

REPORT

ON THE

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

FOR 1885-86.

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READ—

The Report on the Revenue Administration of the Punjab during the year 1885-86 submitted by the Financial Commissioner under the letter of his Senior Secretary, No. 863, dated 26th November 1886.

REMARKS.—The Report, though dated 2nd October, was not received in this office till November 26th. As noticed last year, the scope of the present report has been greatly restricted by the elimination of such agricultural information as has been incorporated in the Agricultural Statistics Report. It has been still further abbreviated by the omission of the paragraphs on Pensions, Treasuries, Coinage and Currency Notes, and Savings Banks, the Financial Commissioners having no direct concern with any of these subjects; but the curtailment of the bulk of the Revenue Report is only an additional reason for its punctual submission, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that endeavours will be made to insure that in future it may reach Government by the prescribed date. It may be here mentioned that further proposals with a view to improving the present system of reporting have been under the consideration of Government. Two reports are at present submitted—an Agricultural Report for the agricultural year ending in August-September, and a Revenue Report which covers the financial year. The Financial Commissioners have pointed out the inconvenience of this arrangement, and suggest that there should, as before, be one report which would deal with the subjects now coming into the Revenue and Agricultural Reports, and would relate to the agricultural year. The Lieutenant-Governor has agreed to the principle of the proposed change, which has much to recommend it: and it is hoped that the details will soon be worked out and submitted for the approval of the Government of India.

The land revenue collections are believed to be the highest yet known, and amounted to 219 lakhs, or an increase of 7 lakhs over the figures of the preceding year. This large increase is chiefly due to the realization of outstanding balances of previous years, to the introduction of new assessments in the Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Rawalpindi Districts, and to a larger area paying water-advantage rate. The increases under these two last heads have been Rs. 1,56,083 and Rs. 65,199 respectively. The balances under the head of fixed land revenue, which stood at the very high figure of Rs. 9,88,599 at the commencement of the year, were reduced to Rs. 6,81,993, or by Rs. 3,03,606. Of the total balance at the end of 1884-85, Rs. 4,63,684 were realized, Rs. 85,637 were remitted, and Rs. 4,39,278 have been carried on into the current year. Thus of the balance outstanding at the close of the year under review, Rs. 2,45,715 belonged to 1885-86 and the rest to previous years; and of the total, Rs. 5,40,000 are in process of recovery, and the remainder is described as doubtful, nominal or irrecoverable. The districts with the heaviest outstanding balances were—

	Rs.
Gurgaon	... 2,97,229
Rohtak	... 77,663
Montgomery	... 50,894

The greater part of the Gurgaon balance is said to have been recommended for remission, though this appears to be scarcely consistent with the statement above as to the amount in process of recovery; and, as remarked by the Financial Commissioner, the decrease in that of Rohtak (from Rs. 3,60,689 to its present figure) is most gratifying, the collections in this district on account of previous years having amounted to nearly 2½

lakhs of rupees. There is every reason to hope that the districts of the Delhi Division are now in a fair way to recover from the disorganization which resulted from a succession of bad harvests. Calamity of season has led to considerable suspensions in the Montgomery District. On the whole, the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that while the policy of liberal remissions and suspensions appears to have been fully maintained in cases of real distress, the efforts to realise the just demands of the State have been so successful.

3. The increase in the collections of land revenue (Rs. 1,56,083) on account of the introduction of new assessments comes nominally under the head of fluctuating land revenue; and, as already noticed, the amount realized on account of water-advantage rate is Rs. 65,199 higher than in the preceding year. The greater part of this latter addition is due to extension of the area irrigated by the Bári Doáb Canal in the Lahore and Amritsar Districts. The report gives a detailed account of the working of the system of fluctuating assessments of riverain and other lands. The greater part of the revenue under this head belongs to the districts of Mooltan, Muzaffargarh, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. The Financial Commissioners conclude "that the total income from this source shows a marked improvement as compared with previous years, and that several of the systems in force have given better results than at any previous period of their history." The income from grazing dues shows a decrease of nearly half a lakh, chiefly in the Montgomery District, where the loss of cattle and want of fodder, resulting from a succession of bad seasons, made large remissions and suspensions necessary. The increase in the number of camels grazed by Powindahs in the Dera Ismail Khan District is satisfactory as indicating both an improvement in trade and in the security of the border. The whole question of the system on which dues are realized on account of grazing in Government waste land is still under consideration. It is doubtful if the powers given by the Punjab Laws Act (IV of 1872) are sufficient for the proper management of the large areas under the control of District Officers in the old Mooltan Division and elsewhere; and proposals have recently been submitted to the Supreme Government with a view to making proper legislative provision for this purpose.

4. The working of Imperial Canals appears to have been satisfactory, and on the whole the area irrigated has increased. On the Western Jumna Canal there has been a large contraction of the area irrigated,—a result that is due to copious and timely falls of rain, more especially in the rabi season, which enabled cultivators to dispense with canal water. Irrigation from the Sirhind Canal is being steadily developed; while an extension of the system of distributaries and a failure of rain in Amritsar have led to a large increase in the area irrigated by the Bári Doáb Canal. The Inundation Canals under the Irrigation Department show very favourable results, and great progress was made towards completing and opening out the three very important additions to these, viz., the Lower Sohág and Pára, the Sidhnai and the Rám Nagar Canals. The working of district and private canals continued to be successful, but calls for no special remark.

5. Turning to the administrative part (III) of the report, it is noticed that the total of agricultural advances made under Act XIX of 1883 (Rs. 2,25,385) was less than half the amount in the previous year. For the Mooltan District the figures were:—1884-85, Rs. 1,56,744; 1885-86, Rs. 37,220; the principal reason for this decrease apparently being that funds were retained by the Deputy Commissioner for anticipated expenditure on water-courses from the new Sidhnai Canal, while it was ultimately decided that expenditure for this purpose would be met by the Canal Department. In four districts the sums advanced exceeded Rs. 20,000, the highest figure being that mentioned above for Mooltan. The balance of unpaid instalments and interest rose from Rs. 17,497 at the close of 1884-85 to Rs. 19,702 for the year under review. There has been a large decrease in the total amount given as loans for seed-grain and bullocks, which this year was less than half the standing allotment for the Province of Rs. 25,000, as compared with Rs. 61,393 advanced in 1884-85. This is clearly the result of better seasons.

6. The returns of notices of ejectment of tenants without rights of occupancy have again been subject to violent fluctuations, the number of cases having fallen to 9,265 from 14,364 in the previous year; but the Hissar District, as remarked by the Financial Commissioner, now accounts for the whole provincial decrease, as formerly it did for the whole increase. The figures of the other districts show comparatively slight variations. The passing of the Punjab Tenancy Bill, which was introduced into the Legislative Council during the last session at Simla, was unavoidably postponed; but the Bill is likely to be brought up again within the next few months.

7. The districts in which settlement operations were in progress during the year are Ráwalpindi, Karnál-Umballa, North Umballa, Ferozepore, Gurdáspur and Kohát. In the first of these the work will be completed during the current year, the bulk of the establishment being now available for transfer. The settlement of the Murree and Kahúta forests has been practically completed, and the reserved forests have already been gazetted. Progress was made in the Karnál-Umballa and North Umballa Settlements. Up to the present time one Assessment Report has been received from these two charges, that of the Indri Pargana of Karnál, and orders have been passed on it by Government. In Ferozepore the work is said to be still in its initial stage; but during the last half of the year progress was made in the survey operations, and the interior measurements of 89 villages were completed. In Gurdáspur the work up to the close of the year is said to have been entirely preliminary and administrative. Of the five districts in which the periods of the settlement have expired, proposals for starting operations in three (Kángra, Hissar and Shahpur) have been submitted to the Government of India, and orders are shortly expected regarding this. Meanwhile preliminary arrangements are being made so that work may be started immediately on receipt of these orders.

8. The duties of the office of Government Advocate were during the year in charge of Mr. E. P. Henderson and (during Mr. Henderson's absence on leave) Mr. W. H. Rattigan. The legal business of Government was most successfully conducted by these gentlemen.

9. The six selected reports submitted by the Financial Commissioner have been perused with much interest by the Lieutenant-Governor.

ORDER.—Ordered that the above remarks be printed and circulated with the Report. Also that they be forwarded to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, with the usual number of copies of the Report.

Also that they be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*.

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

T. GORDON WALKER,

*Offg. Junior Secretary to Government, Punjab.*



(No. 6796.)

FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

Dated LAHORE, 2nd October 1886.

FROM

J. WILSON, ESQUIRE,

*Offg. Senior Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Punjab,*

TO

T. G. WALKER, ESQUIRE,

*Offg. Junior Secretary to Government, Punjab.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Financial Commissioner to submit the Annual Report on the Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the year 1885-86, to which are annexed large extracts from the Divisional and District Reports. Throughout the year the office of First Financial Commissioner was held by the Honorable Colonel W. G. Davies, C.S.I., and the post of Second Financial Commissioner by Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Wace; but for a short period at the commencement of the year Colonel Wace was absent upon privilege leave, and his place was supplied by Mr. H. E. Perkins, the Commissioner of Rawalpindi.

2. In accordance with the intimation made at the conclusion of the report for 1884-85, a separate Agricultural Report has been established, and the scope of the present report has in consequence been much restricted. Notices of physical conditions, weather, crops, prices, agriculture, and the working of the minor revenue agency must all be looked for in the new Agricultural Report, where also the numerous questions regarding transfers of rights in land will be adequately dealt with. The present report is mainly fiscal and administrative, although it also deals with the labours of the Settlement Department, and with some of the miscellaneous functions of Revenue administration.

### PART I.—FISCAL.

3. **Total revenue.**—The following table shows the receipts in 1885-86 from all branches of revenue which are controlled by the Financial Commissioner. The corresponding figures for the previous year are given for the sake of comparison:—

HEADS OF REVENUE.	1884-85.	1885-86.	Difference + or —
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue, including fixed, fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue and tribute	2,11,93,934	2,19,00,098	+ 7,06,164
Local rates ... ..	24,42,376	25,40,572	+ 98,196
Excise ... ..	14,31,518	13,65,237	— 66,281
Stamps... ..	33,65,952	33,17,770	— 48,182
License-tax ... ..	458,689	4,58,059	— 630
Total ... ..	2,88,92,469	2,95,81,736	+ 6,89,267

These figures include Rs. 63,739 on account of a share in the still-head duties on Shahjehanpur rum, and of the import duties on Malwa opium. They exclude a sum of Rs. 2,125 realized as succession fees from Native States. It will be seen that land revenue with its allied local rate exhibited a satisfactory increase, while the three other branches of revenue, retrograded. The decrease under license-tax is nominal, under stamps is due to diminished purchases of judicial stamps, under excise to causes which are noticed in the Excise Report. The land revenue collections are believed to be the highest yet known.

4. **Fixed land revenue.**—The table below gives the demand, collections and balances on account of the fixed land revenue in 1884-85 and in the year under report:—

YEAR.	Demand for the year.	Uncollected balance of former years.	Total demand.	Collections on account of demand for the year.	Collections on account of former years.	Total collections.	Balance of the year.	Balance of former years.	Total balance
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85...	1,92,60,338	8,98,611	2,01,58,905	1,88,20,301	2,85,073	1,91,05,374	4,39,997	5,48,602	9,88,599
1885-86...	1,94,25,432	9,88,599	2,04,14,031	1,91,80,159	4,63,684	1,96,43,843	2,45,715	4,39,278	6,84,993
Difference	+1,65,094	+89,988	+2,55,126	+3,59,858	+1,78,611	+5,38,469	-1,94,282	-1,09,324	-3,03,606

Thus it will be seen that the demand for the year was more than a lakh and a half, while the collections for the year were more than three and a half lakhs in excess of the corresponding items for last year. In other words, the demand for the year was about two lakhs nearer to complete realization than in the year before. Notwithstanding this a balance of nearly two and a half lakhs accrued.

The balances of former years had reached to the rather portentous amount of nearly ten lakhs of rupees at the beginning of 1885-86. But during the year Rs. 4,63,684 were realized, and further sums remitted or otherwise disposed of. Thus the balance of past years was reduced to Rs. 4,39,278, which added to the fresh balance which occurred during 1885-86 itself, makes the year now current begin with an outstanding balance of Rs. 6,84,993. Of this sum, however, Rs. 2,14,621 have been recommended for remission, in connection with the revision of assessment of the distressed villages in Gurgāon.

5. **Causes of increase and decrease.**—The total provincial increase on the fixed land revenue demand was Rs. 251,000, and the total decrease Rs. 85,906, the net result being an increase of Rs. 165,094. The most noteworthy changes were as follows:—

In *Rohtak* there was an increase of Rs. 95,559, and a decrease of Rs. 18,921. But both these results were almost entirely due to the withdrawal of fluctuating assessments from a number of *Jhajjar* villages under the orders of Government; and are therefore for the most part matters of account.

In *Hoshiārpur* there was a net increase of Rs. 64,656, chiefly due to the fact that the assessments of the new settlement were for the first time realized throughout the year.

In *Amritsar* there is an increase of Rs. 9,046, due to progressive jamas, lapsed māfis and alluvion. The latter two causes also account for the greater part of an increase of Rs. 5,802 in *Gurdāspur*, of Rs. 6,137 in *Siālkot*, and of Rs. 6,100 in *Peshāwar*.

There was a decrease of Rs. 3,980 in *Muzaffargarh*; but this was mainly nominal, and due to the transfer of three villages from fixed to fluctuating assessments.

6. **Remissions and suspensions.**—A sum of Rs. 68,786, principally made up of old outstandings, was remitted during the year. The following list comprises all the districts which received remissions of more than Rs. 3,000:—

	Rs.
Rohtak ... ..	23,499
Hoshiārpur ... ..	3,391
Mooltan ... ..	8,654
Kohāt ... ..	7,247
Dera Ismail Khan ... ..	4,379
Muzaffargarh ... ..	4,041

The remissions in Rohtak are chiefly connected with the orders passed on the report as to distressed villages in the Jhajjar tahsil. The other cases are mostly concerned with the formal striking off of nominal and irrecoverable balances, or are due to calamity of season. The districts which show the largest amount of revenue suspended during the year are :—

	On account of past years.	On account of the year under report.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rohtak...	69,151	4,745	73,896
Karnál ...	19,264	6,200	25,464
Umballa ...	9,164	4,072	13,236
Montgomery ...	3,586	22,302	25,888

These results are very satisfactory when compared with those of last year. The small amount of revenue due for the year which was suspended in the districts of the Delhi Division is a proof of the rapidly returning prosperity of that part of the country. The amounts suspended in Karnál and Umballa are to some extent nominal, and due to the introduction of a system of fluctuating collections in certain villages of the Pipli and Kaithal tahsils which remain on the fixed rent roll, but pay fluctuating instalments according to crop results.

7. **Balances.**—The balance at the commencement of the year was Rs. 9,88,599. Out of this amount Rs. 4,63,684 were collected, and Rs. 64,563 were remitted. The balance was further reduced by the abandonment of the demand for interest on suspended revenue in Rohtak, and by an account adjustment of Rs. 411 in the Jhelum district. Thus the balance of past years was altogether reduced to Rs. 4,39,278. On the other hand, a fresh balance of Rs. 2,45,715 accrued during the year, so that the total amount outstanding on 31st March last stood at Rs. 6,84,993, or rather more than three lakhs less than at the end of the previous year. Of the amount outstanding about Rs. 5,40,000 is in process of recovery. The balance is made up of doubtful, nominal or irrecoverable items. The districts with balances of more than Rs. 10,000 are :—

	Rs.
Rohtak ...	77,663
Gurgaón ...	297,229
Delhi ...	18,815
Karnál ...	25,810
Umballa ...	15,641
Hoshiárpur ...	23,260
Jullundur ...	18,686
Ferozepore ...	12,256
Mooltan ...	14,344
Montgomery ...	50,894
Pesháwar ...	43,240
Dera Gházi Khan ...	20,268

The decrease in the amount of the Rohtak balance is most gratifying. The other districts of the Delhi division have also been able to reduce their balances. As already noted, Rs. 2,14,621 of the Gurgaón balance has been recommended for remission. The balance in Hoshiárpur mostly consists of outstandings from previous years, and is not adequately noticed by the Deputy Commissioner. The Jullundur balance is nearly all nominal, and due to changes of assessment introduced by the new settlement. The Ferozepore balance is almost entirely either nominal or in process of liquidation. The Mooltan, Montgomery, and Pesháwar balances are explained in the extracts from the Deputy Commissioner's reports which will be found in the Appendices; and the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Gházi Khan has failed to furnish any revenue report.

8. **Fluctuating land revenue.**—The collections on account of the fluctuating revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 1,372,881, or more than two lakhs in excess of the collections for the previous year. The comparative figures for the two years under the principal heads of income are :—

Statement III.

HEAD OF INCOME..	1884-85.	1885-86.	Difference + or -
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Fluctuating assessments of riverain and other lands ...	6,33,768	6,17,682	- 16,086
Water advantage revenue ...	3,10,674	3,75,873	+ 65,199
Lapses ...	42,263	35,544	- 6,719
Assessment of alluvial lands temporarily off the rent-roll	26,396	32,736	+ 6,340
Estates under direct manage- ment...	28,234	31,948	+ 3,714
Revision of assessment ...	52,898	2,08,981	+ 1,56,083
Waste-land brought under as- sessment ...	18,186	22,705	+ 4,519
Other items ...	47,951	47,412	- 539
Total ...	11,60,370	13,72,881	+ 2,12,511

The more important items will be noticed separately. It will be seen that the improved result is almost wholly due to the introduction of new assessments; and to a larger water-advantage rate.

9. **Fluctuating assessment of riverain and other lands.**—The following table shows the working of the chief systems of fluctuating assessments since 1881-82:—

DISTRICTS.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	Settlement Estimate.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hissár ...	...	...	...	19,126	27,519	30,009
Mooltan ...	73,266	88,839	80,087	71,743	90,106	...
Jhang ...	3,407	6,757	6,862	6,295	7,325	...
Montgomer ...	14,538	20,204	14,923	10,989	9,565	...
Gurdáspur ...	2,450	2,109	2,703	1,788	1,894	...
Bannu ...	65,528	77,110	87,807	90,133	89,135	1,02,348
Dera Ismail { Dáman }	1,91,653 {	36,156 {	22,821 {	18,561 {	31,413 {	61,710 {
Khan ... { Riverain }	1,58,688 {	1,61,926 {	1,61,347 {	1,71,058 {	2,01,411 {	...
Muzaffargarh ...	1,57,103	1,67,202	1,72,798	1,68,459	1,77,148	...

On the Ghaggar lands in Hissár the area under cultivation and the assessment realized were larger than in any year since settlement; the system is said to be popular, but the Commissioner ascribes its popularity to the exceptional fitness of the Tahsildár. During the year it was finally settled to place only 12 villages of the Rohtak district under the same system of fluctuating assessment as was sanctioned at settlement for the neighbouring villages in the Gurgáon and Delhi districts bordering on the Najafgarh lake; and the apparent falling off in the realisations in Rohtak is due to the re-transfer to the fixed rent-roll of 57 villages which at one time it had been proposed to place under fluctuating assessment. The Deputy Commissioner says the people express discontent with the system because the crops are good, but he himself believes it will materially lighten the burdens of those villages to which it has been extended. In Gurgáon the income from the Kotla basin, which is under fluctuating assessment has fallen off from Rs. 4,498 to Rs. 689, owing to excessive floods which filled the basin and did not dry up in time to allow of cultivation. The whole of the area in the Delhi district which is under this system was submerged in 1885 and consequently paid no assessment; from the Deputy Commissioner's remarks, which are appended to this report, the system appears to be very popular. In some villages of the Karnál district, dependent for their cultivation on the uncertain supply of water from the hill streams, a modified system of fluctuating assessment has been introduced under which the villages are kept on the fixed rent roll, but the collections are made according to the areas successfully cropped. The remarks of the Commissioner of Jullundur regarding the continued unpopularity of the system in the riverain of part of the Ferozepore district will be found in the appended extracts. The collections in Mooltan were larger last year than they have ever been since the introduction of the system owing to the favourable floods in 1884; the floods of 1885 have not been so favourable, and the amount

assessed for collection in the current year is consequently considerably less. The system continues to be popular and the Deputy Commissioner advocates its extension. The Financial Commissioner, in reviewing the Settlement Report of the district made a similar proposal, on which orders have not yet been received. In Jhang the assessment on riverain lands is higher than it ever has been, a result which is ascribed to the exertions of the Tahsildár in making embankments; but the more important assessment on wells has decreased from Rs. 36,656 to Rs. 35,518 owing to the scantiness of the rainfall. In the Montgomery district the collections from the 67 villages under fluctuating assessment show a great falling off as compared with those of a few years ago. This is apparently due partly to a change in the nature and direction of the river-floods and partly to certain faults in the system of assessment which came to light when the Financial Commissioner visited the district during the past cold weather. Colonel Wace found it necessary to make some temporary modifications in the rates and system with the view of alleviating the prevalent distress, and proposals for the permanent removal of the faults which experience has shown to exist are now under consideration. Meanwhile 53 other villages hitherto under a fixed assessment, which began to press hardly on their altered circumstances, have been admitted to the benefits of a fluctuating assessment. In Bannu the system continues to be popular, and the advantage of the embankments recently constructed is shown by the high assessments. The income from the Indus alluvial in Dera Ismáil Khan was larger than ever before, and that from the lands irrigated by hill streams showed a marked improvement, owing to the favourable floods of the previous year. In Muzaffargarh also the income is the largest yet known, and the Deputy Commissioner reports the system to be working very satisfactorily. The Commissioner of the Derajat, in whose Division is realised more than two-thirds of the total revenue of this description in the Province, speaks of the fluctuating-assessment system as popular and successful and advocates its extension to the riverain tracts of the Dera Gházi Khan district. It will be observed that if allowance be made for the nominal decrease in Rohtak, the total income from this source shows a marked improvement as compared with previous years, and that several of the systems in force have given better results than at any previous period of their history.

