted to the use of spirits. More than one-half are shown by the census of 1868 to be Muhammadans. This assertion is supported by the fact that more than half the Revenue from spirits for the whole Province is derived from the large cities and cantonments, the cantonments contain a large population of camp-followers of low caste from other parts of India, who consume much more spirits per head than the people of the Province.

Second.—The increase in the use of opium is no argument, *a priori*, that spirits are more largely consumed. The people have not generally the same objection to the former that they have to the latter.

Third.—In the few cases in which smuggling is undoubtedly practised, where, for instance, British territory marches with that of an independent State, it has invariably come to light; and it is unlikely, indeed impossible, that it can exist to any extent in other places without information at least of its practice being given either through the Police or Patwáris, or village headmen, or the licensed vendors, whose interests in this case are identical with those of the Government.

28. But while contending that smuggling does not prevail, the Financial Commissioner is not prepared to speak with equal confidence as to the equable realization of still-head duty all over the Province.

In the Amritsar Division, where the Bengal system is in force, in the Multán and Ráwalpindi Divisions, and in the Hazará District, the rates of still-head duty per gallon are as follows:—

Proof to 25° below proof.		25° below proof to 50° below proof.		50° below proof and less.	
Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
3	0	2	8	2	0
and in other districts—					
2	8	2	0	1	8

But besides these differences in the rates some inequalities arising from defective management were brought to light in last year's Report. In some cases the license fees were disproportionately high as compared with the still-head duty, and it was pointed out that where, in addition to this, the spirits of the lower strength are largely used, the testing process was less likely to be correct. Special enquiry was made with reference to the Ambálah and Ráwalpindi Returns on this point, as directed in para. 5 of the Government Review of last year.

The Deputy Commissioner of Ambálah has given his careful attention to the subject, and his report will be found among the Appendices. Mr. Elliott shows that during the last three years the proportion of spirit of the higher strengths has increased, and that nevertheless the total receipts have fallen owing to a decrease in license fees. At the same time he shows that greater attention has

been paid to the testing than formerly, and this, while accounting partly for the larger proportion of spirits of the higher strength, possibly also affords a reason for the bids for license-fees being lower. The amount paid for the latter represents what the vendors can afford to pay out of the selling price after the cost price and still-head duty have been deducted. When the testing by hydrometers is lax, and the due amount of still-head duty is not levied, a larger margin is given for profits, and bids for licenses have a tendency to rise.

In the case of Ráwalpindi it is explained that the receipts from license fees in 1872-73 were enhanced by excessive competition between the city and cantonment contractors. At the same time it was discovered that the hydrometers were defective. Thus the surmise made in last year's Report has proved correct in this instance. The year under report shows a large increase in the out-turn of spirits of the higher strength as will be shown further on.

29. The disproportion in some places of the different strengths of spirit is even more remarkable than that of license fees. The Commissioner of Ráwalpindi draws attention to the following table showing the proportions for the Districts of his Division, which may be taken as a sample of others.

		London proof.	25° below proof.	50° below proof.
Ráwalpindi	... ..	59 per cent.	10 per cent.	31 per cent.
Jhelam	... ..	51 "	47 "	2 "
Gujrát	... ..	2 "	46 "	52 "
Sháhpúr	... ..	13 "	26 "	61 "

30. From the enquiries made of the Deputy Commissioners of these Districts and from other reports it seems that these variations are due to one of the following causes :—

- Causes of variations.
1. Defective testing.
 2. The taste of the people.
 3. The practice of diluting spirits before sale.

(1). Considerable attention has been paid lately to the subject of hydrometers, judging from the applications received in the Financial Commissioner's office for new or more accurate instruments, and it appears that the increased proportion of spirits of the higher strength is due to this. The following figures speak for themselves :—

	No. OF GALLONS.			PERCENTAGE.		
	Proof.	25 below proof.	50 below proof.	Proof.	25 below proof.	50 below proof.
1870-71 ...	19,800	33,270	48,869	19	33	48
1871-72 ...	33,470	37,464	51,460	27	31	42
1872-73 ...	29,261	38,543	35,918	28	37	35
1873-74 ...	32,657	40,871	30,119	31	40	29

Thus the percentage of proof spirit has steadily increased, and that of 50° below proof steadily diminished for the last four years.

An exemplification of (2) is found in the Kángra District, where the proportion of the lowest strength is largest, being 12,417 gallons out of a total of 12,435 gallons. Here the people prefer the weaker spirit.

The practice of diluting spirits (3) is becoming common. It is cheaper to pay the highest duty on spirit, and then to dilute it, than to take spirit out of the distillery at the lower strength. Thus one gallon of proof spirit pays, say Rs. 2-8 duty. A gallon of water added to it will reduce it to 50 below proof. The two gallons of diluted spirit will have paid duty at the rate of Rs. 1-4 per gallon. But when Rs. 2-8 is the rate for proof spirit, that for spirit 50° below proof is Re. 1-8. Against this, however, must be set the increased expenditure necessary to distil up to a higher strength. Applications have been made from more than one quarter for a rule prohibiting dilution of spirits by the vendors. The Financial Commissioner does not think this can be prescribed. The quality of the liquor will be determined ultimately by the taste of the people.

31. The Bengal system of excise with respect to native liquors continues in force in the Amritsar Division. The consumption again increased from 16,448 gallons to 18,900 gallons. The gross receipts increased from Rs. 65,294 to Rs. 70,475. The Financial Commissioner maintains his former opinion that the system is not adapted to the Panjáb, as under it the quantity of spirits consumed increases in a much larger ratio than the Revenue increases.

32. The number of prosecutions for breach of Excise Laws increased from 188 to 193, but the number of convictions fell from 166 to 149. The rewards to informers increased from Rs. 762 to Rs. 942.

33. The compensation paid for closing shops during march of troops was Rs. 2,747, chiefly in Ambálah and Bannú.

34. During the year the rules framed, under the Financial Commissioner's direction, by Mr. Barkley, under the Excise Acts, received the sanction of Government, and were published with Financial Commissioner's Book Circular 6 of 1874. The Districts in which special attention has been paid to the subject are: Ambálah, Jálandhar, Kángra, Lahore, Gujrát, Muzaffargárh, and Derah Ismail Khán.

35. **Intoxicating drugs and opium.**—The total receipts for the year, including Rs. 5,503 on account of previous years, amounted to Rs. 3,99,517 as compared with Rs. 3,99,140 in 1872-73. But although the amount is so nearly the same for the two years, there have been considerable variations in the details.

36. The acreage duty on opium rose from Rs. 9,264 to Rs. 17,773. This duty was realized, in accordance with the system in force in previous years, in the Ambálah, Jálandhar, Amritsar, and Lahore Divisions only.

In the Ambálah District 1,504 acres were brought under poppy cultivation, yielding a duty of Rs. 3,107, whereas in 1872-73 only 145 acres were cultivated, and Rs. 289 taken as duty. A great stimulus was given to the culture of the poppy by the fact that all the cultivators who sold opium to the Bengal Agent, who was sent to report on Panjáb opium in 1871-72, were excused acreage

duty. It is probable that this affected also the cultivation of the poppy in Ludíanah, which increased from 411 to 1,056 acres, although the reason given by the Deputy Commissioner is the seasonable rain-fall. The receipts from acreage duty in this District rose from Rs. 823 to Rs. 2,113.

In the Jálándhar District the area under cultivation increased from 585 acres to 1,554 acres. In Hoshiárpúr from 495 acres to 547 acres.

In the Districts of the Amritsar Division, there was also an increase, amounting in all to 36 per cent.

In Firozpúr the area increased from 289 acres to 1,011 acres. No explanation of this is given by the Deputy Commissioner.

37. It is possible that an impression may have got abroad that in consequence of the passing of the Panjáb Opium Amendment Act (XXVI of 1872) the cultivators in acreage Districts would have special privileges in regard to the sale of their opium. This impression certainly prevailed among the persons who bid for the monopoly of sale of opium, and it was perhaps fortunate that the leases were sold for six months only, by which time the impression had been dispelled by the issue of the new rules regarding Panjáb-grown opium. Whether from the above cause or because a lease for broken periods is less profitable than for the whole year, the receipts from the sale of these leases decreased, from Rs. 2,43,941 in 1872-73 to Rs. 2,19,497 in 1873-74.

In Ambálah, Amritsar, Gurdáspúr, Lahore, Gujránwála, Multán, and Pesháwar, the bids were considerably lower; but there were exceptions to the general depression in the Dehli, Jálándhar, and Ráwalpindí Divisions; and in the Ludíanah District, from some cause which the Deputy Commissioner does not attempt to explain, the leases fetched nearly double the amount of the previous year.

38. No remarks can yet be offered on the working of the new rules for Panjáb-grown opium, but if their reception in the Ambálah and Shakhpúr Districts, where opium is most largely grown, may be regarded as representative, there seems no cause for believing that they will be otherwise than acceptable.

The Deputy Commissioner of the latter District writes:—"The poppy cultivation this year will probably be less than in previous years, as the new rules came out inopportunately just as the cultivating season was about to commence, and caused a panic among cultivators, who feared that only a few persons would take out licenses for the purchase of the produce, that they would be monopolists, and be able to dictate their own terms. These fears have been quite dispelled, and no decrease is at all likely to take place in the production of the drug in future years. The number of licenses taken out is large."

