

2523

REPORT
ON THE
LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
PUNJAB
FOR THE
AGRICULTURAL YEAR,

1ST OCTOBER 1896 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1897.

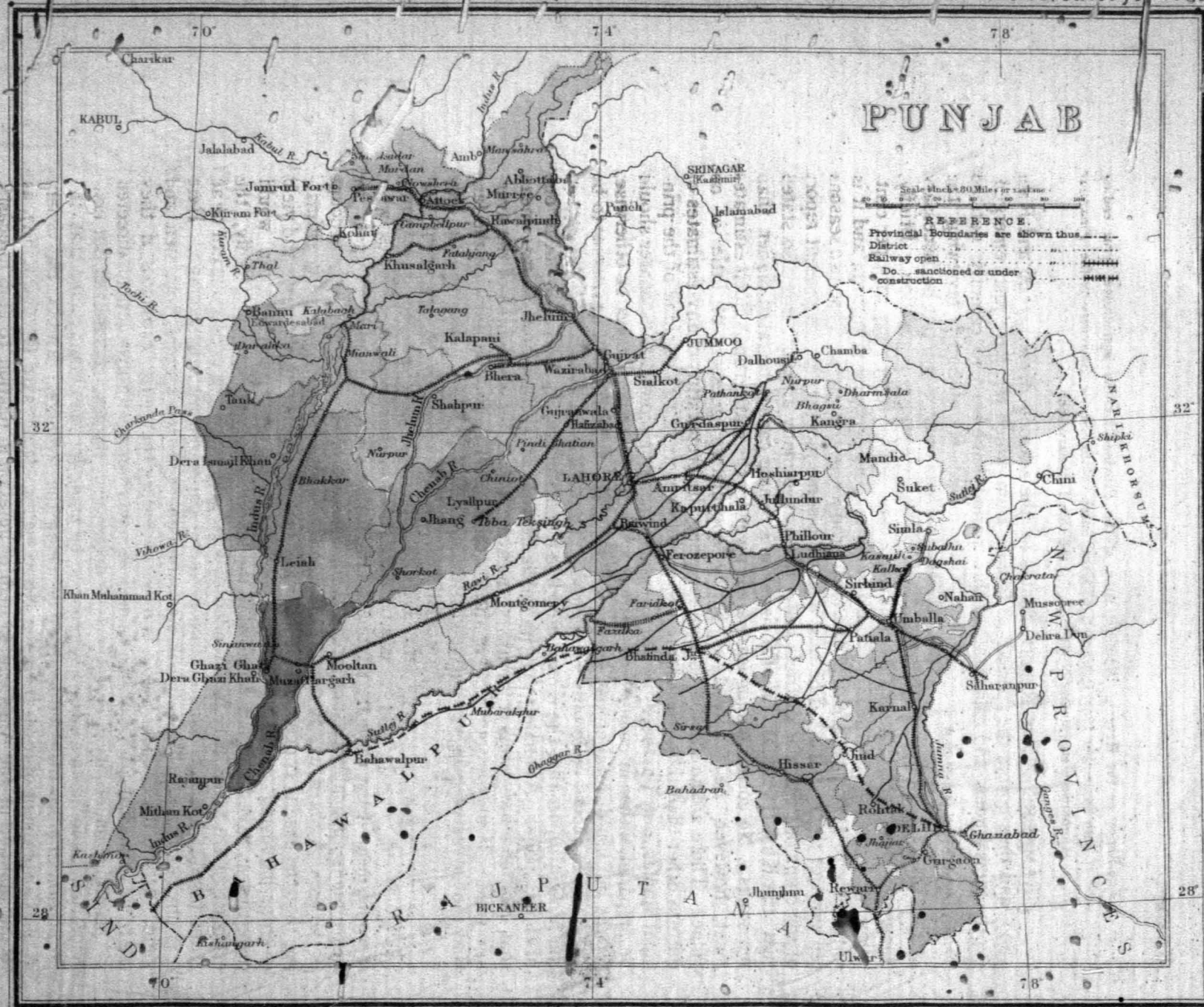
Published by Authority.



Printed by:
THE "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE" PRESS,
Contractors to the Punjab Government.

1898.

Map showing Percentage of area sown with Wheat, in comparison with the Total area cultivated in each District for 1896-97.



READ—

The Report on the Revenue Administration of the Province for the agricultural year ending 30th September 1897, forwarded with the letter of the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, No. 160, dated the 28th February 1898.

REMARKS The Report relates to the seasons Kharif 1896 and Rabi 1897, and thus covers the period of famine from which we have just emerged. As the vicissitudes and calamities of this period have been so recently noticed

No. 74, dated 10th March 1898.

in the Government Resolution reviewing the operations of famine relief, it will not be necessary to discuss at length the agricultural statistics of the seasons in question. Briefly, the cropped area of Kharif 1896 was 19 per cent. and of Rabi 1897 21.5 per cent. below the decennial average. These figures take no account of outturn, and it is impossible to say to what extent the total produce of the land in these two seasons fell short of the average. The only mention in the present report of the crops of particular districts being rated at so many annas. It is also stated that the Kharif crop of the Province as a whole cannot be rated higher than ten annas. No corresponding estimate is given for the Rabi crop. Such estimates must, however, be regarded as purely speculative guesses of little or no value. There are no standing orders requiring the preparation of any estimates of outturn other than those relating to the crop forecasts of two or three of the principal staples, but if in the Financial Commissioner's opinion such estimates should be prepared, either in connection with the Annual Revenue Report or otherwise, for the outturn of total crops of each harvest, very explicit directions seem to be necessary to secure uniformity of method. To take for instance the statement in the present report that the Kharif crop was a ten-anna one. This may mean one of three things. Assuming that 16 annas denotes an average crop, it may mean that each acre harvested produced on the average only ten-sixteenths of the average yield. If so, the total yield of the Province taking into consideration the fact that the harvested area was only eight-tenths of the average, amounted to only one-half of the average. Or it may mean that the average outturn per acre cropped, i. e. sown, was ten-sixteenths of the average. This is what

$$\frac{10}{16} \times \frac{8}{10} = \frac{1}{2}$$

it would mean if the estimate related to one of the forecasted crops, as under the instructions applicable to such forecasts the estimate of outturn must take account of the area of *kharāba*. It may be observed in regard to this system of estimating that the case is conceivable of a harvest in which although the area and yield of crops harvested might be above the average, the estimate of outturn would nevertheless have to be put very low if the failed area were large. Thirdly, the estimate of ten annas may be intended to represent the total actual outturn of all crops (as distinguished from outturn per acre) compared with the average. Here it is obvious that the estimate will be a component of two factors, *viz.* area and yield. It will thus appear that it is most necessary that such estimates, if they are to be framed at all, should be framed in accordance with instructions directed to securing uniformity. Questions of detail also suggest themselves for consideration, as for instance the allowance to be made for the circumstance that the proportion of crops irrigated is above or below the average. Finally, the order in the Government of India Circular No. 9-27-4, dated 23rd October 1897, as to the adoption of the American system of notation in relation to crop forecasts, under which an average crop is represented by 100 per cent., should be borne in mind.

21

2. As in the previous year, a marked feature of the agricultural returns is the expansion of crops grown on irrigated lands, which in fact exceeded the very large area of 1895-96 by 893,168 acres, or 114 per cent. This increase is mainly due to Government canals, but there was an increase of 276,195 acres, or 74 per cent., in the case of well crops, the increase being largest in the case of the districts of Siálkot, Delhi, Karnál and Umballa. It is mentioned as a striking proof of the strenuous efforts made by agriculturists to supplement the deficient rainfall that the number of *kacha* wells, *dhenklis* and *jhalárs* increased from 34,143 to 46,697. It is presumed that *jhalárs* do not include those provided for lift irrigation from canals. It would be interesting to have further information on the subject of *kacha* wells. It is believed that in the recent famine *takkávi* might, as in the North-West Provinces, have been granted with advantage for the purpose of sinking temporary wells in dry tracts and thus enabling cultivators to extend the area of food crops. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar mentioned in his famine report that more could have been done in this direction in parts of that district, but being new to the district the possibilities of the situation were not brought to his notice till the sowing season had passed. It seems desirable therefore that in view of the possible recurrence of similar famines it should be placed on record after inquiry in the case of each district what tracts are those in which *kacha* wells can with advantage be sunk. It is known that the area in this Province, in which the surface strata, depth of water and other conditions are suitable for such temporary wells, is limited and is nothing like as extensive as is the field for such operations in the North-West Provinces. Nevertheless there are such areas in the Punjab, and particulars regarding their situation, together with data as to the cost of construction and other facts which would be of assistance to officers disposing of *takkávi* applications, should, if the Financial Commissioner sees no objection, be collected and placed on record.

3. The working of the village record agency still continues satisfactory, though, owing to the additional pressure caused by famine duties, the extra precautions taken to secure a correct return of failed areas, and the employment of inspecting officers in connection with the collection of transport, the crop abstracts and annual records were not filed as punctually as usual. The abolition of the hereditary principle in the appointment of Patwáris will no doubt result in an improvement in the *personnel*. It appears that there are now 71 unpassed Patwáris in the Province of whom more than half belong to the Chenab Colony. The Financial Commissioner has no doubt satisfied himself as to the necessity for entertaining unpassed men in the Colony. The Financial Commissioner's proposals for funding the Patwári cess of the Province will be awaited.

4. There was an increase in the number of villages in which crop inspections were checked by Deputy Commissioners or their Assistants. This was as it ought to be in view of the special circumstances of the year, but the Lieutenant-Governor is surprised to learn that in Lahore, Kángra and Shahpur only 33, 31 and 20 villages respectively were so inspected, and that in the Ráwalpindi, Pesháwar and Dera Ismail Khan Districts these officers did no checking at all. In Lahore especially where considerable remissions of revenue were proposed it might have been expected that crop inspections would be subjected to checking on a more extended scale.

5. The number of mutations attested in 1896-97 was 654,866 as compared with 652,212 in the previous year and 726,672 in 1894-95. There has been during the past five years a progressive decline in the number of mutations by inheritance from 212 thousands to 125 thousands, thereby furnishing remarkable evidence of the healthiness of the past seasons. As regards those transactions which are connected with the alienation of land the notable expansion in the Stamp and Registration revenue, which was commented on in the Annual Reports of these Departments, would have prepared us to find in the present report an exceptionally large increase in the sale and mortgage transactions of the year. There is as a fact a slight falling-off in the number of mortgage

transactions, but an increase of 10 per cent. in total and 4 per cent. in cultivated area mortgaged, which, however, is almost counterbalanced by favourable redemption figures, so that the net area mortgaged is less than in four years of the past decade. The area sold is 5.6 per cent. more and the cultivated area 2.1 per cent. less than in the previous year. In both cases the figures for the year have been exceeded in three years of the past decade. To explain the increase in the Stamp and Registration revenue we must look at the consideration money. It is the enormous enhancement in the value of land, which has been commented on in the Famine Report, that is mainly responsible for the growth of the Stamp and Registration revenue. In 1888-89 437,753 acres, of which 198,532 acres were cultivated, were sold for 83½ lakhs. In 1896-97 the area sold was 371,258 acres, of which 199,160 acres were cultivated, and the price realized was 140½ lakhs. The mortgage and redemption figures are equally remarkable. Nor are the figures peculiar to one year. The table on page 19 of the report shows that the sums paid for the land sold and mortgaged during the quinquennium ending 1896-97 exceeded by over 40 per cent. the consideration money paid in the previous quinquennium for a slightly larger area alienated. These results might be exhibited in terms of the price per acre, and in fact this is done in paragraph 7 (e) of the report, but the method therein adopted of arriving at the price per acre cultivated is hardly correct. If for instance in the year under report it were really the fact that 199,160 acres of cultivated land had been sold for Rs. 1,40,46,594, the price would correctly be shown as Rs. 71 per acre, but what was sold for the sum mentioned was not 199,160 acres of cultivated land, but 371,258 acres, of which 199,160 acres were cultivated. As cultivated and uncultivated lands are sold together, it is of course impossible to say what is the price per acre separately. With regard to the very large area sold in Mooltan, it should be reported whether it includes the land sold under the Sidhnai Canal indentures, and generally His Honor desires to know if land sold by Government is included in these returns. That there has been an enormous rise in the prices realized from sales of land of late years appears certain, but in view of this fact the Lieutenant-Governor is somewhat at a loss to understand the remark made in paragraph 12 (b) of the report that there is a widespread feeling that land may shortly cease to be a profitable investment for professional money-lenders, except when it lies near towns and villages in which the commercial element is strong.

6. The figures in the last two columns of the table on page 23 showing the area now under mortgage are, it is understood, up to date for only one-fourth of the villages of the Province. Thus in Hissar, though the net area mortgaged during the year was 19,775 acres, the area shown as under mortgage is only 2,091 acres in excess of last year's figures. This circumstance somewhat detracts from the value of the information contained in the return. However, taking the figures for what they are worth, it appears that 12 per cent. of the cultivated area of the Province is now under mortgage. As regards transfers to money-lenders, there is no return showing the area now held in mortgage by new agriculturists, nor is it possible to learn how far the transfers of this class during the year, which account for 27 per cent. of the total area alienated, are set off by redemptions. It is satisfactory to note that in Hoshiarpur there is a tendency to redeem land from money-lenders with a view to its being remortgaged to agriculturists. The extent to which the more thrifty agriculturists in this Province not only maintain their own holdings unencumbered, but stepping into the place of the money-lender make advances on the security of the land of their less thrifty neighbours is somewhat remarkable, and, it must be admitted, makes the problem of agricultural indebtedness a less serious one than in other countries, where the Jew or money-lender is the only source of credit. In Prussia for instance it has recently been stated (*Spectator*, October 23rd, 1897) that 35 per cent. of the landed property, and in rural tracts over 50 per cent., is under mortgage chiefly to rich Jews.

7. It would add to the interest of the report and be of value in relation to inquiries preliminary to settlement if District Officers would notice any tendency of rents to rise and fall, not only as compared with the previous year, but as compared with settlement. Changes in the amount of cash rents are no doubt difficult to ascertain without special inquiry, but any general tendency to substitute cash for kind rents should be capable of easy ascertainment. Changes in the customary rates of kind rents are also easily ascertainable by general inquiry. The effect of a recent settlement upon rents should be specially noticed. In the sections of the report relating to enhancement of rents and rent litigation statistics of suits are given, but the results of such suits especially if they are test cases may have a much wider influence than their number would indicate. Migration of tenants and the causes of such movements should also be specially noticed.

8. The collections of the fixed land revenue demand show a serious falling-off. They amounted to just under 201 lakhs as compared with 212½ lakhs in the previous year and 217½ lakhs in 1893-94. As compared with the latter year, moreover, the demand due has increased by 4½ lakhs, which makes the reduction all the more serious. The balance outstanding at the end of the year amounted to 30 lakhs,—an unprecedented figure,—of which 23 lakhs were on account of the year under report. These unfavourable results are due, of course, to the famine, and we may hope that with the advent of more propitious seasons recovery will be made not only of the current demand, but also of a large portion of the above-mentioned balance. It is believed that some five or six lakhs were to have been recovered with the demand for Kharif 1897. Up to the present little of the suspended revenue has been remitted. The only district in which remissions of an appreciable amount have been sanctioned is Siālkot, where the existence of very small holdings precludes the hope that the revenue payers will in better seasons have any considerable surplus available to meet the demand for arrears. The Lieutenant-Governor was obliged to refuse sanction to remissions proposed in other cases where such special circumstances did not exist. The rule which requires that revenue suspended for drought shall not ordinarily be proposed for remission until at least three years have elapsed without recovery being possible is one which is often overlooked. In the case of *bārāni* lands especially the suspension of revenue for long periods should not be regarded as in any way anomalous.

9. The Financial Commissioner's remarks as to the introduction of a system of discrimination between rich and poor revenue payers in granting suspensions have been perused with interest. The principle is no doubt sound, but to work it properly must entail a considerable amount of extra trouble. The Lieutenant-Governor will be glad if in future reports officers will notice the subject and record their opinions as to the practical working of the system. Elsewhere Mr. Clarke has brought an objection against it that by collecting the demand from well-to-do landlords we thereby debar the tenants of such landlords from the suspension of rent which the Tenancy Act allows as a consequence of suspension of revenue. Landlords are thus at liberty to exact rent from tenants ill able to afford it, and in the case of occupancy tenants inability to pay may result in ejectment. This is a point which deserves consideration, but it may be observed that the landlord who would thus seek to profit by the adversity of his tenant would be capable of refusing to accept a suspension which would deprive him of this power over his tenants.

