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REPORT  
ON THE  
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE  
PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES



FOR 1877-78.

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Published by Authority.

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LAHORE:  
CENTRAL JAIL PRESS.  
1879.

READ—

Annual Report on the Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the year ending 31st March 1878; received on the 28th December 1878.

RESOLUTION.—This report, which is dated 31st October, was considerably delayed in printing owing to exceptionally heavy demands upon the Jail Press during this cold season, and also from the great sickness which, in the early months of the winter, everywhere weakened Press establishments; while its consideration by the Lieutenant-Governor has unfortunately been delayed by the pressure of heavy political business.

2. In the Provincial Revenues, directly or indirectly under the control of the Financial Commissioner, there has been an increase of about a lakh and a quarter as compared with the collections of the preceding year. This, however, has been due to great and abnormal increase in the Customs, Salt and Stamps income, and the increase has not been maintained during the current year. On Land Revenue proper there was a considerable decrease, amounting to about one lakh and three-quarters; collections have been less, and outstandings have considerably increased. The estimated additions to the rent-roll which were expected from the revised assessments in the Gurgaon, Bannu and Mooltan Districts have been more than counterbalanced by outstanding balances due to agricultural distress in the Gurgaon District. Still, the partial failure of the autumn crop, the drain of grain to the south, and the consequent rise of prices have not been in all districts, especially those protected by well or canal irrigation; a disadvantage to the agricultural classes who, in many parts of the Province, on a fair harvest, have been able to realize unusually high rates on sales. But in several of the districts of the Hissar and Delhi Divisions the distress has been great, and the failure of the grain harvest was made more serious by the failure of grass, which is principally produced by the summer rains, the result being great mortality among the plough and milch cattle, and a consequent impoverishment of the agricultural and pastoral classes.

3. In the Punjab, where the number of cattle maintained is very large, especially in the grazing districts cis-Sutlej, and the Bar Districts north of the Ravi, the failure of grass produces effects almost as calamitous as scarcity of food grains used by men.

4. The suspensions in the Gurgaon District have been the most noticeable, amounting to Rs. 1,20,666, and it is feared that in the current year further suspensions will be necessary, both Gurgaon and Karnal being still in very distressed circumstances, due to the early cessation of the autumn rains of 1878 and the partial failure of the winter rains of 1878-79.

5. The returns of fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue call for little comment, and the total collections differ but slightly from those of the previous year.

6. The decrease in amount received for grazing leases in the Jhang District seems to require attention, as there is no reason apparent to the Lieutenant-Governor that the receipts should have steadily diminished since the block system was introduced, and it is desirable that the procedure which was before in force of obtaining returns of the number of cattle grazing in the Government waste should be maintained; as, otherwise, there is no check on contractors or sufficient information to determine whether the amounts offered for leases really represent a fair proportion of the profits made.

7. The Customs revenue, which is reported on separately, has increased in the salt collections, sugar showing a decrease, and the duties thereon have, since these returns were received, been abolished. Owing to the Jowaki expedition and military operations on the Frontier, there was a considerable decrease in the revenue from the salt mines trans-Indus.

8. The question of raising the duties of trans-Indus salt has several times been discussed, and the Lieutenant-Governor has generally been in favor of a considerable increase in the rates; but political considerations have prevented him from making specific recommendations on the subject to the Government of India. When our relations with Afghanistan and the border tribes are revised at the close of the present year, it may be possible to come to some decision on this question; as a large proportion of the salt of the Kohat Mines is exported to Afghanistan, where it pays a heavy duty, or is used by tribes as well able to pay a higher price for it as the inhabitants of the Punjab are at present. These mines yield a very inconsiderable revenue to the State as compared with what they are capable of doing.

9. The outturn of the Mandi Mines was unusually large, and the arrangements under which the work is carried on under British supervision is eminently favorable to the revenue of the Raja. They are not, however, in all respects pleasing to him; and modifications of the present system, which may prevent loss to the British revenue while saving the dignity of the Raja of Mandi, are now under consideration.

10. The income under stamps, Rs. 27,48,681 with a net revenue of over 25 lakhs, is more than has ever been received under the present Stamp Law, and the probable causes of this increase have been discussed in reviews of other reports. Several cases have been brought to light, and successfully prosecuted, of stamp frauds; the Superintendent of Stamps believing that the income of the previous year was diminished appreciably by them. The Financial Commissioner considers, and the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to agree with him, that there could have been no such extensive frauds as to cause any large decrease of revenue, especially when during 1877-78 the income was largely increased. There can, however, be no doubt that the present system of attaching adhesive labels to judicial papers is a fruitful source of fraud, and a case has only recently been brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor by the Judges of the Chief Court, in which it would seem that, by the fraudulent removal of such labels, a loss of upwards of Rs. 2,000 has been caused. The danger of loss from the use of adhesive labels has more than once been brought to the attention of the Government of India; and it is doubtful whether the greater convenience of the system is sufficient to balance the greater facilities of fraud. If these labels be retained, it would be well for the Financial Department to direct that obliteration by a stamp charged with printing ink should be effected, in the same way as is done with postage and telegraph stamps. This is a simple and safer method than punching a hole in the stamp.

11. On the question of discount on Court Fees Stamps, the Lieutenant-Governor does not consider that any change is desirable; the rates of discount having been fixed after much discussion; and His Honor considers them suitable to the circumstances of the Province.

12. The statistics of alluvion and diluvion are specially interesting at the present time when this subject has come before the Legislative Council in the Alluvion Bill, which has been twice circulated for opinions. The loss of revenue due to diluvion is naturally greater on the Indus than on any of the smaller rivers; the area lost in the Bannu, Dera Ghazi Khan and Dera Ismail Khan Districts being over 100,000 acres. The system of fluctuating assessments of river lands lately introduced will probably secure increased revenue eventually. The question of the proper assessment of land liable to inundation is, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, a very important one as concerning district administration, and should receive very careful attention from Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners of Divisions, in the interests both of the cultivators and of the Government. Unless due and sufficient relief for losses from diluvion or flooding of cultivated land is given readily and quickly and after due local inquiry, villages fall into arrears and become impoverished. The system of fluctuating assessment has been much extended during the past few years, and there is no doubt that, if worked with due care, and the object of constant attention, it is often the saving of estates which otherwise would be overburdened with fixed assessments. But it requires much personal and careful attention on the part of District Officers.



13. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that all old cases of land taken up for public purposes under Act X. of 1870 have been disposed of. The average price paid during the year was Rs. 50 per acre on the 3,691 plots taken up.

14. So far as the revenue administration is concerned, His Honor is glad to see a very commendable improvement. This is apparent in many branches, and is probably due to the great relief afforded to District Officers and Tahsildars by the recently sanctioned addition to the judicial staff in Munsiffs and Judicial Assistants.

15. The large increase of cases has been fairly disposed of, and the pending file much decreased; and the Lieutenant-Governor would note with special approval the efforts which have been made to clear off revenue references in the Pesháwar District, which for some years past had not shown well in the returns.

16. The duration of appeals both in Commissioners' and Deputy Commissioners' Courts was shorter; and coercive processes for the collection of revenue were used, as the Financial Commissioner states, with great moderation. There are few cases of personal imprisonment reported, and distrains of personal property were only resorted to in 101 cases.

17. The improvement and utilization of Government estates and waste lands, which in the Punjab cover 10 million and a half of acres, well deserves the increased attention of District Officers. Demarcation, so far as is practicable, is being carried on, and the areas in charge of District and Forest Officers more correctly defined.

18. The increase in agricultural advances is small, and it is a matter of some surprise that the greater facility for obtaining these loans on favourable terms, which the new rules afford, has not been taken more advantage of, especially in a year like that under review.

19. With reference to the remarks on second advances in the Gurgáon District, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the orders permit a second advance to be made by the authority which was competent to sanction the original grant.

20. The judicial work of the Financial Commissioner shows considerable increase, chiefly in special appeals in cases connected with settlements. Measures have now been taken to reduce the institutions by a change of jurisdiction from the Financial Commissioner to the Chief Court, and the judicial work of the former officer will, in future, be more directly confined to those cases of a special nature and connected with the Punjab Tenancy Act, which can best be decided by a Court more directly conversant with land revenue procedure; cases of a purely judicial nature being decided in ordinary course by the Civil Courts.

21. Suits for enhancement of rent under the Tenancy Act are insignificant, the whole number of cases being no more than 209, though by a clerical error their number is given in the 28th paragraph of the report as 2,090.

22. Suits for the ejection of tenants with rights of occupancy are almost unknown; while notices of ejection issued against tenants-at-will remain at about the same figure as in the past year.

23. The Financial Commissioner observes that the present inaction of proprietors in most districts, so far as the use of the power of ejection given under the Tenancy Act is concerned, appears to be due to ignorance of their powers, or to the restraining influences of custom, the strength of which tends to diminish and not increase cases. This remark is, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, rather applicable to tenants with rights of occupancy than to tenants-at-will; and with regard to the former, there appears no reason to believe that the custom against their ejection, except for extraordinary reasons, is in any way losing its force.

24. In the remarks of the Financial Commissioner, with regard to suits for a declaration that an entry made in the record of rights is incorrect, and that a different entry should have been made, the Lieutenant-Governor is not disposed to agree. Nor does he think that on the first issue of whether the plaintiff



or is not in possession of the right regarding which he sues, there can be much difficulty in determination. While with regard to the opinion that there is no necessity for the cumbrous procedure of making the Government a party to the suit, it is only necessary to observe that this objection, which may have had considerable force, has now been removed by rules recently issued for the representation of Government, which prevent any inconvenience and secure the State rights from invasion.

25. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to hear that the system of Patwáris' examination continues so satisfactorily to advance, and that instruction in these technical schools is very generally given. Improvement is already manifest in the quality of the Patwáris' work generally in the Province, and the matter, which is one of importance, His Honor would commend to the constant care of District Officers.

26. Settlement work has progressed fairly during the year, though no settlement was completed nor final report received; but assessment reports of sixteen tahsils and one separate estate were submitted to the Financial Commissioner, and the draft orders on ten submitted to Government for information.

27. The Delhi Settlements remained as before under the supervision of Colonel Davies, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Division, and his careful and intelligent supervision of the work calls for the acknowledgments of the Lieutenant-Governor.

28. Changes due to the necessary promotion of Mr. Wood, Settlement Officer, and the withdrawal of Mr. Channing to fill the appointment of Settlement Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, caused unavoidable delay in the work in the Delhi and Gurgaon Districts; and the difficulty of assessment in this last, as in the Karnal District, has been considerably increased by the series of bad harvests, which have affected this part of the Province more than any other.

29. But there is nothing in the circumstances of Gurgaon, or in even a cycle of indifferent or bad seasons, to render necessary the discussion of the question as to whether a more elastic system of revenue administration than that at present in force would not be better suited to the people and more advantageous to the Government. In a review like the present this discussion, which has already formed the subject of voluminous correspondence, cannot be treated with any good results; though the Lieutenant-Governor would generally observe that in ordinary years the Government assessments can be paid easily, and measures of relief are only necessary in years of unusual disaster; when, at any rate, in the form of suspensions, the Government has every wish to relieve the people and every reason in its own interest to do so. The lightness of the assessments in ordinary good years is a strong argument against remissions, since a single bumper harvest enables villages without difficulty to pay off all balances recorded against them.

30. Good work has been done in the Rohtak Settlement, and although it has been necessary to withdraw the officer conducting it, Mr. Purser, who furnished the assessment reports of two tahsils, has again been placed in charge, and it is not anticipated that the work will suffer. It is to be regretted that Colonel McMahon, the Commissioner of the Division, did not forward to the Financial Commissioner his report on the character and progress of the work which he had special opportunities of observing.

31. The Jhelum Settlement has unfortunately suffered, with those above named, from changes in the supervising staff, due to one officer leaving the department on promotion, and another being compelled to take furlough on sick leave.

32. The Lieutenant-Governor would note that the method adopted in Jhelum of carrying on the work of attestation at the head-quarters of the several tahsils, is one which causes great hardship to the people, and should not be resorted to if it can possibly be avoided.

33. Since the report was submitted the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Settlements have been completed, and the work, so far as it can be at present judged by the Government, has been well and thoroughly done. Kohat is virtually finished, although its absolute completion has been delayed by the necessary deputation of the Settlement Officer on administrative duties. The Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana Settlements have been commenced. The preliminary operations in Sirsa are as once to be undertaken, and Jullundur will come under settlement in the autumn of the present year.

34. The rain-fall of the year was small, being only 26.2, the deficiency being in the autumn rains, while that which fell late in the spring did more harm than good to the crops. The result of the failure of the autumn rains was a large decrease of cultivation over two millions of acres. This was shewn entirely in the autumn crop, for there was an increase of acreage under cultivation in the spring harvest, which, in spite of some injury from the unseasonable rain, was large in quantity and fair in quality. As, however, the autumn crop so largely failed, it was a distinct advantage that an unusually small area, being almost one-third less than in the previous year, was under cultivation, or, otherwise, the seed sown would have been lost to the zamindars, and their distress would have been proportionally greater.

35. As has before been noted, the failure of grass caused very great mortality among cattle, and disease was unusually prevalent. In the Jhelum District, the loss from drought was estimated at from one-quarter to one-half the total number of cattle. From Umballa it was reported that almost two-thirds of the cattle died, though it is difficult to believe that this statement is not an exaggeration. In the Hissar and Delhi Divisions the loss was also great, and it was estimated that nearly half a million of cattle died. It will be some years, even under the influence of favorable seasons, before the country recovers from this serious diminution of agricultural wealth.

36. The statistics of transfers of land call for few remarks, the increase being exceedingly small when compared with the distress. Nor does the character of the transactions shew any notable change. Agriculturists themselves being the largest purchasers; while the most re-assuring sign, and one which marks the elasticity of the country and the general well-being of the population, is that the value of land sold has considerably risen during the past year.

37. The statistics of land mortgaged are perhaps less favorable, shewing a greater area and value mortgaged to non-agriculturists; but the remark of the Financial Commissioner is just, that in calculating the ratio at which mortgages increase over redemptions, those cases should be deducted in which the mortgage is converted into sale, otherwise the same transaction will be doubly shown in the statement of land mortgaged and land sold.

38. The report of the Government Advocate submitted with the Revenue Report shows a large amount of work done, and a continued increase in almost all branches of business. During the year under review Mr. H. M. Plowden, who had for many years filled this office with ability and success, received well-earned promotion to the Bench of the Chief Court of the Punjab, and was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Rattigan, who conducted the duties of Government Advocate during the greater portion of the year to the entire satisfaction of the Government. For administrative and economical reasons it was considered desirable by the Lieutenant-Governor to finally appoint to this office a Government servant who could devote to its onerous and growing duties the whole of his time, which could not be expected from a Barrister in large practice, and Mr. E. P. Henderson, of the Civil Service, was accordingly appointed. This step was taken after full deliberation and for special reasons, in no way affecting the estimation in which the distinguished services of Mr. Rattigan were regarded by the Government.

39. The office of Financial Commissioner was held throughout the year under review by Mr. Gore Ouseley, who, since his submission of this report, died after a short illness on the 4th January 1879. In him the Lieutenant-Governor feels that the Government has lost a most valuable officer, whose warm interest in the

natives of the Punjab, his knowledge of their character and experience in Revenue and Settlement work in the Punjab and Oudh, rendered him a most competent adviser of the Government in the important office which he held.

40. Nor can the Revenue Report be closed without an allusion to the loss of Mr. Francis Halsey, whose exertions in the development of the industries of the Punjab, and whose energy and enterprise and sympathy with the natives of the country, made his presence in the Gurdaspur District, where he had settled, an advantage both to the Government and to the people.

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

Also, that the remarks be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*.

By order of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor,

LEPEL GRIFFIN,

*Secretary to Government, Punjab.*



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NO. 1176-6831.

FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

Dated Lahore, 31st October 1878.

FROM

J. A. E. MILLER, ESQUIRE,

Secy. to Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

TO

LEPEL GRIFFIN, ESQUIRE,

Officiating Secretary to Government, Punjab.

SIR,

Revenue Administration Report 1877-78.

I am directed by the Financial Commissioner to submit the annual report on the Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the year ending 31st March 1878.

Office of Finl. Commissioner by whom held.

2. The Office of Financial Commissioner was held throughout the year by Mr. Gore Ouseley.

No change in form of report.

3. The present report has been prepared and printed in the same manner as last year's report, as described in paras 2 to 7 of that report.

The report on Excise Administration has, as usual, been submitted separately.

4. **Total Revenues**—The revenues of the province directly or indirectly under the control of the Financial Commissioner are shown in the following abstract for the year under report and the previous year:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.	Difference.
Land Revenue Proper ... ..	1,90,36,048	1,88,75,169	- 1,60,879
Tribute ... ..	2,80,465	2,80,465	...
Fluctuating and Miscellaneous Land Revenue ...	10,14,985	10,01,444	- 13,541
<b>Total Land Revenue ...</b>	<b>2,03,31,498</b>	<b>2,01,57,078</b>	<b>- 1,74,420</b>
Excise on Spirits ... ..	5,72,641	5,59,082	- 13,559
Excise on Drugs and Opium ... ..	4,76,836	4,87,988	+ 11,152
<b>Total Excise ...</b>	<b>10,49,477</b>	<b>10,47,070</b>	<b>- 2,407</b>
Local Rate on land ... ..	14,18,207	14,17,101	- 1,106
Customs and Salt ... ..	90,10,205	91,33,121	+ 1,22,916
Stamps ... ..	24,62,613	27,48,681	+ 2,86,068
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>3,42,72,000</b>	<b>3,45,03,051</b>	<b>+ 2,31,051</b>

These figures show the gross receipts. There is a serious falling off under the head of Land Revenue, but the large increase in Stamp Revenue and Customs Revenue more than makes up for it.

5. **Reports received**.—The reports of Commissioners were received in this office on the following date:—

Hissar ... ..	27th May
Derajat ... ..	20th June
Amritsar ... ..	21st Do.
Jullundur ... ..	24th Do.
Rawalpindi ... ..	1st July
Delhi ... ..	1st Do.
Peshawar ... ..	3rd Do.
Mooltan ... ..	8th Do.
Lahore ... ..	13th Do.
Umballa ... ..	29th Do.

Superintendent of Stamps 11th July 1878; Government Advocate 20th August.

**Settlement Reports.**

Commissioner Delhi ... ..	1st June
Hissar ... ..	29th April
Jullundur ... ..	6th May
Rawalpindi ... ..	6th May
Peshawar ... ..	13th May

Settlement Commissioner Mooltan and Derajat divisions 12th July.

6. **Canal Revenue.**—The following statement of the area under irrigation and the water rates realized is furnished by the Irrigation Department:—

Name of Canal.	Year.	DETAILS.	
		Area irrigated in acres.	Realizations on account of water rates.
Bári Doáb Canal ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	1,26,964	2,69,401
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	85,664	2,38,289
Upper Sutlej Inundation Canals ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	46,214	5,481
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	44,624	3,103
Lower Sutlej and Chenáb Canals ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	1,30,647	...
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	1,65,639	672
Indus Canals ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	42,408	...
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	1,29,586	...
Sháhpur Canals ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	2,452	723
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	4,610	11,255
Western Jumna Canals ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	1,90,753	3,87,771
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	2,15,135	5,41,541
Delhi and Gurgaon Irrigation Works ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	2,461	984
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	24	...
Total ... ..	Rabi of 1876-77 ...	5,41,899	6,64,360
	Kharif of 1877-78 ...	6,45,282	7,94,860
Grand Total ... ..		11,87,181	14,59,220

The total area irrigated shows an increase of 86,303 acres over the previous year. There was a large increase in the Western Jumna Canal, both in rabi and the kharif, due doubtless to the want of rain. The Bári Doáb shows a slight increase. The upper Sutlej inundation system shows a decrease in the rabi, but an increase in the kharif. The other canals show no great variation.

### PART I.—FISCAL.

7. **Land Revenue.**—The year having, during the latter half of its course, been one of considerable agricultural distress, it is not to be wondered at that the collections of Land Revenue have fallen off and the balances have increased, as the following figures will show:—

Year.	Demand.	Collections.	Balances.	Collections on account of former years.	Total Collections.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1876-77	1,92,31,400	1,89,70,957	3,55,571	65,091	1,90,36,048
1877-78	1,93,27,081	1,88,34,040	5,47,019	41,129	1,88,75,169
Difference ...	+95,681	-1,36,917	+1,91,448	-23,962	-1,60,879

Considering the difficulties that had to be encountered, these results are very much better than might have been expected. The falling off in collections is just about equal to the increased assessments of the Gurgaon district, which took effect from the autumn of 1877. If this increase of Rs. 1,33,228 be deducted, the demand for the year would have been Rs. 1,91,93,853; of which Rs. 1,88,34,040 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,59,813, which is very little over the balance of 1876-77.

8. **Causes of Increase and Decrease.**—The chief cause of the increased demand was the revised Statement No. II. assessments of the Gurgaon and Bannu Districts. The details of increase and decrease are as follows:—

	Increase.	Decrease.	Net + or -
Lapses or grants of revenue-free assignments ...	21,854	4,642	+17,212
Revised assessments ... ..	1,85,303	45,581	+1,39,722
Alluvion or Diluvion ... ..	64,149	1,20,191	-56,042
Progressive Jamas ... ..	5,526	...	+5,526
Other causes ... ..	2,873	13,611	-10,738
Total ... ..	Rs. 2,79,705	1,84,025	+95,680

The lapses of revenue-free assignments occurred chiefly in the following districts:—

Amritsar	...	...	...	3,947
Gurdáspur	...	...	...	4,480
Siálkot	...	...	...	2,663
Lahore	...	...	...	2,025
Jullundur	...	...	...	1,287
Pesháwar	...	...	...	3,407

The new grants were chiefly in the Pesháwar district (Rs. 3,887).

The revised assessments added to the regular Rent-Roll were as follows:—

Gurgaon	...	...	Rs. 1,33,228
Bannu	...	...	43,326
Mooltan	...	...	8,327

This subject will be further noticed under the head of Settlements.

