

	Rs.
Brought forward	6,940
Reader and Computor, at Rs. 60 per mensem	720
Travelling allowance... ..	100
Office Muharrir at Rs. 15 per mensem	180
2 office orderlies, at Rs. 6 each	144
1 " " with Assistant Superintendent, at Rs. 6 each	72
1 " Overseer, at Rs. 85 per mensem	1,020
Travelling allowance, approximate	450
1 Tyndal with approximate travelling allowance Rs. 6 per mensem,	72
3 Khallasis, approximate travelling allowance Rs. 5 per mensem,	180
Contingencies for office	127
Total for Head Office called "A"	10,005

Out-door Establishment.

	Rs.
2 Náib-Tahsildárs, 1 for Ferozepore and 1 for Zíra at Rs. 50 per mensem each	1,200
7 Daroghás at Rs. 20 per mensem each	1,680
9 Canal Chaprásis at 5 per mensem each	540
Muhafiz on bands and pusails during the floods	500
Contingent	493-13
Unforeseen charges or reserve	1,300
Total Out-door Establishment, or "B"	5,713-13

	Rs.
Annual contribution by District Fund	2,200
Contribution by the Nawáb of Mamdot	2,200
Total Rs.	4,400

Deduct Rs. 4,400 from the total charge for Head Office Establishment, viz., Rs. 10,005, the balance is Rs. 5,605, which should be added to Rs. 5,713-13, i.e., the total of "B," or the Out-door Establishment, the total of which comes to Rs. 11,318-13. This sum was distributed on the irrigated acreage of the *Abnoshes* only, viz., 92,455 acres, the result being a bach, or rate of two annas per acre, to which was added six pies for the Mirah and the Patwáris, viz., four pies for the former and two pies for the latter as usual.

	Acres.
The total area of the <i>Abnoshes</i> irrigated during the year is	92,455
And that of the Nawáb	36,462*

Grand total of the area irrigated by the inundation canals is, exclusive of the area not charged for being unculturable, viz., 2,520 acres	128,917
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* For which the Nawáb of Mamdot has realised a water rate of Rs. 31,950-7-3 from the *Abnoshes*.

LAHORE DIVISION.

EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(G. R. ELSMIE, ESQUIRE.)

* * * * *

Administration.—The district reports show everywhere a desire on the part of the Deputy Commissioners to restrain the use of unnecessary warrants or more stringent processes. In Jhang, Lahore and Gurdáspur warrants alone were sufficient. In Lahore, the number of warrants, viz., 3,063, the greatest in the division, might, perhaps, have been somewhat reduced; but Lahore is a district which presents difficulties of management in most departments. The people are independent and quarrelsome and not very well off; while in some parts, notably in the Sharakpur tahsíl, the land is poor and the cultivators lazy and apathetic.

On the whole, I consider that it is creditable to the Revenue officers that so small a number of coercive processes were necessary.

* * * * *

Revenue business. Each district has furnished detailed annual statements of Revenue business, but the comments of the Deputy Commissioners are not in all instances as full as could be desired. I do not think that any Tahsildár has been overburdened by judicial work. I made this matter one for special enquiry on visiting tahsils, and I do not think I found a single instance in which the monthly average of 50 judicial cases had been exceeded or indeed reached.

The work under Section 45 of the Punjab Courts Act is very light in Mooltan, Montgomery and Jhang, where tenancy cases are almost unknown.

In Lahore the number of cases is greater, and in Amritsar and Gurdáspur it is pretty considerable. Many of the tenancy cases, though I cannot say they are numerous as compared with the number of tenants, are complicated and difficult, and a large proportion come up on appeal.

The best commentary on the Revenue business of the year is that given by Colonel Lang, Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar. He is the only Deputy Commissioner who notices fully the fact that the attestation of mutations by Tahsildárs and Náib-Tahsildárs, at the villages, has not been kept up to date. The other Deputy Commissioners, with the exception of Mr. Dane, for the most part ignore this fact.

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There is no doubt that the new rules on this subject are not easily carried out. I have always doubted whether it would be found practically possible for Tahsildárs and Náibs to visit each village in their circle and to attest all mutations up to date. I have given special attention to the subject while on tour, but I generally found that some apparently valid excuse was brought forward. The Náib-Tahsildár had no powers; there had been exceptional movements of troops demanding the personal attention of the Tahsildár or Náib-Tahsildár; the patwáris had found much difficulty in preparing their girdáwari returns and so on.

* * * * *

Commissioner's tour. During the year under report, I was absent from Head-quarters on tour as follows:—Three days at Montgomery in April 1885, to make enquiry into certain reports on the state of the district submitted by Mr. Gladstone. In the summer I visited Dalhousie, inspected the Treasury and Dispensary there. In September I proceeded to Chamba to make special enquiry into the management of the State by the young Rája. Later I proceeded to Simla on special duty in connection with the Chamba forest lease and University affairs.

From December 5th to January the 17th I was absent on a tour through the Sharakpur and Sadr tahsils of the Lahore district, the Amritsar and Tarn Taran tahsils of the Amritsar district, the Batála and Sadr tahsils of Gurdáspur. From the 8th to the 15th February, I made a tour through parts of the Dipálpur and Pák Pattan tahsils of the Montgomery district.

From the 22nd February to the 26th idem I was absent on special duty at Pesháwar.

During the last week of March, I visited the head-quarters (Jhang and Mooltan), being absent from Lahore five days. My marching tours were curtailed by the necessity of being frequently present at Lahore to attend meetings of the University Senate and Syndicate. I, however, managed to visit the head-quarters of all the districts of the division, and I visited and inspected 11 tahsils. The tours of Deputy Commissioners have been reported and commented on separately.

On the whole, I trust that the reports herewith submitted will be regarded as satisfactory, and as indicating that the Deputy Commissioners of the Division have done their duty as administrators in the Revenue Department during the year. The results are, with the sole exception of the Montgomery district, where the season was most unfavourable, in my opinion, good. I think the reports carry with them internal evidence that the district officers have done their utmost to protect the interests of the Government, and those of the people; and I consider the Division has been fortunate in securing the services of Deputy Commissioners possessed of so much intelligence, energy and judgment.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

MOOLTAN DISTRICT.

(MAJOR J. B. HUTCHINSON.)

Fixed land revenue
(including tribute).Demand, collections,
balances.

Fiscal.—The demand for the year amounted to Rs. 5,74,230, an increase of Rs. 196.

Rupees 5,59,922 were collected and a balance remained of Rs. 14,308 not collected as follows:—

	Rs.
In train of liquidation	1,179
Doubtful	10,140
Nominal	2,971

Of the first item Rs. 555 was due from Serai Sidhu tahsil, principally from darkhwasti plots. Of this Rs. 190 were recovered after the close of the year. It is hoped that the remainder will be realized. The cause of delay has arisen from the extremely impoverished state of many of the cultivators in the Serai Sidhu tahsil owing to the failure of the rains. Many cultivators left their holdings for more favoured places and could not be found. It is hoped that they will return now that favourable rain has fallen and the rabi crops are prosperous.

In Shujabad tahsil Rs. 78 were due; Rs. 38 were recovered after the close of the year. The remainder, Rs. 40, will be recovered with the rabi instalments.

In Lodhrán Rs. 564 was due after close of the year; Rs. 100 was paid in; Rs. 464 is still due. In more than one case lambardars have made away with the money. In Mailsi and Mooltan there was no balance under this head.

As regards the amount due (Rs. 10,140) under the head of doubtful, the principal amount is due from Serai Sidhu tahsil, viz., Rs. 9,502. This sum has been suspended with the sanction of the Commissioner owing to the failure of rain; Rs. 220 due from Lutfpur in tahsil Lodhrán has been suspended by order of the Financial Commissioner in his Secretary's letter No. 542, dated 25th January 1886; Rs. 261 are due for canal revenue—remission for this has been applied for; Rs. 24 are due from village Shakot for canal revenue. The Tahsildar ought to have recovered this. Orders have been given. Rupees 133; this item has not been recovered as yet because there is a question as to whether it should be collected or not. It is shown as due from Ghulam Mahomed Daulatana on land leased to him in 1880, but under the mustajiri rules of Mr. Roe's Settlement Report, para. 190, one-half of the revenue is to be paid to the former as lambardari. The whole of the revenue was included in the rent roll. The question is being referred. If it is decided that it is to be recovered there will be no difficulty in doing so.

As regards the item Rs. 2,971, shown as nominal, Rs. 1,000 is shown as nominal due under letter No. 3,597, dated 9th May 1884, from Secretary to Financial Commissioner.

Rupees 1,236 is the sum shown as remissible from canal revenue for rabi 1885. Sanction for remission has been received, but the sum has not been yet struck out of the kistbandi.

Rupees 60 is an item which was shown as due for darkhawasti plots which have been given up, but has not yet been struck out of the kistbandi.

Rupees 12 is revenue of land which has been taken up for Government and remission of which has been sanctioned by letters Nos. 5146 and 5321, dated 20th and 27th July 1885, and 5790 and 6079, dated 17th and 27th August 1885, from Secretary to Financial Commissioner.

Rupees 633, granted in jagir to Shah Muhammed Khan, see letter No. 6532, dated 21st September 1885, from Junior Secretary to Financial Commissioner.

The work of collection has been fairly well done in all the tahsils. The large balance of Rs. 1,197 shown under train of liquidation is principally due to the failure of rain, above alluded to in the Serai Sidhu tahsil. Suspensions were applied for and duly sanctioned; but before it was known that this would be done, men absconded with their cattle for fear of being sold up.

Balances of former years. Rupees 8,795 were due; of this Rs. 105 have been recovered. Rupees 8,654 have been remitted, and Rs. 36 only remain due, which, it is hoped, will be recovered.

Tribute. No separate item is paid under this head in this district.

Fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue.

The following table shows the income this year as compared with the previous year:—

YEAR.	Fluctuating land revenue.	Miscellan- eous.	Total.	Received for former years.	Balance this year.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85	82,227	99,114	1,81,341	1,840	56
1885-86	1,01,185	1,06,934	2,08,119	56	4,540
	+ 18,958	+ 7,820	+ 26,778	...	...

The floods in the rivers in the autumn of 1884 caused a large rise under fluctuating land revenue.

There was a large increase under miscellaneous as follows:—

	Rs.
Sale of wood	+ 1,986
And sale of waste lands	+ 5,570

as compared with the preceding year.

The balance uncollected, Rs. 4,540, is large, but of this Rs. 4,220 are due from Seraf Sidhu tahsil for fluctuating revenue, and have been suspended till the rabi instalments fall due under sanction of the Commissioner. It was impossible to recover it in the kharif crop owing to failure of rain and floods this year. If I had attempted to recover it many holdings would have been ruined. I do not anticipate any difficulty in collecting it with the rabi instalments.

Revision of assessment.

No remarks.

Water advantage revenue. The girdawari under this head as compared with last year was as follows:—

YEAR.	Kharif.	Rabi.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.
1884-85	5,461 0 0	5,739 0 0	11,260
1885-86	5,031 3 0	4,945 13 0	9,977

The decrease in demand is owing to the deficiency of water in the Chenáb during last autumn and consequent falling-off in the canal supply.

Fluctuating assessments
in certain tracts.

The following statement shows the working of the system since its introduction:—

RIVER.	Assessment Circle.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Bávi ...	Bet Serai Sidhu ...	8,935	7,952	7,918	10,774	9,024	9,101	11,581	9,267
Chenáb {	Hitar do. ...	6,679	6,642	6,032	7,455	8,143	7,091	9,131	8,495
	Do. Mooltan... ..	13,716	14,603	15,856	18,101	17,909	16,335	19,197	18,408
	Do. Shujabad ...	4,835	4,463	4,850	22,125	21,290	18,715	22,864	20,429
	Do. Lodhrán ...	16,897	16,460	17,331					
	Total Chenáb ...	42,197	42,168	44,069	47,681	47,342	42,141	51,192	47,332
Sutlej {	Lodhrán	13,968	12,869	9,733	13,540	12,833	9,930	14,774	13,011
	Mailsi	16,743	11,556	13,244	14,099	13,144	12,553	19,277	15,131
	Total Sutlej ...	30,711	24,425	22,977	27,639	25,977	22,483	34,051	28,142
	Grand total of district	81,773	74,545	74,964	86,094	82,343	73,725	96,824	84,741

It will be observed that there is a considerable falling-off this year on all the rivers which is owing to the paucity of rain and consequent decrease of sailáb. But the demand is still considerably over what it was in 1883-84, and Rs. 2,968 over the demand at settlement.

The system is popular, and several villages which get a scarce supply of canal water would be glad to adopt it. In my own opinion it would be a great advantage were the system extended to the whole district. All lands receiving canal water are already under a kind of fluctuating revenue, and the reasons which held good for introduction of the system into the Jhang district would apply with equal force to all the lands in the Ráwa Circle,

which are almost entirely dependent on well water. The rainfall in this district is so very scanty and precarious that a system of fixed assessment is hardly applicable and may at any time tend to the ruin of many villages. This was exemplified this year. The rainfall in the Serai Sidhu tahsil was only 4 inches from June to December and in consequence many villages were left entirely uncultivated. Fortunately this was discovered in time, and, with the sanction of the Commissioner, a large portion of the kharif instalments was suspended and only one rupee per acre cultivated was realised. Even this was paid up with difficulty, for the cultivation was so much reduced and the scarcity of grass was so great that in many places there was not sufficient to feed the inhabitants and cattle, leave alone any balance to pay the reduced demand. Many cattle died of starvation and others were taken by the owners to the south of the district which was more fortunate. In places where cultivation is so precarious a system of fluctuating assessments is the only system applicable. The introduction of such a system throughout the district is of course attended with much difficulty, owing to the need of a large establishment to test the annual measurements, and the incompetency of the patwari establishment; but the latter has been much improved lately and will improve still further, and the former difficulty might be met. The measurements this year were attested by the following officers:—

Tahsil Mooltan by the Deputy Commissioner; tahsil Serai Sidhu by Mr. Brind, and the remaining tahsils by Rai Karm Chand, Extra Assistant Commissioner. While dealing with this subject I should mention that the system adopted at settlement for deciding what lands should be subject to fluctuating assessments seems to me to have resulted in considerable complications. It was at first decided what villages should be thus assessed, and then all lands of those villages which were not attached to wells were put under fluctuating assessments, while lands attached to wells were put under fixed assessments. Now well irrigation is by no means always kept to exactly the same land: in many cases it extends to contiguous plots; there is nothing, therefore, on the ground itself to show what is under fixed and what is under fluctuating assessment. The field maps do not give the required information, and it can only be obtained from the "Misl Bandabast" by careful exception. This causes much delay in attesting measurements. Many lands lying close to the river and receiving annual sailab are under fixed, while lands on either side and further away from the river, receiving exactly the same amount of sailab, or perhaps less, are under fluctuating assessment.

* * * * *

Irrigation.—There was an increase in the area irrigated from the Sutlej canals of 14,341 acres. This increase is almost entirely on the Sardarwah Canal, which worked excellently well, where 13,155 acres were irrigated beyond the area of the year before. The state of this canal is now most satisfactory, and I trust that all the villages at the tail, which suffered so severely a few years ago, will now soon be in a prosperous state.

On the Chenab there has been a falling-off of 23,926 in the area irrigated. This is the result of two causes: the first is that the floods in the Chenab were very low, and water came late in the Daurana, Langana, Mattithul, and Shahpur canals. This caused a decrease in the kharif irrigation; the second is that the heads of some of the canals silted up, especially that of the Wali Muhammad Canal, which ran quite dry for some days in the autumn, thereby decreasing the area of land prepared for the rabi crop.

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Private canals.

There are two important private canals in this district—

- (1) Hajiwah, belonging to Ghulam Kadir Khan.
- (2) Ghulamwah, belonging to Ghulam Muhammad Khan, Daulatanah.

The irrigation from these during the last two years has been as follows:—

Canal	1884-85.	1885-86.
Hajiwah	19,080	21,067
Ghulamwah	5,653	4,854

The reason for the falling off in irrigation from the latter of these was that a "bund," erected at the head, was carried away, so the water came late down the canal and stopped early.

By these two canals a very large amount of waste land has been brought under cultivation, and several new villages have been built which are very prosperous.

Ghulam Kadir Khan takes from six annas to one rupee per bigha for flow irrigation and Rs. 10 a year for each jhallar. Ghulam Muhammad takes from four annas to eight annas per bigha for flow irrigation and sometimes a portion of the produce as hak mahsul.

* * * * *

Administration.—There is a falling off in the number of cases in which personality was distrained. I am not satisfied with the working this year. I consider that the number of warrants issued was excessive, and during the cold weather I made a point of inquiring into the procedure of the different Tahsildars. This as a rule was not correct. When a warrant is issued it should be executed in the way laid down by law; the procedure is detailed on the warrant. The defaulter is warned to pay in the sum due by a certain date, failing which the mazkuri is authorised to bring him to the tahsil. But this is not the procedure adopted. The

warrant was served, and then if the money was not paid in on the proper date, another warrant was issued for the defaulter to be brought to the tahsil, thereby increasing the number of warrants issued and causing double expense to the defaulter. Of the total warrants issued 469 were taken out by lambardárs against defaulters.

This is leased out for five years for cattle and for four years for camels; both Government estates. leases will fall in on 31st March 1887. The following table gives (a) Tirni. the number of cattle in this and the previous year:—

KIND.	Year.	NO. OF CATTLE.		Rate.	Amount.
		Paying.	Not paying.		
				Rs.	Rs. A. P.
She Camels	1884-85	11,839	5,231	2-0-0 to 0-8-0	17,667 8 0
	1885-86	11,284	5,433	2-0-0 to 0-8-0	17,633 14 8
He Camels	1884-85	4,334	...	1-8-0 to 1-0-0	4,432 0 0
	1885-86	4,438	...	2-0-0 to 0-6-0	4,465 9 4
Total	1884-85	16,173	5,231	...	22,099 8 0
	1885-86	15,722	5,433	...	22,099 8 0
Buffalows	1884-85	21,145	6,370	1-8-0 to 0-2-0	14,183 4 9
	1885-86	20,411	7,223	1-4-0 to 0-1-0	13,930 14 5
Cows	1884-85	81,484	18,125	1-0-0 to 0-1-0	28,679 3 3
	1885-86	76,244	20,717	1-0-0 to 0-1-0	27,995 8 4
Sheep and Goats	1884-85	333,024	41,370	...	20,358 8 0
	1885-86	343,528	58,178	0-2-0 to 0-0-1	21,294 9 3
Total	1884-85	435,653	65,865	...	63,221 0 0
	1885-86	440,183	86,118	...	63,221 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	1884-85	451,826	71,096	...	85,320 8 0
	1885-86	455,905	91,551	...	85,320 8 0

I do not place much reliance on the above figures showing the number of cattle, because I found that hitherto the Moharrirs have not in any way counted the cattle. Thinking that the tirni was given out on contract they did not see the use of counting. This has been a great mistake. The duty of the Moharrirs was to keep up a careful enumeration as some guide to the Deputy Commissioner when giving out the contracts for the second five years, and this is what was intended by Mr. Roe when the system was first introduced. He hoped that after five years we might hope to have somewhat more trustworthy grounds to go on than we had before. During the cold weather I impressed on the Tahsildárs and the Moharrirs the necessity of keeping up correct registers of the cattle in the district. I cannot, however, disguise the fact that Moharrirs have the greatest difficulties to contend against. The owners of cattle do their utmost to avoid having their cattle counted, and send their cattle away to distant grazing grounds when the time for counting comes round. The Moharrirs have been instructed to be frequently on the move all the year round, looking at the cattle and counting them. It is only in this way that even approximately correct returns can be expected.

The demand was Rs. 85,320-8-0, of which Rs. 196-11-6 is balance due in Serai Sidhu tahsil. This was actually collected by the lambardárs from the owners of cattle and they have absconded. Measures are being adopted to recover the sum due from the rabi crop. Orders for the attachment of moveable property were issued, but none could be found. The area of the land from which the income is derived as compared with three former years is given below:—

	Acres.
1882-83	1,789,531
1883-84	1,772,247
1884-85	1,767,957
1885-86	1,764,712

The decrease is owing to sales. I should note that the lands given out on lease are not closed to grazing except such portions as are cultivated.

Next year the area for grazing will be much decreased in the Serai Sidhu tahsil, owing to some 100,000 which will be given out to cultivators. It will be necessary to reduce the tirni demand in that tahsil in proportion.

The grazing lands are scattered all over the district, but lie principally in the interior away from the rivers.

