

The remissions were principally on account of land revenue that had been for some time under suspension, but only in Ferozepore, Lahore and Dera Ghazi Khan was it found necessary to remit at present any considerable amount of previous year's suspensions. Rupees 16,610 now remitted in Lahore were first suspended in Rabi 1896, while the remission of Rs. 3,411 in Dera Ghazi Khan will help the district to start with a clear account under the new settlement. The largest collections on account of former years were made in Umballa Rs. 20,944, Lahore Rs. 25,450 and Gujrat Rs. 12,570. All but Rs. 6,324 of the balance now outstanding has been duly suspended, and the state of previous years' balances is as satisfactory as can be expected.

17. *Fluctuating land revenue.*—The following table shows the collections on account of fluctuating land revenue under the main heads for the last three years, viz. :—

1	2	3	4	5
Details.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Difference between columns 3 and 4.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Lapsed assignments ... ..	25,420	28,073	33,846	+5,773
Re-assessments ... ..	1,68,014	1,97,353	29,874	-1,67,479
Alluvial assessments ... ..	23,448	20,669	24,593	+3,924
Estates under direct management ...	21,691	32,076	48,232	+16,156
Fluctuating as- essment. { (a) Canal tracts ...	4,41,825	4,55,167	6,85,527	+2,30,360
(b) Other tracts ...	8,21,969	7,01,497	7,33,378	+31,881
Other items and rents from waste lands	11,139	22,305	8,091	-14,214
Total ...	15,13,506	14,57,140	15,63,541	+1,06,401

On the whole there has been an increase. But part of this is nominal and the rest is entirely due to the colonisation of the Chenáb Canal. If we exclude Rs. 1,47,490 collected this year for the first time in Dera Gházi Khan for canal and other fluctuating assessments under the new settlement, and Rs. 3,07,292, the increase which accrued on account of the Chenáb Canal in Jhang and Gujranwála, we get instead of an increase of Rs. 1,06,401 in the total for the Province, a decrease of Rs. 3,48,381 which is what the character of the year would lead us to expect.

The chief decrease in the receipts on account of lapsed assignments has occurred in Ráwalpindi. The chief increases are those in Pesháwar Rs. 5,187 on account of assignments that lapsed with the expiry of the last settlement, and in Umballa where an increase of Rs. 8,274 is due to the fact that Sardár Rám Naráin Singh of Kharindwa died in 1892-93, and that the income of his assignment has since been held in deposit till this year when final orders regarding its lapse were passed.

By revision of assessments and progressive *jamás* the largest amount accrued during the year from the re-settlement of Montgomery. The results of the Pesháwar settlement have now been brought on to the rent roll. Only Rs. 32 were imposed in Shahpur as progressive assessments as on account of the drought the full amount of such assessments could not be taken. Rupees 4,846 shown against Lahore are due to assessments of *nahri parta* on lands newly irrigated by canal extensions.

The result of the *Khám-tahsíl* management in Dera Ismail Khan is an increase of Rs. 16,156 over the income of last year. The realisations were Rs. 48,232 during the year, but the demand included Rs. 1,086 more which were realised after the year's accounts closed. This was on account of the remote Ushterána circle in which there is said always to be some difficulty in finding a purchaser for the Government share of the produce. The increase was generally due to the high prices prevailing during the year, and also to good irrigation and extension of cultivation in parts of the *Khám-tahsíl* lands, the cultivation in the Bhattáni *chacks* having been 5,141 acres, or more than 1,000 acres in excess of that of 1895-96.

A recoverable balance of Rs. 10,390 remained outstanding in Pesháwar at the end of the year. It is said to be due to the incorrect preparation of statements of demand on account of lapses and resumptions of assignments, diluvion, and revision of assessment. The district report gives no further particulars on the subject, which requires careful investigation on the part of the Deputy Commissioner.

17 (a). *Fluctuating assessments of canal-irrigated lands.*—The districts from which revenue classified under this head is derived, and the realisations during the year under report and in previous years, are shown below—

Districts.							1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hoshiárpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,415	11,771	15,071
Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,072	12,601	19,027
Mooltan	...	...	...	...	...	...	84,820	48,522	49,631
Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,51,495	1,07,738	1,39,104
Lahore	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,790	17,603	23,482
Shahpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,962	34,259	30,842
Dera Gházi Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94,707
Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,241	6,174	6,421
Chenáb Canal (Jhang and Gujránwála)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,04,030	2,16,499	3,07,292

The Inundation Canals generally worked well, and the only district that had a decreased income in 1896-97 is Shahpur, where it is said there was not enough water for the canals. The income in that district, however, was in excess of that of 1894-95 and greatly above that of 1893-94 (Rs. 8,610). The working of the Chenáb Canal and the extension of colonization operations on it as well as the irrigation on the Ferozepore Canals and the Shah Nahr in Hoshiárpur have been specially noticed elsewhere. Receipts in Dera Gházi Khan for the first time appear under this head, in consequence of the re-settlement of the district and the introduction of a fluctuating system of assessments on canal-irrigated lands, which is briefly explained in an extract from Mr. Diack's report printed in the Appendix. The income in the district did not, on account of the unfavourable character of the year, come up to the average which the Settlement Officer estimates will be realised in future. A large balance of Rs. 19,248 was outstanding on account of it at the end of the year. This was due to the fact that the Tahsildárs had not been sufficiently energetic in collections. More than half the balance was realised in October and the rest was under realisation.

17 (b). *Fluctuating assessments on other lands.*—Gurgáon, Bannu, Dera Gházi Khan and Muzaffargarh show an increased income. The year in Gurgáon was not unfavourable to cultivation in the Kotla jhíl, as submergence was less than usual and rain was fairly timely. Bannu and Muzaffargarh benefited by a favourable condition of the Indus. Income under this head, as



under that last discussed, appears this year for the first time against Dera Gházi Khan as a consequence of the re-settlement. The Settlement Officer says it was not up to the average he anticipated. Except in the districts noted above there was not unnaturally a decline in fluctuating land revenue under this head. In Hissár and Karnál the conditions of cultivation were so unfavourable that the revenue of the villages under fluctuating assessments was only about 50 per cent. of the revenue which the Settlement Officers estimated as that which should be realised on the average. In Delhi a part of the decrease in the figures is due to the transfer of some revenue that was before fluctuating to the fixed land revenue roll. In Lahore the figures for 1895-96 included collections of the year before on account of river spill assessments: this system of assessment is said to be gaining in popularity. In Dera Ismail Khan while collections of fluctuating land revenue under the *sailába* system increased, those under the Dáman system decreased. The scanty rainfall and the failure of the hill torrents due to it and to increased cultivation higher up stream in the hills prejudicially affected the Dáman tract, while in the *sailába* lands cultivation was favoured by the timely subsidence of the river and was assisted by liberal advances of *takávi* for seed.

17 (c). *Systems of fluctuating assessments.*—The extracts from the reports of the Settlement Officer, Dera Gházi Khan, and of the Deputy Commissioner, Jhang, indicate the only alterations in previously existing systems of assessment that took place during the year. The fluctuating assessment was introduced instead of a fixed assessment in Dera Gházi Khan in connection with the settlement, and in Jhang it was found that the extension of the Chenáb Canal cultivation required that the assessments of the villages affected by it should be amended. Two villages in Karnál formerly under fixed assessments were placed during the year under fluctuating assessments in accordance with the rules framed at settlement. Fluctuating assessments are now working everywhere smoothly and satisfactorily. The only indication of discontent is that reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Jhang, on the part of those who lose by the recent changes introduced in Jhang. But this is inevitable. The reports show that fluctuating systems are duly supervised and controlled by Collectors, and that attention is paid to the importance of making fair *kharába* allowances, and so long as this is the case such systems will continue to work well and be popular.

18. *Miscellaneous land revenue.*—The total income from miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 7,35,041 as compared with Rs. 12,03,432 in 1895-96. Except as regards *tirni* and *sajji* the fluctuations are not principally due to the bad character of the year, but are due to other exceptional causes. The figures under the main heads are as follows for the past three years:—

1	2	3	4	5	6
	DETAIL.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Difference between columns 4 and 5.
No.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Sale of Government estates ... ..	6,303	44,285	80,187	+35,902
2	Sale-proceeds of waste lands ... ..	51,444	6,54,705	1,84,961	—4,69,744
3	Receipts from quarries and mines ... ..	12,216	12,904	13,247	+343
4	Sale-proceeds of wood and grass ... ..	31,460	66,711	42,596	—18,115
5	Recoveries on account of canal, surveys and demarcation.	6,316	2,108	30,144	+27,336
6	<i>Tirni</i> ... ..	3,20,517	2,90,504	2,26,184	—64,320
7	Rents of land leased for a single harvest or year...	35,915	37,281	80,126	+42,845
8	<i>Sajji</i> ... ..	10,837	9,967	6,299	—3,668

Except in *kásht báráni* leases considered later the only important increases occur under sales of Government estates and survey and demarcation charges

connected with colonisation. The increase under the latter head on account of the Chenáb Canal, of which the colonisation during the year is noticed elsewhere, was Rs. 27,815, but slight decreases in Lahore and Gujranwála, where the income under this head is not at present large, reduce the total provincial increase to Rs. 27,336. The income in Lahore for the Chúníán rakhs, which have been colonised, will appear in the accounts for 1897-98.

As regards sale-proceeds of Government estates, it is to be noticed that the income in Lahore is larger than usual owing to two particular sales, and that the increase this year in Jhang, amounting to Rs. 40,761, is due to the sale of town sites in the Chenáb colony.

In 1895-96 Rs. 5,42,277 were realised in Lahore alone on account of the sale-proceeds of waste lands. This was due to the sale by auction of certain rakhs in the district. No similar auction has been held during the year, and the receipts in Lahore have declined by Rs. 5,36,527. But against this we have to set off increases amounting to Rs. 21,745 in Gujranwála and Rs. 14,542 in Jhang on account of *nazarána* receipts in the Chenáb colony from settlers. There was also an increase of Rs. 26,166 in Mooltan on account of the sale to settlers on the Sidhnai Canal of proprietary rights in their holdings according to the conditions of their leases, and in Dera Gházi Khan an increase of Rs. 5,593 occurred, as many lessees of Government land had the option of purchasing at the expiry of settlement and exercised that option.

The income from quarries, &c., comes chiefly from Jhelum. Gurgáon is the next important contributor, but the receipts there fell off, as on account of slackness in house-building due to the scarcity the demand for stone declined. But in Jhelum there was an increase owing to a brisk demand for coal.

The sale-proceeds of grass and trees increased on the whole in the Deraját and in districts where grass was available for sale, but in the districts which contribute most to this head it fell off. The chief decreases were Rs. 10,888 in Jhang, Rs. 6,969 in Montgomery, and Rs. 1,162 in Gujranwála, and these are explained by scarcity of grass and decrease of demand for fuel, as the burning of bricks on the Gugera branch of the Chenáb Canal, which took so much fuel the previous year was, on account of the approaching completion of the works, not so brisk. The net result is a provincial decrease of Rs. 18,115 under this head.

With references to the item of fines and forfeitures, which generally decreased owing to leniency in punishing village officers on account of their difficulties in the prevailing scarcity, the Deputy Commissioner of Hissár in the extract printed in the Appendix points out the harshness, in a year like this, of the rule which leaves the Collector no option but to forfeit the *pachotra* due to lambardárs on account of canal collections, if the demand is not paid in by due date.

The principal items of balance are explained under the heads to which they refer, except that in Ferozepore which was chiefly nominal, i.e., the difference between actual collections and estimated collections.