In this District a considerable increase occurred under this head of Revenue, the total receipts being Rs. 8,731 against Rs. 3,122 the previous year; but the greater part of this being due to sale of licenses for the wholesale vend of Panjáb-grown opium, it has been shown under "Other items." Next year a revised Statement will be adopted. The new rules do not allow a cultivator to consume his own opium, and in this respect they will be unpopular with the growers of the poppy. But it is not possible to maintain a system of monopoly which possesses an outlet for nullifying the monopoly at every turn, and there appears no way of meeting the wishes of the cultivators in this respect.

39. From the monopoly of sale of other drugs the receipts were Rs. 1,46,510, or Rs. 6,490 more than last year. The variations are in no case large.

40. Fines and forfeitures increased from Rs. 2,718 in 1872-73 to Rs. 5,069; the largest amounts occurred in the Sirsa, Ludiánah, Kángra, and Fírozpúr Districts. These, however, do not include Judicial fines.

41. The balances amounted to Rs. 2,748 only, as compared with Rs. 11,516 the previous year; of this amount Rs. 1,075 was in Ráwalpindi, and is nominal, representing an allowance made to the contractor for the withdrawal of troops.

42. The number of licensed vendors for the sale of drugs and opium increased from 575 to 728. In the case of Ambálah, where the largest increase took place, from 77 to 141, the Deputy Commissioner explains that 63 licenses were for the wholesale vend of Panjáb-grown opium. This cause probably accounts for the increase in other Districts. Next year the number of wholesale and retail licenses will be separately returned.

43. There were 390 prosecutions during the year against 386 the previous year. The number of convictions was the same in both years, 303. The amount paid to informers was Rs. 2,523 against Rs. 1,401 in 1872-73. As explained in last year's Report, these rewards only include those given by Collectors, and not those awarded by Magistrates out of the fines imposed.

44. The rules framed under the Yárkand Treaty for the import of charas from the territories of the Amír over any of the Himalayan passes to the south of his dominions, whereby considerable facilities are afforded to merchants importing the drug, received the sanction of Government, and have been since published, together with the other rules, under the Excise Acts, relating to drugs, and also the new Opium Rules, in Financial Commissioner's Book Circular 9 of 1874.

45. **Local rates cess.**—The demand was Rs. 14,15,392 as compared with Rs. 14,02,502 in 1872-73. The principal increase, amounting to Rs. 8,701, occurred in the Jhang District, and is due to the levy of the cess on all collections on account of use of pasture and other natural products of the land, entered as items of Miscellaneous Revenue. Of the demand Rs. 13,97,902 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 17,490 only. The principal items were Rs. 3,104 in the Gujránwála District, the greater part of which was due from the Forest Department, and has since been paid, and Rs. 7,611 in the Pesháwar District, the recovery of a large portion of which was delayed owing to the same cause as in the case of Land Revenue balances. The remaining balances are mostly nominal.

The amount paid to Lambárdárs for collecting the cess was Rs. 68,418 and the net amount credited to Government Rs. 13,29,484.

No difficulty was experienced in collecting the cess. The Financial Commissioner endorses the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner Hissár, Colonel Forster, to the following effect :—

"The people are gradually becoming more reconciled to a tax which they see is indirectly applied for their own benefit in supplying funds for improved communications, and other works of general utility and convenience."

The Deputy Commissioner Ambálah, Mr. Elliot, says :—

"I do not doubt that intelligent zamíndárs notice with approval that since the imposition of the cess much has been done towards facilitating communication."

The Deputy Commissioner of Montgomery reports that the cess has not been levied on the fluctuating revenue of the Dipálpúr and Pákpattan Tahsils due to canals, as "the present system of assessing ábiána does not permit of a percentage for local rates." As the fluctuating revenue is "Land Revenue," it is liable to the levy of the cess, and orders have been issued accordingly.

46 **Customs and Salt.**—This source of Revenue shows an increase from Rs. 90,67,827 to Rs. 96,67,226, the largest amount which has been realized since 1869-70, when the collections were Rs. 99,22,606. The opening of the Rájputánah State Railway has had the effect of transferring part of the Hissár collections to Dehli, and thus counterbalancing the apparent loss in the receipts of the Hissár Collectorate. The Customs receipts cannot be compared by Collectorates, as the lines of traffic shift according to circumstances. Expenditure has increased by only Rs. 15,051, or 2 per cent., while the increase in receipts is 6½ per cent. The Statement accompanying this Report is received from the Commissioner of Customs, by whom the subject is separately reported.

47. The increase in the Multán sugar collections is due partly to the extension of the duties higher up the line. It was found that a considerable trade in sugar passed between some of the interior Districts of the Province to Sindh and Bháwalpúr through the Trans-Indus Districts. The portion of the Indus Customs line, on which duties on sugar were levied, was coterminous with the Muzaffargarh District. It was found that the traffic went to the north of this line, crossed the Indus, and went either down that river or proceeded by land through the Deráját to Sindh. In order to prevent this evasion of the duty the Indus Customs Line for collecting duty on the export of saccharine produce was extended to Miánwáli, in the Baanú District, *vide* Government Notification No. 714 dated 21st April 1874. The saccharine produce of the Districts beyond the Indus is, however, not subjected to duty. During the year it was brought to notice that some inconvenience was caused to traders conveying sugar across the Indus Customs line owing to the delay in procuring passes from the Multán Collectorate. This has been obviated by opening new weighing posts, and by granting passes at Bhakkar and Muzaffargarh through the District authorities, instead of obliging all traders to obtain passes from the Collector at Multán.

48. The Customs establishment was maintained at the Mandi Salt Mines throughout the year. Proposals have been made to commute the payment by the Rájah, of duty on salt exported to British territory to a fixed sum, and to withdraw the Customs establishment from Mandi.

49. The wire tramway from Mayo Mines to Chak Nizám has been completed during the year. It is not yet in full working order owing to the difficulty of supplying the steam engines which are to work it, with pure water. Various improvements in the mode of excavating the salt and

transporting it from the mines to the weighing-house were completed during the year under the superintendence of Doctor Warth, the able mining Engineer, who fills the post of Deputy Collector of Customs at the Mayo Mines.

Decrease in expenditure.

50. The percentage of total expenditure to receipts in the Customs Department fell from Rs. 8-1-0 to Rs. 7-11-6.

The administration of this branch of the Revenue has been economical and effective.

51. Earth salt is manufactured to some extent in the Derah Ghází Khán District. The bulk of the collections is credited, under Government sanction, to a fund at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for political purposes. The amount credited to Government was last year Rs. 800. This is shown under the head of Miscellaneous Revenue, and does not appear in the Customs Returns furnished to the Revenue Department.

52. **Canals.**—The Statement furnished by the Irrigation Department is drawn up according to the system adopted last year, and shows the demand for canal water-rate for the autumn crop of 1873 and the spring crop of 1874. The total of area irrigated is swelled by the inclusion of land watered by the Lower Satlaj and Chináb Inundation Canal and the Indus irrigation channels of the Derah Ghází Khán and Multán Districts, on which water-rent is not assessed separately from Land Revenue. The Sháh-púr Government Canals and the Dehli and Gurgáon Irrigation Works are also shown this year, which were omitted from last year's Statement. The figures for the principal sources of Canal Revenue for the two years were as follows:—

	DEMAND:	
	1872-73.	1873-74.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bári Doáb Canal	5,92,808	6,12,844
Western Jamna Canal	9,03,126	8,10,302
Upper Satlaj Inundation Canal	62,702	76,423
Total	15,58,636	14,99,569

53. The increase in demand on account of the Bári Doáb Canal appears in strange contrast with the large decrease in water-advantage revenue in the Amritsar and Lahore Districts, noticed under the head of Fluctuating Revenue. But it appears from a separate Statement of receipts compiled in the Controller's office, which has been furnished, that the amount shown as demand last year was less than the receipts for water-rates credited during the year by Rs. 1,76,303, whereas the receipts under the same heading for 1873-74 differ from the amount shown above by Rs. 3,459 only. There was, therefore an actual decrease in collections of Rs. 1,52,808, or 20 per cent., during

the year 1873-74, which nearly corresponds to the decrease of 27 per cent. in the collections of water-advantage Revenue. The falling-off in the latter appears, therefore, to be due more to the diminished credits in 1873-74, as compared with 1872-73, than to any falling-off in the area irrigated during 1873-74. The Statement which accompanies this Report shows the demand of water-rate for the kharif of 1873 and the rabi which is reaped in 1874; whereas the Returns of water-advantage revenue, given in Statement III, refer to the actual receipts of water-advantage revenue from the rabi reaped in 1873 and the kharif of the same year. A comparison between these Returns is therefore of no avail; but the amount of water-advantage revenue credited in any given year will vary with the receipts of the Canal Department on account of water-rate for the same period, though it will not vary with the demand for that period.