The following table shows the works in hand during the year, the works done and the works still to be completed :—

DETAIL.	New wells.	Repairs to wells.	Digging water-courses.	Other works.	TOTAL.
Works remaining to be completed ...	377	160	19	88	644
Works for which money has been advanced this year ...	60	18	10	49	137
Total ...	437	178	29	137	781
Completed during the year ...	179	111	14	54	358
•Balance to be completed ...	258	67	15	83	423

Of the 423 works still in hand three-fourths of the work has been completed in 71 and in 92 works more than half has been done.

Nine works have not yet been commenced.

In the return Rs. 2,958 is shown as due but not recovered.

Of this sum Rs. 1,315 were paid in after the year's accounts were closed, and a large portion of the remainder only fell due in March. This is, I think, satisfactory; but I regret to say that in cases I have been compelled to order immediate recovery of the whole loan owing to the work not being completed and there being no sign that it even would be; and in one case sanction has been obtained to sell the immoveable property given in security, as the work for which the advance had been made was not commenced, and the man receiving the advance had squandered it in private expenditure.

The allotment for this district for the year for agricultural improvements under Act XIX of 1883 was Rs. 1,10,000. Of this, however, only Rs. 37,220 was drawn. The reasons were as follow—

(1) I was directed by the Financial Commissioner to retain sufficient in my hands to meet anticipated expenditure on water-courses in the new Sidhnái Canal. This ultimately was not drawn owing to the orders directing that the funds should be supplied by the Canal Department.

(2) Because I was very particular in directing preliminary enquiry as to what the applicant really intended to do with the money asked for. On more than on one occasion I found men applying for advances for works which were already made, the object being to use the money in paying off debts.

The inspections were well carried out during the year by Mr. Brind, Mr. Parsons, Rái Karim Chand, Extra Assistant Commissioner, the Tahsildárs, Naib-Tahsildárs and girdáwar kánúgos. Every work was frequently visited and reports were made.

The only estate under the Court of Wards in this district is that noticed last year, the infant sons of Mullan Ramzan, Zaildár of Kabirpur. These boys are reading in the Primary school. The estate has been well worked during the year, and there is now sufficient money accumulated to redeem the family ornaments. This has been actually done since the close of the year at a cost of Rs. 1,307.

Two water-courses which were much silted up have been cleared out during the year at a cost of Rs. 734, from which great advantage is anticipated.

Rates of labor have risen principally in Serai Sidhu tahsil, where the demand for men on the Sidhnái Canal works has been considerable, and in the Mooltan and Shujábad tahsils owing to the Railway works in progress in Muzaffargarh.

A detail is given below of the time spent by each officer in camp. Rái Karim Chand, the Revenue Assistant, was out for almost the whole cold weather.

Mr. Brind and Mr. Parsons both spent a considerable time in camp.

I myself was in camp for over three months and visited each tahsil twice at least.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

JHANG DISTRICT.

(L. W. DANE, ESQUIRE.)

* * * * *

Fiscal.—The floods were favourable, and owing to the exertion of the Tahsildár, Ahmad Shah of Shorkot, in the direction of making embankments and short cuts, the fluctuating assessment on riverain lands rose from Rs. 6,295 to Rs. 7,325. The fluctuating assessments by wells, which are a special feature of the

revenue system in this district, decreased from Rs. 36,656 to Rs. 35,518. Fluctuating assessments by wells.

The rainfall was scanty and unfavourable, and this fact fully accounts for the decrease. At first I thought it might be due to the fact that the Utár population had emigrated to the riverain lands owing to the increased area brought under cultivation by the bands referred to above, and of which a full account was given in last year's report. But inquiries made whilst on tour satisfied me that any such migration was very small, and that the true cause of the falling off is rather to be sought in the unfavourable season.

In my letter No. 334, dated 18th December 1885, I have raised certain questions which call for decision in regard to this system of fluctuating assessment by well, and it would be a waste of time to go into the matter again here. I would only therefore draw attention to the letter and request early orders upon the points referred.

The collections amounted to Rs. 65,284, showing a decrease of Rs. 284 from the amount realised last year. The decrease is small and calls for no special remarks.

The *tinri* in this district is now levied on a quinquennial lease for a fixed annual sum. (a). System of levy.

The lease was granted in 1884 and will not expire until March 1889. The leases for the most part were taken up by the *lambardárs* of villages. As noted in last year's report the revenue under this head was reduced by Rs. 11,612 when the contract was introduced, and a further remission of Rs. 2,976 has to be made to the *lambardárs* as collection fees. Mr. Clarke, in his proposals regarding the quinquennial lease suggested that no restrictions should be placed upon camel grazing of the *sajji* plant which grows extensively in parts of the Shorkot and Jhang tahsils, on the ground that as Government had not been able to see its way to issue salt for animals at a reduced duty, this grazing was essential for the health of the animals. In the past year the grazing was restricted for part of the year; but as it has now been ruled that no such restriction during the term of the contract can be imposed, a sum of Rs. 1,045 has only been offered by the *sajji* contractors as against Rs. 2,640 last year. The income from these *sajji* leases is included in the *tinri*, and if no restrictions can be imposed with a view of protecting the plant during the summer, as suggested in my No. 94, dated 30th March 1886, there will probably be a decrease of Rs. 1,595 in the income under this head in 1886-87.

The quinquennial contract has now been running for two years and the advantages and disadvantages of the system have revealed themselves. There is no doubt that the assessment is more readily collected than under the

system of actual enumeration, though probably not so readily as under the *chak* system. The actual incidence on the owners is very light. Had it not been so it would have been very difficult to have collected nearly the whole demand, as for three years past the rainfall was scanty and unseasonable, and for most of the year there was hardly any grass in the district, and the cattle suffered greatly from want of fodder. Things in this respect are somewhat better at present, as owing to the winter rains there is a fair amount of grass in Chinfot and the cattle from out districts, notably Montgomery, have returned to their homes; and so there is more grazing for the cattle of the district. The disadvantages of the system are great. The Government *tinri* revenue has steadily decreased owing to reductions in the rate, and the remissions noted above at the introduction of the contract from Rs. 1,32,733 in 1871-72 to Rs. 65,284 in the present year. There has not, as far as I can ascertain, been any falling off in the number of cattle in the district, and so the loss has fallen entirely on Government.

The present demand was fixed by taking the average demand of five years before 1884 less 5 per cent. on account of *lambardári* dues, and a further reduction owing to the abandonment of the system formerly in force, under which cattle of a district going from one *chak* into another had to pay *tinri* again for the new *chak*. This could only be ascertained from the former lessees, who naturally understated their earnings, and from the enumeration lists prepared by the *tinri* *patwáris* which were not worth much. The consequence is that in most, if not all, villages the number of cattle grazing on the Government waste was underestimated. Attempts are being made to ensure a careful enumeration of the cattle actually grazed now; but it is an uphill task, as the *patwáris* consider apparently that as the amount of revenue does not now depend immediately upon the number of animals counted, there is no necessity to aim at accuracy of enumeration.

In some cases, too, the *lambardárs*, especially where they are persons of influence and position, regard themselves in the light of the old *chakdárs*, and levy the *tinri* at the full rates from the people, but only pay the actual amount due under the lease into the treasury. In this way the whole of the gain under the new system goes into the pocket of the *lambardár*.

He gets his 5 per cent. collection due, gets off paying for his own animals altogether, and makes a profit into the bargain out of the tirni levied from his co-sharers. It was intended that the amount payable in any village under the lease should be distributed rateably over the cattle in the village, and so that each person should benefit, and care should be taken to prevent the growth of the practice noted above which up to the present is not very common.

In addition to the leases granted to the villagers, the tirni to be levied from cattle from other districts and cattle of non-tirni paying or Inkari villages grazing within the Government waste, is leased by auction sale to outsiders by the former chaks or blocks into which the district is divided.

It is a common practice for the tirni-paying villagers to include this nau-baramad cattle, as they are called, with their own cattle, and the Government revenue suffers in consequence. A very large increase in the revenue from the sale of these leases would result if permission were given to the contractors to enumerate the cattle of any village which was reasonably suspected of harbouring nau-baramad animals, and if the total of the head were found to exceed the amount on which the quinquennial contract was calculated by more than 5 per cent. or 10 per cent., the levy of tirni at full rates on the excess might be authorized. I have allowed a margin for errors in enumeration and natural increase. If some such steps be not taken, it is impossible to say which cattle belong to the village and which do not, and so the Government revenue suffers. The villages of course benefit by allowing the cattle of other districts, or non-tirni payers, to graze with their own. This practice is very rife in the Chinot tahsil, where the grazing is generally so good as to attract large numbers of cattle from the surrounding districts.

To prevent this as far as possible, and also to check in some way the rain cultivation

(c) Distribution of which is very extensive in the Chinot and part of the Jhang tahsils, I waste into Patwáris' have divided the Government waste land into suitable circles, and circles. allotted each circle to a tirni or bár patwári, of whom there are in all 16 in the district, 13 tirni and 3 bár.

The patwári will be responsible for the circle entrusted to him. He will have to enumerate and check the cattle grazing therein and bring to notice any occurrence of the improper practices noted above, and also to see that the rakhs are not injured and that amounts levied from the villages for fuel are suitably proportioned to the circumstances of the village. The applications for leases of waste land for cultivation for one harvest will be submitted to him,

(d) Government and he will see that the plot is suitable and not in excess of the re-waste lands. quirements and means of the applicant, and measure it and forward the application to the tahsil after endorsing the necessary particulars thereon. Registers have been prescribed which will be maintained by these patwáris, and show for each circle the area and position of each of the plots of rain cultivation. With the aid of these registers and copies of the maps, which will be also kept by the patwári, officers visiting the circle will be able to check in some way the returns. At present there is no system. A man applies at the tahsil for any amount he thinks fit, 300, 400 or 500 kanals, and obtains permission as a matter of course. When the harvest is over the revenue patwáris are called away from their circles and sent out to measure up the area cultivated. Sometimes two patwáris measure up the same plot, and more frequently plots are intentionally or by oversight not measured at all, each patwári assuming that some other man has done it. Anybody, whether able to measure up or not, was thought good enough to check the measurements, and the result was, as may be imagined, most unsatisfactory.

I went on tour carefully through the bár in Chinot and Jhang, and satisfied myself that nothing could be worse than the former system, as it was impossible to ascertain what had been and what had not been measured with any attempt at accuracy. An opening for wholesale fraud was left open, which I have no reason to believe was not made use of.

The system I have proposed is of course open to objections, as it leaves too much in the hands of the patwáris; but I can devise none better with the limited means at my disposal.

(e) Necessity for survey of part of the Government waste lands. I would, however, venture to suggest that steps should be taken to have some of the waste surveyed on the square system and proper maps prepared. At settlement it was not mapped at all. The portions which might first be taken in hand are the Kerana bár and the Sandal bár in the Chinot and Jhang tahsils. The Kerana bár contains the best grazing ground in the district. It consists of about 200,000 acres, of which, roughly speaking, 5,000 acres are cultivated and on well leases for a term of years, and 5,000 on short leases for one harvest. These cultivated patches are scattered all over the areas, and as the tenant prevents the cattle of other persons grazing anywhere near his plots, great inconvenience, as noted by Mr. Dames in last year's report, is caused to the cattle-owners. This especially occurs in the case of well leaseholds. Except near the edge of the bár the water is too salt for irrigation, and the only object of the lessee is to obtain a good plot of land for rain cultivation and grazing on cheap terms. If he took it for rain cultivation he would have to pay Rs. 1-4 an acre per harvest and would be liable to ejectment annually. For wells the rates are 8 annas an acre, plus 2 annas as malikana, and he practically becomes the owner of the land leased. He builds his homestead at some distance and grazes his cattle all round. In this way on a lease of 100 acres some 800 or 900 acres are practically lost to Government. Unless therefore a drinking well is actually required in any place, well leases should not be granted in the interior of the bár at all.

A considerable portion of the boundary between the Jhang and Shahpur districts in the Kerana direction has never been demarcated and constant disputes are the result. This

portion of the bār should, therefore, I think, be taken in hand at once. A good base line along the edge of the bār could be laid down and squares carried thence westwards to the boundary. From this base line a series of squares could be subsequently carried eastwards to the Chenáb.

The Chinánwan Canal will shortly penetrate the Sandal bār to the east of the Chenáb, and so it is desirable to have the Government waste in this direction in the Chiniot tahsíl measured as soon as possible. The land is all shown as unencumbered with rights, but this is hardly the case. A glance at the survey map will show that a large number of the graziers' hamlets are occupied by the same people all the year round. The inhabitants have made small embankments round their fields and "suahs" to lead the rain water on, and these extend sometimes for miles. At some of the larger "rahnas" as they are called, there is as much as 200 or 300 acres of permanent cultivation of this sort. I am here speaking of the northern part of the district, where the soil is better and more rain falls. These villages will give rise to a good deal of difficulty when the canal arrives, and steps should be taken to consolidate the holdings and determine the status of the tenants before the land rises in value.

If survey parties are sent, too, we can send our patwáris and candidates for practical training in field work, and so improve the Revenue Staff of the district, which stands a good deal in want of instruction in this respect.

With a map before him the Deputy Commissioner will have no difficulty in consolidating rain cultivation into suitable blocks, and in seeing that well leases are not granted in places where the water is too salt for irrigation purposes, or where, from other reasons, the grant of land is undesirable.

The sale-proceeds of wood from rakhs decreased from Rs. 8,641 to Rs. 7,339. The revenue is realized by assessing an annual sum on each village obtaining fuel from the waste in proportion to its requirements. The taltsíldárs have been directed to see that this sum is steadily raised, so that the revenue may keep pace with the normal increase in population and in the price of fuel. A small amount is also realized by the sale of rafters and wood for the construction of well wheels. The timber consists almost entirely of jhand, jál or pilu and karit.

The decrease is mainly due to the fact that drought and want of fodder compelled the cattle-owners to desert the bār, and so hardly any wood was used for constructing the "dhunis," or curious twig erections made by the graziers for the protection of their cattle.

There is nothing else calling for special remark in Statement III. The large balance of Rs. 5,144 against only Rs. 1,736 in the preceding year is partly due to the scarcity produced by the want of seasonable rain in the bār.

The outstandings under the main heads are these—

Rain cultivation	Rs. 3,920
Alluvion	„ 511

The balance under the head of rain cultivation is due to the fact that a longer time than usual was occupied in checking the measurements. Rupees 1,300 have since been recovered, and the whole amount will be liquidated.

With the exception of a few villages, containing a total area of 34,235 acres, most of which are situated in the Shorkot tahsíl, and in which the revenue fluctuates in accordance with the area actually cultivated, the system of assessment on the actual culturable area prevails in this district. A change in the system heretofore in use was introduced this spring in consequence of the orders of the Government on the Settlement Report of the district. Formerly the land when cultivated was assessed for the first year at half the rate of the circle in which it lay, and afterwards at full rates. Culturable waste was not assessed. With effect from last kharif a new system has been introduced under which the land is assessed according to the crop grown on it. Land sown with mattar, massar, methra, saumkha and pokh rice is assessed at 8 annas throughout the district, and land sown with other crops at full assessment rates of the circle. Culturable waste suitable for grazing has been assessed all round at one anna an acre. The result of this has been that 38,891 acres have been placed under assessment as against 3,267 acres in 1884-85. The gain by alluvion has been Rs. 8,892 against Rs. 2,967, while the loss was Rs. 3,951 against Rs. 2,439. The reason for the increase is that all the uncultivated grazing land thrown up since settlement has been measured up and assessed. The zamíndárs have objected to this as an infringement of the settlement conditions, and the question deserves attention. Personally I do not think that there is any hardship in the new system. The riverain villages derive great benefit from their alluvial grazing land which enable them to escape the payment of tirm, and it is only fair that they should pay something for them, and one anna an acre is not an excessive assessment. It is possible that the patwáris may, through excess of zeal, have measured up land which was really not fit for grazing land, but such instances did not come to my notice when on tour. Dewán Hari Singh tested the measurements in Jhang and Shorkot, and Malik Ahmad Khan did Chiniot. Where land was improperly assessed discretionary powers were given to them to exempt it, and I have no doubt that they exercised these powers suitably. Another cause for the large increase in both the alluvion and diluvion is to be found in the fact that the measurements were made this year in accordance with the instructions laid down in the Mensuration Manual, and measuring by offsets generally results in returning a larger area than the old system. I devoted a great deal of time to instructing the Revenue Staff in the new system, and the measurements, though of course doubtless incorrect in many ways, were fairly done. At any rate a beginning has been made, and the patwáris who

have di-alluvion work in their circles will, if kept up to the mark, soon be able to map and measure satisfactorily on the new system.

In the villages assessed on the fluctuating system of cultivation the revenue has decreased from Rs. 10,339 to Rs. 9,567. The decrease is due to less favourable floods in the Rávi mainly. The action of the river was fully explained in the report for last year, and nothing occurred during the year rendering it necessary to add to or subtract from the remarks therein contained.

The di-alluvion work is exceptionally heavy in this district, and under the present system of girdáwaris it will be practically impossible for one Extra Assistant Commissioner to test the measurements in all three tahsils as well as examine the villages under fluctuating assessment and the girdáwari work generally throughout the district.

District Canals.

Irrigation.—The only canals which can be classed as district canals are—

- (1) the *Wakefieldwáh* at Shorkot;
- (2) the *Station Canal*,
- (3) the *Uch Canal*, and
- (4) the *Jasrat Canal*.

The second and third of these were described in the last year's report. The Wakefield Canal has been in existence since before Settlement.

It takes out of an old branch of the Chenáb near Allahyár Jutha and runs for about eight miles to a point a little to the south of Shorkot. The wells irrigated by it were assessed at a higher rate than ordinary wells at Settlement, on the condition that suitable reduction in the demand would be made if the canal did not run properly in any year. This condition gives rise to a good deal of trouble; but this year I offered the principal landowner to have his land assessed at ordinary well rates and charge an "ábíaná" on the area actually irrigated. He refused to agree to this, and I think that when applications for reductions are made in future a similar offer should be made.

No silt clearances have been effected in this canal for many years, and the canal and the branch from which it takes out were much blocked up. I had the canal levelled by the District Surveyor and a small sum was allotted by the District Committee for clearances. If after these have been effected the canal works well, it might be worth while to extend it; but owing to the change in the direction of the river, I am not very hopeful that any great quantity of water will pass down the branch from which the canal takes out.

As noted by Mr. Dames, the Station Canal worked better last year, as a band was thrown across the Kharora Nala. The head is not, however, a good one, and the nala has been much silted up owing to the bands. If the nala is thereby rendered useless the injury caused will be far greater than any counterbalancing advantage to be derived from the canal. Mr. Atkinson, who is now in the district, has examined and approved of a scheme for taking a new head out of the nala close to Pakkewála on the Shahpur road. This is near the head of the nala and a very good head of water will be secured in the canal, in which at present there is none. He is at present preparing a scheme for irrigating some 10,000 acres in and near the station, of which a good deal will be Government waste land. The existing canal will be utilised as far as possible, and the bridges, &c., over the station roads maintained and employed as regulators where necessary. * * * The scheme is not sufficiently advanced to enable me to give a more detailed sketch of it here. Branches will be taken along the Lahore, Chichawatni and Dera Ismail Khan roads. Mr. Atkinson estimates the cost roughly at Rs. 8,000. It is hardly possible that the District Municipal Committees will be able to afford so large a sum as this; but as the scheme will, I believe, be very profitable, I hope that Government will, when the matured project is submitted for sanction, be able to see its way to undertake it as a Government canal, compensating the local bodies for the expense incurred by them in digging the present ditch and building bridges over it. The compensation would not exceed some Rs. 5,000 in all. If this is not agreed to, perhaps the necessary capital would be advanced by Government to the Municipal and District Committees and power given to these bodies to manage the canal for a term of years sufficient to enable them to recoup the expenditure incurred by the income from water rates.

Even with the band on the Kharora Nala the present canal only ran for about 1½ months in the middle of the hot weather and the total acreage irrigated from it amounted to about 100 acres. It was not of much use, and so no water rates were levied on the acreage and no scheme for the levy of such rates has as yet been submitted to Government. In sending up the new project due provision will be made for securing a proper income for the use of the water of the canal.