18 (a). *Tirni*.—The following statement compares the collections of *tirni* in the chief grazing districts with the collections of previous years:—

1	2	3	4
District.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mooltan ... ..	51,330	55,047	53,301
Jhang ... ..	73,272	76,190	58,423
Montgomery ... ..	91,331	61,439	26,938
Shahpur ... ..	19,331	17,956	8,406
Kohát ... ..	5,866	743	670
Bannu ... ..	6,920	5,687	6,330
Dera Ismail Khan ... ..	40,814	43,771	39,748
Dera Gházi Khan ... ..	9,099	7,942	8,108
Muzaffargarh ... ..	16,718	16,260	17,842



The chief decreases occurred in Montgomery (—Rs. 26,998), Jhang (—Rs. 58,423), Mooltan (—Rs. 53,301), Shahpur (—Rs. 8,406), and Dera Ismail Khan (—Rs. 39,748). The scarcity of grass owing to the scanty rainfall was the principal cause of decrease in each of these districts, but a special reason in Jhang was the contraction of the *tirni* area by the extension into it of the Chenáb colony cultivation. The *tirni* arrangements in several *chaks* of Jhang have been revised on account of this. The impressment of transport animals, and the emigration of owners with their cattle to tracts where grazing was more plentiful, hampered collections. The collection in Montgomery had to be deferred and Rs. 69,088 were outstanding at the end of the year. Sanction for this was, however, duly obtained, and Rs. 42,033 had been recovered by the time the District report was written. The greater part of the balance of Rs. 8,577 of miscellaneous land revenue outstanding in Shahpur was on account of *tirni*, as also was Rs. 3,839 outstanding in Mooltan. In Dera Ismail Khan the *tirni* receipts consist of income from Pawindahs and from leases of rakhs. The leases of rakhs yielded Rs. 19,224, almost the same as last year, and the decrease in the district collections was almost entirely due to the fewness of the Pawindahs, who on account of the scarcity did not come down in their usual numbers. The balance in this district is nominal, being the amount by which *tirni* income was over-estimated in its forecast. The fluctuations in Kohát, Bannu, Dera Gházi Khan and Muzaffargarh call for no remark, but it may be noticed that an increase from Rs. 576 to Rs. 1,211 in Karnál is due to the lease of certain rakhs to the Commissariat Department for the grazing of 400 camels. This arrangement was specially made on account of the urgent need the department had for grazing, but it was subsequently decided to cancel the arrangement and refund the lease money.

18 (b). *Kásht-bárání leases*.—The income from single harvest leases increased on the whole by Rs. 42,845 from Rs. 37,281 to Rs. 80,126. But the bad seasons and the recent orders restricting single harvest leases in tracts likely to come under colonisation caused a decrease in the regular income under this head, and the increase was solely due to certain collections in Jhang and Gujránwála, in connection with the Chenáb Canal. In the principal *kásht-bárání* districts the decreases were as follows :—Shahpur, Rs. 4,545, Mooltan Rs. 1,416, and Montgomery Rs. 481, but the increase in Jhang was Rs. 49,216 and in Gujránwála, which has usually no *kásht-bárání* income, Rs. 1,190 were collected. The reason for these increases is that certain persons without due sanction got hold of land adjoining the canal, which was unallotted, and made an unauthorised use of the canal-water by cultivating that land. They were ordered to pay a rent calculated on the value of a proportion of their crops.

18 (c). *Sajji*.—In Mooltan and Montgomery the income from *sajji* was Rs. 1,059 and Rs. 245, respectively, as compared with Rs. 910 and Rs. 372 in 1895-96. The variations call for no explanation. But the two districts, which have hitherto contributed most to the *sajji* income, had largely decreased collections. In Shahpur the collections were Rs. 1,681, or Rs. 2,466 less than in 1895-96, and in Jhang the income fell by Rs. 1,224 to Rs. 3,314. In both districts the badness of the season caused the decrease, and in Jhang the contraction of the *sajji* area due to the extension of the Chenáb Canal cultivation was a further cause.

19. *Alluvion and diluvion*.—The area newly assessed and that on which the assessment was enhanced exceeded by 13,126 and 11,744 acres respectively, the area removed from assessment and that on which the assessment was reduced. But diluvion continues to cause more loss of revenue than the gain due to alluvion, though the year under report has not been so unfavourable as the two years preceding it. In 1894-95 the net loss, including assigned revenue, was Rs. 81,089, in 1895-96 it was Rs. 30,365, while in 1896-97 it is only Rs. 9,026. This, however, is chiefly due to the large reductions of revenue made in Hoshiárpur for damage done by *chos*, Rs. 10,140 out of a total decrease of Rs. 11,022. As is shown in the extract from the District report appended, the whole of the damage was not done this year. No reduction, however, had been allowed for it before, as the rules regulating *cho* assessments had not been worked with sufficient breadth. Such leniency as is possible, by amending the practice under the existing rules, has now been shown to the sufferers, and for the rest the whole matter of

cho damage and its remedies has been exhaustively investigated by Major Inglis, and was reported to Government during the year for orders. Had it not been for Hoshiárpur, the net result of di-alluvial proceedings would, in spite of conditions adverse to *sailáb* cultivation, have probably been to cause a net increase in revenue, as fluvial action has not been violent during the year. The districts which after Hoshiárpur suffered most were Ludhiána (—Rs. 954), Gujráat (—Rs. 947), Lahore (—Rs. 863), and Pesháwar (—Rs. 739), while districts which gained included Gurdáspur (+ Rs. 1,458), Shahpur (+ Rs. 1,714), Jullundur (+ Rs. 1,174), Jhang (+ Rs. 899), and Ferozepore (+ Rs. 763). In Jhang the diversion of the Chenáb waters into the Chenáb Canal is again alleged as a reason for increased alluvion. The proposal for the amendment of the Delhi rules, which were awaited last year, have not yet been received. In all districts, except Delhi, the existing rules are said to have worked well. In Dera Gházi Khan, however, no such rules will in future be required, as all riverain lands are under fluctuating system of assessment, and whenever any land under fixed assessment is affected by the river, it will be removed from fixed assessment and added to the fluctuating assessment area. In Montgomery it is probable that the Sutlej *sailáb* will be somewhat similarly treated.

20. *Land revenue assignments.*—The total amount of land revenue now assigned in the Province is Rs. 30,49,950 assessed on an area of 6,423,079 acres. The assigned revenue has decreased by Rs. 16,844 and the area by 25,608 acres during the year under report.

The more important lapses and the chief new grants are shown below:—

District.	Name of <i>jágírdár</i> .	Amount of assignment.
LAPSES.		Rs.
Gurdáspur ... ..	Nand Gopál ... ..	1,917
	Attar Singh ... ..	661
Gujránwála ... ..	Jowála Singh ... ..	451
	Mt. Prem Kaur ... ..	414
Dera Ismail Khan ... ..	Dost Muhammad Khan ... ..	2,911
NEW GRANTS.		
Kángra ... ..	Subedár-Major Gopál Singh ...	600
Lahore ... ..	Lála Diwán Chand, Record-keeper in Civil Secretariat.	400
Kohát ... ..	Subedár-Major Hazrat Shah ...	450

In the Pesháwar district new grants amounting to Rs. 6,376 were made and old assignments were increased by Rs. 6,978 owing to the enhancement of assessment.

Below is printed an extract from the Ludhiána report in which the Deputy Commissioner points out the anomaly that whilst *jágírs* are inalienable the *jágír* revenue can be attached by order of a Civil Court. The Financial Commissioner agrees with the Deputy Commissioner that the liability of *jágír* revenue to be attached by the Civil Courts tends to frustrate the objects with which the *jágírs* were granted, but at the same time is unable to see that anything can be done so long as Section 11 of the Pensions Act is not amended so as to include revenue assignments of all kinds.

#### SECTION. IV.—LAND REVENUE ACT.

21. *General re-assessments.*—During the year under report it was decided to retain only one Financial Commissioner, with a special officer to assist him in dealing with reports and matters connected with settlements, and to supervise and take charge of everything connected with re-assessment operations and large colonisation schemes. The office of the 2nd Financial Commissioner was therefore brought under



reduction, and the office of Settlement Commissioner, Punjab, was revived. Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. L. Montgomery was appointed the first Settlement Commissioner on 7th April 1897 and held charge of the office during the year.

The re-assessment operations in Pesháwar were completed on 17th January 1897, the total amount expended on them being Rs. 3,23,139. The assessments of 14 villages on the Michni border only remained to be announced; their announcement has been deferred for political reasons. Operations were continued in Dera Gházi Khan, Montgomery and Jhelum and commenced in Mooltan.

21 (a). The settlement of Dera Gházi Khan was practically finished during the year. Orders were issued regarding the three tahsils other than Sangarh, which had been disposed of in the previous year, and regarding the assessment of date trees. The new demand was distributed and the records were in process of completion. Mr. Diack has prepared reports regarding the secure and insecure tracts, the revision of *zails* and *patwáris'* circles, the numerous existing leases of Government rakh lands and other matters, some of which have been disposed of, others being still under consideration. The establishment was under transfer to Muzaffargarh, and it was hoped that operations would be wound up in February 1898. The estimated increase in the Government demand was Rs. 85,000 in land revenue and Rs. 30,000 in water-rates, and the cost of the re-assessment up to the end of 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 3,50,124. The Financial Commissioner agrees with the Settlement Commissioner in the opinion that Mr. Diack has done his work with conspicuous ability and industry.

21 (b). In Montgomery the re-settlement of the Rávi tahsils has been completed. Work was practically confined during the year to the Sutlej tahsils. The establishment there was strengthened and measurements were pushed on, being finished in Pákpattan and nearly so in Dipálpur. The system on which the lands irrigated by the Sutlej Inundation Canals are to be assessed was reported on and sanctioned by Government, and Mr. Fagan submitted his Assessment Report of Dipálpur. This report gives an enhancement of about Rs. 70,000 in the tahsíl, and it is at present under the consideration of Government. The cost of the operations to the end of 1896-97 was Rs. 1,25,608.

21 (c). 1896-97 was the second year of operations in Jhelum, the total expenditure in the two years being Rs. 1,54,459. Work has been pushed forward in spite of difficulties due to scarcity and drought. Good progress has been made in the preparation of maps and records, the former, even in the hilly parts of the district, being prepared on the square system of survey. The assessment reports will be soon submitted. It is understood that Mr. Talbot has already submitted that for the Pind Dádan Khan tahsíl, and that it is now under consideration of the Settlement Commissioner.

21 (d). Mr. MacLagan commenced the settlement of Mooltan in October 1896, and during the year under report the principal work done was that of re-measurement. The constitution and limits of the tahsils of the district have been re-considered and revised, and the Settlement Officer has gone into the question of how to assess canal-irrigated lands, and is submitting a report on the subject. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 84,209.

21 (e). Regarding the forecast of increases and decreases of fixed land revenue due to re-assessment and progressive *jamás*, the figures,—which are usually given by the financial year and therefore differ from those appearing in the statements attached to this report,—are as follows: During the financial year 1896-97, progressive assessments were imposed in all cases, as anticipated at settlement except in Shahpur. The increase expected in that district in 1895-96 was Rs. 9,000, increments of Rs. 15,000, Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 7,000 being anticipated also in 1896-97, 1897-98 and 1898-99, respectively. The total increase in these four years thus should be Rs. 31,700. But on account of unfavourable agricultural conditions no progressive assessments were imposed or collected in 1895-96, and only Rs. 8,509 were collected in 1896-97. It is anticipated that Rs. 1,200 will be remitted, and the balance of the Rs. 31,700 due will be collected to the extent of Rs. 8,400 in 1897-98 and Rs. 13,591 in the following year.