10. **Water advantage revenue.**—A sum of Rs. 9,815 appears under this head in the Hoshiarpur district for the first time, realised on account of the Sháh Nahf Canal, the management of which is at present under consideration. There was a satisfactory increase in Mooltan and Muzaffargarh, and a large increase in Montgomery, where the collections rose from Rs. 71,521 to Rs. 81,192, the increase being ascribed to the opening of a portion of the new Sohág and Pára Canal in the Dipálpur tahsíl. In the three districts watered by the Bári Doáb Canal the realisations have been as follows :—

DISTRICT.	COLLECTIONS.		Difference + or —
	1884-85.	1885-86.	
Lahore... ..	1,16,866	1,55,157	+ 38,291
Amritsar ... ..	81,565	91,433	+ 9,868
Gurdáspur ... ..	28,761	24,996	— 3,765

The cause of the large increase in Lahore is not stated, but the increase in Amritsar is ascribed to the construction of new distributaries, and the decrease in Gurdáspur to the fall of seasonable rains.

11. **Revision of assessment.**—The large increase under this head is due to the introduction of the new assessments in Jullundur and Ráwalpindi with effect from the kharíf of 1885-86, which led to a realisation for that harvest on account of increased assessments of Rs. 91,959 in Jullundur and Rs. 1,16,074 in Ráwalpindi.

12. **Miscellaneous land revenue.**—The total income of this group has fallen off from Rs. 6,11,973 to Rs. 5,63,059, the decrease being mainly due to smaller realisations on account of settlement fees. The collections under some of the chief heads compare as follows :—

	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Warrant talabána ... ..	14,470	13,967	17,965	33,159
Grazing dues ... ..	3,71,784	3,90,955	3,84,011	3,38,867
Sale of wood ... ..	52,233	83,319	48,742	52,843
Leases of gardens and groves ... ..	8,339	18,544	17,702	17,741
Sajji ... ..	15,084	16,735	16,517	18,179
Other items (column 32) ... ..	22,403	39,300	17,402	46,720
Settlement parcha fees ... ..	...	...	55,308	27,627

The increase in warrant talabána is due to a change in the system of account under which the gross collections are now shown in place of the net income. The sale proceeds of wood are chiefly realised in the districts in the south-west of the Province, where there are large areas of Government waste-lands, the income of which is not yet credited to the Forest Department. Arrangements are in progress with the view of consolidating still more completely the management of such areas. The sajji income is derived almost wholly from Mooltan and Shahpur. The only large realisations of settlement fees last year were Rs. 27,314 in Jullundur, while in the previous year there were large realisations on this account in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiána. The large increase under "other items" is due to the credit to Government of Rs. 24,045 hitherto held in deposit in the Montgomery district on account of zaildars' allowances on tirni fees.

13. **Grazing dues (tirni).**—The total income from this source is much less than for the previous three years, the decrease of Rs. 45,144 being almost entirely in the Montgomery district, where the loss of cattle and want of fodder caused by a succession of bad seasons made it necessary to remit Rs. 19,938 and to leave uncollected for the present Rs. 22,780 of the sums due from cattle-owners for grazing in waste-lands belonging to the State. The Jhang district has suffered from similar causes, though not to the same extent, but under the system of quinquennial leases the income has remained much the same as last year. A very interesting comparison by the Deputy Commissioner of the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems will be found among the appended extracts. In Shahpur the introduction of the system of granting leases for a term of years to village headmen, instead of selling them by auction to the highest bidder, has resulted in a small diminution of revenue, but this is more than compensated for by the removal of a cause of serious complaint to the cattle-owners. The increase in the number of cattle owned by the Powindahs, which is pointed out by the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan in the appended extract, is interesting and satisfactory as evidence of improved trade. The orders of Government on the tirni question are still awaited.

14. **Balances of fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue.**—The uncollected balances have largely increased from Rs. 48,570 to Rs. 105,798, the increase being chiefly in the Montgomery district, where there is now a balance of Rs. 54,335 due, as already explained, to the distress caused by a succession of bad seasons. There are considerable balances also in the following districts:—

	Rs.
Mooltan ... ..	4,540
Jhang ... ..	5,829
Lahore ... ..	13,046
Pesháwar ... ..	12,001

These are apparently due to the comparatively bad seasons from which portions of these districts have recently suffered.

15. **Local rate cess.**—The demand on this account increases with the land revenue and is now Rs. 25,66,431 against Rs. 24,80,288 in the previous year. The balances have been reduced from Rs. 37,912 to Rs. 26,172, and are highest in the Delhi, Montgomery and Lahore districts.

16. **Salt.**—The following statement of the receipts and expenditure of his department has been obtained from the Commissioner of Northern India

DIVISION.	Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Percentage of expenditure on the gross receipts.
		Rs.	Rs.	
Punjab mines ...	1884-85	33,27,781	2,99,927	9.01
	1885-86	36,20,501	2,76,688	7.64
Delhi division: Sultanpur salt works	1884-85	11,42,588	44,754	3.91
	1885-86	6,67,777	38,360	5.74
Total ...	1884-85	44,70,369	3,44,681	7.71
	1885-86	42,88,278	3,15,048	7.34

The number of smugglers arrested was 59 against 56 last year. Fifty-six were convicted, only three being acquitted. Rupees 223 were paid as rewards to informers and captors, against Rs. 284 in 1884-85.

Since the close of the year a proposal has been received from the Commissioner of Northern India Salt Revenue for the abolition of the establishment now maintained at an annual cost of Rs. 7,500 for the registration of sales of salt from the Mandi Mines, and for the payment by the Rájá of a fixed sum of Rs. 29,000, calculated on the average of the sums paid by him during the last few years. The Commissioner of the Jullundur division has been requested to ascertain the wishes of the Rájá in regard to this proposal.

17. **Alluvion and diluvion.**—The total results for the year under report are as follows:—

		Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs.	Rs.
In alluvial chak districts	...	3,780	4,210
Other districts	New area	30,323	57,166
	Improved	13,544	
Total	...	47,647	61,376

There is thus a large loss to Government. The greatest changes were in the following districts:—

DISTRICTS.	Increase.	Decrease.	Net result, + or -
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Umballa ...	197	3,581	- 3,384
Hoshiárpur ...	6,910	5,478	+ 1,432
Jullundur ...	1,803	3,035	- 1,232
Jhang ...	6,567	3,951	+ 2,616
Lahore ...	1,899	7,195	- 5,296
Shahpur ...	3,559	4,154	- 595
Jhelum ...	1,801	3,826	- 2,025
Pesháwar ...	1,774	4,495	- 2,721
Dera Gházi Khan	7,465	11,398	- 3,933

The unusually large decrease in Umballa is due to settlement operations which have granted relief in cases of diluvion which had been overlooked before. The working of the new rules on the Sutlej and Beás in the Jullundur division is said to be on the whole satisfactory, though in some respects, as pointed out by the Commissioner in the appended extract, they operate somewhat harshly. Their amendment, with a view to remove these objections, is under consideration. The cause of the great increase in Jhang is explained in the appended extract from the Deputy Commissioner's report as due chiefly to the imposition of a one-anna per acre rate on alluvion fit for grazing in accordance with the orders of Government

on the settlement report. The large decrease in Lahore is due to a more liberal interpretation of the diluvion rules so as to free from revenue land formerly cultivated, but now out of cultivation as being no longer subject to the river floods. The reduction has been known to be impending for some years past, being required in order to relieve villages which, owing to a change in the course of the river, were no longer able to keep under cultivation the area on which they were assessed. In Dera Ghazi Khan the changes are always large, as there is no system of fluctuating assessment in that district, such as there is in the neighbouring districts; the Commissioner points out some flaws in the present rules and recommends a system of fluctuating assessment as fairer, simpler, and likely to be more popular. There is general evidence from the reports that more care has been taken this year with the alluvion and diluvion measurements, with the result that the assessments are more accurate and equitable.

18. **Land taken up for public purposes.**—The following statement shows the areas taken up for different public purposes :—

PURPOSES FOR WHICH ACQUIRED.	Area in acres.	Compensation for land.	Compensation for trees, buildings, &c.	Total compensation.	Reduction in rent-roll.	Average price of land per acre.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Roads ... ..	107	6,359	...	6,359	...	59
Canals .. ...	2,131	58,221	4,175	62,396	1,718	27
State Railways ...	10,743	1,96,571	26,047	2,22,618	1,229	18
Guaranteed Railways	29	5,688	9,535	15,223	16	196
Buildings and Miscellaneous ... ..	1,255	78,964	5,790	84,754	409	63
Total ...	14,265	3,45,803	45,547	3,91,350	3,372	21

The area, the compensation paid, and the consequent reduction of the revenue-roll are in each case almost exactly double the figures of the previous year. The increase is entirely under the head of State Railways, and is chiefly due to the acquisition of land for the North-Western and Sind-Sagar-Doab Railways for which purposes the following areas of land were acquired—in Gujrat, 907 acres; in Shahpur, 1,328 acres; in Jhelum, 2,139 acres; in Dera Ismail Khan, 3,896 acres; in Muzaffargarh, 1,615 acres. As most of the country through which the Sind-Sagar-Doab line passes is barren and unproductive, the value of land is low, and the average price of the land acquired for State Railways this year is only Rs. 18 per acre against Rs. 24 last year; the average price paid in Dera Ismail Khan is only Rs. 5 per acre. Care has been taken by the local officers to award compensation strictly according to current value.

Of the whole area taken up the compensation for 1,138 acres was arranged by private negotiation, for 12,832 acres by Collector's award, and only in the case of 295 acres was it necessary to refer the matter to Court. In Amritsar 220 acres were taken up for extramural drainage works at an average price of about Rs. 120 per acre, and in Lahore 5 acres taken up for new Railway Offices, cost with the buildings, &c., on the land, Rs. 14,519, the average price for the land alone being Rs. 1,025 per acre.

In several district reports the Deputy Commissioners animadvert on the irregular procedure of the Railway officials in occupying land of their own authority without fulfilling the preliminaries required by the Land Acquisition Act, 1870; and the Financial Commissioner has been compelled to bring the matter to the notice of Government. On the other hand, endeavours have been made to shorten and simplify as much as possible the steps preliminary to the acquisition of land, and an Extra Assistant Commissioner was placed on special duty to award compensation for the land taken up for the Sind-Sagar-Doab Railway. Some irregularities also came to light in the restoration of land no longer required by Government, and the Financial Commissioner has issued instructions with the view of securing that the interests of the original owners are not overlooked in such cases.

19. **Land revenue assignments.**—The value of the revenue assignments is shown in the following comparative table :—

Statement XII.

GRANTS.	VALUE.		
	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Perpetual ... ..	19,78,459	19,82,285	19,82,019
For life ... ..	5,70,051	5,52,510	5,36,327
For lives ... ..	1,55,988	1,57,490	1,61,817
During maintenance of in-			
stitutions ... ..	2,01,346	2,05,570	2,13,069
Pending orders ... ..	4,413	2,479	1,453
Total ... ..	29,10,257	29,00,334	28,94,685

The value of assigned revenue is thus gradually decreasing as grants for life fall in on the death of the holders. During the year ináms to lambardárs were sanctioned in Hoshiárpur to the amount of Rs. 2,650. The re-assessment operations in Jullundur have increased the value of the assignments in that district from Rs. 93,272 to Rs. 97,463.

The Commissioner of the Delhi division has drawn attention to the hardship sometimes caused to the proprietors of land, the revenue of which has been assigned by the manner in which the assignees collect the land revenue from them, and it has been pointed out to him that the rules under the Land Revenue Act impose on the Deputy Commissioner the duty of seeing that revenue assignees make proper arrangements for collecting their dues and give him the power, in cases in which the arrangements made are not satisfactory, to order the revenue to be paid into the Government tahsil.

## PART II.—IRRIGATION.

20. **Imperial canals.**—The Imperial canals in the Punjab are :—

- (1) The Western Jamna canal.
- (2) The Agra canal.
- (3) The Sirhind canal.
- (4) The Bári Doáb canal.
- (5) The Swat River canal.
- (6) The Upper Sutlej Inundation canals.
- (7) The Lower Sohag and Para canal.
- (8) The Lower Sutlej and Chenáb Inundation canals.
- (9) The Sidhnaí canal.
- (10) The Muzaffargarh Inundation canals.
- (11) The Indus Inundation canals.
- (12) The Ramnagar (Chenáb) canal.
- (13) The Shahpur Inundation canals.

The Shahpur canals are under the management of the Deputy Commissioner and will be noticed along with the district canals. The others will now be dealt with in order.

*The Western Jamna canal.*—According to the returns of the Irrigation Department, the area watered from this canal was less than 215,000 acres as against nearly 470,000 acres in the year before. The decrease is due to a copious and timely rainfall, more especially in the rabi season. The general management of the irrigation seems to have been good, and the great decrease in the area watered shows the practical importance of the system of owner's rate.

*The Agra canal.*—The area watered from this canal in the Delhi district is insignificant. The area watered in Gurgáon is not stated by the Deputy Commissioner, whose remarks on the general administration of the canal will be found in the extracts.

*The Sirhind canal.*—The area watered from this canal rose to more than 63,000 acres—an increase of nearly 500 per cent. as compared with last year.

This irrigation was spread over the British districts of Ludhiána and Ferozepore and the adjoining Native States. The exact area watered in Ferozepore is not stated. In Ludhiána it was 5,500 acres as against 1,317 acres in the previous year.

*The Bari Doáb canal.*—Irrigation from this canal was given to more than 430,000 acres as against 364,000 in the year before. The increase is mainly due to an extension of the system of distributaries and to a failure of rain in part of Amritsar. Of the districts served by this canal Lahore took water for about 244,000 acres and Gurdáspur for about 30,000. For Amritsar the figures are not given.

*The Swat River canal.*—This canal irrigated 6,300 acres in the Pesháwar district for the kharíf harvest. This is the first instance in which water has been given from this source on any considerable scale.

*The Upper Sutlej Inundation canals.*—These canals water a part of the Lahore and Montgomery districts. They watered over 94,000 acres as against 84,000 acres in the year before. The system of assessing revenue on the Montgomery portion of these canals has recently been under investigation, but final conclusions have not yet been arrived at.

*The Lower Sohag and Para canal.*—Water was given for the first time from this canal to more than 8,000 acres. The canal is now practically complete and arrangements are in progress for the proper settlement of the waste areas of which it has command.

*The Lower Sutlej and Chenáb Inundation canals.*—The area irrigated from these canals was over 357,000 acres, or very much the same as last year. There was a serious falling off in kharíf irrigation mainly caused by the bad working of some of the Chenáb canals. In rabi irrigation there was a large increase; and the Sardárwah canal, which had recently given cause for anxiety, is now said to be in excellent order.

*The Sidhnai canal.*—This canal was practically completed during the year, but was not used for irrigation purposes. Since the year closed, however, great progress has been made in the settlement of the lands commanded by the canal.

*The Muzaffargarh Inundation canals.*—The figures given by the Deputy Commissioner for the area irrigated from these canals do not agree with those of the Irrigation Department. It is doubtful whether this is a real discrepancy or merely due to a difference in the harvests reported upon. The only way to prevent such doubts is to give the figures separately for each harvest, and the Deputy Commissioner will be asked to do this in future. According to the Irrigation Department's figures the area irrigated was very nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of acres, or about 5,000 acres more than last year. There was, as in Mooltan, a considerable falling off in kharíf counterbalanced by a large increase in rabi irrigation. The new rules recently introduced on these canals are said to have worked well so far.

*Indus canals.*—The area irrigated from these canals was 178,000 acres or rather more than in the previous year. As in Muzaffargarh and Mooltan the whole increase was in rabi; kharíf irrigation decreased more than 8,000 acres.

*The Ramnagar (Chenáb) canal.*—This canal was under construction throughout the year.

21. **District Canals.**—*Ferozepore.*—This system irrigated 131,437 acres during the year, a result which is very satisfactory. The establishment charges came altogether to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  annas an acre, exclusive of Rs. 4,400 contributed by the Nawáb of Mamdot and the Ferozepore District Committee. The two new canals in Fázilka (the Mubarikwah and the Fazilwah) irrigated over 22,000 acres. But the Shokutwah, which was completed during the year, only succeeded in watering 2,323 acres. This poor result is, however, due to causes which are for the most part temporary, and the next report will probably exhibit an improvement. The Shokutwah was constructed at the expense of the Nawáb of Mamdot under a special agreement, the terms of which were sanctioned by Government.

Babu Maya Dás remained in charge of the canals throughout the year, and passages from his report will be found among the appended extracts.

*Shahpur canals.*—The following table shows the area irrigated, the income and cost of management of the Shahpur canals during the past year :—

CANAL.	Acreage irrigated.	Revenue.	Charges.
		Rs.	Rs.
Station and new Sahiwal	15,729	24,660	10,145
Old Sahiwal ... ..			
Macnabbwah ... ..	14,901	32,064	12,168
Raniwah ... ..			
Corbynwah ... ..	1,708	1,462	1,298

The station canal, the two Sahiwals and the Macnabbwah are managed by the Deputy Commissioner on behalf of the Irrigation Department. The Raniwah is maintained from Provincial and the Corbynwah from District funds.

The canals seem to have worked well, and the area irrigated from them increased as compared with last year. The results on the Corbynwah are, however, still very poor. The revenue above recorded is the amount actually realized during the year, of which the greater part was due on account of the year preceding. Nearly all rabi irrigation in this district is paid for in the year after it is taken.

*Jhang canals.*—The Uch canal and the Station canal were both worked during the year with indifferent success. There are also two smaller works—the Wakefieldwah and the Jasrat canal—which furnished a small amount of irrigation. Towards the end of the year a part of the district was examined by Mr. Atkinson, of the Irrigation Department, who drew up various projects for new canals which are still under consideration.

*Montgomery canals.*—The Nikki and Sukhráwa, which are managed by the District Committee, gave irrigation to 2,504 acres during the year. This is a considerable advance on the previous year's result, but it is still far short of the estimated capacity of these canals. The District Committee has also constructed a regulator on the Deg torrent, but this was not in working order during the year. The spill water of the torrent is said to have irrigated 6,000 acres.

*Pesháwar canals.*—The irrigation by cuts from the Swát and Kábul rivers, the Bára, the Budni and the Jhinda is under the control of the Deputy Commissioner. From the passages printed among the extracts it will be seen that considerable efforts have been made during the year to improve and extend this irrigation; but the Deputy Commissioner has failed to state the exact result in regard to the acreage irrigated.

*Bannu canals.*—The only canals referred to by the Deputy Commissioner are the Kachkot and the Umar Khan Kás. But, as remarked by the Commissioner, there are several other channels which, though small, are not unimportant to the district. These also should have been noticed, and the exact results of the irrigation from all the channels should have been stated. The Deputy Commissioner merely remarks that the two canals to which he confines his observations irrigated much the same area as in the previous year.