This was fully described in last year's report. Up to the present the only part of it that has been completed is the branch to Uch. The main line, which from the point near the Wasáwa village, where the Uch branch takes off from it, was only partially dug for a distance of eight miles to Rodu Sultán, was not brought into use during the year. The length of the canal from Jhakhi Bela at the head to Wasáwa is 12 miles and the branch to Uch four miles. The average depth is about four feet and the width seven feet. Five hundred acres (circ) were irrigated from it during the year. It began to

The Uch Canal.

run on 19th April and finally stopped in August. The supply during the season was, however, only intermittent.

I am sorry to say that practically nothing has been done towards completing the project during the cold weather. The Financial Commissioner was not satisfied with the scheme sent up by Mr. Dames and called for full particulars and definite proposals as to the charge to be made for the use of the water, in his Secretary's No. 6680 of 28th September 1885. He also ordered that nothing further was to be done pending the submission and sanction of the matured scheme. There was no establishment in the district capable of supplying the levels and cross sections called for. In the meantime orders were issued by Government for the deputation of an Irrigation Engineer to the district in November. Mr. Bellasis was nominated, and as he was specially instructed to examine into and report on the Uch Canal project, the matter was held over pending his arrival. No Engineer arrived, and after considerable correspondence and delay it appeared that Mr. Bellasis' services were not available. It was not until 15th March that Mr. Atkinson, the officer deputed in his place, entered the district. He was at once supplied with information as to the projects contemplated by the district authorities, and as he entered the district at the extreme north he commenced work at Asián. He has prepared projects for an inundation canal extending from Asián to Dorálta along the main Chiníot road, a distance of about 30 miles. He considers the project a good one, and believes that the canal, by taking fresh heads out of the Chenáb, can be carried on right down to Jhang, thereby irrigating the whole Chenáb Hithár on the left bank, which is the portion of the district which stands most in need of such aid. How far his scheme will conflict with the project of a large canal taking out of the Chenáb at Chiníot is for the Irrigation Department to decide when the plans are submitted for sanction. I do not, however, believe that the people, who have been discouraged by the want of success attending the small attempts at canals which have heretofore been made, will be willing to combine to execute so large a project as this without a degree of pressure, which now-a-days it is impossible to bring to bear upon them without incurring the censure of the higher authorities. Mr. Atkinson, as by the time of his arrival at Jhang the season in this arid tract was too far advanced to admit of a full and complete survey of the kachi irrigable from the Uch Canal,—then took up the Station Canal project, and so it has not been possible to do anything further during this cold weather regarding the former scheme.

The canal commenced to flow on 26th April, and the experience afforded by this hot weather will be of great value in determining its utility; as the subordinate revenue officials have been instructed to report carefully the periods for which it flowed, and the area actually irrigated therefrom. I believe the scheme is a good one, but until the necessary levels have been taken it is impossible to say what area will be commanded by it, as the old canal may have been wrongly aligned in a depression and the new canal follows the old line as far as Wasáwa.

This canal takes out about six miles south of Chiníot. It was dug some four years ago under the orders of Ahmad Shah, who was then Tahsildár of Chiníot. It is only some six miles long, but the line is good and it works by flow within three miles of the head. Six hundred and eighty-four acres were irrigated from it during the year. Mr. Atkinson proposes to utilise it as one of the heads of his Chiníot road project. It stands much in want of silt clearance, as nothing has been done to it since it was opened. It was dug by the people, and no water rates have as yet been charged on it.

It thus appears that owing to no fault of ours nothing practically could be done during the present working season. The best plan seems to be that Government should undertake one of the projects now to be submitted, whichever appears most suitable, and depute an officer to carry out the work. He could inspect and fully report on the Uch Canal and other district schemes in addition to supervising the digging of the canal selected by Government. If one canal were completed and worked satisfactorily, I believe that no difficulty would be experienced in inducing the people to combine for small projects.

Mr. Broadway's canal, which runs for about ten miles from near Kot Mupal to a point west of Garáh Maharája, ran well during the year, and the people are getting over their objections to taking the water from him. The canal is a purely private undertaking, and no water rent was charged by Government over and above the rent paid by Mr. Broadway. This gentleman makes a charge of from Re. 1 to Rs. 4 a well for water taken by zamíndárs from the canal, according to the circumstances of the well. For some years the canal did not run well, but the river has changed its course somewhat and it has done better lately. The area irrigated has not been reported. Care will be taken next year to have statistics prepared for this canal as well as the others.

The Tahsildár of Shorkot tahsíl, Ahmad Shah, continued his efforts, and maintained and improved the bands referred to last year, and thereby irrigated an acreage of 48,089 acres. Pír Osmán Khán, Tahsildár of Jhang, succeeded, by the Kharora band and some other works in the Vichand, in bringing 1,998 acres under water.

I would bring the services of Ahmad Shah specially to your notice. I have carefully gone over the area irrigated by his hands, and have no reason to believe that the returns are incorrect. The cultivated area in 1941-42 in this tahsíl increased by 26,043

acres, and the whole of this increase was practically due to the efforts of the Tahsildár. The consequence is that notwithstanding the bad rainfall, the people in Shorkot are exceedingly well off and contented, and the reputation of the Tahsildár is high throughout the district. Near Ahmadpore, perhaps, some little fever has been produced, but the increase in sickness, if due to the bands at all, was slight; and with the improvements that have been made in the system during this cold weather, all ground for complaint on this score will, I hope, be removed.

Ten thousand two hundred and thirty-three acres were irrigated by bands in the Chinot tahsil; 5,274 acres of this amount were irrigated from the Halkiwah, which is a well-defined nala in the north of the tahsil on the right bank of the Chenáb, and which has for years been practically utilised as a canal. At settlement a separate assessment circle was formed for the villages on the nala. The remainder of the irrigation was mainly by new bands. It will thus, I hope, be seen that we have not been remiss in developing small projects of irrigation. Large inundation canals involve so wide a combination and such extensive works that I am afraid that until the advantage of them can be conclusively proved to the people by a successful project carried out by Government, much success will not attend any efforts to induce them to combine for such a scheme. Of course, if well constructed, they are more permanent, and therefore more valuable protective agencies than embankments and dams can ever be.

Administration.—Three hundred and three warrants were issued for the realisation of land revenue as against 129 in the preceding year, and 54 in 1883-84. Coercive processes. The continuous increase is due to the succession of bad seasons, and it speaks well for the lightness of the settlement demand that after three years, which, from the want of seasonable rain, almost deserve to be classed as famine years, the revenue was realised with such ease. The warrants are regarded merely as reminders, and serious action has never to be taken under them. No resort was had to any other form of coercive process. I am not sure that this form has been properly prepared, as all the warrants have been shown under the head of land revenue, and to my personal knowledge, many of them were for *tinri* and should apparently have been shown separately.

* * * * *

The total area still stands at 2,237,734 acres, being by far the largest amount in any Government waste district in the Province. Of this 81,892 acres are under the Forest land.

Department. This area is comprised in 13 blocks in the Chinot tahsil bordering on the Gujranwála district. When the demarcation is completed, and this is nearly done, the blocks will be transferred to that district. They comprise some of the best land in the district and will be traversed by three branches of the Chinánwan Canal and so should be invaluable as grass preserves. Of the area held on cultivating leases the cultivated area has increased from 10,080 acres to 20,513, and the income from these leases from Rs. 7,704 to Rs. 9,276. I must confess that I am at a loss to satisfactorily explain this large increase, but presume that it is mainly due to more careful measurements of the rain cultivation under the pressure exercised by myself. I have already fully described the measures that have been taken, and which should be taken, to ensure better results in the future; and feel sure that if properly carried out they will result in a substantial increase to the Government revenue, while at the same time the State lands are not injured by improper grants. Thirty-one leases, affecting 1,545 acres with a gross rent of Rs. 637 were granted during the year. No lessees acquired proprietary rights and no sales or grants on favourable terms were made. It appears that by some mistake at settlement in interpreting the orders of Government as to lessees holding before 1868, the wells on the roads and at the stages in the Bár which were constructed out of public funds have been recorded in many instances as the property of the persons to whom they had been temporarily made over to be worked to keep them fresh. Inquiries are being made and measures will be taken to rectify the error if possible. I have already noted that where the water is saline fresh leases should not be given for wells.

The income from other sources has fallen from Rs. 74,433 to Rs. 72,802. The reasons for the decrease will be found under the heads of *tinri* and income from *rakhs*. The quality of the waste lands in this district, and especially in the Chinot and part of the Jhang tahsils, consisting as they do of fine soil and not mere sand or worthless *kallar*, when coupled with their area render them a most valuable property to Government, and I would strongly urge that they should, as soon as possible, be opened up by the extension of the Chinánwan Canal and the construction of a line of railway, so that instead of being a reproach to the administration may become one of the finest and most profitable of the districts in the Province.

The amount of advances during the year under Act XIX. of 1833, fell from Rs. 37,425 to Rs. 2,202, while the advances for purchase of bullocks under Act XII. of 1834 rose from Rs. 300 to Rs. 380. No advances were made for the purchase of seed. The great decrease under the former Act is due to the fact that the people had obtained all the capital they required for improvements in former years and few applications were received. It also appeared that in many instances the money had been obtained under false pretences to meet wedding expenses or to pay off debts and nothing had been done by the debtor towards the construction of the wells. In all 95 wells and portions of a canal (the Uch Canal,) have been constructed in the present year out of these *takávi* advances at a cost of Rs. 27,300. The collections rose from Rs. 6,022 to

Rs. 10,607, interest and principal. In a few instances the total amount of the loan was recovered from debtors who after two years had done nothing towards carrying out the conditions on which it was made. Ahmad Shah, Tahsildár of Shorkot, was particularly careful in looking after the interests of Government in this respect, and for this and for his services in constructing bands, &c., he deserves well of Government. The total amount of advances under the Acts of 1883 and 1884 at the close of the year outstanding, but not as yet due, stood at Rs. 60,594 principal and Rs. 19,774 interest, and Rs. 530 and Rs. 42 respectively.

The balance due before close of the year but not recovered only amounted to Rs. 32, principal and Rs. 105 interest. The persons to be benefited by the Uch Canal were not anxious to obtain advances, and as the questions of terms on which the canal was to be dug was still pending, it was not desirable to exercise any pressure upon them to take up the advances which they had before intimated their willingness to accept. After some time when the new wells have been fully developed further advances will doubtless be sought by the people, but I do not advocate the wholesale distribution of funds. The money is often spent in extravagance, and then when pressure is brought to bear upon the debtor to make him comply with the conditions of the grant, he is compelled to borrow elsewhere, and so is worse off than he was before the grant was made.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

(T. TROWARD, ESQUIRE.)

Fixed land revenue. Fiscal.—The demand for, this and the preceding year is as follows:—

	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.
Demand	2,89,519	2,90,027
Collection	2,81,740	2,44,991
Balances	7,779	45,036

Although the demand for the year under report is Rs. 508 more than the preceding year, the collections are Rs. 36,749 less. This is due to the entire failure of rains and river inundation and the crops consequently being much below the average.

The collections were therefore made, in most cases, with much difficulty.

The following is a detail of the balances:—

	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.
In train of liquidation ...	7,046	37,353
Doubtful or undetermined ...	406	737
Irrecoverable	300	nil.
Nominal	27	6,946

Of the item Rs. 37,353, Rs. 22,302 are under suspension; for the remainder, Rs. 15,051, endeavours are being made for recovery, but the prospects are not favourable, owing to the distressed state of the district, and the rabi crop, on which the agriculturists had chiefly depended, being a poor one. In regard to the item Rs. 737, Rs. 341 are on account of diluvion, Rs. 317 are on account of villages which have been cut off by change of course of the river Sutlej and included in the Ferozepore district; Rs. 15 are for land belonging to a village taken up for the Lower Sohág and Pára Canal; and Rs. 64 are for two villages under the fluctuating system, which are in distressed circumstances and recommendation for the remission of the item has been made.

Of the item Rs. 6,946, Rs. 888 are on account of the 9 pie fixed revenue rate of villages under the fluctuating assessment which has been remitted; Rs. 3,555 are on account of villages brought under the fluctuating system during the year under report; Rs. 2,467 are on account of diluvion for 1884-85—remission has been sanctioned; Rs. 21 are on account of lands belonging to two villages taken up for a Forest Reserve; and Rs. 15 are on account of a village, the crops of which were destroyed by hail and have been remitted.

The balances of former years on 1st April 1885 were Rs. 8,424; of this Rs. 1,619 were realized and Rs. 947 were remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 5,858 on 1st April 1886. Of this Rs. 3,797 are in train of liquidation, which includes Rs. 3,586 under suspension and Rs. 211 due from defaulters, who have suffered much from the loss of the rabi crop and a few of whom have left the district with their cattle in search of forage.

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The collections under these heads fell from Rs. 2,08,203 in 1884-85 to Rs. 2,02,565 in 1885-86. The decrease is chiefly under head *tirni* or grazing dues, and is due to the December instalment being remitted by the Financial Commissioner, owing to failure of rains, scarcity of fodder and starvation of cattle.

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Last year there was a decrease of Rs. 12,447; this year there is an increase of Rs. 9,671, which is due to the opening of a portion of the new Para-Shah Canal in Dipalpur tahsil.

The total demand was Rs. 82,380; from this Rs. 81,192 were realized, Rs. 23 were remitted by the Canal Department, and Rs. 1,165 were outstanding at the end of the year, which, it is expected, will be collected without difficulty.

The same number of villages, *viz.*, 50 in the Montgomery and 17 in the Gugera tahsil were under the fluctuating system of land revenue introduced into this district in the year 1880. During the year under report, the system was extended to 40 other villages in tahsil Montgomery and 13 villages in tahsil Gugera. These will be noticed under this head in current year's report, after they have been removed from the fixed revenue rent roll.

The fixed land revenue of the 67 villages at present dealt with under the fluctuating assessment was Rs. 24,613. The fluctuating assessment has been:—

	Rs.					
1880-81	13,115
1881-82	14,537
1882-83	20,722
1883-84	14,972
1884-85	11,056
1885-86	11,252

There is an increase of Rs. 196 when compared with the figures of the previous year which is due to the Nalas Sukrawa, Nikki and Jherku being cleaned out during the year under report, which afforded facilities for irrigation and extension of cultivation. Of the demand of Rs. 11,252, Rs. 9,565 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,687. This includes Rs. 309 remitted owing to the rate for cultivated land being reduced from Re. 1-4 to Re. 1 an acre; Rs. 524 are under suspension; and for the remaining Rs. 854 endeavours are being made for speedy recovery. Coercive measures have, however, been avoided as far as possible, owing to the distressed state of the district. During the year under report the Financial Commissioner sanctioned certain modifications of the terms of fluctuating assessment hitherto obtaining in this district. As yet this has been done only as a temporary measure, but the advisability of permanently modifying the fluctuating assessments is under consideration, and the whole subject will be taken up in a special report which has been called for by Financial Commissioner. The principal feature of the modification in question consists in restricting the demand exactly to the extent of matured crops, and so far as the short experience yet gained is to be relied on, the system appears to be one which recommends itself to the people.

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There is a falling-off of the large item Rs. 45,747 in realizations when compared with the figures of the previous year, which is due to Rs. 19,938, the district share of grazing dues for December instalment, being remitted by the Financial Commissioner, and Rs. 22,780 outstanding at the end of the year, most of the stock-owners having left the district with their cattle in search of forage.

The year under report has been an exceptionally bad grazing season, and larger numbers of cattle have died, and it was therefore considered not advisable to bring pressure to bear in the collection of this *tirni*: hence the abnormally large decrease in the collections.

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There is an increase of Rs. 25,031 under this head, which is due to the large item of Rs. 24,045 held in deposit on account of *zaildari* *tirni* fees being credited to Government.

Other items.

Statement showing the area of Alluvion and Diluvion in the Montgomery District.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Name of river.	Name of year.	INCREASE.				DECREASE.			
		Area in which alluvion has occurred.	Jama in which alluvion occurred.	Area increased.	Jama increased.	Area in which diluvion has occurred.	Jama in which diluvion has occurred.	Area rendered unproductive by water.	Jama rendered unproductive by water.
RAVL.	1882-83	Acres. 15,535	Rs. 3,631	Acres. 1,238	Rs. 635	Acres 14,258	Rs. 4,109	Acres. 785	Rs. 269
	1883-84	4,821	1,110	1,903	888	3,746	649	331	130
	1884-85	5,749	1,032	1,856	956	6,241	1,583	217	30
	1885-86	3,617	428	858	270	3,396	863	65	31
	Total	29,722	6,201	5,855	2,749	27,641	7,204	1,398	460
SUGER.	1882-83	7,744	1,445	1,487	708	4,450	1,114	1,463	587
	1883-84	11,526	2,512	2,066	917	3,520	406	10,410	679
	1884-85	3,663	1,194	1,775	757	4,383	693	818	161
	1885-86	5,319	799	2,654	1,052	7,068	2,367	644	239
	Total	28,252	5,950	7,982	3,434	19,421	4,580	13,335	1,666
Grand Total		57,974	12,151	13,837	6,183	47,062	11,784	14,733	2,126

Irrigation.—Last year there was decrease; this year there is an increase in the income, which is due to the opening of a portion of the new Pára-Sohág Canals under Irrigation Department. The canal irrigation, however, was unseasonable and did not last long enough to bring the crops to maturity. Complaints were made by a large number of villages watered from the Upper Sohág and Khanwah Canals, alleging the severity of their assessment. The subject is one of great importance and was enquired into on the spot by the Second Financial Commissioner and the Commissioner of the Division during their tours through the district. The matter is still under investigation and will form the subject of a separate report.

The new Sohág and Pára Canal works are now almost completed and when open will render fertile a very considerable area which has hitherto been either entirely waste or has yielded the very poorest crops. The subject of the colonization of the Government waste lands in this new irrigation basin has received the careful attention of the superior Revenue authorities (Financial Commissioner), and a systematic distribution of the lands has been arranged for based on a principle of small holdings akin to that known in Europe as a "peasant proprietorship." As this scheme is as yet only in its earliest stage of operation no further remarks can at present be made regarding it, but it will at a future date form the subject of a special report to Government.

Further remarks on this point will be found in subject No. 5 of this report.

District canals. The resuscitation of the Niki and Sukráwa Canals undertaken last year in tahsil Gugera, irrigated during the year under report, 2,504 acres against 693 acres the previous year. The water-rate amounted to Rs. 975 in 1885-86 and Rs. 326 in 1884-85.

The management of these canals is in the hands of the District Committee, to whose funds all realizations are credited. The rate of ábiána charged is 8 annas per acre for flow and 4 annas per acre for jhalár irrigation, irrespective of the kind of crops grown. The hill torrent known as the "Deg" in tahsil Gugera, is said to have irrigated about 6,000 acres during the year under report. No ábiána is charged for this. The District Committee has just constructed a regulator on this channel at a cost of about Rs. 12,000, which, it is expected, will be of much benefit to the neighbouring villages.

Private canals. The only private canal of any note in the district is that of Muhammad Mehdi Khan, alluded to in last year's report. It irrigated in 1886-86 5,682 acres, viz., 3,910 acres of his own and 1,772 acres belonging to other villages.

Government estates.

Administration.—The system of grazing leases is still in force in the district.

Tirni.

The collections are made through the lambardárs, who receive 2 per cent. as remuneration.

The total demand in 1884-85 was Rs. 1,54,979. For the subsequent year the same demand was maintained.

From the gross demand the following deductions have to be made:—

	Rs.
Lambardári fees at 2 per cent.	2,945
Zaildári do. at 3 per cent.	4,796
(this has since been discontinued and will not be deducted for the future, <i>vide</i> Financial Commissioner's No. 154, dated 7th January 1885).	
Patwáris fees at 2 per cent.	2,945
Local rate at Rs. 7-10-6 per cent.	11,273
Share of Forest Department	31,361
Total	53,321

The net district demand therefore amounts to Rs. 1,01,658. Of this Rs. 58,940 were collected leaving a balance of Rs. 42,718. Of this Rs. 19,938 plus Rs. 7,804 (share of Forest Department) were remitted under the authority of the Financial Commissioner, and Rs. 22,780 are still outstanding.

Most of the defaulters have gone away to other districts with their cattle in search of fodder. On their return steps will be taken for the recovery of the amount.

It is not, however, anticipated that the whole of this outstanding balance will be realized, as there has been a succession of bad seasons which has reduced the cattle-owners to great straits, and it will therefore probably be found advisable in many instances to recommend the remission of the whole or some portion of the balance due. In addition to the collections above mentioned, Rs. 4,705 were realized on account of "Nauamad" fees, i.e., on account of the cattle belonging to other districts and of non-grazing villages found grazing in this district.