10. The feature of the year as regards fluctuating land revenue was the introduction of this system throughout the canal and riverain circles of the Dera Ghāzi Khan District. Rupees 1,47,490 were realized in Dera Ghāzi Khan on this account, which sum falls short of the Settlement Officer's anticipations. The Chenab Canal gave an increase of Rs. 90,793. As the colonization progresses a substantial increase may be expected annually from this source. Generally the fluctuating revenue derived from canal-irrigated land during the year was up to the average, but there was a falling-off in the collections from river inundated

lands in Mooltan, Montgomery, Lahore and Hissar. It appears from Statement No. III that of the total area of crops harvested during the year, 7·2 per cent. were grown on land subject to a fluctuating assessment.

11. It is satisfactory to note that the net loss of revenue resulting from the excess of diluvion over alluvion has been reduced to Rs 9,026 as compared with Rs. 89,089 in 1894-95. This is one of the compensations of a year of drought. Were it not for the Hoshiarpur *chos* there would have been a balance on the side of alluvion. It may be hoped that the present year will see the enactment of a measure dealing with this serious evil. A draft Bill has been submitted to the Government of India, and provision has been made in the budget for compensating the grazers of the Hoshiarpur Siwaliks who would be affected by the protective measures contemplated by the Bill. Another Bill, not unconnected with alluvion and diluvion proceedings, being designed to effect the introduction of fixed for shifting boundaries in riverain estates, is also under preparation, and will, when enacted, put an end to a system which has justly been described as a relic of barbarism.

12. There are two questions connected with *jágírs* which are at present engaging the Lieutenant-Governor's attention,—the question of primogeniture or selection of an heir, and the question of commuting petty shares the record of which imposes an unnecessary amount of work upon the administration. The Financial Commissioner raises a third question as to the alienability of *jágír* income. This, too, will require consideration if, as is possible, legislation is undertaken.

13. The settlements in progress during the year were Montgomery, Dera Gházi Khan, Jhelum and Mooltan. The Dera Gházi Khan settlement has been completed and the establishment has been transferred to Muzaffargarh under a Settlement Officer selected from the Provincial Service, Sardár Bahádur Arjan Singh. The Lieutenant-Governor has recently sanctioned a scheme of settlements under which in a few years six settlement parties will be continuously at work.

14. The Financial Commissioner rightly calls attention to Major Inglis' remarks on the subject of the ejectment by mortgagees of the cultivating mortgagor. It is no doubt true that in many usufructuary mortgage transactions it is an understood condition that the mortgaging owner shall remain in possession as tenant of the mortgagee. In such case the owner becomes not mere tenant-at-will, but tenant under a specific agreement, and if the Patwári without inquiry records the mortgagor as mere tenant-at-will an injustice may be done. Doubtless in such cases the stipulation that the mortgagor shall remain in possession is not always entered in the mortgage deed owing to an *arrière pensée* upon the part of the mortgagee who may intend to take an early opportunity to evict. It might be well if the Inspector-General of Registration were asked to instruct registering officers to ascertain from the parties in the case of usufructuary mortgages whether there is any condition as to the mortgagor remaining in possession, and to record such condition in the course of the registration proceedings if ascertained to exist. A copy of this paragraph will be sent to the Inspector-General of Registration accordingly.

15. The progress report (Appendix D) of the Chenab Canal colonization scheme has been perused by the Lieutenant-Governor with interest. During the year under report the realizations from the colonists on only one of the three branches amounted to Rs. 17,62,736. When the period of initial exemptions on the Jhang Branch expires a very large additional revenue may be expected. The Lieutenant-Governor much regrets that progress should be retarded by want of funds for roads and administrative buildings, but this is one of the results of famine, which by depleting the Provincial balances has necessitated a reduction of expenditure on public works to a point far below the requirements of the Province. The famine, however, of which the crippling of the provincial finances is not the

least serious consequence, has, on the other hand, hastened the construction of three Irrigation Works—the Ghaggar Canals, the Sarsuti Canal extension and the Nardak Rájba. Of the first mentioned it is too early yet to speak of results. It is understood that some 12,000 to 15,000 acres were irrigated in Kharif 1897. The Sarsuti Canal promises well, and the Nardak Rájba is believed to have already yielded most favourable results. The Kabul River Canal in Pesháwar continues an exceptionally remunerative undertaking. The orders of the Government of India are still awaited on the Pesháwar Canal Draft Regulation which was submitted more than a year ago. The allusion to settling of colonists on the Sidhni Canal in paragraph 28 (b) of the report is understood to refer to arrangements consequent upon forfeiture or abandonment of existing holdings, and not to the colonization of new areas on the extension of the canal. The colonization of the Chunián Rakhs might be made the subject of a special report when complete.

16. Loans to agriculturists under Act XIX of 1883 for well sinking and other improvements were of trifling amount, if the allotments for special purposes on the Chenab Canal be left out of account. The exigencies of the year necessitated the contraction of advances under this head. On the other hand, the allotments for purchase of seed-grain and well and plough cattle were unusually liberal, amounting to sixteen lakhs. There is ample testimony in the present report and in the District Famine Reports to the good results attending the distribution of these loans. As observed by the Financial Commissioner, District Officers took a greater interest in the work in consequence of the larger allotments entrusted to them, and arrangements were made to effect the distribution with the minimum of delay and trouble to the recipients. In the budget of the current financial year a considerable sum has been provided for similar loans, and the Lieutenant-Governor does not doubt that with the increased knowledge on the part of the people of the beneficent intentions of Government and in consideration of the experience we have now gone through, the applications for such loans in future and the allotments made in response thereto will be on a larger scale than in the past. This being the case, it seems desirable to call attention to one or two points which assume a special importance when we have to deal with loan transactions on a large scale. Firstly, it is to be remembered that the liberality of the Government of India cannot be expected to continue if loans are not promptly recovered. Hitherto there has been little to complain of in this respect, but the new policy of greater liberality must not be allowed to degenerate into greater laxity. The amount shown in arrears at the end of the year under report, Rs. 87,637, is perhaps not more than might have been expected under the circumstances, but the matter must be carefully watched, and it should be specially noted in each Annual Report how much has had to be written off as irrecoverable. Secondly, the questions of interest and period of repayment call for consideration. The practice of allowing such loans free of interest in some cases, which is permissible under the present rules, caused no material loss to Government so long as the amount of the loans under Act XII of 1884 did not exceed a lakh. When, however, the allotments expand into many lakhs the loss may be very appreciable, especially if the period of repayment of the loans extends beyond one harvest, and this loss falls entirely on Provincial Funds. The Lieutenant-Governor will be glad if the Financial Commissioner will consider whether any general instructions should issue in regard to this matter. Finally, it occurs to His Honor that while the matter is fresh in their minds District Officers might be asked to record their recent experiences with suggestions derived therefrom on such points as the amount of seed of each staple required for an acre or a holding, the allotments to be made for bullocks per well or per plough, whether advances should always be made in money or may sometimes be distributed in kind. Other matters in regard to which officers with no previous experience may require guidance will no doubt suggest themselves to the Financial Commissioner. Without prescribing uniformity of practice where uniformity may not be necessary, it is at least desirable that officers should have some assurance that their practice is in accordance with the requirements of the

case they are dealing with. As an instance of what is meant reference is invited to the Commissioner's remarks* regarding the amounts allotted to each individual in the Sialkot District, which Mr. Cunningham thinks were too large with reference to the practice in other districts. It is desirable that some rough scale or standard should be laid down in a matter of the kind.

Reverting to the loans under the Land Improvement Act it should be explained that what is said in paragraph 2 above about *kacha* wells is not intended as a suggestion that loans be granted for such wells otherwise than in famine times and as a special measure of famine relief.

The Financial Commissioner will no doubt satisfy himself whether it is the case as reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Montgomery (page 42 of extracts) that loans for agricultural improvements are "seldom faithfully applied."

17. The tendency of work in all departments to increase is illustrated by the returns of business disposed of by Revenue officers, the total number of cases being 358,772 as compared with 328,576 in 1895-96 and 310,505 in 1894-95. Doubtless various causes connected with the famine contributed to the increase, and it is to be hoped that the figures will prove to be abnormal, and that a falling-off will take place when the effects of scarcity and of the frontier disturbances and plague measures have disappeared. The year has undoubtedly been a most trying one to all grades of officers, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires to acknowledge the good work and loyal assistance in the administration rendered by all ranks. His Honor is much obliged to the Financial Commissioner for the present report.

ORDER.—Ordered, that the above Remarks be printed and circulated with the Report; also that they be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, communicated to the Financial Commissioner, and forwarded to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, with the usual number of copies of the Report.

By order of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor,
M. W. FENTON,
Revenue Secretary to Government, Punjab.

No. 160.

FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE :

Dated LAHORE, the 28th February 1898.

FROM

C. J. HALLIFAX, ESQUIRE,

Senior Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Punjab,

TO

M. W. FENTON, ESQUIRE, C.S.,

Revenue Secretary to Government, Punjab.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit the Annual Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year ending 30th September 1897. It having been decided to retain only one Financial Commissioner, the office of 2nd Financial Commissioner, held by Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I., was brought under reduction and the office of Settlement Commissioner was revived with effect from 7th April 1897. The Hon'ble Mr. C. M. Rivaz, C.S.I., held the office of Financial Commissioner throughout the year. This report has been written under the directions of the Hon'ble Mr. S. S. Thorburn, who was appointed to officiate as Financial Commissioner after the end of the year, on the 18th October 1897, when the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz was appointed to act as an ordinary Member of the Council of His Excellency the Governor-General of India.

I have, &c.,

C. J. HALLIFAX,

Senior Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

INDEX.

SUBJECT.	Para.	Page.
----------	-------	-------

MAP.

Showing percentage of area cultivated with wheat to total cultivated area of each district for 1896-97.

PART I.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE.

Preliminary	1	1
Rainfall and harvests	2	ib.
Increase and decrease in cultivated areas	3	4
Transfers of land between districts	3 (a)	5
Classification of cultivated area	3 (b)	ib.
Irrigation wells	3 (c)	6
Area under fluctuating assessments	3 (d)	ib.
Area of crops irrigated	3 (e)	8
Crops and produce	4	11
Exports	4 (a)	12
Irrigated and unirrigated crops	4 (b)	ib.
District figures	4 (c)	ib.
Prices	5	13

SECTION II.—LAND REVENUE ACT.

Statistics of patwáris and kánúngos' circles	6	14
Number of fields	6 (a)	ib.
Kánúngos	6 (b)	ib.
Patwáris	6 (c)	ib.
Patwári cess	6 (d)	15
Working of the village record agency	6 (e)	ib.
Mutations	6 (f)	ib.
Transfers	7	17
Area now under mortgage	7 (a)	20
Transfers to new agriculturists and by order of Court	7 (b)	ib.
Price of land	7 (c)	21
Explanatory remarks	7 (d)	ib.
District figures	7 (e)	23
Cultivating occupancy	8	25
Agricultural stock	9	ib.
Patwári Fund	10	26
Other matters	11	27
Fuel and fodder reserves	12	ib.
Cattle disease	12 (a)	ib.
Concluding remarks	12 (b)	ib.

PART II.

SECTION III.—FISCAL.

Fixed land revenue	13	29
Causes of increase or decrease in the fixed land revenue roll	14	30
Suspensions and remissions	15	31
Balances of fixed land revenue	16	34
Balances of previous years	16 (a)	ib.

SUBJECT.	Para.	Page.
SECTION III.—FISCAL— <i>concl'd.</i>		
Fluctuating land revenue	17	35
Fluctuating assessments of canal-irrigated lands	17 (a)	36
Fluctuating assessments on other lands	17 (b)	<i>ib.</i>
Systems of fluctuating assessments	17 (c)	37
Miscellaneous land revenue	18	<i>ib.</i>
Tirni	18 (a)	38
Kásht-bárání leases	18 (b)	39
Sajji	18 (c)	<i>ib.</i>
Alluvion and diluvion	19	<i>ib.</i>
Land revenue assignments	20	40
SECTION IV.—LAND REVENUE ACT.		
General re-assessments	21	<i>ib.</i>
The settlement of Dera Gházi Khan finished	21 (a)	41
Montgomery re-settlement of the Rávi tahsils completed	21 (b)	<i>ib.</i>
Operations in Jhelum	21 (c)	<i>ib.</i>
Settlement of Mooltan	21 (d)	<i>ib.</i>
Increases and decreases of fixed land revenue	21 (e)	<i>ib.</i>
Orders passed on forecast report of Muzaffargarh	21 (f)	42
Surveys and boundary demarcations	22	<i>ib.</i>
Processes for collection of land revenue	23	43
Revenue record-rooms	24	44
Other matters	25	45
SECTION V.—TENANCY ACT.		
Enhancement of rent	26	<i>ib.</i>
Ejectment of tenants	27	46
Ejectment of occupancy tenants	27 (a)	<i>ib.</i>
Ejectment proceedings against tenants	27 (b)	47
SECTION VI.—OTHER ACTS.		
Northern India Canal Drainage Act	28	48
Chenáb Canal	28 (a)	49
Sidhnai Canal	28 (b)	<i>ib.</i>
Sohág-Pára Canal	28 (c)	<i>ib.</i>
Shahnahr Canal	28 (d)	<i>ib.</i>
Ferozepore Canals	28 (e)	50
Barkat Ali Khan Canal	28 (f)	<i>ib.</i>
Kábul River Canal	28 (g)	<i>ib.</i>
Colonies with peasant settlers	28 (h)	51
Land Acquisition Act	29	<i>ib.</i>
Advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Acts (XIX of 1883 and XII of 1884)	30	<i>ib.</i>
Land Improvement Loans Act (XIX of 1883)	31 (a)	53
Agriculturists Loans Act (XII of 1884)	31 (b)	<i>ib.</i>
Indian Forests Act (VII of 1878)	32	55
Business Returns	33	<i>ib.</i>
Appellate work	33 (a)	56
SECTION VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.		
Local rate	34	58
Government litigation	35	<i>ib.</i>
Tours of Commissioners	36	<i>ib.</i>
District Reports	37	59

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' AND SETTLEMENT COLLECTORS' REPORTS.

PART I.

RAINFALL AND HARVEST.

	Page.
Hissár ...	1
Rohtak ...	ib.
Gurgáon ...	2
Delhi ...	ib.
Umballa ...	3
Karnál ...	ib.
Hoshiárpur ...	4
Mooltan (Remarks by Settlement Commissioner) ...	ib.
Jhang ...	ib.
Siálkot (Remarks by Commissioner) ...	5
Gujrát ...	ib.
Gujránwála ...	ib.
Ráwalpindi ...	6
Dera Ismail Khan ...	ib.
Dera Gházi Khan ...	ib.

CALAMITIES OF SEASON.

Hissár ...	ib.
Rohtak ...	7
Delhi ...	ib.
Hoshiárpur (Remarks by Commissioner) ...	ib.
Ferozepore ...	8
Lahore ...	ib.
Gujrát ...	ib.
Shahpur ...	ib.
Jhelum ...	9
Ráwalpindi ...	ib.
Hazára ...	ib.
Pesháwar ...	ib.

INCREASE AND DECREASE IN CULTIVATION.

Hissár (Remarks by Commissioner) ...	10
Rohtak ...	11
Gurgáon ...	ib.
Ferozepore ...	ib.

CROPS AND PRODUCE.

Rohtak... ..	12
Karnál ...	ib.
Umballa (Remarks by Commissioner) ...	ib.
Kohát ...	13
Muzaffargarh ...	ib.

CATTLE.

Hissár... ..	14
Rohtak ...	ib.
Karnál ...	ib.
Umballa ...	ib.
Kángra ...	15
Hoshiárpur ...	ib.
Ludhiána (Remarks by Commissioner) ...	ib.
Lahore ...	16
Siálkot ...	ib.
Gujrát ...	ib.
Gujránwála ...	17
Jhelum ...	ib.
Ráwalpindi ...	ib.
Pesháwar ...	ib.
Kohát ...	ib.
Dera Ismail Khan ...	18

PRICES.

Umballa (Remarks by Commissioner) ...	ib.
Gujránwála ...	ib.
Dera Gházi Khan ...	19

PATWARIS AND KANUNGOS.

Montgomery ...	ib.
Jhelum ...	ib.

ANNUAL RECORDS.

	Page.
Hoshiárpur (Remarks by Commissioner)	19

TRANSFERS OF LAND.

Hissár	20
Karnál (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Hoshiárpur (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Jullundur	22
Mooltan (Remarks by Settlement Commissioner)	ib.
Jhang	ib.
Gurdáspur	ib.
Siálkot	23
Jhelum	ib.

PARTITIONS.

Hazára... ..	ib.
--------------	-----

OTHER MATTERS.

Karnál (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Shahpur	24
Dera Ismail Khan	ib.

EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' AND
SETTLEMENT COLLECTORS' REPORTS.

PART II.

FIXED LAND REVENUE (INCLUDING TRIBUTE).

Dera Gházi Khan (Remarks by Settlement Officer)	25
--	----

REMISSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS OF FIXED LAND REVENUE.