*Dera Ismail Khan canals.*—The working of the cuts which depend on hill torrents for a water-supply was irregular and sometimes unseasonable. The Paiwal dam was swept away by a heavy flood in February 1886.

*Hissár canals.*—The project for sending the Ghaggar water down the Choya valley is still under consideration.

*Private canals.*—*Shahpur.*—The private canals in this district are important and irrigated 31,474 acres during the year as against 24,840 acres in the year before. Several doubtful questions in connection with these canals will call for adjustment during the impending resettlement of the district.

*Jhang canals.*—Mr. Broadway's canal worked well, and the villagers in the neighbourhood are said to be more willing to take water than formerly. The exact area irrigated is not stated.

*Mooltan canals.*—There are two private canals in this district, viz., the Hájiwah, belonging to Gulám Haidar Khan, and the Gulámwah, belonging to Ghulám Muhammad Daulatána. The first of these was very successful, and the second would have been but for the failure of a band. As it was these two works together gave irrigation to nearly 26,000 acres.

*Montgomery canals.*—The private canal of Muhamad Mehndi Khan worked well and watered 5,600 acres.

*Pesháwar canals.*—The Deputy Commissioners of the Pesháwar division give no details as to the private canal cuts there.

*Bannu canals.*—The private canal of Abdul Rahim Khan irrigated 1,335 acres as in the previous year.

*Hoshiárpur canals.*—The Sháh Nahr irrigated 7,138 acres, and the minor channels in the neighbourhood 4,361 acres in addition. The exact status of the Sháh Nahr is still under consideration.

### PART III.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

Statement No. XIV.

23. **Coercive processes.**—The following table compares the figures of the last three years :—

	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Warrants issued ...	42,522	45,291	44,670
Persons imprisoned ...	55	133	79
Cases of distraint of personal property ...	167	246	168

No district dispensed altogether with warrants; but only 25 were issued in Hissár and only 77 in Hazára. In each of the districts of Umballa, Hoshiárpur, Lahore, Gujrát, Rawálpindi and Muzaffargarh the issue exceeded 3,000.

Cases of imprisonment were confined to 10 districts. In one case, in Delhi, detention lasted for six months, and in two cases in Shahpur for three months. But elsewhere it ended in a few days.

Cases of distraint occurred in fourteen districts. They were most numerous in Gurgáon, Mooltan, Montgomery and Muzaffargarh.

In sixteen districts there was no coercion of any kind unless the issue of a warrant can be so called.

24. **Estates held under direct management.**—There were 46 estates under direct management during the year. Of these one is a small distressed village in the Gugera tahsíl of Montgomery, another is a "Chhamb" estate in Gurdáspur, and a third is a Marwat village in Bannu which has recently been restored to village management. The remaining 43 estates are all in Dera Ismail Khan. Twenty-two of these are Gandápur and Bhattanni villages, which are assessed in kind at their own request. The remaining 21 estates form the Ustrána Circle which was taken under direct management at the desire of the people themselves. Some interesting remarks on the subject by the Deputy Commissioner will be found among the extracts.

25. **Government lands.**—The total area of the lands owned by Government in the province is returned as 11,131,462 acres, a decrease of nearly 13,000 acres as compared with the year before. This large area is distributed under the following managements, viz. :—

	Acres.
Under Forest Department ...	2,177,424
Under other Departments ...	73,071
Under Deputy Commissioners ...	8,469,868
Under cultivating leases ...	411,099

During the year good progress has been made in the gradual amalgamation of Forest and Revenue management.

The income from cultivating leases rose to Rs. 95,190 as compared with Rs. 92,619 in the year before. The items included under "other Income," however, diminished very seriously, so that the total revenue from Government lands was only Rs. 6,43,497. In 1884-85 it was Rs. 7,11,147, and in the year before that Rs. 7,15,047. The chief falling off is in Lahore, and is attribut-

ed by the Deputy Commissioner to a prolonged drought coupled with a diminution in the fuel sales from Changa Manga and the other rakhs. Revised *tirni* arrangements for this district are under consideration.

The general report upon *tirni* is still under the consideration of Government.

The settlement of the claims of cultivating occupants in the Lahore rakhs is being gradually carried out in accordance with the orders of Government. The Financial Commissioner would invite special attention to the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner (printed among the extracts) as to leases of land in this district.

26. **Agricultural Advances.**—The amount of loans granted during the year under report, under Act XIX of 1883, was Rs. 2,25,385, or less than half the amount granted in the preceding year. The districts in which over Rs. 20,000 was advanced were:—

	Rs.
Gurgáon ... ..	26,170
Jullundur ... ..	32,290
Mooltan ... ..	37,220
Montgomery ... ..	30,000

The principal fluctuations took place in the following districts:—

	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rohtak ... ..	24,985	6,500
Delhi ... ..	20,755	700
Mooltan ... ..	1,56,744	37,220
Jhang ... ..	37,425	2,202
Lahore ... ..	20,230	9,365
Dera Gházi Khan ... ..	29,000	12,210

In Delhi and Rohtak the small amount of loans made is attributed to the copious rainfall of the year 1885-86. In Rohtak the Deputy Commissioner says that most of the wells needed have already been constructed. The comparatively small amount of loans made in the Mooltan district during the year was due to special causes, which are enumerated by the Deputy Commissioner, extracts from whose report are printed at the end of this report. In Jhang, as in Rohtak, it is said that most of the improvements required for the present have been executed. No explanation is given of the fluctuations in Lahore and Dera Gházi Khan. The grant of loans for agricultural improvements is receiving especial attention from the Deputy Commissioners of Gurgáon, Jullundur, Montgomery and Rawalpindi, and good results may be looked for in those districts. A special report on the administration of takávi in Muzaffargarh was called for, and submitted to Government some months ago.

The balance of unpaid instalments and interest due rose from Rs. 17,497 at the close of 1884-85 to Rs. 19,702 on the 31st March 1886. The largest balances were due in the following districts:—

	Rs.
Gurgáon ... ..	1,756
Delhi ... ..	2,212
Mooltan ... ..	3,914
Pesháwar ... ..	1,942
Dera Gházi Khan ... ..	3,766

The explanation of the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgáon is not very satisfactory. It is printed among the extracts from his report. No explanations of the balances have been received from the Deputy Commissioners of Delhi and Dera Gházi Khan. Of the balance in the Mooltan district, Rs. 1,315 were recovered in April last, and most of the remainder is said to be due on account of instalments falling due in March. It will be recovered shortly. Of the balance in Pesháwar Rs. 697 was recovered in April. No explanation is given in regard to the remaining Rs. 1,245. The Commissioner has called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner.

The amount of loans made in 1884-85 for the purchase of seed-grain and bullocks (Rs. 61,393) was abnormally high. In 1885-86 only Rs. 12,183 were advanced. The districts in which the largest amount of loans was granted were—Ferozepore Rs. 3,360 and Montgomery Rs. 3,500. The only district in which there was any considerable balance outstanding at the close of the year was Gurgáon, in which the balance due amounted to Rs. 3,956. The explanation of the Deputy Commissioner is printed among the extracts from his report.

27. **Protective Pattas.**—The number granted during the year was 719 as against 426 in the year 1884-85. More than half of the whole were issued in the single district of Mooltan. As remarked last year, fluctuating assessments and current or impending re-settlements seem to form the chief inducements to apply for a patta.

In fifteen districts no pattas were issued at all, and in eight other districts the number was less than ten. No district, except Mooltan, had as many as one hundred.

28. **Revenue Business.**—The revenue business statements have this year been arranged in a new form, and a number of trivial items are now omitted from the account. It will be seen that Revenue officers decided during the year 64,623 executive cases and 21,418 regular revenue suits under Section 45 of the Punjab Courts Act. They also decided, as Magistrates, 45,463 criminal cases, and as Judges of Civil Courts 37,472 suits. In addition to the above Deputy Commissioners decided 1,587 revenue appeals, of which the greater number were appeals in regular revenue suits. Commissioners decided 2,055 appeals, and the Financial Commissioners 451. The majority of the appeals both to Commissioners and to the Financial Commissioners were made in executive cases.

*Revenue Record Work.*—The following statement shows briefly the general result of this work in each district:—

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	Rabi Crop Abstracts ready by 31st March.	Attestation of Mutation Registers.	REMARKS.
DELHI.	Hissar ...	In tahsils Hansi, Fatahabad, Sirsa.	Good in tahsils Bhiwani, Fatahabad, bad in Hansi and Sirsa.	Work on the whole fairly good. A little special attestation tried.
	Rohtak ...	All except in Jhajjar	Registers of all villages attested.	No special attestation. Work good.
	Gurgaon ...	In tahsils Riwari, Palwal, Firozpur.	Few villages attested. Work especially bad in Nuh.	Annual papers not all checked yet. A little special attestation done, but not checked. Work not good on the whole; but it was somewhat retarded by the Camp of Exercise.
	Delhi ...	Less than half.	No. of mutations, not of villages, entered. Total 2,292 mutations.	A little special attestation done. Work on the whole not good. Camp of Exercise.
	Karnal ...	All in time.	Good in part under settlement. Very bad in part not under settlement.	A little special attestation under settlement. Work good under settlement; not good under Deputy Commissioner. Camp of Exercise.
	Umballa ...	Practically all.	Very good.	All work under settlement and very good.
	Simla ...	All.	About half the villages attested.	Work fairly good. A little special attestation done.
JULLUNDUR.	Kangra ...	A few only.	Good in tahsils Kangra, Hamirpur, Palampur, bad in Nurpur and Dehra.	Work in this district difficult, and fairly done on the whole.
	Hoshiarpur ...	In tahsils Hoshiarpur and Una.	All villages attested.	Work very good.

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	Rabi Crop Abstracts ready by 31st March.	Attestation of Mutation Registers.	REMARKS.
JULLUNDUR.	Jullundar ...	All except in 11 villages in Nawashahr.	Good in tahsil Nakodar; fair in Nawashahr; bad in Jullundar, and Phillour.	Best work done by Tahsildar of Nakodar. Work fair. A little special attestation done.
	Ludhiána ...	All.	Good in Ludhiána and Samrála; bad in Jagraon. Tahsildar only attested 35 villages.	Work on the whole good.
	Ferozepore ...	All except in tahsil Muktsar.	Under settlement very good. Under Deputy Commissioner—fair in Muktsar and bad in half Ferozepore.	A great many annual papers of part not under settlement still unchecked. Work very good under settlement. Not very good under Deputy Commissioner.
LAHORE.	Mooltan ...	All except in Lodhran and Serai Sidhu.	Good only in Shujabad. Very bad in Lodhran.	Work fair.
	Jhang ...	All.	Very fair in all tahsils.	Squares laid down in 176 villages. Work good.
	Montgomery ...	In nearly all villages.	Good in Montgomery; bad in other tahsils.	Field numbers being reduced. Work fair.
	Lahore ...	In 594 out of 1,552 villages.	Good in Kasur and Chunian; bad in other tahsils.	Some annual papers are still unchecked. Work not good.
	Amritsar ...	All.	Good in Amritsar; bad in Ajnala.	Squares laid down in a good many villages. Work on the whole good.
	Gurdáspur ...	Only a few in time.	Very little attestation done.	Settlement began during the year; little work has been done yet.
	Siálkot ...	All.	Good in Zafarwal; not good in Siálkot; fair in other tahsils.	Tahsildar of Zafarwal himself attested all his villages (536). Work on the whole good.
RAWALPINDI.	Gujrát ...	In tahsil Kharián only.	Good in Gujrát and Kharián; bad in Phalia.	Work on the whole fair.
	Gujránwála ...	In 708 out of 1,232 villages.	Good in Hafizabád; fair in Gujránwála; bad in Wazirabad.	Work fair.
	Shahpur ...	In 454 out of 683 villages.	Not good in any tahsil.	Work not good.
	Jhelum ...	All in Jhelum, and almost all in other tahsils.	Good in Chakwál, and Jhelum. Fair in others.	Work on the whole good.
	Ráwalpindi ...	All.	All attested	Some special attestation carried out, and base squares laid down. Work very good.

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	Rabi Crop Abstracts ready by 31st March.	Attestation of Mutation Registers.	REMARKS.
PESHAWAR.	Hazara ...	In tahsil Haripur. Date of crop girdawar postponed in hills.	Good in Abbottabad; not good in others.	Most of the attestation in Munsabha is done in summer. Work good.
	Peshawar ...	All in Utman Bolak and Mardán; and almost all in Doaba Daudzai.	Not good anywhere. Especially bad in Hashtnagar and Mardán.	Work not good.
	Kohat ...	Date of rabi girdawar postponed.	Not good in either tahsil.	Work not good. A little special attestation done.
DERAJAT.	Bannu ...	In all tahsils, except Marwat.	Fair in Isakhel; bad in other tahsils, especially in Miánwali.	No attestation of mutations at all in Miánwali. Work not good. A little special attestation in two tahsils.
	Dera Ismail Khan.	Only in tahsils Kulachi and Tank.	Good in Kulachi. Bad in Dera and Bakhar.	Squares laid out in some villages. Work on the whole good.
	Dera Ghazi Khan.	In tahsils Dera and Jampur only.	Not good in any tahsil.	Work not good.
	Muzaffargarh ...	In 188 out of 749 villages.	Good in Alipur and Sinanwan; fair in Muzaffargarh.	Work on the whole good.

The Financial Commissioner considers that the results shown in this the first year under the new system are encouraging. It was scarcely to be expected that the new rule regarding attestation of mutations in each village would be fully carried out the first year; but the Financial Commissioner hopes that Deputy Commissioners will pay more attention to this point, and that next year's returns will show better results.

29. **Court of Wards.**—The management of estates under the Court of Wards is, in most districts, carefully attended to by the Deputy Commissioner. Only one new estate was brought under the control of the Court during the year, namely, the Kunjpura estate in the Karnal district. The late Nawab died in January last, but the property is a large one and the accounts complicated. The report of the Deputy Commissioner has consequently been delayed. Pandit Narindar Nath, in the Lahore district, received charge of his estate towards the close of the year under report on his attaining his majority. He is described by Mr. Clark as "a most promising young man." He took his B.A. degree some time ago, and went up for the M.A. examination in March last. An account of Thakur Harkishen Das of Kishenkot, grandson of the late Raja Sir Sahib Dyal, K.C.S.I., is printed among the extracts from the Gurdaspur district report.

30. **Enhancement of Rent.**—The following table shows the number of suits for enhancement of rent which fell to be disposed of in each of the last four years:—

Statement No. XXXIX.	1882-83	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,050
	1883-84	...	...	...	...	...	...	618
	1884-85	...	...	...	...	...	...	562
	1885-86	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,026

Of those for disposal in the year under report 726 were actually decided, and the landlords succeeded in 522, or about five cases out of seven. The enhancement of annual rent granted was Rs. 2,074, or an average of about Rs. 4 per

annum per suit. The litigation was confined to 19 districts, in five of which the number of cases for decision was less than ten. More than half of all the cases in the province occurred in the single district of Ráwalpindi—a fact which is of course, connected with the introduction of new assessments. In Hoshiárpur and Amritsar the cases for disposal sank from 181 and 105 in 1884 and 1885 to 52 in each district in the year under report.

31. **Ejectment of tenants with rights of occupancy.**—Sixteen decrees for ejectment were passed affecting 105 acres. Of these sixteen decrees eleven were in the Ferozepore district and one in each of the districts of Hissár, Rohtak, Delhi, Jullundur and Siálkot. The area of the tenancy from which the tenant was ejected in Hissár was no less than 29 acres, and in Delhi and Siálkot two tenancies from which ejectments were made make up 23 acres between them.

32. **Ejectment of tenants without rights of occupancy.**—The number of notices of ejectment issued in the year under report fell to 9,265 as compared with 14,364 in the previous year. The following table gives comparative figures for six years past both for the province and for selected districts :—

		NUMBER OF NOTICES OF EJECTMENT ISSUED.					
		1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Total ...	...	7,995	10,659	9,463	7,842	14,364	9,265
Hissár ...	...	3,116	3,213	2,872	1,359	7,627	2,368
Sirsa ...	...	1,189	1,882	891	731	...	...
Ráwalpindi...	...	291	242	704	904	584	416
Ferozepore ...	..	364	961	594	634	1,017	711
Jhelum ...	...	...	113	473	324	266	317
Delhi ...	...	336	587	458	294	397	442
Hoshiárpur...	...	188	416	413	262	159	269
Amritsar ...	...	286	327	368	418	508	432
Rohtak ...	...	385	349	236	421	388	609
Gurgáon ...	...	477	525	299	508	515	469

From this table it will be seen that Hissár now accounts for the whole provincial decrease, as formerly, for the whole provincial increase. The figures in the other districts are as stable as such figures can be expected to be. Another peculiarity of the Hissár figures is that while the number of notices is less than one-third of what it was last year, the number of suits to contest notices has increased by nearly 150 per cent.; similarly, while the area from which ejectments are said to have been made has decreased very much in proportion to the decrease in the number of notices; the two elements of which it is composed have altered very much in relative value. Last year the area from which ejectments were made, after contest, was about one per cent. of the area from which ejectments were said to have been made without any contest at all; but in the year under report it is more than thirteen per cent. Again, while last year the applications for assistance to eject were about one for every thirty notices, they are this year about one for every eighteen notices. The figures for the present year are probably more normal. The Deputy Commissioner was last year asked for a special report on the whole subject, but has excused himself on the ground of his short acquaintance with the district.

#### PART IV.—SETTLEMENTS.

Statements Nos. XXI and XXII.

33. The following abstract gives a brief account of settlement operations carried on during the year :—

*Ráwalpindi Settlement.*—Mr. Robertson was in charge of this settlement throughout the year. He had the help of an Assistant Settlement Officer for only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  months, and during the latter half of the year the two tahsils of Murree and Kahuta have been placed under one Settlement Superintendent. The settle-

ment establishment was considerably reduced, and many of the staff received appointments on the Kánúngo establishments of other districts. The settlement has now lasted for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years, and has cost nearly 7 lakhs. The increase of revenue has been 3 lakhs; and it is anticipated that the work will be finished during 1886-87, the bulk of the settlement establishment being available for transfer to other districts before the end of 1886.

All the new assessments were announced and distributed over holdings during the year, and only some fairing work remains to be done. The judicial work was heavy, a large number of suits for enhancement of rent having been brought, especially in the Gujar Khan tahsil.

Since November 1885 the Commissioner has relieved the Settlement Officer of all judicial appeals; 398 partition cases were decided during the year, and 108 were pending at the end.

Special attestation was carried out in 358 villages, the Tahsildárs and Naib-Tahsildárs helping in the supervision of both this work and of the crop girdawári.

Base squares have been carefully laid down in each village specially attested, and the Settlement Officer now purposes making tracings of the field maps of all villages in the plains on paper ruled into squares. The whole settlement establishment and Kánúngo staff has been subjected to an examination in the new Patwári Manual. The result was very good, especially considering that so high a standard as three-fourths of the total marks was exacted for passing.

*Ráwalpindi Forest Settlement.*—All the permanent boundary marks have now been put up in the Murree and Kahuta forests. Mr. Atkinson, the Surveyor, tested the marks of 36 forests during the year. The maps (8 inches to a mile) of all the forests except one have been prepared, but have not yet been attested. The Financial Commissioner is very anxious to see Mr. Atkinson's share in the Forest work brought to a close at an early date. All the proposals for the Murree and Kahuta forest settlement have been accepted by Government, and the forests will be gazetted very shortly. Mr. Robertson inspected the Kala Chitta forests during January and February, and has submitted his report. He does not anticipate the same difficulties with these forests as with those of Murree and Kahuta.

The Financial Commissioner considers that Mr. Robertson is entitled to commendation for the work he has done during the year.

*Karnál-Umballa Settlement.*—Mr. Douie was in charge of this Settlement throughout the year, except for six weeks, when Mr. Kennedy acted for him. The Settlement Officer points out that during settlement operations Patwáris have to do the same work as is required of them when a settlement is not in progress, and measurements and other settlement work in addition. The Commissioner, who is struck by the amount and quality of work exacted from Patwáris during a settlement, asks how it is that this standard of work is not kept up when a settlement is not in progress. The reason of this, in the Financial Commissioner's opinion, is that heretofore no one except a Settlement Officer has thought it his business to thoroughly supervise Patwáris. Better supervision is all that is required.