The figures under this head for the previous year are Rs. 14,663; the decrease this year is due to the entire failure of rains and want of grass in this district.

The following are the statistics regarding cattle for the year under report and three previous years:—

	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
She camels	16,450	16,190	16,735	16,735
He Camels	4,729	5,551	6,768	6,768
Buffaloes	31,711	31,759	32,027	32,027
Cows	1,19,146	1,21,973	1,27,442	1,27,442
Goats and Sheep	3,71,156	3,88,667	4,35,534	4,35,534

The area yielding tirmi or grazing dues and the net demand during the last four years are as follows:—

YEAR.	Area in acres under District and Forest Departments.	Jama after deducting cost of collections and expenses.	REMARKS.
		Rs.	
1882-83	2,219,858	1,23,631	The figures include the share of the Forest Department, which is divided between District and Forest Department, in proportion to the areas they manage.
1883-84	2,161,936	1,26,195	
1884-85	2,156,393	1,33,020	
1885-86	2,151,029	1,33,020	

See further remarks under subject 10 (b) of this report.

Rupees 1,400 were advanced for the purchase of seed grain, Rs. 2,100 for bullocks, and Rs. 30,000 for land improvement. These were the full amounts of the year's assignments. The number of applicants was respectively 102 and 86. The figures show an increase when compared with the items for the preceding year, which are:—

	No. of applicants.	Amount.
		Rs.
Purchase of seed grain ... ..	...	...
Do. bullocks	1	200
Land improvement	71	22,781

and is attributed to the failure of rains and river inundation, which induced agriculturists to endeavour to extend by means of artificial irrigation. Nineteen new wells were constructed, 13 old ones repaired, and 38 water-cuts were cleared and opened out. The works were inspected from time to time by Tahsildárs and Naib-Tahsildárs.

Of the special advances Rs. 3,000 were made to the Officer Commanding the Probynabad stud farm, the remaining Rs. 500 to agriculturists in tahsil Dipálpur. No difficulty is apprehended in the recovery of these advances within the periods they are due.

* * * *

One cause of delay in many Patwáris' circles in this district is the unnecessary amount of work occasioned by the preposterously large numbers into which the holdings are divided, and endeavours are now being made, in accordance with Financial Commissioner's Circular on the subject, to reduce unnecessary numbers. This forms part of the work in villages where special attestation is going on.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

LAHORE DISTRICT.

(W. O. CLARK, ESQUIRE.)

Balances.

Fiscal.—The uncollected balances at the end of the year are as follows:—

	Rs.
In train of liquidation	7,192
Doubtful and undetermined	2,296
Nominal	239

Of the first item, Rs. 2,239, being revenue for kharíf 1885, have been suspended (*vide* Financial Commissioner's No. 899, dated 8th February 1886) and Rs. 2,794 were realized in April 1886. There was a failure of the rains in the Sbarakpur tahsil, and as this was their third bad year it was necessary to give a suspension of the revenue. A further suspension will be necessary this rabi. The second item is on account of diluvion, the statement relating to which is being prepared. The amount will be written off on receipt of sanction.

The item No. 3 was on account of land taken up for Wan Rajbáha and exchange of Chak Bharat.

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Alluvion and dilu- The following table shows the extent of the gains and losses
vion. during the year as compared with the previous three years:—

1	2	3	4	5
YEAR.	ALLUVION.		DILUVION.	
	Area gained.	Additional Jama.	Area lost.	Reduction of Jama.
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
1882-83 ...	15,796	2,768	8,909	2,537
1883-84 ...	34,588	4,656	5,104	1,671
1884-85 ...	12,399	2,807	9,198	2,586
1885-86 ...	12,725	1,899	14,708	7,195

The increase (in columns 4 and 5) in the figures for 1885-86 as compared with last year is due to the action that has been taken with regard to the Rávi villages. It has been known for some time that some of the Rávi villages were too heavily assessed. Owing to smaller floods in the Rávi and to changes of courses of the river, lands which used to be sailáb have ceased to be so and have fallen out of cultivation.

This is more especially the case in the southern part of the district. Hitherto while land which has been brought under cultivation or by becoming sailáb has been brought under assessment, land which has ceased to be cultivated, owing to its ceasing to be sailáb, has not been exempted from assessment.

This year the alluvion and diluvion work was very carefully done, and the condition of the villages enquired into, and such land as had fallen out of cultivation owing to river action was free from revenue. The reduction of the revenue on the Rávi was Rs. 5,636.

The work was carefully supervised by the Tahsildárs, by Saiad Alam Shah, Extra Assistant Commissioner, and by myself.

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• **Irrigation.**—Canals are under the Irrigation Department. Comparative statement showing the area, demand, collections and balances on account of canal irrigation for the last two years is given below :—

DIVISION OF CANAL.	Area irrigated		Demand.		Collections.		Balances.	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bári Doáb Canal, 1st Division	18,313	28,392	43,720	64,798	43,720	64,694	...	104
Bári Doáb Canal, 2nd Division	160,077	215,402	3,61,447	4,52,934	3,49,343	4,29,127	12,104	23,807
INUNDATION CANALS.								
Katora	18,152	29,367	9,403	13,430	9,367	13,330	35	100
Khánwah	3,450	1,730	1,748	816	1,711	786	37	31
Sohág	2,016	2,898	1,009	1,413	966	1,337	43	76
TOTAL	202,008	277,789	4,17,327	5,33,391	4,05,106	5,09,273	12,220	24,118

The increase in the irrigated area is partly the result of new canal cuts. The following Rajbahás have been constructed during the year under report :—

- (1) Rajbáha Athilpur.
- (2) „ Nathuwála.
- (3) „ Rasulpur.
- (4) „ Kana.

Of Rs. 24,118, remaining unrealized at the close of the year, Rs. 11,621 were collected in April 1886 and the rest is in train of liquidation.

The following is the detail of the Government estates as at present held :—

	Acres.
Under Forest Department	220,893
Under Military Department	13,789
Under District control	30,138

The total income during the year amounted to Rs. 1,26,807 against Rs. 2,00,471 in 1884-85.

The falling-off in income during 1885-86 as compared with last year is due to more limited sales of fuel from Changa Manga and the other rakhs, and partly also to a considerable diminution of grazing revenue in consequence of the protracted season of drought. With a very trifling exception the whole of the tirni is under the management of the Forest Department.

The tirni is collected on the “amani” system. This system is unsatisfactory ; it comes hard on the people, and results in a number of small arrears of revenue which give trouble in collecting.

The District Forest Officer agrees in thinking the present system unsatisfactory, and the system of giving out the tirni on contract, or settling with the neighbouring villages for a sum equal to the average income is being considered.

Rakh management. The rakh area under the Forest Department is 2,20,893 acres.

Under District control	3,013
Under Military Department	13,789

The areas under district management is for the most part cultivated and held on annual leases.

The claims of many of the cultivators to the land in their cultivation are strong, the settlement of these claims has been under enquiry for several years. Some of them will probably be made proprietors, some given right of occupancy, and long leases given to others. Final proposals as regards certain selected rakhs have been submitted to Government for orders. When orders are passed on these the remainder of the rakhs can be dealt with on the principles approved by Government.

The final settlement of these claims is, however, a work of some magnitude and sufficient to occupy the whole time of an officer for some months.

A very considerable area of waste land has been disposed of in grants and leases during the course of the year.

In estimating the values of these grants and leases, perhaps the most important element is the consideration of the proportion of the grant or lease to which canal water will be supplied.

The canal authorities intimate that generally only one-fifth of such area will be supplied with canal water; this, however, is not, and probably cannot be, closely adhered to, and the consequence is that the value of a grant or lease turns out to be different from what it was supposed to be, and in every case Government loses by granting as unirrigated land what it might equally well grant as irrigated. I cannot see why Government should not act as any other prudent landlord would do in the matter.

Government owns certain lands and Government owns the canals. Before alienating any Government lands canal water should be brought to every possible acre of that land, and the land granted according to its full value as canal-irrigated land.

The condition in the leases of waste lands by which the lessee can purchase at five years' purchase of the maximum annual revenue and malikana, has had the effect of altogether altering the terms on which land is leased in this district.

In order to prevent the lessees from being able to buy the lands at a nominal price, the assessment of the revenue has had to be very much increased. I brought to notice two cases, in one of which the lessees could buy (subject to a revenue of 8 annas an acre,) for Rs. 3-2 an acre land worth Rs. 50 an acre; in the other the lessees could buy (subject to a revenue of Rs. 32) for Rs. 200, a plot of 42 ghumáos land worth from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000. The proportion of malikana or rent to revenue ($\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{4}{5}$) ordered (Rule 10, Punjab Government Notification No. 1179 S., dated 3rd September 1885), is very far from being in accordance with the proportion which private rents bear to revenue, private rents amounting generally to many times the amount of the revenue. The result is that, unless the land is practically to be given away to the lessee, the revenue on Government leased lands will be many times higher than the revenue on private lands.

Leasing of waste lands in this district is an unprofitable form of alienation.

The land once leased, as far as Government is concerned, is permanently alienated and much more favourable terms could be obtained by sale.

If Government would bring canal water to such rakhs as it is intended to alienate, and then sell them in suitable blocks by public auction, the rakhs would be disposed of on very profitable terms.

Such rakhs as are required for grants for fuel and fodder preserves and for grazing areas being reserved.

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Agricultural advances. The advances made for agricultural improvements amounted to Rs. 9,365.

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19 wells. Fifteen pakka wells were completed and 24 were in course
4 jhalars. of construction at the close of the year.
1 water-course.

The total amount due in 1885-86, being Rs. 5,894, was repaid to Government, and he outstanding balance not due at the close of the year was Rs. 43,390.

Fifty-three protective pattas were granted for construction of new wells against 59 in 1884-85.

* * * * *

Treasuries. The Treasury work has much increased. Work connected with payments of 14 Public Works Divisions, which used formerly to be performed by the Bank of Bengal, was transferred during the year to the Treasury.

It is very difficult for the limited Treasury establishment to keep pace with the work, and it is at a very great strain that punctuality is maintained. The proposition for additional establishment was submitted with No. 748, dated 27th November 1885, but has not yet been sanctioned.

* * * * *

Revenue business. The Tahsildárs of Lahore and Kasúr have large pending files of revenue executive cases. This is probably due to the Náib-Tahsildárs not having revenue powers.

Application for powers has been made for the Náib-Tahsildár of Lahore, and have now been granted. Powers were obtained after some correspondence for Arur Chand, Náib-Tahsildár, Kasúr. He has, however, been sent for settlement training to Gurdáspur and no permanent successor has yet been appointed.

The Tahsildárs will be called on to reduce their pending files.

* * * * *

Tours of officers. During my tours I was specially engaged on the following works—

- (1) Suspension of the revenue in Sharakpur tahsíl in the last-kharif and present rabi.
- (2) Reduction of revenue in the villages along the Rávi.
- (3) The settlement of the Lahore rakhs.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

(LIEUT.-COL. R. T. M. LANG.)

The advantages of this form of loan have, no doubt, not been hitherto sufficiently pressed upon the notice of the agriculturists of this district, but there is no doubt also that the failure of the agriculturists of this district to avail themselves of the advantages offered in the shape of takávi loans is attributable partly both to the comparative wealth and easy circumstances of the agricultural community of the district, and also to the slow increase of well-cultivated land in the district consequent on extension of canal irrigation, and on the difficulty of bringing several small plots belonging to different owners under irrigation of one well.

Fresh endeavours will, however, be made to induce the agriculturists to avail themselves of the advantages of takávi loan.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

(W. COLDSTREAM, ESQUIRE.)

Fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue.

The collections under the head of fluctuating and miscellaneous revenue show a decrease of Rs. 9,976. The items of increase and decrease are given in the following comparative table :—

	1884-85.	1885-86.	Net increase or decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Collections from fluctuating assessment ...	1,788	1,894	+ 106
" " Kham estates ...	114	28	— 86
" " lapsed and resumed máfis ...	19,100	12,831	— 6,269
" " water-advantage revenue ...	28,761	24,996	— 3,765
" " alluvion ...	1,511	1,644	+ 133
" " land sold ...	36	51	+ 15
" " other items ...	3,131	3,021	— 110

The subjoined comparative table shows the demand, collections and balances of revenue on land assessed at fluctuating rates :—

YEAR.	Demand.	Collection.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85 ...	2,098	1,788	310
1885-86 ...	2,277	1,894	383

The system of fluctuating assessment is, I believe, unpopular, except among those whose lands are very seriously deteriorated. But during the few months I have been in the district the matter has not come prominently before me.

At the end of December 1885 there was a large outstanding balance of Rs. 20,246, and I suggested that the rule by which lambardárs are allowed by the Canal Department to receive pachotra only if they collect the demand within three months of the papers leaving the Canal office, be applied in the case of water-advantage revenue also. The Commissioner has (*vide* No. 42, dated 1st February 1886,) approved of my suggestions, and I have accordingly issued orders to the lambardárs, and hope that the demand of water-advantage revenue will in future be realised with due punctuality.

Alluvion and dif-
vion.

The result of the action of the rivers in the district during the last three years is compared in the following statement :—

YEAR.	INCREASE.					DECREASE.				
	Increment.	Unculturable rendered culturable.	Productive power increased.	Total.	Revenue.	Actual abrasion.	Rendered unculturable by sand.	Productive power diminished.	Total.	Revenue.
1883-84 ...	Acres. 787	Acres. 1,174	Acres. 2,678	Acres. 4,639	Rs. 3,085	Acres. 211	Acres. 224	Acres. 53	Acres. 488	Rs. 210
1884-85 ...	2,456	1,762	2,550	6,768	2,785	950	1,869	435	3,254	1,495
1885-86 ...	1,840	1,418	2,986	6,244	3,064	457	1,004	247	1,709	771

It will be seen that the tendency of the river was towards gain of area with a corresponding net increase of Rs. 2,293 in the revenue.

The di-alluvion work in the district is very heavy and will always be a considerable part of the cold weather work. The insight which I have gained into the working of the di-alluvion operations followed in this district, shows that they have not always been carried on in accordance with the principles approved by Government; for I find that it has been the custom too often to assess banjār, or land recorded at Settlement, as culturable waste, a proceeding directly contrary to orders.

As remarked in Mr. Cust's di-alluvion circular of 1860, it is unfair to put the proprietors of riverain villages in a worse position as regards their culturable waste than their inland neighbours.

Canals. The area irrigated by the Bári Doáb Canal and the collections on account of water revenue are given in the following comparative table :—

				Area.	Collections.
				Acres.	Rs.
Rabi ...	...	...	1883-84 }	33,458	1,24,932
Kharif ...	...	...	1883-84 }		
Rabi ...	...	...	1884-85 }	28,925	1,09,975
Kharif ...	...	...	1884-85 }		

The above figures show that there has been a decrease in canal irrigation as compared with 1884-85. The decrease is no doubt at least in part due to the abundant falls of rain in the past cold season.

There are no large district or private canals in this district.

But there are in Pathámkot tahsil various cuts from the Rávi and its tributaries, some of them carrying a considerable volume of water. Some of them take off from the river within Jammu territory; and of recent years disputes have occurred as to the right of British zamindars to make new head works, and the supply of water has even been stopped with the countenance of Jammu officials. The effect has been disastrous as regards British villages. Suspensions have been sanctioned. The whole subject has been reported on by my predecessor, and a further report has been called for and is about to be submitted.

* * * * *

The amount of takávi granted during the year was Rs. 100 for constructing a well. Last year the amount advanced was Rs. 1,400, which included Rs. 250 for the purchase of bullocks.

As reported in former years, owing to the existence of the Bári Doáb Canal and of natural streams in the Pathámkot tahsil, there is not the same urgent and extensive demand for well irrigation as there is in many other districts.

Wards.

There are two estates under the Court of Wards in this district for the guardianship of the following persons :—

- I.—Fattehgarh Estate—Nand Lal, minor, adopted son of Diwán Narinjan Dás of Fattehgarh, a boy of about 9 years of age, under the guardianship of Narain Dás.
- II.—Kishenkot Estate Thákar Harkishen Singh (aged 20) and Thakar Mohan Chand (aged 13 or 14), grandsons of Rájá Sir Sahib Dial, K.C.S.I., under the guardianship of Tek Chand, Náib-Tahsildár.

The affairs of Thákar Harkishen Singh, involved and complicated as they are, partly by the peculiar circumstances of the family arrangements of the late Rájá, and partly by the misconduct and extravagance of the Ward before he was taken under guardianship, occupy much of the Deputy Commissioner's time, and give a great deal of trouble. The litigation in which the Thákar has been involved has, though expensive, had so far a successful issue. And it is hoped that with care and prudence the estate may in a few years be clear of debt, and the young man,—the representative of an honoured name, free to enter on a new career, unencumbered with the result of his folly, which, but for the protecting *ægis* of the State would assuredly have ere this involved him in shame and ruin. I see Thákar Harkishen Singh frequently and hope that he has learned some wisdom with dearly-bought experience, and that he really desires to strive now to conduct himself so as to become fitted to lead a useful life and properly fill the station in which his birth and circumstances have placed him.

Mohan Chand, his younger brother, is carrying on his studies in the District School at Gurdáspur, the Head Master of which has informed me that Mohan Chand's progress was very satisfactory during last year.

* * * * *

Tours of officers.

I spent 113 days in camp. Colonel Harcourt, who left at end of November, was in camp for 26 days in Pathámkot tahsil.

RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(COLONEL R. P. NISBET, C.I.E.)

Fiscal.—In the districts of Gujrat and Gujranwala the balances unrealized at the end of the year were rather heavy, viz., Gujrat Rs. 9,764 and Gujranwala Rs. 9,170. Mr. Perkins has explained the suspensions and remissions found to be necessary in these districts. In the Gujrat district the Financial Commissioner has sanctioned the reduction of the rent roll, as the progressive jamas fixed at settlement were found in some cases to be too severe.

Fixed land revenue. The total income credited to miscellaneous revenue was Rs. 59,394 as compared with Rs. 61,978 for the previous year. The decrease in the receipts of the Division occurs in the Shahpur district, where there was a falling off of Rs. 4,019 in the income from leases of rakhs, due partly to the introduction of the system of leasing as many rakhs as possible for a term of three years to zamindars of adjoining villages, who offer less than could be obtained if the leases were put up annually to public auction, though the policy as regards the zamindars themselves promises certainly to be beneficial.

Fluctuating and miscellaneous revenue. I should have liked to compare the results of alluvion and diluvion for the past four years as directed in Financial Commissioner's Circular No. 40 of 1885, but this is not possible, as the Rawalpindi statement is not yet in, and the Deputy Commissioner of Gujrat has not given necessary comparisons for his district.

The 10 per cent. system prevails in portions of the Division, but experience proves that it does not work satisfactorily.

The checking of the papers seems to have been very carefully done this year, though in some districts the work was commenced later than usual.

Administration.—I give below the comparisons of the number of *dastaks* issued in the districts of the Division during the past two years:—

DISTRICT.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Sialkot	1	1,110
Gujrat	2,301	3,445
Gujranwala	828	1,755
Shahpur	826	1,085
Jhelum	1,089	905
Rawalpindi	2,686	3,035
Total	8,731	11,355

The great increase in the number of warrants issued in the Gujrat and Gujranwala districts may partly be accounted for by the fact that malguzars were backward in paying the revenue owing to inferior harvests. But the fact that the Tahsildar of Hafizabad issued 800 warrants is the subject of special enquiry.

Settlements.—The new assessments of the revised settlement of the Rawalpindi district will take effect from the kharif of 1885-86, and will give a very large increase to the rent roll. In nearly every estate enhancement of jama has been taken, and very watchful care for some years will be necessary to see that in a district where cultivation is wholly dependent on rain irrigation the large increase in the revenue demand works without hardship. While there was no doubt great scope for increase of revenue, I think frequent suspensions of such increase may have to be given in a district where the rainfall is unusually capricious and the succession of good seasons seldom occurs.

Collections. There was great laxity in collections in the Shahpur district. It had become the fashion there for men to pay when they chose. I found several of the wealthiest men, whose lands were irrigated by canal or sailab, had been allowed to abstain from even commencing to pay the revenue till two and half months after the date fixed. These were mostly Mussalman Pirs, and men of religious influence. I directed that any Tahsildar giving occasion for such animadversion again

should be reported to the Financial Commissioner for suspension, and the Deputy Commissioner was asked to dismiss lambardárs who were shown to have been in the habit of delaying payments. Cases of this nature were to be found by the dozen in the district. The revenue remaining in balance sometimes came to a lakh for each kist. The payments for last kharff have been very different, but the subject must be watched.