As regards increases due to re-settlements the following remarks may be made. It was expected that in Montgomery the enhancement due to Mr. Kennedy's re-assessment of the Bár circles of the Rávi tahsils would have been added to the fixed rent roll in the financial year 1895-96. But sanction to the proposals was not received in time for this to be done. Rupees 680 were therefore shown in 1896-97 as an increment over the demand according to the roll. In Pesháwar an increase of Rs. 1,56,564 was forecasted for the financial year 1896-97, but the actual figures show only Rs. 1,14,166 actually collected in addition to the demand on the fixed land revenue roll. The reason is that Rs. 45,662 of the estimated sum of Rs. 1,56,564 came on to the revenue roll in 1895-96 earlier than was expected, while the real increment has been altogether Rs. 3,364 more than was forecasted.

21 (f). Orders were passed during the year on the forecast report of Muzaffargarh, sanctioning the revision of the settlement of the district, and the re-settlement was commenced after the close of the year, in October 1897, under Sardár Bahádur Bhái Arjan Singh. The forecast reports of Dera Ismail Khan and Jhang have also been disposed of. In the latter case the Financial Commissioner has recommended the deferment of the re-settlement till the disturbance in agricultural conditions due to the extension of the Chenáb Canal has subsided. In the former case a re-settlement has been sanctioned, and will be undertaken in October 1898. In accordance with a revision of the scheme fixing the order in which districts are to be taken up and re-settled, settlement operations will next commence in Sirsa-Fázilka and Kohát.

The questions relating to *haq-buha* and *tirni* and other matters in connection with the recent re-settlement of the Teri tahsíl of Kohát have not as yet been definitely disposed of. They, as well as the final Settlement Report, are still under consideration. The final Settlement Report for Kángra has reached the Financial Commissioner and will be dealt with in due course.

22. *Surveys and boundary demarcations.*—Considerable progress was made during the year in disposing of long standing boundary disputes between British districts and Native States, particularly Baháwalpur. Mr. H. D. Watson, Assistant Commissioner, was put on special duty to lay down the boundary between Baháwalpur and Dera Gházi Khan. The work was done most satisfactorily and expeditiously, and great credit is due for it to Mr. Watson, whose report has just been submitted to Government. Mr. Fagan and the State officials disposed of eight old cases between Montgomery and Baháwalpur without appeal. In two cases they could not agree. These cases were, therefore, referred to the Commissioner of Lahore, whose decision in both was in favour of the district. But on appeal to the Punjab Government, in one of these cases, the claims of the State were finally confirmed. Mr. Fagan remarks on the great necessity for keeping up the correctness of maps and records relating to the boundary, now that they have been cleared up, and also notices the difficulty in deciding cases if they are not promptly dealt with. A long standing dispute between Plách and the Bashahr State was satisfactorily settled by the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu and Mr. Minniken, Deputy Conservator of Forests, who acted on behalf of the State. The Deputy Commissioner of Umballa passed orders in the case of the dispute between Lakhampur in Umballa and Bari in the Nálagarh State, which had been open for about fifty years, but the State refused to accept this order, and the case is now under consideration of Government on appeal. A report was made to the Financial Commissioner regarding the Sehun Májra-Gurdiálpur case between Karnál and the Nábhá State, but the case was returned for further proceedings, and will, it is trusted, be disposed of during the present cold weather. Several other cases are still pending, but efforts are being made to decide them; as for instance in Umballa, where Captain Parsons has had a careful precis of the files in 6 pending cases prepared, and will take them up immediately.

An account of the operations of the Himalaya Survey Party will be found in Appendix B. In addition to the Dera Gházi Khan-Baháwalpur boundary survey and the surveys performed by the Himalaya Party, no surveys in the plains took place except in connection with settlement operations and the colonisation of the Chenáb colony and the Chúnian rakhs, which



have been noticed elsewhere. The necessity of employing a professional surveyor on the Indus to check the boundary every two years has been pointed out, and in connection with this matter and the survey of river boundaries generally, and also with reference to special surveys such as those required in areas under colonisation, or in tracts like the Dera Ismail Khan Thal for canal projects, it is under consideration whether the professional Survey Party could not be more profitably employed in the plains than in the hills.

The introduction of a system of fixed boundaries on rivers has received further consideration during the year, and it has been found possible to take some practical action by making fixed the Dera Gházi Khan boundary with Dera Ismail Khan and Muzaffargarh. In Mooltan squares along the river are being laid out on 10 mile bases, and are being carried across the river to Baháwalpur and Muzaffargarh. This will greatly facilitate the working of a fixed boundary when one is decided on.

23. *Processes for collection of land revenue.*—The following table exhibits statistics relating to processes issued during the last three years :—

YEAR.	Writs.	Warrants.	AMOUNT OF TALBANA	
			Paid to peons.	Surplus credited to Government.
			Rs.	Rs.
1894-95 ... ..	29,459	14,813	9,737	22,287
1895-96 ... ..	27,949	13,775	8,719	22,400
1896-97 ... ..	27,218	13,619	10,398	20,237

These figures include, in addition to land revenue processes, processes issued principally on account of excise and canal revenue, income-tax, *takávi* and *tirni* dues. They were on the whole successful. The proportion of warrants to writs has slightly risen since last year, being now just over 50 per cent. instead of just under 49 per cent., but this is not unnatural in such a bad year. It would not have been extraordinary had the total number of processes increased. There is, however, a slight decrease. Consideration in collection has thus obviously been the rule, and this is in itself satisfactory. But it is a question whether a little less leniency would in some districts have been advisable. Thus, to take the Ráwalpindi Division, we have the following figures :—

Processes issued in	Writs.	Warrants.
1895-96 ... ..	2,076	668
1896-97 ... ..	2,266	733

There is a very slight increase in the present year, though the Division has four districts, Gujrát, Jhelum, Shahpur and Siálkot, where there has evidently been considerable backwardness in paying revenue, and where unsuspended balances are large. In Siálkot 902 writs and 480 warrants were, it is true, issued, but in Gujrát the numbers were 160 writs and 9 warrants only. If the former district suspensions may possibly not have been liberal enough: in the latter there clearly was not enough firmness in collection. As remarked before suspensions should be liberally granted, but what revenue it has been decided not to suspend should be firmly collected. This was what was done in most districts of the Delhi Division with excellent results. For that Division, as a whole, the figures of the last two years compare as follows :—

Processes issued in	Writs.	Warrants.
1895-96 ... ..	3,653	2,556
1896-97 ... ..	5,700	2,558

The increase occurred chiefly in Hissár, Rohtak and Karnál. In the Delhi district the increase was not proportionately so great as in the district just named, and the uncollected balance there is so large that it should either have been suspended or collected by the more rigorous use of processes. In a bad year even revenue-payers, who can well afford to pay their revenue, attempt to get off with suspensions, and it is not good policy to neglect the means we have of forcing them to pay. In the Jullundur Division all the districts were well off except Ferozepore and parts of Jullundur. The revenue-payers of most of this Division profited by the high prices. Moreover, under Colonel Massy's directions, great care was taken to see that processes were issued only on proved necessity. Excluding Ferozepore the totals for the rest of the Division are—

Processes issued in					Writs.	Warrants.
1895-96	...	...	...	...	2,292	1,136
1896-97	...	...	...	...	2,345	940

and this, though the writs issued in Jullundur were more than those of the previous year by 254 and the warrants by 90. In Ferozepore 753 writs and 398 warrants issued as compared with 649 writs and 416 warrants in 1895-96, and the district is one with a large unsuspended balance, which more vigour in collection might probably have reduced. The figures for the Lahore Division show a fall from 12,935 to 9,725 writs and from 8,046 to 7,208 warrants. This is not unsatisfactory considering that the percentage of revenue collections in the Division was generally good. In Lahore there was a large unsuspended balance; the number of writs and warrants issued was 459 and 995. In the other Divisions the figures were as follows:—

				Pesháwar.		Deraját.	
Processes issued in				Writs.	Warrants.	Writs.	Warrants.
1895-96	...	...	...	1,065	250	5,279	1,781
1896-97	...	...	...	1,024	251	4,503	1,533

The decrease in the Deraját is due chiefly to Dera Gházi Khan. In this district the number of processes fell from 1,262 writs and 551 warrants to 555 writs and 334 warrants. The collection of the revenue for Kharíf 1896 was deferred, pending the orders of Government regarding the introduction from that harvest of the new assessment, and it was thought inadvisable to collect the new assessment by too free a use of processes. The result is a large unsuspended balance, but this was being collected when the year closed.

Processes were issued much more on the application of lambardárs than on the report of revenue officers. Lambardárs are yearly resorting more to coercion under the law as the sense of joint village responsibility is continually becoming weaker in the Punjab. As a rule lambardárs are efficient in their duty of collecting the revenue, but where they are too numerous and the *pachotra* accruing to each is small, they are men of little standing or influence and have little incentive to do their work properly. The system of joint lambardárs is, as pointed out by Mr. Connolly in the extract printed in the Appendix, apt to create friction, and if necessary the subject should be specially reported on.

The remarks of Colonel Hutchinson, Commissioner of Lahore, and of Colonel Massy, Commissioner of Jullundur, which are printed in the Appendix, point out the necessity of careful management in dealing with process-serving work. With a little care in this matter inconvenience to the people is minimised, the employment of too many process-servers is avoided, and the amount saved from the fees for credit to Government is increased. These remarks are important and should be carefully considered by all Deputy Commissioners. In Mooltan the number of process-servers employed is, according to the returns excessive, and a report on the subject is awaited.

24. *Revenue record rooms.*—The work of destroying useless papers in district offices is advancing. The arrears are largest in Ferozepore and Lahore where the files awaiting destruction amount to 5 lakhs and 2 lakhs, respectively. The work is also behind hand in Jullundur, Ludhiána, Mooltan, Siálkot, and Ráwalpindi.



## ERRATA.

In paragraph 24, line 14, page 45 of the Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year ending 30th September, 1897, *omit* "Lahore."

Owing to lack of funds little has been done during the year under report to secure better accommodation for records. Funds were allotted in the current year's budget for the conversion of the old treasury at Jullundur into a record room, but the work has apparently not yet been taken in hand. Minor improvements have been carried out in the record rooms of Jhang and Karnál. It is hoped that next year new record rooms will be built in Mooltan and Montgomery.

The copying agency system is now in force in all districts of the Punjab except Simla, Gujranwála and Hazára. New agencies were opened in Rohtak, Kángra, Lahore, Shahpur and Bannu during the year under report, and in all these districts except Bannu success is anticipated. Generally speaking, the agencies are found to be popular and remunerative. In Ludhiána proposals to construct a room for the inspection of records out of the balance to the credit of the agency fund have been sanctioned; and in Gurdáspur and Amritsar the cost of typewriters is similarly to be defrayed from the fund.

25. *Other matters.*—There is nothing to add to the remarks made in last year's report regarding the payment of revenue by money order and its payment without pre-audit. To allow zamindárs to pay either by money order or without the *wásil báki navis* pre-audit serves its purposes, and is convenient for many revenue payers, and that is all that can be expected. New rules for the lease of Government waste lands have been sanctioned, in accordance with the proposals referred to in paragraph 11 of His Honor's review of the Land Revenue Administration Report for 1895-96. Some amendments have been made in the rules under the Land Revenue Act. Of these the most important relate to the appointment of patwáris and headmen. Hereditary claims will in future give no right to an appointment as patwári. Headmen may now be dismissed if seriously in debt, and the heir of a headman dismissed for an offence may be passed over if he is affected by that offence. The conditions under which substitutes may be appointed for zaildárs and headmen have been further defined.