54. The only cause for the decreased irrigation from the Western Jamna Canal which has come to the notice of the Financial Commissioner arose from an idea prevailing among some of the villages of the Delhi Division that if lands were unirrigated during the preparation of the Settlement record, they would be recorded as unirrigated, and thenceforward be liable to reduced rates of assessment. The subject has been separately treated in correspondence with Government, and the steps necessary to remove this impression have been taken. The drainage of the country traversed by the Western Jamna Canal is reported by the Commissioner of Delhi (Colonel Cracroft) and the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak (Mr. Knox) to be in a state requiring urgent attention. The remarks of the former will be found printed at the close of this Report. Mr. Knox represents that in consequence of the Canal terminating abruptly, the yearly floods cause disastrous inundations, affecting seriously the health of the people. The improvement of the alignment of the Western Jamna Canal has long been under consideration, and it is believed that the construction of the necessary works has been sanctioned.

55. The income from the three canals under Government management in the Sháhpur District, viz., the Station, the Sáhiwál, and the Rániwáh Canals, fell from Rs. 25,886 in 1872-73 to Rs. 16,453. The decrease resulted from a fall in the Jhelam river in July and August to a level that would not feed the canals. The Financial Commissioner's report on the canals of this District was still under the consideration of Government at the close of the year.

56. There was a falling-off in irrigation from the Inundation Canals of the Multán and Montgomery Districts, which is attributed to deficient supply of water. The amount of ábianá assessed by the District Officer was Rs. 1,301 in Multán, of which Rs. 1,273 were collected, and Rs. 622 in Montgomery, the whole of which was realized. The canal water-rate in Multán was assessed with the Land Revenue at the first Settlement, and the sum here shown represents a small portion of the rate levied from lands newly irrigated.

57. During his tour in the Derah Ghází Khán District, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor took up the questions connected with the canals of this District, and passed a Resolution embodying the following orders:—

(1.) The abandonment of the collections made from the people at the rate of eight anas per acre as half cost of clearance, hitherto known (though the term was not appropriate) as "abiána," and the substitution of a fixed charge amounting to Rs. 45,000, subject to reconsideration at the end of five years, to be assessed

and collected over and above the Land Revenue, and credited as income to the Canal Department.

(2.) The measurements hitherto effected by the Canal Department to be performed, for statistical purposes, by the Patwáris.

(3.) The Deputy Commissioner to exercise the appellate powers referred to in Sections 31, 32 (b), 33, and 34 of the Canal Act, in order that larger powers of control than is elsewhere necessary might be exercised by him over the proceedings of the Officers of the Canal Department.

(4.) Special reports regarding the extent of the rights of Government were ordered to be submitted on the subject of the following canals :—

1. Dhundi.
2. Gaimal.
3. Kiriá Khawás.
4. Fazlwáh and Massúwáh.
5. Dhori.

The above measures are reported to have caused great satisfaction and even rejoicing among the people. The subjects mentioned under (4) are still under report.

58. About 70,000 acres of land were irrigated by the Bára irrigation cuts and the Sheikh Canal in the Pesháwar District; and the demand on account of water-rate was Rs. 3,121, of which Rs. 2,192 were collected. The recovery of the balance was delayed owing to the same cause as in the case of Land Revenue.

59. **Stamps.**—The Statement hitherto submitted with this Report will be separately reviewed in connection with the Report of the Superintendent of Stamps. A brief notice of the results of the year is therefore all that will be offered here.

Receipts.

60. The following table shows the receipts from sales for the last five years :—

	Judicial.	Non-Judicial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1869-70	14,97,430	5,62,173	20,59,603
1870-71	14,11,954	5,66,152	19,78,106
1871-72	15,67,733	5,87,467	21,55,200
1872-73	17,02,539	5,80,313	22,82,852
1873-74	17,20,260	6,02,141	23,22,401

61. Owing, however, to certain Districts having omitted to include the receipts from Talabánah Stamps in the Returns furnished to the Financial Commissioner for 1872-73, the amount for that year under the heading of Judicial Stamps should have been Rs. 17,28,587, and the total receipts from sales Rs. 23,08,900. There has been therefore a falling-off, amounting to Rs. 8,327, in the sale of Judicial Stamps. Under Non-Judicial Stamps there is an increase of Rs. 21,828, which more than counterbalances the deficiency. The total gross receipts from all sources amounted during the year to Rs. 23,46,468, the largest figure yet reached.

Cause of decrease.

62. The decrease under the head of Judicial Stamps is due to reduced sales of Talabánah Stamps, which is accounted for by the reduction in the rates of process fees. The Districts

which show the smallest decrease in Talabánah are, with two exceptions, those which show the largest increase in Court Fees Stamps of other kinds, from which it may be inferred that there was an increase of litigation in them. The exceptions are Kángra and Muzaffargarh.

63. The increase in the sales of Judicial Stamps in the last two years is very considerable. And the net receipts show a still further increase owing to the abolition of discount on the sale of these Stamps from the commencement of 1872-73. In 1871-72 the amount allowed as discount on sale of Court Fees Stamps was Rs. 53,310, which reduced the net receipts to Rs. 15,14,423. For the years 1872-73 and 1873-74 no deductions have to be made on this account from the gross amount of sales. The concession of discount to vendors of Court Fees Stamps, which was made after the close of the year, has, however, removed a difficulty which was being severely felt, viz., the inadequate remuneration of Government Treasurers, and their inability to make proper arrangements for the supply of these Stamps to the public.

64. **Sale of waste lands.**—No Government lands have been sold during the year. Several applications have been received for the purchase of lands in the Montgomery District, but they were not entertained, under the impression that the order issued for the submission of all such applications to the Government of India was intended to be prohibitory of the sales. It was also ruled by the Panjáb Government that no leases of such lands should be granted without its sanction, and applications for leases were refused on the understanding that none would be granted. It has recently been explained that where the granting of such leases is not likely to be accompanied by relinquishment of revenue-paying lands, they will be taken into consideration.

65. **Alluvion and Diluvion.**—The gains by alluvion amounted to Rs. 64,885 against losses by diluvion and inundation amounting to Rs. 41,419. The collections on account of alluvion are shown under the head of Fluctuating Revenue, as the new assessments do not receive sanction until the rent-roll for the year has been determined. The reductions due to diluvion and inundation appear as nominal balances in Statement I. In Districts where the system of alluvial chaks prevails, the gain by alluvion was Rs. 10,885, and the loss by diluvion and inundation was Rs. 9,490. Last year the gains were Rs. 8,395 and the losses Rs. 16,293. The principal net gains were in the Ludiánah District, Rs. 2,199, and the largest loss in the Fírozpúr District, Rs. 1,205. In the remaining Districts the gain by alluvion was Rs. 54,000 and the loss Rs. 40,645. The largest net increase was in the Districts of the Multán Division, amounting to Rs. 8,750. The gains in almost every Division exceeded the losses.

66. The total area thrown up by alluvion was 1,30,457 acres, and the area damaged permanently and temporarily was 72,443 acres. The average rate per acre of jama assessed on lands thrown up by alluvion was 6 anas 7 pies, and of lands injured 8 anas 11 pies. The rate was very unequal in different Districts; in Dehli the rate of assessment on alluvial lands was Rs. 2, whereas in Karnál it was only 2 anas 7 pie. In Jálandhar it was 9 anas, and in Hoshiárpúr, Rs. 2; in Derah Ismail Khán it was Rs. 2-2 and in Derah Ghází Khán only 6 pies. The latter result requires explanation. The reductions on account of diluvion in this District were at the rate of 5 pies per acre, whereas those in the Derah Ismail Khán District were at the rate of Rs. 3-14

per acre. The area temporarily injured amounted only to 863 acres, on account of which remissions were granted to the extent of Rs. 223.

67. A report on the subject of alluvion and diluvion, with the Financial Commissioner's recommendations, for the adoption of a uniform system, was submitted to Government; this was still pending at the close of the year. The inequalities above noted are probably the result in many cases of the different systems now in force. If, when the 10 per cent rule obtains, every item of alluvion and diluvion has been entered in the columns showing the area thrown up or washed away, while the additional assessment or reduction of jama gives only the cases in which the limit of 10 per cent was exceeded, this would account to some extent for the wide differences.

68. During the year a decision was arrived at by Government as to the basis upon which territorial transfers, by river action, of lands belonging respectively to British territory and the Bháwalpúr State, were to be treated. In such cases it was ruled generally in 1860 that lands transferred by avulsion from one side of the river bank to the other, where such river forms the boundary between British and independent territory, should not change their jurisdiction, and that in cases of erosion or accretion the deep stream should be considered the boundary. It has been decided by Government that the status of 1874 should be maintained in regard to the boundary between British territory and Bháwalpúr, the above rule being thereafter applied to all subsequent cases.

69. **Land taken up for public purposes.**—The value of this Statement has been much increased this year, by the classification of the entries of land occupied for public purposes according to the process employed for the determination of compensation, viz. :—

1. By private negotiation.
2. By Collector's award.
3. By award of Court.

As these details were not furnished for former years, the amount paid for land under each process cannot be compared with that paid previously under the same process, but the additional information will be valuable both as affording a comparison between the various methods and also for reference in future years.

70. The total extent of land occupied was 5,268 acres at a cost of Rs. 2,47,138, or nearly Rs. 44 per acre, which is one rupee in excess of the average price of last year, but considerably less than the average of the two previous years.