In the Gujranwála district there have been very large suspensions owing to calamity of season. These have been reported to the Financial Commissioner, and were, in fact suggested by Colonel Wace himself on his visit to the district. I think in many cases the suspensions were made unnecessarily, from mere evasiveness. Such cases were noted in my orders on the statements, and prompt realization was directed. Small suspensions have also been made for a few months only in the Kharián tahsíl.

Reductions of fixed assessment were granted by the Financial Commissioner in three villages of the Siálkot district and four in Gujrat owing to over-assessment, chiefly by reason of injudicious progressive jamas, and consequent decay of villages. Nearly all such pending cases have been disposed of now. My tour this year has not brought any fresh ones to light, notwithstanding severe seasons, save two or three in Gujrat, which are under enquiry.

In the Ráwalpindi district a very large addition to the state income has arisen from new assessments. I have had but three appeals against these within time. Of these two were dismissed and one is pending. A few others were filed after limitation had barred them; but I am persuaded that the new assessments have been very humane, and in the hills decidedly light, much lighter than the people expected.

* * * * *

Land acquisitions in the Ráwalpindi district for forest expropriation had previously ceased. During the year the Railway has taken a few acres close to Pindi, and the only other extensive acquisitions were in the districts of Jhelum and Shahpur. Kazi Ali Ahmad was appointed as Special Extra Assistant Commissioner for the purpose of compensations in these districts, and by the end of the year, after nearly four months' work, had nearly finished his task, so far as these two districts were concerned, preparatory to his advance into the Derajat Division. I have not heard any complaints against his assessments, nor have I any fault to find with his work, save that I think it was unnecessarily slow.

* * * * *

Administration.—Certain sums due under these in the Gujranwála district had to be suspended, and some of these will probably be found to be irrecoverable owing to the wholesale departure of cattle from the district, leaving the lessees without an appreciable income. The usual correspondence has gone on with the Financial Commissioner about one and another lease of rakh land to grantees. They are often very unreasonable in their demands and cause an immense amount of needless work.

Leases of rakh lands. In all my inspections I pay great attention to these. In many tahsils I have found there has been much neglect to keep an eye on the way in which takávi has been spent. In many cases there was no register of inspections at all, and no one could tell me if the work had been built for which the advance was made. In one instance the Sadr Ahl-i-mad had given twenty years for the repayment of a loan of fifty rupees. In others loans for seed and cattle had been made repayable in ten years instead of five, and the subject generally did not seem to enjoy the attention which it deserved. It causes trouble to the Tahsildárs to give advances; in some examples I found several thousand rupees had been given to a knot of pushing men in one village, while an entire tahsíl had only had two or three hundred rupees in two or three years. This was specially observed in Jhelum.

Agricultural advances. There has been a great deal of litigation under this Act, particularly in the districts of Siálkot, Gujrat and Ráwalpindi. In the last the settlement of course has stimulated the demand of higher rents by proprietors, and also the claim to be recorded as occupancy tenant of lands now added by an old occupancy tenant to his old holding, as well as fresh claims. I am not able to assign any reason for the extra litigation in the other two districts, save that the increasing value of land naturally leads proprietors to evict their tenants if they can get the land for themselves. From both these districts the appeals have numbered scores. From Gujranwála there have been a few; from Jhelum and Shahpur scarcely a single one. The projected reform of the Act makes it unnecessary to comment upon the usual mistakes in cases tried under it.

* * * * *

Tenancy Act. I made a tour of fifty days through the districts of Ráwalpindi, Jhelum and Shahpur, visiting every tahsíl in them save Kahuta. This was before Christmas. After Christmas I was out for thirty-five days in Siálkot, Gujrat and Gujranwála, and visited every tahsíl in them save Hafzabad and Phalia, which I was prevented from seeing by an unusual flood of rain reducing the country to such a state that I could not move for many days.

Tours.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

GUJRAT DISTRICT.

(R. CLARKE, ESQUIRE.)

Fiscal.—The most noticeable feature is the balance of Rs. 9,764, which was outstanding at the close of the year. That there should be a large outstanding balance was, however, inevitable, having regard to the unfavorable conditions that marked both the harvests of the year under report.

The agricultural sections of the Revenue report having been excised under the instructions contained, in Financial Commissioner's Circular No. 38C of 1885, it is necessary to mention here, in explanation of this balance, that the rabi of 1885 was seriously injured by the untimely rains of April and May, and that the kharif was a total failure owing to the absence of the monsoon rains. Great distress prevailed, especially as regards fodder for cattle, and I set my face against undue harshness in collecting the kharif demand, giving time where it was asked for and believed to be necessary.

In this I was cordially supported by the Commissioner, Mr. Perkins, who marched through the district and was convinced even to a greater extent than myself of the necessity for leniency. Of the total balance of Rs. 9,764, Rs. 2,639 were suspended under the more or less formal sanction of the Commissioner, and of the balance, Rs. 5,534 have been collected up to date, leaving an insignificant balance of Rs. 489 in train of liquidation and not covered by suspension order.

The 10 per cent. rule is in force throughout the district. My experience both alluvion and dila- here and elsewhere is that the rule is not satisfactory unless it is vion. worked with great judgment by the Deputy Commissioner and his subordinates. I personally attested the di-alluvion work this year in three-fourths of the district, and I cannot say that the condition of the villages was by any means satisfactory.

Some I reported for reduction of assessment, and in others it may be hereafter necessary to do so.

It was fortunate that before the river work was completed this year Colonel Wace's letter No. 4301 of 17th June 1885 was received in which the principles that should guide officers in assessing new river land were laid down. I had this letter translated and circulated to all Revenue officers, and the instructions were carefully followed in the operations of the year under report.

* * * * *

Administrative.—Rupees 9,000 were given as against Rs. 6,000 in the previous year. Had more money been available more could have been advanced with advantage.

Agricultural advances. The demand for these advances is mostly in the Phalia tahsil and the Tahsildar, Raja Imam Ali Khan, deserves much of the credit for their popularity. Notwithstanding the unfavorable nature of the season, it is a subject of congratulation that only Rs. 10 were in balance at the end of the year.

Wells were covered by protective pattas.

* * * * *

Tenancy cases. In only five cases was rent enhanced; 422 notices to eject were issued, and in 167 cases ejectment was resorted to. These figures are insignificant having regard to the number of tenants in the district.

* * * * *

Revenue buildings. **Miscellaneous.**—There was nothing done during the year. The kutchery accommodation is entirely inadequate.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

GUJRANWALA DISTRICT.

(H. W. STEEL, ESQUIRE.)

Fiscal.—Of the total demand, amounting to Rs. 5,13,257 for 1885-86, Rs. 5,04,087 were collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 9,170 at the close of the year.

There was some difficulty in collecting the revenue of kharif harvest in parganas Kamoke, Naushahra and Nokbar of tahsil Gujranwala which were dependent on rain. The villages in tahsil Wazirabad, which are nearly all "charkhari mahals," or on the banks of the Chenab, did not suffer except a few villages in pargana Ramnagar; but both the Tahsildars collected all the Government revenue that was due before the close of the year.

In the Hafizabad tahsil the distress was severe and collections made with some difficulty, especially in the south part of the tahsil in which Rs. 6,175 were suspended in 47 villages.

I personally inspected the villages in tahsíl Hafizábád, and after making a careful enquiry in each case sent in my report for postponement of Government demand, which has been sanctioned by the Commissioner.

Alluvion and diluvion. The chak system is in force here. The following is the result of the last three years :—

					Increase.	Decrease.
1882-83	...	...	...	...	481	779
1883-84	...	...	...	...	320	687
1884-85	...	...	...	...	585	309
Average three years	...	...	...	...	427	592
1885-86	...	...	...	...	180	708

The net loss of Government during the year is Rs. 528.

The general tendency of the river Chenáb continues towards the east, but this should be checked with Gujrat and Shahpur returns.

The testing of alluvion and diluvion measurements of Wazirábád tahsíl was entrusted to Nasir Ali Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner and Assistant Revenue Officer of the district while that of tahsíl Hafizábád to Rái Narain Dás, M.A., Extra Assistant Commissioner. Both officers have scrutinized and tested the measurements and assessments carefully. The Sadr Kánúngo was with Nasir Ali Khan and the Girdáwar Kánúngo with Rái Narain Dás. Alluvion occurred in 27 chaks and diluvion in 107.

There was a balance of Rs. 25,942 outstanding at the close of the year on account of rakhs under the Forest Department. Of this amount Rs. 581 are on account of previous years. In consequence of the severe losses sustained by the lessees during the year under report it was proposed by me to postpone the realization of Rs. 12,700 of the rakh income from some of the grazier contractors; but my recommendations were not approved by the Commissioner, and steps are therefore being taken to realize the outstandings.

* * * * *
Four hundred and eighty-eight notices of ejectment were served under Section 23 of the Tenancy Act, XXVIII of 1868. In pursuance of above the tenants were ejected from 917 acres of land. There were 48 applications for assistance to eject under Section 26.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

SIALKOT DISTRICT.

(MAJOR A. S. ROBERTS.)

* * * * *
Fiscal.—The collections have been highly satisfactory, as only a comparatively small balance of Rs. 925 remained outstanding at the close of the year.

Causes of increase and decrease of fixed land revenue. The increase in the rent roll over the figures for 1884-85. is due to causes noted below :—

	Rs.
(1) By lapses and resumptions of revenue free-lands...	1,179
(2) By alluvion	4,845
(3) By progressive jama	36
(4) By miscellaneous causes	77
Total ...	6,137

from which the following decrease has to be deducted, viz. :—

(1) By grants of land revenue free	14
(2) By diluvion	1,783
(3) By errors in kistbandi	30
Total ...	1,827

leaving the net increase Rs. 4,310 as mentioned in para. 2.

The table below furnishes particulars of increases and decreases during the year under report compared with the figures for the three years previous :—

Alluvion and diluvion.

YEARS.	ALLUVION.					DILUVION.	
	Area gained in acres.	Jama on such area.	Area re-assessed at enhanced rates.	Jama on such area.	Total increase in jama.	Area removed from assessment.	Reduction of Jama.
1882-83	1,522	Rs. 501	3,846	Rs. 2,134	Rs. 2,635	1,225	Rs. 1,027
1883-84	2,534	845	8,734	3,832	4,677	687	443
1884-85	3,760	1,680	8,714	3,322	5,002	1,949	1,820
1885-86	1,764	615	2,025	2,254	2,869	3,456	1,320

Two cases mentioned in the report last year as being under enquiry, and in which it was found that the patwáris had omitted to take certain lands into account and bring them on to the rent roll, were decided during the year. In one of these a newly appointed patwári brought to notice fraudulent and negligent conduct on the part of his predecessor, who died before the case was brought to light. The lambardár of the village was found to be equally in fault in this case, and was fined and sentenced to imprisonment and made to pay up back dues. In the second case the patwári alone was proved to be in fault and dismissed.

* * * * *

Administrative.—The amount allotted to this district for such advances for the year under report was Rs. 8,500 for land improvement and Rs. 1,000 for purchase of seed grain and bullocks.

Advances were made under the former head to the extent of Rs. 7,050, while under the latter the loans given amounted in all to Rs. 660.

At the close of 1884-85, 28 wells were in course of construction, and the loans granted during the year were given to allow of 43 others being sunk.

The reports of the Tahsildárs, by whom these works are periodically inspected, show that, at the close of March 1886, 19 wells out of the total number of 71 were entirely completed, 16 were nearing completion, and the work on nine others was more than half finished, while on 21, work had only just been commenced. In five cases the money advanced had to be recovered (with interest to date of recovery), on proof of the money borrowed having been misapplied, and in the one remaining case the zamíndár of his own will refunded the sum taken.

One hundred and eleven notices were served of ejectments under Section 23, affecting 238 acres of land, while 32 suits were brought to contest liability to ejectment under section 25; of which 19 were decided in favour of landlords and 13 in favour of tenants and affecting an area of 1,843,438 acres. Thirty-four applications were made for assistance to eject (under Section 26.)

Tenants without right of occupancy.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

SHAHPUR DISTRICT.

(M. L. DAMES, ESQUIRE.)

* * * * *

Irrigation.—The canals under the Irrigation Department in the Shahpur district are Station Canal, the two (old and new) Sahiwál Canals and Macnabbwáh; they all run in tahsíl Shāhpur.

The area irrigated by them in the year under report was 15,729 acres against 14,553 in the previous year. The assessment for the two years was Rs. 31,843 and Rs. 29,317 respectively.

The realizations on account of water rates during 1885-86, which comprised Rs. 6,681 on account of demand for that year, and Rs. 17,979 balance of the previous year, amounted to Rs. 24,660, leaving a balance of Rs. 25,162 on account of the year under report, which will be realized in the current year.

The expenditure on account of repairs, which includes also pay of establishment, debitable to this head, amounted to Rs. 9,260, and a sum of Rs. 885 was paid to lambardárs and patwáris on account of their percentage on account of canal revenue collected.

The Raniwáh is a provincial canal; it runs in tahsíl Bhera. The area irrigated by this canal in 1885-86 was 14,901 acres against 15,232 in 1884-85. The assessment, realizations and balances for the two years are as follow :—

			Assessment.	Realizations.	Balances.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85	...	...	37,387	37,123	23,034
1885-86	...	...	36,601	32,064	27,601

The realizations for 1885-86 include Rs. 23,034 on account of the previous year, and a sum Rs. 27,572, on account of the year under report, will be realized in 1886-87.

The total expenditure on account of Raniwáh for 1885-86 is detailed thus :—

			Rs.
Pay of establishment	...	...	2,070
Repairs	...	...	8,623
Percentage paid to lambardárs and patwáris	...	...	1,475
Total	...	...	12,168

The other district canal is Corbynwáh. It is maintained from District Funds. It runs in tahsíl Khushab. The area irrigated by this canal in 1885-86 was 1,708 acres against 1,441 in 1884-85; assessments Rs. 1,613 against Rs. 1,357; realizations Rs. 1,462 against Rs. 488.

The expenditure on account of repairs and pay of establishment amounted to Rs. 1,298.

The area irrigated from private canals in 1885-86 was 31,474 acres against 24,840 acres in the previous year.

The total area of Government waste land in the district is 845,659 acres, out of which 50,746 acres are leased for cultivation, 276,779 acres are under the Forest Department, and 518,134 acres are under Deputy Commissioner's management.

The demand on account of tirni in 1885-86 was Rs. 24,679, of which Rs. 23,133 was collected and Rs. 56 remitted on account of rakh Miáni, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,490. A sum of Rs. 620 outstanding from 1884-85 was also collected in 1885-86.

The demand on account of tirni for three years previous to 1885-86 was as follows :—

					Rs.
1882-83	...	...	...	...	23,638
1883-84	...	...	...	...	23,089
1884-85	...	...	...	...	25,925

The following establishment is kept in the different tahsils to look after Government interest in rakhs kept under direct management :—

Tahsíl Shahpur	...	...	...	2 chaprasis.
Do. Khusháb	...	...	...	7 Do.
Do. Bhera	...	...	...	2 Do.

One Moharrir on Rs. 15 per mensem is employed at sadr to keep rakh accounts.

The total income from all sources on account of waste lands under Deputy Commissioner, as entered in column 10 of Statement No. IX, was Rs. 37,822.

The rakh area held on cultivating leases in 1885-86 was 50,746 acres, which yielded an income of Rs. 14,838.

Administration.—Rupees 9,500 were allotted to this district for advances under the Land Improvement Act, and Rs. 500 for advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. Out of the former sum Rs. 7,480 was advanced and out of the latter a sum of Rs. 483 was advanced in 1885-86. The system of taking takávi advances is becoming very popular here.

No difficulty whatever is felt in the recovery of takávi advances, as sufficient property is in every case hypothecated to Government as security for refund of such advances.

In one case the recipient of an advance did not utilize it for the purpose for which it was made and the full amount has been ordered to be refunded to Government.

As Government seems so liberal in extending the system of takávi I hope the zamindárs of the Salt Range in this district will take advantage of the present opportunity to provide irrigation for their lands by forming tanks by means of embankments or bands, which have been shown by Mr. R. Maconachie to be so useful in the hilly parts of the Delhi district. Irrigation by this means is already carried on to some extent in the part of this district above alluded to.

The existing bands vary from 330 to 110 feet in length and 11 to 6 feet in height; the breadth at the base is usually 18 to 12 feet, gradually reducing to 6 feet only at the top.

The longest band in the Salt Range measures 43,566 cubic feet, the smallest-5,940 cubic feet, their cost being Rs. 250 and Rs. 35 respectively. They are generally made of earthwork. Large ones are sometimes made with a stone wall in front of the earthwork, which adds much to the strength of the work.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

JHELUM DISTRICT.

(LIEUT.-COL. C. McNEILE.)

Fiscal.—The following tabular form will show the alluvion and diluvion financial results of the year under report compared with those of the preceding three years :—

YEAR.	Assessed on alluvion.	Loss by diluvion.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1882-83 ...	2,524	3,613	...	1,089
1883-84 ...	1,385	1,638	...	253
1884-85 ...	2,330	1,970	360	...
1885-86 ...	1,801	3,826	...	2,025
Total ...	8,040	11,047	360	*3,367 ²

* Net decrease Rs. 3,007.

The loss by decrement in 1885-86 was heavy, as the tendency of the river was unfavorable, causing a loss of 4,147 acres by encroachments. The increase and decrease of revenue caused by river action during the year 1885-86 have been incorporated in the rent-roll for 1886-87.

Two thousand one hundred and fourteen acres 1 rood and 20 poles of land were taken up by the Railway Department for Sind-Sagar State Railway, for Land acquisition. 1,977 acres 1 rood, 20 poles of which Rs. 60,491 were paid as compensation, and the balance of 137 acres, valued at Rs. 3,722-8-0, has not been paid for owing to the parties not being satisfied with the rate of compensation fixed by Qāzi Ali Ahmad, Extra Assistant Commissioner on special duty. The files, consisting of seven cases, have been sent to the Divisional Court for final orders.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

(S. S. THORBURN, Esquire.)

Fiscal.—During the year takāvi advances amounting to Rs. 16,455 have been granted, Agricultural advances chiefly for the construction of bands in the Gujar Khan tahsil. The detail of advances is as follows :—

- (1) For new wells Rs. 2,830
- (2) For bands „ 13,475†
- (3) Repairs of wells „ 150

† Of which Rs. 12,050 were for Gujar Khan tahsil alone.

When on tour in Gujar Khan tahsil I made special inquiries into the large amount advanced for the construction of bands, and will in future be chary in making more advances for that purpose in that tahsil. I was not convinced that the moneys advanced had been all spent on construction. I have for the future insisted on applicant's indebtedness being reported on before sanctioning any advance.

Five new wells and 35 bands have been constructed.

It was found necessary to recover advances made for the construction of four wells and two bands in full at once, as in spite of time allowed the works were not put in hand.

PESHAWAR DIVISION.

EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(COLONEL W. G. WATERFIELD, C.S.I.)

The estate of Sultán Muhammad Khan of Bir in Hazára is prospering and had a balance of Rs. 17,696 to its credit on the 31st March 1886. Too much of this is invested in Government paper, and the Deputy Commissioner has been directed to invest in land by purchase and mortgage whenever possible. The income was Rs. 3,270 and the outlay Rs. 2,231. The Ward is being educated in the District School at Abottabad, but the Deputy Commissioner suggests that he should be sent to the Lahore Wards' School on the opening of that institution, and no doubt he should be sent to Lahore for education.

Wards.

The district reports give details of tours performed by Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants, which show that a satisfactory amount of marching has been performed during the year under report.

Tours of officers.

In April the Commissioner personally accompanied His Highness the Amir of Afghánistan to Ráwalpindi and on his return conducted him through the Khyber. From June to October the Commissioner was on tour through all the tahsils of the Hazára district and in December visited the Kohát district. Of the three Deputy Commissioners in charge of the three districts of this division Mr. Tucker in Pesháwar and Mr. Fryer in Hazára are accomplished Settlement and Revenue Officers, whilst Mr. Udny in Kohát has all the ability and powers of such that could be desired. All three district reports are good; the Hazára report is especially careful.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

HAZARA DISTRICT.

(F. FRYER, ESQUIRE.)

Fiscal.—In this district there has never been any great difficulty in collecting the land revenue demand except in times of scarcity, and as a rule all but doubtful or undetermined and irrecoverable items are collected.