The loss by diluvion was very serious.

The heading "*other causes*" included an item of Rs. 7,501 in Hoshiárpur, which the Commissioner says is for remissions on account of calamities of season. It was, however, a balance on account diluvion, and has been duly sanctioned.

9. **Collections and Balances.**—The per-centage of collections to demand was 97, and the per-centage of balances 3; as against 99 and 1 the previous year.

The balances on account of previous years have been reduced to Rs. 53,978. The largest sums are the following:—

Gurdáspur	...	...	...	Rs. 15,132
Jhelum	...	...	...	3,758
Jhang	...	...	...	6,531
Pesháwar	...	...	...	13,476
Gurgaon	...	...	...	4,802
Amritsar	...	...	...	3,133

Of the balances in Gurdáspur, Rs. 13,904 are on account of the adjustment of Raja Teja Singh's jagir accounts, which are at last approaching final settlement. Of the Amritsar balances, Rs. 2,021 are on account of river lands adjoining the Kapurthala state. Orders as to how this case is to be dealt with have been recently received from Government.

The nature of the balances in Gurgaon, Jhang and Jhelum is not explained in the reports, but these balances have since been remitted.

In Pesháwar some progress has been made in realizing outstanding balances, some portions have been remitted and others are under investigation by a European officer specially deputed to the work by the Deputy Commissioner.

The balances of the year under report were largest in the following districts:—

Gurgaon	...	...	...	...	1,38,348
Karnál	...	...	...	...	48,907
Hoshiárpur	...	...	...	...	46,222
Gurdáspur	...	...	...	...	11,488
Siálkot	...	...	...	...	7,706
Jhelum	...	...	...	...	6,004
Mooltan	...	...	...	...	15,497
Jhang	...	...	...	...	8,008
Montgomery	...	...	...	...	7,715
Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	...	23,175
Dera Ismail Khan	...	...	...	...	22,309
Bannu	...	...	...	...	42,059
Pesháwar	...	...	...	...	35,244
Hazara	...	...	...	...	31,566
Kohát	...	...	...	...	9,386

In the remaining 18 districts the balances were under Rs. 5,000 each.

The Gurgaon district has suffered much from drought and loss of cattle, and it was found necessary to suspend revenue to the amount of Rs. 1,20,766. There was also an irrecoverable balance of Rs. 5,341 on account of lands submerged in 1876-77, which has since been remitted.

Of the balances in Karnál, about Rs. 14,000 were realized in April; but a sum of Rs. 29,734 was suspended owing to distress in parts of the district.

In Hoshiárpur there was some distress in a limited area, and the collections were somewhat delayed on this account; but a sum of Rs. 12,000 was recovered soon after the close of the year. Of the remainder, the sum of Rs. 16,884 was a nominal balance on account of the Jaswan jagir revenue held in deposit, to be eventually made over to Mian Rughonáth Singh.



In Gurdáspur, some villages in the Gurdáspur and Batála tahsils had suffered from excess of rain for several years, and in 1877 from failure of the kharif crop; and the collections were retarded on this account. Some villages in the Káhnwán and Buche Nangal chams had suffered from floods and inundation, and remissions were about to be proposed.

The balance in Sialkot was chiefly on account of diluvion.

Of the balances in Mooltan, Rs. 11,852 have been remitted; the principal items being Rs. 4,855 remitted on account of failure of water in the Sardárwah and other canals. Rs. 1,320 on account of damage caused by floods and Rs. 4,679 on account of diluvion.

In Jhang the balances were chiefly on account of diluvion.

In Montgomery the doubtful and irrecoverable balances were small. They appertain to a few villages on the Ravi, which were being re-assessed on account of distress.

In Muzaffargarh there were nominal balances, chiefly on account of diluvion, to the amount of Rs. 13,880; a doubtful balance of Rs. 3,265 was also to be eventually treated as diluvion. The balance considered irrecoverable was only Rs. 309. Of the balance in train of liquidation, Rs. 4,879 was about to be collected from river villages in which the assessment had not been previously determined.

In Dera Ismail Khan a doubtful balance of Rs. 12,087 is accounted for by revision of settlement. Of the balance in train of liquidation, Rs. 2,246 was about to be recovered; Rs. 1,118 had been remitted and Rs. 1,316 suspended.

The balances in Bannu were chiefly on account of diluvion and remissions for calamity of season. There were also arrears to the amount of Rs. 5,462 owing to the late receipt of the new kistbands from the Settlement department. The Deputy Commissioner's explanations on these points are not sufficiently explicit, but under the head of calamities of season, he reports that Rs. 19,749 were remitted, of which about half were on account of hail storms and the overflow of the Kurram river.

In Pesháwar, balances to the amount of Rs. 28,947 were in train of liquidation, and Rs. 6,297 had been remitted. The chronic arrears in this district, which formed the subject of special inquiry and report during the year, are being gradually reduced.

In Hazára the balances are owing to the severe distress that prevailed during several months, especially in the Abbott-abad tahsil, where the balances amounted to Rs. 24,263. These balances have since been suspended, and will be gradually collected.

The balances in Kohát were chiefly on account of the Jowáki disturbances, which prevented land-owners on the border from attending to their cultivation, owing in many instances to their being employed with our troops as carriers, &c.; most of them have since been remitted.

With reference to collections and suspensions in the Hissar division the Commissioner remarks that:—

"Everything depends on the local knowledge and judgment of district officers, and that while the suspension of the revenue without sufficient necessity only does harm, on the other hand nothing could be worse policy than to deny it in really urgent cases."

The Financial Commissioner concurs in these views, and remarks that the object of Circular No. 42 of 17th October 1877, issued by him, was to check the first wild ideas which prevailed in several districts, when the failure of the rains of 1877 created alarm, but the wording of the circular gave ample discretion to district officers, of which they ought to have availed themselves, and it is to be hoped that they did do so.

10. The balances are classified as follows:—

	1877-78.	Previous years.	Total.
In train of liquidation ... ..	2,75,450	15,437	2,90,887
Doubtful ... ..	64,064	23,840	87,904
Irrecoverable ... ..	33,533	4,376	37,909
Nominal ... ..	1,19,994	9,710	1,29,734
Total ... ..	4,93,041	53,393	5,47,019

The total of previous years given in the statement No. I, should be as here given. The difference of Rs. 585 is on account of a mistake in the Hazára return, subsequently discovered.

The largest balances in train of liquidation were in the following districts:—

Gurgáon ... ..	Rs. 1,29,060
Hoshiárpur ... ..	21,415
Pesháwar ... ..	28,947
Hazára ... ..	29,580
Kohát ... ..	8,344
Gurdáspur ... ..	6,977
Muzaffargarh ... ..	5,636
Dera Ismail Khan ... ..	5,899

The nominal balances were chiefly on account of diluvion, and include:—

Hoshiárpur ... ..	22,693
Mooltan ... ..	11,852
Muzaffargarh ... ..	13,880
Bannu ... ..	14,294

The largest doubtful balances were :—

Karnál	...	...	...	...	32,631
Dera Ismail Khan	...	...	...	...	12,087

The largest irrecoverable balances were :—

Bannu	...	...	...	...	22,303
Gurgaon	...	...	...	...	6,024
Dera Ismail Khan	...	...	...	...	1,411
Amritsar	...	...	...	...	1,591

The nature of all these balances has been explained in the foregoing account of the total balances of certain districts.

11. **Fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue.**—The total collections show a decrease of Rs. 13,541 owing to the smaller amount collected for previous years. The income of the year show an increase of Rs. 18,909. The details are as follows :—

( Printed ).

<i>Fluctuating.</i>		1876-77.	1877-78.	Increase or decrease.
Lapses of rent-free holdings	...	26,164	43,606	+17,442
Revision of assessment	...	1,882	21,972	+20,090
Alluvial lands	...	56,630	53,807	-2,823
Assessment of waste lands	...	21,610	19,391	-2,219
Estates under direct management	...	49,873	62,032	+12,159
Land released	...	124	114	-10
Water advantage revenue	...	2,05,148	2,10,943	+7,795
Miscellaneous items	...	17,659	9,139	+8,520
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>3,77,090</b>	<b>4,21,004</b>	<b>+43,914</b>
<i>Miscellaneous land revenue.</i>				
Surplus talabána	...	17,870	16,082	-1,788
Grazing dues	...	4,30,798	3,83,184	-47,614
Sale of wood	...	57,523	59,116	+1,593
Málikána	...	8,728	7,204	-1,524
Lease of gardens and groves	...	10,708	10,906	+198
Saltpetre	...	4,718	6,164	+1,446
Sají	...	17,283	17,998	+715
Fisheries	...	8,874	9,541	+671
Fines	...	3,840	2,327	-1,513
Miscellaneous items	...	30,166	52,977	+22,811
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>5,90,508</b>	<b>5,65,503</b>	<b>-25,005</b>
<b>Total fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue</b>	...	<b>9,67,598</b>	<b>9,86,507</b>	<b>+18,909</b>
<b>Collections on account of former years</b>	...	<b>47,387</b>	<b>14,937</b>	<b>-32,450</b>
<b>Total collections</b>	...	<b>10,14,985</b>	<b>10,01,444</b>	<b>-13,541</b>

Lapses show an increase in the Umballa, Jullundur, Amritsar and Lahore divisions. The revenue here shown is that collected on new lapses for broken periods, before being brought on the rent-roll, and is in addition to that shown under regular land revenue.

The increase from revision of assessment is chiefly in the Dera Ismail Khan district, and is shown here preparatory to being brought on the regular rent-roll.

The assessment on waste lands shows a decrease, chiefly in the Mooltan division, on account of the deficient rain-fall.

The assessments on estates under direct management in Dera Ismail Khan, show an increase which the Deputy Commissioner explains to be owing partly to the addition of 6 villages recently brought under direct management, and partly to the increased value of grain.

Water advantage revenue shows a slight increase, but the income is still about Rs. 20,000 short of the year 1875-76. The principal details are as follows :—

	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Amritsar	64,713	42,462	41,367
Gurdáspur	23,994	12,766	14,847
Lahore	80,731	55,345	66,079
Montgomery	61,693	92,531	89,592



In Amritsar the difference is slight. In Gurdáspur the increase is owing to the demand for canal water, caused by the failure of the summer rains. The same cause must have operated in Lahore, and also in Montgomery, where the large collections of 1876-77 were partly on account of the previous year.

The decrease in the income from grazing dues in the Mooltan division, amounting to Rs. 43,529, is accounted for by Deputy Commissioners as follows :—

In the Mooltan district there was a small increase of Rs. 1,525, owing to the supply of grass being good, and to improvements in administration.

In Montgomery the sum of Rs. 34,351, was credited to the Forest Department, as its share of grazing dues. This sum appears to have been included in the Deputy Commissioner's return of miscellaneous land revenue, but has been excluded in the above calculation of decrease and in the printed statement No. III.

In Jhang a decrease of Rs. 12,316 occurs. The Deputy Commissioner states that the tiri leases have gradually decreased since 1874-75, when the chakdári system was introduced; that the decrease is partly owing to a reduced scale of grazing rates and to drought, but that a slight improvement was shown in the sales of leases for 1878-79.

In Muzaffargarh the decrease is nominal, being caused by a transfer of Rs. 2,335 to the credit of the Forest Department.

The income from sale of wood is chiefly in the Mooltan and Deraját divisions.

Other heads of miscellaneous income show no great change.

The balances of the year show an increase from Rs. 18,103 to Rs. 30,018 chiefly in Montgomery, Amritsar and Pesháwar. In Montgomery there was a balance of Rs. 5,189 remaining to be realized on account of grazing dues, to be credited to the Forest Department. In Amritsar the balance of Rs. 3,565 was chiefly on account of water advantage revenue, and a sum of Rs. 2,217 was collected shortly after the close of the year. In Pesháwar there was a balance of Rs. 8,849 on account of forfeited and resumed maáfi grants.

12. **Local Rate Cess.**—The demand, at the rate of six pies per rupee of "annual value," (calculated as double the land revenue demand) under Act XX of 1871, was Rs. 14,33,724, of which Rs. 14,17,101 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 16,623, of which Rs. 12,091 was in train of liquidation with the arrears of land revenue. The payments to lambardárs and patwáris amounted to Rs. 1,13,038, and the net amount credited to Government was Rs. 13,04,063.

The rate has now been increased to 8 pies per rupee by Act V of 1878.

13. **Customs and Salt.**—The complete report of the Commissioner of Customs having already been issued, it is only necessary to give here a few statistics of the revenue under this head in the Punjab section of the department.

The revenue increased from Rs. 90,10,205 in 1876-77 to Rs. 91,33,121 in 1877-78. The increase was entirely in the salt revenue. The revenue from sugar showed a decrease. The sugar duties have since been abolished. The loss of income resulting from this measure in the Punjab will be some seven or eight lacs of rupees a year, but there is on the other hand a considerable saving in establishment.

The revenue from the Salt Range mines, including miscellaneous receipts, increased from Rs. 39,19,997 to Rs. 42,59,724. The revenue of the Kohát mines was Rs. 80,894, and of the Mandi mines Rs. 62,108.

The salt revenue from the Delhi and Hissar line, now designated the "Punjab south" section, was Rs. 41,09,599, being slightly below that of the previous year.

Para. 6 of the Commissioner of Customs' report shows that the Kohat and Mandi receipts are not included in the return of total income furnished to this office, and that the total including these is Rs. 93,01,195 which is higher than the income of the two preceding years, but slightly below that of 1874-75.

The sales of salt at the mines in the salt range increased during the first-half of the year; they then received a check owing to the rain in October having impeded communications; they recovered during the last quarter of the year, owing partly to stocks requiring replenishment, and also to the reduction of the duty by 4 annas from 1st January 1878.

The Commissioner of Customs points out that 4,95,191 maunds, or one-third of the entire quantity of salt sold was carried by the Punjab Northern State Railway, chiefly from Jhelum, but partly from Gujrat; the salt was carried as far south as Patna and Bexares. The Commissioner urges the advantages that will accrue from a speedy completion of the branch line of railway from the mines to Lala Musa.

The wire tramway project has been abandoned, and the Commissioner mentions that the Northern State Railway authorities are devising a more simple and easier method of conveying the salt from the mine's mouth across the river Jhelum.

The decrease in the revenue from the Kohát mines was owing to the disturbances on the frontier.



The decrease in the gross revenue of the Punjab South division was owing chiefly to the reduction of duty from Rs. 3 to Rs. 2-12-0.

The out-turn of salt at the Mandi mines was the highest on record, being 1,44,698 maunds, of which 99,373 were declared for British territory, and 45,325 for native states; the revenue due to the British Government at 10 annas a maund being Rs. 62,108, and to the Raja of Mandi Rs. 1,18,764.

Smuggling showed an increase during the year, chiefly on the Delhi and Hissar line, where 888 persons were apprehended and made over for trial. The cause of the increase is believed to have been the agricultural distress in that part of the country. There were 138 cases on the Indus line, of which 86 were in the upper beats between Torbela and Miánwáli. These were cases in which it was attempted to smuggle the cheap Kohat salt into Cis-Indus territory.

14. **Stamps.**—The Superintendent of Stamps has furnished the usual report on the results of the Statement No. VIII. year, which will be found among the appendices.  
(Printed.)

The receipts, compared with the previous year, were as follows:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.	Difference.
Court Fees Stamps	18,14,430	19,41,262	+ 1,26,832
General Stamps	6,25,128	7,79,566	+ 1,54,438
Stamps duties in cash	5,377	8,492	+ 3,115
Penalties	7,124	7,855	+ 731
Recoveries in pauper suits	6,892	7,819	+ 927
Miscellaneous	3,662	3,687	+ 25
<b>Total Rupees</b>	<b>24,62,613</b>	<b>27,48,681</b>	<b>+ 2,86,068</b>
Charges	2,14,637	2,42,369	+ 27,732
<b>Net revenue Rupees</b>	<b>22,47,976</b>	<b>25,06,312</b>	<b>+ 2,58,336</b>

This is the largest income ever attained under the present stamp law.

The increase under the head of judicial or court fees stamps must have been due to an increase either in the number or the value of suits, or to both. As these causes are not shown to have existed in the year ending 31st December 1877, the inference is that it took place in the last quarter of the year 1877-78, ending 31st March.

The Superintendent of Stamps thinks "the income of the previous year was diminished by extensive stamp frauds, which are only now gradually coming to light."

It is true that some cases of fraudulent removal, and resale of old court fee labels have come to notice, in particular an extensive fraud at Jullundur, but it would be premature to conclude that such frauds have been so general in the year 1876-77, as to cause a large decrease in the revenue, and so rare in 1877-78 as to lead to a nominal increase. Some frauds have probably been perpetrated in every recent year, notwithstanding which the income from court fees stamps shows a steady increase, which ought to be capable of explanation apart from the disturbing element of stamp frauds. To ensure a complete comparison with the statistics of civil litigation, it would be necessary to obtain the returns of each quarter, which could be compiled by the Superintendent of Stamps into a return for the financial year ending 31st March, corresponding with the year for which the stamp returns are rendered. Slight discrepancies in the results might be caused by some stamps of high value being purchased at the end of one year and not used till the beginning of the next, but these would not ordinarily be of much consequence. In addition to all this it is necessary to examine the statistics of revenue and settlement business, which have a considerable effect on the stamp revenue. The revenue cases instituted during the year show a slight decrease. But the settlement business return, No. XXI, shows that the total of judicial and revenue cases disposed of in 1877-78 was 48,737, whereas in 1876-77 it was only 42,780 this necessarily caused an increase in court fees stamps. It would appear also that an increase of Rs. 12,970 is due to process fees.

The large increase in non-judicial stamps is attributable to the unfavorable character of the season, which placed a large portion of the agricultural population in difficulties and caused them to resort largely to bonds and mortgages.

The income from receipt stamps increased from Rs. 55,038 to Rs. 62,740; an increase of Rs. 3,720 is also shown under Hundi stamps, and of Rs. 506 under foreign bill stamps. These increases appear to be due to the activity of trade, especially the grain trade during the year.

The Superintendent of Stamps has paid attention to the subject of stamp vendors, and has suggested to the Deputy Commissioners concerned that the number of vendors licensed should be in accordance with local circumstances, so as to prevent on the one hand inconvenient monopolies, and on the other the appointment of a number of petty vendors in excess of local requirements.

Connected with the question of vendors is that of discount. It has been found that some of the vendors of the nearest districts of the North-Western Provinces, where no discount is allowed on court fee stamps, get their supplies from the Delhi treasury through the local vendors, with whom they divide the discount. This question was recently reported to Government, and it was decided that no change was to be made in the Punjab rules regarding discount on court fee stamps.

The subject of cancellation of labels and the use of stamp punches were discussed in last year's report; as no orders have been received as to whether the present system is to be maintained, there is

nothing further to report on this occasion; except that a number of new patterns of punches have been experimented with, and that not one of them is entirely free from objections.

In communication with the Financial Commissioner's office, and under orders of Government, the Superintendent of Stamps has been able to effect considerable reductions in the surplus stocks of stamps, and to prevent the accumulation of excess in stocks in future.

Statements No. X and  
X A.  
(Printed.)

15. Alluvion and diluvion.—The figures, calculated in the same way as in para. 64 of last year's report, are as follows:—

		Increase of assess- ment.	Decrease of assess- ment.
		Rs.	Rs.
In alluvial chak districts	...	6,983	20,535
In other districts	{ New area	37,830	...
	{ Improved area	11,280	97,034
Total	...	56,093	1,17,569
Excess of diluvion over alluvion	...		61,476
Add loss by destruc- tive inundation	{ In alluvial chaks districts	458	...
	{ In other districts	7,514	...
		7,998	7,998
Total loss Rs.			69,474
The loss in 1876-77 was			1,25,190
and in 1875-76			84,210

The decrease in the loss this year is owing to the deficient rain-fall in the summer, and the consequent absence of floods and inundations. In a dry year there ought *prima facie* to have been less loss from ordinary diluvion, and more revenue from lands reclaimed from rivers, but after great floods like those of 1876 the land left dry in the subsequent year is often of very little value.

The loss, however, was much greater on the Indus than on the other rivers. In Dera Ismail Khan the land recovered from the river was 12,542 acres, assessed at Rs. 4,782; whereas the area lost was 31,150 acres assessed at Rs. 23,625. In Dera Ghazi Khan the area carried away was much greater, being 45,250 acres, whereas the revenue lost was only Rs. 3,903, much of the land having been sandy waste. In Bannu an area of 13,049 acres was recovered from the Indus and Kurram and assessed at Rs. 13,464, or about a rupee per acre, and the area lost was 29,170 acres, assessed at Rs. 30,602. In Peshawar the revenue lost was Rs. 10,095, being about double the amount gained. In Muzaffargarh the loss of revenue on lands carried away by the Indus and Chenab was Rs. 12,972.

The remissions on account of destructive inundation were chiefly in the following districts:—

Gurgáon	...	...	...	...	Rs. 5,341
Pesháwar	...	...	...	...	„ 1,663
Mooltan	...	...	...	...	„ 415
Ludhiána	...	...	...	...	„ 484

Taking separately the regions affected by the Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum in the upper portion of their course, comprising roughly the divisions of Julundur, Amritsar, Lahore and Rawalpindi, it is found that the revenue gained on river lands was Rs. 13,802, and the revenue lost Rs. 20,939, or a net loss of Rs. 7,137. In the upper portion of the Mooltan division the gain and loss are about equal.

The southern portion, consisting of the Muzaffargarh district, is affected on the one side by the Indus, and on the other by the lower Chenab. Taking, therefore, the Indus alluvial region as consisting of the Derajat division, the Muzaffargarh district and parts of the Peshawar district, it appears that the gain was Rs. 29,131, and the loss Rs. 81,197, showing a net loss of Rs. 52,066, of which Rs. 38,790 occurred in the Derajat division.