## SECTION V.—TENANCY ACT.

26. *Enhancement of rent.*—Enhancement of rent suits occurred only in the same districts as last year, except that Shahpur which last year had one case had none this year. In the other districts, as rents are mostly paid in kind, or tenants have so strong a position that landlords cannot afford to do anything that would drive them away, no suits for enhancement are recorded. The total number of such suits for the Province decreased from 870 in 1895-96 to 779 in 1896-97, and the percentage of successful cases fell from 86 to 78. In some districts small decreases have been attributed to the reluctance of landlords to sue in times of scarcity. In other districts it has been conjectured that the scarcity has offered an opportunity for landlords to sue when their tenants would be in straitened circumstances and at a disadvantage in contesting claims. But the figures are so small when compared with the large number of tenancies in the Province that any rise and fall in them can hardly be ascribed to general causes. The most marked variations in most district figures can be attributed to special causes. Thus in Gurgáon the decrease from 103 to 6 cases is due to the fact that last year there was an outbreak of litigation in one village, Rundhi, while the amount of this class of litigation has now returned to its normal. In Hoshiárpur the increase took place in two or three villages only, where a number of test cases were instituted to determine the status of tenants which had not been recorded at settlement, and in connection with which there was some doubt as to the validity of agreements alleged by the tenants that the landlords had remitted all *málikána*. In Siálkot there was an increase from 331 to 386 cases, of which 87 per cent. were successful. The increase, as remarked last year, is the anticipated result of re-settlement. It does not, however, adequately show the number of cases in which rents are being enhanced, as numerous cases are still reported to be settled out of Court. In Gujrat the decrease from 60 to 13 is due to the fact that the increased litigation due to re-settlement has been worked off. In Gujranwála, besides the scarcity, the fact that tenants are being drawn off to the Chenáb colony is assigned as a reason for a decrease from 45 to 27 cases. This may be so, but with 12,000 occupancy



tenants in the district it is impossible to assign any special reason for the small variation.

Suits by occupancy tenants for a reduction of rent rose in number from 22 to 38, and reduction was granted in 19 cases as against 6 last year. These cases came chiefly from Gurgáon, where 17 were instituted all successfully, and Gujráat, where 12 cases are reported all unsuccessful. Lahore last year had 8 unsuccessful cases, but this year no cases occurred in the district.

27. *Ejection of tenants.*—As in the case of suits for enhancement of rent the number of ejection proceedings, relating both to occupancy tenants and to tenants without rights of occupancy, is so small in comparison with the total number of tenancies of each kind in the Punjab, that no general conclusions regarding the reasons for fluctuations in the figures can well be deduced from them. The only general conclusion that results from a consideration of the figures is the satisfactory one that the relations between landlords and tenants are remarkably good, in so far as their state is indicated by the infrequency with which recourse is had to the Courts.

The figures for both 1895-96 and the present year indicate that a wrong procedure is often followed in ejection cases. Thus in 1896-97 in Hissár, Hoshiárpur, Jullundur and Amritsar, the number of notices issued to occupancy tenants exceeds the number of applications for the issue of notices. But a separate application under Section 43 of the Tenancy Act should be required for each tenant on whom notice is served under Section 44 (1). One application should not be allowed to lump together several cases, in each of which separate notice should issue. Figures such as those for Hissár seem to show that the excess of notices over applications can hardly be due to the issue of separate notices to co-tenants on one application. These remarks apply more generally and more noticeably to notices issued on tenants-at-will. Further, in Gurdáspur, though only two notices issued to occupancy tenants, three ejections were ordered, and ejections were actually effected in four cases, though this is doubtful, as no land is said to have been affected. Again in Bannu five occupancy tenants would appear to have been ejected without any preliminary proceedings. Moreover, the number of ejections of tenants-at-will should not exceed the total of columns 9, 10 and 13 of Statement XXXI. But it does so in Karnál, Jullundur and Amritsar.

The above remarks show that the figures we are now dealing with are not free from doubt. The attention of Collectors will be especially called to this matter for an explanation of what is doubtful, or the correction in future of mistakes in procedure or record which may now exist. In the following summary it has been necessary to take the figures as they are, and they probably indicate facts sufficiently for general purposes.

27 (a). *Ejection of occupancy tenants.*—Decrees for the ejection of occupancy tenants under Section 39 of the Tenancy Act were granted in 2 cases only as compared with 15 cases in 1895-96 and 39 cases in 1894-95. Both the decrees of the present year were passed in Hissár. Under Sections 43 and 42 (a) of the Tenancy Act, 49 applications, as against 81 last year, were made. The largest numbers were made in Hoshiárpur (18), and Jullundur and Gurdáspur (9 each). The number of notices served was 112, exactly the same as last year, but they resulted in 35 ejection orders instead of 16. The number however, of cases in which occupancy tenants were actually ejected fell from 26 to 21, though the area from which ejections were made rose from 305 to 442 acres. This is so, if no area was affected by the ejections in Gurdáspur.

The subject of suits by landlords to set aside transfers of rights of occupancy (Statement No. XXVIII B, Serial No. 8) calls for some notice. In 1895-96 there were 427 such suits decided. Umballa, Ludhiána, Siálkot, Gujránwála and Hazára had about 20 each, Hissár and Jullundur had about 30 each, while Ráwalpindi had 37, Hoshiárpur 74 and Ferozepore 85. The figures for 1896-97 show that 507 such cases altogether were decided, the districts which contribute chiefly to this class of case being Ferozepore, 114, Hoshiárpur, 71, Jhelum, 48,

and Hissár, Jullundur, Gurdáspur, Gujrát, and Hazára, each with between 25 and 45 cases. In the extracts from district reports printed in the Appendix the special difficulty of dealing with these cases is pointed out when the transfer has been given effect to some time before the date of suit, and the implied consent of the landlord to it is pleaded. In such cases the Financial Commissioner has recently held that if the landlord has ever consented to receive rent from the transferee, or if no rent has been paid, has known of the transfer and has expressed no disapproval of it for three years, he should be held to have acquiesced. The setting aside of a transfer does not, of course, directly benefit the landlord, as the tenant must be put into the same position as he had before the transfer, but it may be to the landlord's interests to refuse transfers, *e.g.*, when the transfer or is heirless. The transferee, however, is beginning to know that unless the landlord's consent has been secured he can be ejected at any moment without any claim to the tenant's right in land for any money advanced by him, and in this way the present provisions of the law act in preventing a tenant from borrowing money on his right of occupancy. It has been noticed that landlords are generally allowed to sue on payment of a stamp fee calculated upon the land revenue of the holding in question, whereas the stamp fee due should be calculated upon the value of the consideration for which the transfer was made.

27 (b). The following table gives the chief figures for the past four years relating to ejectment proceedings against tenants who have no right of occupancy, *viz.* :—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
YEAR.	Number of notices issued under Section 45 (1) of ejectment on tenants-at-will.	NUMBER OF EJECTMENTS.			EJECTMENTS ACTUALLY MADE UNDER PROCESS OF A REVENUE COURT.		Number of successful suits to contest liability to ejectment.
		Decreed under		Ordered under section 45 (5), of tenant-at-will who has not claimed occupancy rights.	Number of cases.	Area in acres.	
		Section 40, of tenant-at-will who has claimed occupancy rights but failed in his claim.	Section 45 (6), of tenant holding for fixed term.				
1893-94 ... ..	18,825	80	1,425	5,358	5,106	36,673	866
1894-95 ... ..	16,115	55	1,535	4,718	4,518	54,190	1,015
1895-96 ... ..	20,546	140	1,680	5,626	5,573	56,896	1,378
1896-97 ... ..	23,292	36	1,380	6,320	6,259	59,249	1,043

The prevailing distress in most districts is alleged as the cause of an increase of ejectments, though, as Mr. Cunningham remarks, the distress should *prima facie* rather have raised the value of tenants and prevented proceedings against them than the reverse. But tenants were unable to pay their full rents, and where there was demand for land it was, as pointed out in the Hoshiárpur and Jullundur reports, to the landlords' interest to eject cash paying tenants and put in tenants whose rents being fixed as a share of the produce would allow their landlords to participate in the benefits of the present high prices. The principal fluctuations in district figures of ejectments actually made are as follows. They increased by about 94 per cent. in Gurdáspur, by about 50 per cent. in Gurgáon and Amritsar, by about 30 per cent. in Siálkot and about 16 per cent. in Hissár, while they decreased by about 16 per cent. in Gujrát and by 48 per cent. in Delhi. No special reasons are assigned. In Jhang 103 ejectments took place, as compared with none in the previous year, and 2 in 1894-95. The reason is that the land rented by the tenants concerned is coming within the influence of the Chenáb Canal. In Ferozepore matters remained much as last year, and 491 ejectments took place.



The remarks of the Deputy Commissioners of Umballa and Hoshiárpur, printed in the Appendix, again call attention to a matter that was noticed last year. In cases of mortgages in which the mortgagor is under the impression that he will be allowed to remain in possession mortgagees often secure their ejectment as tenants-at-will. More care in attesting mutations is one remedy for this evil which Collectors should insist on.

2,423 tenants out of 23,292 served with notices, or 10 per cent., claimed occupancy rights, and of the claimants 1,043, or 43 per cent., established their claims. Last year 3,058 claims were made and 1,378 established, being 15 per cent. of claims on notices, and 45 per cent. of claims which succeeded. The figures for the Delhi Division, excluding Umballa and Simla, show the greatest variations on last year. In the districts in question there were 664 claims in 1895-96, but only 341 in 1896-97. But whereas last year tenants succeeded in 166 or 24 per cent. of the claims made, this year the percentage of success with 140 decrees in their favour rose to 41. The figures for Hissár differ most from those of last year. Claims in that district fell from 316 to 141, and successful cases rose from 29 to 48. In the Jullundur Division claims and successful cases fell generally. Ferozepore was the district with the largest figures, recording 546 cases as compared with 674 in 1895-96, but the number and percentage of successful cases fell very largely in this district, being 537 or 79 per cent. in the former year, and 222 or 41 per cent. in the year under report. In the Lahore Division claims and successful cases fell slightly, except in Jhang, where 43 cases were instituted all successfully, as compared with 8 cases, all successful, in 1895-96. The Lahore Division had only 389 claims in all, less than the number in Ferozepore by itself. In the Ráwalpindi Division there was an increase of cases, except in Gujrát and Jhelum, though successful claims, on the whole, decreased except in Shahpur, where, however, the total number of cases was small. In Jhelum there were 225 claims (137 successful) in 1896-97 and 379 claims (141 successful) in 1895-96. Ejectment cases and consequently claims to occupancy rights in answer to notices are few in the Pesháwar and Deraját Divisions. Hazára had an increase from 38 to 85, the percentage of success being 26 in 1895-96 and 39 in 1896-97. Claims in Pesháwar decreased from 84 to 55, though of the less number more were successful—36 as compared with 32. About the same number of claims were made in Bannu in both years, but whereas 10 claims succeeded in 1895-96, 29 were decreed in favour of the tenants in 1896-97.

These figures do not show any tendency, as alleged, on the part of landlords to proceed against tenants during the scarcity in the expectation that they would not have means to carry on the proceedings to prove rights of occupancy. But it would appear probable that where scarcity was felt tenants were more reluctant than in ordinary years to go to the expense of contesting ejectment; and, as a rule, did not contest them unless they had a fairly strong case to go upon. An extract appended from the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Kangra calls attention to what appears to be a defect in the law. It is said that landlords, who have tenants paying rent in kind, only nominally effect the division of the produce by *batái* and leave their share with their tenants, and then claim it in the Civil Courts as a deposit instead of in the Revenue Courts as rent. Such cases would undoubtedly be more appropriately dealt with by the Revenue than by the Civil Courts, but it does not appear that the subject is one of sufficient importance to justify action being taken upon it. It would be well if Collectors in districts where *batái* rents are the rule would notice it in their reports next year.

The questions of reducing the period of limitation to one year for claims of arrears of produce rents has been noted among suggestions for the amendment of the Punjab Tenancy Act.

## SECTION VI.—OTHER ACTS.

28. *Northern India Canal Drainage Act.*—The year's results in canal irrigation have been noticed elsewhere. In this place it is necessary to notice only such canals as are connected with colonisation operations or are under the charge of Collectors. Attention is also invited to an extract from the

Karnál report in which Mr. Connolly notices the construction of the useful Sarsuti Canal at the expense of the District Board. The subject of water-logging due to canal irrigation in Shahpur, in Umballa and elsewhere has been noticed in the District reports, and is engaging the attention of the authorities.