Forests.—A new draft Forest Regulation has been submitted for orders under correspondence ending with this office No. 566 of 29th October 1885 to address of Commissioner. The whole subject of village forests is in an unsettled state, as many of the villagers did approve of the demarcation by Mr. Elton Forrest, Deputy Conservator of Forests, which was mentioned last year. The whole subject was gone into by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor when he visited the district in March 1885, and finally it was considered advisable to frame a new Forest Regulation, on which orders have not yet been passed. In the meanwhile Regulation II of 1879 is in force, but the demarcation, under section 10 of the Regulation, though it has been made, remains in abeyance.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

PESHAWAR DISTRICT.

(GEORGE TUCKER, ESQUIRE.)

Fiscal.—The total demand for the year was Rs. 6,94,078 against Rs. 6,88,084 for 1884-85, or an increase of Rs. 5,994. This increase is mainly on account of alluvion in 1883-84 and resurreptions of revenue-free lands.

Demand.

The collections amounted to Rs. 6,62,391, or somewhat less than last year, when they amounted to Rs. 6,72,392. There has been considerable difficulty in collecting the revenue in the western or irrigated portion of the district, owing to the rabi crop of 1885 having been ruined by excessive and continued rain. The rain not only spoiled the crops when they were ripening, but rotted the

Collection.

grain while threshing was going on. In consequence of the damage by rain and flood the following remissions and suspensions were allowed under the orders of the Financial Commissioner :—

	No. of Villages.	Remission.	Suspension.
		Rs.	Rs.
Pesháwar	12	4,240	...
"	7	1,109	...
Nanshera	9	1,313	...
Doába	8	...	1,174
Total ... ..	...	6,662	1,174

Balances.

The balances at the end of the year were as follows :—

	Rs.
Year under report...	30,183
Balances for former years ...	13,057
Total	43,240

against Rs. 31,767 outstanding at the end of 1884-85.

Excluding nominal balances, amounting to Rs. 9,409, and doubtful balances, amounting to Rs. 1,784, the actual balances to be recovered amount to Rs. 32,047, or much the same as the recoverable balances outstanding at the end of 1884-85, which stood at Rs. 31,231.

The balances for the year under report are as follows :—

	Rs.
In train of liquidation	19,316
Doubtful	1,784
Nominal	9,083
Total	30,183

Rs. 1,784 (doubtful) is on account of alluvion and diluvion for the present year, 1885-86.

The nominal balances are as follows :—

	Rs.
Remissions detailed above	6,662
Alluvion and diluvion for 1884-85, sanctioned by Financial Commissioner's No. 685 of 27th August 1885 ...	1,374
New máfi of Rs. 1,000 to Mir Hasan Khan of Tangi and one or two other new máfis	1,047
Total	9,083

The recoverable balance of Rs. 19,316 is distributed as follows between the different tahsils :—

	Villages.	Amount.
		Rs.
Pesháwar	108	10,853
Nanshera	11	899
Doába Dáudzai	43	3,518
Hashtnagar	20	3,540
Mardán	4	498
Utman Bolák	1	2
Total ... ..	...	19,316

The balances in Pesháwar tahsil are mainly owing to the bad rabi harvest. Rs. 13,000, unrecovered from the rabi demand, were added to the kharif demand; and though the kharif harvest was generally good, still it was found impossible to recover even the full kharif demand from the more impoverished villages. In some villages, like Sháhi Bala, the people have suffered owing to the failure of irrigation and other causes. But many of the villages where there are heavy balances are, as far as the crops are concerned, very well-to-do. The owners, however, have got into debt, either through extravagant habits or on account of excessive expenditure in criminal and civil cases.

Ahmed Yár Khan, who officiated as Tahsildár for three months during the winter, made great efforts to get in the balances. But a considerable amount has still remained over, which will, I hope, be realised when the rabi crop, which promises well, comes into the market. Prices of wheat are at present higher than they have been of late, and agricultural prospects in consequence much improved. The price of wheat on 1st May 1886 was 21 seers against 26 seers on 1st May 1885, English weight. The balances in Doába, Dáudzai and Hashtnagar are owing to the same causes as in Pesháwar.

In May 1885 the Jehángirabad aqueduct, which takes the water of the Shikh-ke-Katta across the Bára River, fell in owing to the unsatisfactory state of its foundations. This jeopardised the revenue of several villages on the other side which were dependent on it for irrigation. Munshi Husen Bakhsh, Extra Assistant Commissioner, managed to get it repaired for Rs. 1,200 in time to allow of the Indian corn crop being sown. This Rs. 1,200 was first granted as takávi, but the advance was repaid from savings in the Canal Fine Fund. Munshi Husen Bakhsh's energy in this matter saved the Government the necessity for large remissions of revenue. A few years ago a portion of this aqueduct fell in and necessitated a reduction of Rs. 6,149 in the revenue of the villages dependent on it. It was afterwards repaired at the cost of the District Committee. The Local Government refused to repay the District Committee the amount expended. The repairs

effected by Husen Bakhsh were of a temporary character and the aqueduct fell in again during the Bára floods at the end of March. The money, however, was well spent and has saved Government Rs. 6,000, and the zamíndárs probably two or three times that amount. The work of repair is now more difficult, as the gap is now much wider than before. I am doubtful whether the aqueduct will be repaired in time to allow of kharif cultivation. At present nothing can be done, as the Bára has been in flood for the last five weeks. Unless the aqueduct is repaired in time large remissions of revenue will become necessary for the year now commencing.

The recoverable balances for former years on 1st April 1886 amounted to Rs. 12,731 against Rs. 16,357 at the end of 1884-85. The balances for 1884-85 were Rs. 14,874, making a total of Rs. 31,231 to be realised this year on account of former years. Of this Rs. 18,191 has been recovered. The detail of the balances still outstanding is as follows:—

	Rs.
Pesháwar	11,323
Hashtnagar	1,408
Total	12,731

The bulk of these balances are on account of 1883-84, when large suspensions were granted on account of the failure of the kharif crop.

The demand under head of fluctuating and miscellaneous revenue for 1884-85 was Rs. 22,353. Of this Rs. 14,641 was realised and Rs. 26 was remitted, leaving Rs. 7,686. The demand for 1885-86 was Rs. 21,735, including the outstanding balances from the former year. Of this Rs. 8,182 has been realised and Rs. 1,552 has been remitted, leaving Rs. 12,001 still to be realised. Of this balance Rs. 978 is for former years and Rs. 11,023 on account of the year under report. The bulk of these balances are on account of lapsed and resumed máfis. In many cases the máfis were not resumed till some years after the death of the grantee, and there is difficulty in recovering such arrears.

The amount to be recovered under this head (resumed máfis), including former balances, was Rs. 16,392. Of this Rs. 1,130 was struck off as irrecoverable, and Rs. 5,108 was realised, leaving Rs. 10,154. Of this Rs. 1,737 is a single item which is being recovered from Khwája Muhammed Khan of Hoti by instalments, as sanctioned by Financial Commissioner's No. 309 of 16th September 1885.

The detail of the balances under other heads, amounting to Rs. 1,847, is as follows:—

	Rs.
Alluvion	1,700
Progressive jama	100
Talabána	26
Lease of water-mill	21
As regards the arrears under head of alluvion, the balance from last year was	3,230
Demand for current year	821
Total	4,051
Remitted to villages of Zakhi and Khuni by Financial Commissioner's No. 685 of 27th August 1885	396
Realised during year	1,955
Balance	1,700

The Rs. 100 on account of progressive jama is for Mouzah Shahi Bála, which is in difficulties with its former revenue.

The other heads do not call for remarks.

* * * * *
Eight hundred and twenty-five acres have been taken up for Government during the year at a cost of Rs. 31,366.

The detail is as follows:—

	Acres.	Rs.
Swát Canal	24	157
P. N. S. Railway	12	3,575
Ditto	1	69
Guides' Rakh	786	27,442
Political Officer's Quarters at Burj Hari Singh	1	122

The compensation in every case was fixed by the Collector's award, except in the case of the 12 acres taken up for the Railway. In this case the land was taken up some years ago. The owner refused to accept the compensation offered, which was all that was eventually allowed him by the District Judge.

Seventeen cases connected with the acquisition of land for the branches of the Swát River Canal are pending. The question as to whether the owners are entitled to compensation or not is still undecided. Mr. King, Assistant Commissioner, at the beginning of 1885 was specially appointed to look after the revenue work connected with the canal. He was almost immediately transferred and not replaced. The only English Assistant competent to deal with this class of work was removed at the same time, and I have not had time to dispose of this matter. A claim for compensation for the land taken up for the new Utmán Bolák tahsil three years ago is still pending.

Orders have been issued for the acquisition of land for the Cherat Cantonment and for the Pabbi-Cherat road, and the assessment of compensation is now being taken in hand.

Revenue assignments.

The increase under this head, Rs. 1,114, is as follows :—

	Rs.
Máfi to Mir Husen Khan of Tangi	1,000
Arsala Khan of Bája	21
Muhammad Ali of Badber	11
Increase to máfi lands by alluvion	82
Total	1,114

The decrease, Rs. 3,593, is as follows :—

	Rs.
Lapsed máfis for 2nd half year of 1884-85, sanctioned by Financial Commissioner's No. 4117 of 9th June 1885	1,325
Lapsed máfis for 1st half year of 1885-86, sanctioned by Financial Commissioner's No. 874 of 23rd December 1885	2,159
Decrease owing to diluvion	109
Total	3,593

The máfi work in this district has always been more or less in confusion owing to the enormous number of máfidárs and to the unnecessarily complicated character of many of the grants. Efforts have been made to clear off arrears, but cases are constantly coming up which should have been reported and disposed of years ago. It is quite a common thing for the máfidár to have died while máfi inquiries were going on at settlement and years before the máfi was ever sanctioned.

There has never been any general register of revenue-free tenures in the district. This has now been taken in hand by the Superintendent, Manak Rái. At present there are large numbers of máfis not shown in any register and the orders regarding which are scattered about in old correspondence.

Irrigation.—The Swát River Canal was opened during the year under report and has irrigated a certain area for the kharif and a larger area for the rabi harvest. The water rate will be collected direct by the Canal Officer. The canal will not affect the land revenue of the district during the currency of the existing settlement.

District canals.

The district canals consist of a multitude of water-cuts, mostly very small. They are supervised by the following establishment :—

Mirabs	3
Naib-Mirabs	8
Chaprasis, 1st grade	6
Do. 2nd grade	35
Moharrirs	2

The pay of these during the year amounted to Rs. 5,652, which was paid from the Mirab cess.

Munshi Husen Bakhsh, Extra Assistant Commissioner, has taken great interest in the management of the water arrangements. As already mentioned, he succeeded in repairing the Jehangirabad aqueduct at a very critical time. The country on the other side of the Bára, irrigated by the Shekh-ke-Katta, which passes over this aqueduct, received more water than usual and a good deal of new land was brought under cultivation.

Munshi Husen Bakhsh has also excavated a new cutting from the Bára for the irrigation of some of the villages of the Naushera tahsil lying near Akbarpura.

He has also made a new head for the Barozái water-cut, which irrigates the Upper Khalil country. This head is close to where the Kábul River issues from the hills and great things are expected of it, as it will not only increase the water-supply for lands already irrigated, but will bring water on to part of the Maira land, which stretches between Spir Sang and Paniám Dheri and the Málagori Hills.

Administration.—Nine hundred and forty-four warrants were issued for the realisation of land revenue against 805 last year. In numerous instances warrants were issued for attachment of moveable property. In these cases property so attached was sold. Twenty-two defaulters were imprisoned for short periods up to 10 days.

Tirni.

There is only one rakh under the Forest Department and which is utterly neglected.

Rupees 2,520 was advanced during the year in takávi for agricultural improvements.

Advances.

This is somewhat less than last year. No advances were made for purchase of seed-grain and bullocks.

The amount advanced was as follows :—

For wells—	
In Kupur Dheri	Rs. 1,000
In Musalzái	320
	1,320
For the Jehangirabad Tarnab	Rs. 1,200

This last item was repaid out of the Canal Fine Fund, as I found that there were funds available.

The outstanding balances at the end of the year, principal and interest, amounted to Rs. 1,942 against Rs. 1,929 last year.

The balances for the present year are distributed as follows:—

	Rs.
Nowshera	404
Pesháwar	660
Mardán	163
Utmán Bolák	167
Dáudzái	548
Total	1,942

Of this Rs. 697 has since been recovered.

The Deputy Commissioner was in camp for 93 days. He spent three weeks in September in visiting the Mardán and Utmán Bolák tahsils.

In November he spent nearly a month in the Dáudzái, Hashtnagar and Mardán tahsils. During most of January he was detained in the Mardán tahsil by Boner complications. In February he visited the Nowshera tahsil. These were his principal tours.

The Assistant Commissioner, Mardán, was in camp for 75 days.

Munshi Hosein Bakhsh, Revenue Extra Assistant, was in camp for 131 days.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

KOHAT DISTRICT.

(R. UDNY, Esquire.)

* * * * *
Fiscal.—The following table compares the income for the year under report and the three preceding years:—

	Income by enumeration. Rs.	Income by lease. Rs.
1882-83	906	450
1883-84	2,389	450
1884-85	1,814	450
1885-86	3,074	450

The large increase is due to the comparatively large number of Ghilzai graziers coming down this season into the Meranzái Valley.

The crown lands of the district are held on lease by various influential men for the amount of the recoverable assessment which is included in the rent roll. No income on this account is credited to miscellaneous revenue. No leases of waste lands were granted during the year.

The alluvion and diluvion in this district is confined to the villages on the banks of Kohát Toi. The total area lost since the close of the settlement operations was 105 acres, assessed at Rs. 293, and the total increase by alluvion is 60 acres, assessed at Rs. 135. The following table compares the previous returns:—

	DECREASE.		INCREASE.	
	Area.	Amount. Rs.	Area.	Amount. Rs.
In previous years since close of Settlement in 1877 ...	68	132	26	53
1884-85 ...	36	50	22	62
1885-86 ...	41	111	12	23
Total ...	145	293	60	137
Net decrease ...	85	156	...	...

This large decrease in 1885-86 is due to the extraordinary heavy rains in May 1885.

There have been no large lapses or new grants of revenue assignments during the year under report. For some years past the Tahsildárs of Kohát and Hangu had not been at all punctual in reporting lapses of revenue assignments for orders. This was specially reported upon during the year, vide correspondence ending with Commissioner's No. 5142, dated 22nd October 1885.

The attention of these officers was specially drawn during the year under report to this important part of their duty. The work is now well up to date.

Irrigation.—There are no canals in this district. The Kohát Toi and the Kohát and Samilzái springs had an unusually large supply of water during the hot weather owing to the abnormal rains in April and May, and there was no scarcity at any time, though the extraordinary supply led to a large area being put under rice which had not been the case for many years past.

Administrative.—Grazing dues are levied in the Borakka Hills and the Miranzái tracts by enumeration of all cattle and sheep belonging to Ghilzáis and Wazirs who resort to these tracts for grazing purposes.

The Khujal Khel Wazirs do not pay by enumeration, but in the shape of a fixed sum of Rs. 700 per annum as lease money.

Of this Rs. 250 is deducted on account of percentage to Maliks, &c., and the balance Rs. 450, is credited to Government. There has been no change in the system of levying these grazing dues during the year under report.

The Khwárta and Zera jungles, covering an area of 72,981 acres, are the joint property of the villagers and the Government. The income is realised by sale of wood, grass, charcoal, and by fees on grazing cattle.

The following table compares the income of the year under report with the previous return :—

						Rs.
Average from 1872-73 to 1880-81	...	...	...	...	...	2,983
" " 1881-82	...	...	...	...	...	3,597
" " 1882-83	...	...	...	...	...	4,286
" " 1883-84	...	...	...	...	...	9,077
" " 1884-85	...	...	...	...	...	9,532
" " 1885-86	...	...	...	...	...	20,802

From the above table it would appear that the income from these jungles since the extension of the North-West Railway to Kushálgarh and Pesháwar has gradually increased to the present very large amount of Rs. 20,800, which is more than double the receipts of the previous year. This is the result of the introduction of the enhanced rates sanctioned in the enclosure of Financial Commissioner's No. 7910, dated 27th October 1884, which were brought into force with effect from December 1884.

Notwithstanding that the rates of the duty charged were doubled under the orders above quoted, the quantity of wood sold shows an increase over the sale under the old rates.

I have been in camp for about one and a half months in this part of the district during the past camping season, and the measures I propose for introduction to preserve these forests (based on the report of Mr. Carr, Assistant Conservator, who visited the tract last November, and on the present inspection I have now made myself) will form the subject of a special report to be submitted shortly.

Agricultural advances. Rupees 2,000 (the whole amount allotted to the district) was advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act for the following works :—

	<i>Embankments.</i>	<i>Acqueducts.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
Kohát tahsíl	1,100	500
Hangu tahsíl	...	400

No allotment was granted under the Northern India Takávi Act, XII of 1884, for the purchase of seed grains and bullocks.

Of the demand Rs. 2,175, principal, Rs. 670, interest, Rs. 1,578 and Rs. 478 were recovered, leaving a balance of Rs. 597, principal, and Rs. 192, interest, which, it is hoped, will be recovered during the current year. Rupees 60, principal, and Rs. 17, interest, was recovered and credited during the year out of an outstanding advance not yet due.

Settlement.—Everything is finished that can be done pending the receipt of Government orders on the total assessment of the whole Bárák country, the assessment report of which was drawn up by Mr. Tucker, Deputy Commissioner, Pesháwar (late Deputy Commissioner, Kohát,) in May 1885 and submitted to the Commissioner with a memorandum of my own in August. When these are received it will only remain to distribute the whole assessment sanctioned for the tract over the different villages, and in each village to make the internal "bachh."

Parcha books have also been copied out for every village, and completed, as far as possible; though in them, as in the village "khwat," the amount of revenue cannot be filled in till the assessments have been announced and distributed both among the various villages and in each village internally.

DERAJAT DIVISION.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(LIEUT.-COLONEL E. L. OMMANNEY.)

* * * * *

In Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan the collections are made without difficulty. In Dera Gházi Khan and Muzaffargarh it is apparently not so easy to get in the revenue, judging by the large outstanding balance in the former districts, and the instances in which headmen abscond, and coercive measures are adopted more frequently and are greater in number in these than in the other two districts.

The balance for the year under report in Bannu is almost entirely due to the suspension of revenue applied for on account of the village of Van Bachrán in the Mianwali Sub-division. This village is in a very impoverished state and it is not likely that this sum will be realized.

In Dera Ismail Khan also a large portion of the balance is due to revenue suspended in the villages of Darakki, Abezár, Gházi and Khaibar in the north-west corner of the district. These estates are in a bad way owing to want of sufficient irrigation from the Soheyli torrent. This revenue will probably have in the end to be remitted. The village of Darakki besides suffered severely from cholera imported by the Powindahs; in November and December 153 deaths occurred.

Of the balances of former years almost all, with the exception of two small items, is in train of liquidation and nominal, the former the larger amount.

This system is in force in the riverain tracts of Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Muzaffargarh, and also in the Daman Trans-Indus of Dera Ismail Khan irrigable by hill torrents. It has been fully described in former reports. It is popular and has saved the riverain villages of Bhakkar and Leia which were much indebted, and in the same way the Deputy Commissioner of Muzaffargarh remarks that it has been the salvation of the three villages transferred to the fluctuating rent roll in 1884.

In the Daman the benefit of the system has been weakened by the imposition of a fixed revenue of one-fourth of what would be the full assessment. If a village has bad seasons the payment of this one-fourth is a serious addition to the other expenses of living till better times come round again.

The total income of the district with Settlement Officer's forecast shows how fairly successful the scheme has been financially, bearing in mind the remarks of the Financial Commissioner on the Dera Ismail Khan Settlement report in para. 27 that the Settlement measurements somewhat exaggerated the real area of cultivation.

DISTRICT.	Settlement Officer's forecast.	REVENUE.		Difference + or — with reference to Settlement Officer's forecast.	Difference + or — as to pre- vious year.
		1884-85.	1885-86.		
Bannu*	89,293	90,123	89,135	— 158	— 998
Dera Ismail Khan {	Daman A †	61,344	18,561	— 29,931	+ 12,852
	Riverain B ‡	1,78,625	1,61,347	— 7,567	+ 9,711
Total of A & B, Dera Ismail Khan	2,39,969	1,79,908	2,02,471	— 37,498	+ 22,563
Muzaffargarh	1,68,131	1,68,459	1,77,148	+ 9,071	+ 8,689

* The assessment in 1877-78.					
† Dera tahsil	...	...	...	...	Ra. 47,304
Kulachi tahsil	...	...	...	...	14,040
					61,344
‡ Dera tahsil	...	...	...	...	24,601
Kulachi	...	...	...	...	2,664
Bhakkar	...	...	...	...	82,626
Leiah	...	...	...	...	68,734
					1,78,625
Inclusive of jagirs	...	...	...	...	22,569

It would be a boon to the people and an improvement on the present system if the fluctuating assessment was extended to the riverain tracts of the Dera Gházi Khan dis-

tract. Some might not care to change, but probably the majority would gladly do so; they did not understand the arrangement at settlement and thought it would be harassing.