The Indus not only comes down in floods in the rainy season; it occasionally rises also in the cold season in consequence of winter rains, which last season were abnormally heavy. In Dera Ghazi Khan the Indus twice rose to flood-height during the cold weather, and submerged the alluvial lands, damaging the *rabí* crops.

The subject of alluvion and diluvion on the Indus has been receiving special attention during the last few years, as all the districts bordering on it are, or have recently been, under settlement. The district reports do not contain much information on the subject, but it may be stated, generally, that not only on the Indus, but on all the large rivers the figures for the past few years show a continually increasing loss to Government in the assessments of river lands, and that the annual inquiries on this subject made during the cold season deserve the careful attention of district officers, in order to ensure that, while all reasonable relief for losses caused by river action is afforded, in accordance with existing rules, the just claims of Government in bringing under a sufficient assessment lands recovered from the rivers, and lands improved in quality, are in no case overlooked.



Statement No. XI.—  
(Printed.)

16 Land taken up for public purposes.—Lands were taken up as follows :—

		Area in acres.	Compensation.
By private negotiation	...	620	29,452
By collectors' award	...	2,891	1,18,889
By award of court	...	180	38,071
Total		3,691	Rs. 1,86,412

The purposes for which the land was taken up were as follows :—

	Area.	Compensation for land including property thereon.
		Rs.
For Roads	558	19,809
„ Canals	836	23,246
„ State Railways	1,187	50,605
„ Guaranteed Railway ..	1	...
„ Other works	1,109	92,751
Total	3,691	* 1,86,411

The roads for which land was taken up were chiefly in the Jullundur, Delhi and Rohtak districts. Land was taken up for the irrigation department in Delhi, Karnál, Rohtak and Lahore; and for canal works in Dera Ghazi Khan and Pesháwar.

Land was taken up for the Northern State Railway in the districts of Lahore, Gujránwála, Jhelum and Gujrat, the chief portion of it being for the section of the line that passes through the Jhelum district, where 1,035 acres were taken up at a cost of Rs. 41,528; an area of 81 acres was also taken up for the Indus Valley Railway, at a cost of Rs. 3,988.

The principal items under the head of "other works" were in the districts of Delhi and Rawalpindi. In Delhi land was taken up for the extension of the cantonment, at a cost of Rs. 38,586. In the Murree tahsil of the Rawalpindi district 667 acres were taken up for the Kuldannah cantonment, at a cost of Rs. 36,058.

The amount of Government revenue reduced on account of land taken up during the year was Rs. 1,469.

An area of 109 acres was restored by Government to its original owners; of this 104 acres belong to the Mooltan district, where the Bandarghát wharf land, no longer required, was resold to its former owners.

The return shows 62 cases pending at the end of the year in which compensation had not been paid. These were in the following districts :—

Gurgaon	...	42
Lahore	...	9
Rawalpindi	...	2
Pesháwar	...	8
Siálkot	...	1

Of the 42 cases pending in Gurgaon 24 were disposed of soon after. The rest were under enquiry in the Settlement Department. All old cases of former years had been disposed of.

17. Land revenue assignments.—The statements have been prepared in the same form as last year. The statistics of these assignments, as they existed at the close of the year, are shown in an abstract of the general statement, No. XII, of the printed series. Compared with the previous year the figures are as follows :—

	1876-77.		1877-78.	
	Rupees.	Persons.	Rupees.	Persons.
In perpetuity	17,71,599	55,549	17,63,923	55,438
For life	7,89,707	57,486	7,78,039	54,994
For more than one life	1,02,192	12,066	1,64,231	12,204
During maintenance of charitable and religious institutions	1,86,242	16,706	1,89,335	17,174
Pending orders	70,635	8,269	44,008	8,693
Total Rs.	29,80,375	1,50,076	29,39,536	1,48,503

Note.—The difference Re. 1 is owing to exclusion of fractions.



The cases pending orders are chiefly in the Pesháwar district, where small maáfis investigated at settlement are very numerous, as the following figures show :—

	Persons.	Area.	Revenue.
In perpetuity ... ..	125	86,301	48,173
For one life ... ..	9,919	93,492	93,910
For more than one life ... ..	553	7,572	9,771
Religious and charitable institutions	929	4,872	6,246
Pending ... ..	8,052	57,549	34,801

The life maáfis in all districts are gradually but slowly falling in, but in some cases grants originally held for the life of an individual have been upheld during maintenance of religious and charitable institutions. Some of the additions under this head are owing to new cases investigated during settlement proceedings. Nevertheless the total area held revenue-free has decreased from 5,237,971 acres to 5,204,919, and the revenue from Rs. 29,80,375 to Rs. 29,39,536, a decrease of Rs. 40,839.

Statement No. XIII.—  
(Printed.)

18. **Pensions.**—The number of pensioners increased from 4,601 to 4,770, and the amount of the pensions from Rs. 10,45,301 to Rs. 10,50,909.

## PART II.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

19. **Coercive processes.**—The number of warrants (or dastaks) issued for the collection of revenue overdue in 1876-77 was shown in last year's report (para. 85) to have been 47,350, but the return for this year shows that the correct number was 48,498. There is a further increase in 1877-78 to 49,730. This increase is not so great as the circumstances of the year would have led one to expect. The largest increases are shown in the following districts:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
Delhi ... ..	830	1,086
Gurgaon ... ..	3,530	4,087
Rohtak ... ..	773	1,174
Umballa ... ..	2,753	3,027
Kángra ... ..	254	511
Hoshiárpur ... ..	2,918	4,091
Siálkot ... ..	3,744	5,458
Jhelum ... ..	1,742	2,178
Gujrát ... ..	1,931	2,582
Muzaffargarh ... ..	393	919

In these districts there was more or less distress in the autumn of 1877.

Some districts show a decrease, among which are :—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
Jullundur ... ..	2,852	2,324
Amritsar ... ..	2,573	2,001
Gurdáspur ... ..	5,230	2,511
Gujránwála ... ..	842	684
Ferozepore ... ..	2,628	2,371
Mooltan ... ..	3,169	2,993
Montgomery ... ..	659	540
Dera Ismail Khan ... ..	1,660	1,150
Bannu ... ..	626	497
Hazára ... ..	401	268

Cases of personal imprisonment decreased from 142 to 71. The cases were in the following districts:—

Gujrát ... ..	31
Muzaffargarh ... ..	16
Pesháwar ... ..	15
Amritsar ... ..	5
Ferozepore ... ..	1
Gurgaon ... ..	1
Rohtak ... ..	1
Kángra ... ..	1
Total ... ..	71

In the remaining 24 districts there were no imprisonments. In Gujrát and Muzaffargarh imprisonments have been in previous years also rather more freely resorted to than elsewhere. The subject has been noticed in former reports. The Commissioner now reports that this system of frequent imprisonments in Gujrat has been discontinued.

In Pesháwar the resort to imprisonment of defaulters appears to have been necessary in connection with the special efforts that have been made to collect outstanding arrears. The average duration of imprisonment was only 8 days.

Distrain of personal property was resorted to in only 101 cases, against 172 the previous year. Of these, 33 cases occurred in Jullundur, where there were 114 in 1876-77. There were 15 cases in Amritsar; 20 in Pesháwar; 11 in Muzaffargarh; 8 in Montgomery; and 8 in Káugra.

Upon the whole, coercive processes for collection of revenue were used during the year with great moderation.

**20. Government Estates.**—This return is subject to remarkable changes from year to year owing to uncertainty as to the manner in which it should be filled up, and especially as to the proper definition of a Government estate. For instance, in Dera Gházi Khan, the entire area of Government land, amounting to 276,043 acres, is entered as one estate, whereas in Gujránwála each rakh is shown as an estate.

In Karnál where only 1 estate was shown last year, there are now 55, containing 70,896 acres, and Lahore, which last year showed only 118 estates, containing 277,853 acres, there are now only 5 estates. This appears to be an error in the return, as the Deputy Commissioner says in his report there has been no change in the number of estates. The area is nearly the same, 275,000 acres, the distribution of which is shown in an extract from the Deputy Commissioner's report.

Some of the changes are owing to transfers to and from the Forest department, and owing to settlement operations.

Mooltan shows an increase of total area from 1,727,015, to 1,892,074 acres, owing probably to revised measurements and demarcations at settlement. But Muzaffargarh shows a decrease from 951,749 to 306,537 acres, the difference having been restored to villages, from which too large an area of waste land had been taken at the summary settlement.

The total area shown this year is:—

	Acres.
Cultivated ... ..	152,908
Uncultivated ... ..	10,372,233
Total	10,525,141

The total in 1876-77 was ... 10,273,222

The income from cultivating leases was Rs. 92,693, and from other sources, chiefly grazing dues, Rs. 5,70,339; total Rs. 6,63,032.

Although a vast area of land, chiefly in the Mooltan division, is uncultivated, and is nominally "available for cultivation," the process of bringing it under cultivation is necessarily a slow one, as it depends upon facilities for irrigation. An attempt is being made to deal with the waste lands of the Montgomery district, on the principle of distinguishing between land situated near canals and rivers, and land beyond the reach of irrigation. It is the former only that is really capable of cultivation. The latter will remain a vast grazing ground for camels and horned cattle, for an indefinite time to come, except in so far as it is made available for Forest conservancy.

**21. Agricultural advances.**—The amount advanced shows a slight increase from Rs. 97,086 in 1876-77 to Rs. 1,00,218 in 1877-78. There was a large decrease in Ferozepore, owing to the completion of some canal cuts, which had been carried out with the aid of advances. There was also a decrease in Dera Ismail Khan, Pesháwar, and Hazára.

In Pesháwar the Deputy Commissioner suspended some of the balances of takávi advances, due on account of unfavorable harvests and calamities of season. He should have applied at the time for sanction to these suspensions. He did so, however, subsequently. In Hazara, the Deputy Commissioner made the same mistake. There was a considerable increase in Gurgaon, Rohtak and Dera Gházi Khan.

In Gurgaon there was a great increase in applications immediately after the announcement of the new jamás in June 1877, and also partly on account of the failure of the rains. The Deputy Commissioner is mistaken in supposing that a second advance may not be granted for completion of a work. It may be granted, but sanction of Government is necessary.

In Rohtak, during the severe drought, small advances were granted for katcha wells.

In Dera Gházi Khan the increase in advances for wells appears to be due to judicious action on the part of the Deputy Commissioner in making the rules better known.

The advances due were, upon the whole, collected punctually, as only Rs. 11,551 are shown as overdue at the end of the year; chiefly in Pesháwar and Sirsa.

**22. Kham holdings.**—This return shows 96 estates, of which 68 are in the Dera Ismail Khan district. The expected transfer of these to their owners during the present settlement has not yet taken place.



The Deputy Commissioner of Kohát furnishes an explanation of the term "jaribat" lands, which will be found in the printed extracts from local reports.

The total area of these khám estates is now 26,502 acres, and the demand is Rs. 76,508, and deducting expenses Rs. 62,403.

In Mooltan there is only one estate under direct management, which will probably be restored to its owners when the new assessment is declared.

In Montgomery there were four estates held direct, but the Deputy Commissioner had arranged to have three of them re-assessed; the fourth, being the land exchanged by the Probynabad farm for other land, was proposed for sale.

The khám estates in the Derajat division are described in an extract from the Commissioner's report. Those in Dera Ismail Khan are the same as before. In Dera Gházi Khan they consist of 2 villages deserted by their owners owing to failure of irrigation; some of the owners, however, subsequently returned. The khám estates in Bannu have since been regularly settled.

In Kohát 2 villages were brought under direct management, on account of the insolvency of the former lessees, and pending the announcement of new assessments.

**23. Revenue business.**—In the year 1876-77 there was a large increase of cases. This year the cases **Statement No. XVII.** instituted decreased from 226,831 to 221,481, but owing to the heavy pending, (Printed.) file, the total number for disposal increased from 237,410 to 243,123; of which 229,429 were disposed of against 215,731, and the pending file was reduced to 13,674 cases. The increased amount of work performed is creditable to revenue officers.

It was noticed last year that the mutation cases of the Pesháwar district had been in arrears. Great exertions have been made to clear off these arrears. The pending mutation cases at the beginning of the year amounted to 10,011, to which were added 911 new cases in 1877-78, making 10,722 for disposal; of which 10,485 were disposed of. The total number of revenue cases of all kinds pending in Pesháwar at the end of the year was only 823.

The large increase of mutation cases in the Umballa district is noticed by the Commissioner under the head of transfers of land. There was also a considerable increase under this head in Jullundur and Hoshiárpur, and in the Amritsar division. In a year of agricultural distress an increase of mutations is to be looked for, and would have shown itself in the total for the province had it not been for the disposal of arrears in Pesháwar.

The districts in which the revenue work is heaviest are shown by the numbers of cases disposed of as follows:—

Umballa	...	...	...	...	12,907
Jullundur	...	...	...	...	13,510
Hoshiárpur	...	...	...	...	19,693
Kángra	...	...	...	...	12,363
Amritsar	...	...	...	...	10,668
Gurdáspur	...	...	...	...	12,101
Siálkot	...	...	...	...	14,437
Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	13,842
Rawalpindi	...	...	...	...	10,367
Pesháwar	...	...	...	...	14,726

**Statement No. XVIII.** **24. Appeals to Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners.**—The number (Printed.) of appeals instituted shows a considerable increase as follows:—

	FOR DISPOSAL.		DISPOSED OF.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
By Commissioners	890	1,023	763	910
By Deputy Commissioners	134	230	107	209

A great improvement was shown in the average duration of the cases, which was in Commissioners' courts only 24 days, and in Deputy Commissioners' 19 days. The average duration in the court of the Commissioner of Rawalpindi was only 9 days, and in the court of the Commissioner Lahore 12 days. None of the pending cases were of very old date.

**25. Appellate and vernacular work of the Financial Commissioner.**—The appellate work has **Statement No. XX.** largely increased. The number of cases for disposal was 743, against 542 (Printed.) the previous year, and 532 in 1875-76.



The number of appeals pending at the beginning of the year was 168, to which were added 575 new cases, making the number for disposal as follows:—

Settlement ...	{ Regular ... 26
	{ Special ... 340
Administrative ...	... 377
	<hr/>
Total	... 743

The cases disposed of were as follows—

Settlement ...	{ Regular ... 13
	{ Special ... 116
Administrative ...	... 308
	<hr/>
Total	... 481

against 374 in 1876-77.

These cases were disposed of in the following way:—

Rejected without summoning respondent	... 418
Confirmed after sending for record &c.,	... 7
Reversed after sending for record &c.	... 45
Modified Ditto	... 5
Returned for re-investigation	... 8
	<hr/>
	481

The percentage of orders not confirmed was ... 10

The date of the oldest case was 22nd July 1876 from the Peshawar district.

The special settlement appeals instituted during the year were chiefly from the following districts:—

Jhelum ...	93
Jhang ...	33
Mooltan ...	23
Dera Ismail Khan ...	24
	<hr/>
	173
8 other districts ...	57
	<hr/>
	230

In 1876-77 there were 195 administrative appeals instituted, and 171 disposed of. In 1877-78 there were 325 instituted, and 308 disposed of, while 69 remained pending. The great increase of work is in the special appeals in judicial cases connected with settlements, which are often of an important character. Of these there were 110 pending at the commencement of the year, and 230 newly instituted, making 340 for disposal, against 303 the previous year; while the number disposed of was 160, against 193 the previous year, leaving 180 pending.

The average duration of cases was 113 days.

In addition to the above, the Financial Commissioner disposed of 1,575 maafi cases; 36 miscellaneous cases, and 79 petitions for review of judgment. Of the maafi cases 1,154 were reported to Government for orders; of these 877 were from the Peshawar district.

26. **Patwaris.**—The system of patwaris' examination continues to work well. In most districts the patwaris, where not under training in the Settlement department, have gone through a course of instruction in Patwaris' schools, and the majority have either been passed after examination or have been exempted on account of known efficiency. In Peshawar, however, the subject requires more attention.

In the Umballa and Ludhiána districts the patwaris are not considered quite efficient, but it is hoped they will improve during the approaching settlements.

Attention has also been given to the training of the probable successors of Kánungos.

27. **Wards Estates.**—The number of estates is 40, the same as before. The return has been improved by the addition of columns to show the cash balance at the credit of each estate. The total of these cash balances at the beginning of the year was Rs. 2,17,948, which had increased at the end of the year to Rs. 2,81,304. This is a large sum to be lying idle in the treasuries, and shows that more might be done by district officers to utilize surplus funds in profitable investments.

The estates are upon the whole in a thriving condition, the excess of income over expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,17,300, and the excess of expenditure over income being only Rs. 19,341. This excess, however, is in many cases merely nominal, as the above total of expenditure includes investments to the amount of Rs. 50,624. There are only 4 cases in which there is a real excess of expenditure over income. In all the other cases the apparent excess is due to the investment of surplus funds, and in some cases to the payment of debts out of income and balance in hand; where the excess is not due to these two causes, the district officer would do well to make special efforts to reduce the expenditure, especially under the heads of "management," and "personal," and "special" expenses, and "miscellaneous," so as to bring it well within the income. For instance, there is an

estate in the Mooltan district in which the income from land and houses is Rs. 4,071, and there is no cash balance in hand, but the expenses of "management" are Rs. 1,526, which is out of proportion to the annual value of the estate.

The liabilities of the estates amount to Rs. 1,48,424, of which Rs. 81,443 appertain to one estate in Ludhiána. In this estate no debts were paid during the year, though there was a balance in hand of Rs. 24,355, and a surplus of income over expenditure of Rs. 7,483, but in this case special arrangements were, with the sanction of the Financial Commissioner, made with creditors, which had not taken effect at the date of the report. The remaining liabilities are in three or four estates only. Upon the whole, the return shows that every effort is made by district officers to clear off debts where they exist.

The Wards' school at Umballa is favorably reported on by the Commissioner. He recommends that the Wards should all live under one roof. The Financial Commissioner, however, considers that there are grave objections to this, and even if there were no objections, there would be great difficulty and expense in carrying out such a measure.

**28. Working of the Punjab Tenancy Act**—This statement shows the number of suits for enhancement filed within the year; in statement No. XXI the number of suits disposed of within the year by the settlement courts is given. The figures in the two statements will not, therefore, wholly correspond, but it seems certain that the suits for enhancement filed in the Rohtak settlement courts, of which 128 were decided in the year, have not been included in statement XXI; and it is probable, although not certain, that the 23 suits shown in statement XXI as decided in the districts of Jhelum, Jhang, Muzaffargarh and Bannu, should have been included in this statement.

The same omission was noticed last year; instructions to prevent its recurrence will be issued. The only districts in which this class of suits is at all frequent are Gurgaon and Rohtak.

In Gurgaon the number of institutions rose from 28 to 117, and in Rohtak the number of enhancement suits decided rose from 53 to 128. Hazára shows 37 institutions, and in Lahore, Amritsar, and Ferozepore the institutions number more than 20. In 18 districts the returns are blank, and in the remainder the suits numbered less than 20. In Gurgaon and Rohtak the land-lords are finding out their powers, and putting them into practice; hitherto occupancy tenants have ordinarily paid at the same rates as the owners: and it is noteworthy that in Gurgaon, out of 67 cases in which enhancement was decreed, 65 were decided under the third clause of section 11, in which the comparison is made with the rents of tenants-at-will after the deduction of a percentage, and only 2 under the second clause, in which the comparison is with the rents paid by occupancy tenants; and out of the whole number of 2,090 cases in which decrees were given, 143 were decided under the third clause, and only 60 under the second clause, (chiefly in Hazára and Lahore), and six under the first clause, *i. e.*, with reference to an excess area in the occupation of the tenant.

**29. Ejectment of tenants with rights of occupancy**—These cases are fewer even than last year; only twelve decrees for ejectment are shown in the statement, eleven of which were under section 19, clause I. Statement XXI shows 13 suits decided under section 19; possibly some of these should have been shown in statement XXXIX A, but it may be that in none of them was a decree given.

**30. Ejectment of Tenants-at-will**—The number of decrees for ejectment of tenants-at-will increased from 64 to 215; of these 191 were in Rawalpindi, which last year showed only 3.

It is strange that this somewhat cumbrous procedure should have been so largely resorted to in that district, but the matter is not noticed by the Deputy Commissioner.

The number of notices of ejectment issued hardly differed from that of the previous year, 4,924 against 4,933: and these notices were again most numerous in the same nine districts, *viz*:—

Gurgaon	...	...	...	776
Ferozepore	...	...	...	620
Hissar	...	...	...	428
Sirsa	...	...	...	417
Rawalpindi	...	...	...	410
Delhi	...	...	...	313
Jullundur	...	...	...	286
Rohtak	...	...	...	284
Hazára	...	...	...	265

Of 1,236 suits to resist ejectment, 818 were decided in favour of the land-lord, and 410 in favor of the tenant. Of the nine districts named above, in Sirsa only was the proportion of suits to resist ejectment decided in favour of the tenant the larger. The area from which tenants were ejected, 40,469 acres, is somewhat smaller than that shown last year, 48,372 acres: the largest areas under this heading occur in the following divisions:—

Hissar, 22,004 acres.
Delhi, 5,147 acres, more than half in Gurgaon.
Lahore, 4,261 acres, more than half in Ferozepore.
Deraját, 3,262 acres, almost wholly in Bannu, the return of which district shows but one notice of ejectment, and an area of 3,203 from which tenants were ejected after issue of notice.



The only districts in which tenants have been ejected from more than 2,000 acres are the three districts of the Hissar division, and Gurgaon, Ferozepore and Bannu. In Gurgaon there is, as has been noticed in former years, a general disposition on the part of the land-owners to raise rents; a result of the increased revenue demand and of the rise in the value of land due to the construction of the Agra canal. The Deputy Commissioner remarks that the land-lords are in consequence attempting to eject as many old tenants paying at customary rents as they can, in order to lease their lands to new tenants at higher rents.