The measurements of Pargana Indri were finished in October. Those of Jagádhri were practically finished by the end of the year. The Kaithal measurements will probably be completed during 1886-87. The area measured during the year was 472,260 acres (738 square miles) as against 648,114 acres (1,013 square miles) in the previous year. The reasons of the smaller outturn of work are that, owing to the completion of measurements in part of the district the number of survey parties was reduced, and that the Patwáris had to be taught the new system of calculating areas. The cost of surveying 679 square miles, (excluding the areas measured by candidates under training) was Rs. 14 per acre.

New rules for alluvion and diluvion enquiries were tried during the year, and a set of instructions based on these rules has been drawn up and submitted for sanction by the Settlement Officer. Mr. Douie also reported on the assessments of the Indri Pargana; the Financial Commissioner has passed orders on them. The Settlement Officer hopes to report on the assessment of Pipli by November 1886, and on those of Jagádhri and Kaithal by November 1887. Fresh

annual papers were prepared by the Patwáris in every tahsíl except Indri. There was a marked improvement from the previous year both in the speed and the accuracy of preparation of these papers. The attestation kept pace with the measurements in the greater part of the district, but not in Jagádhrí and Kaithal tahsís.

The judicial work calls for no remark; 538 partition cases were instituted during the year, and 293 were pending at the end.

Three Náib-Tahsildárs were under training. One died; the other two received a good training. The Kánúngo staff was organised according to the new scale, and the Patwáris are becoming more efficient. But one-seventh of the latter are still only Hindi writers. The cost of settlement operations during the year was Rs. 1,02,100 out of a budget allowance of Rs. 1,15,600; large reductions will probably be made in the expenditure in October 1886.

The Settlement Officer commends the work done by Messrs. Kennedy and Lawrence, Assistant Settlement Officers, and Alimulla, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer. Mr. Douie himself worked with his usual industry and ability.

*North Umballa Settlement.*—Mr. Kensington was in charge for 9 months, and Mr. Kennedy for 3 months in the year. In February 1886 the Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, Ahmad Bakhsh, was transferred. It has been found difficult to carry on the work without an Extra Assistant Settlement Officer and arrangements have been made to send another Extra Assistant Commissioner to assist the Settlement Officer.

The measurements of the Umballa tahsíl were quite, and of the Kharár tahsíl very nearly, finished before the end of the year. Those of Rupar and Naraingarh are expected to be completed early in the year 1886-87. The area surveyed during the year was 566 square miles as against 454 the previous year, and the cost per square mile has been reduced from Rs. 42 to Rs. 29.

The daily average of work in the Rupar and Naraingarh tahsís, where alone all the measuring parties have been at work throughout the year, was as follows:—

YEARS.	Rupar.		Naraingarh.	
	Fields.	Area.	Fields.	Area.
1884-85     ...     ...     ...	6.2	3.3	5.5	5.9
1885-86     ...     ...     ...	11.2	6.4	6.7	8.1

The great improvement in Rupar is attributed to the better supervision of the new Superintendent, Ahmad Bakhsh. The Settlement Officer anticipates that all the record work required by the settlement instructions will have been finished by the end of 1886-87, and more than half the settlement establishment will then be available for transfer to other districts.

With reference to the remarks recorded in the Government review of the last Revenue Administration Report the Settlement Officer shows that if the new system of settlement prolong settlement operations as a whole, it shortens the period of record work, and thus materially reduces the cost of the operations.

The Settlement Officer inspected the villages of the Umballa and Kharár tahsís during the last winter, and hopes soon to send up the Assessment Report. He will inspect the other two tahsís next winter. The judicial work of the year calls for no remarks. Among executive revenue cases partition cases have largely increased. There were 435 institutions, and 212 cases were pending at the end of the year. The changes in the Patwári staff were few, and in the Settlement Officer's opinion there are now scarcely any Patwáris who cannot be called competent. The number of Hindi Patwáris has been reduced to 17, as against 100 at the beginning of the Settlement.

There were three Náib-Tahsildárs and three Náib-Tahsildár candidates under training. Five of the Patwáris were appointed Kánúngos in the district, and seven Munsarims were drafted in a similar capacity to other districts.

The cost of settlement operations covered about four-fifths of the Budget provision of the year.

Mr. Kensington has written an interesting report, and he is entitled to commendation for the good work done by him.

*Ferozepore Settlement.*—The case work was as a rule promptly disposed of, the only exception being in the Moga tahsíl, the Officiating Superintendent of which (Fatehulla Khan, since dead) quite failed to grapple with his work. Of the 446 partition cases pending at the end of the year, 201 belonged to the Moga tahsíl. About 35,000 mutations were attested on the spot during the year, the majority in the Moga and Zira tahsils. Squares have now been laid down in almost the whole district, and the interior field measurements of 89 villages have been completed. The greatest progress in survey was made in the last half year, when (deducting two months for recording crops of two harvests, and allowing for a good deal of time taken up in alluvion and diluvion work) the area surveyed averaged a little more than 300 acres per measuring party.

The Settlement Officer's work was much retarded by the number of men who were sent to this district to receive a training in field work. These consisted of—

- (1) Four Náib-Tahsildárs who completed their training in December 1885, and were then succeeded by two others.
- (2) Five candidates for the post of Náib-Tahsildár.
- (3) Two Kánúngos from other districts.
- (4) Two candidates for Kánúngoships from other districts.
- (5) The following other candidates:—
  - (a) A candidate from the Alwar State, being trained in settlement work at the request of the Agent to the Governor-General for Rájputána.
  - (b) Three clerks of other districts who took leave and underwent a voluntary course of training. The Financial Commissioner considers that Mr. Francis' work in training these men is deserving of special notice, and it is only owing to his energy and perseverance that the outturn of work has been as good as it was.

The cost of measurement per square mile, taking the data of both parts of 1884-85, and the whole of 1885-86, was Rs. 82. Considering that the work has heretofore been quite in its initial stage, the Financial Commissioner does not consider this excessive. The Settlement Officer has compared his own square measurements with the survey data of 239 villages. In 60 villages there was practically no difference; in 79 the differences have to be cleared up, and in 100 the discrepancies have been caused by carelessly prepared sketches of settlement measurements from which the comparisons were made with survey plottings.

The other miscellaneous work done was as follows:—

- (1) The Patwáris' circles were distributed and the pay re-graded.
- (2) New alluvion and diluvion rules were brought into force.
- (3) The canal rules were modified in such a way as to make the ordinary crop girdawári suffice for the canal measurements.
- (4) All masonry tri-junction pillars have been set up.
- (5) Crop experiments were carried out.

The Tahsildárs and Náib-Tahsildárs will be taken for settlement work as soon as the press of work connected with the Income Tax is over. Forty Patwáris have either been removed or have resigned, and only 14 Hindi writing Patwáris now remain.

The Settlement Officer speaks highly of the work done by Mr. Fenton, Assistant Settlement Officer, and Nathu Ram, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer. The Financial Commissioner considers that the work done by Mr. Francis throughout the year has been excellent.

*Gurdáspur Settlement.*—The Jullundur Settlement having been completed in November 1885, the settlement staff was transferred to Gurdáspur. The Settlement Officer, Mr. R. M. Dane, arrived in the district in November. The work up to the present time has been entirely preliminary and administrative. Great pains have been taken to teach all the settlement staff, including the Patwáris, the new Patwáris' manuals. Some instruction has also been given in surveying by squares, but most of the time has been taken up in

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writing up mutations, and bringing the Patwáris' records up to date as far as possible. The Settlement Officer does not expect to begin measurements till the end of the rainy season of 1886.

The powers of the supervising officer of the settlement were not gazetted till the end of February; the case work done is therefore inconsiderable.

As usual in the beginning of a settlement it has been necessary to get rid of a good many incompetent Patwáris. Good educational qualifications are insisted on in the new nominees. The Patwáris' circles have been readjusted and many inequalities removed. It may be necessary hereafter to still further increase the number of Patwáris in the Shakargarh tahsíl. The immediate increase in the whole district is only from 417 to 423. Patwáris of each tahsíl have been placed under the Tahsildár and Náib-Tahsildárs to work in the settlement under the supervision of the Settlement Officer.

*Kohát Settlement.*—All measurement work and a great part of the attestation had been finished by the end of 1884-85. The work this year has consisted principally of finishing attestation, fairing, and reporting on the assessments. The Assessment Report was sent to the Commissioner by the Deputy Commissioner, who is in charge of the settlement, in August 1885, and orders have now been issued on it by the Financial Commissioner. Meanwhile the fairing has been finished and the establishment largely reduced. It only remains to give out the village assessments and distribute them in holdings.

34. *Expired Settlements.*—The following settlements in tracts not under settlement have expired :—

Hissár.  
Kángra.

Shahpur.

Amritsar.  
Siálkot.

Proposals for the re-settlement of Kángra, Hissár, and Shahpur are under consideration.

35. *Final Reports.*—No Final Reports are now pending with the Financial Commissioner.

36. *Suits to correct entries in the Settlement Record.*—These suits include suits under section 20 of the Land Revenue Act and also suits for declaratory decrees brought by plaintiffs in possession. There were 1,088 suits for disposal during the year, of which 708 were in the Ráwalpindi district.

## PART V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

37. *Silk.*—Reports on the exhibitions of silk cocoons held at Pathámkot and Núrpúr, in May 1886, were submitted to Government in August last. These towns are only sixteen miles apart, and are connected by an excellent road; and in submitting the reports the Financial Commissioner supported the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner of Kángra, that in future a single annual exhibition should be held at Pathámkot.

A report was submitted to Government in January last, giving such information as was available in regard to mulberry trees, silk-worms, and silk. Silk has also been selected this year as the subject of the monograph annually prepared in this office, and on the receipt of the district reports a monograph will be prepared and submitted for the information of Government.

38. *Government suits.*—The report of the Government Advocate is printed as one of the appendices to this report.

The office of Government Advocate was held by Mr. E. P. Henderson until the close of the year when he went on furlough, the officiating appointment being taken by Mr. W. H. Rattigan. Mr. Sinclair, the Junior Government Advocate, also took furlough in October 1885, and Mr. Lewis, Judge of the Small Cause Court at Lahore, was appointed to officiate for him.

The Financial Commissioner invites attention to the third paragraph of the Government Advocate's report, which shows how fast the number of references made to him has increased during the past six years.

During the year under report the Government Advocate conducted twelve civil suits on behalf of Government. Two decrees were given against Government, and in one suit Government was only partially successful; three suits were left pending at the close of the year. The other suits were decided

in favour of Government. The three cases in which Government was not wholly successful were all appealed to the higher courts; in two of the cases the appeal has been decided in favour of Government, while the third is still pending.

The civil appellate cases were ten in number, of which three were still pending at the close of the year. In six cases the Government was successful on all points, while in the seventh the Government Advocate succeeded in reducing a decree for Rs. 8,928 against the Secretary of State to one for Rs. 2,776.

Of the twenty-two original suits and appeals, four were conducted by Mr. Sinclair, and most of the remainder by Mr. Lewis, while the Government Advocate himself undertook six of the more important cases.

Appendix B, Part III, of the Government Advocate's report shows that due progress has been made in the execution of decrees. The Financial Commissioner would invite the attention of Government to the suggestion made by him in January last that an application should be made to the Chief Court for the admission of the Junior Government Advocate as a pleader *ex-officio*. The report of the Government Advocate shows how frequently the courts have refused to allow costs on account of pleader's fees to Government on the ground that Mr. Lewis is not a pleader.

Revised rules for the conduct of Government suits were submitted to Government during the year under report, and were published in the *Punjab Gazette* of the 3rd December 1885.

Mr. Henderson having now gone on furlough, Colonel Davies wishes to take this opportunity of recording his opinion of the remarkable zeal, energy, thoroughness and ability with which he has discharged his duties as Government Advocate. The opinions given by him have always been sound and well considered, and his conduct of Government suits has been most successful.

**39. Tours of Commissioners.—Dehli.**—The Commissioner makes no reference to his tours.

**Jullundur.**—The Commissioner was in camp for 135 days and visited all the tahsils of his division except three.

**Lahore.**—The Commissioner was in camp 60 days and visited the headquarters of all his districts and of eleven tahsils. He was also frequently called away to places outside his division.

**Ráwalpindi.**—The Commissioner was 85 days on tour and visited all his tahsils with three exceptions.

**Pesháwar.**—The Commissioner made extensive tours in all his districts and accompanied His Highness the Amir of Cabul to and from the Ráwalpindi Darbár.

**Deraját.**—The Commissioner was 116 days in camp and made extensive tours up and down the Indus.

**Selected reports.**—Last year six selected reports were submitted to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. This year the Financial Commissioner has pleasure in submitting the reports of the following officers which are all worthy of perusal :—

Lieut.-Colonel Grey, Commissioner, Dehli.

Mr. Drummond, Deputy Commissioner, Karnál.

„ L. W. Dane, Deputy Commissioner, Jhang.

„ E. O'Brien, Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.

Major J. B. Hutchinson, Deputy Commissioner, Mooltan.

Mr. G. Ogilvie, Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ismail Khan.

As far as possible the selection has been varied from last year both as to authors and as to districts.

## APPENDIX A.

No. 52, dated Lahore, 2nd August 1886, from W. H. BATTIGAN, Esquire, Officiating Government Advocate, Punjab, to the Junior Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

I have the honor to submit the usual Annual Report of the Civil Business transacted by this office for the official year 1885-86, together with the Annual Report, 1885-86. usual Appendices A and B.

2. The office of Government Advocate was held by Mr. Henderson, C.S., throughout the whole of the year under report except the last three working days of the year.

3. Appendix A annexed to this Report contains the usual detailed abstract of cases and questions submitted to this office for consideration and opinion, and a comparative tabular statement of references for the past six years is as follows:—

*Comparative statement of References disposed of in the six years 1880-81 to 1885-86.*

No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
1	Government, Punjab, Civil Department ... ..	24	27	41	69	79	92
2	Ditto Military Department ... ..	1	1	...	2	...	...
3	Ditto Public Works Department... ..	76	15	8	11	6	16
4	Ditto Ditto Ditto, Irrigation Branch	...	144	56	11	78	108
5	Financial Commissioner, Punjab ... ..	25	20	48	38	43	37
6	Indus Valley State Railway ... ..	...	7	2	...	2	...
7	Punjab Northern State Railway ... ..	...	1	6	4	11	3
8	Rewari-Ferozepore State Railway ... ..	...	...	...	5	1	...
9	North-Western Railway ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	16
10	Consulting Engineer, Lahore ... ..	1	3	...	...	...	1
11	Conservator of Forests, Punjab ... ..	4	5	7	12	10	5
12	Inspector-General of Police, Punjab ... ..	...	...	2	7	5	3
13	Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab ... ..	...	...	6	2	3	4
14	Inspector-General of Registration, Punjab... ..	2	...	...	1	...	1
15	Director of Public Instruction, Punjab ... ..	2	...	1	1	3	5
16	Accountant-General, Punjab... ..	1	...	1	...	...	2
17	Deputy Commissioner of Paper Currency, Punjab ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	4
18	Post Master-General, Punjab... ..	2	1	...	...	2	...
19	Registrar, Joint Stock Companies ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
20	Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
21	Miscellaneous ... ..	18	13	11	15	13	9
	TOTALS ... ..	156	237	189	181	256	308

Mr. Henderson, on making over charge of the office, requested me to insert the following observations by him on the subject of the reference work:—

"It will be noticed that the references have now exceeded 300 in number, or more than 100 per cent. in excess of the annual average for 1875 to 1880 (148). Those made by Government in the Civil Department, a large proportion of which are sent in unofficial form, without any case stated, and nearly all of which are more or less difficult, show an immense increase, being but little short of four times as numerous as those of 1880-81. There can, I think, be little doubt that my presence with the Local Government during the summers of 1884 and 1885 at Simla led to a good many such references, and I trust it was therefore an appreciable advantage to Government. That it quickened the disposal of many urgent references is certain. Of the North-Western Railway references no fewer than 16 have been received and disposed of since the taking over of the Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway on the 1st of January last: a total for three months contrasting vividly with annual totals since 1880-81 from all the Punjab State Railways of 0, 8, 8, 9 and 14 respectively. In fact, I am Government Advocate of the Punjab no longer, but that of the Punjab, part of the North-Western Provinces, of Sind and Biluchistan. The one feature of my appointment which, amidst a general increase of my work and responsibility, and a general rise of pay in the Commission, maintains a gloomy immobility in its emoluments. The North-Western Provinces has its Legal Remembrancer on Rs. 2,000 per mensem: so have other Provinces. The Punjab Government Advocateship receives its Rs. 1,000 with increments slowly rising to Rs. 1,500, and yet since that pay was fixed in 1874 the work is vastly more than doubled."

4. This return gives the particulars of the original civil suits to which Government was a party. There were 12 of these cases, and I shall now proceed, according to the usual practice, to give a short statement of the facts of each.

Appendix B, Part I, Original suits.

5. The facts of this case are given in para. 13 of the report for the year 1883-84.

Khazan Singh v. the Secretary of State for India in Council. Claim Rs. 27,864-8-6.

It is also referred to in para. 8 of the report for the last year. The causes that prevented a speedy disposal of this case have been fully set forth in the two abovesaid reports. Mr. F. L. O'Callaghan, C.I.E., Engineer-in-Chief, Bolan Railway, who was a most important witness for the defence, was at last able to attend the Ráwalpindi District Judge's Court on the 29th of January last. The first day was occupied with the examination of Mr. Kemp as witness for plaintiff, and the 30th May and 1st February with that of Mr. O'Callaghan as witness for the defendant. On 3rd February, in a long and exhaustive judgment, the Judge announced his order, dismissing the suit with costs (except pleader's fees, as the officiating Junior Government Advocate is not an enrolled pleader). The claim was a totally false one, got up in collusion with Mr. Kemp. The District Judge, in his judgment, described the plaintiff as "dishonest, untruthful and unscrupulous," and Mr. Kemp as "dishonest;" and with regard to a distinct, and the largest, portion of the claim, he observed that "probably a more rascally plot was never concocted between a dishonest contractor and dishonest Government servant." Messrs. Spitta and Beechey appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Lewis, the Officiating Junior Government Advocate, for the Government.

Nathoo Mull v. Secretary of State for India in Council.

6. This was a small suit for Rs. 300, the facts of which are given in para. 10 of last year's report. As there stated, the suit was dismissed with costs. Mr. Sinclair appearing for the defendant.

7. This case is Nathu Mall v. Secretary of State for India in Council.

described at para. 19 of the report for 1883-84. The causes that have delayed its disposal are given in para. 9 of the last report. The principal witness in this case, Mr. O'Callaghan, Engineer-in-Chief, Bolan Railway, as stated in para. 5 also of this report, was at last able to attend in January last, when his evidence was recorded. For recording further evidence the case was postponed, and was pending at the close of the year.

8. As in last year's report, para. 16, these suits may be referred to together. To that notice it is only necessary to here add that No. I was decreed in full with costs against Government; No. II was decreed in part (on a claim totally inconsistent with that of which notice of action was given and which was set forth in the plaint); and No. III was dismissed with costs. I may just here mention that, an appeal having been preferred in No. I and (the other side having appealed) a cross objection in No. II, both these suits have since been dismissed in full, with costs, by the District Judge of Sahárunpur, as will appear in the proper place in this report. No appeal was preferred in No. III., which is therefore concluded finally in favour of Government.

9. The facts of this case are reported at length in para. 23 of the last year's report. The plaintiff was allowed a year to find the defendant's address and to apply for issue of fresh summons; but she failed to do so, and the suit was dismissed under Section 99 A of the Civil Procedure Code on 15th March last. As service of summons on the defendant was never effected, this office was not called upon to defend.

Mrs. Baness v. Colonel McMahon.

Sultan Bukhsh and 9 others v. Secretary of State for India in Council and Revd Mr. Weitbrecht.

10. This was a suit by the Dhobis of Batála to recover possession of a plot of land measuring 1 ghumao, 14 kanáls and 6 marlas, with the trees, pacca hut and a well thereon, situate near Shamsher Khan's Tank in the mouza of Batála.