It would facilitate comparison and the testing of the annual work of the Tahsildárs if the results by tahsils were noted by the Deputy Commissioners in their reports.

The riverain tracts of Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan show a steady and decided improvement. In Muzaffargarh the gain is most marked.

* * * * *

Alluvion and diluvion.

In Dera Gházi Khan the system of alluvion and diluvion is in force, but seems to be rather complicated and troublesome. The fixed assessment of the portion of an estate not affected by the river remains unaltered. Allowance is made for lands diluviated, and lands alluviated pay at the prevailing rates. Old lands that have become impoverished and unculturable and new lands that subsequently fall out of cultivation are not allowed for. Some of the people who now understand the fluctuating assessment system would much prefer it to the present method, and it would be an improvement, fairer to the land-holders and simpler for the officials to work. In Muzaffargarh the system applies to only a few estates on the fixed rentroll.

* * * * *

Irrigation.—It would be a great boon and apparently to the interest of the Government financially and administratively, to extend canal irrigation to the Rojhán tract in the south of the district of Dera Gházi Khan; the revenue would be increased and the Mazári clan would become more settled, making their control easier for their Tumandár.

In Muzaffargarh the new canal rules were sanctioned by Government by correspondence marginally noted,* and are described as having worked well. The irrigated area, however, has fallen from 225,782 acres to 212,154 in the present year, a decrease of 13,628 acres. The Deputy Commissioner is not able to give as yet a decided opinion as to the cause of this.

* * * * *

In Bannu, besides what may be called inundation canals in the riverain tracts where old river channels are utilized for irrigation, there are those which may be styled district canals taken out of the Kurram river, the principal of which are the Kachkote channel in the Bannu tahsil and the Kas Umar Khan in the Isakheyl tahsil, and those taken from the perennial streams and hill torrents on the western border, Maidan range, in Isakheyl tahsil and the east of Miánwáli.

The people understand the system of irrigation worked out by themselves of old. It was recorded at the settlement, and an establishment under the Deputy Commissioner sees that it is worked properly and arranges for improvements. There is no friction so far, and no doubt, wherever practicable, irrigation is extended. The Deputy Commissioner does not give any details of area irrigated by these two canals or by the other smaller channels and distributaries from perennial streams and torrents; it is remarked that the area irrigated by these two canals and the revenue collected thereon were nearly the same as in the previous year. It would be useful to know for comparison from year to year the irrigated area of the year from all district canals and distributaries above noted; for instance, the Wiziris and Bannuchis take off water from the left, or north, bank of the Kurram and irrigate a considerable area, but this is not shown.

* * * * *

The only private canal is the one constructed by Abdul Rahim Khan, Ráis of Isakheyl. He received an advance of Rs. 5,000, of which Rs. 1,250 up to date has been repaid. The irrigated area is the same as last year,—1,335 acres. The work is carried along for a considerable distance at the base of the low hills dipping into the Kurram and exposed in places to the full force of the stream, and must require constant and careful attention and considerable expense to maintain.

Financial Commissioner's No. 4226, dated 13th June 1885, to Commissioner, forwarded.

Bands in the Delhi district. Copy of a letter from the Punjab Government, No. 171, dated 3rd idem, together with copies of a Memo. by Mr. J. R. Maconachie on the bands in the Delhi District, with certain related correspondence for communication to the Deputy Commissioners of the Frontier Districts, where similar works are possible, and for discussion of the question personally with the district officers, and to state the conclusions arrived at in the Revenue Report. The correspondence was circulated to the Deputy Commissioner. Before this the question of utilizing flood waters had from time to time come up as regards the Bannu District. The Dera Ismail Khan Deputy Commissioner had only lately come to the district, and the Deputy Commissioner, Dera Gházi Khan, was not in the district when I marched through. It escaped me to personally consult the Deputy Commissioner, Bannu, but the omission does not signify, as he has recorded the necessity of a professional officer to consider and carry out irrigation questions.

My conclusions are that the people on the Frontier are exceedingly clever in the way they manage to utilize, control and distribute water wherever available. They thoroughly understand the construction of embankments, dams and terracing, and the reclaiming of broken ground by silt-bearing water. Large tracts of country under the hills is like a net work of embanked fields which catch and distribute the flood waters from the hills in

the most practical manner. In very few places could ravines be closed for the formation of tanks in those issuing out of and close to the hills. The work would probably be soon either rendered useless by the deposit of silt or be swept away by the violence of the floods; such has been the fate of one or two attempts in the Bannu district. The people have little to learn in this matter of utilizing water, the management of which has become, it may be said, an inherited talent. What is required is the association of different communities, some unfriendly to each other, to carry out a work that would be beneficial to all; this can only be done by the personal influence and persistent endeavour of the District officer with a special liking for work of this kind; but, as noted above, there are few places where such works could be constructed.

Agricultural advances.

The largest amount of advances were taken by the districts as ranged thus—Dera Gházi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu.

During the year Dera Gházi Khan advanced Rs. 12,210 and up to the end of the previous year had advanced Rs. 90,650 and Rs. 318 for seed grain. It was believed that these works had been regularly inspected, but on going through the tahsil inspection at Dera Gházi Khan, in which the largest amount of advances have been given, no notes of any inspection having been made could be found. The Deputy Commissioner has been addressed on this subject and a special report has been called for in a case for remission of takávi balance from this district. The proceedings showed that the advance had been misapplied by the grantee for the payment of revenue and private expenditure. The case is pending.

In Muzaffargarh the special report on this subject has been forwarded to the Financial Commissioner under cover of this office No. 463, dated 4th May 1886. During the year Rs. 3,931 were advanced under the Land Improvement Act alone; 112 wells, and 10 indigo vats were completed, and inspection has been regularly maintained under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner.

The registers in the tahsils relating to these advances are not correctly kept as a rule. Notes of inspections should be made in the remark column of register of applications, but this is not done.

Tours of officers.

On the 17th November I went into camp, marching by Darya Khan up the Indus left bank through Miánwali, then crossing at Kálabagh through Isakheyil and Marwat, to Bannu, returning to head-quarters on the 19th December. On the 6th January I proceeded down the left bank of the Indus through the Muzaffargarh district to the end, crossing the Indus at Dhakka into the Rájanpur sub-division of the Dera Gházi Khan district; then down south to Shahwali; thence back again up the left bank as far as Pibbi, when bad weather making the roads impassable the Indus was crossed to Leiah, and Dera Ismail Khan was reached on the 30th March.

I regret having omitted specifically to note that Lieutenant-Colonel Nisbet, when officiating for me during the cold weather of 1884-85, went through the four districts inspecting all the tahsils except Alipur, Jampur and Rájanpur; it was incidentally mentioned under treasuries that he had inspected the four at head-quarters.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

BANNU DISTRICT.

(LIEUT.-COLONEL E. R. CONOLLY.)

Fiscal.—Of the demand Rs. 3,28,200 has been collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,909 uncollected. This latter sum is made up of the following items:—

	Rs.
Suspension applied for on account of failure of crops and reduced state of village Van Bachran	3,876
Remissions sanctioned	28
Loss by diluvion, do.	5
	<hr/>
	3,909

There is hope of the first item being realized provided the state of the village is improved by abundant rain for next kharif harvest.

No difficulties have been experienced in collecting during the year under report.

There is no balance of former years remaining uncollected. The collection of balance of the former year due from the Wazirs of the Bannu tahsil, amounting to Rs. 1,338, and the demand of the year under report before their emigration to their summer quarters is due to the exertion of Lála Bhoja Rám, Officiating Tahsildár, who has worked well in the matter.

Fluctuating land revenue.

Fluctuating assessments in kachha lands in bed of Indus.

Instructions laid down in Financial Commissioner's Book Circular No. XIV of 1879 have been strictly observed.

The assessment for the year under report was made on the result arrived at after the measurement of the culturable and grazing areas of both Isakheyl and Miánwali tahsils under the supervision of Gulám Muhammad Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner in charge of Miánwali Sub-division, at the rates mentioned in para. 204 of the Settlement Report of the district.

There has been an increase of Rs. 1,863 in the amount of assessment during the year under report to that of the preceding year, and of Rs. 19,482 to that announced in 1879-80 by the settlement. The above comparative figures show that the amount of assessment is increasing annually; this is due to the introduction of the system of irrigation by means of embankments.

The system of fluctuating assessment works well and is popular with the people.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN DISTRICT.

(G. M. OGILVIE, ESQUIRE.)

Fixed land revenue demand. Collections and balances. follows :—

Fiscal.—The fixed land revenue demand was Rs. 1,73,064 being Rs. 256 more than in the preceding year. The total balances of the year under report amount to Rs. 5,133, made up as follows :—

Doubtful—Rs. 2,342. This is on account of suspensions duly sanctioned in four villages, Darakki, Abzar, Gházi and Khaibar. These villages are situated in a cluster in the north-east corner of the Tánk tahsíl, and are dependent for irrigation on the Soheli hill stream. The amount of advantage derived from irrigation which would be enjoyed by these villages seems to have been over-estimated at settlement, and the villages have been in difficulties for some years. It is probable that a permanent revision of the assessment will become necessary.

The "pradu" lands of the Gundapur Circle, and the lands of the Bhattanni Circle have been under direct management since settlement; and the lands of the Ustrán Circle were taken under direct management at the last kharif. The income of these lands in the past year is shown as fluctuating revenue in column 6 of Statement III. The detail is as follows :—

	Rs.
Gundapur pradu lands	15,340 ^o
Bhattanni lands	8,683
Ustrána lands (kharif instalment)	2,016
Total	26,039

The fluctuations in the income of the Gundapur lands in past years have been remarkable. The year under report was a bad agricultural year in this particular tract; for after suffering at first from drought, it was subsequently deprived of irrigation by the bursting of the dams in the hill streams which command this part of the country, caused by excessive and untimely floods. The effects of these accidents of season will become more apparent when the income of the current year comes to be realized. The rabi of the past year was dependent on the irrigation of the previous year which was good. The chief loss was on the kharif.

The total decrease of income as compared with the preceding year was Rs. 3,670 distributed as follows :—

	Rs.
Gundapur Circle	2,095
Bhattanni „	1,575

The income, however, although smaller than that of the preceding year, does not contrast unfavourably with the Settlement Officer's forecast, which was :—

	Rs.
Gundapur Circle	13,479
Bhattanni „	7,667
Total	21,146

whereas the income of the past year has been—

	Rs.
Gundapur Circle	15,340
Bhattanni „	8,683
Total	24,023

The income of the Ustrána lands for the kharíf harvest was more than double the fixed demand :—

Income	Rs. 2,016
Fixed demand	959
Excess of income over fixed demand	1,057

This subject will be noticed below under Khám estates.

Two classes of irrigated lands are under fluctuating assessment in this district: (a) the lands irrigated by hill streams (called the Dáman), and (b) the alluvial lands of the Indus (called Kachi or Nisheb).

The item of Rs. 2,02,471 in column 9 of the statement is the total income of these two classes. The following table shows the income of the year under report compared with that of the preceding year :—

YEAR.	Dáman.	Kachi.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85 ...	18,561	1,61,347	1,79,908
1885-86 ...	31,413	1,71,058	2,02,471
Increase ...	12,852	9,711	22,563

Under the system of assessment in these tracts the influence of the character of a season is shown in the assessments for the ensuing year; and it will consequently be understood that the increase was due to the favorable irrigation in 1884-85. The effect of deficient irrigation in the Dáman during the year under report will become apparent in the assessments for the current year.

* * * * *

Tirni.

Tirni in this district is of three kinds :—

- (1) Fees levied on cattle of Powindahs at the passes. This income is shown in column 13.
- (2) Leases of grazing dues in rakhs.
- (3) Camel tirni, cis-Indus.

The following comparative table of the income from Powindah tirni in five years is valuable as showing the increase in the number of cattle belonging to these tribes after the close of the Afghan war :—

YEAR.	NO. OF CATTLE.		INCOME.		
	Camels.	Sheep and Goats.	Dera share.	Bannu and Muzaffargarh share.	Total.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1881-82 ...	45,603	97,847	21,375	2,217	23,592
1882-83 ...	47,007	92,990	21,885	2,217	24,102
1883-84 ...	55,415	1,15,949	26,524	2,217	28,741
1884-85 ...	63,179	1,13,650	30,824	2,217	33,041
1885-86 ...	62,804	1,70,857	31,130	2,217	33,347

The increase of Rs. 539 under grazing leases was caused by competition amongst purchasers and does not call for further remark.

* * * * *

In the winter of the year under review land was acquired for the Sind-Sagar State Railway in tahsils Bhakkar and Leiah, under Notifications No. 3914, dated 24th October, and No. 4422, dated 21st November 1885. The plans and schedules were not received from the Railway Department until the month of December; and, as seems usually to occur in the construction of State Railways, the Department commenced work before it was possible for the revenue authorities to take proceedings for payment of compensation. It was represented that much financial inconvenience would result if the compensation were not paid before the end of the financial year; and although the time available seemed too short for the efficient performance of the work, no effort was spared to complete it. The assessment of just rates of compensation on lands, and appraisal of damages caused directly and indirectly to property by the

construction of a new line of Railway is not an easy task, or one which can be hastily got over; but by making strenuous exertions it was successfully completed before the close of the financial year. Munshi Gunga Rám, the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Bhakkar, worked with energy and discretion; and he was efficiently assisted by Abdulla Khan, the Tahsildár of Leiah. The result was that the requisite measurements and inquiries were completed with much expedition; the rates of compensation by villages and holdings were fixed and accepted by the persons concerned; and I was enabled to make the awards and to pay the compensation in cash for the whole of the Leiah tahsíl, at Leiah in the middle of March. In the Bhakkar tahsíl proceedings were comparatively easy, as the line runs almost entirely through uncultivated "thal" lands. But by a clause in the village administration papers Government has the right to take up land in the thal for a public purpose without payment of compensation. I may note that the point is capable of argument, but I cannot enter into the subject more fully in the present report. Eventually I found myself obliged to decide that Government was not bound to pay compensation on uncultivated thal lands in the Bhakkar tahsíl; and compensation was assessed and paid for cultivated plots only. A special report on this subject will be submitted separately. The following are some statistics of these proceedings.

The total area of land acquired in the Leiah tahsíl was 1,573 acres. This was 110 acres in excess of the amount shown in the notification. The error has been admitted by the Railway Department and will be rectified. The total compensation paid for land, including the additional percentage payable under the Act, was Rs. 19,612. Compensation for damages direct and indirect, caused by the construction of the line, was assessed at Rs. 6,198. The total compensation paid under both heads was therefore Rs. 25,810. This gives the average rate per acre, taking the price of the land separately, as Rs. 12-7-6; and if the sum paid as damages be included, as Rs. 16-6-6. A large part of the lands acquired in this tahsíl were either cultivated and irrigated or culturable fallow land. There was also a considerable quantity of waste; and as the rate paid for this class of land was only Rs. 4 per acre, the tahsíl average was much lower than it would have been had no such land been included. The rates for cultivated lands varied from Rs. 100 per acre for the best lands in Leiah to as low as Rs. 24 in certain villages. Rupees 14 per acre was the rate generally given for fallows. The quality of the lands in each village and in each revenue assessment circle was carefully considered, and varying rates fixed. These rates were, as a rule, freely and cheerfully accepted by the zamíndárs. In a few cases, as might be expected, certain individuals of more litigious character than the majority would protest against the rates which had been accepted by the others. These persons were at once given to understand that the cases of their particular holdings would be reserved for the decision of the Civil Court; but not in one single case did any such reference become necessary. The law and rules have wisely given to the Collector the power of paying the amount of the award on the spot. The consequence is that it is very rarely that a zamíndár can resist a fair offer when he sees the cash before him, and knows that it is his to take then and there without delay or trouble or feeling of small officials.

In tahsíl Bhakkar, as above explained, compensation was paid for cultivated plots only; and the average tahsíl rate was for that reason higher than in Leiah, and was (including damages) Rs. 28-5-0 per acre. The total amount of land to be acquired in the Bhakkar tahsíl under the notifications was 2,323 acres. Compensation was paid on cultivated plots amounting in extent to 71 acres only. The amount of compensation paid for land was Rs. 1,846; and for damages Rs. 154. The total compensation paid in this tahsíl was consequently Rs. 1,998 (annas and pies excluded).

In column 29 of the statement the area is shown which was acquired without payment in this tahsíl as above explained. The total amount of compensation paid in both tahsíls was Rs. 27,808.

* * * * *

Irrigation.—The system of irrigation from hill streams, both perennial and temporary, has been generally described in former reports, though there is still a good deal in the way of detail which remains to be noticed. I cannot, however, with such information as I at present possess, undertake this task on the present occasion. The accompanying statement is an estimate prepared by the Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioner from personal knowledge and office memoranda, showing the extent of irrigation in each revenue circle which is affected by the action of hill torrents; and I have every reason to think that it is very fairly accurate. It will be noted that the Gundapur Circle in Kuláchi, which is mostly Khám tahsíl, has received scarcely any irrigation for the present rabi; and the irrigation in the Takwára Circle and three Luni Circles of the Dera tahsíl has been very scanty. The action of the hill streams was excessively irregular during the year under report. Untimely floods broke many bands in March and April 1885; and during the rainy season, when irrigation is specially needed, the floods were altogether deficient. In the early spring of the present year the floods were again violent and destructive, and the well-known Paiwal and Sarkari bands were swept away in February.

Statement showing the estimated area in round figures watered by hill-torrent streams.

TAHSIL.	Assessment Circle.	Area watered in kharif.	Area watered in rabi.	REMARKS.
Tánk ...	Kundi ...	8,000	9,400	This circle gets its water-supply from Soheli and Takwára streams.
Kuláchi...	Gundapur ...	17,400	8,200	This circle was scarcely watered.
	Zárkanni ...	50	20	The irrigation was on an average.
	Mián Khyel ...	8,100	3,400	Do. do.
	Babar ...	9,000	3,000	Do. do.
	Ustrána ...	7,200	4,000	The irrigation was better than that of last year.
	Dáulatwála ...	3,100	900	Do. do. do.
	Vahoa ...	19,000	13,500	Do. do. do. on average.
Dera ...	Gumal Takwára...	17,600	5,500	The irrigation was below the average.
	Luni Awal ...	7,100	700	The irrigation is poor owing to the failure of hill torrents.
	Luni Doyum ...	3,200	600	Most of the villages of this circle were entirely left without irrigation.
	Luni Gudwa ...	12,700	2,500	With the exception of six villages the irrigation has been very small.
	Pahárpur... ..	400	300	Was on an average.
	Miran	6,100	2,600	Do.
	Paniála	5,400	16,000	Do.

Administrative.—The management of the Gundapur and Bhattanni lands, which have been Khám tahsil since settlement, continued satisfactory during the year under report.

The following table gives the statistics of cultivation in these circles:—

CIRCLE.	AREA UNDER CROPS.		GROSS DEMAND.		RATE PER ACRE ON CULTIVATION.	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Gundapur ...	19,941	15,187	24,676	21,878	1 3 10	1 7 1
Bhattanni ...	4,014	4,344	10,257	8,783	2 8 10	2 0 4

The increase and decrease in the rate per acre are dependent on the quality of the yield. The Ustrána Circle was taken under direct management during the year. The Government share of the produce in this circle is only one-tenth; but, as above noted (under Fiscal), the collections for the kharif amounted to more than double the fixed demand. This fact shows that this circle was carefully managed, and no loss or waste allowed to occur. The Tahsildár of Kuláchi, Shaikh Rahim Bakhsh, deserves credit for this. The circle was taken under direct management at the request of the chiefs themselves; but a change of feeling has lately taken place in the tribe, and the proprietors begin to see how very light the Government revenue really is, and to regret their former laziness and contumaciousness. It may be possible hereafter to release a part or the whole of the circle from direct management, when the proprietors succeed in thoroughly satisfying the Collector that they will give no trouble in future, and their revenue will be paid punctually; but no steps should be taken in that direction hastily, or until the proprietors have had ample time and opportunity to contrast one system with the other in all their details.