In Rehtak the Settlement Officer remarks that enhancement suits are increasing in number, and that he believes that hardly a single occupancy tenant will escape from having to pay net rent by the time that the settlement is concluded. In this district the settlement operations have probably induced a disposition on the part of owners to assert their rights. The causes which have led to such numerous ejections in Hissar and Sirsa are somewhat obscure. In Sirsa, indeed, a settlement is impending, but in districts with a population of 137 and 68 to the square mile and large area of culturable waste, it would have been expected that the object of the land-lords would have rather been to attract than to eject tenants. The Deputy Commissioner of Sirsa inclines to the belief that the working of the Act has caused considerable hardship to tenants originally induced to settle when estates were founded by the promise of occupancy rights, and now unable to produce satisfactory proof of the agreement. The Commissioner, however, does not share this belief. He points out that at the settlement of 1863 all tenants of 10 years standing, and in the Sahuwala tahsil all tenants of the owner's clan were recorded as hereditary cultivators: and that therefore the Deputy Commissioner's remarks could apply only to villages founded within the last 25 years, and he doubts whether in any case the original settlers would look so far ahead, as to enter into any agreement as the occupancy rights of the tenants or to the future possibility of the land-lord's desiring to eject them.

In Ferozepore the Deputy Commissioner remarks that enhancement suits are on the increase, and are especially numerous in the Moga tahsil, where land is particularly valuable. He states that the land-lords are learning their powers, and that in all cases where no rent is paid beyond the Government revenue, a suit for enhancement may be expected.

The Settlement Commissioner remarks that in the Mianwali tahsil of Bannu, where until lately the line between proprietors and tenants in the riverain lands was very indistinct, litigation between land-lords and tenants is on the increase. On the whole it seems probable that except in districts, *e. g.* those of the Mooltan division, where, owing to local causes, the tenants are too valuable and too scarce to be interfered with, the general tendency will be to a larger use of their powers by the land-owners.

The present inaction of the proprietors in most districts appears to be due to ignorance of their powers or to the restraining influence of custom: and both these causes will tend to lose and not to gain in strength. In every district in which the tendency is observed to substitute for the old customary relations those based on the Act, the working of its provisions should be carefully watched and reported by the local officers.

**31. Suits under Section 20 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act.**—This statement apparently does not include suits brought under this section in the settlement courts. The Settlement Officer Jhelum states, there were 639 such suits for disposal in the settlement courts of that district, and the Settlement Commissioner states that of the 544 miscellaneous regular suits heard in the settlement courts of the Mooltan district most were brought under this section.

These figures bear out the remarks which the Financial Commissioner made in objecting to allow cases under this section to be heard by the judicial courts in Ludhiana. It is true that, properly speaking, the suits can be brought only by persons in possession, but every one who brings a suit alleges possession, and by the time that his and his opponents' statements, and the evidence of their witnesses has been heard on this issue, and it is ascertained that the plaintiff is not in possession, as much labour and trouble and time have been expended as would be ordinarily expended in trying the plaintiffs' right to be put in possession on its merits.

The number of suits shown in the statement No. XXIII A, has fallen from 2,004 to 600; the decrease has been especially marked in the districts of Mooltan, Rawalpindi, Delhi, and Umballa, in the last of which the Deputy Commissioner reports the entry of 71 suits last year was a mistake, no such suits having in reality been filed. Of the 600 cases for disposal only 74 were rejected on the preliminary ground that the plaintiff was not in possession, while last year more than half the suits were so rejected. Some districts in which a large number of suits were instituted, show no rejections under this head. In 255 suits decrees for the amendment of the record were passed.

As remarked last year, the meaning of the section does not seem to be fully understood, and several officers ask for instructions as to the method of filling up the statement: these will be given.

The Deputy Commissioner of Montgomery remarks that there is no necessity for the cumbrous procedure of making Government a party to the suit; the Financial Commissioner concurs in this opinion. Except in districts under settlement, the section is not largely resorted to, and the Commissioner of Umballa justly remarks that parties on friendly terms with their neighbours and in undisputed possession would not be likely to bring a suit to amend the record unless a settlement were in progress.



## PART III.—SETTLEMENTS.

32. Number of Settlements. The districts under settlement are:—

1. Delhi	9. Dera Ismail Khan.
2. Gurgaon.	10. Bannu.
3. Karnál.	11. Kohát.
4. Rohtak.	12. The jágir of Rái Dalip Singh in the Kullu sub-division of Kángra.
5. Jhelum.	13. Kahnúwán Chamb villages of Gurdáspur.
6. Mooltan.	
7. Jhang.	
8. Muzaffargarh.	

No settlement has been completed, and no new settlement has been undertaken during the year under report.

33 Final Reports. No final reports were received in this office during the year.

34 Assessment Reports. The assessment reports of the following tahsils were received during the year:—

<i>Tahsil.</i>	<i>District.</i>
1. Ballabgarh	Delhi
2. Pánipat	Karnál
3. Jhajjar	Rohtak
4. Sámpla	Do.
5. Jhelum	Jhelum
6. Pind Dádan Khan	Do.
7. Chakwál.	Do.
8. Talagang	Do.
9. Mooltan	Mooltar
10. Chinot	Jhang
11. Sinánwán	Muzaffargarh
12. Alipur	Do.
13. Bhakkar (báráni and waste lands)	Bannu
14. Miánwáli	Do.
15. Kohát	Kohát
16. Hangu	Do.
17. Rái Dalip Singh's jágir	Kángra

Draft orders on the assessment reports of the following tahsils were submitted to Government:—

<i>Tahsil.</i>	<i>District.</i>
1. Ballabgarh	Delhi
2. Pánipat	Karnál
3. Sinánwán	Muzaffargarh
4. Tánk	Dera Ismail Khan
5. Kulachi	Do.
6. Leiah	Do.
7. Bannu	Bannu
8. Bhakkar (báráni and waste lands)	Do.
9. Miánwáli	Do.
10. Rái Dalip Singh's jágir	Kángra

Of the above Pánipat and Sinánwan have been received back from Government since the close of the year, and the others were disposed of during its course.

35. Settlement business.—These statements contain a detail of the work performed in the several settlements during the year under report. They do not, however, accurately represent the state of progress, as credit is taken for each stage only in those estates in which it has been finally completed.

36. Delhi.—Of the 193 villages noted in last year's report as showing a discrepancy of more than 5 per cent. between the areas of the settlement and survey measurements, all but one have now been passed. Assessment returns have been prepared in the vernacular for tahsil Sonepat, thus completing this stage of the work. The revenue rate report for tahsil Delhi was submitted by Mr. Wood, and is now in the Financial Commissioner's hands. Orders were passed on the Ballabgarh report, and the Settlement Officer hopes shortly to get out the village assessment, but re-inspections of some at least of the estates will be first needed. The Sonepat report is promised early in the cold weather. The chief employment of the establishments has been in the work of attestation. In the Delhi and Ballabgarh tahsils this stage was nearly finished at the end of the year, but the character of the Ballabgarh work was not found to be satisfactory. The former Superintendent has resigned, and it is to be hoped that under new supervision the character of the work will be improved. In Sonepat the work is still backward, but great progress has been made, and operations are being pushed on with vigour. Some progress has been made in fairing and in the adjustment of the rights and rents of tenants. Mr. Maconachie, who after a short time

during which Messrs. Channing and Wilson held charge, has succeeded Mr. Wood, promoted, is doing his best to forward the progress of the settlement, but he is unable to promise its completion much before April 1880.

The judicial work does not call for any special remark. The number of suits instituted for enhancement of the rent of occupancy tenants was only 22. Of the 4,100 revenue cases instituted, 3,543 were mutation cases, many of them arising from the proceedings connected with the re-alignment of the Western Jumna Canal.

37. **Gurgaon**.—This settlement was conducted by Mr. Channing up to the 29th December; since that date Messrs. Wilson and Maconachie have been in charge. The fourth stage was finished during the year by passing the areas of 23 villages, and the announcement of the village assessment was also completed. The total increase of revenue is Rs. 1,79,595. The engagements were in every case signed by the village head-men, but owing to the drought, which supervened, it was found necessary to grant large suspensions of the kharif demand in the tahsils of Nuh and Ferozpur. The fact that the right of Government to demand a large increase of assessment was satisfactorily established by the Settlement Officer, and was acquiesced in by the zamindárs, followed by the fact that as soon as a bad season ensued, large suspensions in the Government demand had to be granted, repeats a question which has been mooted on other occasions, as to whether a more elastic system of revenue administration than that at present in force, would not be better suited to the people, and more advantageous for the Government. The establishments were chiefly employed during the year in the distribution of the new jamás over the holdings; in carrying on the work of attestation, which at the end of the year was nearly finished; in fairing and in preparing the administration papers and records of tribal custom. The work is now drawing to a close under the immediate supervision of Mr. Wilson.

The judicial work consists chiefly of suits under the Tenancy Act. The only point worthy of notice is the increase in suits for enhancement of rent to which reference has already been made.

There has been a great increase in the number of revenue cases instituted, due chiefly to the large number of mortgages caused by the drought in the two tahsils of Nuh and Ferozpur. The Superintendents have not been able to dispose of all these, so that at the end of the year 4,671 revenue cases were pending, of which 3,821 were mutation files. Special arrangements have been made to expedite their disposal.

38. **Karnal**.—The assessment reports for both tahsils were submitted by the Settlement Officer during the year. That for Karnal is still with the Commissioner, to whom the orders on Pánipat, have been recently communicated. The general work of the year is thus summarized by Mr. Ibbetson:—

1. 8,25,000 entries have been compared and checked prior to attestation.
2. The village bundles of 139 villages have been examined, and the results embodied in the papers.
3. The Munsarims have attested ... .. Villages. Holdings.  
The Deputy Superintendents ... .. 159 58,417  
The Superintendents ... .. 167 51,605  
... .. 178 43,485
4. The attested files have been examined in 195 villages, and corrected and finally prepared for fairing in 153 villages.
5. The fair field maps have been compared in 127 villages.  
... .. Villages. Holdings.  
The khewats faired for ... .. 71 11,052  
and the field registers for ... .. 34 1,81,263
6. The English village statements have been prepared for assessment.
7. The whole material for statements of tribal custom and much of that for village administration papers has been collected.
8. A very large amount of miscellaneous work has been done for the district.
9. 54 appeals, 187 judicial cases, and 1,715 revenue cases have been decided. Attestation was approaching completion at the end of the year, but had been delayed by the drought. The judicial work is light. The Commissioner speaks very favorably of the thoroughness of the work performed.

The Financial Commissioner has again to thank Colonel Davies, C. S. I., for his careful supervision of the settlements of the Delhi division. His review of the year's work is printed among the appendices to this report.

39. **Rohtak**.—The first, third and fourth stages were completed during the year; the results of the comparison of the settlement and survey areas were reported to Government, and Mr. Purser's work received commendation.

The assessment reports of tahsil Sámpla and Jhajjar were submitted by Mr. Purser during the year, and those of Gehána and Rohtak have been since completed by Mr. Fanshawe. Attestation was nearly finished at the end of the year. Considerable progress had been made in the preparation of administration papers and in the adjustment of the rights and rents of tenants, and in fairing. The settlement is advancing satisfactorily, and its completion may be expected during the summer of 1879.



Mr. Fanshawe in his report mentions that the Commissioner had examined the work, and Mr. Ouseley, therefore, the more regrets that Colonel McMahon should have forwarded the report under a mere covering docket, and not have favoured him with an expression of his opinion as to the character and progress of the work.

The judicial work continues light, but the pending file has increased from 2 to 106. The revenue cases decided have risen from 8,874 to 11,936; the bulk of the revenue cases consist of mutation and miscellaneous files.

40. **Kulu.**—Pending the receipt of the orders on the assessment report which were communicated to the Commissioner in February, not much progress could be made in this small settlement, which it is anticipated will now shortly be brought to a conclusion.

41. **Jhelum.**—Major Wace, having left the Settlement Department on promotion, made over charge to Mr. Purser early in the year. He was, however, later put on special duty for the purpose of completing the assessment reports, which were submitted by him for all four tahsils, and are now in the Financial Commissioner's hands. Mr. Purser was compelled to take leave from the 24th February, and was succeeded by Mr. Dane, who submitted the report at the end of the year. Stages 3, 4, 5, and 6 had been finished, and under stage 7 a report had been furnished with the revenue rate report of the estimated village assessments.

Last year mention was made of the adoption of the plan of attesting each village on the spot. After an experience of some months, Mr. Purser found it necessary, in consequence of the want of more supervising officers, and of the size of the patwáris and munsarim's circles, to carry on the work of attestation at the head-quarters of the several tahsils. At the end of the year, attestation by patwáris was nearly finished, that by munsarims was one-half, and that by Deputy Superintendents about one quarter done; and attestation was completed in 156 out of the 1,072 villages of the district. Some progress has been made in the other stages.

The judicial work of this settlement is heavy; the number of ordinary suits for rights decided in the settlement courts increased as compared with last year, from 1,163 to 1,242, and of tenancy cases from 499 to 616; the pending files have also increased. Of the 1,427 ordinary suits for decision, 639 were brought on an eight-anna stamp to correct the settlement record, and of 643 suits for decision under the Tenancy Act, 455 were claims to recover arrears of rent.

The Commissioner has forwarded the report and returns without adding any remarks. This settlement has been very unfortunate in the frequent changes of Settlement Officers which have occurred.

42. **Kohat.**—The first four stages are now practically complete; it has been decided not to measure the Bar-Miránzai villages. Stages 5 and 6 were completed for the part of the district under regular settlement, and orders on the assessment report were communicated to the Commissioner in July. Attestation and the adjustment of the rights and rents of tenants were nearly completed at the end of the year, and progress had been made in the preparation of irrigation records, of administration papers, of village note books and in fairing. In addition to the above, several miscellaneous reports were submitted by the Settlement Officer. The number of judicial cases decided during the year by the settlement courts increased from 239 to 502, and the pending file was reduced from 374 to 109. Notwithstanding the injury to the work caused by frontier disturbances, and the murder of Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, Hákim Rái, an officer to whose valuable assistance Captain Hastings bears witness, the progress of the settlement has been very fair.

43. The remaining settlements are under the control of Mr. Lyall, Settlement Commissioner, Mooltan and Deraját divisions, whose report will be found printed among the appendices, and the value of whose supervision the Financial Commissioner desires to acknowledge.

44. **Bannu.**—This settlement is rapidly approaching completion. Orders were passed on the Bannu and Miánwáli reports: the detailed assessments of Isa Khel and Marwat were sanctioned within the year, as have since been those of Miánwáli and Bannu. The work in every stage was finished, or rapidly approaching completion, and part of the establishment has been since transferred to Ludhiána. The judicial work continued heavy, and extra assistance had to be afforded.

45. **Dera Ismail Khan.**—This settlement also is now nearly finished. Orders were passed during the year on the Tánk, Kulachi and Leiah reports, and on the assessment report for the waste and bári lands of tahsil Bhakkar. The announcement of the village assessments was completed, and have been sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner in tahsils Tánk, Dera Ismail Khan and the Thal and Duggar circles of Bhakkar. All the later stages of the work were rapidly advanced during the year, and since its close part of the establishment has been transferred to Ludhiána.

The judicial work was lighter than in the previous year; the number of judicial cases disposed of by the settlement courts decreased from 1,049 to 798.

46. **Mooltan.**—The assessment reports of tahsils Mooltan, Shujábád, Lodhrán and Mailsi were submitted by the Settlement Officer during the year; that for Mooltan reached this office before, and that for Shujábád after the close of the year. In tahsil Sarai Sidhu the assessments were announced and accepted, and the settlement virtually brought to a close. Attestation was finished in all but one tahsil and considerable progress made in the preparation of administration papers, and in fairing. The progress made during the year has been satisfactory. The number of judicial cases decided by the settlement courts was 1,063 as against 878 in the previous year.



47. **Muzaffargarh.**—The assessment reports for Sinánwán and Alipur were submitted during the year. Orders on the Sinánwán report have been communicated to the Settlement Commissioner; that for Alipur is still under the Financial Commissioner's consideration. The report for the third tahsil was under preparation. Mr. Lyall notes that the progress made in attestation has been small, and explains that this was due to interruption caused by miscellaneous work. Progress has been made in the adjustment of rights and rents of tenants, in the preparation of administration papers, and in fairing. The number of judicial cases decided in the settlement courts during the year fell from 541 to 382; the pending file slightly increased from 51 to 80. Mr. Lyall's remarks on the character of the suits under the Tenancy Act are interesting, and will be found in the appendix.

48. **Jhang.**—The assessment report of Chiniot was submitted by the Settlement Officer, and is now with the Financial Commissioner. That for Shorkot was under preparation at the close of the year. Attestation and the adjustment of rights and rents of tenants were completed in 248 villages during the year, and administration papers were prepared in 260. The work has been advancing rapidly, and Mr. Lyall bears testimony to its thorough character. The judicial work of the settlement was much the same as that of the previous year.

49. **Kahnuwan Chamb.**—In this settlement, which is being conducted by Mír Hidáyat Ali, Extra Assistant Commissioner, measurements were completed, and attestation nearly finished. The assessments have been framed by Mr. Lyall, and have just reached this office.

50. **Existing settlements.**—Arrangements have been made to place under re-settlement the districts of Sirsa, Umballa, Jullundur, Hoshiárpur and Ludhiána; in the last named district operations have since the close of the year been commenced under Mr. Walker.

The revenue survey of Sirsa was far advanced at the end of the year, and a preliminary survey of 569 out of 660 villages had been completed under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner at a cost of Rs. 2017. The work was performed to the satisfaction of the Survey Officer.

#### PART IV.—STATISTICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

51. **Rain-fall.**—The total average fall for the year was only 26·2 inches as compared with 33·4 inches in 1876-77. The deficiency was chiefly in the summer season from 1st April to 1st October, which comprises the season of the regular rains.

The winter rains from 1st October to 1st January increased from 1·9 to 8·2 inches, and the spring rains from 1st January to 1st April decreased from 7·5 to 3·8 inches.

The rain in April and May 1877 was not wanted, and did some damage to the harvest.

In June there was an average fall somewhat in excess of the fall of the previous year. But this was not the case in the central parts of the province.

The failure of the autumn crop is accounted for by the deficiency of rain in July and August, which are ordinarily the rainiest months.

The results for those months may be exhibited thus by divisions:—

Average of	1877.			Total in July and August 1876.
	July.	August.	Total.	
Delhi Division ...	1·7	0·3	2·0	11·6
Hisar .....	1·7	0·2	1·9	8·9
Umballa .....	5·9	3·8	9·7	22·7
Jullundur .....	8·1	3·1	11·2	47·5
Amritsar .....	2·4	1·0	3·4	30·0
Lahore .....	2·1	0·3	2·4	16·4
Rawalpindi .....	2·3	1·4	3·7	15·3
Mooltan .....	2·6	0·1	2·7	5·0
Deraját .....	0·3	0·6	0·9	5·2
Pesháwar .....	1·3	1·4	2·7	13·5

Among the printed extracts will be found some remarks of the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum, (Major Wace,) regarding the effect of deficient rain-fall on well irrigation, in which he comes to the conclusion that wells are not sufficient in the end for prevention of famine when the rain has failed.

The Financial Commissioner remarks that the result predicted by Major Wace would doubtless have happened had there been no rain during the rabi harvest. But the facts are, that notwithstanding the complete failure of the rains in the preceding kharif, the people residing in this thickly populated tract were saved from famine, and from any thing deserving of the name of famine, by their wells supplemented by the rain, which fell so late in the year as December 18th.

Statement No. XXIX. (Printed.) 52. Crops.—There was a decrease of cultivation of over two millions of acres, owing to the want of rain for the autumn crop of 1877. The details, compared with the previous year, are as follows:—

	1876.	1877.
Spring	1,20,46,273	1,23,93,917
Autumn	95,90,007	66,27,572
	2,16,36,280	1,90,21,489

The area under spring crops shows a further increase over that shown in 1876, but the yield was not in proportion to the increased area, owing to excessive rain at harvest time. Still the crop was upon the whole an abundant one, and had it not been for the large exports to the famine districts of south India, the effect of the failure of the autumn crop would not have been so serious as it was.

The variations in the area of the principal crops were as follows:—

	1876.	1877.	Difference.	
Spring.	Wheat ... ..	66,09,497	69,83,904	+3,74,407
	Barley ... ..	18,74,217	21,14,547	+2,40,330
	Gram ... ..	22,72,256	18,98,421	-3,73,835
	Masur (Lentils) ... ..	1,87,554	1,99,031	+ 11,473
	Tobacco ... ..	63,194	78,390	+ 9,196
Autumn.	Mustard ... ..	4,35,726	3,87,988	- 47,738
	Rice ... ..	7,08,699	4,03,387	-3,05,312
	Jowár ... ..	22,21,535	13,99,247	-8,22,288
	Bájra ... ..	23,69,796	15,33,891	-8,35,905
	Maize ... ..	10,84,337	9,52,991	-1,31,346
	Moth ... ..	9,82,208	6,39,076	-3,43,132
	Cotton ... ..	6,68,876	6,56,609	- 12,267
Indigo ... ..	1,29,409	1,06,956	- 22,453	
Sugar ... ..	3,56,749	3,40,161	- 16,588	

Though the area under indigo shows a decrease in the total, it appears that in the Dera Gházi Khan district, where this crop is of considerable importance, there was an increase from 23,999 acres to 26,765 acres.

53. Rates of rent and produce.—This return has been prepared in the usual form. The statistics of rent per acre of land suited for various crops specified are not of much value, as rents are not usually fixed upon this basis in the Punjab. The average rates reported for wheat, which is the most important spring crop, are as follows:—

	Maximum.	Minimum.
Irrigated ... ..	Rs. 8 6 9	Rs. 3 5 11
Unirrigated ... ..	„ 5 12 3	„ 1 15 1

In Hoshiárpur the rates range from 11 pies per acre of unirrigated land to Rs. 16 for irrigated land, while the maximum for unirrigated is given as Rs. 26. The meaning of these figures is not clear.