71. The purposes for which the land was occupied were as follows :—

	Area, Acres.	Compensation, Rupees.		Total rate per acre. Rupees.
		For land.	For buildings, trees, &c., on the land.	
I. Roads	352	9,429	1,871	32
II. Canals	3,612	1,25,649	6,371	36
III. State Railways ...	962	54,009	22,713	79
IV. Guaranteed Railways	214	8,354	Nil.	39
V. Buildings and Miscellaneous ...	128	18,491	251	146

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If from the amount paid for State railways that awarded as compensation for buildings, trees, &c., be deducted, the average rate per acre is only Rs. 55, which, considering the object, is not excessive.

The course of a railway is inexorable ; it sometimes occupies a valuable strip of land, which, if a slight deflection were possible, might be exchanged for one comparatively worthless ; it seeks the vicinity of towns, and often cuts properties in half.

The average for miscellaneous works was swelled by an item of Rs. 11,139 paid annually to the proprietors of the Ambalah cantonment lands, the extent of which is not entered.

The occupation of 18 acres for a Rifle practice ground at Rawalpindi cost the Government the large sum of Rs. 2,143, and a plot of land of nine acres occupied in the Bannu District, for a similar purpose, accounts for compensation to the extent of Rs. 2,765.

72. There was not a single reference to the Civil Court during the year. The land was occupied either by private negotiation or in accordance with the Collector's award. The following table shows the comparative cost of land taken up under the two processes :—

	Area, acres.	Compensation, Rs.	Rate per acre, Rs.
By private negotiation ...	2,496	94,259	38
By Collector's award ...	2,772	1,52,879	55

The difference between these two rates amounts to 44 per cent. It may therefore be stated roughly that the failure on the part of Government to secure lands by private compromise caused an enhancement in the value of compensation finally paid equivalent to 44 per cent.

But nearly the whole of the land occupied for State railways, which, as above remarked, is the most expensive, was taken up in accordance with the Collector's award, instructions having been issued to the Officers employed to purchase land under the Act to adopt this course ; and the greater part of this land could not probably have been acquired by private negotiation, or, if this means had been resorted to, there is no reason to believe that it would have been more cheaply acquired. The disadvantage of taking up land by private negotiation is that the title so acquired has not the force of a title acquired by award under Section 14, or reference to Court under Section 15 of Act X of 1870.

When land is taken up by private negotiation, claimants whose rights were not considered may hereafter arise, and their claims may have to be satisfied by Government ; but when an award is made under Section 14, or a reference is made to Court under Section 15, claims afterwards brought lie against the persons who have received the value of the land, and not against Government.

73. The total reduction in the fixed rent roll sanctioned on account of land taken up for public purposes was Rs. 5,029. The amount Reduction in rent-roll, and compensation paid. paid as compensation was equivalent to an average of 47 year's purchase of the Government revenue. For lands occupied by private negotiation, 32 year's purchase of the Revenue, and for lands for which compensation was awarded by the Collector, 66 years' purchase of the revenue was paid.

74. There were only 38 cases in which compensation for lands occupied had not been paid at the close of the year. Last year, although the area occupied was little more than one-third of that occupied during the year under report, there were 45 such cases. This result was followed from the Government order issued with Financial Commissioner's Book Circular No. 18 of 22nd August 1873, authorizing the Deputy Commissioner to pay the amount, without reference to Budget provision, immediately on making his award.

75. Land to the extent of 1,991 acres was taken up in the Ludiánah District for the Satlaj Canal. A special officer, Captain Nisbet, was deputed to award compensation for this land towards the close of the year. The advantage of this arrangement is apparent from the fact that all the land was acquired by private negotiation at an average cost of less than Rs. 38 per acre, or less than 33 years' purchase of the revenue. The money was paid on the spot, and the people under these circumstances cheerfully parted with their lands. Captain Nisbet made a suggestion to the effect that any officer charged with this duty should in future be authorized to assign portions of the common land of the village in exchange for the land taken from the estates of private individuals. The Financial Commissioner holds that in the existing state of village tenures this is impracticable. The land is held partly in severalty and partly in common; when a portion or the whole of the holding in severalty of one or more proprietors is taken up, the only method of carrying out Captain Nisbet's proposal would be to regard the land occupied as common land, and to distribute the amount paid in compensation among the other proprietors, assigning to the proprietor of the occupied land an equivalent portion of the village waste. This could only be done by consent of the whole community, or of such portion of it as holds the common land from which the equivalent is to be given; and the Financial Commissioner does not think it desirable to take power to make this arrangement unless some general expression of the wishes of the people points to such a measure, or unless the hardship resulting from the present mode of occupation of lands is more clearly demonstrated.

76. The proceedings of the year show that the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act contain ample means for the occupation of land on principles at once fair to Government and acceptable to the people.

77. **Land Revenue assignments.**—The area of land of which the Revenue was assigned amounted at the close of the year to 48,24,282 acres, assessed at Rs. 30,34,121, against an area of 47,97,227 acres assessed at Rs. 31,26,125 at the close of 1872-73; while therefore the area has increased by 27,055 acres, the Revenue assigned has decreased by Rs. 92,004. This result is due to the Pesháwar Division, where the area of the assignments was increased by 43,226 acres, while the Revenue assigned was diminished by Rs. 25,052. No explanation is given of this anomaly, but it is probably due to the Settlement which has resulted in a more accurate measurement of assigned lands, and the resumption of grants, for which there was no authority, while the nominal value of the grants has been corrected according to the rates of assessment introduced at Settlement.

78. An important lapse, that of the jágír of the Rájá of Mainimájra, owing to the failure of male heirs, occurred in the Ambálah District. The Revenue of the jágír was Rs. 39,083. An

attempt to obtain its continuance by means of a suppositious child was frustrated by the vigilance of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. C. P. Elliott, and has been fully reported. As the Rájah's family are entitled to the revenue of the rabi harvest, this lapse does not appear in the Statement.

A large lapse also occurred in the Jálándhar District by the death of Sardár Partáb Singh, of Núrmahal, who held a jágir of Rs. 16,765, subject to a yearly nazaránah of Rs. 4,317. Half of the jágir was for life only and half in perpetuity, but as the Sardár left no issue, the whole has lapsed.

79. An assignment of Rs. 7,500 in the Amritsar District was made in favor of Sardár Ajít Singh, Attáriwála, and of Rs. 2,585 to Lálá Bhagwán Dás, son of the late Diwán Ratan Chand, a courtier of the late Mahárájah Ranjít Singh, in the Lahore District.

80. The succession to the Rájánpúr jágir, in the Derah Ghází Khán District, was during the year determined in favor of the representative member of the senior branch of the Kalora "Miáns."

Assignments detailed.

81. The detail of the assignments is as follows :—

	Area in acres.	Assessment Rupees.	No. of holders.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
In perpetuity	28,29,065	17,64,928	54,133
For one life	13,89,926	7,86,378	43,125
For more than one life	2,57,197	1,80,299	17,436
During maintenance of institution	2,22,972	1,73,982	16,372
Pending report or orders	1,25,122	1,28,534	...
Total	48,24,282	30,34,121	1,31,066.

An important correction has been made this year in the Returns as furnished previously for the Jálándhar District. The conquest jágirs have hitherto been shown as jágirs for more than one life, whereas they are really assignments in perpetuity with the restriction of descent to male heirs in the direct line. The Statement for this year has been amended accordingly.

82. Under the sanction of Government, forms of "Sanads" for the conveyance of each kind of grant were prescribed and ordered to be adopted. This was considered advisable owing to the uncertainty which existed in the terms of the old "Sanads."

83. **Pensions.**—The number of persons enjoying pensions fell during the year from 4,634, drawing Rs. 10,71,227 annually, to 4,519, drawing Rs. 10,36,996. The amount shown in the Returns for the Pesháwar District last year was incorrect, and has been altered in the balance column this year.

84. *Lapses.* The number of lapses was 262, and the amount Rs. 47,067, to which the Lahore, Amritsar, and Derah Ismail Khán Districts most largely contributed.
85. *Pensions purchased.* In Dehli 38 pensions, amounting to Rs. 2,268 per annum, were purchased by Government under the special rules which regulate the purchase of pensions held by members of the Dehli royal family.
86. *New pensions.* The new pensions were 180 in number, amounting to Rs. 32,905. The largest amounts were in the Lahore, Dehli, and Gurdáspúr Districts. The number of pensions held in perpetuity at the close of the year were 117 in number, of the value of Rs. 91,851 per annum.

PART II.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

87. *Statement XIV.* **Coercive processes for recovery of Land Revenue.**—The Dastak or collection warrant was clearly defined by the rules framed under the Panjáb Land Revenue Act of 1871.

It is a notice to pay within six days, and if the amount is not so paid, the officer serving the warrant is empowered to bring the defaulter before the Tahsildár. These warrants were formerly issued to the village headmen only. The rules now empower the Tahsildár to issue a warrant to any coparcener regarding whom the village headmen state in writing that he has not paid his share of the Government Land Revenue and cesses.