Government estates.

The total area is made up as follows:—

	Acres.
(1) Large rakhs in the thal	7,00,714
(2) Rakhs in riverain lands, cis-Indus	2,046
(3) Trans-Indus rakhs (under direct management)	1,14,013
(4) Plots in different localities... ..	1,747
Total	8,18,525

Agricultural advances.

The allotments for the year were—

	Rs.
Land improvement	8,800
Purchase of seed and bullocks	280

Rupees 2,300 only were advanced out of the allotment for land improvements. Only Rs. 300 had been advanced previous to my assumption of charge at the end of November. When my attention was directed to the subject I succeeded with some difficulty in advancing Rs. 2,000 before the close of the financial year. The balance of the allotment could not by any exertions be expended within the year.

Thirty-nine new pattas were granted during the year, of which 34 were for new wells and five for old wells repaired. These wells were all in the cis-Indus part of the district.

Protective pattas.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

(M. L. DAMES, ESQUIRE.)

Fiscal.—The system in force in this district is to take up every case of alluvion or diluvion separately, the revenue being reduced for eroded or ruined canals and assessed on lands newly formed by alluvion, these assessments varying from year to year with the improvement or deterioration of the soil.

During the year under report 30,338 acres accrued by alluvion, on which Rs. 5,583 was assessed. On 6,090 acres out of this area an enhanced assessment of Rs. 1,882 was placed, making the total assessment Rs. 7,465.

The area lost by diluvion was 40,846 acres, and the consequent reduction in revenue Rs. 11,398.

Thus the total loss of revenue on the alluvion and diluvion operations is Rs. 3,933, and the total loss of area 10,506 acres.

The general tendency of the Indus has been for years past to cut to the westward, and through a great part of the district there has been a considerable decrease of area, the Muzaffargarh district gaining proportionately; but in the southern portion of the district facing the Bahawalpore State there is not the same loss, as increments on the left bank of the river there remain included within the limits of the Dera Gházi Khan district.

The figures for the past five years are as follows—

							Area, gain or loss acres.
1880-81	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 2,822
1881-82	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 6,057
1882-83	...	...	...	...	...	...	- 12,175
1883-84	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 4,920
1884-85	...	...	...	...	...	...	- 11,427
							Decrease ... 9,803
1885-86	...	...	...	...	Decrease	...	10,506
Total loss in 6 years							20,309

							Assessment, gain or loss.
							Rs.
1881-82	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 1,782
1881-82	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 1,984
1882-83	...	...	...	...	...	...	- 3,387
1883-84	...	...	...	...	...	...	- 3,476
1884-85	...	...	...	...	...	...	- 2,858
							Decrease ... 5,954
Decrease in 1885-86	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,933
Total decrease in 6 years							9,887

The measurements in the Dera Gházi Khan, Sanghar and Jampur tahsils were made by Ghulám Farid Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner, and those in Rájanpur by Mr. Donald, Extra Assistant Commissioner, in charge of the sub-division.

Irrigation.—The canal revenue consists of (1) a fixed half clearance charge collected in addition to the land revenue. This amounts to Rs. 54,000 per annum; (2) revenue derived from canal-irrigated land, assigned as a matter of account to the Canal Department. This is made up of (a) two-thirds of the revenue of *cháhi náhri* lands, i.e., of the lands irrigated by both wells and canals; and (b) the whole of the revenue of *banjári* lands, i.e., those irrigated by canals only.

These two items amount to Rs. 1,42,137 for the year under report.

Government estates. Government estates in the district consist of 71 rakhs, 2,76,043 acres in area, distributed in the tahsils as follows:—

Sangarh	14
Dera Gházi Khan	14
Jánpur	8
Rájanpur	35

Of these, 64 containing 257,843 acres, are under the management of the Deputy Commissioner.

Seven rakhs, containing 19,000 acres, are under the Forest Department.

Of the area under direct management 35,698 acres are cultivated, being an increase of 1,673 acres over the preceding year.

The income was Rs. 7,525, made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Grazing-dues	3,136
Sale of wood	4,116
Revenue of cultivated land assessed by measurement	273

The income in the preceding year was Rs. 6,848, the increase being Rs. 677. No proprietary rights have been acquired by lessees.

There were no sales under the waste land rules, nor alienations of Government land.

• Tirni. The demands and realizations under this head are given in para. 10.

The increase in the camel enumeration collections is accounted for by the fact that a large number of camels were first enumerated during the year under report. The system in force is that a tax of Re. 1 is assessed on every adult camel, i.e., on all camels which are three years old and upwards. The two-year-old camels of the preceding year should therefore be brought on the list every year; but this was not done as it should have been in 1883-84 and 1884-85. In the year under report all the camels that should have been brought on the list in the two part years were included, which accounts for the sudden large increase.

Wood and rakh management. The area under direct management, inclusive of lands leased for cultivation and those under the Forest Department, is 221,345 acres.

The establishment is—	Rs.
1 Darogha on	30
1 Náib-Darogha (in charge of Rájanpur Rakh)	15
23 Forest Rangers at Rs. 5 each	115

The rakhs in the territory occupied by the Mazáris in the Rájanpur Sub-division are under the management of Nawáb Imám Bukhsh Khán, who receives one-half of the income as his remuneration.

Wood is abundant in the Rájanpur rakhs, but not in those of the Dera Gházi Khan and Sangarh tahsils, where the demand is much greater. The demand has been greatly increased by the establishment of the steamer *Bías* at the Kureshi ferry.

Wood is sold at the following rates—

Four annas per camel-load.
Two " " bullock-load.
One " " donkey-load.

The income from sales during the year under report was Rs. 4,116.

Wood required for the steamer is paid for at Rs. 8 per 100 cubic feet.

Leases of rakh lands. Out of the area of 35,698 acres under cultivation 1,674 acres are leased under the rules for leasing waste land, under the sanction of the Commissioner and Financial Commissioner. These leases are granted till the expiry of settlement on condition of cultivation. In no case has the proprietary right been acquired by the lessee.

Agricultural advances. The assignment for the year under report was Rs. 47,600, but only Rs. 12,210 was advanced as takávi.

There were 38 grants altogether, of which 34 were for new wells, one for repairing an old well, one for constructing a band or embankment, and two for water-courses.

The great falling-off is explained by the comparative unwillingness of the people to come forward to ask for advances, on account of the measures which were found necessary to recover the large outstanding balances. No advances for seed grain or cattle were made during the year under report.

The balance at the close of the year was Rs. 2,776, principal, and Rs. 990, interest, of which Rs. 233, principal, and Rs. 74, interest, has been recovered since the close of the year.

The balances due are mostly in the Pachád, or western submontane tract of the district, where the population is Baloch, and the Tahsildárs report that they met with great difficulty in making realizations in these tracts, as the zamíndárs abscond or hide themselves when called upon to pay. The Tumundárs have been asked to help, and further efforts will be made to enforce these repayments.

Revenue business. The number of cases for disposal was only 1,205 against 7,976 in the preceding year, the cause of the difference being that since October 1885 mutations have only been reported to the patwári and entered by him in the village register and reported to the tahsíl, instead of each case, as formerly, constituting a separate file. Each attestation of a village register by a Tahsildár or Náib-Tahsildár is now treated as one case. There are no cases of importance requiring special attention.

The only estate under the management of the Court of Wards is that portion of the estate of the Makhdúm of Sítpur, which is situated in the Jámপুর and Rajanpur districts.

The estate is managed by a Darogha, or Manager, who is appointed in the Muzaffargarh district. There is a Muharrir in direct charge of the Dera Gházi Khan portion. A new man has lately been appointed to this post, as the former incumbent was not satisfactory.

The income of the estate in this district was Rs. 1,833-12-4 during the year under report.

Rates for labour and carriage remain nearly stationary. It is possible that the construction of the new frontier road may affect these rates in the future, but it has not yet done so.

The records are arranged *mauzahwárs*, there being a separate room for each tahsíl. More room is much required for the record room, and it is hoped that the construction of a new English and treasury office, for which funds have been allotted in the budget of the current year, may soon be taken in hand, as this would render the requisite space available.

Destruction of useless records has been carried out both at the Sadr and at the Rajanpur office.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT.

(J. C. BROWN, Esquire.)

Fiscal.—Of the balance for this year (Rs. 1,426) Rs. 42 have been recommended for remission, and orders are awaited; Rs. 109 have been remitted by authority for the year under report; Rs. 1,224 are recoverable; Rs. 50 have been struck off the roll.

Of the recoverable balance Rs. 241 have been recovered since 1st April and Rs. 983 are still due. It is not satisfactory that the balance should be higher than it was last year, when the year was by no means unfavorable. Instances occur too frequently of lambardárs who are deeply involved realizing the Government revenue and misappropriating it. I am aware that when *deeply involved* a lambardár should be removed. But his affairs reveal themselves gradually, and before dismissing one man it is essential to see whether another can be found to fill his place whose affairs are in a better state.

This takes time, and often results in none being forthcoming. A lambardár who, in a position of trust, deliberately robs his fellow *málguzárs* should, I consider, receive no pity.

What was last year noted as the *distressed tract* in the district, *viz.*, a belt of land lying in the line of the Shahgurn escape and to the west of the gap in the Kinjār Mehra band is still unsatisfactory. I am glad to say that the scheme for completing this band seems to be in a tangible shape. The line to be followed has been fixed, the District Committee has agreed to hand over the land free to the Canal Department, and I understand the work will be put in hand very shortly.

Fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue. The demand under this head was Rs. 1,80,308 as against Rs. 1,70,836 last year, showing an increase of Rs. 9,472.

Without entering into details I may remark that the general aspect of this branch of the revenue administration is very satisfactory.

Water advantage revenue. The area assessed was 6,363 acres as against 4,950 last year, showing an increase 1,413 acres.

Steady progress is being made in extending canal irrigation. When this is combined with security against flooding, canal water is welcomed by the cultivator. Naturally, therefore, we find advance most marked in Sanáwan, which has a protective band.

Rupees 2,913 *abiána* was due, of which Rs. 2,746 was realized; Rs. 167, balance, has been noted already on page 7, para. 8, above. The rules for *chher* assessment, referred to in last year's report, have been finally sanctioned by Government and are now in force. They seem to give satisfaction.

The outstandings consist of petty items which are by custom collected with the *rabi* instalments, as the papers cannot be ready by *kharíf*.

This was dwelt on at some length last year, and I have little now to add. The system seems to be popular, and, when judiciously applied, to be beneficial.

Statement X B is blank. I am unable to see how fluctuating areas can be inspected by the *patwáris*, checked by field *kánúgos*, *Tahsildárs* and Extra Assistant Commissioners, and the papers be ready during April: when under recent orders, instead of one

combined girdawari, two distinct girdawaris are prescribed, that for rabi commencing in March. In districts where fluctuating revenue forms a very imperceptible portion of the entire demand the case is different. Separate reference will be made on this point, and Statement X B will be submitted as soon as practicable.

* * * * *

Tirni shows a falling off of Rs. 92. This is partly due to a falling off in the tirni contract for camel grazing in Muzaffargarh and Sanáwan tahsils.

This is a difficult lease to manage. It is a large contract yielding about Rs. 5,000, and it has hitherto been held that only one or two men who live in the thal can take it up, owing to the large area to be watched and the nature of the country. A belief has therefore sprung up that these men can practically secure a monopoly, and they are consequently gradually lowering their bids. Careful consideration is needed to meet this, and not till the current year (1886-87) has expired shall I prepare to break down this monopoly if need be. The bid for the current year is again lower than that for 1885-86.

* * * * *

The *modus operandi* in railway work has been, as usual, as irregular as possible.

The Deputy Commissioner having been formally requested at the outset to assist the railway officers, the latter proceeded on the assumption that they might cut, clear, build and trespass wherever they wished. The Deputy Commissioner's assistance consisted in promising the owners to see them compensated in course of time, and thus keeping them quiet.

No harm results from such irregularities and they are of course winked at, but as a *modus operandi* they are of a peculiar nature.

Irrigation.—In 1884-85 225,782 acres and in 1885-86 212,154 acres, showing a decrease 13,628 acres, were returned as under canal irrigation. It seems curious that in a good season such as 1885-86 the irrigated area should drop by 13,000 acres, and it is also curious that this should coincide with the first season in which the new rules are in force.

Irrigation may be concealed, and the matter will be enquired into; but in one or two cases I believe other causes can be assigned. Without full enquiry I cannot hazard an opinion as to irrigation being concealed more than heretofore or not. Chhars are now, as they have been hitherto, distributed according to the area irrigated.

The figures are undoubtedly exceedingly suspicious.

* * * * *

No other remarks seem to be called for on the subject of irrigation. Great attention is paid to it by Mr. Sibold, Executive Engineer, who has had considerable experience of the district and the people. Protective works are being pushed on as rapidly as funds allow, and the completion of the Kinjar Mehra band, already alluded to, will be a most excellent step, and should, when the regulators are made and the escapes opened out, entirely change the aspect of the "distressed tracts."

* * * * *

The system in force is as follows.—In areas hitherto under the Forest Department, Government Estates, orders are passed direct by the District Forest Officer. In some cases a lump contract sum for grazing is accepted; in others a fee per head is levied; in others grazing is prohibited for the whole year or for part of it. One or two cases came to my notice on tour in which I could not agree with the Forest Officer as to the propriety of his arrangements. As recent orders have associated the Deputy Commissioner more closely than formerly with the Forest Officer, modifications will be shortly introduced. I need not dwell on the subject here.

In areas managed by the Deputy Commissioner tirni is usually leased out. In one rakh near the Sadr the tirni was managed direct to avoid squabbles between contractors and Government officials at head-quarters. It is not possible to give any statistics of cattle that are reliable from the tirni returns.

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I have again to comment with regret on the frequent occurrence of forest fires. Having given fair warning last year that some stringent measures would be adopted if such damage through negligence or otherwise did not cease,—but in vain,—I have lately selected two rakhs in which fires have been frequent, and which I considered suitable otherwise, and as a penalty on the villagers for negligence in allowing fires to spring up and failing to extinguish them if accidental, I have absolutely closed grazing in these areas for a year. This was done with the concurrence of the Forest Officer, and may, I hope, be a sufficiently deterrent measure. If it is not, I shall be prepared to make further recommendations hereafter.

Besides these two rakhs I have accepted the District Forest Officer's recommendations to close grazing for the current year in four rakhs with a view to constituting fuel and fodder reserves. And in four others, camels, sheep and goats will not be allowed to graze in consideration of necessary reproduction.

These measures relate of course to 1886-87.

The establishment for patrolling and controlling the district rakhs is quite inadequate.

It consists of—

	Rs.
1 Darogha on Rs. 25	25
3 Tirmi Muharrirs on Rs. 10 each	30
6 Chaprasies on Rs. 5 each, two in each tahsil	30

Total cost per month ... 85

Do. per annum ... 1,020

As the total income is Rs. 17,375 it cannot be said that the establishment is expensive as compared with the income.

* * * * *

The Deputy Commissioner began his tour in September 1885 with a view to checking the introduction of the new patwari rules. From October to March two officers were very steadily on tour at one time, and sometimes three, including the Deputy Commissioner.

Tours of officers.

No. I,

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF LAND REVENUE,

INCLUDING

**NAZRANAH SERVICE, COMMUTATION, DEMANDS, COLLECTIONS
AND BALANCES IN THE PUNJAB,**

FOR THE YEARS 1884-85 AND 1885-86.

No. I.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF LAND REVENUE, INCLUDING NAZRANAH SERVICE COMMUTATION, DEMANDS, COLLECTIONS AND BALANCES IN THE PUNJAB
FOR THE YEARS 1884-85 AND 1885-86.

1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14		15					
DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	Year.	Demand.	Collections.	BALANCES.			PARTICULARS OF BALANCES.								PERCENTAGE ON DEMANDS.		Collections during current year on account of previous years.	Total of columns 5 and 12.	SUSPENSIONS AND REMISSIONS ON ACCOUNT OF CALAMITY OF SEASON SANCTIONED DURING THE YEAR.			
					Of the year under report.	Of former years.	Total.	In train of liquidation.		Doubtful or undetermined.		Irrecoverable.		Nominal.		Of collections.	Of balances.			On account of the year under report.	Remissions.	On account of former years.	Remissions.
								Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.								
DELHI.	Hissar	1884-85	Rs. 5,62,743	Rs. 5,62,640	103	85	188	...	85	...	...	...	103	...	100	...	88	5,62,728	...	...	85	152
		1885-86	5,62,657	5,62,579	78	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	78	...	100	...	85	5,62,664	...	...	...	103
	Rohtak	1884-85	8,39,548	6,95,084	1,44,464	2,16,428	3,60,892	1,44,431	2,16,269	17	...	...	16	159	83	17	1,14,442	8,09,526	1,44,429	...	2,16,269	1,764
		1885-86	9,16,186	*9,07,674	8,512	69,151	77,663	7,679	69,151	...	...	...	833	...	99	1	+2,48,344	11,56,018	4,745	765	69,151	22,734
	Gurgaon	1884-85	10,85,405	9,73,165	1,12,240	2,66,013	3,78,253	1,12,081	51,452	...	2,14,561	...	...	159	90	10	67,990	10,41,155	1,11,427	...	49,187	2,034
		1885-86	10,85,661	10,80,395	5,266	2,91,963	2,97,229	3,741	2,91,963	...	...	...	1,525	...	99	1	86,131	11,66,526	...	1,371	...	159
	Delhi	1884-85	8,00,402	7,81,525	18,877	6,742	25,619	18,316	6,742	...	...	...	561	...	98	2	7,396	7,88,921	18,316	...	6,742	180
		1885-86	7,99,775	7,81,900	17,875	940	18,815	17,420	940	280	...	...	175	...	98	2	24,190	8,06,090	9,333	...	348	489
	Karnal	1884-85	5,82,621	5,48,358	34,263	24,685	58,948	28,443	20,150	5,778	4,328	42	207	94	6	22,602	5,70,960	34,184	42	24,478	308
		1885-86	5,82,715	5,76,169	6,546	19,264	25,810	1,550	11,869	4,782	7,395	214	...	99	1	39,435	6,15,604	6,200	214	19,264	249
	Umballa	1884-85	7,89,502	7,54,989	34,513	5,621	40,134	148	...	32,449	5,621	1,916	...	96	4	1,045	7,56,034	32,449	...	5,621	2,227
		1885-86	7,88,941	7,84,511	4,430	11,211	15,641	4,072	9,164	358	2,047	99	1	28,857	8,13,368	4,072	...	9,164	64
Simla	1884-85	13,592	13,592	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	13,592	...	...	...	...
	1885-86	16,322	16,255	67	...	67	47	...	...	...	8	...	12	...	100	...	...	16,255	...	12	...	...
JULLUNDUR.	Kangra	1884-85	6,15,668	6,15,349	319	32	351	...	...	272	...	...	47	32	100	...	...	6,15,349	...	...	...	491
		1885-86	6,15,597	6,15,506	91	...	91	...	...	53	...	...	38	...	100	...	...	6,15,506	...	...	...	351
	Hoshiarpur	1884-85	12,85,941	12,63,779	22,162	456	22,618	3,298	53	15,850	38	3,014	365	98	2	754	12,64,533	...	2,043	...	8,234
		1885-86	13,50,597	13,43,189	7,408	15,852	23,260	2,602	15,852	170	...	4,636	...	99	...	3,375	13,46,564	958	3,391
	Jullundur	1884-85	12,27,352	12,25,993	1,359	...	1,359	...	...	1,322	...	...	37	...	100	...	176	12,26,169	...	...	...	5,017
		1885-86	12,28,179	12,09,933	18,686	...	18,686	541	...	1,262	...	15,756	...	1,127	...	99	1	...	12,09,933	1,359
	Ludhiana	1884-85	9,14,080	9,12,467	1,613	...	1,613	883	...	728	...	...	2	...	100	...	2,780	9,15,247	...	2	...	3,506
		1885-86	9,15,227	9,12,761	2,466	...	2,466	1,440	...	...	...	...	1,026	...	100	...	883	9,13,644	...	...	...	730
	Ferozepur	1884-85	6,00,132	5,99,407	725	...	725	14	...	429	...	...	282	...	99	1	360	5,99,767	...	...	...	832
		1885-86	5,99,467	5,87,323	12,144	112	12,256	9,118	...	547	112	2,479	...	98	2	14	5,87,337	599