The average yield per acre of various products is now reported as follows:—

Rice ... ..	682 lbs.
Cotton ... ..	85 „
Refined sugar ... ..	409 „
Tobacco ... ..	788 „
Wheat ... ..	677 „
Gram ... ..	683 „
Barley ... ..	788 „
Indian corn ... ..	959 „

The yield of wheat in Karnál is given as 1,600 lbs, while in Sirsa it is only 197 lbs. Last year also the yield in Sirsa was the lowest on the list, and that in Karnál was almost the highest, leading to the inference that each of these districts adopts some mode of calculation peculiar to itself.

The yield of gram cannot be taken to represent what was actually obtained during the year, as the gram crop of 1877 was in many places a failure.

The yield of Indian corn is only given for three districts.

54. Cattle Fairs.—There were 13 fairs held during the year. In the districts of Hissar, Rohtak and Amritsar, a fair is held both in the autumn and in the spring. The total number of cattle that attended shows a further increase over the previous year, being 1,86,899, including 5,461 horses at the Amritsar fairs. The Gujránwála fair seems to be increasing in importance, as 6,154 cattle attended it. The numbers of cattle in other districts were as follows:—

Hissar ... ..	34,944	
Rohtak ... ..	26,029	
Sirsa ... ..	29,692	
	cattle ... ..	79,660
Amritsar	Total, cattle ...	1,70,325
	horses ... ..	5,461
Minor fairs ... ..	11,139	
	Total ... ..	1,86,899

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The amount of prizes distributed was Rs. 5,058, and the amount of other expenditure Rs. 5,328 total Rs. 10,386, leaving a large surplus at the credit of provincial revenues.

55. **Loss of cattle from disease and starvation.**—In Pesháwar a decrease of animals is reported as follows:—

Oxen	...	...	...	14,997
Horses	...	...	...	894
Sheep and goats	...	...	...	12,261
Camels	...	...	...	621

Total ... 28,773

A number of cattle died from throat disease, and owing to the drought numbers of animals were taken into the hills for sale. Considerable numbers of cattle, goats and sheep died of disease in the Thal of the Dera Ismail Khan district. In Dera Gházi Khan many cattle died from starvation, but not from disease. In Bannu there was considerable loss of cattle from disease. In the Rawalpindi division the drought caused great loss of cattle, especially in the Jhelum district. The Commissioner believes that half of the cattle died, and that only the young beasts could recover. The Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum, however, thought that not more than one-fourth or one-fifth of the cattle had died. In the Shahpur district cattle disease appeared in 43 villages, and out of 2,198 animals attacked, 1,496 died. Cattle disease was very prevalent in the Siálkot district. The Deputy Commissioner of Umballa states that almost two-thirds of the cattle of the district died of starvation, and large herds were driven off to the Dún and the hills for pasture. In the Hissar division the loss of cattle from starvation was very great. The statistics are given in a printed extract from the Commissioner's report. The estimated loss was 259,946 animals, but some deductions had to be made for animals taken elsewhere for pasture and likely to return. Since the close of the year special advances on a large scale have been sanctioned by the Government of India for the purchase of plough cattle in this division and in the Delhi division, where about 232,000 cattle are believed to have died.

Upon the whole the loss of cattle during the year in various parts of the province was most disastrous, and has made a serious impression on the wealth and comfort of the people.

Statements No XXXI and XXXII (Printed.) 56. **Prices.**—In the early months of the year the prices of food grains showed only a slight and gradual rise, owing chiefly to the demand for export to the famine districts of Bombay and Madras, and on 1st June 1877 the averages for the province were as follows:—

							1st June 1877.	
							S.	C.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	27	5 per rupee	
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	19	10 "	
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	45	12 "	
Gram	...	...	...	...	...	38	8 "	
Indian corn	...	...	...	...	...	34	2 "	
Jowár	...	...	...	...	...	35	14 "	
Bájra	...	...	...	...	...	31	5 "	
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	8	13 "	
Dál	...	...	...	...	...	16	7 "	

On the 1st January 1878 the prices stood at—

							1st January 1878.	
							S.	C.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	15	6 per rupee	
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	13	4 "	
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	17	0 "	
Gram	...	...	...	...	...	17	10 "	
Indian corn	...	...	...	...	...	19	6 "	
Jowár	...	...	...	...	...	19	3 "	
Bájra	...	...	...	...	...	16	11 "	
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	7	0 "	
Dál	...	...	...	...	...	9	12 "	

But by that time prices had greatly recovered from the effects of the failure of the autumn harvest, and had begun to feel the benefit of the hopes entertained of a good spring harvest.

The period when prices took a sudden upward tendency was in August 1877, and the rise continued till the end of October; about this time a report on the state of the province was submitted to Government, from which the following figures regarding the prices of wheat are taken.



Average prices of wheat.

"The following abstract shows the average price of wheat in the province from June to September 1877, compared with the same dates in 1876.

Months.	1876.						1877.									
	1st Fortnight.			2nd Fortnight.			Monthly average.	1st Fortnight.			2nd Fortnight.			Monthly average.		
	No. of districts.	Total sers.	Average.	No. of districts.	Total sers.	Average.		No. of districts.	Total sers.	Average.	No. of districts.	Total sers.	Average.			
June ... ..	32	896	28	32	857	26½	54½	22½	21	600	28½	32	894	28	56½	28
July ... ..	32	849	26½	30	787	26	52½	26½	32	894	28	32	822	25½	53½	26½
August ... ..	32	846	26½	32	754	23½	49½	25	30	666	22	32	593	18½	40½	20½
September ...	31	747	23½	31	838	27	60½	25½	32	519	16	31	464	15	31	15½
	Total average ...						26	Total average ...						22		

In June and July the average shows no great change. In August the rise begins to appear, the increase being 4½ sers per rupee, and in September a further rise of 9½ sers. The rise is still more marked, if the prices for the end of September in the two years be compared by themselves. In September 1876 the price was 27 sers per rupee; in September 1877 it was only 15 sers. But before an adequate idea of the pressure of prices in 1877 can be formed, it is necessary to throw out of the calculation some of the frontier districts where lower prices usually prevail, and to look at some of the eastern districts by themselves. For instance, in Hisar the price went up from 22 sers in August, to 11 sers in September, and in Umballa and Lahore the rise was almost as great. Up to 15th October, prices remained steady with a tendency to be easier.

In accordance with the usual indications of critical times, it is found that the prices of the kharif grains, bajra and jowar and also of gram (which is a rabi grain), are nearly as high as wheat. The proportionate increase in these is much greater than in the case of wheat, showing how poor the out-turn of the present kharif has been."

The imperial return of prices, No. XXXI, shows only the rates at the end of the year. The average price of plough bullocks is shown as Rs. 32-7-1, which is less than the two previous years, owing probably to the greater cost of feeding cattle.

57. **Transfers of land.**—The statistics on this subject are of special importance on this occasion, but the increase is not so great as might have been expected in a year of comparative distress. The figures for three years are as follows:—

	1875-76	1876-77	1877-78
By voluntary sale or gift ...	7,818	10,165	10,984
By compulsory sale ... ..	485	512	617
By inheritance ... ..	55,307	70,454	67,702

It is possible that the difficulties caused by the failure of the kharif of 1877 were not fully felt till after the year ended, and the revenue demand for the rabi of 1878 became due. The quarterly returns show that a large number of transfers took place in the months of May, June and July 1878.

The return presents some of the same general features as before. The statistics of transfers of "villages" are doubtful, as the average areas are too small to represent whole villages. The largest numbers of transfers are those of proprietary cultivators' holdings of an average area of 15 to 33 acres.

Supposing the average area of the transfers by voluntary sale or gift to be correctly reported at 13 acres, the area so transferred would amount to only 142,792 acres.

The figures of the Peshawar district have inadvertently been omitted from the general statement No. XXVIII, they are as follows:—

	No. of cases.	Area in acres.
Voluntary sale or gift ...	445	2,345
Compulsory sale ... ..	...	...
Inheritance ... ..	764	7,262

The statistics of sales have, however, been included in statement No. XXXV, and are noticed in the remarks on that statement that here follow.

58. **Lands sold.**—The usual statement of lands sold shows the following results, as compared with previous years:—

	Area in acres.	Value.
1875-76 ... ..	89,302	Rs. 17,73,395
1876-77 ... ..	101,237	„ 18,15,822
1877-78 ... ..	104,224	„ 19,92,196

The area reported as sold in the Peshawar district is only about one-sixth of that of the previous year, though the value was about one-half. The apparent increase of sales in 1876-77 was partly due to transactions of former years having been brought on record in that year; during 1877-78 these cases have been brought more up to date, and the increase in the total sales of the province is more of a real increase than it was last year.

The increase in sales is very general, and would have been more evident in the total had it not been that in the Mooltan district there was in 1876-77 one very large transaction of Rs. 1,20,000; deducting this exceptional item from the general total there is an increase of nearly 3 lacs of rupees in the value of the land sold in 1877-78 as compared with the previous year. There is also an increase in the value per acre from Rs. 17 and 18 to Rs. 18 and 20. The area and value sold to agriculturists and non-agriculturists as compared with the previous year were as follows:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
Area sold to agriculturists ...	64,803 acres	66,223 acres.
"    to non-agriculturists ...	36,434 "	38,001 "
Value sold to agriculturists ...	Rs. 11,81,904	Rs. 12,17,149
"    to non-agriculturists ...	6,33,918	7,75,047

The proportion sold to each class shows very little variation. The sales to agriculturists are about 2 to 1, but the value per acre sold to non-agriculturists shows a slight increase.

The number of cases stands as follows:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
Agriculturists ...	5,270	6,707
Non-agriculturists ...	2,676	3,215
Total ...	7,946	9,922
Increase ...		1,976

The value of each case in 1876-77, deducting the exceptional Mooltan case, was about Rs. 213. In 1877-78 the value of each case was only Rs. 201. Similarly the area of each case decreased from 12½ to 10½ acres. Thus while the total transactions have increased, they have also extended to a greater number of people and to smaller average holdings, showing that the pressure on the agricultural community was greater in 1877-78 than in 1876-77, owing doubtless to the failure of the autumn crops of 1877.

Statement No. 59: **Lands mortgaged.**—In para. 208 of last year's report it was shown XXXV B. (Printed.) that the area of land under mortgage on 31st March 1877 was 17,57,511 acres.

Add lands mortgaged in 1877-78 ...	255,518
Deduct redemptions in 1877-78 ...	20,13,029
Under mortgage on 31st March 1878 ...	19,72,897

These figures show the same result as before, *viz.*, that the mortgages increased much faster than the redemptions. It is possible, however, that the land under mortgage is less than the above calculation represents, as the total should be periodically reduced, not merely by the area redeemed, but also by the area of cases in which mortgage is converted into sale, and shown in the statement of lands sold. It is possible also that the area reported as mortgaged is over-estimated by erroneously showing (as in Sirsa) the area under mortgage at the end of the year instead of the new mortgages of the year. In this way the totals of the return might be indefinitely multiplied from year to year. Information on both points is necessary, but the distinction between the two should be clear; and it is hoped this will be kept in view in future returns. At all events it is clear that mortgages of land have been increasing from year to year, and that under the same system of record the mortgages of 1877-78 show a greater increase than occurred during the three preceding years, and that when land is once mortgaged, it is more likely to be sold or transferred in the end than to be redeemed. Even when nominally redeemed, it is sometimes sold again to other parties or to the former mortgagees, as is pointed out by the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa. The returns show, moreover, that the area and value of lands mortgaged to non-agriculturists have increased in greater proportion than those of land mortgaged to agriculturists, especially as regards value. In 1876-77 the value per acre borrowed from agriculturists was Rs. 20, and from non-agriculturists Rs. 15, whereas in 1877-78 the value is Rs. 17; in both cases the total amount having increased from Rs. 35,54,359 to Rs. 43,87,043.

60. **Rates of interest on loans.**—The statement prepared is not very different from that of the previous year. The rates reported are at best only approximate, while in some cases the entries are very doubtful. For instance, the Karnal district reports that among the mercantile classes the rate of interest is 6 per cent. on every description of loan, while the Hoshiarpur district shows a great variety of rates expressed in odd sums from Rs. 7-9 per cent. to Rs. 34-6 and Rs. 37-8 per cent. These are apparently the averages deduced from a number of cases examined by the Deputy Commissioner.

The rates of interest on loans secured by Government promissory notes show great variations. Umballa shows 15 to 18 per cent., while several districts show only 4 per cent., meaning apparently that this is the rate of interest which such Government paper bears. The Bank of Bengal rate at Delhi on such loans is 6 per cent., and the Bank rates at Lahore 8 to 12 per cent.

The Kohat report states that no advances of grain are ever given in that district, which is strange, if correct; last year it was merely stated that no interest was charged on grain loans, but this year's return shows that on cash loans interest at 18 per cent. is charged.

In several districts it is found that loans on the security of land do not enjoy specially favorable rates, but are often charged higher rates than loans on other security. The reason assigned for this is the difficulty of bringing land to sale in default of payment.



Several districts report the rate of repayment of grain loans to be from 50 to 100 per cent., but the prevailing rate is about 25 per cent. in kind.

The theory that Muhammadans do not take interest on loans is supported by the fact that in Mooltan interest to the amount of Rs. 850 due on the temporary loan raised by Government was refused by the Muhammadan gentlemen concerned.

61. **Government suits.**—A very complete report has been furnished by the Government Advocate, Statements No. XXXVI. Mr. E. P. Henderson, c. s., on the work of the Government Advocate's office XXXVI A. and during the year, which will be found among the appendices. The report, however, omits to notice the statistics of cases not conducted by the Government XXXVI B. (Not printed.) Advocate as shown in the district returns, which will be here briefly reviewed.

There were 6 original suits and 1 appeal instituted by Government, all of which resulted in favor of Government.

There were 40 original suits instituted against Government, of which 19 were decided in favor of Government, and 7 against Government, leaving 14 pending. There were 4 appeals instituted against Government, of which 2 were decided in favor of Government and 1 against, leaving 1 pending.

Of the 14 original suits against Government that remained pending, 11 were claims by zamindars on the Siálkot district for strips of land forming an old road which had been abandoned and which were proposed to be sold. Since the close of the year it was arranged to allow the claimants to buy the land and trees at a fair valuation, which they agreed to, and these cases were satisfactorily disposed of.

Only 2 cases in the return can be identified as cases in which Government has been made a party under section 20 of the Land Revenue Act for correction of the settlement record. The manner in which cases generally under this section have been dealt with, is noticed elsewhere in this report.

Upon the whole these results are much more favorable to Government than those of the two previous years. The Financial Commissioner has endeavoured to impress upon district officers that suits should not be instituted by Government till all other means of enforcing Government claims have failed, and that on the other hand, when petty claims are made against Government, they should be attended to, and, if possible, equitably settled without forcing the claimant into civil litigation.

The statement of execution of decrees shows a slight improvement over that of the previous year, but the state of things is still far from satisfactory. It appears that a sum of Rs. 34,614-0-4 remained due to Government at the end of the year, of which a few hundred rupees had since been recovered. The largest outstanding item was Rs. 24,105-9-6 due from the estate of the late Rái Sarmpat Rái. Some more property has since been sold, but the Government Advocate states in his report that nothing like the amount of the Government decree will ever be realized.

62. **Tea.**—Is grown largely in the Kángra valley and in Kulu, and to a limited extent in Kotgarh in the Simla district.

In Kángra the area increased from 7,985 acres in 1876-77 to 9,966 acres in 1877-78 and the out-turn from 766,560 lbs to 1,106,226. The season was a good one for tea. Special returns of tea cultivation are now submitted to Government annually.

63. **French Gram.**—Some seed of this white variety of gram was sent from Oudh, and was tried in the Lahore and Hoshiárpur districts. The season was an unfavorable one for gram generally, owing to unseasonable rain and severe frost. A small quantity of seed was obtained with which further experiments will be made. The results so far show that this gram can easily be grown in a favorable season, but it remains to be seen whether as regards yield and quality of grain it is any improvement on the ordinary gram of the province.

64. **Earth nuts.**—Enquiry was made as to how far this product was known or likely to succeed in the Punjab. It was found that it had been tried with some success in a few places in former years, but was nowhere extensively grown. It was however known as an article of food, more or less of a luxury, in parts of the Delhi division. It has not been used for the manufacture of oil. Further information is necessary before the chances of its success in the Punjab can be determined. The conclusion come to by Government was that possibly the earth nut requires a higher earth temperature than is attained in the Punjab.

65. **Cuzco maize.**—Experiments were conducted in Hazára and Kángra. They were on a small scale, but they were sufficient to demonstrate that this product can be successfully cultivated in the outer hills of the Punjab. The stalks of this plant yield sugar, and the cobs when fully developed are larger than those of ordinary maize. Further experiments are being made in the same localities.

66. **Oats.**—This is a crop that seems to do very well in the Punjab, but the native community have not yet evinced much appreciation of its advantages as an article of food, both for men and for horses. In the neighbourhood of military stations, however, where there is a demand for oats for the Commissariat and the cavalry, the cultivation is extending itself under the encouragement of European officers interested in it. The cultivation is extending in the Dipálpur tahsil in Montgomery, where it was introduced by the Probynabad farm.

67. **Sorgho.**—Has been cultivated with success in a number of districts, and supplies of seeds have been sent from them to distant provinces, including Madras and Burmah. Portions of the seed were retained for further experiment during the autumn of 1878, when it is expected that further supplies of seed will be available for other provinces.



68. **Silk experiments.**—Towards the end of the year an experiment was tried at Dalhousie with eggs of the Japanese silk worm, known as the "*Jumma mai*," but it was not successful, and was not considered worth repeating.

Great progress was, however, made in rearing the ordinary silk worms in the districts of Gurdáspur, Kángra, and Hoshiárpur, where large numbers of young mulberry trees of the Chinese variety have been planted. In Hazára also an experiment on a limited scale has been tried with some success. The cause of silk culture as well as of agricultural experiment generally has suffered a great loss in the death of Mr. Frank Halsey.

69. **Treasuries, Coinage, Paper Currency, Money Orders, Savings Banks.**—These subjects are not under the direct control of the Financial Commissioner, and the local reports contain nothing of special interest or importance regarding them. They are reported on in the departments, to which they appertain.

70. **Revenue buildings, and record rooms.**—An additional record room at the sadr office in Bannu is urgently required, in order that the settlement records may be taken over.

Increased space is required at Mooltan for the same reason.

The Muzaffargarh kutcherry is reported to be in need of additions, as the existing space has been encroached upon by the records received from the Settlement Department.

A new tahsíl is urgently required at Pind Dádan Khan, as the existing building is unsafe. The site proposed is the old fort site where the sarái now stands.

The record room at Jhelum requires enlargement. More space is said to be required in the record rooms at Ferozepore and Gujránwála.

The sadr tahsíl building at Lahore is complained of as insufficient.

The question of a new sadr tahsíl in the Kángra district, and the best site for it is not yet settled. The tahsíls of Dehra, Hoshiárpur and Dasúya were being repaired.

The tahsíl at Rúpar is reported to be in bad repair and unsuitable, and a new building is said to be necessary.

New tahsíl buildings are required at Firozpur and Rewári in the Gurgaon district.

#### PART V.

71. **Commissioners' tours.**—The Commissioner of Delhi made an extensive tour through his division, devoting special attention to the distressed tracts.

The Commissioner of Hissar visited the three districts of his division marching nearly 700 miles during a period of 2 months and 20 days.

The Commissioner of Umballa was in camp for 94 days, and visited almost every part of the division.

The Commissioner of Jullundur (Mr. Brandreth), was in camp most of the cold season, chiefly in the hill estates.

The Commissioner of Amritsar visited every tahsíl in his division except two.

The Commissioner of Lahore made a tour in the Gujránwála district, and recorded a useful memorandum on the subject.

The Commissioner of Rawalpindi marched through almost every part of his extensive division.

The Commissioner of Mooltan (the late Colonel S. Graham) was unable to make a tour.

The Commissioner of the Deraját was in camp the whole cold season, and visited every part of the division, inspecting every tahsíl except one.

The Commissioner of Pesháwar (Sir Richard Pollock) was not in tents, but he visited the headquarters of each district, and was much occupied in connection with the Jowáki disturbances.

Details of all these tours are given in the extracts from Commissioners' reports. They show that in most cases the inspection of districts was very efficiently performed by Commissioners.

72. Notices of officers are submitted separately.

I have, &c.,

J. A. E. MILLER,

Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

# EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONERS' AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS.

## DELHI DIVISION.

### EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(COLONEL W. G. DAVIES, c. s. i.)

2. **Land Revenue.**—The land revenue demand for the division for the year under report amounted to Rs. 27,62,461 or Rs. 1,12,873 in excess of that for the year 1876-77. The increase is confined to the Gurgaon district, where, owing to the announcement in June 1877 of the jamás under the new settlement, which took effect from the following kharif, a net increase of Rs. 1,13,117 occurred in the demand over previous year. In the Delhi and Karnál districts there was a decrease in the demand of Rs. 78 and Rs. 166 respectively, due chiefly to diluvion.

3. The total amount of collections during the year was Rs. 25,70,739, or Rs. 46,341 less than the collections in the previous year. The decreases took place in the Gurgaon and Karnál districts. In the former district the collections were less than those of 1876-77 by Rs. 7,456, and in the latter the difference amounted to Rs. 47,495. In the Delhi district the collections exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 8,610

**Balances.**

	<i>Gurgaon.</i>	
1. In train of liquidation ... ..	...	Rs. 1,29,060
2. Irrecoverable ... ..	...	" 6,024
3. Nominal ... ..	...	" 3,264
	Total ... ..	" 1,38,348

Of the first item, Rs. 1,20,766 have been recommended for suspension on account of calamity of season, and the balance is in train of liquidation. Of the second item, Rs. 5,341 relate to remissions on account of lands submerged in 1876-77; Rs. 633 to remissions on account of damage by hail in April 1877; and the balance, Rs. 50, is due to the assessments of two villages (Ibrahímwás and Langra) being reduced by that amount on appeal to my court.