Hissár (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Umballa	26
Ludhiána	ib.
Gujrát (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.

SYSTEMS OF FLUCTUATING ASSESSMENT.

Jhang	27
Dera Ismail Khan	ib.
Dera Gházi Khan (Remarks by Settlement Officer)	ib.

MISCELLANEOUS LAND REVENUE.

Hissár	28
---------------	----

ALLUVION AND DILUVION.

Delhi	ib.
Hoshiárpur (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.

LAND REVENUE ASSIGNMENTS.

Ludhiána (Remarks by Commissioner)	29
---	----

GENERAL RE-ASSESSMENT.

Mooltan (Remarks by Settlement Officer)	30
Montgomery (Remarks by Settlement Officer)	ib.
Jhelum (Remarks by Settlement Officer)	31
Dera Gházi Khan (Remarks by Settlement Officer and by Settlement Commissioner)	ib.

COERCIVE PROCESSES FOR COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE

ON APPLICATION OF VILLAGE HEADMEN.

Karnál	32
---------------	----

SURVEY AND BOUNDARY DEMARCATION.

Jhelum	ib.
Dera Gházi Khan (Remarks by Settlement Officer)	ib.

REVENUE RECORD-ROOMS.

Hoshiárpur (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Amritsar (Remarks by Commissioner)	33
Dera Gházi Khan (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.

PROCESS-SERVING ESTABLISHMENT.

Jullundur (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Lahore (Remarks by Commissioner)	34

OTHER MATTERS UNDER THE LAND REVENUE ACT.

	Page.
Kangra	34
Hoshiarpur	ib.
Mooltan (Remarks by Commissioner)	35
Siálkot (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.

EJECTMENT.

Umballa	36
Hoshiarpur	ib.

TRANSFERS OF TENANT-RIGHT.

Umballa	ib.
Hoshiarpur	ib.

NORTHERN INDIA CANAL AND DRAINAGE (No. VIII OF 1873).

Karnál (Remarks by Commissioner)	37
Mooltan	ib.
Pesháwar	38
Kohát	41

LAND ACQUISITION ACT (No. I OF 1894).

Jhang	ib.
--------------	-----

LAND IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT (No. XIX OF 1883).

Umballa	42
Jullundur	ib.
Montgomery	ib.

AGRICULTURISTS' LOANS ACT (No. XII OF 1884).

Hissár	ib.
Delhi	43
Umballa	ib.
Siálkot (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.

INDIAN FORESTS ACT (No. VII OF 1878).

Shahpur (Remarks by Commissioner)	ib.
Hazára	44

DIAGRAMS.

1	Showing total area	(A).
2	Do. Kharif crops	(B).
3	Do. Indigo and Tobacco	(C).
4	Do. Tea	(D).
5	Do. Rabi crops	(E).
6	Do. Wheat area	(F).
7	Do. Export of wheat	(G I).
8	Do. Export of oilseed	(G II).
9	Do. Prices of Gram, Delhi	(H).
10	Do. ditto Ferozepore	(I).

APPENDICES.

	Page.
A.—Government Advocate's Report	i
B.—Progress Report of the Survey Department	iii
C.—Final Report on the Wheat Crop of the Punjab for the year 1896-97, by M. F. O'Dwyer, Esquire, C.S., Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab	vii
C (i).—Final Report on the Rapeseed Crop of the Punjab for the year 1896-97, by M. F. O'Dwyer, Esquire, C.S., Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab	xii
C (ii).—Final Report on the Cotton Crop of the Punjab for the year 1896, by G. C. Walker, Esquire, C.S., Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab	xiii
C (iii).—Final Report on the Sesamum (Til) Crop of the Punjab for the year 1896, by M. F. O'Dwyer, Esquire, C.S., Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab	xiv
C (iv).—Final Report on the Indigo Crop of the Punjab for the year 1896, by G. C. Walker, Esquire, C.S., Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab	xv
D.—Report on the Colonization of the Government waste lands commanded by the Chenáb Canal for the year ending 30th September 1897, by Captain F. P. Young, Colonization Officer	xvii

STATEMENTS.

PART I.

- No.
- I.—Tahsil Statistics.
 - II.—Working of the Village Record Agency.
 - III.—Analysis of Chief Statistics.
 - IV.—Rainfall.
 - V.—Area of the Districts of the Punjab.
 - V A.—Changes made in the Districts.
 - VI A.—Crop Return for Kharif 1897.
 - VI B.— Ditto Rabi 1897.
 - VI C.—Abbreviated Crop Return for Kharif 1896 and Rabi 1897.
 - VII.—Incidence of Revenue.
 - VIII.—Irrigation in 1896-97.
 - IX.—Prices of Produce.
 - X A.—Totals of Sales, Mortgages, Redemptions and other transfers.
 - X B.—Transfer to new Agriculturists.
 - Supplement to X A and X B.—Mortgages, Redemptions and Sales before Rabi 1896.
 - XI.—Varieties of tenure.
 - XII.—Cultivating Occupancy of Land.
 - XIII.—Prevailing Rents.
 - XIV.—Agricultural Stock.
 - XV.—Agricultural Implements and Machines.
 - XV A.— Ditto ditto ditto success of—
 - XVI.—Abstract of the Canal Clearance Fund.
 - XVII.—Income and Expenditure, Patwari Fund.

PART II.

- XVIII A.—Comparative Statement of Fixed Land Revenue.
- XVIII B.—Suspensions of Fixed Land Revenue.
- XIX.—Alterations in the Fixed Land Revenue Demand.
- XX.—Comparative Statement of Fluctuating and Miscellaneous Revenue.
- XX A.—Fluctuating Assessment of Land for which the Assessment varies with the Cultivation.
- XXI.—Demand, Collections and Balances of Local Rate.
- XXII.—Area and Income of Government Lands.
- XXIII.—Alluvion, Diluvion and Destructive Inundation in Districts.
- XXIV.—Compensation and Reduction of Revenue on account of Acquisition of Land for public purposes.
- XXV.—Land Revenue Assignments.
- XXVI.—Disbursements, Collections and Outstandings on account of Acts XIX of 1883 and XII of 1883.
- XXVII.—Protective Pattas.
- XXVIII A.—Work done by Officers.
- XXVIII B.—Classified List of Cases decided before Revenue Officers.
- XXVIII C.—Appellate Work.
- XXX.—Enhancement or Reduction of Cash Rents.
- XXXI.—Ejectment proceedings under the Tenancy Act.
- XXXIII A.—Special revision of Records and general Re-assessment.
- XXXIII B.—Cost of field Survey Operations.
- XXXIV.—Expenditure on account of Re-assessment Operations.
- XXXV.—Calendar of Land Revenue Settlements.
- XXXVI.—Extent of Litigation.
- XXXVII.—Outstanding Decrees of Suits.
- XXXVIII.—Amount expended in Litigation.

REPORT ON THE LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

PUNJAB

FOR THE

AGRICULTURAL YEAR 1st OCTOBER 1896 to 30th SEPTEMBER 1897.

PART I.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE.

1.—*Preliminary.*—Part I of this report has been furnished by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, and Part II has been prepared in the Financial Commissioner's Office as usual.

The reports were received from the districts on the dates noted below:—

Division.	District.	Date of receipt of fair copy.
DELHI	Hissár ...	25th November 1897.
	Rohtak ...	25th ditto.
	Gurgaon ...	25th ditto.
	Delhi ...	25th ditto.
	Karnál ...	14th December 1897.
	Umballa ...	25th November 1897.
JULLUNDUR	Simla ...	25th ditto.
	Kángra ...	17th ditto.
	Hoshiárpur ...	20th ditto.
	Jullundur ...	17th ditto.
	Ludhiána ...	25th ditto.
LAHORE	Ferozepore ...	29th ditto.
	Mooltan ...	29th ditto.
	Jhang ...	18th ditto.
	Montgomery ...	19th ditto.
	Lahore ...	19th ditto.
RAWALPINDI	Amritsar ...	16th ditto.
	Gurdáspur ...	19th ditto.
	Siálkot ...	16th ditto.
	Gujrát ...	18th ditto.
	Gujránwála ...	16th ditto.
PESHAWAR	Shahpur ...	18th ditto.
	Jhelum ...	16th ditto.
	Ráwalpindi ...	21st ditto.
DERAJAT	Hazára ...	22nd ditto.
	Pesháwar ...	22nd ditto.
	Kohát ...	22nd ditto.
DERAJAT	Bannu ...	29th ditto.
	Dera Ismail Khan ...	30th ditto.
	Dera Gházi Khan ...	10th December 1897.
	Muzaffargarh ...	29th November 1897.

2. *Rainfall and harvests.*—The harvests dealt with in this report are the autumn of 1896 and the spring of 1897. The year was an exceptional one, and

was strikingly characterised by the extreme lightness and partial nature of the monsoon rainfall, its early and abrupt cessation, the high temperature and violent hot winds in the autumn, the late arrival of the winter rains, their unusual prolongation and the generally satisfactory results they produced.

During May 1896 there was a fairly general fall of rain all over the Province. But it was everywhere slight and did little good except in the Hazára district. The fall in June was much below the average, especially in the south of the Delhi Division. Hissár, Gurgáon, Karnál and Umballa received only one quarter of their average. Delhi, Jullundur, Lahore and Shalpur returned a total very slightly in excess of the monthly average. The monsoon increased in volume in July, but was even then much weaker than usual, and the rainfall was on the whole shorter than that received in the July of the previous year. The districts that wanted rain most—Hissár, Karnál and Ferozepore—were again the greatest sufferers. The other districts in the Jullundur Division were more fortunate, and the fall in the Ráwalpindi and Pesháwar Divisions was heavier than it had been in July 1895. With the exception of Bannu, the Deraját districts received no rain. The people nevertheless made great efforts, and sowings were extensively carried on all over the Province during this month. The seed, as a rule, germinated successfully, and up to the middle of the following month the prospects, though not bright, were fairly good. In August, however, the monsoon lost all its force, and by the end of the month hot weather conditions re-established themselves. In Hissár, Rohtak, Gurgáon and Ferozepore the total rainfall during the month was quite inadequate, and the few showers that were received were partial to a degree. In Delhi, Karnál and Umballa, and in the Jullundur Division, the average was slightly exceeded, but the rain stopped altogether when barely half the month had gone. There was a great deficit in all the districts of the Lahore and Ráwalpindi Divisions, except Amritsar, Jhelum and Ráwalpindi, while Bannu was the only frontier district which received any rain to speak of. After the 20th of August the rains ceased everywhere, and the dry, hot west winds set in with the most damaging results. The three hill districts of Simla, Kángra and Hazára returned a fall of over two inches in September, and during this month from one to two inches were recorded in Gurgáon, Jhelum, Ráwalpindi and Kohát. In the remaining districts of the Province only a few feeble showers were registered, the monthly total amounting in no case to one inch. The conditions of the previous September thus repeated themselves over the greater part of the Punjab, and were aggravated by the generally short measure of the rainfall in July and August. October was as usual practically rainless. The rainfall during the monsoon period was thus very deficient when compared with the average, and was even more scanty and variable than during the corresponding period of 1895. The general result was to make the kharif harvest of 1896 one of the most unfavourable on record.

The area sown was 5 per cent. less than that of the preceding year, 18 per cent. below the quinquennial, and 19 per cent. below the decennial average, or normal. The area which failed to mature a crop was abnormally large. In Hissár, where cultivation is notoriously insecure, the failure was wholesale. If this peculiarly circumstanced district is excluded, the returns show that only 25 per cent. of the crop area sown in the Province failed.

The Delhi Division showed the worst results of all. In Hissár the harvested area was only one-fourth of the average. The outturn was very poor, and most of the *jowár* and one-third of the *bájra* were used as fodder. The total area under food grains was 190,503 acres against an average of over a million, and the people were only saved by heavy imports from Sind. In Rohtak the harvested area exceeded that of 1895 by 6 per cent, but was 22 per cent. below the quinquennial average. The outturn of the district was put at 8 annas or half an average crop. The cropped area in Gurgáon was only 13 per cent. below the quinquennial average. The harvest was not so poor as in 1895, and may be taken to have been five-eighths of the average. In Delhi the harvest was three-quarters of the normal, and Karnál was little better than Gurgáon. The yield in Umballa was two-thirds of the average.

In the Jullundur Division the harvest was not bad in Kangra, though below the average. In Hoshiarpur the results were below those of 1895, but the harvest was a full average one. It was fair in Jullundur, and not quite up to the normal in Ludhiána. Parts of Ferozepore, however, suffered almost as much as Hissár. The district was saved from wholesale failure by the facilities for irrigation, and the harvest was only a nine-anna one.

In the Lahore Division the harvested area in Multán was 16 and 11 per cent. above the quinquennial and decennial averages, but the outturn was poor and the harvest was barely four-fifths of an average one. In Jhang there was a large increase of area, the inundations were favourable, and the people reaped a bumper crop. In Montgomery and Lahore the harvest was only five-eighths of the normal, and in Amritsar, thanks to an excellent rice crop, the proportion was seven-eighths. In Gurdáspur the crops were not quite so good.

In the Ráwalpindi Division an abnormally large area was sown in Siálkot, but the rice crop failed largely, and one-third of the cane had to be used as fodder. The Phalia tahsil of Gujrát suffered very heavily from lack of rain and the harvest over the whole district was only half the average. In spite of extended sowings in Gujránwála the crop was only a twelve-anna one. Sháhpur returned the harvest as little more than half the normal, which is the worst result of the last ten years with the exception of 1890. Jhelum was very little better, and the early stoppage of the rains reduced the harvest in Ráwalpindi to one-third of the average.

In the Pesháwar Division there was a distinct falling-off in Hazára. The failure was not so great in Pesháwar and Kohát, but the harvests of these two districts were only three-fourths of the normal.

In the Deraját Division the crop was a good average one in Bannu, but in Dera Ismail Khán and Dera Gházi Khán the harvests were about two-thirds of the average. In Muzaffargarh, on the other hand, the crop was well above the normal.

Taken as a whole, the harvest in the Province was very poor, and could not be rated higher than ten annas. At the same time there was a great lack of fodder of all kinds, and the resulting cattle mortality was enormous in some districts.

In November and December there was fairly good rain in the hill and submontane districts, as well as in a few places in the plains, and this facilitated rabi sowings in Gurgáon, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepore, Gurdáspur, Jhelum, Ráwalpindi, the whole of the Pesháwar Division and Bannu. But by the end of the year the position was critical over the rest of the Province. Sowings on dry land had been much reduced. About the middle of January there was general and good rain throughout all the Punjab, except Hissár and parts of Rohtak where the showers were slight and scattered. In the hills and the northern districts fresh sowings were made. In February there were fairly heavy rains in the hills and submontane districts, but none fell in the Delhi Division. In the remaining districts the showers, though small, were frequent and did much good to the standing crops. The rain in March was more general than usual, but again no district in the Delhi Division received an appreciable share. The rains continued well into April, and were most beneficial, especially to the late sowings in the north of the Province. The high westerly winds which blew in February and March did considerable damage in the Delhi Division and Ferozepore. Smut appeared about the middle of March in a few districts of the Central Punjab, but its progress was arrested by timely rains before much harm was done. Of rust no complaints were received except from Hazára.

In Hissár the meteorological conditions were as unfavourable as they could be: more than four-fifths of the crops sown failed to mature, and the yield of the remaining fifth was poor. In Rohtak the crop was only two-thirds of the average, but the outturn was good. The failure was not quite so great in Gurgáon, but Delhi had a poor harvest. Next to Hissár Karnál fared worst, the harvest being little over half the average. Umballa was nearly as bad owing to the almost complete failure of the gram crop.

In the Jullundur Division Kangra had a bumper harvest, and Hoshiarpur was only 11 per cent. below the average. The harvest in Jullundur with the exception of one tahsil was average, and in Ludhiána only moderate. The flow in the Multán canals was much below the average. In Jhang the crop was slightly above, and in Montgomery and Lahore slightly below, the average. The total harvested area in Amritsar was 15 per cent. below the average. In Gurdáspur the crop was normal. In Siálkot the yield on unirrigated land was well below the average, and in Gujrát the area under food grains was much contracted. In Gujránwála only two-thirds of the unirrigated sowings yielded a crop. The harvests in Sháhpur, Jhelum and Ráwalpindi were all below the average. Hazára had a bumper crop. In Pesháwar and Kohát the harvest was above the average. Bannu had an excellent crop, and those of Dera Ismail Khán, Dera Gházi Khán and Muzaffargarh were equal to the average.

The principal feature of the harvest over the Province as a whole, was the enormously increased area put under irrigation. The harvest was superior to the rabi of 1896, but was below the average.

The reports received show that the rain-gauges under the management of the Irrigation Department are properly maintained and duly inspected. Of those at tahsil head-quarters 43 were inspected by Deputy Commissioners, 6 by Commissioners and 37 by the Director of Land Records. The inspections were more frequent than last year, and the results were generally satisfactory.