At the first settlement this plot of land, Field No. 3916, was recorded as "Shamlat Kasba." At the second settlement, on 24th July 1864, one Bulaki, a Dhobi, on behalf of himself and the other Dhobis of Batála, brought a suit to have their proprietary title to field Nos. 3916, 3917, 3919 and 3921 declared. The Settlement Superintendent after some enquiry decreed Nos. 3919 and 3921 for the Dhobis, but dismissed their claim to Nos. 3916 and 3917, which thereafter were recorded as the property of Government and continued in its possession. In May 1865 the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdáspur leased No. 3916 to the Reverend Mr. Weitbrecht, Principal of the Christian Boys' Boarding School at Batála, for a playground, at an annual rental of Rs. 5. In October 1885 the present plaintiffs brought this suit to recover possession of this land, making the Secretary of State and the Reverend Mr. Weitbrecht defendants to the suit. At the end of the year under report the suit was pending, but on 15th April 1886 it was dismissed by Pandit Dwarka Nath, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Gurdáspur, under Section 102, Civil Procedure Code, the plaintiffs appearing neither personally nor by pleader or agent. If the plaintiffs are well advised, it is to be hoped that they will take no steps to revive the suit, as, so far as it can be judged, their claim is bound to fail. Mr. Lewis defended the suit.

11. This was a small suit brought by one Devi Dyal, of Amritsar against Mr. R. Douglas, Assistant Engineer, to recover Rs. 207-14-0 as the value of kacha bricks and upla (cow-dung cakes) alleged to have been supplied by him, under the orders of the Assistant Engineer, between the 4th and the 25th February 1885. Asa Singh, a sub-overseer, was also made a co-defendant by him on the ground that he had supplied the material through Asa Singh, and that Asa Singh had wrongfully obtained payment of the amount claimed for himself. As the transaction in regard to which the Assistant Engineer was sued was one in which he had acted in his official capacity, the Financial Commissioner, on the representation of the Public Works Department, directed that the defence should be undertaken at the cost

Devi Dyal v. Mr. R. Douglas, Assistant Engineer, and Asa Singh. Claim Rs. 207-14-0.

of Government. Both Mr. Henderson and Mr. Lewis, the Officiating Junior Government Advocate, appeared for the defence, and the first plea taken was that the plaint was incorrectly framed by reason of misjoinder of parties. The Court (of Mr. Robinson, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Lahore,) thereupon directed the plaintiff to amend his plaint, which was done by his striking out the name of Asa Sing and confirming his suit against Mr. Douglas only. But the Court after that (on apparently very insufficient grounds) permitted the plaintiff to withdraw from the suit with permission to sue again if necessary. It is not likely that Devi Dyal will sue Mr. Douglas again; but if he does, he could easily be defeated on the ground, amongst others, that Mr. Douglas acted as the agent of Government and is therefore not personally liable.

12. In September 1883 a pauper appeal of one Mula Mal was decreed with costs against Fakiria and Shibbu, respondents. The subject-matter of this litigation was the property of one Hira Lal, deceased, and so, under the provisions of Section 411, Civil Procedure Code, the costs decreed also formed a first charge on this property. In October 1883 one Dat Mal obtained a decree against the above said Mula Mal, Fakiria and Shibbu for a certain sum of money, the decree stating that it "was against the property of Hira Lal, deceased, proportionately against each defendant so far as he has property in his hands left by the late Hira Lal." Dat Mal applied for execution of this decree. A certain sum was realised and paid him, while Rs. 192-6-0 of money realised in execution of this decree were still in the hands of the Court, which, of its own motion, on the report of an Ahlmad about the costs of Mula Mal's pauper appeal which had to be recovered from Hira Lal's estate, detained the Rs. 192-6-0, and subsequently paid the Collector Rs. 185, in satisfaction of what was due to Government on account of costs of the said appeal.

Dat Mal then brought the present suit to recover from Government the sum of Rs. 192-6-0, but subsequently, on the Government Advocate's pointing out the error, amended the plaint to one for Rs. 185 only. As no formal application was ever made on behalf of Government for recovery of this sum, the Extra Assistant Commissioner's procedure in making it over to the Collector of his own motion was entirely irregular. But as in the abstract justice was on the side of Government, it having been ruled that Government takes precedence of all other creditors, the defence of the suit was undertaken on several grounds, which it was thought could be successfully pleaded. Amongst these were (1) insufficiency of notice under Section 424, Civil Procedure Code, and (2) the plaintiff not being entitled to the relief he sued for. The case was argued before Moulvi Zia-ud-din, Extra Assistant Commissioner, by Mr. Henderson himself, but the Extra Assistant Commissioner, taking a different view, passed a decree against Government for Rs. 185 and costs.

Sanction of the Financial Commissioner has now been received to appeal from this order.

13. This suit arose out of the following circumstances:—In 1864 a site (numbered 116 in the Rawalpindi, Cantonment registers) was granted by the military authorities to a Mrs. McCulluch to build a house thereon. In January 1870 Mrs. McCulluch (now Mrs. Face) sold the house she had built to the plaintiffs in this suit. In May 1884 a small site adjoining to, and to the south of site No. 116 was granted by the military authorities to Kashi Ram. The plaintiffs then alleged that a piece of land belonging to site No. 116 had been included in the site granted to Kashi Ram, and, treating him as a trespasser, sued him for Rs. 3,500 as damages. On a representation made by the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner of Rawalpindi, the Financial Commissioner decided that the Junior Government Advocate should defend the suit, which was dismissed with costs by the District Judge of Rawalpindi on 16th November 1885. The grounds, amongst others, on which the suit failed, were—

- (1) that the plaintiffs had no *locus standi* in the case, inasmuch as they had no legal title to the use and occupation of site No. 116, the transfer to them not having been made with the consent of the officer commanding the station (*Vide* Bengal Army Regulations, regarding cantonments); and
- (2) that Kashi Ram was not a trespasser.

14. This is a suit brought by the proprietors of Mouza Sikandarpur, district Jullundur, to obtain a declaration of their proprietary title in respect of 53 acres of land which at the last settlement it is alleged have been recorded as the property of Government. No statement of the case has as yet been sent to this office, nor has it as yet received any instructions to defend the suit. The allegations made in the plaint are that in 1863 the plaintiffs sold the right to quarry kankar in their village lands to one Mr. Taylor, on the understanding that when all the kankar had been dug out the land would revert to the proprietors; that in 1864 Mr. Taylor sold the right to quarry kankar in 53 acres of the land to the Executive Engineer, Jullundur cantonment; that in the same year Government granted the plaintiff Rs. 495 as compensation, and promised to restore the land to plaintiffs after all the kankar had been dug out; but that now the land has been recorded at the settlement as Government property, and the Executive Engineer is inviting tenders for leasing it.

15. This is a suit by the sons of one Fakir Chand Packrassy, a commissariat gomashtha, now deceased, to recover from Government, Rs. 47,115-7 on account of monies due to their late father for salary and for goods supplied at Thal in 1879 to 1881. As a statement of the case has not yet been received from the Commissariat Department,

Dat Mal v. Secretary  
of State for India in Council.

Mrs. Moran and Mrs.  
Oliver of Lahore v. Kashi  
Ram of Rawalpindi.

Tehl Singh v. Secretary  
of State for India in Council.

Harish Chunder and  
Keshub Chunder v. Secretary  
of State for India in  
Council.

the Financial Commissioner has not up to this time been able to issue any instructions in the case to this office. The matter is still in the hands of the Commissary General-in-Chief, but from copies of correspondence recently received, it appears that the Government of India, Military Department, has sanctioned payment to the heirs of the late Fakir Chund of any amount that may be found due on a re-adjustment of accounts.

16. *Appendix B. Part II, Civil Appeals.*—There were 11 Civil Appeals during the year under report. A short notice of each is appended.

17. The facts out of which this case arose, the result of the proceedings in the court of first instance, and the reasons which necessitated this appeal will be found in paras. 5 and 9 respectively of the Annual Report for the last and the year before. The appeal and the respondents' cross-objection were originally filed in the Mooltan Commissioner's Court, but on the passing of the Punjab Courts Act, 1884, were transferred to the Chief Court, which disposed of them on the 23rd October 1885, with the result that the decree given against Government was reduced from Rs. 8,928 to Rs. 2,776. The plaintiffs were allowed their costs in the Court of first instance on Rs. 2,776, and in the Chief Court on Rs. 510, whilst the defendant (Secretary of State) was given costs on Rs. 18,000 in the Court of first instance, and on Rs. 6,152 in the Chief Court. The learned Judges of the Chief Court held that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover only the actual value of their property at the time the land was resumed, and not compensation for the income which they would have derived from it if the land had not been resumed. They further remarked, that though this value may also be determined according to rental, yet that in judging how many years' rental should be allowed, the character and condition of the property should be taken into consideration; and that in this particular case it seemed to them that, even according to rental, the value of the plaintiffs' property would come to approximately the same as that fixed by them on a valuation of the material, and the cost of the labor it would take to build it. With regard to the aspersions made by the Sub-Judge, Mooltan (Mr. W. A. Harris), on the action of the Cantonment Magistrate, Mooltan, the Judges directed that he should be informed that he was altogether unjustified in putting them in his judgment, seeing that the charges were based on no evidence whatever. Mr. Sinclair conducted the appeal.

Secretary of State, Appellant v. Mohan Lal and Atma Ram, respondents.

18. In regard to this case Mr. Henderson has left the following memo:—

"Little need be said as to this appeal beyond what has been already stated in last year's report, para. 7. The appeal was argued at great length, and at the request of the learned Judges was re-argued on the principal question whether the lease required registration or not. Eventually the appeal was dismissed with costs, the judgment of the lower court being affirmed. The only noticeable point is that, at my suggestion, the appellant was called on to furnish security under Section 549 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the costs both of the appeal and of the Original Court. After some difficulty this was arranged, the Simla Bank authorizing the counsel for the appellant to state that they became responsible. The appellant will be called upon at once to pay the amount, and failing her doing so steps will be taken, with the authority of the Financial Commissioner, to realize it from the Simla Bank. Subject to an appeal to the Privy Council (which I consider unlikely) this decision finally disposes of a claim which, on the strength of a careful investigation held by me throughout three days into the facts of the case, I believe to be as unsustainable on the merits as it has proved to be in law."

Subsequently to my taking over charge the costs have been realised from Mrs. Poole, and the case may be regarded as finally concluded.

19. This case was the outcome of the facts reported in para. 7 of the report for the year before last, and is referred to in para. 13 of the report for the last year. The appeal to the Chief Court was heard by Justices Plowden and Barkley on 9th December last and was dismissed with costs. The Judges held that "there being no pure consent to the agreement sued upon, owing to one of the parties (defendant) having been deceived by the other (plaintiff), there was no contract." No pleader's fees were awarded to the defendant, as the Officiating Junior Government Advocate is not an enrolled pleader. Messrs Spitta and Ram Narain appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Lewis, the Officiating Junior Government Advocate, for the defendant.

Jagran Nath, plaintiff, appellant, v. Secretary of State for India in Council, defendant, respondent. Claim Rs. 26,267-5.

20. At the close of the year this appeal was still pending in the Chief Court.

For the facts of case, see para. 17 of last year's report.

21. The circumstances out of which this appeal has arisen are the following:—The Forest Department engaged Gobind Jas as a contractor for the sawing on the Ravi River in the Chamba Forests, and delivery at Shahdara of sleepers. In 1879-80 the officer in charge of the Forest Division made over to Gobind Jas 19,687 passed sleepers for delivery at Shahdara Depot near Lahore; but of these only 15,895 were delivered, leaving 3,792 to be accounted for. Deducting from this, according to the terms of the agreement, 10 per cent. on the whole consignment, allowed for unavoidable losses and injuries during transit, or 1,968 in all, the contractor was called upon to make good the full value of the balance of 1,824, which at Re. 1-6-0 per sleeper was fixed at Rs. 2,508. For delivery of small pieces of sleepers the contractor was allowed credit for a sum of Rs. 404-11-0, and the amount due by him

Jai Ram, appellant v. Secretary of State, plaintiff, appellant v. Gobind Jas, defendant, respondent.

was reduced to Rs. 2,103-5-0. On his refusing to pay a suit was brought for recovery of the amount in the court of the Sub-Judge of Gurdáspur. In the course of the enquiry, a further sum of Rs. 74-5-0 was allowed to the defendant, thus reducing the claim to Rs. 2,029. The Subordinate Judge gave Government a decree for Rs. 1,291 only, erroneously deducting from the Rs. 2,029 a sum of Rs. 738, as the cost of sawing at 0-6-0 each, the 10 per cent. allowance of 1,968 sleepers, but which as a matter of fact had already been allowed in the accounts at 0-7-4 per sleeper.

This error formed the subject of an appeal to the Divisional Bench at Amritsar. Gobind Jas, however, also put in a cross appeal, claiming among other items, to be paid transport for the 10 per cent. allowance at Re. 1 per scantling. The Divisional Judges accepted the appeal preferred on behalf of the Secretary of State, but also admitted the contractor's claim to be paid for transporting the 10 per cent. allowance, and allowing him at 0-14-8 per scantling, gave him credit for Rs. 1,804. The effect of this was to reduce the decree in favour of Government by a further sum of Rs. 587, that is, to leave it at only Rs. 704. As according to the terms of the agreement the finding of the Divisional Judge on the point of the contractor's being at all entitled to claim payment for transport of the 10 per cent. allowance, when no portion of such allowance was delivered at Shahdara, was clearly wrong, an appeal was preferred to the Chief Court. It was heard in chambers on the 5th February last, and has been admitted to a Bench. It is still pending and will be heard before a Bench on the 5th January 1887.

The facts of this case have not been noticed in any of the previous reports, as the case in its first two stages was not conducted by this office.

The Conservator of Forests reports that, by Secretary to Financial Commissioner's No. 3897 of 19th May 1884, sanction was given to the Forest Department, for conducting the case by private counsel.

The appeal to the Chief Court was filed by this office, under instructions from the Financial Commissioner.

22. As stated in para. 31 of the Report for the last year, an appeal was preferred in this case to the Chief Court. At the hearing in chambers Mr. Justice Barkley held that the suit was a small cause, and that therefore no appeal lay. On cause, however, being shown, he admitted the appeal to a Bench, as an application on the Revision side. When the Financial Commissioner's permission to prefer an appeal was applied for, it was pointed out by this office that it was a fine point as to whether the suit was a small cause or not, and that in case it were held to be a small cause, effort would be made to have the petition of appeal admitted as an application for Revision. At the close of the year the application was still pending.

23. In regard to this case and the one mentioned immediately below, Mr. Henderson writes :—

"This appeal and the next, noticed below, as to the facts of which I would refer to para. 8 of this, and para. 16 of last year's report were argued at great length in the Court of the District Judge, Saharanpur, during two entire days. It would be unprofitable to dwell at length on a large number of technical points in issue, and it will probably suffice to say that in the end the appeal of Government was accepted and the suit dismissed entirely with costs. Mr. Henderson conducted these appeals in person."

24. This was an appeal in the case referred to together with that last mentioned (Hajra's) as to which see para. above. The appeal of the plaintiff was dismissed, while a cross-objection on behalf of Government in respect of the part of the claim decreed by the first court was accepted and the whole suit was dismissed with costs.

25. The circumstances out of which the plaintiff's claim arose, and the result of the proceedings in the Amritsar District Judge's Court, are given in para. 18 of the Annual Report for the last year.

This was an appeal from the order of the District Judge, dismissing the plaintiff's claim as against the Secretary of State, as barred by limitation. After three hearings before the Divisional Judge of Amritsar the plaintiff's appeal as against Government was dismissed on the 22nd March last.

Mr. Lewis defended the appeal.

26. I am again glad to be able to report that the instalments due on account of the loan to the family of the late Diwán Pundit Munphool have been regularly paid up to date.

Due progress has been made in execution of decrees and the fact reported, from time to time, to the Financial Commissioner for information.

27. The revised rules for the conduct of Government suits, referred to in para. 33 of last year's report, were sanctioned by Government during the year under report.

Revised suit rules.

Notice of officers.

28. Mr. Henderson also requested me to insert the following notice of officers :—

"Mr. J. A. Sinclair, Junior Government Advocate, proceeded to Europe on much-needed medical leave of absence at the end of September last. His work was, as usual, excellent throughout the half year. He was succeeded by Mr. G. S. Lewis, Judge of the

Small Cause Court, Lahore, who has continued to officiate up to the present time. Mr. Lewis, although quite unused to his new duties, has discharged them to my entire satisfaction, and has distinguished himself by winning every single suit and appeal conducted by him, including, amongst others, the important and complicated suits of *Khazan Singh v. the Secretary of State*, alluded to in para 8 of last year's report, and in which his antagonist was an *ex-Judge* of the Chief Court, and of *Jaggan Nath v Secretary of State*, alluded to in para. 13 of last year's report, and in which his antagonists were *two ex-Chief Court Judges*. In my consultative duties he has more than fulfilled my expectations and vindicated his deservedly high reputation as a Judge."

I have, &c.,

W. H. RATTIGAN,

*Offg. Government Advocate, Punjab.*

**EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS**  
BY  
**COMMISSIONERS AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS.**

**DELHI DIVISION.**

**EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.**

(LIEUT.-COL. L. J. H. GREY, c.s.i.)

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**Fiscal.**—There is nothing in the reports under this head which needs remark, Demand, collections except the circumstance mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner of and balances. Delhi, and equally those of Karnál and Umballa, that the kharíf collections were very late, which is attributed to the passage of troops. The fact is, however, that in these three districts the practice has grown up of disregarding altogether the first instalment of revenue due at either harvest and of paying both instalments together, often after the date when the second instalment is due. Thus of the rabi instalments which fall due in Delhi in May and June, "the balance at the close of the second month amounted to Rs. 86,685." This slackness prevails also in the other two districts named.

Satisfactory progress has been made in realizing the balances under suspension in Gurgáon.

These exist in 12 villages of Jhajjar in the Rohtak district; 31 villages of Sirsa in the Hissár district; and (practically) in 26 villages of Kaithal in the Karnál district.

As regards the first, I agree with the Deputy Commissioner that the system is a good one for these particular *Dahri* villages, though naturally the harvests having been good, they expressed discontent with the system. The evil of uncertainty of irrigation from which these villages suffer, is doubtless remediable, but is not so at a cost commensurate with the results. These results would not repay the cost of giving such passages through the Railway embankment near Lohari as would restore the irrigation of these *Dahri* villages; and therefore I abandoned the idea in 1884, though Mr. Purser appears again disposed to favour it. The loss of irrigation being, in my opinion, practically without remedy, a fluctuating assessment appears well suited to this case.

In Sirsa, however, the uncertainty of irrigation is perfectly susceptible of remedy, by adoption of the scheme proposed by me for high level irrigation from the Ghaggar, as modified and improved by further developments proposed by Colonel Garstin, Executive Engineer, Western Jamna Canal, Hási Division.

The realizations under the fluctuating system in Sirsa fall far short of estimate, even in a year so extraordinarily favourable as that under report. The Deputy Commissioner writes that the system is said to be liked by the people. This may be read with the same reservation as in the case of Jhajjar. It suits them when the crop fails, but by no means so when the harvest is good. Moreover, the system in Sirsa is at present worked by a very exceptional man—one whom I picked in 1883 as the only man I knew who is suited for it by high character, great zeal, and remarkable physical powers. Maulvi Karim-ud-din himself supervises every single detail connected with the fluctuating assessment, and while he is in Sirsa the people will never know what the disadvantages of such an assessment really are.

Of the working of the system in Kaithal the Deputy Commissioner says nothing. Under Mr. Douie's immediate supervision it doubtless works well. It remains to be seen how it will do so hereafter, for Karim-ud-din's are few and far between in the Punjab, and District Officers do not generally possess the energies and powers of Mr. Douie or Mr. Drummond. I have not referred to the Najafgarh and other *jhál* chaks in Delhi and Gurgáon, which are a very different matter to a system dealing with large tracts suffering under remediable conditions of uncertainty of irrigation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Administration.**—These appear to me to be too numerous in Umballa, where 3,072 warrants issued (in 1884 not less than 3,401) for collection of less than eight lakhs of revenue. In Delhi, for the same amount, only 1,359 warrants were issued. In Gurgáon, for twelve lakhs of revenue, only 1,000 were issued; in Karnál, for six lakhs, 1,467 warrants were issued, while in Rohtak, for 9½ lakhs, there were only 311 warrants. The excessive use of warrants is probably an index of slack revenue administration, and it is also a result found in districts where *Itlaq Navises* still survive and have to justify their existence.

The Deputy Commissioner of Gurgáon's remarks in para. 32, regarding the demoralisation prevailing in Gurgáon, are suggestive and should be read with his para 6. The people of Gurgáon evidently need a very firm hand over them.