28 (a). *Chenáb Canal*.—Captain Popham Young's annual report on the Colonisation of the Chenáb Colony will be found in Appendix D, and shows that he is continuing the excellent work which he has so well commenced. The colonisation of the Rakh Branch is now practically complete. That of the Jhang Branch is proceeding satisfactorily, 117,162 acres having been allotted to settlers during the year. The selection of grantees for the whole area reserved for capitalists and yeomen was done by the Financial Commissioner during the year, the conditions for settlers having been approved by Government. Much useful work has been done in connection with the records and tenancy registers of the Colony, and the tenants have been carefully watched to see that they really do settle in their allotments. The Colonisation Officer has interested himself in improvements in the colony generally, and the whole tract is extremely prosperous. This has had a disturbing effect on tenants of neighbouring districts where conditions are harder, and as for the settlers themselves it is hoped that their present prosperity may not lead them to adopt habits of extravagance, which they may not be able to keep up when with more extended irrigation and normal prices they are not so well off as now. In the year 465,836 acres of irrigated crops were matured, and the total area of matured crops was 474,392 acres. These figures show a great increase over those of the previous year as follows :—

	KHARIF.		RABI.		TOTAL.	
	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1895-96 ... ..	119,307	1,909	168,875	20	288,182	1,929
1896-97 ... ..	174,467	6,469	291,369	2,087	465,836	8,556

On the Rakh Branch the irrigation far exceeded the amount guaranteed, as the Colonisation Officer points out. The total receipts from water-rates, land revenue, cesses and *málikána* rose on the Rakh Branch from Rs. 12,85,023 to Rs. 17,62,736, while the Jhang Branch also yielded income for the first time this year to the extent of Rs. 1,114, making the total receipts in the colony Rs. 17,63,850. Work on the Gugera Branch is in a forward state, and in view of the early commencement of colonisation there, the Financial Commissioner has lately submitted proposals for the distribution of the available area among various classes of settlers.

28 (b). *Sidhnai Canal*.—The settling of colonists continued during the year, though this is not particularly noticed in the District Report. The conditions for settlers were revised during the year with a view to make it obligatory on new settlers to build wells and divide their fields into compartments, and also in order to allow them to acquire rights of occupancy in their holdings. The canal was remarkably free of silt during the year, and having been lately cleared, irrigated more than last year in spite of the extreme lowness of the Rávi.

28 (c). *Sohág-Pára*.—The area irrigated by this canal fell from 69,987 acres to 46,768 acres. The Ghark Gharkána Canal was taken over by the District Board of Montgomery during the year, and there appears to be scope for the extension of the management by the Board of other such *zamíndári* canals, where their owners are unable to combine and make the best of them.

28 (d). *Shahnahr Canal*.—The irrigation from this canal in the Hoshiárpur district again increased. It amounted to 10,800 acres as compared with 8,252 acres in the previous year. The Government share of the income rose from Rs. 17,145 to Rs. 23,033. From this establishment charges are paid, and



expenditure on repairs which cost Rs. 5,651 as against Rs. 5,169 in 1895-96. The net income to Government was Rs. 17,382. The zamíndárs have agreed to pay half the cost of a new branch which is expected to be very profitable, and a proposal for the construction of this branch has accordingly been submitted by the Collector.

28 (e). *Ferozepore Canals*.—As was anticipated last year the contraction of the area irrigated by these canals has been only temporary. The complaints regarding 'involuntary irrigation' which led to the issue of orders in December 1895, with the object of keeping water off the fields of those who did not desire it, have caused improvements in the distribution of the supply and a better control over it by the canal establishment. The supply has been strictly limited to those who demand water, and the result of this has been that *ábnoshes* generally are eager to apply for irrigation, not the least eager being those who were foremost in complaining about an excessive supply in 1895. The Daulatwah for instance, in 1895-96, on account of the absence of demand, performed no irrigation and was kept closed. In 1896-97 it irrigated 1,831 *ghumaos*. There have been similarly increases in the area irrigated by each one of the other canals, except the Fázilwah, with the result that the total area irrigated by all the canals has increased by 22,162 *ghumaos*, or 50 per cent., from 44,639 acres in 1895-96 to 66,801 acres in the year under report. The Fázilwah did badly because the river assumed a very unfavourable position at its head early in the irrigating season and the canal was silted up: a new and better head has however been found, and an improvement in the working of this canal is now expected. The flood level of the river was higher than in the last year, and this, with the want of rain and the discovery by the *ábnoshes* that they would not get water unless they asked for it, was the cause of the general increase of irrigation. The direct result of this increase was a decrease in the establishment rate, distributed among *ábnoshes*, from 6 annas per *ghumao* in 1895-96 to 4 annas in 1896-97, expenditure on repairs and improvements averaging 10 annas per *ghumao* being also collected from them according to the individual circumstances of each canal. An extension of the Aghawah was accomplished as a famine work in Tahsils Moga and Zira, but this was not completed in time to affect the irrigated area with which the present report is concerned. The credit of making this extension is due to Rái Maya Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who continued to ably manage the canals during the year, and whose good work has been specially commented on.

28 (f). *The Barkat Ali Khan Canal* in Mooltan continued to do very badly. The Financial Commissioner thought that its successful working was hopeless and recommended its abandonment. But Government has decided to consider its improvement and retain it for further experience of its capabilities.

28 (g) *Kábul River Canal*.—Under the management of the Deputy Commissioner of Pesháwar, who was again ably assisted by Khán Bahádur Sheikh Sher Muhammad, the Kábul River Canal did even better than was anticipated last year. The expenditure on establishment, improvements and repairs amounted to Rs. 20,185, but in consequence of the application of differential rates on crops and the increase of the irrigated area from 22,716 acres to 23,313 acres, the income went up to Rs. 1,12,384. The net profit thus amounted to Rs. 92,199, or 20·6 per cent. on the capital of Rs. 4,47,497. The income from mills alone was Rs. 22,803, and was, as anticipated last year, sufficient to pay for the up-keep of the canal. Attention has been paid to the improvement of the banks, silt clearance, the construction and repair of syphons and culverts, and tree-planting. A new set of zilladárs' quarters has also been provided. The worst breach occurred on 26th September 1897, but it was repaired by 3rd October. The left canal and *nallah* bank were carried away near the Mallozai aqueduct and a wing wall was undermined in consequence of a rat-hole in the bank; the repairs cost Rs. 973. The extracts printed in the Appendix from a report by the Deputy Commissioner give details of the working of the canal. The future system of its management has been under consideration during the year, and it has been decided that while its revenue-management is to remain with the Deputy

Commissioner. its maintenance is to be supervised by the Executive Engineer, Swát River Canal, from the commencement of the next official year.

The profit of the year's working on the Michni-Dallazak and the Doaba Feeder Canals amounted to 22·5 per cent., but if the charges on account of the latter, which are paid by the District Board, are excluded from the calculation, the percentage is 25. The extracts from the Deputy Commissioner's report, printed below, show the difficulties under which these canals have been worked on account of excessive silting; and under the circumstances their working has been very satisfactory, the area irrigated by them having been 1,315 acres in Kharif 1896 and 1,722 in Rabi 1897, or a total of 3,037 acres in the year.

The Shabkadar branch was completed in time to irrigate for Kharif 1897 but not in time to affect the figures for the year under report.

28 (h). It was decided during the year to colonise with peasant settlers, on the lines followed in the Chenáb Colony, an area of about 36,700 acres in Lahore. This land formed part of certain Government rakhs in the Chúnian tahsíl, and was brought under irrigation from the Vahn and Handal Rájbalás of the Bári Doáb Canal. Mr. E. R. Abbott, Assistant Commissioner, was appointed to carry out the orders of Government, and the lands to be colonised were laid out in squares and demarcated into villages under his directions. Act III of 1893 was applied to them, and a Statement of conditions of grant was sanctioned by Government. Grants were limited ordinarily to 1 square, 22·96 acres in area, and in no case were to exceed 2 squares, colonists being drawn, except with the special sanction of the Financial Commissioner, from the Lahore District. One-fifth of the squares in each *mauza* are to remain unallotted to start with as a reserve, and will be allotted later on if necessary. Initial remissions of all charges for the first year and of half charges for the second year of each tenancy were sanctioned. The charges to be paid were fixed at 5 annas per annum per acre land revenue, 6 annas per acre on 50 per cent. of each holding *nahri parta*, and cesses on land revenue and *nahri parta* at the rate obtaining in the Lahore district. Occupiers' rates are also due at the general Bári Doáb Canal rates and *málikína*, which commencing at 8 annas per acre per annum in the third year of each tenancy will be increased after 3 years to Re. 1 per acre per annum and after 10 years to Rs. 2 per acre per annum. After 5 years, if he has complied with all the conditions, each tenant will be entitled to occupancy rights.

29. *Land Acquisition Act.*—During the year under report a total area of 5,832 acres was permanently acquired for Government at a cost of Rs. 3,45,399, which gives an average rate of Rs. 59 per acre. Out of the total 2,357 acres were acquired for canals and 2,953 acres for railways. Land acquired for railways costs more than land acquired for canals, the average price for railway land being Rs. 68 per acre as against an average of Rs. 37 per acre for canal land. A total area of 529 acres was taken up temporarily at a cost of Rs. 7,420, or Rs. 14 per acre.

The oldest pending case is the Dera Gházi Khan case which has been referred to in previous reports. The returns of Hissár, Gurgáon, Mooltan, Ráwalpindi and Dera Ismail Khan all show cases dating from 1895 as still undecided.

The registers of railway lands prescribed in paragraph L of Revenue Circular No. 54 are gradually being checked and corrected. In Ráwalpindi, however, nothing has yet been done, and the Financial Commissioner has under consideration a proposal to place an officer on special duty for this work.

The payment of small sums of compensation by money order has been sanctioned by the Government of India and the necessary arrangements have been made with the Post Office Department.

The Financial Commissioner is at present revising Circular No. 54, and it is hoped that a new consolidated circular will be issued during the present year.

30. *Advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Acts (XIX of 1883 and XII of 1884).*—At the beginning of the agricultural year under report the Financial Commissioner had no balance in hand out of the allotments made to him for *takávi* loans during that part of the financial year 1896-97, which fell within the preceding agricultural year (1895-96).

Statements No. XXVI  
and No. XXVII.



The following grants were made to the Financial Commissioner during the year under report:—

- (1). 4th November 1896 ... 3 lakhs under both Acts.
- (2). 2nd April 1897 ... 5 do. Act XII of 1884.
- (3). 21st June 1897 ... 10 do. do.

These various grants were allotted by the Financial Commissioner to Commissioners as follows:—

*Grant (1)—*

	Rs.
Delhi ...	60,000 for seed and cattle.
Jullundar ...	{ 10,000 for seed. 3,000 for wells. 7,000, Act XIX of 1883.
Ráwalpindi ...	{ 80,000 for seed. 30,300 for cattle and seed.
Pesháwar ...	30,000 for seed and cattle.
Deraját ...	{ 35,000 for seed. 4,600 for cattle. 3,000 for seed and cattle. 4,000 for wells. 1,500 for fodder.

All these allotments (amounting to Rs. 2,68,400) were made during the season of rabi sowings. The balance of the Financial Commissioner's allotment of Rs. 3,00,000 lapsed at the close of the financial year.

*Grant (2)—*

	Rs.
Delhi ...	1,50,000
Jullundur ...	50,000
Lahore ...	1,00,000
Ráwalpindi ...	1,10,000
Pesháwar ...	22,000
Deraját ...	50,000

The balance of Rs. 18,000 was kept in reserve.