3. *Increase and decrease in cultivated areas.*—The total cultivated area of the year was 26,821,955 acres, or a little over 2,000 acres less than the return of the previous year. It was, however, 1,020,310 acres, or nearly 4 per cent. above the average of the preceding ten years, which is 25,801,645. The following table compares the areas of total cultivation, fallows and crops for 1896-97 and the previous ten years:—

1	2	3	4	5
Year.	Cultivated.	Current fallows.	Balance cropped.	Area of crops by jinswar returns.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1886-87	24,158,671	5,771,010	18,387,661	20,317,967
1887-88	24,683,484	4,097,456	20,586,028	22,790,601
1888-89	24,893,368	4,172,673	20,720,695	23,469,994
1889-90	25,492,354	6,084,841	19,407,513	21,231,353
1890-91	25,871,157	5,017,065	20,854,092	23,536,126
1891-92	25,779,366	6,536,794	19,242,572	21,408,657
1892-93	26,816,035	3,028,350	23,787,685	26,732,864
1893-94	26,460,801	3,627,695	22,833,106	25,645,349
1894-95	27,037,972	5,261,070	21,776,902	24,479,892
1895-96	26,823,254	9,743,164	17,080,090	19,054,346
1896-97	26,821,955	10,621,867	16,200,088	18,515,557

“Current fallows” here include not only land on which no crop was sown, but also land on which the crops sown failed to germinate or mature. The area under current fallows this year has reached the alarming total of 10,621,867 acres, which is 39.6 per cent. of the total cultivated area and is 9

per cent. higher than the total of last year which was in itself a record one. Previous to 1895-96 the decennial or normal average of current fallows was 4,829,453 acres, and if last year's figures are taken into account the average is 5,334,012. This year's total is 119 per cent. higher than the former and almost double the latter. These exceptional results, it is almost unnecessary to say, were caused by the variable character and early cessation of the monsoon and by the late arrival of the winter rains. "Balance cropped" signifies the areas on which crops were successfully raised after deducting fallow and failed areas, and this shrunk from 17,080,090 acres last year and a decennial average of 20,467,634 acres to 16,200,088 in the year under review. The area of crops actually grown, including double crops, was only 18,515,957 acres, a decrease of 2·8 per cent. when compared with last year and of 4,350,818 acres, or 19 per cent., when compared with the normal which is 22,866,775 acres. The area of successful crops was much the smallest of any year in the last decade. It is smaller by nearly two million acres than the area of the very bad year 1886-87, since when the cultivated area has increased by over two-and-a-half million acres and the facilities for irrigation have developed to so striking a degree.

The percentage of crops harvested to the area upon which they were grown is 114·2, so that the percentage of double-cropping was 14·2. The normal is 11·1.

The total area of the Province has increased from 65,619,479 to 65,739,730 acres, or by about 188 square miles. The differences are slight and have been chiefly due to the revision of the survey in districts under settlement. The area under "Forests" has increased by 633,197 acres, or 17 per cent. This has been caused by the transfer of large blocks of land from "Government waste" and land "not available for cultivation" to "Forests" in the Shahpur, Ráwalpindi and Pesháwar districts.

Of the total area of the Province 6·6 is under forests, 18·4 per cent. is unculturable waste not the property of Government, 8·8 per cent. is Government waste available for cultivation, 25·4 per cent. is private property available for cultivation and 40·8 per cent., or just over two-fifths, is actually under cultivation.

3 (a). The only transfers between districts have been (1) that of 1,334 acres from Gujránwála to Jhang and (2) that of 1,150 acres from the same district to Gujráat. Of the total only 536 acres were cultivated.

3 (b). *Classification of cultivated area.*—The area and proportion of crops grown on the different classes of soils were as follows :—

Name of soil.	TOTAL AREA CULTIVATED.		Per cent. of cultivated area.	Uncropped.	Cropped.	Crops grown.	Per cent. of total area of crops.
	1895-96.	1896-97.					
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Well lands ...	4,543,880	4,535,585	16·9	829,839	3,705,746	4,413,066	23·9
Canal lands ...	3,837,803	4,263,428	15·9	919,646	3,343,782	4,113,011	22·2
Riverain land ...	1,614,818	1,668,555	6·2	382,700	1,285,855	1,411,902	7·6
Other wet land ...	760,334	702,937	2·6	390,889	312,048	358,590	1·9
Dry land ...	16,066,419	15,651,450	58·4	8,098,793	7,559,657	8,219,388	44·4
Total ...	26,823,254	26,821,955	100·0	10,621,867	16,200,088	18,515,957	100·0

Of every 100 acres of cultivation on the average 60.3 were put under crops, excluding fallows and failure, and yielded 68.2 acres of harvested crops. This shows a decrease when compared with even the meagre totals of last year which were 63.6 and 71 acres, respectively. The averages of the harvested crops for the last ten years were 84, 92, 94, 83, 91, 83, 99.7, 96.9, 91.3 and 71, giving a mean of 88.6. If the previous year which was little better than that under review is excluded the mean comes to 90.5, so that the present results show an exceptional difference between the harvested area and that under cultivation. On well lands 97.2 acres of crops were grown per 100 acres of cultivation and on canal lands 96.4 acres. The similarly calculated figures for last year were 91.1 and 89.9. Deductions from these figures must be made with some caution for the reasons pointed out on page 6 of the Report for 1894-95, but they show conclusively that the wells and canals were worked up to the limit of their capacity and that the water was used to serve as great an area as possible. On "other wet lands" the proportion of crops grown to the total area was 51 per cent., and on unirrigated lands only 52.5 per cent. These figures are very significant as they bring out very clearly both the large contraction of the sown area and the great proportion of failures from drought.

3 (c). *Irrigation wells*.—As might have been expected there was a marked increase in the number of wells at work during the year under review. Last year the true total of wells in use was 251,256. During the present year 2,227 are shown as "fallen in and disused during the year," while 7,542 were nearly made or brought into use, giving a net increase of 5,315 or 2.1 per cent. According to these figures the total number in use this year should be 256,571, whereas the number returned as in use is 258,452, an excess of 1,881. The increase is distributed over every district, except Dera Gházi Khán (—21) and Kángra where there has been no change of any kind. The net increase, that is the difference as shown in this year's returns between the number of wells newly brought into working and the number gone out of working, exceeds 100 in every district in the Delhi and Lahore Divisions except Jhang, in Hoshiárpur, Jullundur and Ferozepore, in every district in the Ráwalpindi Division except Jhelum and Gujránwála, and in Pesháwar and Dera Ismail Khán. An equally striking proof of the strenuous efforts made by the agriculturists to supplement the deficient rainfall is supplied by the returns of *kachcha* wells, *dhenklis* and *jhalárs*. Last year these increased from 29,478 to 34,143, and this year the total is 46,697, or 58 per cent. above the total of 1894-95 and 42 per cent. above that of 1895-96.

3 (d). The total area under fluctuating assessments was 9,379,818 acres against 9,165,711 acres last year, an increase of 214,107 acres, or 2.3 per cent. The cultivated area has also increased by 10.8 per cent. to 1,382,591 acres, while the area of crops was 1,345,526, an increase of 213,972 acres, or 18.9 per cent.

AREA UNDER FLUCTUATING ASSESSMENT.

YEAR.	CULTIVATED.												Current fallows.	Balance cropped.	Area of crops by jins- war returns.	WELLS.		
	Cháhi.	Cháhi nahri.	Nahri.	Nahri ábi.	Ábi.	Sailáb nahri.	Dahri.	Rohi.	Maira.	Sailáb.	Baráni.	Total.				Pakka.	Kachcha.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			
1895-96	142,156	24,729	164,566	251,087	6,211	6,380	6,579	3	209	451,628	194,444	1,247,942	183,601	1,064,341	1,131,554	13,571	2,841	16,412
1896-97	174,971	39,701	174,061	304,065	5,944	6,089	6,041	...	125	530,277	141,317	1,382,591	153,188	1,229,403	1,345,526	16,375	3,751	20,126
Difference + or -	+ 32,815	+ 14,972	+ 9,495	+ 52,978	- 267	- 241	- 538	- 3	- 84	+ 78,649	- 55,127	+ 134,649	- 30,413	+ 165,062	+ 213,972	+ 2,804	+ 910	+ 3,714
Percentage + or -	+ 22.4	+ 60.5	+ 5.8	+ 43.0	- 4.3	- 3.8	- 8.2	- 300	- 4.2	+ 17.4	- 27.3	+ 10.8	- 16.6	+ 15.5	+ 18.9	+ 20.7	+ 32.0	+ 22.6

The total area of crops irrigated from all sources was 8,720,408 acres against 7,827,240 last year, 6,713,918 in 1894-95, and a normal area of 7,179,630. There has thus been an increase of 893,168 acres, or 11·4 per cent., as compared with last year, and of 1,540,778 acres, or 21·4 per cent., above the normal area. If these figures are read with those showing the total areas under crops the account they give of the condition of the country during 1896-97 is very significant. The normal proportion of irrigated to total crops is 30 per cent., 25 per cent. in the kharif and 34 per cent. in the rabi. In 1894-95 the proportion was only 27·4 per cent.: it rose last year to 41 per cent., and this year it has reached the record figure of 47 per cent. There has been an increase in the irrigated crops all over the Province except in the Montgomery, Shahpur, Jhelum, Hazára, Kohát and Dera Gházi Khán districts, the total decrease in which is under 18,000 acres.

3 (e). The following table shows the area of crops irrigated in each district for this and the previous year as well as the average area for the ten years ending 1895-96 :—

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	TOTAL AREA OF CROPS IRRIGATED.			
		Average of ten years ending 1895-96.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Difference + or —.
DELHI.	Hissár	Acres. 89,309	Acres. 168,635	Acres. 180,204	Acres. + 11,569
	Rohtak	86,580	146,863	182,968	+ 36,105
	Gurgáon	129,939	143,575	217,421	+ 68,846
	Delhi	105,199	133,854	178,782	+ 44,928
	Karnál	148,840	225,864	289,356	+ 63,492
	Umballa	42,878	49,565	83,149	+ 33,584
	Simla	1,178	1,193	1,214	+ 21
JULLUNDUR.	Kángra	157,438	169,359	173,037	+ 3,678
	Hoskiápur	47,247	64,784	79,950	+ 15,163
	Jullundur	335,366	380,990	398,815	+ 17,825
	Ludhiána	187,622	223,486	275,292	+ 51,806
	Ferozepore	487,797	594,352	756,401	+ 162,049
LAHORE.	Mooltan	586,909	553,792	582,500	+ 28,708
	Jhang	321,743	452,868	563,507	+ 110,639
	Montgomery	341,252	319,642	318,225	— 1,417
	Lahore	632,287	662,517	696,141	+ 33,624
	Amritsar	425,836	475,521	543,068	+ 67,547
	Gurdáspur	181,116	190,040	210,375	+ 20,335
RAWALPINDI.	Siálkot	482,436	475,594	504,363	+ 28,769
	Gujrát	217,486	182,420	184,128	+ 1,708
	Gujránwála	455,632	516,190	557,452	+ 41,262
	Shahpur	236,892	237,402	230,417	— 6,985
	Jhelum	41,169	40,695	39,879	— 816
	Ráwalpindi	54,001	55,983	58,111	+ 2,128
PESHAWAR.	Hazára	54,433	56,358	55,674	— 684
	Pesháwer	376,371	355,193	405,290	+ 50,097
	Kohát	40,252	39,214	39,166	— 48
DERAJAT,	Bannu	164,766	158,059	166,575	+ 8,516
	Dera Ismáil Khan	161,312	154,072	159,849	+ 5,777
	Dera Gházi Khan	20,221	237,314	230,074	— 7,240
	Muzaffargarh	346,123	356,846	359,025	+ 2,179
	Total	7,179,630	7,827,240	8,720,408	+ 893,168

The statement below gives details of the area of crops irrigated from various sources for this year and for 1895-96:—

YEAR.	Total area of crops in column 41 of Forms VI C irrigated and unirrigated.	IRRIGATED BY						DETAILS.			
		Canals.		Tanks.	Wells.	Other sources.	Total area of crops irrigated.	Wheat.	Other cereals and pulses.	Miscellaneous food crops.	Miscellaneous non-food crops.
		Government.	Private.								
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1895-96	19,054,346	3,161,008	758,744	36,017	3,730,789	140,682	7,827,240	3,203,460	2,434,777	623,630	1,565,373
1896-97	18,515,957	3,733,267	790,801	27,920	4,006,984	161,436	8,720,408	3,269,411	3,008,556	698,715	1,743,726
Difference + or —	— 538,389	+ 572,259	+ 32,057	— 8,097	+ 276,195	+ 20,754	+ 893,168	+ 65,951	+ 573,779	+ 75,085	+ 178,353
Percentage of difference + or —	— 2·8	+ 18·4	+ 4·2	— 22·5	+ 7·4	+ 14·7	+ 11·4	+ 2·1	+ 23·6	+ 12·0	+ 11·4

Notwithstanding the enormous increase last year in the area irrigated by Government canals, the figures this year show an almost equally extensive development. Last year the increase was 593,026 acres, or 23 per cent., and during the year under review the total area has expanded by 572,259 acres, or nearly 18½ per cent. The figures for the two scarce years and for the preceding five years are brought together below :—

	Acre.
1890-91 	2,514,733
1891-92 	2,605,773
1892-93 	2,550,441
1893-94 	2,523,378
1894-95 	2,567,982
1895-96 	3,461,008
1896-97 	3,733,267

It was remarked in this report last year that the acreage of crops grown on land irrigated from Government canals had beaten the record, but this year that record was exceeded by 893,168 acres, or 11·4 per cent. The districts in which the increase has been over 20,000 acres are :—

[illegible]

Montgomery (— 8,601) and Dera Gházi Khan (— 9,527) are the only districts which show a decrease. In both of these the canals are inundation ones and the supply was contracted owing to the lowness of the rivers.

The area irrigated from private canals rose by 32,057 acres, or 4·2 per cent., to 790,801 acres, which, however, is well below the totals of 1893-94 and 1894-95. Hissár, Karnál, Kángra, Ferozepore, Montgomery, Siálkot and all the frontier districts, except Hazára, show a decided increase. The most marked falling-off, due almost entirely to the short supply of water in the rivers, has occurred in Gurdáspur, Sháhpur, Jhelum, Ráwalpindi and Hazára.

The area served by wells has risen by 7·4 per cent. to 4,006,984 acres. The average area of irrigated crops per well comes to 15·6 acres, as compared with a similar average of 14·8 acres last year. These figures also point to the efforts made by the cultivators to economise the water in all districts, but seven show an increase in well irrigation. The increase was most marked in the following :—

[illegible]

The only considerable decreases were :—

	Acres.
Jhang	10,570
Lahore	10,176
Sháhpar	6,792

4. *Crops and produce.*—The total area of crops has already been compared with the past year's figures and the normal on page Statements VI A, VI B and VI C. The crop area of each harvest and of the two taken together are also graphically compared with those of the previous years in diagram A from which it will be seen that not only the total figures but also the figures for each harvest separately are the lowest on record for the last twelve years. The kharíf area was 8,144,293 acres, a decrease of 5·1 per cent. on the return of last year and of 19·7 per cent. on the normal. The rabi area was 10,367,157 acres, a decrease of more than 1 per cent. on last year's figures and of 21·4 per cent. on the normal. The distribution of crops between the kharíf and rabi for the last five years is shown in the following table :—

Harvests.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Kharíf	41·3	45·3	39·4	41·0	45·0	44·0
Rabi	58·7	54·7	60·6	59·0	55·0	56·0

The distribution of crops was as follows :—

KHARIF.				RABI.			
Crops.	Average of ten years ending 1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Crops.	Average of ten years ending 1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Maize	5·5	7·0	7·4	Wheat	30·9	32·9	32·6
Bájra	8·6	6·5	6·4	Barley	6·2	4·2	6·2
Jowár	9·5	9·3	9·5	Gram	10·9	8·3	6·5
Other food crops	11·4	11·3	9·2	Other food crops	2·0	2·3	2·5
Til	0·9	0·8	1·1	Oilseeds	2·8	2·2	2·4
Sugarcane	1·5	2·0	2·1	Others	3·6	5·1	5·8
Cotton	3·6	5·5	5·5				
Others	2·6	2·6	2·8				
Total	43·6	45·0	44·0	Total	56·4	55·0	56·0

The area under maize, which was a large and good crop on the hills, again shows a large increase. The rice crop was everywhere poor. The millets also were poor, but the area under *jowár* increased and that under *bájra* contracted. There was a marked increase under sesamum (*til*), but the outturn was inferior to that of last year. The area under sugarcane expanded somewhat, but a very large proportion of the crop was used as fodder and the yield was much injured by the severe frosts in December. There was a very slight decrease in cotton and the outturn was poor. There was a very large increase in fodder crops.