\* \* \* \* \*

I invite particular attention to Mr. Drummond's remarks on the subject of Government estates in Karnál. I have seen Teh Roherian and Kohli Khera, but not Rawan Hera. Both the former, but especially Kohli Khera, (which will be irrigated throughout by the scheme which I propose for irrigation from the combined Rakshi Chittang Sarsuti-Markanda, Umblla (or Tangri) are capable of being developed into fine forests. I am strongly of opinion that every acre which can possibly be recovered in the 55 Government estates in Kaithal should be so recovered for forest purposes. It would pay well to this end to give handsome compensation for improvements to the lessees. It is a mistake to suppose that because the land is what in those parts they call kallar (often very fair soil) that it will not make an excellent reserve. If enclosed and left to itself it will produce vegetation of some kind; this will presently sweeten the land, grass will be produced, and heavy brush spring up, and eventually the reserve will be susceptible of treatment as a regular plantation on the Hyder Beg system.

It is also quite possible for District Officers who watch opportunity, and are allowed discretion to use it without waiting months for sanction, to buy land advantageously from time to time, but (with reference to Financial Commissioner's Circular No. 52 of 25th October 1885) I have no hope that the villagers can ever be induced to form fodder reserves for themselves or to make over land for reservation by District Boards.

Advances for agricultural improvements make but slow progress, except in Gurgáon. Only Rs. 700 was advanced in Delhi:—

	Rs.
Gurgáon	26,170
Rohtak	6,500
(Against Rs. 51,500 in the previous year.)*	
Hissár	2,800
Karnál	1,160
Umballa	250

The seasonable rains and general prosperity of course had much to say to the reduced demand for *takavi*; but there are also other causes still remaining for the people's unwillingness to take it. To render *takavi* really popular two things are requisite—

- (1) That it should be actually paid to the claimant by the Deputy Commissioner himself. (I invite attention to Deputy Commissioner, Gurgáon's remarks on this point).
- (2) That the very name *gist* or instalment be got rid of, and that the Deputy Commissioner be left to exercise his own discretion at each harvest, with his list of outstanding advances before him, to say how much, if anything, shall be recovered that harvest from each particular debtor. In other words, that the Deputy Commissioner be left to advance the money and to recover it as he pleases, and when he pleases, within the limit of 20 years.

My experience accords with Mr. Purser's, that the people do not want protective pattas, and nothing is needed but a register of the wells, &c., showing dates of construction.

The only remarks regarding Treasury management are those in the Karnál report written at my request. Mr. Drummond's knowledge of the subject is as thorough as it is unusual, and I invite special attention to his para. 23, every proposal in which I entirely endorse.

I fully share Mr. Maconachie's confidence that we can carry through successfully the new Revenue system, if we are not hurried, and if more is left to the discretion of Deputy Commissioners. Reliance must be placed upon their knowledge, experience and zeal to fulfil the requirements of Government in their own way and at their own time.

I concur with Mr. Purser that some definite instructions are much required for the disposal of partition cases, in which practice varies very greatly, and stupid blunders are constantly made productive of unnecessary litigation.

Courts of Wards' estates exist in Karnál and Umballa only. The Kunjpura Estate in Karnál is susceptible of considerable development, but needs first to be pruned of excrescences, viz., purchases made by the late Nawáb in Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur which are not really remunerative, and which the Deputy Commissioner, Karnál, certainly cannot undertake to look after. Cash rents are being substituted for *batai* on the property of the estate, and the *jágir* revenue hitherto taken in kind, will be realized in cash through the District Revenue Staff, as it should, in my opinion, be in the case of every *jágirdár* in the Punjab. My view is that when Government assigns its revenue to a *jágirdár* it does not at the same time assign its people. This, under powerful *jágirdárs*, like the Mandals, has led to the gravest evils; and even with small ones it is a serious annoyance to the people. I am assured that the nests of small *jágirdárs* in Umballa (the state of affairs arising from constant sub-division can only be described by the above term) are an intolerable nuisance to the villages in which their *jágirs* lie, and I can well believe it.

I fear the Umballa wards are not generally a credit to the Wards' school.

\* NOTE.—These were quite exceptional advances given in Jhajjar during the drought of 1884.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## HISSAR DISTRICT.

(F. C. CHANNING, Esquire.)

Fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue. Fiscal.—The fluctuating revenue as compared with last year's income gives the following figures for the 31 villages of the Sirsa tahsil :—

	1884-85. Rs.	1885-86. Rs.
Rabi ... ..	3,447	14,673
Kharif ... ..	15,679	12,846
Total ... ..	19,126	27,519

The above memo. shows an increase on the two harvests of Rs. 8,393.

The other figures in Statement III call for no special remark.

Forty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight acres of land in the 31 villages of the Sirsa tahsil are under fluctuating assessment. The Settlement Officer's estimate of the annual average assessment under this system was Rs. 33,046, or including revenue temporarily remitted on well leases, Rs. 33,075. The results in the year under report are far more favourable than those in the preceding year, but still fall short of the Settlement Officer's estimate.

The following table gives details of the working :—

	Cultivated area in acres.	Gross fluctuating assessment. Rs.
1883-84 ... ..	16,353	21,045
1884-85 ... ..	13,296	21,453
1885-86 ... ..	19,262	29,899

Out of the total assessment of Rs. 29,899 there were deducted Rs. 2,102 on account of máfi, and Rs. 278 for zaildári percentages. The net collection amounted to Rs. 27,519. The system is said to be liked by the people.

In March 1884 the Commissioner, Hissár Division, suggested that the Hánsi Bír ought to be held in direct management, and that endeavours should be made to convert it into a fuel and fodder reserve. Full reports were submitted by Mr. Ogilvie on the subject to the Commissioner, Delhi Division, in August last, on which no orders have yet been received. Mr. Ogilvie's plan, which was detailed in the above letters, is being carried out, and bids fair to be a great success. The system, too, more than pays its own expenses. Last year the income from grazing dues was Rs. 1,330, this year Rs. 2,361-7-2 were realised as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Grazing dues... ..	1,044	4	0
Rent of land ... ..	634	13	6
Miscellaneous ... ..	682	5	8

Out of this a sum of Rs. 655-12-5 was spent towards the cost of digging a water cut, purchasing plants, and for the maintenance of an establishment, leaving a net balance of Rs. 1,705-10-9, out of which Rs. 1,329-10-6 were credited to Provincial, and the balance (Rs. 376-0-3) to the District Fund, in part payment of Rs. 937-6-0 taken as a loan for expenditure during the present and past years.

Canals under Irrigation Department.

Irrigation.—The total area irrigated from the Western Jumna Canal was as follows :—

	1885-86. Acres.	1884-85. Acres.	Difference. Acres.
Rabi ... ..	32,001	48,535	16,534
Kharif ... ..	32,784	39,680	6,896
Total ... ..	64,785	88,215	23,430

The area is 23,430 acres less than the preceding year. The decrease is due to the rains being copious and timely. The supply of water in the canal was sufficient throughout the year. Fortnightly gauge reading statements are always received.

Administration.—The only Government estates in this district are the Hissár and the Hánsi Bír. The former consists of 42,479 acres, and is occupied as a Government Cattle Farm; the latter, consisting of 2,068 acres, is now under direct management with the view of forming a small forest and fodder reserve.

Mirza Haiderbeg, a man of high social position and a leading zamindár of this district, was in charge of the Bír. He died on 21st November last, and my predecessor has now placed this Government waste land under the charge of Mirza Ramzan Beg, his brother. The Tahsildár of Hânsi exercises a general supervision. Part of the Bír is temporarily leased to tenants; a small area has been planted; nurseries of trees are being raised for planting further areas, and part of the Bír is used as grazing land.

The rate of grazing dues are as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Buffaloe ... ..	1	4	0
Young buffaloe ... ..	0	8	0
Ditto. ... ..	0	4	0
Cow ... ..	1	0	0
Heifer ... ..	0	8	0
Yearling ... ..	0	4	0
Bullocks ... ..	1	0	0
Sheep and goat ... ..	0	2	0
Camel ... ..	0	7	7

With reference to Financial Circular No. 52, dated 25th October 1885, my predecessor selected eight waste areas and sent up a proposal to purchase them at an outlay of Rs. 6,000 in order to form fuel and fodder reserves. This subject will be taken in hand in a season when the people are in need of money. Endeavours are being made to induce the villagers to form such reserves in their waste lands.

On this subject Mr. Ogilvie has written his opinion in detail in last year's report, and Colonel Grey has also briefly remarked on the working of the Tenancy Act in No. 36, dated 29th January 1886. A copy of his remarks is given for facility of reference. I have not as yet had time to study the subject, but I hope to be able to shortly furnish the special report called for in the orders on last year's revenue report. The papers are with me; and as an officer has at last been appointed to the Sirsa sub-division, and I have reason to hope that I shall not be much longer the solitary first class Magistrate for a population of over 600,000 people, I hope to soon have an opportunity of preparing the report. The number of notices of ejectment issued fell from 7,627 to 2,368; the suits to contest ejectment rose from 130 to 292, but in only 69 was the tenant successful. The area from which tenants were ejected fell from 110,808 acres to 34,347 acres; successful enhancement suits were very few.

In forwarding the quarterly business statements, I need only remark on the tenancy ejectment and the mutation attestation business. The former has been repeatedly noticed, and explanations repeatedly given. Proprietors here have a natural dread of occupancy rights and unreasonable method of showing that dread. The report is rife that in the North-West Provinces every tenant who has occupied his land for 12 years has obtained possession of it, and proprietors are determined that there shall be no chance of that here. Their action is most prejudicial to the welfare of their estates and it is hard to make them understand that the remedy is to give leases. Girdawari operations having now for the first time been really attempted in this district (though still very imperfectly in the last kharif) have shown a truly remarkable state of things as regards mutations. I doubt not that by the rabi at any rate all such will have been accurately shown. But this cannot be the case unless all Tahsildars exert themselves as Ausaf Ali has done in Fahtahabad. I have called on the Tahsildars of Hânsi and Bhawâni for explanation of their neglect in this matter.

**Settlements.**—Records are kept mauzawar and arranged alphabetically. The revenue record office was visited by Financial Commissioner in December 1883, and was found in a satisfactory condition. I hope to shortly remove the vernacular records from Sirsa where of necessity a deputy record-keeper was deputed by Mr. Ogilvie.

The old customs office Bungalow which was given on rental to the former Deputy Commissioner has now been given to the Police office, and the rooms occupied in the Hissâr katchery building will be utilized for enlarging the present record room. Vernacular records of Sirsa sub-division (commencing from 1837) are now being transferred, it is expected that in the course of a couple of months all the records will be removed to Hissâr. Useless papers from Judicial records of old Hissâr district have been sorted and destroyed. The Sirsa sub-divisional records and those of the former Hissâr district for Revenue branch are as yet untouched.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(W. E. PURSER, Esquire.)

Fixed land revenue  
(including tribute.)

Fiscal.—The causes that have operated to bring about this increase have already been noted in the rent-roll and need not be repeated here.

Canals under Irriga-  
tion Department.

Irrigation.—The statistics of the past two years are noted below:—

YEAR.	RABI.		KHARIF.	
	Area irrigat- ed in acres.	Rent.	Area irrigat- ed in acres.	Rent.
1884-85 ... ..	59,848	Rs. 2,26,407	43,547	Rs. 2,19,703
1885-86 ... ..	12,316	28,048	27,146	97,338

The great falling off both in the area and in the rent realized is due to the timely and plentiful rain we had this year; naturally no farmer will take water from the canal when he can possibly dispense with it without detriment to his crops, in order to avoid the cost of canal water.

Agricultural advan-  
ces.

The advances made in 1884-85 amounted to Rs. 51,500 while in the year under report they aggregated Rs. 6,500 only.

The smallness of the sum taken by the people is due to the fact that the year has been a favorable one, and the cultivators have had little need for such loans.

As a rule the advances seem to have been made for legitimate purposes.

Periodical inspections are made by the Tahsildars, and I myself while on tour have enquired into some of these grants.

Jhajjar as usual has taken the largest share of the advances made. The condition of this tahsil has much improved of late and the people are not now so eager for such loans. Besides the area in which wells can be profitably sunk has diminished—thanks to grants already made. During the year under review 46 wells have been completed, but I have not received a single application for pattas. The people are as apathetic in this matter here as elsewhere. I see little object in giving pattas during the currency of a sanctioned settlement. The pattas will in many cases be lost. A correct register of wells and other works entitled to pattas in case of revision of assessment is all that is really needed.

Of the outstandings shown in column 10 (Statement No. XVI) the whole of the first item is due entirely from the village of Patoda which is now assessed at fluctuating rates. I have issued orders to the Tahsildar to exert himself to the utmost in realizing the arrears.

The sanctioned demand for 1884-85 was Rs. 8,39,548. This was exclusive of the demand for 69 villages in the Jhajjar tahsil to which it had been proposed to extend a system of fluctuating assessment and the revenue of which had been struck off the rent-roll in anticipation of the sanction of Government. According to the final orders of the Government, however, (on my report on the distressed villages of the Jhajjar tahsil) only the flooded lands of 12 villages were actually placed under fluctuating assessment, and it became necessary to restore to the fixed rent-roll the revenue of the remaining 57 villages. The amount struck off the previous year's rent-roll on this account had been Rs. 93,017, and as the final orders of Government sanctioned the removal of only Rs. 12,607 on this account, it became necessary to restore to the fixed rent-roll the difference of Rs. 80,410. Again under the provisional sanction of the Financial Commissioner Rs. 2,263 had been struck off by way of temporary reduction of revenue of 8 villages, and as the final orders of Government sanctioned a temporary reduction in 23 villages amounting to Rs. 6,116, it became necessary to remove from the rent-roll a further sum of Rs. 3,853 on this account. The remaining charges were comparatively insignificant, and the causes of increase and decrease may be shown as follows:—

Demand for 1884-85	Rs. 8,39,548
Increase.—Restoration to rent-roll of revenue of villages erroneously placed under fluctuating assessment	Rs. 80,410
Progressive jama	211
Assignments	68
Total	9,20,237
Decrease.—Temporary reduction of revenue	3,853
Land occupied by Government	198
Total decrease	4,051
Demand for 1885-86	9,16,186

In 1884-85 as above explained the demand was only Rs. 8,39,548, and owing to the poorness of the crops and the distress which prevailed in many villages Rs. 1,44,464 of this amount was allowed to fall into arrear.

*Collections.* In 1885-86 the demand was Rs. 9,16,186 and as the crops were good, this was all collected except Rs. 8,512. Thus the demand was higher by Rs. 76,638 and the balances less by Rs. 1,35,952, so that the collections of 1885-86 exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 2,12,590. An additional sum of Rs. 3,222 was collected over and above the demand of the year as finally sanctioned, having been realized before receipt of the orders of Government from villages to which those orders gave a reduction. This sum has been included in the collections of the year and swells the increase over those of the previous year to Rs. 2,15,812.

1884-85	Rs. 6,95,084
1885-86	9,10,896

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## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

### GURGAON DISTRICT.

(J. R. MACONACHIE, ESQUIRE.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Fiscal.**—The collections on the current demand were Rs. 10,80,395 that is the whole save Collections on current demand. Rs. 5,266. Analysis of this small balance shows that it is nearly all due to what may be called mechanical causes. Remission or suspension on account of diluvion or inundation is necessary in respect of the Rs. 1,371 entered under column 14 of Statement No. I, and Rs. 3,156 of the Rs. 3,741 entered in column 7. Besides this Rs. 1,391 have been suspended in one village (Tatárpur) on account of calamity by fire. In only three villages can it be said that the demand proved severe under *quasi* normal conditions. Shahjahanpur, Kakauria, and Khurrampur have suffered from several unfortunate circumstances, notably the burden of a bad lambardár. The other two cases I have not yet been able to investigate on the spot, but hope to put them right before long. As regards the current demand I regard the collection on the whole as satisfactory. The matter of inundation as affecting the district revenue I shall refer to further on, but I note here that the suspensions from this cause will be only partially recovered this rabi because in a good many cases the rabi cultivation nominally is only small. Palwal, for instance. While making recoveries last kharíf some villages had to receive suspensions, in others (chiefly Khadar lands) which suffered from excess of water, but do not have much rabi, or did not get their land dry in time for good cultivation. We have, however, every hope of eventual recovery without trouble.

The heavy total of previous balances has been materially reduced though the Previous balances. realisations have not been so large as at one time of the year seemed likely. The balance standing against Gurgaon on 1st April 1885 was Rs. 3,78,253 for remission of Rs. 2,14,621 of which on 9th August 1883 report was made (Rs. 37 have since been realised Rs. 23 have been separately remitted as diluvion.) A deduction also of Rs. 159 has to be made as irrecoverable, leaving a net balance of Rs. 1,63,473. I repeat these particulars from last year's report to save trouble, and because in reckoning up what is still due from the district I omitted to deduct Rs. 60 above mentioned. The real amount therefore for liquidation on 1st April 1885 was Rs. 1,63,473.

Of this amount (see para. 35 of my last year's report) orders were issued for collection of Rs. 64,153 on the rabi crop and Rs. 67,537 were actually Realisations of balances of past years. collected. The difference arose partly from mistakes in arithmetic by the Tahsildárs, and in one or two cases because villages preferred to pay up the whole

balance at once. The kharif prospects at first were very good but the rains were excessive, and then stopped suddenly so that the estimate of realisations at first adopted, Rs. 50,000, dwindled down in a disappointing way to Rs. 17,996 being the amount which after careful conference as before with the Tahsildars it was thought safe to levy. As against

A full report explaining the development of the altered conditions of the kharif was submitted under my No. 286 of 2nd December 1885. this Rs. 18,594 have been realised. The total realisations of balances during the year have therefore been Rs. 86,131 leaving a balance of Rs. 77,342 still to be realised, and a total amount (including the Rs. 5,266 accruing during the year) of Rs. 82,608 to be accounted for. The recovery of the Rs. 86,131 has been made without undue pressure on the people, and added to the current collection of Rs. 10,80,395 gives a gross collection of Rs. 11,66,526. This is satisfactory.

The features of the year's agriculture will be dealt with in the separate report now ordered, but I may note here that generally speaking the revenue behaviour of the people though in some parts troublesome has on the whole been encouraging. In a meeting held at Rewari on the Kaisar-i-Hind anniversary I took occasion to speak earnestly to the

General remarks on the revenue behaviour of the people. lambardars of the district as to the necessity of meeting the generous concessions made by Government in a spirit of loyal exertion, and this preceded and followed by action, consistent, patient, and firm, will probably have good effect. The mass of the people are in much better heart from the return of better seasons. A few more acute or more dishonest than their neighbours are beginning to prepare data against the claim of Government to the revised permanent demand leviable in 1889 on the termination of the seven years' reduction. The Meos, for instance, in one or two villages are very careless about cultivation. I am even inclined to say are wilfully giving up cultivation, knowing that kars will at once follow up the retreating plough, and thus make a bad show for their Deputy Commissioner to harden his heart on in reporting. I have told these diplomatists that in any such case brought home they will probably lose part of their land for ever. Other signs, too, are to be seen here and there that the people are looking forward with some uncertainty to the next epoch in the revenue history of the district. In the face of this vague expectation without committing myself as yet to any opinion on the future assessment, I am making every exertion to obtain general confidence, being careful rather to make myself known as trying to be just than aiming at a reputation for anything else. Recognition of this will do much to make easy the working of the revised assessments I hope to propose and introduce three years hence.

#### Agricultural advances.

Scrutiny of Statement XVI will show that the total amounts for collection during the year were:—

	Principal. Rs.	Interest. Rs.
Agricultural improvements ... ..	15,376	3,956
Seed grain ... ..	57	13
Bullocks ... ..	43,242	7,703
Total ... ..	58,675	11,672

That is to say over 70,000 rupees. Of this large amount, the balances at the end of the year were Rs. 4,734 principal and Rs. 986 interest or Rs. 5,720 in all. Considering the previous history of the district and the fact that no strong coercion was used, the figures show decided improvement on last year.

Revenue business. The large number of 793 executive cases in execution of decrees is a lamentable item. I have done my best to prevent sale of land by what appeared an equitable arrangement, viz., to refuse sale when the decree-holder refused to take the land himself on equitable terms as to rental for sufficient time to clear off his debt, but the Judge of the Division has ruled that he has a right to refuse any such arrangement, and sales must take their course. No decree-holder will be likely to take the trouble of managing land if he can sell it up and get cash, especially if he can get it sold as he generally does at a loss to the owner whom he thus makes feel his power. The law at present appears very unsatisfactory. I think the decree-holder should be obliged to take the land himself on equitable terms, if this were known as the rule, he would in most cases quietly take it.