*Karnál.*

1. In train of liquidation ... ..	...	Rs. 15,868
2. Doubtful ... ..	...	" 32,631
3. Nominal ... ..	...	" 408
	Total ... ..	" 48,907

Of the first item all but Rs. 1,406 were realized during the month of May 1878. The delay in collection was, the Deputy Commissioner says, owing to the fact that the money was due by villages which had been affected by the scarcity, and in which suspensions have to a certain extent been sanctioned. Out of the sum shown as doubtful, Rs. 29,734 due to Government on account of the kharif instalment, have been suspended; the collections being in some cases spread over 1 year, and in others over 2 years,—*vide* Financial Commissioner's No. 2369, dated 15th April 1878.

The nominal balance represents remissions on account of diluvion, and land taken up for public purposes. The sanction of the Financial Commissioner to the remission in each case has, the Deputy Commissioner says, been received.

6. \* \* \* \* \* The increase of Rs. 7,366 under the head Miscellaneous Revenue is mainly due to the collection in the Gurgaon district on account of the settlement department, of Rs. 5,356 as "parcha fees" for certificates of entries in the revenue records; and Rs. 1,518 in the Delhi district under the head of "other items"

9. **Land taken up for public purposes.**—In all about 718 acres of land were taken up in the Delhi district during the year, for which Rs. 58,697 were paid as compensation. The annual reduction caused thereby in the Government rent roll amounted to Rs. 821. Of the 718 acres taken up, 126 acres were required for widening the Delhi and Gurgaon Road *via* the Kutab; 268 acres were taken up for the new Delhi Branch Division of the Western Jumna Canal, and 27 acres for the Agra Canal. The balance, about 297 acres, were for the extension of the Cantonments at Delhi. As a fact, most of the land in question was taken up in the previous year, but owing to the question of compensation not having been settled in every case, no entry was made in the statement for 1876-77.

Eleven acres were taken up in the Gurgaon district in the course of the year for new distributaries of the Agra Canal, and the average price paid for the same was, the Deputy Commissioner reports, Rs. 28-9-0 per acre, or about 35 years purchase of the land revenue assessment. This is higher than the price paid in 1876-77 which amounted to about 20 years purchase of the Government revenue. The value, it is said, has always been appraised by the Settlement Department, in accordance with which the Deputy Commissioner has always



made his award, and the award has, Mr. Roberts states, been invariably accepted by the owners and the canal authorities without demur. It is pointed out, however, by Mr. Roberts, that the price paid by Government is much higher than that paid by private parties, but no reason is assigned for the difference in price. The 42 cases reported as unadjusted refer, the Deputy Commissioner says, to land taken up for the Agra Canal; 24 are said to have been disposed of since the close of the year, and the remainder are under enquiry by the Settlement Department. The case shown as pending since 6th September 1877 is said to have been delayed owing to difficulty in reconciling the measurements of the munserim with those of the canal officer. The old unadjusted claims of previous years referred to in the divisional report for last year (para. 12) were, the Deputy Commissioner reports, settled by him when in camp, the owners agreeing to accept the valuation of the Settlement Department.

The land in the Karnál district shown in the statement as having been acquired for roads during the year under report was, the Deputy Commissioner reports, actually taken up so long ago as 1861, but no steps were taken towards arranging for the reduction of the revenue; hence the reason for its being shown in the present statement. Application has, Mr. Benton says, now been made for sanction to refund the revenue realized in the interim.

About 240 acres were taken up on account of canals, for which Rs. 263 were paid as compensation. No old case was pending adjustment in this district.

\* \* \* \* \*

12. *Dastaks*.—\* \* \* \* \* In the Gurgaon district there were exceptional circumstances to account for the increase. The new jamás, which were announced in June 1877, and which took effect from the kharif of 1877-78 involved an enhancement of the kharif demand from Rs. 5,54,841 to Rs. 6,64,211, or 19.71 per cent. At the same time there occurred a more or less complete failure of the autumn crop, wherever artificial irrigation was not available. Thus the chief causes of difficulty in collecting the kharif instalment were an increased demand, and a simultaneous failure of crops. But the Deputy Commissioner adds that, in addition to this, the experience of 1861-72 gave rise to a pretty general expectation that Government would grant remission of one instalment at least, and it was, Mr. Roberts says, considered the best policy to hold back as long as possible. No hopes of suspensions were held out to the people until very late in the season, but ultimately it was found necessary to recommend them to the extent of Rs. 1,22,438. This district was the only one in the division in which personal imprisonment of defaulters and distraint of personality had to be resorted to.

\* \* \* \* \*

15. *Takavi advances*. \* \* \* \* \* The increase, it will be seen, is most marked in the Gurgaon district, where, owing to the failure of the regular monsoons, numerous applications were made for takavi to enable the people to sink wells. The announcement of the assessment also to some extent contributed to the increase, the people had probably been waiting for this before they made arrangements for providing increased means of irrigation. The drought was also the cause of the increase in the Delhi district.

\* \* \* \* \*

31. *Rain-fall*.—The rain-fall throughout the districts of this division was much below the average. The total fall during the year in each district was as follows:—

Delhi	17 inches	against 24	in 1876-77.
Gurgaon	18	„	32 „
Karnál	24	„	25 „

The decrease is specially marked in the months of July, August and September last, when rain was most wanted. The seasons were altogether abnormal. Heavy storms were frequent at the end of May and throughout June. There was a slight fall of rain early in July, and then drought prevailed until October, when 5.7 inches of rain fell in Delhi, 2.4 in Gurgaon, and 2.1 in Karnál. Heavy rain fell in all 3 districts during December and after that occasional showers in January and February. The peculiar character of the rain-fall was its *unseasonable* distribution; this more than anything else contributed to the *failure* of the *harvests*.

32. *Harvests*.—Hail storms in March 1877 did damage to crops in the Rewári tahsil of the Gurgaon district, and also to some villages in the Karnál district. But the greatest calamity from which the districts of this division suffered was the long drought extending from the end of June to the beginning of October. Of the 3 districts Delhi suffered least from this cause, and Gurgaon most. The kharif harvest was more or less a failure in all 3 districts, but Gurgaon and Karnál had the worst out-turns. Except in the Palwal tahsil and a few villages of Náh and Firozpur, to which rájbahás of the Agra canal extend, the kharif may be said to have entirely failed in the Gurgaon district. Crops raised by well-irrigation, were partly burnt up by the long continued dry heat, and the yield was very small. Mr. Roberts adds that, excepting a field here and there, which owing to exceptional circumstances bore a crop, four-fifths of his district presented the appearance of a barren desert.

In the Kaithal tahsil of the Karnál district and in more than half of the Karnál tahsil no kharif crops were sown. And the produce of the khádir and canal lands was very scanty.

The rain-fall in October averted somewhat the still greater calamity which seemed impending by enabling the people to sow wheat and barley in the lighter soils, but the fall coming after a long drought was insufficient; hence as large an area as usual was not brought under cultivation.

33. After the heavy showers in December last hopes were, however, entertained of a good rabi, the area sown by means of them being now larger than usual. But the late crops required rain in February and March to bring them forward; instead of this however, scorching hot winds prevailed during the latter part of February and the beginning of March, and these rapidly deprived the soil of whatever moisture was left in it. Hence the out-turn of grain everywhere was very small in all 3 districts.



From inquiries I have made, I should say that on the average the yield of this crop did not exceed half the average out-turn. Even on lands artificially irrigated it was very poor.

34. Sorgho.—\* \* \* The Deputy Commissioner of Karnál mentions that sorgho has been successfully cultivated for two or three years in the Government garden, but it meets with no approval from the native agriculturists. This fact has already been reported by this office on more than one occasion.

Prickly-pear fibre.—In para. 60 of his report Mr. Benton gives a description of the efforts which are being made in Kunjpura towards the utilization of the fibre of the prickly pear. The process of extracting the fibre is described as being both arduous and disagreeable, but the material is said to be very strong and durable, and that it makes excellent ropes and matting.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 • The following passage is taken from the Deputy Commissioner's report :—

Perhaps I ought to notice that we are indebted to the scarcity for an important step towards utilizing the prickly pear for yielding fibre. The preparation of fibre from this plant is on a fair way to being established at Kunjpura, where there are numbers of hedges. The people there have been driven to this to obtain a livelihood during the scarcity. The process of preparation is first to cut off the blades at the stem, to separate each into thin strips with the hand, to tie these strips up into bundles and immerse for 10 days or so in water. When the stuff has been long enough in water to rot away the pulp, it is then washed out and the fibre remains. This is a most disagreeable process, as the effluvia given off is horrible, and the juices of the plant are so acrid that it is difficult to protect the hands and legs from it. The fibres are of a yellowish white color, and as coarse as horse hairs. The material is very strong and makes excellent ropes and matting; but owing to its coarseness it is with great difficulty that it can be converted into paper. White ants do not attack matting made of it. It is sold in the bazar at Karnál at 10 sers to the rupee, hemp being sold at 5 sers. The jail buys it largely. The people told me they could earn one to two annas a day at the work; but I suppose their work was very intermittent. They pay nothing for the raw material. When the article becomes better known, it is possible that a larger demand may increase the price, and that it may yield something more to the laborer as well as some thing to the owner of the hedge, for there appears to be a considerable margin. Until something of the sort occurs, it cannot be considered that the staple is established as an article of commerce.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 38. Loss of cattle.—\* \* \* \* \* It is estimated that about 150,000 cattle have died from starvation in the Gurgaon district, and about 82,300 in Karnál. The mortality in the Delhi district was not very great.

• The following is an extract from the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon on the subject :—

• Want of fodder has, however, been a far more serious calamity, nearly 150,000 cattle of all kinds having died of starvation in the course of the year.

The results of the inquiries made in the different tahsils are shown in the following table :—

	Former No. of all kinds,	Former No. agricultural,	Total No. died.	No. agricultural died.
Gurgaon ...	73,443	17,500	39,349	7,250
Rewári ...	50,500	28,000	14,553	1,693
Palwal ...	49,453	13,301	15,903	3,329
Nuh ...	70,000	20,000	46,600	11,000
Firozpur ...	62,211	19,860	30,274	8,422
Total	305,607	98,661	146,679	31,694

During my tour I found heaps of buffalo and bullock bones lying round nearly every village in the Nuh tahsil, and at many places in Gurgaon, Rewári and Firozpur; and I frequently saw the dry thatch of deserted huts pulled out and chopped up and given to the cattle as fodder mixed with the leaves of kikar and other trees, as a last resource for keeping them alive. The Palwal parganah, as it had a kharif crop on canal irrigated lands, had also better supplies of fodder and grass, and the cattle suffered less than in other parts of the district. Numerous applications are being made for advances for the purchase of bullocks.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 43. Land mortgaged.—\* \* \* \* \* The returns attached to the report for 1876-77 show that the total area of lands held in mortgage in this division at the close of 1876-77 was 9,768 acres. The land so held at the end of 1877-78 was 20,186 acres, thus :—

	No. of cases.	Acres.
Total mortgages effected in 1876-77 ...	560	6,416
Deduct redemption in do. ...	112	1,539
Balance ...	448	4,877
Add lands mortgaged in 1877-78 ...	2,537	16,934
Total ...	2,985	21,811
Deduct redemption in 1877-78 ...	141	1,625
Balance of mortgages on 31st March 1878	2,844	20,186

• Of the mortgages effected during the year only 151 are shown as having been effected for agricultural improvements, and those were in the Gurgaon district. The Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon has made certain remarks in para. 86 of his report on the subject of the classification of mortgages, in which I concur, and to which I would

## DELHI DIVISION.

invite attention. The extent to which land was transferred by sale and mortgage in this district is very remarkable, and any thing but encouraging as regards the stability of the new assessments in the portions of the district inhabited by a *Meo* population.

47. **Commissioner's Tours.**—My tours last year were confined to those portions of the division which had suffered most from the drought and failure of crops and fodder. I first visited the drier inner parts of Gurgaon, and after Christmas marched through the Kaithal tahsil of the Karnal district, returning by the "Nardak" or up-lands of the Karnal tahsil. I was thus enabled to satisfy myself by personal inquiry and inspection of the extent of the losses sustained by the people of these tracts in crops and cattle, and determine what measures were necessary for their relief.

The Deputy Commissioners of these districts accompanied me during a portion of the tours through their districts, and many questions were settled between us by direct personal communication which would otherwise have involved a lengthy correspondence.

### EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS.

#### GURGAON DISTRICT.

(T. ROBERTS, ESQUIRE.)

73. **Famine Relief Works.**—Several hundreds were attracted to relief works (road making) started in the district, but even these were not popular. At the same time the people everywhere clamoured for village works, such as the Government has through all the famine operations deprecated and discouraged, and wherever a village tank was taken in hand, crowds of labourers immediately flocked to it. The attraction in such cases is too great, and the numbers ready to work on small pay form no criterion of the extent of distress, as digging a tank is always considered a benevolent and meritorious work, and at the best of times crowds of labourers would never be wanting.

86. **Classification of mortgage loans.**—The total area under mortgage at the close of the year was 76,352 acres, and the sum secured Rs. 12,37,918. The classification of mortgages, as "for debt" and for agricultural improvements, appears still to be imperfectly understood. Where land has been pledged as security for the repayment of a debt previously contracted, the transaction has been rightly classed under the head, but where a man borrows money for the purchase of seed or bullocks, or for the payment of the land revenue just falling due, this has been held to be a loan for agricultural improvements or purposes, and classed accordingly; though a mortgage on this account is in reality just as truly a mortgage for debt as that first instanced. Unless where a zamindar finds he is unable to complete a well or other work with the advance which he has already obtained under the takavi rules, he very rarely applies to the mahajan for the means of making improvements or constructing reproductive works, and my impression is that the great proportion of cases entered in the second column of this statement ought to have been shown in the first.

#### KARNAL DISTRICT.

(A. H. BENTON, ESQUIRE.)

23. **Appropriation of land before payment of compensation.**—Very frequently the officers of different departments enter upon land either intending to arrange for it privately or to occupy temporarily only, and to make their own arrangements. After occupation for several years the Deputy Commissioner is had recourse to in order to acquire the land under the Act. It results accordingly that the land is paid for several years after occupation. I understand that the land for rajbaha No. IV was occupied in 1875, and that one of the plots for the Sirhind Canal was also occupied long before. I get frequent petitions from zamindars desiring me to interpose between them and the canal officers in regard to land taken up by them without reference. It is difficult to know whether to interfere or to refrain. If the thing has been going on for some time I decline to interfere, but if it has just been done I do refer to the officer concerned.

64. **Horse breeding.**—I have nothing to notice on this head save Colonel Parrott's stud. He has obtained a few of the old stud buildings in the civil station from the Commissariat, and also a few pieces of land at, I believe, a nominal rent. He purchased with the permission of Government 32 of the stud mares, and he has procured some brood mares from other sources.

The stud at present consists of 40 brood mares, 3 T. B. E. stallions, *viz.*, *Lord in Waiting*, *Egotist*, and *Myrtillus*, and 42 colts and fillies; 11 more mares will foal this year. The animals are never tied up, groomed or



clothed. Two of the stallions are lent by Government, and serve Colonel Parrott's mares and any other branded mares that are brought. The third horse covers unbranded mares at a rupee a piece. The owner of the stud is very sanguine of success; but the opinions of other persons are rather unfavorable. He has been most unfortunate in that the seasons have been so adverse, and the price of grain and fodder so high. He is much in want of 50 more acres of land in the neighbourhood of his paddock, but he cannot get it from the Commissariat Department. I suppose that the quantity noted would not make much difference to the Commissariat Department. I think it would be well on public grounds if a recommendation could be made in his behalf in the proper quarter, as it would be a pity that the enterprise should be a failure, and as a person with Colonel Parrott's enthusiasm and other qualifications will not frequently be met with.

HISSAR DIVISION.

EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(COLONEL C. A. McMAHON).

9. Collection of land revenue.—At the commencement of the cold season there was a general outcry for suspension of revenue in the Rohtak district, which the district and settlement officers seemed disposed to support, but the circular issued from the Financial Commissioner's office at that juncture had a discouraging effect, and the whole revenue of the district was realized, with the exception of a nominal balance of Rs. 523.

10. In the Sirsa district there remained at the close of the financial year Rs. 67 irrecoverable, and Rs. 3,995 in train of liquidation, due on account of the year under report.

11. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar remarks regarding collection of the revenue as follows:—

I have no doubt in some instances the pressure was more or less severely felt, and zamindars were obliged to borrow money to meet their liability to Government; but as a general rule they tided over their difficulties with an effort, and now look forward to the next kharif harvest with light hearts and no anxiety as to payment of arrears.

12. In many cases the revenue has no doubt been paid with difficulty, and the mortgage of land has in the Rohtak and Hissar districts increased considerably, as will be seen further on. I am not sure in my own mind that it would not have been more judicious for the Deputy Commissioners of those districts to have suspended the collection of the revenue in some cases.

13. Local knowledge and independence of judgment are still much wanted by our tahsil officials. In October suspensions to the amount of a lakh and a half at the lowest were spoken of confidently in the Rohtak district. Then came the Financial Commissioner's circular, and tahsildars suddenly found that they could realize the whole of the revenue without much difficulty.

14. Their first ideas were utterly wild, no doubt, but it did not follow that there were not individual cases in which relief was desirable.

15. When consulted demi-officially by district officers regarding my views on the question of suspension, I tried to impress on them that everything depended on their own local knowledge and judgment, and that they ought to go about their districts, look and see and inquire and make sure of their facts for themselves; that whilst the suspension of the revenue without sufficient necessity only did harm, on the other hand nothing could be worse policy than to deny it in really urgent cases.

16. Takavi advances.—In connection with this subject, I remark that the sudden rise in the amount of takavi in the Hissar district from nil to Rs. 7,520 seems to some extent suspicious.

17. Takavi granted during the year under report in the other two districts was as follows:—

Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 12,285
Sirsa	...	...	...	...	...	„ 6,990

22. Rain-fall.—The past year was a disastrous one to agriculturists. Not only was the fall of rain throughout the division considerably below the average, but it was badly distributed. Good falls at first raised high hopes, and a large area was brought under the plough, but rain failed generally in August, September and October, and the result was that the kharif on barávi lands was almost absolutely nil. Pasture failed, and as explained in special reports to your office, an enormous loss of cattle resulted directly or indirectly from the want of pasture and fodder.

23. Loss of cattle.—District officers estimate the loss of cattle as follows:—

Hissar	...	...	...	...	50,000
Rohtak	...	...	...	...	177,270
Sirsa	...	...	...	...	32,676

24. The Rohtak figures are based on an actual enumeration of cattle in 1875-76 and in 1878.



25. I think the Rohtak figures are in excess of, and those of the other two districts under, the truth. The Rohtak cattle sent to graze in pasture lands in the North Western Provinces and elsewhere, many of which will doubtless return hereafter, must be deducted from the Rohtak figures. That the Hissar figures are below the truth, I gather from the fact that the Deputy Commissioner estimates the number of horned cattle left in the district not to exceed 85,400, but the total of horned cattle in the Hissar district must have far exceeded 135,400 head. The wealth of the people consisted mainly in their cattle.

26. **Harvests.**—The rabi harvest will not, I am sorry to say, make up for the failure of the kharif.

In the Hissar district the out-turn of wheat and barley is expected to be about the average, but gram is expected to only yield  $\frac{1}{2}$ th of an average crop. In the Sirsa district the total out-turn of the rabi is estimated at  $\frac{1}{4}$ th and the Rohtak district  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of an average crop.

\* \* \* \* \*

41. **Commissioner's tour.**—I was on tour for two months and 20 days during the cold season, marching 700 miles, visiting all three districts, inspecting 7 tahsils, marching through the two native states under my political superintendence.

## UMBALLA DIVISION.

### EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(J. W. MACNABB, Esquire.)

18. **Government estates.**—Teh Barasú, noted by the Deputy Commissioner, Umballa, under this head might be fitly made into a Beluch Kot similar to the Sání Kot in Siálkot, otherwise it should be reserved for a Government plantation as there is a great want of timber trees in that part of the country.

20. **Takavi.**—20 new wells for irrigation were completed within the year. Of these, 18 were in the Umballa district, and the remainder in the Ludhiána district. Two wells remained incomplete in the Umballa district when the year closed.

41. **Revenue business. Mutations.**—The number of cases instituted in the Umballa district, show the large increase of 3,910 cases against the number instituted in the previous year, and this accounts for the unusually large number of cases which remained pending at the end of the year in this district. The excess is almost entirely in transfers of land under "registration," necessitated, I fear, by the pressure of the scarcity last autumn.

47. **Patwaris.**—Both the Deputy Commissioners of Umballa and Ludhiána express themselves in unfavorable terms in regard to the efficiency of their patwáris as a body. But it is hoped that the system of examination introduced, will, to some extent, improve their efficiency. The training they will get in the impending settlement ought to bring the patwáris up to a satisfactory standard which should, without difficulty, be maintained in future.

55. **Wards' school at Umballa.**—I have inspected the wards' school from time to time, and am of opinion that the young sardárs are much the better of being sent there, both morally and intellectually, although it is not on the whole, the success it might be. This is in a great measure owing to the wards being allowed to live in different houses instead of being brought under one roof.

66. **Rain-fall.**—The autumn fall of rain in all the districts of this division was scanty and unseasonable. In consequence there was only a half crop for the kharif in Ludhiána, and next to none at all in Umballa.

67. There was however plentiful rain in the winter, and although rather late, a great breadth of wheat was sown. Subsequently there were unseasonable falls of rain and injurious winds, but the crop, as it stood when cut subsequent to the year under report, was far above the average in quantity though not in quality. Unfortunately heavy rain and wind, while it was lying on the ground, has greatly damaged the quality and quantity of both grain and straw.

68. The zamindárs are so unused to rain in harvest, that they do not make the slightest attempt to protect their corn by collecting it in proper upright stacks or ricks either in the field, or round the threshing-floor, but lay the sheaves flat on their sides to soak in the utmost amount of moisture. They are also most dilatory in opening out the piles of sheaves to let the sun get at them when the rain has ceased.