88. *Collection warrants.* The number of collection warrants increased from 31,580 to 36,977 and the receipts on account of talabánah from Rs. 24,299 to Rs. 28,575, of which Rs. 15,376, or 53 per cent., were expended, and Rs. 13,259 credited to Government. The increase is most marked in the following Districts :—

	<i>Number issued.</i>	
	1872-73.	1873-74.
Gurgáon ...	749	1,780
Sirsa ...	61	261
Jálandhar ...	6	1,197
Hoshiárpúr ..	559	900
Kángra ...	67	237
Amritsar ...	2,872	3,559
Gurdáspúr ...	3,419	4,057
Lahore ...	1,348	2,039
Fírozpúr ...	1,711	2,321
Ráwalpindi ...	890	1,406
Gujrát ...	...	184
Bahnú ...	37	778
Hazára ...	3	117

In Gurgáon the recusancy of the people is attributed (probably with reason) to the Settlement. As long as a new assessment is pending, it is the interest of the people to make a show of poverty.

In the Derah Ghází Khán District the assessments were given out during the year; and although there has been a considerable enhancement, the number of collection warrants fell from 1,299 to 741.

In Sirsa, Jálándhar, Hoshiárpúr, and Amritsar the increase is said to be due to the new rules under the Land Revenue Act, which permit of a notice being served at the instance of the Lambardár upon any individual defaulter. In Lahore the provision is said to be not generally known. The decrease in that District is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to a variety of causes implying distress in certain localities, but he concludes by stating that "the people generally were never in more flourishing condition." In the Amritsar, Gurdáspúr, and Lahore Districts, collection warrants for the recovery of Canal Revenue, as well as those for Land Revenue, are included, and this partly accounts for the large number issued.

In Kángra 99 of the warrants were issued for the collection of A'bkárá Revenue under the permission accorded to Deputy Commissioners by Section 63 of the Act.

A considerable number of the warrants issued in the Gurdaspúr District were due to recusancy in the payment of Revenue by proprietors in jágir lands, the revenue of which was collected at the request of the jágirdár, and on payment of the 2 per cent "haq-ul-Tahsíl" by the Tahsíl establishment. The Deputy Commissioner remarks that the difficulty experienced in making these collections shows that "the people were unaccustomed to pay jágir revenue to jágirdárs without considerable pressure." Another reason for the increase is the collection of water-advantage Revenue for past years.

The Commissioner notices the increasing number of warrants in the Ráwalpindi District, for which there appears to be no sufficient reason, as "the people are well-to-do and the assessment is not heavy."

In Gujrát a system of quartering peons on the people has been abandoned in favor of that authorized by law.

In Bannú the increase is said to have resulted from the Patwáris being employed in Settlement, and the Lambardárs being unlettered.

The number of warrants is not large.

In Hazárá 117 warrants were issued. This small number is satisfactory, as showing that the new assessments were levied without difficulty.

It may be noted generally that the power given by the new rules to collect the Land Revenue due to Government assignees by the ordinary Revenue processes for the recovery of the Government demand has tended to swell the number of collection warrants, as in the case of Gurdáspúr. The service of warrants upon individual defaulters at the instance of the Lambardár, which has been mentioned above, also tended to the same result.

The Deputy Commissioner of Siálkót remarks that the decreasing number of warrants in his District shows the lightness of the assessment.

89. In 48 cases, as compared with six the previous year, recourse was had to personal imprisonment; on the other hand, Personal imprisonment. Distraint of property. the number of cases in which personal property was distrained decreased from 48 to 19.

Personal imprisonment, however, is of the nature allowed in Section 43 of the Land Revenue Act, and is in reality a less stringent measure than

distrain of property. Of the 48 cases 41 occurred in the Gurgáon District, which are explained by the remarks given above. The average period of confinement was five days. In the case of imprisonment reported to have occurred in the Amritsar District, the defaulter had been imprisoned for 28 days, and was still under restraint when the Deputy Commissioner wrote his Report. The Financial Commissioner presumes that this imprisonment was the effect of a sentence of a Criminal Court, as it is known that some of the Amritsar Lambardárs were prosecuted for criminal misappropriation of money collected as Government Revenue. Enquiry is being made on the subject. Distrain of property was resorted to principally in the Multán Division; the issue of warrants decreased in the case of each District.

None of the more stringent methods of recovery were found necessary.

Statement XV.

90. **Kham estates.**—There were 87 villages held under direct management during the year in the following Districts. :—

Montgomery	...	...	...	...	1
Derah Ismail Khán	...	...	...	...	62
Bannú	...	...	...	...	11
Pesháwar	...	...	...	...	1
Kohát	...	...	...	...	12

The average net collections from these estates in former years amounted to Rs. 74,343. The income from the harvests this year was Rs. 63,672, of which Rs. 49,228 only was retained as net demand after deductions for expenses, remissions, &c.

The falling-off in the Revenues of the Derah Ismail Khán villages has been noticed above under "Fluctuating Revenue." The Revenue of Akarpúra, in the Pesháwar District, was brought on the rent-roll from the kharíf of 1873-74, as the revised assessment was accepted by the proprietors.

91. **Government estates.**—This subject, regarding which information was specially called for in accordance with the orders of Government, has not been fully reported. Further statistics will be collected for the current year; the Reports received this year contain the information in regard to Districts only.

The Government estates in the Dehli District consist of certain villages in the Dehli Tahsíl, and those confiscated in 1857 from the jágír of the Rajah of Balabgarh. The revenue at present derived is Rs. 17,659, but a revision of Settlement is in progress. These estates are very valuable. The question of tenant right in the Balabgarh villages has been under the consideration of Government, and general principles for determining the status of tenants under the Panjáb Tenancy Act have been laid down.

In the Hissár District there is a Government rakh of 2,068 acres. The lease of the rakh has been given to the proprietors of the Skimmer estates for five years, commencing from 1872, at a rental of Rs. 2,000.

There are three Government rakhs in the Rohtak District, which are leased annually as follows:—

			Area in acres.	Rental, 1873-74.
Rakh Chuchakwás	...	...	3,845	2,500
" Sunarwála	...	...	1,369	1,100
" Dádri	...	...	549	610

Sirsa. There are no Government estates in the Sirsa District.

Ambálah. In the Ambálah District, besides Government lands under the Forest Department, there are four Government estates, which are leased annually—

		Area in acres.	Rental, 1873-74.
	Bir Nikatpúra	23	5
	" Góh	251	67
Sic.	The Barásá	1,046	101
	Old Thánesar Jail land	54	13

The produce of the Bádsháhi Bágh, in which the District Kachery stands, is credited to Miscellaneous Revenue. The amount realized is not separately given, but the total amount credited under this heading for the District was Rs. 205.

Jálandhar. In the Jálandhar District there is an estate called "Bir Sárangwál," comprising 1,183 acres, of which 41 acres are leased to cultivators for Rs. 56, which is credited as Land Revenue. The remainder forms a grass preserve for Artillery horses. The Dákh tree (*Butea frondosa*) grows in it, and the wood is periodically sold, except that of 200 acres, which has been made a forest preserve.

A plot of land originally belonging to the Jálandhar Cantonments, comprising 159 acres, has hitherto been leased annually to cultivators, the revenue being credited to the provincial fund; this land has, under recent sanction, been devoted to the cultivation of grass for the horses of the mounted troops at Jálandhar. A plot of 9 acres is reserved for a nursery garden under the management of the District Committee.

Other plots of cantonment land, one of 50 acres at Jálandhar, and one of 223 acres at Phillour, have been transferred to the Forest Department for plantations.

Jhelam. In the Jhelam District the Government estates comprise 1 village, 43 rakhs, besides those made over to the Forest Department, and two "belas," or recent alluvial accretions, in the river Jhelam, which are made over to the Cavalry Corps for fodder.

The Revenues of the Government village and of three rakhs (two of which are leased for the term of Settlement, and one for ten years from 1873-74) are credited to Land Revenue. The remaining rakhs are leased annually. The area and revenue are not stated.

Jhang. In Jhang there is a rich sailáb tract of Government land, comprising 934 acres, called "Bela Bág," which is utilized partly for arboriculture, partly for grazing, but is chiefly valuable for its growth of múnj grass. The income derived from cultivation is credited to Miscellaneous Revenue. The Deputy Commissioners of other Districts have failed to notice the subject. There are extensive tracts of culturable waste, the property of Government, in the Lahore, Gujránwála, Ráwalpindi, and Sháhpúr Districts, and in the Districts of the Multán and Deráját Divisions. A detail of these is given in Statement XXV.

92. **Takavi Advances.**—This is the first year in which the provisions of the Land Improvement Act, XXVI of 1871, have been in full operation. The amount of advances has
Statement XVI. Decrease in advances.

fallen to a remarkable degree, from Rs. 1,20,261 to Rs. 68,085. This is less than has been advanced in any year since 1867-68. The figures since that year have been—

	Rs.
1867-68	59,670
1868-69	2,81,484
1869-70	5,49,706
1870-71	83,062
1871-72	1,23,048
1872-73	1,20,261
1873-74	68,085

The Districts in which the decrease was most marked were the following:—

	1872-73.	1873-74.
	Rs.	Rs.
Hissár	200	...
Rohtak	16,760	2,200
Ludiánah	5,845	730
Gurdáspúr	1,725	130
Gujránwála	4,510	225
Jhelam	1,700	200
Sháhpúr	2,300	812
Jhang	9,005	3,775
Montgomery	14,180	2,375
Kohát	1,600	...