No other point in the statement appears noticeable unless it be the 126 cases of sale of moveable property for collections of arrears of revenue. This is unpleasant but necessary.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT. DELHI DISTRICT.

(G. SMYTH, Esquire.)

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**Fiscal.**—I have a few remarks to record under this head in continuation of those already made in para. 10. Under the rules relating to fluctuating assessment, the area comprising the Chak Jhil is assessed only when cultivated at rates varying with the crop as follows:—

- (a) Sugar-cane—Rs. 6 per acre per annum is taken only if the crop ripens;
- (b) Melons and rabi jowár—Re. 1-8 per acre per crop;
- (c) All other crops—Rs. 3 per acre per crop.

The cesses also are levied on the amounts thus due.

The system was introduced with effect from rabi 1881-82 and the following is a detail of the area brought under cultivation since then and the fluctuating demand on such area:—

Year.	Cultivated Area. <i>Acres.</i>	Assessment. <i>Rs.</i>
1881-82 ... ..	348	875
1882-83 ... ..	373	1,385
1883-84 ... ..	872	2,337
1884-85 ... ..	1,526	3,830
1885-86 ... ..	...	...

It will thus be seen that from the time the system was introduced and down to the year 1884-85 there was a steady increase in the area brought under cultivation and consequently in the Government demand. During the year under report, however, as I have stated elsewhere, the entire area remained under water for the greater part of the year, owing to the heavy monsoon rains, and thus rendered the tract unfit for cultivation. There was, therefore, no assessment for 1885-86. In the Settlement papers the area of the Chak Jhil is recorded at 2,152 acres, but owing to the altered circumstances of the tract, since the close of Settlement operations, effected by the action of the jhil, it has been found necessary to extend the system of fluctuating assessment to 54 acres of country immediately bordering on the tract subject to such assessment. The total area liable to fluctuating assessment therefore stands at present at 2,206 acres. The system is very popular with the people concerned. The villages, five in number, were all suffering from over-assessment, or rather from rigidity of assessment, and the relief given by adopting the new method was urgently required, and the question of extending the system still further is under consideration. The Settlement officer made the distribution himself, going over the whole ground, and noting down the demarcating line on the *shajra* field by field. Thus far then, the hopeful forecast of the results of the system made by the Settlement officer has been more than fully realized, and considering the precarious nature of the prospects of cultivation in the tract affected, I cannot say that any undue concession has been made by substituting the present form of assessment for that formerly in force.

No income has been returned under this head for the year under review, nor have the alluvial changes for 1885-86 been yet reported for orders. The reason of this delay is that the tahsil establishments were not relieved of the duties which the Camp of Exercise threw on them till the end of January, and their time was then taken up till the end of February in furnishing supplies or in making arrangements for supplies for troops returning from the Camp. The details appertaining to two tahsils have been duly verified, and the figures of the third tahsil will be gone into by the end of next week and the prescribed returns submitted by the end of the current month. I might note here, however, that the figures as they stand represent an increase in the gain of Rs. 466 and a decrease of Rs. 341, or a net increase of Rs. 125.

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Western Jumna Canal.

**Irrigation.**—The area irrigated by the Western Jumna Canal during the past two years was as follows:—

	1884-85. <i>Acres.</i>	1885-86. <i>Acres.</i>
Sonepat ... ..	48,375	17,551
Delhi ... ..	50,345	12,401
Total ... ..	98,720	29,952
Rabi ... ..	59,067	2,036
Kharif ... ..	39,653	27,916
Total ... ..	98,720	29,952

It will thus be seen that there was a considerable decrease in the area irrigated, and that this decrease was mainly on account of the rabi and was due to the copious rainfall of the winter of 1884-85.

Canal revenue.

The following figures will show the income realized from irrigation during the past three years :—

	Rs.
Rabi, 1883	67,573
Kharif, 1883	1,39,896
Rabi, 1884	1,31,552
Kharif, 1884	1,55,421
Rabi, 1885	4,746
Kharif, 1885	1,15,031

The decrease is, of course, due to the decrease in the area irrigated during the year under report.

Owners' rate.

The following figures give the income under this head during the past three years :—

	Rs.
Rabi, 1883	32,620
Kharif, 1883	66,504
Rabi, 1884	64,718
Kharif, 1884	77,842
Rabi, 1885	2,801
Kharif, 1885	57,195

The decrease here also being due to the cause already noted.

**Administration.**—Only Rs. 700 was advanced during the year for agricultural improvements, as against Rs. 20,755 of the preceding year, the reason being the copious rainfall of 1885-86.

Agricultural advances.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

### KARNAL DISTRICT.

(J. R. DRUMMOND, ESQUIRE.)

**Irrigation.**—During July and August 1885 numerous petitions were received from the Pánapat tahsil, relating to damage by floods in the tract irrigated by the Western Jumna Canal in that sub-division.

I visited in September the area chiefly concerned and inspected in all 30 villages.

The petitions were dealt with in detail, and in cases where relief by cutting dams and making drains was possible steps were taken.

In only a few instances did the local investigations disclose a cause of mischief arising from any permanent feature in the amended system of the Western Jumna Canal irrigation; and where injury had been caused, it was not of a serious nature.

It is essential, however, that those lengths of the old Rohtak canal, which will not be ultimately included as tails or portions of channel in certain of the new Rajbáhas (Nos. VII and XII, for instance,) should not be allowed to remain as permanent embankments.

I would strongly urge that these lengths be made over to the District Board on fitting conditions, so soon as the contemplated drainage scheme is completed. If abandoned to the adjacent communities not only will timber and shade be wasted that can never perhaps be replaced, but endless disputes will possibly arise, and the drainage system will be made more difficult to work than is fair or necessary.

The causes of these remarkable floods, which reduced several villages to temporary straits, and over extensive areas within particular estates destroyed the kharif harvest, appear to have depended partly on excessive and very local rainfall between Rer and Gohána, perhaps in June, and again seemingly in August; but mainly on the peculiarities of the subsidiary drainage, which reproduces on a smaller scale the abnormal conditions of the debatable land, if I may say so, between the Indus and Ganges systems of water return from the Central Himálaya.

The country from Tiraori (on the south edge of the Karnál Nardak) to Gohána exhibits a series of petty chantangs and ghaggars, and the resulting chain of marshes in the dry season, and floods in the rains, has hitherto been complicated and enhanced by the canal network. The necessity for a proper system of drainage throughout the Karnál-Pánapat irrigated area has long been recognized; and it is earnestly to be hoped that the necessary works in the Pánapat tahsil on the basis agreed between Messrs. Maconachie and Brodie in 1883 may be early taken in hand. When carried out the control should be made over, up to the beginning at least of Main Drain No. IV (which is to receive the Nai Naddi accumulated discharge near Gohána) to the district authorities.

Otherwise it will be found impossible to secure the full expected benefits in the Pánapat tahsil.

Works forming part of the same general scheme are in progress in other portions of the district.

I—At Babail, in the Pánipat *khadar* and near Rer, Begampur and Kabri (in the Karnál and Pánipat Bangar) works are in progress under the Irrigation Department which will undoubtedly benefit the adjacent tract. These form part of the project known in the Irrigation Department as Main Drain No. II (Western Jumna Canal). They will be in part paid for from District Funds, but as the Rer escape is the main channel in this system, this series will necessarily remain under the direct control of the local canal officer.

II—The Karnál city drainage scheme is in active progress, and I have lately arranged with Mr. Phelan for certain plans and surveys, with a view to carry out, if approved, further subsidiary drainage works in connection with this, which it is expected would be eminently beneficial to the city of Karnál and the surrounding cultivated area, from the main line of the new canal below Kachwa as far as the old channel to near Bajida.

The feasibility of *khadar* drainage between Indri and Babail is also under consideration; and it is believed that in this portion of the district the work might be of a simple character and within the resources of the District Committees.

When the necessary drainage channels have been duly completed, it is likely that the district will give conspicuous proof of the benefit derived from the recent changes in the irrigation system of the Western Jumna Canal.

I have recently revisited, with the Commissioner, most of these villages in the Pánipat tahsil which suffered from last year's floods, some of them for the time severely.

In the same tour the five villages mentioned in section 752 of Mr. Ibbetson's Settlement Report were visited.

In the case of the estates which suffered especially last year, I had prepared a note for each village, directing that the necessity for suspension and the amounts, if required, should be estimated on the spot by the officers in charge of the Revenue Department, with reference to my note showing the extent of loss on the *khairif*, so soon as the rabi prospects were ascertainable.

No action seems to have been taken meantime, but I have now seen excellent wheat, in Mouza Bhandari for instance, on the very fields that were under several feet of water on the date of my September visit.

The strength of the flood and the current established by the action of Mr. Field, the Executive Engineer, in cutting through the old Rohtak canal, near Mauza Waiser, seems to have saved much of the submerged area from the worst effects of such floods, or even in some places to have washed out a certain amount of pre-existing *reh*.

But salts may appear later in some of the soils affected, especially beyond the old Rohtak branch; and in any case the escape of these Pánipat villages on this occasion from the consequences of temporary dearth, loss of cattle, fever, and other evils involved, is no ground for delay in the carrying out of the drainage arrangements.

The improvement in Mauzas Begampur, Baboli and Rer, out of the five villages described by Mr. Ibbetson in his section 752, is very striking.

Indeed it is now time that in all those villages in which he reserved the right of revision after five years, the results of the period which he fixed for the re-examination of assets should be gradually brought under review. In certain of the 36 estates mentioned in Section 779 of the Settlement Report, Major Roberts directed the Revenue establishment to carry out assessment operations.

But Syad Altaf Husain does not appear to have been aware of the circumstances under which the instructions he received were issued, and as reference was not had to the Settlement Report, or to the conditions of the arrangement sanctioned on Mr. Ibbetson's proposals, the materials will have to be recompiled as early as may be.

It will be convenient to deal with those estates first which depend least on the projected drainage improvements for their stability.

I hope to submit a separate report on this matter during the current year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Administration.**—There were no estates under management during 1884-85 or 1885-86; but the Kunjpura Estate was placed under the Court of

Wards.

Wards by my order on the 15th March 1886, in consequence of the death of the late Jágirdár, Nawab Mohamad Ali Khan, who died on the 13th January 1886, leaving several minor children and three widows. The estate, which includes *jágir* assignments in this district, Biswahdari rights in Karnál, and in the Sharanpur and Muzaffarnagar districts of the North-Western Provinces, and house property in a number of places, is solvent; and under due management ought to yield, I believe, a gross income of, at least, Rs. 60,000 per annum.

There are numerous claims, under the conditions of tenure, to maintenance, which will now be settled, it is anticipated, on a final and satisfactory basis. Statements of the assets have been prepared and are now being checked in the Settlement office, with Mr. Douie's permission, by an establishment specially provided from funds in hand. The papers bearing on the maintenance, disputes and other points to be dealt with in the scheme are voluminous, but it is hoped that the proposals will be submitted to the Commissioner by the first week in June. Meantime arrangements have been made for emergent expenditure and the collection of income.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## UMBALLA DISTRICT.

(A. R. BULMAN, Esquire.)

**Fiscal.**—No notable increase or decrease in demand. Fixed land revenue Collections were easy and tolerably prompt. The Camp of (including tribute). Exercise, by giving full occupation to all the tahsil establishments (for those of tahsils the troops did not pass through were put on duty in those they did pass through) caused some slackness in collecting the kharif revenue. The balances are all on account of suspensions, viz., Rs. 500 reported for suspension on the recommendation of the Settlement Officer, Umballa-Karnal; and the remainder in villages in which fluctuating assessments have been introduced.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Miscellaneous.**—The decrease under tirni is due to the grazing of Bir Sonti not having been leased as usual this year. It was made over to the Commissariat for the supply of fodder for the troops at the Camp of Exercise.

Tirni. \* \* \* \* \*

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## SIMLA DISTRICT.

(LIEUT.-COLONEL C. BEADON, Esquire.)

**Fiscal.**—The fixed demand on account of land revenue under the recent settlement Demand, collections increased from Rs. 13,592 to Rs. 16,322. This increase was sanctioned and balances. by Financial Commissioner's No. 4458, dated 22nd June 1885, to address of Commissioner, Delhi Division. No difficulty was experienced in realization of the revenue during the current year.

\* \* \* \* \*

No changes in the prevailing system took place nor were any defalcations discovered. Treasuries. The work of the Simla Treasury is steadily on the increase and Government has now recognized the necessity of a Treasury Officer during the winter months, instead of hampering the District and Small Cause Judge with this duty in addition to his own. A new strong room has been built at Kasauli for the sub-divisional treasure store during the year under review. At the Sadar the treasury and treasury office have been moved into the new Kacheri building since the close of the year.

Business in currency notes shows a large increase over previous years:—

YEAR.					Receipts.	Issues.
					Rs.	Rs.
1883-84	...	...	...	...	42,66,145	43,41,390
1884-85	...	...	...	...	47,71,720	46,90,365
1885-86	...	...	...	...	64,79,555	65,47,635
Increase over						
					{ 1883-84 ...	22,13,410
					{ 1884-85 ...	17,07,835
						22,06,245
						18,57,270

The development is attributed, to supply bills not being so extensively issued as in former years, also to the fact (as remarked in last year's report) that salaries of establishments of the numerous offices attached to the Local and Supreme Governments, are taken in notes and are eventually returned by the recipients for encashment at the treasury. The banks at Simla also deal freely in notes.

The figures above given include Foreign Circle notes as follows:—

Receipts ... .. Rs. 3,93,480  
 Issues ... .. " 3,70,875  
 or a decrease as compared with the preceding year, of Rs. 2,89,670 in receipts, and Rs. 3,46,485 in issues.

No restriction whatever was placed on receipts or issues of currency notes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Revenue business. The revenue business of the district is small, the bulk being of a miscellaneous nature.

The Deputy Commissioner attested 2, the Assistant Commissioner, Simla, 6, and the Naib-Tahsildars of Simla and Kotkhai 110 mutation registers during the year.

The number of specially attested villages inspected by the Naib-Tahsildars was 35.

In these hills where the rural population is not rapidly increasing nor cultivation extending or changing hands there ought not to be great difficulty in carrying out the Financial Commissioner's scheme of special girdawari attestation. The work done in this connection during the year under report though not appearing to be one quarter in degree is actually little short of it. With two new Naib-Tahsildars and a new Kanungo, all experienced settlement officials, I hope soon to have the revenue records of Simla in such order as they have not been in before.

\* \* \* \* \*

Miscellaneous.—Occupation of the new Kacheri building was taken on the 3rd April. Some finishing touches are still required to be done before the building can be said to be complete. This matter was brought to the notice of the Commissioner in my No. 118 of 15th April.

Revenue buildings.

\* \* \* \* \*

The statement of tours of officers required by Commissioner's Circular No. 143 of 4th June 1884 is appended. I was 108 days in all on tour, during which time I visited most parts of the district and nearly all the hill states under my superintendence. Mr. Cookson, Assistant Commissioner, Simla, was on tour in the parganah of Bharoli for 13 days during the month of January 1886. He was deputed to make this tour principally to overhaul the work of Patwaris and Kanungos and to see how far special attestation had progressed. The diary kept by him was sent to the Commissioner for information.

Tours of officers.

## JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

## EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(COLONEL G. GORDON YOUNG.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Fiscal.**—This system of assessment is in force only in the Hithar lands in the Fluctuating land revenue. Fázilka tahsil of the Ferozepore district. It was introduced by Mr. Wilson, Settlement Officer, when Fázilka formed a part of the old Sirsa district.

Colonel Grey, when Commissioner of Hissár, wrote strongly against the system with regard to which more than one complaint had been made and petition presented to him while on tour, but it was decided that the system should have a fair trial.

Mr. O'Brien, Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepore, who may be called the apostle of the system, mentions the present dissatisfaction of the people, but attributes it to the novelty of the system—which he thinks will work more smoothly in the course of time. I myself have had as yet but little experience of the system and must admit that I find it very difficult to answer the objections of the people made to me on the spot; but it is a fortunate circumstance that Mr. O'Brien is now in charge of the district and thus the Government will feel assured that it is being tried under the most favorable chance of success. The power and responsibility put into the hands of subordinate officers appears to me to be one very grave objection, while the people have a dozen of their own besides, which it will rest with Mr. O'Brien to overcome.

The statistics for 1885-86 are given in the District Statements and Reports.

There are now 53 villages under this system with a jama of Rs. 15,181 or some Rs. 3,000 more than last year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alluvion and diluvion. are :— As compared with the last three preceding years the statistic

DISTRICT.	Year.	Area placed under assessment during the year.	Jama imposed.	Area reassessed at enhanced rate.	Additional Jama.	Area removed from assessment.	Reduction of Jama.	Net result in Rs.
Kángra	1882-83	328	256	...	...	301	454	- 198
	1883-84	884	225	177	326	790	616	- 66
	1884-85	471	427	744	66	1,501	795	- 302
	1885-86	82	31	90	51	217	160	- 78
Hoshiárpur	1882-83	3,199	1,209	1,819	1,051	4,230	3,478	-1,218
	1883-84	4,137	1,464	379	220	1,147	980	+ 704
	1884-85	3,131	2,400	353	349	2,968	3,867	-1,118
	1885-86	6,391	6,262	734	648	3,478	5,478	+1,432
Jullundur	1882-83	2,031	1,599	2,560	1,003	1,863	2,658	- 56
	1883-84	2,541	1,183	2,219	909	2,503	2,090	+ 2
	1884-85	1,962	1,525	207	204	2,152	2,982	-1,253
	1885-86	2,634	1,803	...	...	1,878	3,035	-1,232

District.	Years.	Chaks in which alluvion occurred.	Increase of Kistbandi.	Chaks in which diluvion occurred.	Decrease in Kistbandi.	Net result.
Ludhiána.	1882-83	21	699	3	229	+ 470
	1883-84	75	1,733	15	262	+ 1,471
	1884-85	75	1,890	25	756	+ 1,134
	1885-86	60	1,252	44	1,807	- 555
Ferozepore.	1882-83	35	894	6	1,988	- 1,094
	1883-84	45	1,006	35	1,061	- 55
	1884-85	27	281	35	782	- 501
	1885-86	84	2,208	67	1,505	+ 703

From this it will be seen that during 1885-86 the tendency of the river has been in the Hoshiárpur and Ferozepore districts towards gain and in the other three towards loss.

The general tendency during the past period of four years has been towards loss in Hoshiárpur, Ferozepore and Kángra and gain in the others.

The system in force in all districts except Kángra is as recently sanctioned for Jullundur and Hoshiárpur by which assessments are regulated by the crop sown and not on quality of soil. The Deputy Commissioner, Kángra, has explained that the new rules could not be introduced in his district owing to the protracted kharif girdawári operations and the inefficiency and incompleteness of his Patwári establishment.

The nature of the check applied in testing di-alluvial measurements has been explained in the district reports.

The recent orders appear to have been acted up to, and the assistance rendered in the several districts by the Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioners has proved very valuable. The assessments are probably more even than they have ever been before.

The results of the year under report are due not only to actual alluvion and diluvion, but also to more accurate measurement and to the abolition of the old 5 and 10 per cent. rules.

With reference to the working of the new rules the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur has suggested one or two modifications in cases where he thinks the rules are "rigid and harsh." These are questions that should perhaps form the subject of a special reference, and I will not enlarge on them just now, but I cannot refrain from saying that the rules do not work equitably in all cases. No allowance being made for "kharaba" is I consider a distinct omission which will have to be remedied, and in the case of lands affected by hill torrents in the Hoshiárpur district, it is inequitable that while every rupee on account of alluvion is exacted yet no remission, unless at least one-twentieth of a holding has been lost, can be given. Thus it may happen, and such cases have happened, when a number of such sums of Re. 1 and upwards have been taken while remissions due to a far larger amount have not been allowed because no one holding has lost one-twentieth of its area. The rules, too, as applied to the land of the Chhambis did not work fairly owing to a misapprehension as to one of the clauses. This difficulty, it is understood, has now disappeared under the present explanation of the purport intended by the Settlement Officer.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Irrigation.**—The canals that come under this head are those of the Ferozepore district and the "Shah Nahr," in the Hoshiárpur district.

Taking the more important first.—A long and interesting report on the Ferozepore canals has been drawn up by Babu Maya Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner, in special charge, and will repay perusal. It forms an appendix to the Deputy Commissioner's report and gives the fullest information of the work done by and the cost of the same for each of the canals of the district. The area irrigated by these canals was 131,437 against 129,440 acres in the previous year, or an increase of 1,997 acres, though the figures given in His Honor's review of last year's report, *viz.*, 132,945 acres as the irrigation for that year would make it apparent that there was a decrease of 1,508 acres.