The area under cotton shrank by nearly 6 per cent. to 994,368 acres. Only 12 districts showed an increase; those with the largest being Rohtak, Ferozepore, Multán, Lahore, Amritsar and Gujrat. The decrease was most marked in all the districts of the Ráwalpindi Division with the exception of Gujrat and in all the frontier districts except Muzaffargarh.

The area under rice increased in 9 districts and fell off in 22, chiefly in the Delhi, Jullundur and Pesháwar Divisions. The largest increase was returned from Gujranwála district. The final result was a decrease of 195,952 acres, or 26·2 per cent.

The area sown with *jowár* contracted in 13 districts and expanded in 17, the largest increases occurring in Rohtak, Delhi Umballa, Jhang and Amritsar. The decrease was most marked in Karnál, Ferozepore, Gujrat, Pesháwar and Dera Gházi Khan, and the net result was an increase of 2,904 acres, or 0·2 per cent.

The area under *bájlra* fell below last year's figures in 12 districts, and the final result was a decrease of 53,911 acres, or 4·3 per cent.

The area under rabi crops fell from 10,472,633 acres in 1895-96 to 10,371,181 acres in the year under review, a decrease of one per cent. As regards area the crop fell short of three-fourths of the normal in—

Percentage of normal.

Hissár	...	...	...	...	...	...	25·6
Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	...	33·0
Delhi	...	...	...	...	...	...	60·3
Karnál	...	...	...	...	...	...	56·4
Umballa	...	...	...	...	...	...	53·8
Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	64·6
Gujrat	...	...	...	...	...	...	71·3
Jhelum	...	...	...	...	...	...	72·9

5. *Prices.*—Statement IX shows the average harvest prices prevailing at the trading marts of each district at the time when the trade in each staple is peculiarly brisk, that is, from the 1st June to the 15th July for rabi produce, and from the 1st to the 31st December for all the *kharif* articles except *gur*. The prices for the last three years are compared in the following tables:—

No.	Names of articles.	PRICE PER MAUND RULING IN YEAR			Difference between 1896 and 1897 + or —
		1895.	1896.	1897.	
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Rice	3 13 1	4 3 7	5 12 6	+ 1 8 11
2	Wheat	1 15 2	2 10 5	3 10 1	+ 0 15 8
3	Barley	1 5 5	2 1 5	2 14 3	+ 0 12 10
4	Jowár	1 7 1	2 2 6	3 15 6	+ 1 13 0
5	Bájlra	1 11 10	2 7 9	4 6 6	+ 1 14 9
6	Maize	1 7 0	2 3 0	3 13 7	+ 1 10 7
7	Gram	1 8 7	2 4 1	3 12 5	+ 1 8 4
8	Linseed	4 13 1	4 12 3	5 1 3	+ 0 5 0
9	Til (sesamum)	4 14 11	5 7 8	5 9 7	+ 0 1 11
10	Gur	4 2 7	4 0 2	4 2 5	+ 0 2 3
11	Cotton (cleaned)	13 9 3	13 11 11	13 9 4	— 0 2 7
12	Ghi	27 12 8	31 14 2	30 8 6	— 1 5 8
13	Grass	0 7 8	0 10 2	0 12 2	+ 0 2 0
14	Straw	0 6 9	0 9 4	0 11 11	+ 0 2 7
15	Fodder (jowár and bájlra)	0 6 0	0 8 9	1 0 1	+ 0 7 4
16	Firewood	0 5 11	0 5 8	0 5 8	— 0 0 2
17	Salt	2 15 5	3 0 2	3 1 4	+ 0 1 2
18	Iron	6 0 8	5 15 5	5 12 7	— 0 2 10
19	Plough-bullock, each	38 1 7	37 10 9	38 5 3	+ 0 10 6
20	Sheep	3 8 0	3 8 4	3 9 3	+ 0 0 11
21	Fish per sér	0 2 4	0 2 1	0 2 0	— 0 0 1

The figures for Nos. 1 to 17 represent wholesale, and for Nos. 18 to 21 retail; prices per maund of 32½ lbs. In all but five cases—cotton, *ghi*, firewood, iron and fish—where the fall has been slight, prices have risen. The rise in the prices of food grains is phenomenal. As compared with last year wheat rose by 36·9 per cent., barley by 38·4 per cent., gram by 67·4 per cent., *jowár* by 84·1 per cent., *báira* by 77·4 per cent., and maize by 76·0 per cent. Last year the order of dearness of the food grains was wheat, *báira*, gram, maize, *jowár* and barley. This year this order was entirely changed, *báira* and *jowár* being the dearest grains, and wheat and barley the cheapest. The favourable monsoon of 1897 has changed the prices again which now show a downward tendency. *Báira* has fallen to about Rs. 2 per maund, but the price of gram is still very high, owing chiefly to the delay in the arrival of the winter rains. Prices will, however, not approach their normal level until the rabi harvest of 1898 is assured.

SECTION II.—LAND REVENUE ACT.

6. *Statistics of Patwáris' and Kánúgos' circles.*—The number of kánúgos' circles has been increased from 387 to 394. One circle has been reduced in Tahsíl Chinóte and added to Jhang. Four new circles have been constituted in Tahsíl Lyallpur. The other changes are in the Pesháwar district, one new circle having been added to each of the three tahsils of Nowshera, Mardán and Swábi. The number of patwáris has risen by 72 to 8,240. The changes have been as follows:—

Increases.				Decreases.			
Jhang	...	...	39	Kohát	...	...	4
Montgomery	...	...	37	Net increase	...	...	76
Total			80	Total			80

The increase in Jhang and Montgomery is due to the expansion of cultivation on the new Chenáb colony.

6 (a). *Number of fields.*—The number of fields has risen by 548,026, or 1·6 per cent., to 34,748,092. The total has fallen in five districts, but is of no importance except in Gurgáon and Karnál. The following districts return an increase of over 25,000 acres:—

Acres.				Acres.			
Kángra	...	...	45,580	Hoshiárpur	...	...	25,328
Perozepore	...	...	39,859	Multán	...	...	27,377
Jhang	...	...	174,570	Lahore	...	...	27,727
Sialkot	...	...	55,098	Jhelum	...	...	38,965
Hazára	...	...	77,138				

The average size of a field is now 1·84 acres against 1·92 acres last year. The average number of fields for a kánúgo's and patwári's circle is now 88,193 and 4,180, respectively. The number of cultivating holdings has increased from 9,163,584 to 9,571,341, an increase of 407,757, or 4·4 per cent. There is now an average of 24,293 holdings for a kánúgo's and of 1,152 for a patwári's circle.

6 (b). *Kánúgos.*—The number of kánúgos, who have not yet been certified efficient by the Director of Land Records, is 11 against 8 last year. Of these 1 is in Hissár, 1 in Jullundur, 1 in Ludhiána, 1 in Multán, 2 in Jhang, 1 in Montgomery, 1 in Jhelum, 1 in Ráwalpindi, 2 in Kohát, and 1 in Dera Gházi Khan. The arrangements for the selection, training and examination of kánúgo candidates are the same as before.

6 (c). *Patwáris.*—There are now 71 unpassed patwáris in the Province against 69 last year. The largest number of unpassed men are found in the new part of the Chenáb colony, in Jhang 34 and Gujranwála 15. As was remarked last year the efforts made to raise the status of the patwári by increasing his pay and insisting on a higher standard of efficiency are slowly producing results which all tend to bring about the desired result. But the pay is still too small considering the various and ever-present temptations to

which this class of official is exposed. The hereditary principle is still a factor in the selection of new men, but year by year its force diminishes. It is unfortunate that the rise in the educational standard of the patwári candidates should act as a check on the increase of fresh appointments given to the agricultural castes, but this check is reduced to a minimum in districts under settlement.

6 (d). *Patwári cess*.—The patwári cess was imposed for the first time this year in the new Lyallpur tahsíl of the Jhang district. The cess was revised in the Bannu district and slightly raised. A contribution of Rs. 95,533 was made from the Patwári Funds of the Province towards the pay of the kánúngo establishment, and it is hoped that during the current year the Fund will be provincialised.

6 (e). *Working of the Village Record Agency*.—There are 36,666 village in the Province. The kharíf crop abstract were filed

Statement No. II.

the proper date in 29,524 and the rabi abstracts 26,573. The corresponding figures last year were 33,766 and 28,474, so that there has been a considerable falling-off everywhere. This was due in a large measure to the heavy increase of work caused by the scarcity, the extra precautions taken to secure a correct return of the failed areas, and the slackness in supervision caused by the employment of inspecting officers in the collection of transport. Thirty-one thousand three hundred and ninety-six annual records (*jamabandís*) were filed in time against 33,046 last year. The districts in which a considerable number were not filed up to date are, excepting the districts under settlement, Hissár 113, Ferozepore 93, and Pesháwar 225, and the two districts of Jhang and Gujranwála which contain the new colony. The results are therefore satisfactory. The number of villages in which crop inspections were checked by Deputy Commissioners or their assistants has increased from 7,573 last year to 7,625 this year. In Lahore only 33 villages were so checked; in Kángra 31, in Shahpur 20, and in Ráwalpindi, Pesháwar and Dera Ismail Khan these officers did no checking at all.

The number of villages in which crop inspections were checked by Tahsildárs and Náib-Tahsildárs were 10,515 and 12,856 against 10,720 and 11,831 last year.

The average number of days spent on tour by Tahsildárs was 167 against 163 last year, by Náib-Tahsildárs 179 against 168; by district kánungos 162 against 161. These provincial averages are very satisfactory. On the average each Tahsildár and Náib-Tahsildár have been 8 days more on tour this year than they were during 1896-97, and in each district they have checked the crop inspections of 25 more villages than they did last year. The touring was good of Tahsildárs in Jullundur, Montgomery, Kohát and Muzaffargarh, and of Náib-Tahsildárs in Hissár, Kángra, Ferozepore, Jullundur and Kohát. The Tahsildárs of Lahore, Gurdáspur, Amritsar, Gujranwála and Jhelum and the Náib-Tahsildárs of Montgomery, Gurdáspur, Gujranwála and Ráwalpindi spent too little time in camp. The district kánungos of Delhi, Umballa, Kángra, Hoshiárpur, Jullundur, Jhelum, Ráwalpindi, Hazára and Muzaffargarh were very active, and those of Hissár, Pesháwar and Siálkot do not appear to have been on tour for a sufficient number of days. But in some districts the district kánúngo was kept at head-quarters in charge of the vernacular correspondence connected with the famine. The number of tahsíl offices inspected by district kánungos was only 208 against 223 last year, and at the same time the number of villages tested by them has fallen from 12,395 to 10,539 during the year under report. On the whole then it would appear that, although the average number of days spent on tour by this class of official has risen, the inspection work done has fallen off. Detailed *jamabandís* were prepared in 9,265 villages. The large decrease on last year's return, 11,834, is owing to the fact that in 1896-97 detailed annual records were prepared for the great majority of the villages in three districts under settlement.

6 (f). *Mutations*.—The number of villages in which no mutations were attested during the year was 5,217 against 4,442 last year. The districts showing the largest number are Jhang 457, Ferozepore 381, Gurdáspur 352,

Lahore 338, Hissár 321, Siálkot 320 and Pesháwar 290. The following table shows the amount of mutation work done in each district during the year, as compared with each of the preceding five years:—

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF MUTATIONS ATTESTED.						Difference between this and the previous year + or -
		1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
DELHI.	Hissár	13,980	15,388	13,416	12,817	14,870	14,870	...
	Rohtak	5,258	7,977	7,036	10,013	11,311	12,554	+1,243
	Gurgaon	19,105	22,190	24,517	19,211	20,142	22,426	+2,284
	Delhi	8,319	9,653	11,074	9,243	9,648	9,054	-594
	Karnál	9,620	7,184	9,281	10,047	10,195	8,559	-1,636
	Umballa	21,077	24,671	23,455	25,975	31,522	34,342	+2,820
	Simla	473	804	562	607	796	1,100	+304
JULLUNDUR.	Kángra	44,980	34,797	34,880	32,779	37,851	37,252	-599
	Hoshiárpur	51,625	49,394	52,928	50,804	40,312	39,449	-1,063
	Jullundur	31,475	33,885	31,374	26,304	29,841	35,583	+6,042
	Ludhiána	20,727	24,962	24,333	25,320	27,380	29,234	+1,854
	Ferozepore	31,654	38,854	49,086	28,511	34,835	34,452	-383
LAHORE.	Multán	8,845	9,619	8,762	12,951	9,029	11,222	+2,193
	Jhang	6,541	7,898	5,404	4,683	4,257	6,254	+1,997
	Montgomery	2,362	2,619	1,431	820	1,057	1,617	+560
	Lahore	29,770	6,414	17,335	15,084	12,568	14,614	+2,046
	Amritsar	49,948	14,234	34,184	25,797	27,738	28,724	+986
	Gurdáspur	22,942	44,853	32,790	36,034	38,672	23,865	-14,807
RAWALPINDI.	Siálkot	42,331	76,471	28,797	29,781	32,771	31,722	-1,049
	Gujrát	38,997	12,109	17,254	29,871	16,882	21,558	+4,676
	Gujránwála	27,266	13,466	6,499	9,372	6,222	7,679	+1,457
	Sháhpur	15,879	9,911	7,521	8,143	9,295	8,513	-782
	Jhelum	11,807	14,528	12,822	14,386	31,300	38,077	+6,768
	Ráwalpindí	26,932	26,943	32,101	24,570	27,820	26,864	-956
PESHÁWAR.	Hazára	14,090	18,582	18,664	21,423	21,308	25,972	+4,664
	Pesháwar	28,007	19,978	31,750	103,914	31,910	22,762	-9,148
	Kohát	8,614	10,479	8,046	8,108	10,428	9,077	-1,351
DERAJAT.	Bannu	18,445	19,914	31,013	28,637	23,884	31,936	+8,052
	Dera Ismail Khan	11,797	17,644	18,539	21,032	19,428	24,362	+4,934
	Dera Gházi Khan	10,285	39,112	18,441	70,188	57,793	20,469	-37,324
	Muzaffargarh	7,826	8,981	15,388	10,247	11,138	20,404	+9,266
Total		640,977	643,514	628,683	726,672	662,212	654,666	-7,546

This year the number of attested mutations has fallen by 7,546, or 1·1 per cent., to 654,666 which is nearly 1·8 per cent. below the average of the previous five years. The greatest number was in Hoshiárpur 39,249, the next highest total, 38,077 being returned from Jhelum which is under settlement. The total exceeded 30,000 in six other districts, viz., Kángra, Jullundur, Ferozepore, Umballa, Siálkot and Bannu. It fell short of 10,000 in Delhi, Karnál, Simla, Jhang, Montgomery, Gujránwála, Sháhpur and Kohát. The greatest increase was in Muzaffargarh and the greatest decrease in Dera Gházi Khan owing to the thorough testing of the records in that district last year.

The total number of mutations written up but not attested at the end of the year was 103,720 or about 15·8 per cent. of the number attested. The similar percentage last year was 10·8. Altogether the figures show that the improvement in mutation work is steadily maintained, but to keep the work up to date the extra agency of additional Náib-Tahsildárs must be permanently maintained.

7. *Transfers.*—The totals of transfers under each main head, attested Statements X A and X B. during the last ten years, are given below divided into two quinquennial periods —

Year.	Holdings partitioned.	Inheritance.	Gifts.	Mortgages.	Redemptions.	Sales.	Others.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1887-88 ...	50,832	181,846	38,575	135,567	50,995	48,650	...
1888-89 ...	57,297	192,475	47,310	139,319	61,758	50,206	...
1889-90 ...	53,387	211,000	43,489	131,527	61,074	46,159	...
1890-91 ...	29,933	171,928	26,850	106,049	51,278	33,180	61,229
1891-92 ...	28,160	186,496	32,409	126,953	65,880	47,660	101,476
Total ...	219,609	943,745	188,633	639,415	290,985	225,855	162,705
1892-93 ...	22,756	212,343	32,048	124,493	59,366	45,849	64,589
1893-94 ...	28,512	183,987	29,744	151,200	84,258	52,814	73,920
1894-95 ...	31,171	173,381	31,472	152,666	71,858	51,400	93,524
1895-96 ...	33,807	162,722	29,683	155,877	74,311	56,377	97,610
1896-97 ...	27,059	125,098	28,516	153,291	90,163	60,266	90,333
Total ...	143,305	857,531	151,463	737,527	379,956	266,706	419,976
Percentages of increase or decrease in this year's figures, compared with those of last year.	—19·9	—23·1	—3·9	—1·7	+21·3	+6·9	—7·5

The large decrease in the number of holdings partitioned is due to local causes. The largest number of this class of case is found usually in districts where settlement operations are in progress, or are about to begin. The decrease in transfers by inheritance is doubtless due to the extreme healthiness of the year under review and next year will probably show an increase. The decrease in transfers by gifts is inconsiderable. The satisfactory features are the large increase in the number of mortgage redemptions, the slight decrease in mortgages and the small increase in sales compared with 1896-97. The actual total number of mortgages is less, although that of sales has increased.