*Grant (3)—*

	Rs.
Delhi ...	4,70,000
Jullundur ...	70,000
Lahore ...	1,00,000
Ráwalpindi ...	1,20,000
Deraját ...	80,000

The balance of Rs. 1,60,000 was kept by the Financial Commissioner in reserve in case of unforeseen demands. Rs. 4,000 were subsequently allotted to Hazára and Rs. 21,000 to the Deraját. Thus the total allotments made to Commissioners during the year aggregated Rs. 16,15,400. This is exclusive of Rs. 1,80,000 allotted on November 4th, 1896, for advances to colonists on the Chenab Canal to meet the cost of water-courses, survey, &c.

The advances actually made by Deputy Commissioners to agriculturists were—taking the figures of Statement No. XXVI—as follows:—

	Rs.
Under Act XII of 1884 ...	7,65,564
Under Act XIX of 1883 ...	2,22,149

As explained in paragraph 31 (b) the figures shown against Act XII of 1884 do not represent the actual facts but are short of the mark by about Rs. 3,50,000.

During the year correspondence has taken place between the Punjab Government and the Government of India as to whether the present system of making *takávi* advances to settlers on the Chenáb Canal to enable them to meet the initial expenditure laid upon them to meet the cost of surveys, water-courses should be continued or not. The Government of India, in their letter No. 4821 of 3rd November 1897, have sanctioned the continuance of the present system on the Chenáb Canal, but have desired that the system should not be extended to other cases.

As usual the accounts of the Revenue Department have been compared with those of the Accountant-General, and the discrepancies are being reconciled.

31 (a). *Land Improvement Loans Act (XIX of 1883)*.—During the months of October, November and December 1896 the Financial Commissioner found it necessary, owing to the scantiness of the funds at his disposal and to the urgent demands for money for loans under Act XII of 1884, to restrict the amounts available for loans under Act XIX of 1883. Subsequently by the orders of the Government of India contained in Circular No.  $\frac{11}{27-1}$  F. of 8th February 1897 loans for ordinary land improvements other than those made in tracts in which relief was required, were forbidden.

These orders were, however, partially modified by Government of India letter No.  $\frac{1580}{225-2}$  of 14th July 1897, which allowed the payment of instalments of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act sanctioned prior to the issue of the orders contained in the Circular of 8th February 1897. This, however, was a small matter, and the general result has been that most of the applications presented for loans under Act XIX of 1883 have had to be refused. It is true the figures in Statement No. XXVI shew advances of Rs. 2,22,149 as against Rs. 1,89,706 in 1895-96. Most of these advances were, however, made on the Chenáb Canal, and were not true advances for land improvement.

The number of new wells constructed with the help of *takávi* was 14 in Rohtak, 28 in Jullundur, 18 in Ferozepore, 55 in Mooltan, 13 in Montgomery, 23 in Lahore, 47 in Siálkot, 18 in Gujrat, 17 in Ráwalpindi, and 11 in Muzaffargarh. In other districts the number constructed was small. In all 251 new wells were made and 50 old wells repaired with the aid of *takávi*. Two thousand three hundred and twenty-six new wells were constructed and 1,437 old wells repaired at private expense. These latter figures show an increase on those of last year due no doubt to the efforts made by zamíndárs to make good by artificial irrigation the deficiency in the rainfall. Nine hundred and seventy-eight protective *pattús* were granted.

As was to be expected arrears of repayments of loans have increased. The following are the largest arrears:—

									Rs.
Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,095
Lahore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,965
Siálkot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,170
Gujrat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,906
Shahpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,517
Jhelum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,414
Pesháwar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,078

31 (b). *Agriculturists Loans Act (XII of 1884)*.—Prior to the year 1895-96 loans under this Act were trifling in amount averaging only 69,455 for the three years 1892-93—1894-95. Last year the amount rose to Rs. 2,18,251 and in the present year to about 11½ lakhs. It is unfortunate that the figures in Statement No. XXVI do not correctly show the real amount of the advances made. Owing to the non-adjustment of the accounts of the Hissár district advances actually made for the kharíf sowings have been shown against the month of December and so fall outside the year under report though actually made within that year. The actual amount advanced in Hissár during the year was, as far as can be ascertained, Rs. 4,41,510, and not Rs. 88,961, the amount shown in Statement No. XXVI. This brings up the provincial total from Rs. 7,65,564 shown in the statement to Rs. 11,18,113.



The following are the districts in which the largest advances were made:—

	Rs.
Hissár ... ..	4,41,510
Delhi ... ..	30,896
Karnál ... ..	32,782
Ferozepore ... ..	56,171
Lahore... ..	50,345
Siálkot ... ..	77,776
Gujránwála ... ..	31,520
Jhelum ... ..	53,248
Ráwalpindi ... ..	35,108
Dera Ismail Khan ... ..	53,099

The cause of the increase in loans under this head is of course the widespread scarcity which has been described in preceding paragraphs of this report. Plough-cattle died in large numbers and had to be replaced at a time when the zamíndár's credit was bad and loans from baníás were only to be had at exorbitant interest: seed grain was scarce and dear—even an inferior grain like *bájra* rising as high as 5 sérs to the rupee at sowing time—and the small landholder and tenant had no money with which to buy. The necessity of Government taking upon itself the part which is usually undertaken by the bania in ordinary seasons was early recognized, and liberal advances were made possible by the large additional allotment of 13 lakhs of rupees made during the year. One of the reasons why in ordinary years loans from Government are only sparingly asked for is no doubt the knowledge that, owing to the scantiness of funds, it is very doubtful whether an advance even if asked for will be granted. During the present year this reason was removed, and it was well known that funds were available to meet all reasonable demands. This knowledge also gave Deputy Commissioners a greater interest in the work and permitted them to make special arrangements for the speedy and easy advance of money which are impracticable in years when there is only a pittance to be doled out. As will be seen from the extracts from the District Reports of Hissár, Delhi, and Umballa. The advances in those districts were made to zamíndárs on the spot, and the usual delay and trouble of frequent journeys to the tahsíl were avoided. The same plan was probably followed in other districts also. At the same time due precautions were taken that loans should not be made except on sufficient security, should not be devoted to purposes other than those for which they were granted, and that the money should not be given except at seasons when seed could profitably be sown and cattle could be bought with some hope of their finding sufficient fodder. To secure these ends several circulars were issued from this office. By Circular No. 388 of 22nd October 1896 it was pointed out that loans should not be given for the purchase of food or to take the place of famine relief; that money for purchase of seed should be given only in tracts where it had been ascertained that sowings were practicable; and that loans for cattle should be granted only if fodder was available, and if the cattle could be purchased in time to allow of ploughings being completed. This circular at the same time allowed Assistant Commissioners, Extra Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildárs to advance small loans on their own authority, subject only to formal sanction by the Deputy Commissioner. Circular letter No. 2450 of 5th May 1897, directed that lists of persons requiring help under Act XII of 1884, or from charitable funds should be prepared at once, and added that only persons who had no credit and could not borrow under the Land Agriculturists Loans Act should be entered as entitled to free gifts.

Generally speaking these instructions were carried out by Deputy Commissioners with zeal and care. In Hissár over 4 lakhs of rupees were advanced for the kharif sowings, and the result was that the harvest in that district was the largest ever reaped. In nearly every district the plentiful crop, which has been secured, was in large part sown with *tákari* loans. At the same time the reports show that in some districts full advantage was not taken of the plentiful supply of money. In Ludhiána, whilst 656 applications were made for loans for seed and cattle, only 413 were granted. Insufficiency of

credit could be the only reason for refusing such loans in a year like that which has just passed, and insufficiency of credit would entitle the applicant to an advance from charitable funds. The figures, however, show that at most only a few of those to whom loans were refused were allowed grants from charitable funds. Again in the District Report from Jhang the following sentence occurs:—"Large advances under this head (*i. e.*, Act XII of 1884) would have been made, had not the relief fund contributed Rs. 35,000 for the purchase of well and plough cattle." Here charitable relief has been allowed to usurp the place of Government loans and to become a substitute for them instead of a supplement to them.

On the whole however it may be said that *takávi* loans materially contributed to save the Province from a continuance of scarcity, have enabled many hundreds of zamíndárs to keep out of the clutches of the money-lender, and have for the future taught the people generally that in times of distress they may look to Government for help and not be disappointed.

Arrears of repayments have naturally risen greatly and now amount to Rs. 87,637 as against Rs. 8,039 at the end of last year. The districts showing the largest arrears are: Lahore, Rs. 24,502; Siálkot, Rs. 14,352; and Jhelum, Rs. 13,555. Hissár, Rohtak, Delhi, Karnál, Ferozepore, Gurdáspur, Gujrát, Gujránwála, Shahpur, Ráwalpindi and Kohát also show amounts of over Rs. 1,000 in arrear.

32. *Indian Forests Act (VII of 1878).*—The settlement of the *khálsa* forests in Kángra was sanctioned during the year, but the *jágir* forests still remain to be dealt with. The Sháhpur rakhs, which had before been under the management of the Deputy Commissioner, were made into a Forest Division, and placed under the charge of a Deputy Conservator. Orders on Mr. Wilson's report on the settlement of the Salt Range rakhs were received after the year closed, and the report on the other rakhs has been received and is under the Financial Commissioner's consideration. Some difficulties have been experienced, as noted in the extract from the Deputy Commissioner's report printed in the Appendix, regarding the management of grazing without the intervention of Khatri middlemen. It is to be regretted that the attempt to deal directly with the zamíndárs has temporarily failed. The difficulties in the matter will doubtless be overcome, but it is to be noticed that the Commissioner does not regard the system of middlemen as altogether bad. The future management of the Khwára and Zíra forests formed the subject of a careful joint report by Mr. Lorimer, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Hoghton, Deputy Conservator of Forests, but this has not yet been submitted to Government as further information is being called for. The report on forest fires referred to in last year's report was forwarded to Government. In Hazára the decrease in fires during the year has been due to fortuitous causes, but it has been decided to adopt a policy of concession with regulated fringes as a preventative of fires in future. As to Kángra the Financial Commissioner has advised that the effects of the recent settlement should be observed before further action is taken. The case of Ráwalpindi remains for disposal as no report has yet been received from the Commissioner. A grass rakh for the cavalry regiment at Dera Gházi Khan was set apart in the Cháhi rakhs.

33. *Business returns.*—The number of cases disposed of by Revenue Officers during the last three years was as follows:—  
Statements Nos. XXVIII A, B, and C.

Year.	Civil and Criminal cases.	Revenue Court cases.	Revenue Officers' cases.	Total.
1894-95 ... ..	140,428	34,083	135,994	310,505
1895-96 ... ..	141,484	37,819	152,467	328,576
1896-97 ... ..	147,511	37,004	174,257	358,772



Case work was thus a good deal heavier than in the preceding year, and as far as revenue cases are concerned the districts which show the principal increases are Delhi, Umballa, Ferozepore, Gurdáspur, Siálkot, Dera Ismail Khan and Dera Gházi Khan. In Pesháwar the settlement has closed, and so there has been a large decrease because of the cessation of cases relating to the distribution of revenue over holdings and other subjects connected with assessment. There has been a considerable decrease in Mooltan, which is unexplained. In other districts, except Gurdáspur, where the cause of increase is chiefly nominal certain figures having been omitted from last year's returns by mistake, the principal causes of variation are shown by Statement No. XXVIII B to have been in the following classes of cases, excluding cases regarding tenants, writs and processes which have been separately considered, viz. :—

Cases concerning—	Number of cases.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.
Adjustment, suspension or remission of rent	3	583
Suspension of land revenue ... ..	2,140	6,309
Remission of land revenue ... ..	785	532
Boundaries and survey marks ... ..	4,208	4,465
Other matters under the Land Revenue Act	12,281	13,738
Takávi for improvements ... ..	1,577	3,656
Do. relief .. ..	7,529	22,384
Income-tax ... ..	12,153	13,449

All these variations except those relating to boundaries and survey marks are directly due to the famine and scarcity. Boundary cases have increased chiefly in Jhang, where the Deputy Commissioner is systematically checking the condition of boundary marks. But in addition to the kinds of cases noted above the scarcity caused very heavy work, in particular districts like Hissár especially, in connection with test works, famine relief works, land acquisition for relief works, the distribution of gratuitous charitable relief and the like, while in many districts additional work was also thrown on to Revenue Officers in connection with the military expeditions on the frontier for which transport had to be collected and other arrangements had to be made with the assistance of the Civil authorities. Famine, scarcity and the military operations have taken up so much time that disposals have not altogether kept pace with institutions. But pending files contain chiefly cases concerning income-tax, partitions, the collection of revenue, the rectification of boundary marks and heavy cases which take time and require local inspections such as applications for reduction in assessment. On the whole, considering the strain under which work had to be performed, the results of the year cannot be regarded as anything but satisfactory.