But the majority of Districts show a large decrease.

There can be no doubt that the number of applications has been influenced by the introduction of the new rules, but it would be premature to venture any opinion whether the decrease is due to their novelty or to any of their provisions. There is nothing unusual in a change of system, which afterwards works well, being regarded at first with suspicion, and nothing short of experience will convince the people of the country that what is new is safe. A general Report on the working of the new rules has been called for at the end of the current year; and the Financial Commissioner reserves his opinion until the submission of that Report.

93. Works of improvement are not carried on with vigor where a Settlement is in progress, partly because the people are more engaged, and partly from an idea that it would be dangerous to confess to the resources necessary to embark upon such undertakings when an assessment is in contemplation. This may account partly for the large decrease in Rohtak, and for the falling-off in Jhang, Jhelam, and Multán. The rule, however, is not universal, and Karnál and Muzaffargarh show increased advances, although both these Districts are under Settlement. Again, the amount actually advanced in any given year is not necessarily an indication of the progress made in works of improvement. The season was favorable, and private enterprise more active. In Lahore 121 wells were sunk at the expense of individuals. In Ludiánah, where the falling-off in takávi is remarkable, 52 new wells were constructed. In Jálandhar, where 46 wells were constructed from

Government advances, the Deputy Commissioner reports that this is a very small proportion of the whole number sunk.

The increase in Pesháwar continues. The Deputy Commissioner has been bestowing much pains upon the subject, and the people are taking to the system. In Hazará too it is satisfactory to observe the system is gaining favor. Advances in this District increased from Rs. 300 to Rs. 2,700.

94. The various points in the new rules, which are alleged by local officers to have produced the falling-off, will be carefully watched; and should it appear that these opinions are supported by a longer experience, they will be brought to the notice of Government; meanwhile the Financial Commissioner considers the following reasons sufficient to account for the falling-off this year:—

Falling-off explained.

1. The introduction of a new system.
2. The seasonable rain-fall and consequent prosperity.

Of the amount due at the close of the year, Rs. 2,07,558, Rs. 1,62,859 were collected. The balances were Rs. 44,949, of which Rs. 41,286 were in the Sirsa District. It is noteworthy that while the collection of these old balances is being made by degrees, the amount of advances granted in Sirsa was increased this year considerably.

95. **Treasuries.**—The Report on the Panjáb Treasuries by the Accountant General will be found among the printed appendices. Seven Treasuries were inspected before the issue of the orders delegating the duty to Commissioners of Divisions.

It is satisfactory to find that “on the whole, though there are two or three exceptions, the accounts and returns have been furnished by the Panjáb Treasuries with commendable regularity and exactness.”

96. There were, however, four cases during the year of defalcation in Stamps, of which one at least was due to lax Treasury management. In Dehli the Treasurer's Agent acknowledged to a deficiency of Stamps supplied to him for sale without cash having been paid for them. The Agent was dismissed, and the amount made good by his principal. In Amritsar it was discovered that 480 Court Fee labels of Rs. 4 value were deficient, while a corresponding number of four-ana labels were in excess. This could not have occurred except by the substitution of the Stamps of the lower value for those of the higher, on an occasion when the Treasurer's Agent indented for 600 four-ana labels and 120 four-rupee labels. There can be no reasonable doubt that 600 four-rupee labels and 120 four-ana labels were taken out in compliance with the indent. It has been decided by Government that, as the Treasurer's Agent must have profited by the difference in value, the Treasurer should make good the deficiency; and the lax practice observed by the Officers in charge of the Treasury in making over charge to their successors has been noticed by Government.

Defalcations.

At Firozpur Court Fees Stamps to the value of Rs. 240 were lost by a peon to whom they were entrusted for conveyance to the Zirah Tahsil. The Stamps were not recovered; the peon has been fined, and the Financial Commissioner has ordered that in future, Stamps should be sent from the Sadr to the Tahsils by posts in registered packets.

At Jalandhar there was a deficiency of Stamps in the hands of one of the Treasurer's Agents, amounting to Rs. 2,089-12-0. The Treasurer made good the

loss, and several months afterwards a quantity of Stamps were discovered in the house of a landowner who had lately died, some of which were in a state of decay. There appears to be no doubt that the Stamps discovered were identical with those that were lost, but there was nothing to show how the Stamps came into the position in which they were found.

97. Treasurers' securities were in most cases attested before the year closed; when this was not done, orders were issued by the Financial Commissioner to verify them.

Securities.

Private deposits in Government Treasuries.

98. The receipt of private deposits in the Government Treasuries was prohibited in 1868, and the orders are generally observed.

99. **Paper Currency.**—The remarks on this subject are gleaned from the local reports, the returns hitherto furnished by the Accountant General having been discontinued under orders of Government. The Financial Commissioner regrets that the information cannot be supplied, as the Bank of Bengal had agreed this year to allow its Agents at Dehli, Amritsar, and Lahore to furnish their Returns, which have been wanting in former years. The Returns received from Deputy Commissioners are imperfect. No form is prescribed for reporting the results, as in former years the Accountant General has furnished tabulated figures showing the number and value of the Notes received and issued in each District. In the case of the Gurdáspur, Gujráat, Bannú, and Kohát Districts, no statistics have been given; the Karnál, Hissár, Simla, Lahore, and Pesháwar District Returns give the issues, and not the receipts, and the Sirsa District furnishes receipts, and not issues. In the Hoshiárpur, Kángra, Amritsar, Montgomery, Muzaffargarh, Ráwalpindi, Jhelam, Sháh-púr, and Hazára District Reports the amount received from and issued to the public is not shown separately from the amount of receipts and issues, showing mere transfers from one Treasury to another. Subject to inaccuracies involved by the above omissions, which on the whole nearly counteract each other, the following comparison of Notes received from and issued to the public may be drawn with the figures shown in the Accountant General's Statement for 1872-73:—

	<i>Value in rupees.</i>	
	1872-73.	1873-74.
Received from the public in lieu of cash and in payment of Government dues	52,65,265	74,26,765
Issued to the public in lieu of cash and in payment of Government dues	45,99,095	81,27,805
Difference	6,66,170	+ 7,01,041

which result shows the increasing appreciation felt by the public of this kind of currency.

Neither of these Returns show the transactions of the Branches of the Bank of Bengal or of the Currency Department. But this year Returns have been received from the Agent of the Dehli Branch of the Bank, which give the following figures:—

	Rs.
Received from the public	17,74,270
Issued to the public	14,46,820

The remarks of Local Officers confirm the conclusion above arrived at as to the increasing favor in which Currency Notes are held. In the following

Districts the supply of Notes has not always been equal to the demand :—Karnál, Jálandhar, Siálkót, Sháhpúr, Multán, Pesháwar, Hazará. Some of these are deficit Treasuries, in which the Revenue received is not sufficient to meet the demand for expenditure, and, *prima facie*, such Treasuries should always be kept supplied with Notes for issue in lieu of cash, though it may not be practicable to receive Notes for cash to an unlimited extent.

Arrangements have just been made for opening a Currency Agency Chest at Pesháwar, which will ensure a sufficient supply of Notes being kept there, over and above the Government Cash Balance, so that no inconvenience will be caused in future from the want of Currency Notes.

In regard to the others, which are surplus Treasuries, the experiment of keeping a good supply of Notes should be tried, as it is quite possible that the receipts and issues of Notes will so nearly balance each other that the amount of surplus coin to be remitted to other places will not be materially increased thereby.

100. The Agent of the Bank of Bengal at Dehli remarks that Notes are chiefly used for purposes of remittance, and that the use of Notes as a medium of currency is almost unknown in the bázár. This view is confirmed by the remarks of District Officers, and the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore attributes the decreased sale of Húndí Stamps to this cause; on the other hand, in Jhelam, where the transactions in Notes have diminished, the Deputy Commissioner attributes this fact to the low premium demanded on Húndís, and to the greater security of remittance, by means of money orders, but this opinion is an isolated one. The decrease is probably due to other causes.

The new five-rupee Notes are highly appreciated where there is a European community, and will, no doubt, find acceptance with the people in time.

It is hoped that in future the Returns formerly furnished by the Accountant General of the receipts and issues of Currency Notes will be furnished, as the subject is one of much interest and importance in reviewing the administration of the Province.

If the Accountant General is unable to furnish the Returns required, the Financial Commissioner will prescribe a Return to be furnished to him by District Officers for the purpose of this Report.

101. **Money Orders.**—This method of remittance is increasingly employed by Government servants and Europeans, but does not increase in favor with natives. The Deputy Commissioner of Karnál, Colonel Babbage, recommends that money orders, in even hundreds, up to Rs. 1,000, should be granted upon remitting Treasuries at those places where the receipts are not equal to the expenditure, and that the rates should be lowered. The object of this is to relieve the Government of the expense of conveying treasure from one District to another. It is, however, evident that the issue and encashment of Currency Notes at receiving and remitting Treasuries respectively will provide equally for this result, and for large amounts the public will, for obvious reasons, prefer the latter mode of remittance.