The actual increases and decreases in cases and area affected as compared with last year are—

Increase + and decrease — per cent. in						Cases.	Total area.	Cultivated area.
Mortgages	...	...	...	...	...	—1·7	+10·9	+4·0
Redemptions	...	...	...	...	...	+21·3	+10·1	+5·8
Sales	...	...	...	...	...	+6·9	+5·6	—2·1

If the figures for redemptions are deducted from those showing mortgages, it will be found that the net number of mortgages has fallen from 81,566 to 63,128, a decrease of 22·6 per cent., and the net mortgaged area is 218,803 acres, of which 162,237 acres were cultivated against 194,555 acres last year, of which 161,156 acres were cultivated. These figures represent 0·4 per cent. of the total proprietary and 0·6 per cent. of the cultivated area against 0·3 and 0·6 per cent. last year. The excess of area mortgaged over area redeemed in this and the preceding nine years is shown in the following table in thousands of acres :—

	Acres.							
1887-88	595
1888-89	397
1889-90	290
1890-91	211
1891-92	187
1892-93	200
1893-94	199
1894-95	231
1895-96	193
1896-97	219

The following table shows for the last ten years in two quinquennial periods the area, revenue and sale or mortgage-money of land affected by sale, mortgage and redemption :—

YEAR.	MORTGAGES.				REDEMPTIONS.				SALES.			
	Area.		Revenue.	Mortgage-money in rupees.	Area.		Revenue.	Mortgage-money discharged in rupees.	Area.		Revenue.	Price in rupees.
	Total.	Cultivated.			Total.	Cultivated.			Total.	Cultivated.		
	Acres.	Acres.			Acres.	Acres.			Acres.	Acres.		
1887-88	933,326	595,447	5,30,073	1,49,38,045	338,773	235,363	2,44,797	48,32,725	442,933	228,431	2,00,841	84,31,460
1888-89	712,859	486,598	4,94,090	1,71,40,127	315,423	233,330	2,85,524	62,14,294	437,753	198,532	1,85,788	83,34,965
1889-90	591,254	404,158	6,44,520	1,57,87,454	300,922	218,052	2,70,259	62,95,055	339,177	165,530	1,74,692	87,37,051
1890-91	430,809	300,872	3,63,889	1,33,40,930	220,123	164,501	2,27,091	51,18,068	240,636	117,180	1,41,478	71,51,363
1891-92	486,581	352,817	4,32,524	1,55,73,473	299,116	217,248	2,73,759	69,85,257	302,541	172,072	1,80,493	95,63,614
Total	3,154,829	2,139,892	24,65,096	7,67,80,029	1,474,357	1,068,494	13,01,430	2,94,45,399	1,763,040	881,745	8,83,292	4,22,18,453
1892-93	548,678	364,354	3,95,969	1,66,74,652	348,227	226,549	2,62,408	71,37,626	371,938	171,446	1,64,708	1,00,56,967
1893-94	660,155	465,410	5,27,050	2,33,57,603	461,053	317,453	3,57,239	1,07,76,294	382,150	218,703	2,13,406	1,22,17,971
1894-95	603,183	432,573	5,25,589	2,15,79,277	372,391	259,584	2,90,261	85,83,422	320,567	185,823	1,89,546	1,18,15,663
1895-96	606,850	453,661	5,17,839	2,29,63,856	412,295	292,505	2,95,808	93,54,800	351,553	203,469	2,14,024	1,20,27,195
1896-97	672,723	471,809	5,26,429	2,51,48,411	453,920	309,572	3,30,133	1,19,46,816	371,258	199,160	2,16,803	1,40,46,594
Total	3,091,599	2,187,807	24,92,376	10,97,23,799	2,047,886	1,405,663	15,35,849	4,77,98,958	1,796,566	978,601	9,98,487	6,01,64,390
Percentages of increase or decrease in this year's figures compared with those of last year.	+ 10·9	+ 4·0	+ 1·7	+ 9·5	+ 10·1	+ 5·8	+ 11·6	+ 27·7	+ 5·6	- 2·1	+ 1·3	+ 16·8
Percentages of total of last five years compared with figures of preceding five years.	- 2·0	+ 2·2	+ 1·1	+ 42·9	+ 38·9	+ 31·6	+ 18·1	+ 62·3	+ 1·9	+ 11·0	+ 13·0	+ 45·5

Of the area mortgaged within the year, 70 per cent. was cultivated, of the area redeemed 68 per cent., and of the area sold 54 per cent. The excess of mortgage-money borrowed over mortgage-money paid off was Rs. 1,32,01,595, or about four lakhs less than the similar figure of last year. The sale-money for the year, Rs. 1,40,46,594, is the highest on record. The sale and net mortgage-money taken together amount to just under 272½ lakhs. Owing to the exceptional character of the year a comparison of the above figures with those for quinquennial periods would not be very instructive. The only facts which can be safely asserted at present are that in the most distressed districts where the local stocks gave out this year the alienations were abnormally large, but in more favoured tracts the high range of prices enabled very many agriculturists to redeem their land by the help of the proceeds of the sale of surplus produce. It is probable however that as the scarcity of 1877-78 was followed by a large rise in alienations the famine which has recently visited parts of the Province will have the same effect.

7 (a). *Area now under mortgage.*—The total area now under usufructuary mortgage, according to Statement XI, is 4,936,681 acres, of which 3,240,241 acres are cultivated, or 8·7

per cent. of the total proprietary area and 12·1 per cent. of the total cultivated area against 8·4 and 12·8 per cent., respectively, last year. These figures are, however, up to date only for such estates as were specially attested during the year, viz., 9,205 out of 36,666. In the remainder the figures given are those of the last special attestation from one to three years ago.

The districts in which the greatest and least proportions of the total area have been mortgaged are shown below :—

Greatest.					Least.				
Gurgáon	...	...	...	12	Hissár	...	...	...	3
Multán	...	...	...	12	Karnál	...	...	...	3
Amritsar	...	...	...	13	Simla	...	...	...	5
Gurdáspur	...	...	...	16	Jhelum	...	...	...	4
Sialkot	...	...	...	18	Hazára	...	...	...	5
Bannu	...	...	...	13	Pesháwar	...	...	...	6
					Kohát	...	...	...	6

7 (b). *Transfers to new agriculturists and by order of Court.*—The following tables show separately the transfers under each of the above heads, for the year under report and the preceding five :—

Total area by order of Court.

YEAR.	AREA.		Revenue.	CONSIDERATION-MONEY.		
	Total.	Cultivated.		Total.	Per acre cultivated.	Per rupee of revenue.
	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1891-92	43,998	16,368	20,283	6,49,252	40	32
1892-93	18,138	11,484	12,917	4,69,191	41	36
1893-94	20,557	19,607	23,116	9,02,665	46	39
1894-95	24,144	16,359	17,272	8,34,022	51	48
1895-96	33,666	22,559	24,287	12,38,873	55	51
1896-97	40,159	26,840	28,914	13,27,247	49	46

Imp 16063 Dated 30.12.09

Total area transferred by sales and mortgages to new agriculturists.

YEAR.	AREA.		Revenue.	CONSIDERATION-MONEY.		
	Total.	Cultivated.		Total.	Per acre cultivated.	Per rupee of revenue.
	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1891-92	220,195	153,561	1,95,800	72,41,736	47	37
1892-93	222,543	153,109	2,08,369	81,68,202	53	39
1893-94	280,928	208,395	2,22,443	1,04,26,330	50	47
1894-95	238,857	181,444	2,33,545	1,04,40,459	58	45
1895-96	223,692	174,749	2,33,218	1,04,41,348	60	45
1896-97	283,249	207,634	2,74,144	1,23,34,024	59	45

The area transferred by order of Court again shows a marked increase of 19 per cent. in the total, of 19 per cent. in the cultivated area and of 7 per cent. in the consideration-money. The districts in which such transfers were exceptional were Hoshiarpur and Jullundur. In Hissár and Ferozepore again large areas were transferred in this way.

7 (c). *Price of land.*—The average prices realised for land mortgaged, redeemed and sold are shown in the following table:—

YEAR.	PRICES PER ACRE CULTIVATED.			NUMBER OF YEARS' PURCHASES OF REVENUE REPRESENTED BY CONSIDERATION-MONEY.		
	Mortgages.	Redemptions.	Sales.	Mortgages.	Redemptions.	Sales.
1889-90	39	29	53	34	23	50
1890-91	44	31	61	37	23	51
1891-92	44	32	56	36	26	53
1892-93	46	32	59	42	27	61
1893-94	50	34	56	44	30	57
1894-95	50	33	64	41	29	62
1895-96	51	32	59	44	32	56
1896-97	53	39	71	48	36	65

The average mortgage-money per cultivated acre has risen from Rs. 51 last year and Rs. 46, the average of seven years to Rs. 53. The average price realised for every acre sold has reached the abnormal total of Rs. 71, which is an increase of 20 per cent. over last year and of 24 per cent. over the normal. The mortgage-money represents 48 times the land revenue.

7 (d). *Explanatory remarks.*—The figures given in the preceding paragraphs represent all transactions which were attested during the year up to the 15th June 1897, without any regard being paid to the actual date on which each transfer actually took place. Several of these happened before the beginning of the year under review, but were late in coming to light. In order, therefore, to arrive at a true estimate as to how many of the transactions attested during the year actually took place during the year, a statement, supplementary to Nos. X A and X B, has been prepared which shows all transfers which occurred before the 1st of February, immediately preceding the year under review. These are known as "old transfers." When the total of these is deducted from the total of transfers shown in Statement X A, the balance represents all transactions which occurred between the 1st of February 1896 and the 15th June 1897, or practically all transfers which belong to the two harvests discussed in this report. The orders on this subject are still not fully understood and are still only partially followed by the subordinate revenue staff in many parts of the Province, but even so the figures are instructive.

The following table shows the statistics for (1) all transfers; (2) old transfers and (3) new transfers by mortgage, redemption and sale for this and last year:—

		MORTGAGES.					REDEMPTIONS.					SALES.				
		Cases.	Area.	Cultivated.	Revenue.	Mortgage-money.	Cases.	Area.	Cultivated.	Revenue.	Consideration-money.	Cases.	Area.	Cultivated.	Revenue.	Consideration-money.
			Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.
1896...	All transfers	155,877	606,850	453,661	5,17,839	2,29,63,956	74,311	412,295	292,505	2,95,808	93,54,800	56,377	351,553	203,469	2,14,024	1,20,27,195
	Old ...	60,899	256,630	179,665	2,03,054	86,93,044	22,133	140,834	92,490	91,184	26,66,648	19,715	140,855	75,500	66,264	42,10,414
	Balance ...	94,978	350,220	273,996	3,14,785	1,42,70,812	52,178	271,461	200,015	2,04,624	66,88,152	36,662	210,698	127,969	1,47,760	78,16,781
1897...	All transfers	153,291	672,723	471,809	5,26,429	2,51,48,411	90,163	453,920	309,572	3,30,133	1,19,46,816	60,266	371,258	199,160	2,16,803	1,40,46,594
	Old ...	48,890	250,039	164,805	1,83,972	83,88,953	23,242	149,513	98,416	91,241	29,46,477	19,439	156,049	75,871	68,237	45,15,167
	Balance ...	104,401	422,684	307,004	3,42,457	1,67,59,458	66,921	304,407	211,156	2,38,892	90,00,339	40,827	215,209	123,289	1,48,566	95,31,427

These figures become more accurate every year, and, as was to be expected, they show a diminishing proportion of "old" cases under each of the three heads. In 1894-95 the proportion of "old" cases was 48 per cent. under mortgages, 44 per cent. under redemptions and 45 per cent. under sales. Last year the percentages were, respectively, 39, 30 and 35, and this year the similarly calculated figures are 31, 25 and 32. By comparing the statistics of the new transfers it appears that the area mortgaged this year has risen by 20 per cent., and the consideration-money by 17 per cent. The area redeemed was increased by 12 per cent. and the consideration-money by 34 per cent. If the areas released in both years are deducted, it appears that this year a net area of 118,277 acres was mortgaged against 78,759 acres last year, an increase of 50 per cent. The area sold, on the other hand, has increased by only 2 per cent., although the sale-money has increased by 21 per cent. It represents 64 times the revenue assessment, while last year it came to 33 times the assessment, and the year before to 63 times.

7 (e). *District figures.*—The following table shows the cultivated area mortgaged, redeemed and sold in each district and division and the percentage of the cultivated area now under mortgage :—

Division.	District.	Mortgages.	Redemptions.	Balance.	Sold.	Total.	Total cultivated area.	Percentage.	Cultivated area under mortgage (Statement No. XI).	Percentage of cultivated proprietary area.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	
DELHI.	Hissár ...	31,016	11,241	19,775	13,831	33,606	2,601,461	1.3	89,739	3.4
	Rohtak ...	18,523	9,738	8,785	3,267	12,052	955,103	1.3	70,395	7.3
	Gurgáon ...	17,043	13,480	3,563	2,367	5,930	972,060	0.6	135,747	13.9
	Delhi ...	8,231	4,111	4,120	5,270	9,390	532,392	1.8	56,425	10.5
	Karnál ...	7,446	2,709	4,737	3,433	8,170	891,388	0.9	42,276	4.7
	Umballa ...	16,362	9,851	6,511	7,758	14,269	964,260	1.5	126,015	14.1
	Simla ...	141	82	59	91	150	10,418	1.4	963	9.2
	Total ...	98,762	51,212	47,550	36,017	83,567	6,927,082	1.2	531,560	7.7
JULLUNDUR.	Kángra ...	10,697	6,592	4,105	3,957	8,062	592,279	1.4	85,729	14.5
	Hoshiárpur ...	10,870	5,274	5,596	2,760	8,356	717,802	1.2	37,001	13.5
	Jullundur ...	11,736	7,118	4,618	4,480	9,098	693,882	1.3	87,551	12.6
	Ludhiána ...	14,976	12,890	2,086	3,833	5,919	756,026	0.8	96,006	12.6
	Ferozepore ...	49,775	33,421	16,354	19,580	35,934	2,119,426	1.7	202,982	9.6
	Total ...	98,054	65,295	32,759	34,610	67,369	4,879,415	1.4	569,269	11.7
LAHORE.	Mooltan ...	11,804	8,238	3,566	20,979	24,545	705,592	3.5	91,728	11.6
	Jhang ...	5,220	4,384	836	2,466	3,302	602,827	0.5	71,289	11.8
	Montgomery ...	4,197	3,191	1,006	2,180	3,186	396,519	0.8	31,430	7.9
	Lahore ...	18,266	12,562	5,704	5,637	11,341	1,208,794	0.9	157,380	13.0
	Amritsar ...	20,134	11,221	8,913	3,088	12,001	778,881	1.5	117,906	15.1
	Gurdáspur ...	16,788	7,653	9,135	2,514	11,649	831,895	1.4	175,684	21.1
	Total ...	76,409	47,249	29,160	36,864	66,024	4,524,506	1.5	645,417	14.3
RAWALPINDI.	Siálkot ...	15,494	8,875	6,619	2,793	9,412	934,511	1.1	210,930	22.6
	Gujrát ...	15,136	7,341	7,795	4,253	12,048	835,225	1.4	112,957	11.7
	Gujránwála ...	11,276	5,623	5,653	7,257	12,910	965,977	1.3	93,840	11.2
	Shahpur ...	17,630	11,164	6,466	5,279	11,745	748,863	1.6	123,315	16.5
	Jhelum ...	15,019	8,828	6,191	8,488	14,679	1,075,073	1.4	72,010	6.7
	Ráwalpindi ...	9,327	8,762	565	10,932	11,497	1,307,328	0.9	163,478	12.5
	Total ...	83,882	50,593	33,289	39,002	72,291	5,866,977	1.2	776,530	13.2
PESHAWAR.	Hazára ...	9,260	6,280	2,980	2,996	5,976	431,611	1.4	43,535	10.1
	Pesháwar ...	17,509	17,100	409	12,420	12,829	805,142	1.4	90,909	20.2
	Kohát ...	7,894	7,798	96	3,864	3,960	322,532	1.2	64,911	20.1
	Total ...	34,663	31,178	3,485	19,280	22,765	1,640,285	1.4	199,355	12.1
DEERAJ.	Banna ...	35,540	31,528	4,012	8,978	12,990	857,608	1.5	187,969	21.9
	D. I. Khan ...	24,151	16,039	8,112	12,264	20,376	647,376	3.2	108,623	16.8
	D. G. Khan ...	9,763	5,998	3,765	4,790	8,555	1,034,697	0.8	154,679	14.9
	Muzaffargarh ...	10,585	10,480	105	7,355	7,460	435,007	1.7	66,839	15.4
	Total ...	80,039	64,045	15,994	33,387	49,381	2,974,688	1.7	518,110	17.4
GRAND TOTAL ...		471,809	309,572	162,237	199,160	361,397	26,821,955	1.3	3,246,241	12.1

In Hissár the cultivated area mortgaged increased very largely, and the area redeemed fell off in much the same proportion. At the same time the area sold was only a little over half of last year's total. The proportion of the total cultivation transferred was 1·3 per cent. which is exactly equal to the provincial average. This district still possesses the distinction of having less of its cultivated area mortgaged than any other. The changes in Rohtak were all in the same direction as in Hissár, though they were less marked. Both mortgages and redemptions have increased by about one-fifth in Gurgáon, but the area sold has declined. In Dehli the area sold is more than twice the normal. In Karnál there was an appreciable rise in the area mortgaged, but the figures for redemptions and sales have not changed much.