The working of the Showkatwah was not so successful as anticipated. The reasons for this have been given at some length by Extra Assistant Commissioner Maya Das and are only such as in the case of a new canal are to be expected and need not be repeated. During 1886-87 better results are expected as special attention to this canal is promised.

The grand services rendered to the district by Colonel Grey's system of canals has already on more than one occasion been remarked on in the Provincial Report, but much of their success depends on the fair and judicious and painstaking management of Extra Assistant Commissioner Maya Das. Even now complaints are made by the zamindars of the Fázilka tahsil who, up to the present, do not seem to be entirely assured that the canals will benefit them in the long run. This is not noticed as suggesting that the system is not fairly worked, but only as showing that much patience and care are still required in the management and prompt redress in cases of over-estimation of irrigation which sometimes occur.

The area irrigated by the Shah Nahr in Hoshiárpur was 7,138 as compared with 6,662 acres during the previous year.

The exact relationship of Government to this canal and the rights of the persons who hitherto regarded themselves as shareholders and which it was thought had been settled, has lately been raised again and has been fully reported on by Mr. Dane, Settlement Officer of Gurdáspur, under the Financial Commissioner's instructions, *vide* my No. 1,609, dated 20th May 1886, to address of Senior Secretary to Financial Commissioner.

In this connection I may advert to the appendix of Mr. Knox's report in which he recurs to the subject of the destruction caused by the "chohs" and the possibility of arresting this by a system of bands (as used in Gurgáon and Delhi). The report to which the Deputy Commissioner alludes and which he supposes has been neglected was forwarded to Government at the time it was received and is no doubt under consideration.

Meantime there seems no reason why Mr. Knox should not initiate the experiment of damming any of the most promising localities with the view of utilising the water thus retained for irrigation and drinking purposes. Such work is one which might well be tried by the District Committee and the desirability of which has indeed been directly inculcated by Government more than once.

Mr. Knox writes almost as if obstruction had been put in the way of his carrying out an original idea of his own as regards this measure, whereas he was last June specially asked to bring the correspondence on the subject to the notice of the District Board and other leading residents asking them for suggestions as to the most suitable locality for each "band."

Every intelligent effort in the direction of utilising the drainage water of the Siwálík range which at present does so much harm should doubtless receive and will, I am assured, receive the hearty support of the Financial Commissioner and Government, and will be forwarded by me to the utmost.

The suggestion, that takavi might be granted for the construction of wells for drinking purposes, is worth consideration, though I fear the prohibitive cost of wells in the "Kandi" where they are so much wanted will prevent their being utilised to any great extent even if granted.

**Administration.**—It is highly satisfactory to note that, except in Jullundur district, there were no cases of personal imprisonment in the Division during the year.

In Jullundur the number of cases was 10, the same as in 1884-85. The average balance of revenue payable was Rs. 35 less, and the time spent in confinement was one day only.

Distrainment of personality was resorted to in all districts except Ferozepore. The statistics compared with 1884-85 are as follows :—

DISTRICTS.	NO. OF CASES.		AVERAGE VALUE OF PROPERTY.	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
			Rs.	Rs.
Kángra ... ..	5	1	2-4-0	10-4-0
Hoshiárpur ... ..	2	2	31-0-0	49-0-0
Jullundur ... ..	17	4	16-0-0	18-0-0
Ludhiána ... ..	9	7	...	43-0-0
For Division ... ..	24	14	14-6-0	34-6-0

Except in the district of Kángra (where the amount given under Act XII of 1884 was very insignificant) and Ferozepore the advances made were under the Land Improvement Loans Act XIX of 1883 only. The following were the amounts advanced as compared with 1884-85 :—

DISTRICTS.	ACT XIX OF 1883.		ACT XII OF 1884.	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kángra ... ..	1,250	...	174	40
Hoshiárpur ... ..	2,975	800	...	...
Jullundur ... ..	29,000	23,290	...	...
Ludhiána ... ..	2,340	1,250	...	...
Ferozepore ... ..	3,265	1,950	...	3,360

In Kángra the Deputy Commissioner explains that such advances are not much sought after in prosperous years. No wells are required and for the most part all the "Kuls" or irrigation channels which are possible from hill streams have been constructed in the past.

In Jullundur, as was remarked last year, the system of these Government advances is growing in popularity. It is true that Major Wood has pointed out that in all cases the money thus borrowed has not been strictly applied to the work for which it was asked. This is a grave reproach to the tahsil supervision, but the case is not as bad as at first sight would appear as it is said that in most of these cases the money has been borrowed in anticipation of the sanction of the loan, and this sum has been repaid when the money was obtained. From this however it is to be feared that needless delay in granting the advances has driven the borrowers to the money-lender from whom we wish to save them. This is a point looked to and noticed on inspection of tahsils. Nothing but the most untiring supervision of the Deputy Commissioner will keep the tahsil establishment up to the mark in this respect.

The work to be done was the sinking of 153 new wells the finishing of 30 of 1884-85 and the repairing of 10 old ones.

Of these the 10 old ones were repaired 73 were finished, 100 were under construction at close of the year, and 9 were untouched; 46 applications valuing Rs. 13,350 remained pending.

In Hoshiárpur the results are very bad and do little credit to the administration of the district. Mr. Knox cannot account for the results at all and has taken refuge in surmises and truisms. He says he "believes it must be due to inattention by Tahsildárs, and that probably (!) a reason will be found why they (the applications) have become so few in numbers."

The applications do not appear to have been entered in any register. In last year's report Mr. Knox said he thought the paucity of applications in former years attributable to an erroneous impression on the part of zamindars that the construction of a new well implied immediate liability to an enhanced demand and this notwithstanding the presence of a Settlement Officer in the district.

In Ludhiána 5 and in Ferozepore 6 paka wells were completed during the year, two others in the former district having been nearly completed besides. Of the demand that fell due within the year there were unrecovered balances only in the Jullundur and Ferozepore districts. No difficulty is reported as having been felt in making the collections.

According to the instruction for preparation of the Revenue Report issued under cover of Financial Commissioner's Circular No. 40 of 1885 no mention of these granted during the year was only 2 (in the Ferozepore district) the fact being that in the lately settled districts of Ludhiána, Jullundur and Hoshiárpur no such pattas are required as the new Settlement protects the land for the term of its duration.

During the year I was in camp for 135 days (in addition to 10 days absence from the Division at the Ráwalpindi Darbar) and marched 1,059 miles.

On the 4th May I left Jullundur and marched through Hoshiárpur, Dera, Kángra and Pálampur to Mandi and Suket returning to Dharmasala on the 23rd.

On 15th September I started *viâ* Pálampur to Kulu inspecting the tahsils at Sultánpur and Plach (Banjar) and thence through Dalash to Suket, Mandi, and so through Una, Anandpur, Balachaur, Nawashahr to Jullundur reaching on the 26th October.

On 4th December to the 23rd I marched through the Ludhiána district visiting all the tahsils and principal towns.

I started again on 15th January for Ferozepore visiting all the tahsils including Fázilka and returning on the 17th February. Farídkot was also visited. From 23rd February to 23rd March I was engaged in visiting the Bet of Dasúya tahsil and part of the Hoshiárpur district. From 10th to 14th March I was engaged in attendance on his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in the Farídkot State and similarly from the 24th to 27th at Kapurthala on the occasion of the Raja's marriage.

All tahsils in the Division were visited except Hamírpur, Garhshankar and Nurpur which I was unable to compass. They will be visited I hope in the autumn.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

### KANGRA DISTRICT.

(C. M. RIVAZ, ESQUIRE.)

\* \* \* \* \*  
Fiscal.—The whole of the current revenue was realized and there were no real balances either of this or of previous years.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The income under this head was Rs. 4,569, as compared with Rs. 3,538 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly under head sale of trees and is due partly to the enforcement of restrictions upon sale of trees at privileged rates to tea planters and partly to there having been a larger demand than in the previous year for trees at trader's rates.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The forests in the Kángra and Pálampur tahsils are still under the direct management of the Deputy Commissioner but as soon as Mr. Anderson's Forest Settlement work has been completed, they will be administered like the forests in Nurpur, Dera, Hamírpur and Kulu, through the District Forest Officer, in accordance with the provisions of Financial Commissioner's Circular No. 42 of 1885. A proper system of mangement, as may then be hoped for, is urgently required for these extensive and valuable forests which have suffered much from reckless fellings and other causes owing to the utterly inadequate establishment allowed and the want of skilled supervision, the Deputy Commissioner being practically enirely dependent for their management on an untrained and ill-paid Forest Darogha. The number of trees sold from these forests during the last two years for agricultural and other purposes and the proceeds realized therefrom are shown below :—

	Trees.	Receipts. Rs.
In 1884-85...	1,803	1,587
„ 1885-86...	2,314	2,743

The causes of the increase in the number of trees sold and amount of sale proceeds during the last year have been explained above.

The establishment and its cost was the same as in the preceding year. Deducting the expenditure from the income there was surplus of Rs. 1,967.

In connection with the question of the timber and fuel requirements of Tea Planters, the sanction of Government has been obtained to the temporary entertainment of an extra Forester for 6 months to be employed on marking off trees fit for cutting in the forests which are chiefly indented on by the Tea Planters. The whole question of meeting the extensive and ever-increasing fuel requirements of the Planters on some properly organized system is being dealt with by the Forest Settlement Officer, Mr. Anderson, in connection with his demarcation work.

The income from the Bhangal mines, which are leased out, is insignificant, having only amounted to Rs. 80 during the year under report. The iron is of good quality, but the mines cannot be worked profitably owing to their difficulty of access and the consequent high cost of carriage of the iron to any market.

In accordance with a recommendation which I submitted during the year, it has been decided by Government that, subject to reconsideration at the approaching revision of Settlement, the Jagirdar Chiefs of Lambagrón, Nadaun, Guler, Síba and Rupi shall continue to pay only the local rate proper instead of the new consolidated cess, and maintain at their own expense the roads and schools within their jágirs as they have heretofore done.

The following gain and loss was caused during the past four years by the action of the Biás :—

YEAR.	ALLUVION.		DILUVION.	
	Area in acres.	Jama.	Area in acres.	Jama.
		Rs.		Rs.
1882-83 ... ..	328	256	301	554
1883-84 ... ..	884	334	790	269
1884-85 ... ..	1,071	424	1,358	586
1885-86 ... ..	162	82	217	160

From the above it will be observed that the changes during the past year were inconsiderable as compared with former years. All alluvial and diluvial changes have been accounted for in the rent roll and there are none remaining to be brought upon it.

Grazing dues are taken on account of sheep and goats only, the villagers having the right of free-pasturage for cattle in the wooded lands ("ban banjar") of the Kangra and Palampur tahsils, comprising approximately an area of 170,000 acres, which are under the Deputy Commissioner's direct management. Such dues are farmed out, and the income from this source during the past four years was—

	Rs.
1882-83 ... ..	866
1883-84 ... ..	788
1884-85 ... ..	836
1885-86 ... ..	820

Rupees 659 were due during the year under report on account of repayment of agricultural advances, and were duly realized.

The amount recoverable in the current year is Rs. 2,204 including interest.

The allotment made to this district for the year under report was Rs. 1,500 under the Land Improvement Act, and Rs. 500 under Act XII. of 1884. No loan was, however, taken under the former head, and only Rs. 40 under the latter. There is very little demand for takávi in this district in ordinary years.

**Settlements.**—No remarks are called for under any of these heads. No definite orders have yet been received in regard to commencing the re-settlement of this district.

**Miscellaneous.**—The new tahsíl at Banjar (Plach) was completed during the year. It is a well-arranged and commodious building. The extensive repairs, amounting virtually to re-construction, of the Kulu tahsíl, were also finished.

Revenue buildings.

The extremely urgent need at a new tahsíl of Kángra has been so often pointed out that any further representation on the subject is unnecessary.

Soon after joining the district I made a rapid tour round it, from the 4th to 20th May, visiting Nurpur, Kángra, Jowálamukhi, Hamírpur and Pálampur.

Tours of officers. In September and October I visited Kulu and Plach; from the beginning of November to Christmas marched through Pálampur, Hamírpur, Kutlehr and Nádaun to Dera, and after the Christmas holidays returned through Kángra to head-quarters. In February and March I marched through the Nurpur tahsíl and the parts of Dera which I had not previously visited. Altogether I was 148 days in camp during the year. Rai Shibdial, Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioner, has been in camp continuously since the end of December (till when he was detained at head-quarters by the charge of the treasury,) doing alluvion and diluvion work, supervising and testing Patwáris' work, &c. He has visited all parts of the district except Kulu.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

### JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR H. WOOD.)

**Administration.**—The advances made under the Land Improvement Act, during the year amounted to Rs. 32,290\* for sinking 153 new wells, and for the repairs of 10 old ones which are estimated to be capable of irrigating 1,530 acres.

Including 30 unfinished wells of last year there were 183 wells in all to sink. Of these 73 were finished during the year, 101 are under construction, and 9 the work on which has not commenced.

There were 46 applications of an aggregate value of Rs. 13,350 pending at the close of the year.

From these figures it will be seen, that takávi advances are largely made use of in this district.

I regret to find, however, that the money borrowed from Government is not in every case applied strictly to the purpose for which it is applied for; but is in some cases used for the payment of debts due to money lenders. Enquiry, however, shows that in most of these cases the money has been borrowed in anticipation of the sanction of the loan under the Land Improvement Act. This, I find, is due to the dilatory procedure of the Tahsildárs in making the necessary enquiries.

I have issued stringent orders on this point, which have already produced good results and which, I trust, will obviate the irregularities I have mentioned in the future.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

### HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

(G. KNOX, ESQUIRE.)

**Fiscal.**—Six wells have been completed this year and have all been inspected by the Tahsildárs. The advances made this year have been only Rs. 800 to Rs. 2,975 last year. I cannot understand this and believe it must be due to inattention by Tahsildárs to such cases. Applications are made to Tahsildárs and also to the Deputy Commissioner. A special review is being made of all these applications and probably a reason will be found why they have become so few in number. In all applications made to the Sadr a time is fixed for submission of final report by the Tahsildár; hitherto these applications were never entered in any register in the tahsíl; this has been rectified so as to admit of some control.

**Protective leases for irrigation works.** No protective pattas were given, nor is it really of any advantage to present incumbents to obtain them, whatever advantages it may be to posterity.

If a new well is constructed and ready for use this year the patta will grant him immunity from extra assessment for 20 years, but he has got that much already. It is no relief to him. It would be different if the well maker were allowed the substantial relief of any payment whatever for the land covered by the well for 10 or 20 years. The well owner might be protected from assessment at irrigated rates if a new Settlement were started before the lapse of 20 years by production of his patta, but even then he could prove date of construction of the well and the absence of the patta would hardly cause the Settlement officer to act against the rule simply because he had no patta.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

(G. E. WAKEFIELD, Esquire.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Administration.**—No advances for bullocks or seed this year, but Rs. 1,250 were advanced for seven pakka wells, of which five have been completed and two are nearly so.

**Agricultural advances.**

There is no difficulty in realizing the advances by fixed instalments. Inspection is made by Tahsildárs, Naib-Tahsildárs and Girdáwar Kánúngos.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Wards.** Sirdár Balwant Singh, aged 20 years, is the only ward. His father's debts, amounting to Rs. 80,000, have been paid off. He is studying at the Wards' Institute, Umballa, and is a very promising young man, who does great credit to Mr. Robinson's training.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Miscellaneous.** The Records had got into a state of confusion from over-crowding in the old record rooms. The new record rooms are double the size and yet quite full, from which fact it may be judged that for years back proper custody and classification was impracticable. A temporary establishment for three months at Rs. 80 per month to remove records to the new record room was sanctioned.

**Revenue record rooms.**

The special establishments sanctioned for classification and arranging of the records have done their work well under the supervision of Durga Pershád, Extra Assistant Commissioner, the Revenue Assistant. The revenue records are all completed. There is still some work remaining in the judicial portion, which there is every hope will be completed within the sanctioned time.

**Tours of officers.** The assistance given me by the Revenue Assistant, Durga Pershád, Extra Assistant Commissioner, in his, I may say, continuous touring and inspection of the district, has rendered it less necessary for me to inspect that I should otherwise have done; but I have nevertheless visited all important points twice and one tahsil thrice during the winter tour. I have also during April visited Lehna on inspection and had to decide a dispute with Patiála which has been pending in the Government Secretariat over 20 years. This portion of the tour will, however, not show in the past but in the present year's statistics.

The notice of officers is, as directed, recorded on a separate statement.

## EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

## FEROZEPURE DISTRICT.

(E. O'BRIEN, Esquire.)

**Fiscal.**—In 1882-83 the fluctuating assessment was introduced by the Settlement Officer in 50 villages of the Fázilka tahsil of this district. In that year these villages assessed at Rs. 14,075, but in the year under report there were 53 villages, with jama of Rs. 15,181, subject to this system.

**Fluctuating assessment in certain tracts.**

The system is certainly unpopular; but I think that this is only because of its novelty, and perhaps because it was badly worked. The subject will receive full attention next year.

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**Irrigation.**—It appears from the report of the Tahsildárs that the Sirhind Canal irrigated a much larger area in the Moga, Muktsar and Fázilka tahsils in this than in the previous year.

**Canals under Irrigation Department.**

The lambardárs, who were engaged in realizing the canal rate, received a percentage of Rs. 3 on the amount realized, but no percentage was allowed to patwáris, as they were not employed on this work.

**District canals.** The Ferozepore District canals during the year under report continued under the special charge of Babu Maya Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who has separately drawn up a detailed report on the working of these canals which forms an annexure to this report.

These canals irrigated 131,437 acres this year against 129,440 acres in the previous year.

The following table gives the area irrigated by each canal during the year under report.

## FEROZEPORE TAHSIL.

	Acres.
Mayawah ... ..	13,405
Butawah ... ..	1,960
Barnewah ... ..	12,310
Total ... ..	27,675

## ZIRA TAHSIL.

	Acres.
Daulatwah ... ..	6,389
Aghawah ... ..	11,643
Bacherawah... ..	17,841
Total ... ..	35,873

## MUKTSAR TAHSIL.

	Acres.
* Nizemwah ... ..	16,525
* Jalalwah, including Shakh Nawah ... ..	16,597
* Khanwah ... ..	2,865
* Kutabwah... ..	3,065
* Punjwah ... ..	4,200
Total ... ..	43,318

## FAZILKA TAHSIL.

	Acres.
* Mobarakwah ... ..	6,964
Fazilwah ... ..	15,350
Showkutwah ... ..	2,323
Total ... ..	24,637
Grand Total ... ..	131,437

The canals marked with an asterisk are in tahsils Muktsar and Fazilka and are maintained by the Nawab of Mamdot and run within his estates, and the rest are kept by the people of the district.

I notice a change in the Treasury business which, though unimportant in itself, had the effect of increasing work in the District Treasury offices.

Formerly privilege transfer receipts were granted by Circle Pay Masters at the time of issue of pay cheques, but now Officers Commanding Native Regiments of Infantry, Cavalry and of Royal Artillery are authorized to draw cheques on the local treasuries and obtain transfer receipts therefrom.

This Treasury besides sharing in this general increase, has had its work augmented during the year by the establishment of Divisional Judge's Court, opening of accounts with new officers of the Public Works Department, permanent location of a Native Cavalry Regiment, &c. Colonel Corbyn, my predecessor, wrote in last year's report: "The office hands are very short. I would beg the appointment of another clerk, this is most urgent." I fully endorse the above remarks and strongly urge the necessity of strengthening the establishment.

The annual *Jalsa* of the *Abnoshes* was held on the 5th January 1885. It was kindly presided over by Colonel Wace, Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, who happened to be in the district on tour. The following is the detailed account of the annual budget passed before the said meeting which was largely attended by the *Abnoshes* of the district.

Budget provision for 1886-87, Ferozepore district inundation canals, charges for the year.

## Head Office Establishment.

	Rs.
Extra Assistant Commissioner in charge, Rs. 350 a month, including special allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem ... ..	4,200
Contribution for his pension at Rs. 58-5-4 per mensem ... ..	700
Travelling allowance for the year ... ..	600
Assistant Superintendent, Canals, at Rs. 100 per mensem ... ..	1,200
" " " Travelling allowance fixed at Rs. 20 per mensem ... ..	240
Carried over ... ..	6,940