102. The unpopularity of money orders is attributed by Mr. Goldney, Treasury Officer at Pesháwar, to the trouble experienced in event of a money order being lost or mislaid, in which case a reference to the head office in Calcutta is necessary, and great delay frequently takes place before a duplicate is received. Mr. Goldney suggests that Treasury Officers should be empowered to issue duplicates on payment

of a second fee, and generally to deal with money orders in the same way as with transfer receipts and supply bills, the officers of paying Treasuries being authorized at the same time to renew them on presentation of the duplicate. Another cause which makes the system unpopular in Mr. Goldney's opinion is the delay in issuing the orders. Owing to the abolition of the office of Money Agent in February 1873, the work was made over to the Treasury establishment, and where the officials are hard worked, it comes to be considered of secondary importance, and often has to give way to other business. Mr. Goldney thinks that the substitution of a register of advices, with a page for each Treasury for the serial register now used, would lighten the work, and obviate the necessity of searching for the advice required. He remarks also that the supply of forms received from the Comptroller General sometimes fails, as not more than 500 forms are despatched at once, although larger numbers are indented for. The Financial Commissioner considers the above suggestions by the Treasury Officer of Pesháwar good and practical, and worthy of consideration.

103. **Savings Banks.**—These Banks exist in all the Districts of the Province, except those marginally noted. During the year they have been opened in the following nine Districts:—Karnál, Hissár, Rohtak, Kángra, Gurdáspúr, Sháh-púr, Jhang, Derah Ghází Khán, and Bannú; but as they had only been working for one month at the close of the year, the transactions effected in them do not call for notice. The extension of the system to all the Districts in the Province, which has been ordered by the Government of India, is being gradually effected in communication with the Comptroller General, whose objections to the institution of a large number of new Savings Banks at one time were reported to Government, and resulted in a postponement of their establishment for the present in the case of the eight Districts above mentioned.

In no case are the Reports favorable. The amount of deposits has increased in some Districts, but the native community rarely become depositors.

104. **Coinage Act.**—The provisions of the Act regarding short-weight rupees have been more generally enforced throughout the Province. Considerable inequalities have, however, come to light in different Districts. The cause of this lies partly in the fact that in some Districts they were enforced under a misapprehension by Tahsildárs. The latter mistake occurred in the Ludíánah, Siáلكót, and Gurdáspúr Districts.

The Districts where the largest number of coins were dealt with under the Act are those shown in the annexed table, which illustrates the above remarks:—

	<i>No. of rupees cut under the Act.</i>				
Dehli	1,893
Karnál	190
Rohtak	333
Ambálah	2,418
Ludíánah	10,441
Jálandhar } Hoshiárpúr }	12,373
Amritsar	831
Siáلكót	10,530
Lahore	7,611
Multán	3,650
Jhang	842
Muzaffargarh	150
Kohát	368

A separate Report was submitted to Government regarding the number of short-weight coins in the Jálándhar and Hoshiarpúr Districts, on account of which discount was levied from Zamíndárs paying in the Government Revenue. The Deputy Commissioner of Jálándhar, Mr. Barkley, represented that this involved hardship on the Zamíndárs, and recommended that money tendered in payment of Government Revenue should be exempted from the operation of the Act, as in the case of payments made to Government by the Postal and Telegraph departments. The Financial Commissioner was unable to support this recommendation, on the ground that the Land Revenue of India is a great deal larger than any other item of receipt, and the loss resulting from the exemption proposed would be considerable. Moreover, the facility thereby given to the payment into the Government Treasuries of rupees which have been fraudulently reduced in weight (a practice which the Financial Commissioner has reason to believe exists in some places) would be great, and would cause a loss to Government which it is not reasonable or necessary to incur.

In the following Districts no short-weight coins are reported to have been received :—Hissár, Sirsa, Fírōzpúr, Gujránwála, Montgomery, Pesháwar, Hazára, Derah Gházi Khán, Bannú. Due vigilance does not appear to have been exercised in these Districts.

The Commissioner of Ambálah considers that the provisions of the Act are calculated to press harshly upon the agricultural community if their working is not closely watched, and, in addition to the precaution which has been generally adopted by the Financial Commissioner of entering the amount of discount levied from Zamíndárs on the "dakhilás," has ordered that the short-weight rupees which each man is said to have tendered in Tahsils should be secured in a separate packet, with the owner's name on it, when they are despatched to the District Treasury, so that if they should be found not to have lost two per cent, the amount of discount levied in excess may be credited to them.

Strict orders have been issued during the year, to the effect that no one but the Officer in charge of the Treasury should cut short-weight rupees; and District Officers have been enjoined to exercise great care that the provisions of the Act are not abused.

The Agent of the Bank of Bengal at Dehli, Mr. Taylor, has the following remarks, which appear to the Financial Commissioner to merit attention :—

"The total value of worn coins cut during the year (in Dehli) to 31st December 1873 was Rs. 1,893. Considering the quantity of old coins circulating, this amount cannot be looked on as large, and it is to be feared that the working of the Coinage Act has the effect of retaining in circulation in Dehli a great deal of depreciated coin, the ultimate loss on which will more than probably fall on the poorest classes. Such coin, however, circulates freely enough in the bázár, and will continue to do so until its depreciation becomes too apparent to admit of its being passed off on any except the most ignorant and poor."

The remarks of the Accountant General contained in his Report which is hereafter printed *in extenso*, are also worthy of consideration. He recommends that no opportunity should be lost of remitting new silver coin to the Panjáb, as the Treasuries which are farthest removed from the Mint have less chance of being supplied with new coin in the ordinary course of business than those which are less distant.

105. **Revenue Business.**—The total number of cases for disposal was 1,80,021, or an increase of 7,029 over that of the previous year. Of these 1,73,114 were disposed of, leaving 6,907 cases pending. The oldest case was one instituted in the Pesháwar District on 1st April 1869, regarding land taken up for Rifle butts by the Military authorities, with whom the adjustment of the charge is pending.

The largest pending files were in the Districts of the Jálándhar Division. The largest amount of business disposed of was in the Ambálah, Siálkót, Fírozpúr, and Ráwalpindi Districts.

An increase has taken place in every branch of business, except Exeise and Accounts, where there is a decrease. The work connected with the rectification of errors in the Gujráat Settlement augmented the business under that head from 303 to 1,730 cases.

106. **Appeals to Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners.**—The Statement No. XVIII.—Number instituted and disposed of. appeals to Deputy Commissioners were only 76 in number, all of which were disposed of with one exception, and this case was only instituted at the close of the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were confirmed in 40 cases, in 15 they were reversed, and in 15 modified.

The number of appeals to Commissioners increased from 1,643 to 1,798; of these 1,301 were disposed of, leaving 497 pending, 338 of which were in the Court of the Commissioner of Pesháwar. The oldest case pending was in the same Court and was instituted on 7th July 1872. It appears, however, that the Commissioner has included Settlement appeals in this Statement, and these should have been shown separately in the Settlement Business Statement.

In 1,043 cases the orders of Deputy Commissioners were confirmed, in 138 they were reversed, and in 104 modified.

The average duration of appeals was highest in the Amritsar and Pesháwar Divisional Courts. In the former it was 241 days, and in the latter 137 days, but in the former the pending file has been reduced from 116 to 64.

107. **Appellate and Vernacular work of the Financial Commissioner.**—The number of maáfi cases for disposal increased from 151 to 615; of these 278 pertained to the Amritsar District, and 205 to the Ráwalpindi District; 39 cases were disposed of by the Financial Commissioner, and 576 cases reported for the orders of Government, leaving none pending. The miscellaneous cases received during the year amounted to 100, which were all disposed of. There were 40 applications for review of judgment, of which one only was admitted, 27 refused, and 12 pending at the close of the year.

108. The appeals to the Financial Commissioner were 528 against 411 the previous year. The number disposed of was 405, leaving 123 pending.

The following is a detail of the cases disposed of:—

Regular Settlement Appeals	...	...	...	31
Special ditto	...	...	...	139
Administrative...	...	...	...	235

These were decided as follows:—

Rejected without summoning Respondent	...	...	...	333
Confirmed after summoning Respondent and inspecting files	...	...	...	18
Reversed after ditto ditto	...	...	...	31
Modified after ditto ditto	...	...	...	10
Remanded after ditto ditto	...	...	...	13

The average duration of appeals was 87 days, and the oldest case pending was dated 2nd June 1873.

The total number of cases for disposal in the Financial Commissioner's Court was more than double that of the previous year.

109. **Patwaris and their records.**—A full Report on the efficiency of the Patwaris of the Province was recently submitted to Government with proposals for introducing a scheme for establishing schools in rotation in every District for their instruction. These proposals have been approved by Government. The subject has received a considerable amount of attention during the year. Patwaris' circles have been revised with good effect in the Ambalah and Ludianah Districts, and schools established in these Districts as well as in Sirsa and Jhang. The school established in the Kangra District at revision of the Settlement records has been attended with good results. There is also a Patwaris' school in the Gurdaspur and Sialkot Districts. The instruction of Patwaris, and revision, where necessary, of their circles, forms one of the essential parts of a Settlement Officer's duty in Districts where a Settlement is in progress, but the efficiency gained during Settlement operations needs to be maintained by a system of instruction and periodical examination, which will be brought about by the plan now sanctioned.