In Kángra the mortgage and sale figures remain much the same, but there is a satisfactory increase of nearly 50 per cent. under redemptions. Hoshiárpur and Ludhiána show very satisfactory returns, and those from Jullundur are almost as good. All these three districts benefited considerably from the high prices and the great demand for their surplus produce. In Ferozepore the mortgaged area increased by nearly 50 per cent., and although the area redeemed increased by one-fifth and the area sold did not increase very much, the percentage of the cultivated area under mortgage has risen from 9·2 to 9·6.

In Multan the mortgaged area has markedly risen, and the redeemed area has fallen by about 20 per cent. The area sold has changed little, and was nearly twice as large as that mortgaged. In Jhang all classes of transfers have largely increased. The area sold in Montgomery is practically the same as last year, the mortgaged area has risen, and the redeemed area has fallen slightly. In Lahore the areas mortgaged and sold were appreciably less than last year, and the redeemed area was nearly as large. In Amritsar, also the mortgaged area has fallen off, and the area redeemed rose by over one-third. In Gurdáspur only 16,788 acres were mortgaged and 2,514 acres were sold as against 24,827 and 3,181, respectively, last year. In Siálkot also there is a remarkable diminution in the area mortgaged, and the area sold has also declined. The effect of the local scarcity in Gujrát is clearly marked by the large increase in the areas mortgaged and sold. In Gujránwála there was also a rise in both classes of area, but not to so formidable an extent. In Sháhpur the mortgaged area increased, but redemptions were also more numerous. In Jhelum the only striking feature is the decline of nearly 11 per cent. in the area redeemed. In Ráwalpiñdi all classes of transfers have risen slightly.

In Hazára the areas mortgaged and sold have both fallen off, but only half of last year's area was redeemed. In Pesháwar the mortgaged and sold areas rose by nearly 100 per cent., and the area redeemed by nearly 200 per cent. In Kohát the mortgaged area fell off by one-third, and the areas sold and redeemed were both slightly below last year's totals.

In Bannu the mortgaged area increased by 69 per cent. and the sold area by 43 per cent., but the area redeemed rose from 18,878 acres to 31,528 acres. In Dera Ismail Khán there was an increase in all classes. Dera Gházi Khan shows greater fluctuations than any other district. The area mortgaged has fallen by 78 per cent., the area redeemed by 71 per cent., and the area sold by 80 per cent. In Muzaffargarh the mortgaged area has nearly doubled, the area sold has increased by nearly 75 per cent. and that redeemed by 115 per cent.

The districts in which the proportion of cultivated area under mortgage is highest are :—

[illegible]

Owing to the exceptional character of the year it would not be safe to draw conclusions from these figures dealing with this year's transfers as to the rate at which alienation is going on and as to the districts in which the process is most rapid.

8. *Cultivating occupancy.*—The total area shown in this statement as cultivated by owners and tenants is 26,593,458 acres. The proportions held by owners and tenants are as follows :—

OWNERS.	TENANTS.		
	Free of rent.	Paying rent.	Total.
50.0	1.0	49.0	50.0

Exactly half of the cultivated area is now in the hands of tenants whose share has steadily increased. In 1893-94 the percentage was 48.7; in 1894-95 it was 49.0 and last year 49.3. Tenants with occupancy rights hold 19.7 per cent. of the area under tenants, the rest being under tenants-at-will. Six years ago occupancy tenants held 23 per cent. of the area under tenants and this proportion is steadily decreasing, as such rights lapse in many cases every year and are very rarely newly created. Of the area held by occupancy tenants 24.9 per cent. pays rent in kind, 20.4 per cent. a lump cash rent, and 54.7 per cent. a cash rent expressed in terms of the revenue rates with or without an addition as *málikána*. Of the area held by tenants-at-will 33.5 per cent. pays in cash and 66.5 per cent. pays in kind. The rents in kind most commonly paid on irrigated lands are from one-third to one-half of the grain with or without a corresponding share of the straw. On unirrigated lands the average rate is two-fifths of the produce. The average cash rent on 2,668,049 acres, or one-tenth of the total cultivated area of the Province, is Rs. 2-10-6 per acre, but this figure is of little statistical value as the variations between different districts are so great. Cash rents are at once most common and most stable in the south-east of the Punjab. As shown in the statement, they are as a rule rather low, as they include the nominal non-competition rents paid for an appreciable area held by privileged tenants.

9. *Agricultural stock.*—This is a quadrennial statement prepared every year in one-fourth of the villages in the Province, and is therefore from one to three years out of date for the other three-fourths. The full effects of the severe strain on the cattle caused by the drought and of the slaughter of so many animals for food owing to the dearth of grain are thus not fully brought out. The total figures for agricultural stock of all classes have decreased by 341,581, or about 2.5 per cent. There can be little doubt that the decrease was greater, and it is interesting to note in this connection that according to the rail-borne traffic returns of the year under review 363,864 hides approximately were exported from the Province. Thirteen districts show an increase which is considerable only in Kangra (26,373), Jhang (40,254), Montgomery (54,601), Amritsar (10,107), and Jhelum (12,116). The increases in the three first mentioned districts are probably owing to the large herds which were sent to these tracts for grazing. The large decrease of 39 per cent. returned from Gujrát is misleading as it is largely due to a rectification of last year's figures. Excluding Gujrát, the largest decreases are as follows :—

Karnál	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,807
Hissár	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,789
Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,896
Gurdáspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,483

By far the greatest mortality again took place in the Dehli Division, and a long period will elapse before the live-stock of the South-east Punjab are fully replenished.

Bulls and bullocks have fallen off by 91,501, cows by 92,616, cow buffaloes by 62,895, and young stock by 96,439; the totals of male buffaloes and sheep are much the same as shown in last year's returns. Horses and ponies and camels show a falling-off which may be due to the large number of transport animals used in the military operations on the frontier. If so the increase in carts is not easily explained.

The following table gives a comparison by districts of the variations in agricultural stock since last year :—

DIVISION.	District.	Total of agricultural stock for 1896.	Total of agricultural stock for 1897.	Difference + or —.
DELHI.	Hissár	549,598	506,809	—42,789
	Rohtak	473,012	442,116	—30,896
	Gurgaon	552,640	535,652	—16,988
	Delhi	328,920	329,187	+ 267
	Karnal	596,256	550,449	—45,807
	Umballa	651,722	642,500	—9,222
	Simla	16,709	19,036	+ 2,327
	Total ...	3,168,857	3,025,749	—143,108
JULLUNDUR.	Kangra	679,491	705,864	+ 26,373
	Hoshiarpur	556,790	539,076	—17,714
	Jullundur	434,886	428,267	—6,619
	Ludhiána	368,623	354,581	—14,042
	Ferozepore	559,727	568,363	+ 8,636
	Total ...	2,599,517	2,596,151	—3,366
LAHORE.	Mooltan	537,557	529,175	—8,382
	Jhang	353,582	393,836	+ 40,254
	Montgomery	349,217	403,818	+ 54,601
	Lahore	628,322	612,915	—15,407
	Amritsar	475,691	485,798	+ 10,107
	Gurdaspur	580,519	559,036	—21,483
	Total ...	2,924,888	2,984,578	+ 59,690
RAWALPINDI.	Siálkot	593,860	597,158	+ 3,298
	Gujrat	672,825	404,122	—268,703
	Gujranwála	496,441	496,183	—258
	Shahpur	328,470	329,520	+ 1,050
	Jhelum	332,504	344,620	+ 12,116
	Rawalpindi	497,235	493,544	—3,691
	Total ...	2,921,335	2,665,147	—256,188
PESHAWAR.	Hazára	334,689	341,322	+ 6,633
	Pesháwar	343,571	343,571	...
	Kohát	119,536	121,026	+ 1,490
	Total ...	797,796	805,919	+ 8,123
DERAJAT.	Bannu	219,484	220,635	+ 1,151
	Dera Ismail Khan	296,865	295,134	—1,731
	Dera Gházi Khan	289,236	289,236	...
	Muzaffargarh	346,789	340,636	—6,153
	Total ...	1,152,374	1,145,641	—6,733
	GRAND TOTAL ...	13,564,767	13,223,186	—341,581

10. *Patwári Fund.*—At the close of last year the balance in the Patwári Fund was Rs. 9,11,198-12-8, and the outstanding liabilities were Rs. 2,92,919-1-6, so that the effective balance was Rs. 6,18,279-11-2.

The income of the year under review amounted to Rs. 12,99,143-9-3, a decrease of Rs. 2,415-15-1, which was due to suspensions of revenue and cesses. The expenditure was Rs. 14,66,340-0-1 which thus exceeded the income by Rs. 1,67,196-6-10. The closing balance this year was Rs. 7,74,090-9-10, but of this a sum of Rs. 2,55,595-10-10 was due on account of outstanding liabilities, so that the effective balance was really Rs. 5,18,494-15-10. The effective balance has been steadily declining for the last four years, but if the majority of the suspensions are realised in the course of the next two years this tendency will be checked for a time. Of the expenditure Rs. 12,38,038-3-9 were spent on the pay of the patwáris which now averages Rs. 11-13-1 per month against Rs. 10-12-0 four years ago. Rupees 7,578-14-0 were spent in gratuities to patwáris retired on account of old age after a long period of approved service. The balance in hand nowhere exceeds a year's income. It is less than one-fourth in Simla, Lahore and Dera Gházi Khán. The tightness in Lahore is only temporary as it is due to large suspensions of revenue. Proposals for a revision of the cess in Dera Gházi Khán are now before the authorities and orders will shortly be issued.

11. *Other matters.*—Locusts appeared in a few districts chiefly in the Delhi Division during the year, but did not do great damage. Complaints of the ravages of insect pests were much fewer than usual.

12. *Fuel and fodder reserves.*—No further progress has been made in the formation of fuel and fodder reserves during the past year.

12 (a). The subjects of cattle disease, cattle breeding, and horse and mule breeding are now dealt with in other reports, and remarks on agricultural experiments appear in the annual report of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture.

12 (b). The agricultural year ending September 30th, 1897, was one of very high prices, and general scarcity tightened into actual famine in a few localities, such as Hissár, parts of Karnál, Rohtak and Ferozepore, and the Phália tahsíl of Gujráat. The distress in the famine-stricken tracts appears to have been quite as acute as that in the worst districts in other parts of India. As, however, a large part of the Punjab is fairly secure, and the shrinkage in production was less marked in secure areas there than in the North-Western and Central Provinces, much of the Punjab local scarcity was due to the export of grain to more unfortunate parts. The high prices prevalent throughout the Province put money into the pockets of all uninvolved or only slightly involved zamíndárs, wherever a crop matured, and enabled them to redeem mortgages and even to buy land; but in tracts where the opposite conditions prevailed the bad year has seriously precipitated expropriation, though the full consequences will, as after 1877-78, not be visible in the statistics of transfers for perhaps two or three years to come. On the whole it is probable that owing to the comparatively greater severity of scarcity throughout the year in the North-Western and Central Provinces than in the Punjab, and the marked unwillingness of *sáhúkárs* to lend money or grain to involved clients who had no crops, and other causes. Punjábí landholders are now—February 1898—especially the thrifty Játs and Sikhs—in a very much better condition than could have been anticipated six months ago.

As to the "other causes" just referred to there is no doubt that the liberal and timely suspensions of land revenue which were made, the equally liberal advances made for the purchase of cattle and seed, the opening of relief works (the last in a small degree only in Gujráat as zamíndárs came on them late) and the largeness and wise distribution of charitable doles, helped landowners materially to tide over their difficulties. But "other causes" deeper than the above were also operating to contract credit, compel thrift and minimise alienations to *sáhúkárs*. For instance, there is a widespread feeling that land may shortly cease to be a profitable investment for professional money-lenders, except, perhaps, when it lies near towns or villages in which the commercial element is strong. This feeling is partly due to apprehension of impending changes in the law, which will enable expropriated zamíndárs to gradually recover their lost fields, but it is more due to facts which have occurred. These are (1) the increase of means and business intelligence amongst the thrifty

Hindu Jâts and Sikhs who are in some of our central and eastern districts "eating up" the less industrious or careful—such as lazy Rájputs and Muhammadans generally—and proving themselves a match for professional lenders ; (2) the growing disinclination not only of British but even of Indian revenue officers to make the acquisition of agricultural land easy for money-lenders ; (3) the growth of obstructions in the executions of money decrees out of land ; (4) the insecurity of title for even more than a generation after acquisition and possession owing to recent rulings of the Chief Court on the period of limitation (Nos. 18 of 1895 and 55 of 1897) ; and (5) lastly, and perhaps most weighty of all, the practical difficulty a non-agriculturist money-lender now has in realising rent from a zamíndár tenant, especially when the mortgaged land is not near the mortgagee's land.

PART II.

SECTION III.—FISCAL.

13. *Fixed land revenue.*—Though the initial demand for Kharif 1896 and Rabi 1897 was Rs. 2,26,140 over that of the agricultural year 1895-96, the collections on account of this increased demand were, nevertheless, Rs. 13,62,799 below the amount collected last year. This will be seen from the following figures which compare the most important statistics of demand and collection for the past four years, viz. :—

Year.	Demand for the year.	Collections on account of the demand for the year.	Collections on account of former years.	Total collections.	BALANCE.		
					Of the year.	Of former years.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1893-94 ...	2,17,93,516	2,16,20,836	1,22,323	2,17,43,159	1,72,680	2,24,607	3,97,287
1894-95 ...	2,19,43,485	2,16,54,719	42,418	2,16,97,137	2,88,766	2,04,661	4,93,427
1895-96 ...	2,20,34,418	2,13,16,770	42,839	2,13,59,609	7,17,648	2,28,348	9,45,996
1896-97 ...	2,22,60,558	1,99,53,971	1,33,276	2,00,87,247	23,06,587	6,98,765	30,05,352
Increase or decrease ...	+2,26,140	-13,62,799	+90,437	-12,72,362	+15,88,939	+4,70,417	+20,59,356

It was anticipated that the collections this year would be low. Conditions which had for some time been unfavourable for agriculture culminated in 1896-97 in a considerable failure of the crops, especially in the south-east of the Punjab and parts of the Ráwalpindi Division. The gradual increase of the effects of continuous bad seasons is reflected in a continuous decline in the percentages of provincial collections during the last four years. 99·2 per cent. of the demand was collected in 1893-94, but the percentage fell to 98·6 in 1894-95, and then to 96·7 in 1895-96, till in the year under report it is only 89·6. But many districts were, nevertheless, well off during the year, and wherever fair crops were reaped high prices enabled the demand to be paid without much difficulty. Thus, leaving Simla out of account, nothing was left uncollected in Amritsar, and in eight other districts the collections exceeded 99 per cent. of the demand. These districts are situated chiefly in the Division of Jullundur, where only Ferozepore, as last year, was again below the average of the Division with a percentage of 89, and in the Lahore Division where the collections were below 99 per cent. only in Montgomery (75 per cent.), Lahore and Gurdáspur. But in the last named district 97 per cent. of the demand was collected, while in Lahore Rs. 25,450 were realised on account of past year's balances in addition to 85·7 per cent. of the current demand. In Hazára and Pesháwar the collections were 99·1 and 97·9 per cent., and Kohát was the only district of the Pesháwar Division with a low percentage, 90·3. In the Deraját the low figures for Dera Gházi Khan are due (as explained in the extract from the District Report printed in the Appendix) to the re-settlement resulting in the transfer of revenue from the head of fixed to that of fluctuating, leaving the balances under fixed land revenue to be struck off as nominal. The collections in Dera Gházi Khan have in fact been 86 per cent. of the demand, and should have been more. The balances due to the remissness of the collecting staff are being realised, and collections will be fairly full as they were in Muzaffargarh (99·5 per cent.), though they were low in Bannu (94 per cent.) and Dera Ismail Khan (82·9 per cent.). In the Ráwalpindi Division the state of affairs was worse than in any of the Divisions yet noticed. The highest collections there were 97·3 per cent. in Gujránwála; Siálkot and Ráwalpindi were also over 90 per cent.; but the remaining three districts did not even come up to this. In

Jhelum 80·1 per cent. of the demand was collected, and in Shahpur 76 per cent.; but though Gujrat shows the lowest percentage, 72·8, in this Division yet Rs. 12,570 were collected in that district in addition to the current demand on account of former years. But it was in the Delhi Division, and particularly in Hissar and Rohtak, that the greatest distress prevailed, and that the effects of bad seasons were most marked, and indeed amounted to famine. Accordingly we find that of the plains districts of the Division only Gurgaon and Umballa collected as much as 95 per cent. and 92 per cent., respectively, of the current demand, though in Umballa Rs. 20,944 on account of previous years were also collected. In Karnal 84 per cent. of the demand was collected, while the percentage in Rohtak was only 63, and in Hissar as low as 47. The state of affairs in Hissar is described in the extract from the Deputy Commissioner's report printed below and it is clear that the district has suffered most severely. Much credit is due to Captain Dunlop Smith for having collected as much as he did even while the district was in a state of famine. And when they have been set about in the right way collections have not anywhere during the year been specially difficult. At first revenue payers were not unnaturally a little backward in paying, as they hoped that the benefit of suspensions and remissions might be extended to them, whether it was really required or not. But with well-thought out and adequate suspensions, and prompt action in getting in the revenue from those to whom it has been decided not to give suspensions, and provided also that the Tahsildars are energetic and properly supervised, payments are made without difficulty by all who find that they must pay. The recoverable balances entered in column 14 of Statement XVIII A are in most cases not large. They, however, require explanation in a few cases noted in paragraph 15, and in these cases the amount of suspensions required may have been misjudged, or the collecting officers may have been slack. But in a year of such a character as 1896-97 the manner in which the land revenue has been collected in the Punjab may be held to be very satisfactory both in the interests of the State and of the people. Tahsildars and other subordinate revenue officers have, on the whole, been well up to their duties, while Collectors have supervised them satisfactorily and while showing liberality in suspensions have insisted on firmness in collections.