75. **Bulls and rams.**—Two Hissar bulls, and 10 Hissar rams, were supplied last year to each of the Umballa and Ludhiána districts. One of the Ludhiána bulls, as reported last year, got loose soon after arrival at Ludhiána, and has not since been found or heard of. The remaining one was sent to the Samrála tahsil, where the Deputy Commissioner reports, he has served 35 cows during the year. Of the bulls sent to Umballa, one is at Umballa, and the other at Naraingarh. The Deputy Commissioner reports that both the bulls have been serving, and that the results will be manifest in a year or two.

76. As regards the rams, the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa reports, that great difficulties arise in propagating the species owing specially to the dislike that natives of any, but the lowest class, have to being in any way connected with sheep farming.

92. **Indebtedness of zamindárs.**— \* \* \* Without doubt the indebtedness of the people in Umballa has seriously increased this year.

93. Considerably more than one-third of the proprietors in the district are in debt. Of these 50 thousand, 10 are Rájput, 19 are Ját, and 19 are of other castes.

94. The total indebtedness is 67 lacs, or about 5 times the land revenue of the district.

95. Of this 28 lacs are secured by transfer of land, and 39 lacs unsecured. Of the 144,000 acres so transferred since settlement, it is satisfactory to note that only 3,938 acres are said to have been sold, but I suspect this is under the mark.

96. During my tour last winter, I made a point of enquiring regarding the indebtedness of the various villages I went through. I do not remember one that was clear of debt: most owed three or four years revenue, and many owed much more than that. Among the Rájputs I was prepared to find this state of things, but I did not think indebtedness existed to so large an extent among the Játs.

97. It is impossible to be quite sure of figures in a return of this sort, particularly as regards the unsecured debts, but it might be useful to compare them with a similar return in such a district as Hoshiárpur, and without doubt the matter will require careful consideration at the impending settlement when the facts can probably be arrived at with greater exactness.



108. **Commissioner's tour.**—During the cold weather, the Commissioner was in camp 94 days, covering 694 miles of ground. Every tahsil and thána was visited, and all principal towns except Pehoa in the plains, and Kot Khái and Kotgarh in the hills, with which however the Commissioner is intimately acquainted, having visited them frequently when in charge of the district.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## UMBALLA DISTRICT.

( LIEUT.-COLONEL E. P. GURDON. )

**Harvests.**—The hope of a bumper rabi, barring gram, for which the time for cultivation owing to the long deferred rain had gone by, no doubt, tended materially to the very satisfactory fiscal results for Government in a year of considerable distress for agriculturists. The money lenders were not afraid to advance money once they saw reasonable hopes of a good rabi harvest and the gloomy prospect of the situation, which had for long raised great anxieties in the minds of the revenue authorities, gradually changed for the better, and the Government kists eventually came in pretty much as regularly as in ordinary years.

**Indebtedness of zamindars.**—From the agriculturists' point of view, however, the results are not so satisfactory, and the state of indebtedness of the land-holding community is increasing considerably. It may be interesting to give a few particulars regarding the indebtedness of the zamindars, as it is a subject of grave importance.

In the Umballa tahsil, out of 30,975 persons paying revenue, 8,614 are in debt, viz:—	
2,707 Rájputís owing ... ..	Rs. 4,63,968
3,805 Játs „ ... ..	„ 6,52,992
10,102 other castes ... ..	„ 3,60,187
The total debts amounting to ... ..	„ 14,77,147

The proportion of indebted khewatdárs is 28 per cent. of the total number paying revenue.

Since settlement 269 acres of land have been sold for Rs. 15,770; 19,356 acres mortgaged with possession for Rs. 6,40,422; 579 acres simply hypothecated for Rs. 20,642.

Total alienated 20,204 acres for ... ..	Rs. 6,76,834
In the Jagádhrí tahsil the total of the debts amount to ... ..	„ 15,85,626
9,415 khewatdárs are indebted, of whom 1,007 are Rájputís:—	
These owe ... ..	„ 1,85,548
3,041 Játs owe ... ..	„ 5,06,040
5,270 other classes ... ..	„ 8,94,038

In the Rúpar tahsil there are 6,211 indebted. The total of debts amount to „ 3,21,006

In tahsil Kharar there are 7,340 indebted, who owe ... .. „ 10,93,484

In Naraingarh there are 7,148 indebted, who owe ... .. „ 9,05,583

In tahsil Pipli there are 10,225 indebted, owing ... .. „ 13,34,003

Total indebted in the 6 tahsils, 49,053 persons.

Total amount of debts ... ..	„ 67,16,849
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The total land in the district mortgaged with possession, comes to 1,12,245 acres which is mortgaged for ... ..	Rs. 22,65,099
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There are 1,84,914 málguzárs in the district, paying Rs. 12,38,837, the percentage of indebted málguzárs being 26.

Jagádhrí tahsil is the worst; Umballa comes next, followed by Pipli, Kharar, Naraingarh and Rúpar in order of indebtedness. A statement in greater detail is annexed to the report.

**Coercive processes.**—There is an increase of 274 dastaks or warrants for realization of revenue over last year's return, the number for land revenue being 3,007, and for miscellaneous recoveries, *e. g.* ferry, drugs, local rates, &c., 27.

Considering the great scarcity and drought, the failure of the rainy season and bad karif harvest, I do not think that the increase of 274 warrants can be taken exception to, especially as in 1876-77 there was shown to be a decrease of 82 dastaks over the previous year.

There were no cases of imprisonment, and only 2 instances of distraint of property, in fact 1 less than the previous year.

I trust therefore that the administration of the district, and realization of revenue with so little recourse to coercion of any kind in such a season of agricultural distress, and general depression, more or less all over India, will be considered satisfactory. I must say I did not hope for such good results.

**Government estates.**—Teh Barasú. This estate contains 1,046 acres in all, of which only 190 acres are cultivated, the land is leased to Ran Singh at 8 anas an acre. It is calculated that 500 acres in all are culturable, as Major Tighe, Deputy Commissioner, once gave Ran Singh on lease this amount of land, but the area brought under cultivation by Ran Singh has never much exceeded 200 acres. The estate lies about 6



miles south-west of Pehowa, the land is of second rate quality, and not much sought after except by Ran Singh and the zamindárs of "Bakhli," who assert that it originally formed an integral part of their village.

The probable value of the Barasú teh is about Rs. 2,750, but the tahsildár of Pipli in his report says, the land might fetch Rs. 4,000 at auction if land were in request. The Biluches are ready to pay Rs. 2,400 for the land, viz., Rs. 1,000 cash and Rs. 1,400 by instalments.

Ran Singh, the present incumbent, wishes also to become the proprietor at the same price, but he could only pay by instalments.

Another application has been made for the land by Ghos Muhammad Khan, son of Dewán Abdul Nabbi Khan, minister of Patiala, who has offered to pay for the land at a valuation.

The land might be useful for locating the Biluch tribe in one spot as a kind of village reformatory, similar to Kot Sánsi in the Siálkot district, but the neighbourhood is very much opposed to the introduction of the Biluches, the latter are anxious for it now that they have been brought under the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Wards' School.**—The Superintendent of the institute, Mr. Robinson, reports that the health of the inmates has been generally good during the year, the ailments being merely slight fever and bilious attacks. A new vernacular teacher, Duni Chand, was appointed in the institute at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, during the year. This man was thought highly of by the Educational department, and it is hoped the school will improve with his assistance. As a rule the young sardárs at the institute do not progress as much as other boys of their age in a lower social scale do in the Government schools, but it is difficult to punish them and keep them up to the mark. The Government inspector of schools, Mr. Cooke, on the 7th November, examined the school, and found a considerable improvement in things since he last inspected. The Superintendent's salary has now been raised to Rs. 550 per mensem with effect from 1st October 1876, and to meet this increased expenditure, a fixed charge of 12 per cent. on the income of all wards attending the school has been appointed.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Revenue buildings.**—The Umballa district court house and its out-offices, want great improvements. We require another court room for a judicial officer, a room for the police, and a new "munshi-khána" or office room for the vernacular office hands to sit and work in. I fear however it is useless to draw much attention to this subject, as the want of funds prevents any immediate chance of improvement.

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\* This is the land for which applications have been made by native officers who have been promised rewards in land.

## JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

### EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

(MAJOR G. GORDON YOUNG.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Land revenue.—The land revenue demand has increased by Rs. 94,097, but this result is due to the incorporation in the Kángra district statement of the Mandi state tribute of one lakh of rupees, for, excluding this, there is a decrease of Rs. 6,003.

The principal decrease is in Hoshiárpur, Rs. 4,946.

Balances.—There is a larger amount shown as in balance than usual, viz. Rs. 52,337, but the causes for this are given in detail in the report, and the greater part is satisfactorily accounted for. The details are as follows:—

Doubtful	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.	2,510
Irrecoverable	...	...	...	...	...	"	57 only
Nominal	...	...	...	...	...	"	28,251
In train of liquidation	...	...	...	...	...	"	21,519

Dismissing the nominal balance from further consideration, for the greater part is in the Hoshiárpur district, and due to diluvion and to a sum of money held in deposit for Mián Ragnáth Singh, to whom the Jaswán jágir has been lately granted, I observe that of the sum shown as in process of liquidation, Rs. 12,000 has been realised in Hoshiárpur since the close of the year, and Rs. 9,000 is still in balance. Considering that there has been much distress prevailing and money has been so very dear, this amount, though larger than shown in any other district, is not very serious and will no doubt soon be realized.

\* \* \* \* \*

Takávi.—Mr. Coldstream at Hoshiárpur has made a special study of the reason why advances are not more freely sought, and his remarks are worthy of attention. In a large part of the district, as he shows, wells for irrigation cannot be made.

In another extensive area they are not needed, as sugar-cane crops grow luxuriantly without water, or, as in the case of the Bet lands, the water is so close that all the irrigation required can be had from kacha wells.

But then even there remains a large central tract which would be greatly benefited by well irrigation, but in which the objection is very firmly rooted amongst the agricultural community against the takávi rules involving the punctual payment of instalments with all the attendant dishonoring action of the Collector's Court in the event of default, and which contrasts in their eyes unfavorably with the more elastic system of the village banker. I have no doubt at all but that this is really the cause of the backwardness of the people to avail themselves of what is intended by Government to be a valuable boon.

Having regard to the value of works of this nature, I would suggest that the claim to interest should be abandoned in the event of instalments being paid with *punctuality*; and that a discretion should be vested in the collector of relaxing the amount of the instalments or the period within which the whole should be repaid, provided interest at 6 per cent. per annum be then paid on the overdue instalments.

The question of damming up streams where they debouch from the low hills is one which, under professional advice and instruction, might be of vast importance; but without really competent professional assistance I should greatly fear that grievous damage might attend any attempt to arrest the drainage, which comes down in very violent volume at the most unexpected time and without any warning.

\* \* \* \* \*

Savings Banks.—There is nothing to note under this head, except by the bye that I observed a letter a few days ago in the papers in which a gentleman declared he had only then learnt for the first time of such an institution existing. This tallies with my own impressions and experience. I do not think ten per cent. of the European community outside our own offices know of the existence of these banks or the convenience they afford. If these were properly advertised in the newspapers, the results would, I imagine, be immediately apparent in an increase of depositors.

\* \* \* \* \*

Revenue business.—The principal increase is in Jullundur and Hoshiárpur under the head of *Registration*, and is due to increased attention to mutation cases; many old cases in both districts having come to light which had hitherto escaped attention.

Major Beadon gives a singular explanation of this in some instances, that the patwáris thought a stamp necessary for their report of a death or other reason for change of possession, and that as there is often a difficulty in getting any one to pay for such, the report of the occurrence has been burked.

Mr. Coldstream reports the increase to be due to better supervision generally, and to his insistence on having all cases as instituted brought at once on the registers. Of course if this has indeed been neglected before, which I can hardly understand, it is high time that the orders now given were enforced.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Appeals.**—The reason so few appeals are returned as having been made to Deputy Commissioners and so many to Commissioner is simply that the Commissioner has been doing the Deputy Commissioners' appellate work for them. I discovered this during the year, and after reference to Financial Commissioner, orders were issued that all appeals on revenue matters from the orders of full powered officers were to go to Deputy Commissioners (and not to Commissioner), as provided for in the rules under Act XXXIII of 1871.

Major Beadon remarks that this has increased the work ; but I observe that he only had 18 appeals in all, and that in point of fact the recent orders are practically evaded ; for his assistants and extra assistants refrain from passing orders themselves, but simply prepare the cases and send them up with an opinion, on which "manzur" being recorded by Deputy Commissioner, the order is held to have been one of the Deputy Commissioner's himself, and as such appealable to Commissioner. This is not what was intended, and the Deputy Commissioner's attention will be drawn to the matter.

**Calamities of season.**—Under this head the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur again calls attention to the urgency of the scheme for relieving the neighbourhood from the inundation which in years of heavy rain-fall invades Jullundur city and neighbourhood, destroying cultivation and laying the seeds, or at any rate preparing the way, for dreadful epidemic fever. No doubt the subject is one of immense local importance, and some measure of relief is very urgently called for.

**Deterioration caused by sand.**—I should wish here to draw attention to a very important class of cases of which there seem to be a good many in Hoshiarpur, viz., cases of villages in which sand drift has overspread a very considerable area, and ruined the lands thus swamped for a series of years which may endure for a longer or shorter period, or as far as I know perhaps for all time.

These cases were for a long time dealt with as cases of "tabdil haisiat," and remissions were given with the annual diluvion remissions on the principle I suppose that, whether the sand was carried over the land by water or by wind, it made very little difference to the zamindars.

This system however appears not to be technically right, and so the matter has been put off from season to season, till I fear some of the villages must be in a very bad way. In one case which came before me, in appeal from the Deputy Commissioner's order refusing to recommend any remission with the annual diluvion statement, it was apparent that, in the opinion of the Extra Assistant Commissioner who investigated the case, no less than two-fifths of the revenue demand ought to be remitted, if the diluvion rules were applied.

The zamindars however were told to apply for re-assessment on existing assets, and this appears the proper course, but I hope that in the meantime the revenue demand has been suspended, or pending the question of re-settlement the proprietary body will be possibly ruined.

**Tea in Kangra.**—In Kangra the increase in tea cultivation is very marked ; there are now nearly 10,000 acres under tea, producing 11,06,226 lbs., which out-turn will, I premise, yet greatly increase.

I extract the following figures from the Deputy Commissioner's report :—

Area under tea :—

Y E A R.					Area.	Out-turn in pounds.
1875-76	...	...	...	...	6,580	592,200
1876-77	...	...	...	...	7,985	766,560
1877-78	...	...	...	...	9,966	1,106,226

The area has thus increased by nearly 2,000 acres during the year.

**Partitions.**—Major Beadon has some remarks under this head directed to show that the present agency is not suited to effect partition equitably or correctly. I think this is a mistake : the cases are quite exceptional in which any more elaborate measurements are required than can be done by the patwari, and no standing panchayat such as he proposes could ever be got together who would be more worthy of trust, or at any rate whom the people would consider more worthy of trust, than the neighbours who know them and their land, who are generally selected. The real evil is that the proceedings are seldom intelligently supervised and directed by the tahsildar and kanungos, as should be done, owing partly to want of leisure and partly no doubt also to want of inclination. No travelling allowance is given to tahsildars, and till this is done they will always shirk camp, which puts them to some expenses, if they can.

**Industrial school at Hoshiarpur.**—Mr. Coldstream at Hoshiarpur is trying the experiment of an Industrial School, in which may be seen Brahmans, Rajputs, Pathans, and boys of all castes working together at carpet making, weaving &c. which it is hoped they may be persuaded to take to as a profitable means of livelihood after they have once fairly learned their trade.

The experiment is interesting ; the result at present problematical.



**Commissioner's tour.**—The Commissioner (Mr. Brandreth) started from head quarters on the 17th June 1877, for Dharmśāla, where he stayed till 17th September, on which date he started back for Jullundur, *viā* Suket, Mandi, and through the Hoshiārpur district, arriving on the 13th of October. He again proceeded out on tour in the direction of Una and Anandpur in the Hoshiārpur district, on the 26th November, returning by Rāhon, Nawashahr, &c., to Jullundur on the 17th December. On the 13th January 1878 he had to journey to Suket, on very short notice, owing to the disturbances in the state, and remained there till 24th February, on which date he started *viā* Mandi, Nadaun, Lambagraon, Haripur, Siba, Datarpur, for head-quarters, arriving on the 1st of March 1878.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS.

## JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR C. BEADON.)

80. **Calamities of Season.**—Besides the irregular rain-fall above noticed, the usual inundation occurred in certain village lands in the Jullundur tahsil, commencing from Alāwalpur and ending at Channia; the lands of some 15 or 20 villages intervening were flooded by torrents which of late years have regularly come from the Hoshiārpur district at a point near Sham. These floods, which rarely subside until after a fortnight's dry weather, effectually kill any crops that have been previously sown. These waters cover a wide surface of irrigated and "bārāni" land, which pays a considerable item of Government revenue. The zamīndārs are getting so desperate that they prefer to let the land which is liable to flood lie fallow, and I am inclined to think that in the next settlement, if nothing is sooner done, the Jullundur rent roll will be seriously affected.

81. Mr. Barkley represented this very strongly some time back when writing on the subject of Jullundur city external drainage works. It is the spreading of this same water, be it known, that reached and flooded Jullundur, until we turned it off by raising the Tānda road and giving greater water-way under the rail and grand trunk roads. I have an idea that these floods can be disposed of easily and cheaply; and am corresponding with Mr. Knowles, the Executive Engineer, upon the subject. It seems to me that a great portion of the waters can be carried off by the "Chuharwāli Cho" into the Bein, and that by a judicious cutting during the rains of a trench through the sand hills between Basli Babakhel and Ghāzipur, we may facilitate the onward passage to the Bein of the flood water that remains.

## HOSHIAPUR DISTRICT.

(W. COLDSTREAM, ESQUIRE)

**Revenue Business.**—The increase in partition and mutation cases generally is in part no doubt nominal, and due to strict orders which I issued in September last on review of the 1st quarter's statements, that all cases whatsoever which were lying undecided at tahsils should be brought on the registers. I had reason to suspect that partition and mutation cases were lying unregistered.

As regards partition cases a special reason for the increase apparent is, that previously these cases were sent to tahsils or received at tahsils without their being entered in a register. These cases used to lie for months and sometimes years without their being noticed in review of work. During the current year orders have been given that a case is to be entered in a register at the sadar as soon as a petition is filed. This will, I believe, prove a valuable means of securing that these difficult inquiries are not dragged out to unreasonable length.

**Wheat.**—On the receipt of the printed correspondence on the subject of improving the cultivation of wheat and sending the grain to the market free from admixture of the coarser grains and from impurities, I abstracted the views of Government, and translated them into simple language for the information of the people. The translation was lithographed, and twelve hundred copies of it distributed in the district. As a market for wheat in the west seems opening up, it seems very desirable that the attention of growers of produce should be directed to the subject.

**French Gram.**—French gram, received from the office of the Financial Commissioner, was sown as an experiment. The gram crop was a complete failure throughout the district, but this crop of French gram succeeded well. It was attacked by a caterpillar, and the out-turn much affected thereby. Still it was a respectable crop, in a season when there was not a field of gram for miles round. The grain is large and heavy. It has been kept for next autumn's sowings.

**Tassar Silk.**—The Tassar silk experiment has been separately reported on. Eggs were collected and hatched in immense numbers, but the drought of August was fatal, and seems to have left hardly a cocoon in the district. I fear I shall not be able this year to continue my experiment for want of cocoons, which I the more regret as I have a small grove of young beri trees lately planted and most favorably situated for an experiment.

**Ordinary Silk.**—The cultivation of the ordinary silk-worm, the *Bombyx mori*, continues at Amb, and some cocoons were lately awarded a prize by the District Committee. Several persons in the district took advantage of Mr. Halsey's offer to give cuttings of the exotic mulberry, *Morus Sinensis*, at Sujánpur, and there is a good supply of them now growing in the District Committee's garden. There is I believe a capital field for silk culture here.

**Lac.**—The produce was very poor on account of the drought. Experiments with a view of artificially extending the produce as practised in the Central Provinces will be conducted this season in each tahsil.

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**Vernacular Agricultural Journal.**—I noted in my report last year that a vernacular journal devoted to agriculture called *Atálig Zamíndárán* had been started at Hoshiárpur. Its success has been fair, but not so great as it deserved. The circulation is about 400 copies. The proprietor still keeps it up with spirit.

Articles have appeared during the past year on the following subjects:—English ploughing, reclamation of sandy tracts: European agricultural machinery: live stock and turnips: cultivation of cotton: maize: hemp: indigo: tobacco: tea: oil press: the wheat trade: arboriculture: manures: extension of irrigation by Government wells: famines. Each Settlement Officer has been allowed by the Financial Commissioner to take one copy. This was a great encouragement to the proprietor, and a little further help from the revenue authorities would be most useful; and, considering the aim of the publication, would, in my opinion, be well bestowed. Its cost for 12 monthly numbers is only Rs.3 including postage.

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**Indian rubber.**—The *Ficus elastica* or Indian rubber tree grows freely in this district. Several young trees have lately been put out on the road sides, and a number of cuttings are ready to transplant this year.

**Exotic Trees.**—The "Hirek," *Diospyrus montana*, has been found to be one of the fastest growing trees in this district. It has umbrageous foliage, grows to a considerable height, and is very handsome. Its wood is pretty good for building purposes. Some young trees planted out on the roadside have grown with great rapidity.

*Eucalyptus* trees of various species have been raised in nurseries, and planted out last year, succeeded very well at Hoshiárpur, Bharwain and Dasuya. At the latter place, which is very marshy, the growth of the plant has been very rapid. Seeds of the different species have been received from Hazára, Lucknow, Tasmania, Australia and Portugal. The progress of each species is carefully marked.