The transfer of Patwaris as a punishment for inefficiency or carelessness has been discouraged. Upon the local knowledge possessed by these officers depends to a great extent their usefulness, and fine and dismissal are the only modes sanctioned by the rules under the Panjab Land Revenue Act for dealing with such cases. Both methods should be used sparingly and with caution. Patwaris will work well when the supervision is careful and constant, and not otherwise. If Tahsildars and Kanungos do their duty in this respect, the Patwaris will be found efficient. The method of leaving Patwaris to themselves for the greater part of the year, and then punishing a number on the report of the Tahsildar or the Kanungo, when the fault really lies in the imperfect supervision of these superior officials, is much to be deprecated; it is both unjust and ineffectual. Nothing but close and continuous supervision will keep Patwaris efficient.

The practice of trading within their circles, which is prohibited by the rules, has been found to exist among a number of Patwaris in the Ferozpur District, and measures have been taken for prohibiting it. It is probable that this subject requires attention in other Districts.

The yearly papers were for the most part filed in good time.

110. **Collectorate records and record-rooms.**—The formation of the record office fund at the disposal of the Financial Commissioner in 1871 for expenditure incurred in connection with the arrangement of records has had a most beneficial effect, and there are few Districts in which some urgently-needed improvements have not been carried out. Revised rules for the destruction of obsolete records have been framed by Mr. Barkley under the supervision of the Financial Commissioner, and will shortly be published. The subject of relieving the record-rooms of the useless papers acquires additional importance every year, as it becomes more and more difficult to provide accommodation for the rapid accumulation. The Districts in which new record-rooms or increased space at head-quarters are most required, are—Gurgaoon, Hoshiarpur, Gujranwala, Sialkot, and Derah Ghazi Khan.

The Tahsil records are never allowed to accumulate to any extent; the accommodation for them is generally sufficient, and the arrangement of them satisfactory.

Statement No. XXXVIII.

111. **Court of Wards.**—The number of estates has increased from 29 to 34 during the year.

112. The total income of these estates was Rs. 2,37,408. Last year a large item accrued from arrear collections on account of the *jágir* estate of Sardár Shamsheer Singh, Sindhánwálah, which were credited to the minor Sardár Bakshísh Singh. The total income has, owing to this cause, decreased by Rs. 87,355. It was composed of the following items :—

	Rs.
Land Revenue in cash	1,41,187
" " " kind	24,558
Interest on Government securities	7,075
Rent from tenants	10,290
Rent of houses	4,929
Other income	49,369
Total	2,37,408

The expenditure, exclusive of investments, amounted to Rs. 1,65,068, which was due to the following items :—

	Rs.	Percentage to Income.
Government Revenue	16,505	7 per cent.
Management	36,722	15 "
Personal expenses, Ordinary	59,910	26 "
" " " Special	6,197	2·6 "
Law expenses	287	0·1 "
Education	8,408	3·6 "
Payment of debts	12,377	5·2 "
Wards rate	3,709	1·6 "
Miscellaneous	20,952	8·8 "
	1,65,068	69·6 "
Balance of income	72,340	30·4 "
Total income	2,37,408	100·0 "

113. Investments have been made to the extent of Rs. 1,87,581, of which, however, Rs. 1,47,600 is due to the estate of Sardár Bakshísh Singh alone. Investments are included in the Statement under expenditure, and an excess of expenditure over income to the extent of Rs. 1,15,241 is accordingly the result, but actual expenditure is only 69·6 per cent. on the income, as shown above.

In only four cases was the income exceeded by the actual expenditure, and the excess (except in the case of the estate of Sardár Amar Singh in the Jáláhdhar District, when debts were cleared off to the amount of Rs. 2,466) did not in any case amount to Rs. 250.

The financial management of the estates may therefore be considered successful.

114. The Court of Wards School contains seven wards of the Amb District, as well as Sardár Harnám Singh and Rag Rám, wards of the Jáláhdhar and Amritsar District respectively. The Deputy Commissioner of Ambálah makes the following remarks regarding the condition of the pupils :—“The attendance of all the has on the whole been satisfactory, and Mr. Robinson reports that they b

been gentlemanly in their behaviour, clean in their dress, and have complied cheerfully with his orders on all points. Mr. Cooke, Inspector of Schools, examined the boys a short time ago, and considered they had made steady, though not rapid, progress. I think we should not overlook the fact that these lads have less incentive to learning than others, whose livelihood depends on their acquiring a certain amount of knowledge and passing examinations, and it is more an object to improve their morals and manners, and to brighten their intellects than to make them scholars. Mr. Robinson writes that "out-door sports have received a fair share of attention. Riding, shooting, badminton, and cricket are among their principal relaxations, and, though great excellence has not been attained in these, healthy relaxations have been provided as a change from the monotony of the school-room, and an antidote against the baneful effects of having no amusement to occupy their leisure hours." An effort is made to keep the boys as much as possible away from the evil influence of their native servants. With this object Mr. Robinson himself joins them in their sports, and arrangements have been made for most of them to reside on the premises of the Institute. Mr. Robinson bestows great pains on his pupils, and takes an interest in their welfare. The young Sardár, Sheo Naráin Singh, is the only Ward of Court in the Ludiánah District. He is being educated at the Ludiánah Mission School.

Ludiánah.

In the Jálandhar District Sardár Amar Singh, of Sháhkót, and Sardárs Jít Singh and Rám Singh, of Maherú, are receiving education at Government schools. The estate of Amar Singh, of Mokandpúr, has become involved owing to charge not having been taken of the estate as soon as legitimacy of the ward was acknowledged, but the Deputy Commissioner has made satisfactory arrangements with the creditors. The Kálá Bakra estate belonging to Sardár Basant Singh has been released from the jurisdiction of the Court during the year owing to the majority of the ward having been attained.

Jálandhar.

Of the five wards in the Hoshiárpúr District four are receiving instruction at Government schools and one at home. The estates are not large.

In Kángra there are two wards, Rajáh Jai Chand, the scion of the Katoch Royal House, and Rái Dalíp Singh, of Kulú. In both estates the heavy liabilities left by the fathers of the present representatives have been entirely paid off. The Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Paske, has had both the boys taught at Dharmśalah under his own supervision, and they are reported to be making good progress in their studies. The estates are committed to the superintendence of trustworthy natives, who are giving every satisfaction in the discharge of their duties. The management and supervision of these estates reflects credit on the Deputy Commissioner of Kángra.

Kángra.

There are five estates in the Amritsar District under the management of the Court; the arrangements proposed for the largest of these, that of Sardár Bakhshish Singh, Sinwála, have not yet been reported.

Amritsar.

The Commissioner states that the estate of Arúr Singh and the education of Sardár Randhír Singh require more looking after, but the latter is 18 years age, and will shortly be released from the control of the Court. Altogether 3 arrangements, both as regards finance and tuition of the estates in this district, are less satisfactory than elsewhere.

Lahore. The Commissioner of Lahore states that in his Court Sardár Nárindár Singh is still under the excellent guardianship of Rái Múl Singh.

The remaining estates call for no special remark.

The amount spent upon education is still very small, especially considering that only five of the wards are under eight years of age. But in many cases the charges for private tuition are not shown separately, and the reports of local officers show that the subject is attentively borne in mind. The charges for education at the Wards School at Ambálah are very different in amount, and it is probable that in the case of boys resident on the premises some charges are debited to education, which would more properly belong to personal expenditure.

115. **Panjab Tenancy Act.**—A Statement has been compiled this year, showing the result of suits brought by proprietors against tenants with right of occupancy for enhancement of rent. Returns of suits brought under the Panjáb Tenancy Act in Districts under Settlement are furnished in the Statement No. XXI attached to this Report. For other Districts the Chief Court Returns have to be consulted; and though the Returns published with the Civil Report refer to the calendar, and not to the official year, they may be taken to represent the corresponding amount of these suits in District not under Settlement.

116. The following table gives the number of suits disposed of under the Act for the whole Province:—

	In Districts under Settlement.	In other Districts.	Total.
1. Suits by tenants for rights of occupancy (Sec. 5)	1,657	540	2,197
2. Do. do. do. (Sec. 8)	221	73	294
3. Do. by landlords for rebuttal of right of occupancy. (Sec. 6)	32	160	192
4. Do. for enhancement of rent (Sec. 11) ...	319	142	461
5. Suits by tenants for abatement of rent (Sec. 14)	12	24	36
6. Do. for arrears of rent where remission is allowed (Sec. 15) ... ..	...	17	17
7. Do. to set aside award of division of produce (Sec. 18) ... ..	...	17	17
8. Do. by landlords for ejection of tenants with right of occupancy (Sec. 19, clause 1) ...	27	57	84
9. Do. do. (Sec. 19, clause 2)	7	196	203
10. Suits by landlords for ejection of tenants without right of occupancy (Sec. 20) ...	311	265	576
11. Do. by tenants to contest notice of ejection (Sec. 25)	102	50	152
12. Do. by tenants on account of illegal ejection (Sec. 26)	44	317	361
13. Do. under other sections	18	...	18
Total ...	2,750	1,858	4,608