33 (a). *Appellate work.*—The appellate work disposed of by Collectors in the year under report and the two preceding years compare as under :—

Year.	Revenue judicial appeals.	Revenue executive appeals.	Total.
1894-95 ... ..	2,916	1,485	4,401
1895-96 ... ..	3,117	1,503	4,620
1896-97 ... ..	3,235	1,529	4,764

There is a gradual increase during the three years, but the increase is not very great. The average number of revenue judicial appeals per district was 104, but to make up this average Simla contributed one case only, while Jhelum contributed 341 and Ferozepore (366), Siálkot (183), Hoshiárpur (172), Hissár (156), and Lahore (151), all had over 150 cases, while Amritsar had 145. In five districts besides Simla the total number of such appeals was under 40, being lowest in Kohát (25) and Muzaffargarh (19).

The arithmetical average per district of revenue executive appeals is 50, but only eleven districts had 50 or more cases. The highest returns are from Umballa (132), Jhelum (130), Jullundur (132) and Ráwalpindi (120).

The average of success fell from about 23 last year to 22 in revenue judicial appeals, and from 39 to 35 in revenue executive appeals. In Delhi, Jhang and Montgomery only 3, 5 and 2 appeals succeeded, out of 70, 57 and 31 institutions. The percentages of successful revenue executive appeals were 50 or over in Dera Gházi Khan, Ráwalpindi and Hazára.

The number of appeals decided by Commissioners during the past three years was as follows :—

Year.	Revenue Court appeals.	Revenue executive appeals.	Total.
1894-95 ... ..	737	2,685	3,422
1895-96 ... ..	462	2,874	3,336
1896-97 ... ..	597	2,609	3,206

The greater number of the revenue court appeals were decided by the Commissioners of Delhi (108), Jullundur (140) and Ráwalpindi (202), and the Commissioners of Ráwalpindi (822) and Jullundur (615), also had the heaviest work in revenue executive appeals, together with the Commissioner of Lahore (520).

The average of success last year was 31 per cent. in revenue court appeals, and 22 per cent. in revenue case appeals. This year it fell to 17 in the former and rose to 24 in the latter.

The Settlement Commissioner, Punjab, was invested with the powers of a Commissioner to dispose of certain classes of cases connected with settlement proceedings, and decided 21 revenue executive appeals, none of which was accepted.

The Statement below gives figures relating to the appellate work of the Financial Commissioner for the last three years—

Year.	REVENUE COURT CASES.		REVENUE OFFICERS' CASES.	
	Appeals.	Revisions.	Appeals.	Revisions.
1894-95 ... ..	70	593	113	324
1895-96 ... ..	22	575	90	306
1896-97 ... ..	21	560	71	317

The Settlement Commissioner, Punjab, was invested with the powers of a Financial Commissioner to decide certain cases which the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz was unavoidably unable to dispose of; and in the above figures are included 5 appeals and 81 revisions disposed of by him. Only 3 revenue court appeals and 2 revenue executive appeals were successful. In revision about 4 per cent. of revenue court applications and 8 per cent. of revenue executive applications succeeded.



## SECTION VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

34. *Local rate*.—The balance due on account of former years was Rs. 1,21,827, and the demand for the year under report amounted to Rs. 29,95,758. Out of this, total demand of Rs. 31,17,585, Rs. 27,51,820 were collected, Rs. 13,875 were remitted, and the balance at the end of the year was Rs. 3,51,890. Of this Rs. 63,444 on account of former years and Rs. 2,61,727 on account of 1896-97 is shown as recoverable and is under suspension in consequence of the suspensions of land revenue which it was found necessary to make. The reasons already given for differences in the district land revenue demands, as compared with last year, and for remissions and suspensions of land revenue, explain differences and suspensions and remissions on account of local rate.

35. *Government litigation*.—Statement No. XXXVI shows that Government was a party to 61 suits during the year. Of these 32 were decided for Government, 4 were compromised, 2 were withdrawn by the opposite parties, 1 was decided partly against Government and 22 were pending at the end of the year. Of the total number 38 were original suits, of which 20 were decided in favour of Government and 1 partly against Government: the rest were compromised, withdrawn, or are still pending. Of the 23 appeal and revision cases, 12 were decided in favour of Government and none against Government. Appendix A shows the amount of litigation conducted by the Government Advocate and his Junior. They carried through 27 original suits and 23 appeal and revision cases. Of the original cases 15 were successful, 3 were compromised, 1 decided partly against Government, and the rest are still pending. Of the appeals, &c., 12 were decided for Government, 1 was compromised and 10 were pending at the close of the year. The results of Government litigation were therefore satisfactory. Three hundred and forty-seven references were made to the Government Advocate during the year, being 21 less than the average for the past five years.

Statement XXXVII shows that realizations by Government of amounts due under decrees are not altogether satisfactory. Of a total of Rs. 8,968 due to Government, only Rs. 2,646 were realized. Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Robinson held the posts of Government Advocate and Junior Government Advocate, respectively, throughout the year.

36. *Tours of Commissioners*.—Mr. R. Clarke held charge of the Delhi Division during the whole year. He visited every district in his Division, and including the time he halted at Simla was on tour for 191 days.

Colonel Massy was Commissioner of Jullundur, except for the period between 7th April 1897 to 30th September 1897, when he took leave, and Mr. T. Gordon Walker officiated for him. Colonel Massy spent 100 days on tour, and Mr. Walker spent 52, and every head-quarters office and treasury and every tahsíl office and treasury in the Division was inspected. The five Native States with which the Commissioner is connected were also all visited.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hutchinson, who remained in charge of the Lahore Division during the year, spent 104 days on tour. He inspected the head-quarters and several tahsíls in every district, and he also visited the Chamba State.

From 1st October to 3rd November 1896, Mr. M. L. Dames was Commissioner of the Ráwalpindi Division, and he was then succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. Thorburn, who, however, on 2nd March 1897, gave over charge to Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery till 6th of April when he returned from special duty to the Commissionership, which he retained for the rest of the year. Mr. Dames toured for 17 days and Mr. Thorburn for 23 days, and all the districts of the Division were visited.

Mr. Merk, c.s.i., was Commissioner of Pesháwar at the beginning of the year and up till 8th April 1897. He was then relieved by Mr. Udny, (now Sir Richard Udny, K.C.S.I.) who held charge of the Division up to the end of September 1897. One hundred and thirty-eight days were spent on tour by these officers, who

visited various places in all the three districts of the Division, Sir R. Uday having also been considerably occupied with political business in connection with disturbances on the frontier.

Mr. H. A. Anderson, C.S.I., continued to hold charge of the Derajat during the whole of the year. He was on tour for 108 days, and visited every district in his Division, and also went into the Tochi Valley on political business in connection with the Madda Khel outbreak.

Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery was Settlement Commissioner from 7th April 1897 to the end of the year. He toured for 25 days, and visited Montgomery, Multán, Jhelum, Dera Gházi Khan, Muzaffargarh and Lyallpur to consult with the Settlement Officers and the Colonisation Officer, Chenáb colony; and he also toured through the Dipálpur tahsíl of Montgomery before reviewing the Assessment Report of that tahsíl.

37. *District Reports.*—The more important passages of the District Reports have been extracted and printed in the Appendix. The Financial Commissioner does not think it necessary to submit any report specially for the perusal of Government, but desires to mention as being the best and most carefully prepared the reports by Mr. Wilson, Deputy Commissioner of Ráwalpindi, Major Egerton, Deputy Commissioner of Siálkot, Mr. Diack, Settlement Officer, Dera Gházi Khan, Major Inglis, Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiárpur, Mr. MacLagan, Settlement Officer, Multán, and Mr. Rose, Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiána. The remarks of Colonel Massy and Mr. A. F. D. Cunningham, C.I.E., among Commissioners, are all of weight and well-considered.



# EXTRACTS FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' AND SETTLEMENT COLLECTORS' REPORTS.

## PART I.

### RAINFALL AND HARVEST.

#### HISSAR DISTRICT.

(P. D. AGNEW, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

It appears from the returns of average rainfall of the past 25 years that an aggregate of 15 inches in the year, if well distributed in time, is sufficient to mature an average crop. During the present year the rainfall was far below the average, except in Bhiwani, where the total quantity which fell was sufficient in places, but was generally speaking ill distributed in place and time. In June rainfall was too scanty to admit of large kharif sowings. In July, when fairly good showers came, a large area was sown, but the rain ceased in the latter part of August and held off the whole of September, so that crops sown mostly dried up.

As regards the rabi harvest, this is of less general importance in Hissar than in most districts. There were slight showers of rain from October to December and a small area was sown. But the rainfall of the next five months was extremely scanty, so that the crops sown mostly failed to come to maturity. Nearly 82 per cent. of the area sown so failed.

#### ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN F. C. BEADON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

The following figures show the total rainfall by tahsils during the year under report and the previous year :—

	1896-97.	1895-96.
Tahsil Rohtak ... ..	9.97	13.20
„ Jhajjar ... ..	12.46	16.69
„ Gohana ... ..	11.57	13.56
„ Sampla ... ..	11.36	18.33

It was noticed in the last annual report that the rainfall in 1895-96 was scanty and unevenly distributed, and the above figures show that in the year under report matters were considerably worse. The summer rains were insufficient and in places failed altogether, so that the kharif crop on *bārāni* lands was very indifferent.

Not only was there an indifferent kharif harvest, but there was practically no rain at the time when it was required for the rabi sowings and the winter rains were scanty. Thus the indifferent kharif was followed by a total failure of the rabi harvest on unirrigated land.

During this year of drought every endeavour was made to make the most of irrigated land, but the crops suffered to some extent from hot winds, and in some cases the wells were affected by the failure of the rains.

The area brought under the plough during the year under report as compared with the previous year was as follows :—

								1896-97.	1895-96.
								Acres.	Acres.
Kharif	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	441,600	416,117
Rabi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106,893	175,463

The outturn of the harvests during the year under report may be described as follows :—

(1) *Kharif*—

Unirrigated area ... .. 8 annas.  
Irrigated area ... .. 12 „

(2) *Rabi*—

Unirrigated area practically ... .. Nil.  
Irrigated area ... .. 14 annas.

### GURGAON DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN A. E. BARTON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

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Except in Punhána and Sháhjahánpur there were slight showers at the middle of May all over the district. These were, however, insufficient to permit kharif sowings on rain lands but were adequate enough to open agricultural operations on irrigated area. After this for about a fortnight not a drop of rain fell in any part of the district, but from 3rd to 6th June there were ill-distributed rains here and there. Jatusána, Sháhjahánpur and Rewári in Rewári tahsil, Hodal and Palwal in Palwal tahsil; Nuh and Punhána in Nuh and Firozpur tahsils, respectively, had sufficient rain to commence kharif sowings; in other places there was either no rain or where it rained it was inadequate. This was again followed by a cessation, though occasionally there were slight and scanty showers here and there. On 28th and 29th June again there were good showers, but the distribution was again irregular; so that, practically speaking, the kharif general rains were not received till the middle of July. The local showers received in May and June encouraged the zamindárs to sow a much larger area, and the rains received at intervals allowed them sufficient time to push on sowings.