14. *Causes of increase or decrease in the fixed land revenue roll.*—Column 4 of the statement in the preceding paragraph shows that the total fixed land revenue demand for the Province was Rs. 2,26,140 more than the demand of the previous year. This is the net result of increases amounting to Rs. 2,92,566 and decreases amounting to Rs. 66,426.

The principal items of increases were—

	Rs.
By lapses and resumptions of revenue-free lands	24,444
„ revision of assessment	2,19,118
„ alluvion	19,841
„ progressive <i>jamás</i>	14,855
„ assessment of waste, &c.	8,774

Of the increase due to revision of settlement Rs. 2,00,858 accrued in Peshawar. In Montgomery the re-assessment of the Bar circles of the Ravi talisils added Rs. 3,440 to the fixed rent roll. The comparative demand statements for Dera Ghazi Khan were not sanctioned in time to affect the figures for this year. Increases of assessment due to the extension of canal irrigation, amounting to Rs. 2,212 in Lahore, Rs. 3,824 in Amritsar and Rs. 4,189 in Shahpur are included under this head, as also is the sum of Rs. 3,598 brought on to the fixed rent roll on account of *malikána* in consequence of the decision of certain questions connected with the treatment of Crown lands in Kasur.

The greater part of the progressive *jamás* were imposed in Shahpur. Owing to bad seasons and the consequent inadvisability of imposing the deferred assessments on all the villages of the Bar and Jhelum circles of Shahpur according to the arrangements made at settlement, the period originally fixed for the imposition of this demand in full has been extended; but progressive *jamás* amounting to Rs. 9,250 in all have been imposed and brought on to the fixed rent roll for 1896-97.

The increase due to assessment of wastes, &c., is chiefly made up of Rs. 6,150 brought on to the fixed rent roll in Montgomery on account of *málikána* in the Pára Canal circles of the Sutlej tahsils.

The principal items of decrease are—

	Rs.
(a) On account of revenue-free grants	4,467
(b) „ „ reduction of assessment	3,641
(c) „ „ diluvion	45,766

In (a) is included the grant of Rs. 2,000 per annum to the Khan of Teri made after the re-settlement of the Teri tahsíl. In (b) the chief reductions are Rs. 3,978 in Lahore on account of the remission of *ábiana* on wells which fell out of use in the Sharakpur tahsíl, and Rs. 1,364 on account of the revision and reduction of the demand which was first fixed as due from the tenants of the Crown lands in Hangu. To (c) the Dera Gházi Khan district contributes the largest amount, Rs. 10,335. But it is explained that “this is the amount by which the assessment of the riverain tract in 1896-97 fell short of the revenue assessed on it in 1895-96. The assessment of such land has in practice always been fluctuating, though it has been shown in the accounts as fixed. In future it will be shown as fluctuating, and in column 17 of Statement No. XIX will be entered only revenue which has been reduced on account of irrigated lands being converted into riverain by the action of the Indus.”

15. *Suspensions and remissions.*—On account of the current demand the remissions granted and suspensions outstanding in each of the last three years compare as follows:—

		On account of year under report.	On account of previous years.
		Rs.	Rs.
Remissions	1894-95... ..	70,822	20,183
	1895-96... ..	27,416	8,797
	1896-97... ..	17,128	23,494
Suspensions	1894-95... ..	43,152	153
	1895-96... ..	3,83,925	8,736
	1896-97... ..	18,25,560	71,785

The figures for the present year are naturally far in excess of the previous year, in consequence of the agricultural conditions described in the first part of this report. The rains were over a large portion of the Province a failure, and the cumulative effect of a succession of bad seasons told upon the people and the cattle, many of which died. In some districts actual famine prevailed, and in most others food and seed grains went up to scarcity prices. As last year suspensions were for the present found to give sufficient relief, and it was only in Siálkot that any large remission of the demand for the current year was sanctioned. This remission of Rs. 11,519 was made upon the results of a field to field enquiry, and was sanctioned only in favour of the poorest revenue-payers who had suffered in the past and who had no prospect of recovering sufficiently to repay suspensions in the future. Remissions of the demand for the year can only be justified in such cases and after very careful enquiry, and as the rule which usually requires revenue to be sometime suspended before being remitted was more strictly enforced than last year the total sum remitted on account of the year's demand is less than the corresponding sum last year. The remission of Rs. 1,255 in Gurgáon on account of the year under report was made under the standing rule by which relief is afforded to certain villages specially liable to submergence. The remissions out of the present year's demand in Gurdáspur

(Rs. 1,633), Kangra and Jullundur were necessitated by hail-storms, while that in Dera Ghazi Khan was made on account of the destruction of an irrigation dam.

In column 21 of Statement XVIII A are shown the sums out of the current demand reported to this office for suspension on account of calamity of season, the suspension of which was sanctioned. In many cases however revenue was paid up or collected, as is usual, in spite of sanction to suspension. The figures for actual suspensions therefore in column 12 are less than those in column 17. Columns 22 to 24 represent actual suspensions and remissions.

Large sums suspended in the previous year were brought on to the suspension account in Gurgáon, Delhi, Gujrat, Shahpur and Bannu, and the actual suspensions of the year under report amounted to Rs. 18,25,560, or over four times the amount brought on to the suspension account in 1895-96 and 1896-97 for 1895-96. But four districts of the Jullundur Division required no relief, and with other districts almost as fortunate must have done wonderfully well with the high prices that prevailed. The districts to which the suspensions are all practically due are those of the Delhi and Rawalpindi Divisions as well as Ferozepore, Montgomery, Lahore, Gurdáspur, and Dera Ismail Khan. Of these districts there are twelve, comprising six in the Delhi Division and four in Rawalpindi, together with Ferozepore and Lahore, in each of which the amount actually suspended was about Rs. 50,000 or exceeded that sum. The figures relating to these districts are of interest. There are no figures available to show how much of the suspensions sanctioned for each harvest were actually suspended, but the figures for the suspensions sanctioned are given below in detail, viz.:—

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	KHARIF 1896.			RABI 1897.			TOTAL.			Balance uncollected and unsuspended.
		Demand.	Suspended.	Percentage.	Demand.	Suspended.	Percentage.	Demand.	Suspended.	Percentage.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Delhi	Hissár ...	6,00,765	3,14,951	52	1,25,410	65,561	52	7,26,175	3,80,512	52	1,584
	Rohtak ...	5,29,180	1,41,622	27	3,99,158	1,99,700	50	9,28,338	3,41,322	36	1,765
	Gurgáon ...	6,16,705	30,830	5	5,57,179	25,362	5	11,73,884	56,192	5	...
	Delhi ...	3,79,614	14,513	4	4,13,840	70,111	17	7,93,454	84,624	10	15,520
	Karnál ...	3,17,997	54,466	16	3,17,871	48,805	16	6,35,868	1,03,271	16	2,094
Jullundur	Umballa ...	4,13,059	22,161	5	3,85,517	42,360	11	7,98,576	64,521	8	88
	Ferozepore ...	4,24,195	42,663	10	4,06,045	31,163	7	8,30,240	74,826	9	26,616
Lahore	Lahore ...	3,53,768	45,618	13	4,47,988	49,955	11	8,01,756	95,573	11	13,101
Rawalpindi	Gujrat ...	3,57,465	1,17,300	33	4,17,240	73,554	17	7,74,705	1,90,854	25	17,713
	Shahpur ...	2,38,993	65,908	28	3,20,297	59,935	19	5,59,290	1,25,843	22	16,967
	Jhelum ...	2,94,896	63,006	21	3,96,561	61,352	16	6,91,457	1,24,358	18	18,020
	Rawalpindi ...	4,57,721	66,799	14	4,52,525	32,305	7	9,10,246	99,104	18	147

* This includes the amount suspended and recommended to Government for remission, but of which remission was not sanctioned.

Matters were worst naturally in Hissár, Rohtak and Gujrat, but these figures show that several other districts were badly off, and that in most of them ample relief was afforded. Where the unsuspended balances are large Collectors will be called upon to account for them, and either to collect or suspend them. With a system of suspensions like that in force in the Punjab large unsuspended balances should never be allowed to appear in the accounts of any district.

The suspensions in Dera Ismail Khan were on account chiefly of the Thal, the condition of which has been noticed before. The suspension account

here has been outstanding since 1887-88, and the balance due now amounts to Rs. 1,68,697. This will be cleared up at the approaching re-settlement.

The above figures do not include suspensions out of assigned land revenue. In some districts the amounts so suspended were large. For instance, they amounted to Rs. 43,833 in Umballa, about Rs. 23,000 assigned land revenue being already under suspension for the previous year, and to Rs. 17,272 and Rs. 14,197, respectively, in Ludhiána and Lahore. The total assigned revenue, of which the suspension was sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner (though of this some must have been paid in after suspension) in 1896-97 is Rs. 1,88,265, a considerable sum being also under suspension from previous years, and this amount of suspensions must, as Captain Parsons points out, have been felt very severely in the hard times they have been undergoing by the poorer assignees. But they have to take their share of suspensions and remissions with Government, and there is no remedy for this.

A very important principle was observed in making the suspensions noted above, on the initiation of Mr. Thorburn when he was Commissioner of the Ráwalpindi Division. This was the principle of differentiating between rich and poor revenue-payers, regarding which the opinion of Mr. Rivaz was communicated to Mr. Thorburn in his Secretary's letter No. 6025, dated 17th November 1897, as follows:—"The instructions contained in paragraphs 11 and 19 of Revenue Circular No. 31 recognize a difference of treatment in dealing with cases where remissions of revenue have to be granted on account of damage caused by wholly unforeseen accidents, such as hail-storms, locusts, or extraordinary floods, and cases where suspensions become necessary in consequence of some widespread disaster which affects large areas, such as failure of rainfall, irrigation, or periodic inundation, but which is a disaster which was anticipated by the Settlement Officer in framing his assessments, as one likely to occur in particular tracts from time to time. In dealing with the former class of cases above mentioned, all who are affected by the unforeseen calamity should be treated alike, be they rich or poor. As regards the second class of cases, however, where the relief to be afforded is by temporary suspensions (at all events in the first instance) of the revenue, and not by remissions, it is reasonable and fair to discriminate, in the matter of granting such relief, between revenue-payers who depend wholly or very largely on land which has been subjected to the disaster in question for their means of livelihood, and those who possess other material independent resources. The principle to be ordinarily observed in such cases should be that suspensions are intended for those who could not pay their revenue at the time without borrowing the money, not for those, be they money-lenders or belonging to any other class, who can pay without any undue strain on their resources." His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor agreed with these views, and all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners were therefore ordered to act according to them as far as was possible, and as a broad line of distinction between rich and poor it was suggested that men of the money-lender class paying Rs. 15 land revenue or upwards per annum might be regarded as rich. In introducing this system all at once in a year when suspensions were so numerous some difficulty was, of course, experienced, and in many cases the principle was not fully applied. But all the objections to applying differentiation in practice can be met with ease, and much better results have been secured by it in Rabi 1897 than in the preceding Kharíf. Figures are not at present available to show what amount Government gained by realizing revenue where it would have been suspended had not revenue-payers been differentially treated, even as partially as was the case. But the amount was undoubtedly very great. In the Ráwalpindi Division the total *khálsa* and assigned revenue suspensions in Kharíf 1896 amounted to Rs. 3,78,799, but it would have been Rs. 44,751, or 11.8 per cent. more, but for the collections made from those who could pay. With the system thoroughly worked the saving to Government would have been more, and the importance of keeping it in view can hardly be exaggerated in dealing with suspensions when they amount to nearly 20 lakhs of rupees. The Financial Commissioner has lately insisted that where suspensions have been improperly made in favour of men who can pay they shall be at once recovered and as the result of this and the late good kharíf harvest it is

anticipated that a very considerable part of the outstandings will shortly be realized. The whole amount suspended will, it is said, probably ultimately be recovered in Hissár, Rohtak and most other districts.

16. *Balances of fixed land revenue.*—The total amount uncollected on 30th September 1897 out of the demand for the year was Rs. 23,06,587. The nature of this balance is indicated by the following details, in which a comparison is made with the corresponding figures for 1895-96 :—

	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Remitted during the year on account of calamity of season	27,416	15,572
2. Irrecoverable	68,299	1,02,148
3. Undetermined	67,035	62,557
4. Recoverable—		
Under suspensions... ..	4,24,871	18,25,560
Not under suspensions	1,30,027	3,00,750
Total	7,17,648	23,06,587

The remissions and suspensions have been noticed in the last paragraph in which also the highest district balances of unsuspended revenue have been given. Taking the districts concerned, *viz.*, Delhi, Ferozepore, Lahore, Gujrát, Shabpur, Jhelum, and also Siálkot where the unsuspended balance was heaviest of all (Rs. 29,637), it appears that such balances in these districts have a percentage of 2.6 to the revenue that should have been collected, *i.e.*, the original demand *minus* suspensions undetermined or irrecoverable items. As already pointed out this is not altogether satisfactory, but a considerable part of the unsuspended balance has doubtless been collected after the accounts for the year were closed. The large unsuspended balance of Rs. 1,41,859 as well as the irrecoverable balance of Rs. 5,580 in Dera Gházi Khan are chiefly nominal, being fixed revenue that remained uncollected on the introduction of fluctuating assessments. The undetermined and irrecoverable balances in Lahore include Rs. 46,529 recommended for remissions but not yet sanctioned, and remissions on account of diluvion and wells in Sharakpur that have fallen out of use. The Pesháwar balances, Rs. 5,420 undetermined and Rs. 3,495 irrecoverable, are due to corrections made in the assessment Statement C on account of errors discovered and appeals, and the consequent reduction of the demand. The Montgomery and Dera Gházi Khan irrecoverable balances, Rs. 28,256 and Rs. 5,580, are due to the reduction of the fixed demand on re-assessment. The revision of assessment in certain Khádir villages of Gurgáon accounts for Rs. 6,178 of the irrecoverable balance, the rest being due to excessive submergence in certain villages. The revenue of the deteriorated Khádir villages has now been re-assessed in order to give the necessary relief, but the new arrangements have not yet been given effect to in the rent roll. In Mooltan the chief items irrecoverable are remitted canal revenue and *málikána* remitted on the sale of leased lands. In Hoshiárpur Rs. 12,606 are irrecoverable on account of damage done by the *chos*, and the Ludhiána item is chiefly made up of a remission of over-assessments under the diluvion rules of the district which have now been amended. The other items are not recoverable chiefly on account of grants of *jágírs* and *ináms* and diluvion, which accounted for Rs. 8,089 in Gurdáspur.

16. (a). *Balances of previous years.*—The recoverable balance outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 6,49,313. By the end of the year