A great quantity of carob tree seed has been sown. It has been received from Portugal and from the Shabpur district.

These matters will be more fully noticed in the arboriculture report.

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## AMRITSAR DIVISION.

### EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(H. E. PERKINS, ESQUIRE.)

2. **Land revenue balances.**—The total land revenue demand was Rs. 29,46,976, of which Rs. 29,22,986 were collected, or 99 per cent. There are no important balances save in Gurdáspur, where an item of Rs. 13,904 appears as balance of past years. It is connected with an old and very knotty jágir case; and is probably chiefly fictitious.

The other balances here are (1) from water-logging in the villages of the Kalánaur iláka, which I reported on by No. 273, dated 29th January last, and from impoverishment and over assessment of a certain tract which will be immediately reported on from the Gurdáspur tahsíl. In Amritsar the Ajuála tahsíl has balances from calamity of season which were reported on by my No. 1495, dated 7th May last, and the Amritsar tahsíl has Rs. 2,021 for revenue due on river land in dispute with the Kapurthala state, reported on by my No. 153—933, dated 20th April 1877.

28. **Tenancy Act.**—Suits for enhancement of rent still go on, though scarcely to the extent which I should have anticipated. Section 20 of the Tenancy Act is not much used, probably because it is not understood. There were but 2 suits under it in the whole division, in both of which a declaratory decree was refused. It is curious how rarely tenants recorded as without right of occupancy contest the landlord's right to oust them. If the figures are true, only 29 suits were brought against 135 notices of ejection, and only in one of these suits were plaintiffs successful.

34-35. **Rain-fall.**—The excess of rain-fall in April and May 1877 and disastrous deficiency in July and August were compensated to a great degree by a most seasonable shower on 5th October, and ample rain in November. Up till the 2nd week in December, the prospects of the rabi harvest were exceptionally good. But then there came excessive rain again, which killed the whole of the gram crop. However there sprung up abundantly the wild clover known as "maina," on which cattle, and in large measure, mankind also, mainly subsisted for months. The wheat and barley promised a luxuriant yield on all well drained land until the financial year had ended, when a succession of wind, hail and rain storms diminished seriously the general out-turn, and brought the rabi of 1878 down to no more than a low average.

36. **Harvests.**—The figures show how these phenomena eventuated in the large diminution of area sown with kharif crops, which was however largely taken up for rabi owing to the hopes raised by the fall of rain in October and November; and had this excessive area not been laid under winter crops, the food supply of the land would, owing to the complete loss of gram, have been seriously impaired. The ranges of prices have been wide and unnerving to those who live from hand to mouth. They shook mutual confidence, and have greatly embarrassed the relations betwixt lenders and borrowers.

**Relief works.**—\* \* \* Extensive clearings of silt from the Bári Doáb Canal were carried on throughout a great portion of December and January to a degree which had never been attempted since the canal began to run: and water was brought into the Sobráon branch some ten months earlier than had been hoped for. The beneficial results of this vigour will be fully shown hereafter; but meantime I may justly observe how large a relief was given in their time of worst need to all the laboring population living near the canal clearances all down its course, by the free supply of work and wages thus provided.

**Silk.**—The cultivation of silk in Gurdáspur is becoming a useful and lucrative source of employment for surplus labour and capital. I look on this as a very hopeful feature in that district, thanks chiefly to Messrs Cope formerly, and Halsey now.

49. **Commissioner's tour.**—I inspected every tahsíl save Pathámkot and Siáلكot khás in my tour. I also inspected the revenue accounts and books of all the same, and sent vernacular notes amplified from my English autograph pocket book to the Deputy Commissioners concerned.

The only structural defect I anywhere found, was at Pasrúr, where the treasure room was not properly secured. I have just passed an estimate for remedying it. My tours were two. First 20th November to 19th December. In this I visited tahsís Batála, Gurdáspur, Shakágarh, Zafarwál, parts of Raya and Amritsar; I then went for a day to Tarn Taran. Second from 16th February to 15th March, when I visited Ajuála, Raya, Pasrúr, Daska, Siáلكot, examining every thing I had time for.



## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS.

## AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

(J. W. GARDINER, Esquire, c. s.)

River action.—The diluvion on the Ravi is more than usual, for it has been found necessary to reduce the amounts assessed on lands ranked as culturable, which however, never have been and are not likely to be cultivated. Some villages have become very poor in consequence of heavy alluvial assessments in recent years, while adequate relief was not given for land rendered unculturable by the action of the river.

Besides this, the Sakhi nallah has been included among the rivers, changes in which have to be annually taken into consideration: formerly this was a small stream, but now owing partly to an escape of the Bári Doáb Canal, and partly to an influx from the Ravi, it often causes serious damage. One village on this nallah was assessed in a former year on account of alluvion, and last year received a remission on account of diluvion: this year all the villages on its banks have been inspected and dealt with under the rules.

## GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

(COLONEL F. J. MILLAR.)

11. Irrigation.—The increase under the head of water advantage revenue is due to the failure of the summer rains, and a consequent increase in the demand for canal water. It is believed that if an unrestricted supply of water is given, as was the case before, there would be a considerable increase of canal irrigation. At present the water is let out through clay pipes which do not admit sufficient water for rice cultivation.

25. Dastaks.—The following tabular statement will show the number and cost of dastaks issued during the last five years.—

Year.	No. of Dastaks.	Talabána receipt.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Cost of each dastak.
1873-74 ... ..	4,657	3,543	2,098	1,445	Rs. A. P. 0 7 2
1874-75 ... ..	6,191	4,658	1,728	2,930	0 4 5
1875-76 ... ..	4,865	3,599	1,767	1,832	0 5 9
1876-77 ... ..	5,230	3,920	1,664	2,256	0 5 1
1877-78 ... ..	2,511	1,799	1,799	...	0 11 5

26. The comparison does not show at all favorably. The number of warrants issued has been comparatively fewer in number, while the cost of service has increased by Rs. 135. On joining the district last year, I found that the lambaráars were in the habit of paying up the revenue of defaulters and then applying for the issue of a warrant, which was invariably granted. This procedure seemed to me to be wrong, as under the existing rules a warrant could only be issued when revenue was owing to Government, and I accordingly issued an order on the subject, and also drew attention of the tahsildárs to the rule which sets forth that one warrant may suffice for a number of defaulters. Subsequently, when distress prevailed in the district, I instructed the tahsildárs not to issue warrants until the time of payment was over, and it had been ascertained that the zamíndár was actually trying to evade payment; for it was simply a hardship on the zamíndárs to be saddled with the additional cost of the service of the summons when he had not the means to meet the Government demand. I am glad to report that notwithstanding the general distress and the lenient measures adopted for the collection of the revenue, only Rs. 6,977 remained unrealized at the close of the year, and that there have been no cases of personal imprisonment.

27. With reference to the increase in expenditure, it would seem that more process servers were entertained than was necessary, and that they were not properly employed. Orders have since been issued on the subject, and it is hoped that there will be a reduction in expenditure under this head in future.

## SIALKÓT DISTRICT.

(F. P. BEACHCROFT, Esquire.)

48. Rain-fall.—Was very deficient, especially during the months of July and August; we had only 3½ inches during those months against 37 inches in the previous year. On the other hand during the winter of

1877-78 the rain-fall was excessive, 20 inches having fallen between January and April 1877. The total rain-fall of the year was 32.3 inches against 59.2 in 1876-77.

50. The past year was marked by the absence of the usual monsoons, which caused a failure of the autumn crops and left a large area uncultivated; the spring harvest having already been considerably damaged by excessive and unseasonable rain, the consequence was general scarcity and distress amongst the people. This distress continued for some time, and was at its height in February, when it was found necessary to open relief works and to appeal to the public for subscriptions in aid of those who were incapable of working. People in large numbers flocked in from Jammu territory, and such as could work were employed on the relief works, and others received cooked food at the various localities where it was distributed in the district. I am glad to be able to state that the crisis is past, relief works have been closed, and the present spring harvest, which is a very good one, is being gathered in.

The year has been remarkable for its healthiness, due no doubt to the diminished rain-fall in July and August.

54. *Carolina rice*.—Seed was distributed to all the tahsildárs. It was not sown at all in Siálkot tahsíl owing to the excessive dryness of the season. In the Zafarwál tahsíl the seed sown did not germinate. The tahsildár of Pasrúr reported that the seed sown germinated, but the plants were afterwards scorched up. Hatcher in the Raya tahsíl is the only place where some produce was obtained, but this was very indifferent both in quantity and quality for want of rain.

55. *Sorgho*.—A small quantity of seed was saved from the previous year's crop; this was sown in June last, and the plants grew to a height of some 8 or 10 feet and then dried up—notwithstanding artificial irrigatin—from the intense heat and dryness of the weather.

56. *Oats*.—This year's crop failed, only yielding sufficient for seed purposes; excessive rain in April when the crop was ripening destroyed it. The crop just now cut is excellent and the yield will be large.



## LAHORE DIVISION.

### EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

( COLONEL C. H. HALL ).

1. **Land Revenue.**—The demand for the division for the year under report amounted to Rs. 14,91,773 as against Rs. 14,91,550 in the year previous, or a trifling excess of Rs. 223.

2. There is a net increase of Rs. 4,966 in the Gujránwála district, which was due to the first ten years of the settlement having expired, and the second ten having commenced, involving an enhanced jama in most of the villages of the district.

3. In the Lahore and Ferozepore districts there was a net decrease of Rs. 2,322 and 2,421 respectively, due in both districts entirely to diluvion.

4. The total amount of the collections was Rs. 14,87,149 or 99.69 per cent. of the demand.

9. **Miscellaneous and fluctuating Land Revenue.**—The collections under this head for the year under report were as follows :—

	1877-78	1876-77
Lahore ... ..	89,493	73,622
Ferozepore ... ..	2,343	3,029
Gujránwála ... ..	3,513	1,516
	95,349	78,167

10. The principal increase is in the Lahore district under water advantage revenue, and sale of wood from rakhis.

13. The principal items of income under the head of fluctuating and miscellaneous revenue in the Lahore district are lapsed and resumed maáfis, waste lands, water advantage revenue, grazing dues, sale of wood from rakhis, and fisheries, from all of which considerable income is derived. In the Ferozepore and Gujránwála districts the income under this head is inconsiderable, but in Gujránwála, the Deputy Commissioner remarks that a large amount, Rs. 27,730, is realized by the Forest Department from grazing dues; this income is not shown in the district returns.

19. **Takávi.**—The amount advanced fell from Rs. 17,900 in 1876-77 to Rs. 5,180 in the year under report. The decrease is principally in the Ferozepore district, where a sum of nearly Rs. 14,000 was advanced in the year previous on account of canals, none being made on the same account during the year under report.

20. The Deputy Commissioner Ferozepore states, it is very hard to induce people to avail themselves of these advances, as the restrictions with which they are hedged round make them very unpopular.

The Deputy Commissioner Gujránwála also complains of the intricate and complicated rules connected with these advances.

29. **Wards' estates.**—\*\*\* The Mamdot estate receives special attention from the Deputy Commissioner, to whose exhaustive report I beg to draw attention. The estate has been vastly irrigated by a system of canals, and what was once a desert has been brought under cultivation. The income shows a substantial increase, and the expenditure has been reduced from Rs. 1,03,376 in 1876-77 to Rs. 64,152 in the year under report. The estate is out of debt, having repaid the large takávi advances received from Government, and a surplus remains.

33. **Harvests.**—The rabi crop in the Lahore and Gujránwála districts was an average one, but in the Ferozepore district it was a "bumper" one, to use the words of the Deputy Commissioner. The crops were luxuriant and above the average.

34. The kharif crop was poor throughout, resulting from a failure of rain in July and August.

35. At this date a forecast is scarcely necessary, as the spring harvest has been garnered. Although the corn was somewhat damaged by unseasonable rain throughout the division after it had been cut, yet the damage was not extensive, and of cereals an average quantity has been stored in good order. The gram crop alone has failed entirely.



## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS.

## LAHORE DISTRICT.

( MAJOR A. HARCOURT. )

41. **Government Estates.**—The number of rakhs is just the same as was shown in last year's report, i.e., 118, and the area 275,001 acres divided as follows:—

	Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Rakhs under Forest Department ... ..	1,092	194,464	195,556
Do. under Plantations ... ..	...	27,187	27,187
Do. under Military Department ... ..	...	13,793	13,793
Do. under control of District Officers ... ..	14,923	16,564	31,487
Crown lands at Kasur ... ..	4,558	2419	6,977
Total	20,573	254,428	275,001

42. The available area for leases for cultivation is shown to be 5,298 acres.

43. The income derived from these rakhs was Rs.47,184 in 1877-78 against Rs.46,624 in 1876-77.

68. **Patwaris.**—The last examination of patwaris in this district was held on the 26th March 1878. The result was that the remaining unexamined patwaris passed the prescribed examination.

69. The school which was started in September 1874 will be shortly closed.

70. The total number of patwaris in this district is 272, of whom all but one can read and write Urdu. They have either passed the prescribed examination or have been exempted as follows:—

173 patwaris passed the prescribed examination.

99 patwaris who had been over five years in service and were known to be efficient, and had prepared the annual papers of the villages of their circles correctly, were exempted from passing the examination.

96. **French gram.**—Experimental sowing of the gram was made in two places in the Lahore tahsil, but owing to unusual calamity of season the gram crop in this district has been a complete failure. However a small plot sown with the gram in Raiwind, which to some extent escaped injury, yielded a small out-turn. I consider that the experiment has proved so far satisfactory that another trial might be made.

## FEROZEPURE DISTRICT.

( J. FRIZELLE, ESQUIRE. )

37. **Canals.**—The area watered by inundation canals was as follows:—

Tahsil Ferozepore ... ..	15,440	Acres.
Tahsil Zira ... ..	12,208	"
Tahsil Muktsar ... ..	12,742	"

The area irrigated for the previous year was:—

Tahsil Ferozepore ... ..	29,847	Acres.
Tahsil Zira ... ..	20,136	"
Tahsil Muktsar ... ..	13,562	"

But it is doubtful whether in the latter year the amount of *bona fide* canal irrigation was as great as is stated. Tahsildars and subordinate officials had got into a vicious habit of exaggerating canal irrigation, and in times of heavy flood and rainfall it was often doubtful whether land was inundated by canal water or not. Now this is not done so much, the area really irrigated is better ascertained, and people are left to take canal water or not just as they like, and to rely on their own arrangements as much as possible for distributing it. It should also be mentioned that the river was unprecedentedly low nearly the whole of the season, in consequence of which the canals and their distributaries did not fill to their usual extent; the amount of land actually irrigated by the canals was not the only measure of their usefulness. They aided wells, watered land previously irrigated by wells, and made the well water available for other lands. In fact, in the vicinity of the canals, it was hard to see during an early cold weather tour that the kharif harvest was at all inferior to that of ordinary seasons.

44. Interest on loans.—The rate of interest on money lent on security of land continues to exceed that on other securities. This state of things no doubt arises from the difficulty in proceeding against land in execution of decrees; except in cases of usufructuary mortgage or conditional sale, no advantage is found in lending money on the security of land. It is the same thing as lending money without security and to persons of doubtful substance.

### GUJRANWALA.

(T. W. H. TOLBORT, ESQUIRE.)

13. Takavi.—This is one of those constantly recurring questions of revenue administration regarding which our policy is always likely to oscillate.

14. Probably every Deputy Commissioner feels that if he were a permanent autocrat with a smaller area to govern he could, by a judicious use of takavi, increase the prosperity of his district ten-fold.

15. I have always been of opinion that if our districts and tahsils were one third of their present size without any departmental divisions, the revenue administration would be much more successful in this and in many other respects.

16. As to the takavi rules, they appear to me correct in principle and spirit, but I cannot see the advantage of their length and intricacy. Takavi may be given judiciously or it may be given injudiciously, but I cannot see the advantage of complicated rules in either case.

17. Instead of 35 rules and eight forms I should think 10 rules and 2 or 3 forms sufficient.

18. I hope to give this interesting subject further attention next cold weather.

23. Waste land leases.—There are no cases under misalband No. 3, "janga and waste grants," a heading which denotes a considerable amount of work in the districts of the Mooltan division.

A few applications under this head are, however, pending in my court at present.

24. I observe that the opinion of officers and of Government itself appears to oscillate as to the policy of encouraging these applications.

25. My own opinion is that all irregular and unsystematic applications of the kind should be *firmly discouraged* in the first instance. The subject is of too great importance to be trifled with. If Government wishes to dispose of any portion of its reserve property in land (and it will doubtless do so sooner or later), it should take the initiative itself. Mark out the areas, fix the assessment and select the lessees or purchasers on a certain and well digested plan. A scheme of this kind would require more mature consideration than has hitherto been given to it, and would have to be carried out by an officer specially deputed to the work.

27. Patwaris.—This subject received special and thorough supervision from my predecessor, Mr. Bulman.

28. The Financial Commissioner's circular regarding the examination of patwaris appears to have been the starting point from which Mr. Bulman's measures originated.

29. Raj Gopal Das, Judicial Assistant of this district, is an officer who has had great experience of settlement work generally, and who was engaged in the last settlement of this very district. Under instructions from Mr. Bulman he prepared for each tahsil a careful register, in which is entered every important detail connected with the competency of each individual patwari.

30. On the basis of this register a line was drawn between those patwaris who should be called upon to pass an examination and those who might be exempted.

31. A school was formed in January 1876, and has remained from that time to this under the careful supervision of Raj Gopal Das.

32. There have been three examinations, all apparently of a thorough and searching character.

33. About 150 patwaris were exempted from examination in the first instance, and 55 men (including patwaris, relatives of patwaris, and 2 new candidates) have qualified by the three examinations that have been held.

34. The working of the school and the examinations have been supplemented by a severe scrutiny of the patwaris' field work, to which Mr. Bulman thus refers—"Neither tahsildars nor kánungos have hitherto been accustomed to make any thing like a systematic *partial* of patwaris' work. During last cold weather I have been engaged almost exclusively in searchingly testing the reality of patwaris' work. The conclusion I have come to is that certainly in the Wazirabad and Hafizabad tahsils most, if not all the patwaris, habitually made out their girdawari papers without visiting the fields. As to Gujranwala tahsil I cannot speak so decidedly, as I was just about to enter on my systematic enquiry in that tahsil when I got my transfer. The girdawari, such as it was, was never commenced in proper time; the same may be said of preparing the other annual papers. I think however that I have established a thorough change in these respects, and hope you will find the annual papers promptly prepared this year, and that this cold season's girdawari, or at all events next season's will be a really trustworthy record of facts for the whole district.



## RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

### EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(D. C. MACNABB, Esquire.)

4. **Land revenue.**—The balances for the year amount to Rs. 2,905 in excess of the balance outstanding at the close of the year 1876-77, and it is a matter of surprise to me that the revenue has been paid with such punctuality considering what a large proportion of the rabi crop was lost, and that the kharif was in many parts a total failure, and also that there is a very heavy loss in cattle from starvation and disease; doubtless the high prices of food grains made it an easy matter for those zamindars who had stores in hand to pay the revenue; but unfortunately those are the exceptions, and I fear a great deal of land was mortgaged to raise the money necessary to meet the Government demand; but if the current year's crops are fairly saved and prices keep as high as they seem likely to do, much of it will be redeemed at once.

13. **Grazing dues.**—This decrease was no doubt owing to the pasturage in the ralkhs being scant and indifferent from the want of rain. In the Fatahjang, Pindi Gheb, Attock and Rawalpindi tahsils the cattle suffered much from the effects of the droughts, and the ralkhs in these tahsils were with the sanction of Government thrown open.

14. The decrease in the Rawalpindi district is owing partly to this free grazing being allowed, but it was the means of keeping some of the cattle alive, and it was well worth the sum sacrificed.

17. **Inundation canals.**—As reported last year, the only Government canals in the division are the three in the Shahpur district, viz:—

1. Shahpur Station Canal.
2. Sâhiwâl Canal.
3. Râniwah Canal.

18. The fourth canal, the Corbynwah, referred to in last year's report, has been further extended a distance of 10 miles. There are therefore 20 miles finished. This canal is intended chiefly for the irrigation of the Khushâb rakh, a large tract of waste land comprising 50,000 acres.

19. In the portion finished water flowed throughout the year, but the water was utilized in producing pasture for cattle, and many cattle were saved probably by the canal that would have died from the drought. The season was a bad one, and water rates were not charged, nor will rates be charged till the canal is opened to the rakh, and the regular supply of water for cultivation of land commences.

20. The Shahpur canal was extended 18 miles towards Sâbiwal at a cost of Rs. 14,000, and the western branch of the Râniwah was widened from 24 to 38 feet during the year at an outlay of Rs. 4,555.

21. The extension of the Shahpur canal has brought a large tract of land under cultivation this year.

22. There was a decrease in area irrigated and income from the three old canals, the total area irrigated being 9,967 acres, and total receipts Rs. 23,636, or a decrease of 5,958 acres in area, and of Rs. 7,431 in income.

23. The cause of this was that the river continued so low throughout the summer and autumn that the canals were rarely half full, and as there was no rain to help the irrigation, the area watered was naturally restricted.

24. These Government canals are a boon to the people, and are not open to the objections that exist to canals constructed by private individuals.

25. The system of inundation canals was introduced into the Shahpur district without sufficient caution in saving the rights of landholders through whose lands the canals flow. I hope to see these questions righted by degrees.

33. **Land taken up for public purposes.**—The area occupied during the year was large, land having been taken up for the Kuldannah cantonments and extension of the Punjab Northern State Railway from Jhelum to Rawalpindi.

34. The following is a detail of the area and compensation paid:—

Area in acres.	Compensation.
1,772	71,054
647	36,058
34	3,845
16	225
3	381
4	457
2,466	1,11,995

35. The average compensation per acre was Rs. 45. The rate varied a good deal according to quality and proximity of lands to markets, ranging from Rs. 148 for good well-irrigated cultivated land, to Rs. 42 per acre for unirrigated cultivated land.