When the kharif rains actually came in July, they were unusually heavy and came in torrents and the Dahri area in Nuh and Firozpur was flooded, and there was some damage to the crops in that tract, which was more than fully compensated in rabi. The abrupt closure of the monsoon as also the prolonged drought from the middle of August to the end of November caused a total absence of the extremely important September (Bhádón) rains, which injured the kharif crops considerably, and a large area sown had failed entirely.

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### DELHI DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN H. S. P. DAVIES, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

The rainfall was somewhat similar to that of 1895-96. The fall in June was favourable to good sowings, and the rains up to the middle of August were very favourable to a good crop, their characteristic being heavy showers with intervals of sunshine. From the middle of August, however, the prospects began to fall away. There was not only no heavy rain after the 7th of August, but the latter end of that month and the beginning of September was marked by hot dry winds preventing in many parts the grain from maturing. The result was that the outturn was considerably below average.

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## UMBALLA DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN C. G. PARSONS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

The rainfall was badly below average. The average for the six tahsils was 25 inches. The district average is accepted as about 35.

The monsoon broke in June, but during the June-September period the tahsils showed figures of 18, 18, 22, 25, 23 and 21 instead of the average 24, 33, 30, 32, 25 and 24. Jagádhri and Naráingarh get on an average the most rain, but instead of 33 and 32 (averages for this period) they got only 18 and 25. But what was worse, the monsoon ended abruptly in the first week of September. Half an inch was the most rain any tahsíl received in that month. The rabi sowings were, therefore, shut out. They were very belated, one fall much taken advantage of being as late as the 28th December. Some falls in January and February averted a dead failure of the rabi; but, taken as a whole, the harvest was considered a 5 or 6-anna one on rain lands. The kharif was not so bad.

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## KARNAL DISTRICT.

(J. F. CONNOLLY, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The rainfall of the district during 1896-97 was much less than that in 1895-96 and much below the average as will appear from the following figures:—

Year.	Karnál.	Pánipat.	Kaithal.	Rajaund.	Guhla.
1895-96 ... ..	32·14	25·92	15·66	12·17	23·61
1896-97 ... ..	18·26	12·98	10·72	10·89	20·97
Difference ... ..	—13·88	—12·94	—4·94	—1·28	—2·64
Average ... ..	29·72	23·05	18·19	...	...

The first burst of the monsoon took place at Karnál towards the end of June, though there had been isolated showers earlier in the month. The rainfall was generally sufficient for starting agricultural operations in Pánipat and in most of the Karnál tahsíl and the Guhla sub-tahsíl, but in the Kaithal tahsíl and western parts of Karnál it was altogether inadequate.

In July the rainfall was scanty and much below the average. Only slight and sporadic showers were received up to the 15th of the month, and although there was a general rainfall on the 16th and 17th, that, too, was very small in amount, while the subsequent showers that fell here and there up to the 30th were again very unsatisfactory everywhere. On the 31st of July there was a good rainfall throughout which enabled the first sowings to be made in the Nardak tract, but the rainfall during the next month was very indifferent. In part of the Karnál tahsíl and Pánipat good rain fell on the 20th—22nd August, particularly in the Khádir, but then a fierce west wind started and lasted until well into the month of October, and the critical month of September passed without any rain worthy of the name falling. The kharif in *bárání* land rapidly withered up and all hope of sowing gram, the staple of the tract, vanished.

\* \* \* \* \*

With such a monsoon the natural results followed. The scantiness of rains, especially in the month of July, caused a great contraction of kharif sowings on unirrigated lands, which had been commenced rather favourably in June, while their entire cessation at the end of August not only seriously injured the little kharif (especially *bárání*) that had been sown but also greatly affected the ploughings for rabi, which were consequently made to a very limited extent on *bárání* lands.

The second period of rainfall, viz., October to December, was then practically dry and consequently very little rabi could be sown on unirrigated lands, but for the Nardak tract all hope vanished when September passed, as with that tract it is a case of gram or nothing.

The third period of winter rains was, however, a little better. The rainfall at the end of December enabled zamíndárs to sow more barley and *massar* in several places, while

the subsequent showers in January and February and March proved more or less beneficial to the standing crops, which were at least saved from more serious injury. Thus the crops on *bārāni* lands were again considerably below the average, the former by 61 per cent. as regards the area, and the latter by 93. This deficiency was, however, made up, as in last year, to some extent by large sowings on irrigated areas, on which the crops were 86 per cent. above the average in the kharif and 74 per cent. in the rabi.

The result was that the kharif harvest as a whole was only a 10-anna one, and the rabi 8.

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### HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR E. INGLIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

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The result was that the kharif crops withered, and although large areas were sown with maize and *chari*, the amount of *kharāba* was 32 per cent. more than in 1895. The kharif of 1896 was an average kharif against the excellent kharif of 1895. The Bet circles had full crops, and Sirwāl also had good crops, but the Rakar circles suffered to some extent, and Kandi circles severely.

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### MOOLTAN DISTRICT.

(E. D. MACLAGAN, *Esquire, C.S., Settlement Officer*).

Taking the average rainfall at about 6 inches, the year 1895-96 was a little above normal in the matter of rain, the year 1896-97, on the other hand, received about half the normal amount of rain. The damage caused was not perhaps so much as the above would lead us to suppose, for in parts of the district the summer rain though small was timely and the amount received in the quarter November-December, though quite insignificant, was more than that received in the same quarter last year and had a decidedly beneficial effect on the rabi. The area of unirrigated crops fell by about 10 per cent. below last year's figures, but very little of this area is dependent on rain, and the falling-off is due as much to a failure in *sailāb* as to a failure in rainfall. The kharif harvest of the district though larger in area was poorer in quality than last year, whereas the rabi harvest though smaller in area produced generally speaking a very heavy crop especially in wheat. The scanty rainfall was felt most severely in the matter of fodder, for the grass supply of the district is dependent almost entirely on the rain. The distress in this respect was perhaps most marked in the Rāvi villages of Kabīrwāla, which during the winter were nearly deserted.

(Remarks by LIEUT.-COLONEL J. A. L. MONTGOMERY, *Settlement Commissioner*).

This district is more dependent on river *sailāb* and on the flow of the inundation canals than on rain. But rain helps the crops and makes the work of the well cattle less while it provides them with more fodder. The rainfall was on the whole deficient, but the deficiency did not cause as much loss as might have been expected.

### JHANG DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN P. S. M. BURLTON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

The kharif crop was abundant and *jowār* and *bājra* was largely sown with the July and August rains in the Kerāna Bār of the Chiniot tahsil, but owing to very poor and scanty rainfall in September the crops dried up in the south-west portion of the Bār and in many other places in the district, and about 5,069 acres were turned as *kharāba*.

The kharif crop on the whole was an average one.



The winter rains were almost a failure. From September to the middle of March it was very scanty indeed.

							District average.
September ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.42
October ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.31
November ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.06
December ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
January ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.48
February ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.33

Owing to the failure of rains in the month of September and the poor rainfall in August there was a great falling-off in the unirrigated cultivated area in rabi, viz., 5,855 acres, otherwise the rabi harvest was abundant and a successful one both as regards quality and outturn. There was an increase of 79,420 acres in the irrigated area on account of the increased irrigation from Chenáb Canal.

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### SIALKOT DISTRICT.

(Remarks by F. D. CUNNINGHAM, Esquire, C.I.E., C.S. Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division).

The rainfall was the lowest on record for five years; in fact in each of the past four years there has been a decrease compared with the rainfall of the year before. And yet after the kharif of 1896 all fear of famine which up to then had threatened but not actually visited the district disappeared. As in 1895-96, the rains were not only scanty but of insufficient duration, commencing late and ceasing early; and they were shortest just when most needed in the summer of 1896 and the spring of 1897. Consequently the extent of cultivation shrank in both harvests, while the fallow area increased, compared with the cultivation of the year before, which was itself almost a famine year.

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### GUJRAT DISTRICT.

(NAWAR MUHAMMAD AFZAL KHAN, K.B., Deputy Commissioner).

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The north-eastern portions of Gujrat and Kharián tahsils fared better than the other portions of the district. The greater portion of the kharif sowings in the district took place during the months of July and August. The crops came up fairly well, but during the month of September, owing to complete cessation of the rains in that month, the crops withered with the exception of those in the north-east portions in Gujrat and Kharián tahsils, where there was sufficient moisture.

The rabi sowings were not so extensive this year, owing to the fact that, whereas the land was already parched, the rainfalls failed at the sowing time, accordingly the sowings were restricted more or less to the *cháhi* and *sailábi* lands and a few tracts of *báráni* where there was some moisture.

The crops were much benefited and ripened by the good rain that fell in March.

In the months of January and February there was some rain which led to the sowings of barley and *tára-míra*, but these crops did not arrive to maturity owing to late sowing and were only fit for fodder.

The rainfall during the year being poor, drought and scarcity prevailed in the district.

### GUJRANWALA DISTRICT.

(DIWAN NARENDRA NATH, M.A., Deputy Commissioner).

\* \* \* \* \*

Throughout the district the rainfall was deficient in the periods from June and September and from October to December.

This told on the kharif harvest, which was much poorer than the average, and also on rabi sowings to some extent. But the rain from January to May, which was general to some extent, improved the rabi, which was however slightly below the average. The outturn per acre, however, was good, and this made up partly for the contraction of area sown. The *nahri* crops were specially good, and the *cháhi* and *sailába* about the average.

## RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

(LIEUTENANT R. M. LOWIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

Taking both harvests together, the area harvested during the year was only 72 per cent. of the area harvested on the average of the last five years, so that the year was a bad one for the peasantry, more specially as the harvests of the previous year were also below average. The scarcity was greatest in the western half of the district, i.e., in Tahsils Fatehjang, Attock and Pindigheb, and especially in the tract along both sides of the *Kála Chitta Range*. In this neighbourhood suspensions were freely given and liberal grants were made of *takávi* for the purchase of seed and bullocks. Many cattle, however, died or disappeared, and a considerable increase took place in the indebtedness of the peasantry and the burden of debt on the land, so that the district will take some time to recover from the effects of this succession of bad harvests.

## DERA ISMAIL KHAN DISTRICT.

(H. W. GEE, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

Fodder was scarce in the Thal and the Dáman throughout the year.

To sum up, the year must be considered below the average, the kharif being poor and the rabi only just up to the standard of an average year.

## DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

(A. H. DIACK, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Settlement Officer*).

The conditions of the Dera Gházi Khan district during this year of famine did not differ greatly from the normal, and the agriculturists profited by the famine prices prevailing elsewhere.

The area successfully cropped with the aid of the inundation canals was in the kharif nearly the same as in the previous year and in the rabi 6 per cent. smaller than in 1895-96. The canals stopped working earlier than usual, otherwise a larger area of crops would have been obtained than in 1895-96, when the area was rather below than above the average.

## CALAMITIES OF SEASON.

## HISSAR DISTRICT.

(P. D. AGNEW, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

As will be seen from a perusal of last year's report, the year 1895-96 was not a prosperous one. At the commencement of the present agricultural year stocks of food and grain were very low. As time went on prices rose very high and exceeded even the rates current during the acute famine of 1868-69. After the failure of the kharif the people generally began to show sign of distress.

Test works were opened in October, and the attendance soon showed that regular relief operations must be undertaken. These were accordingly set in motion. Petty but locally useful works, such as the digging of tanks and repairs to unmetalled roads, were first started, but were soon found inadequate to provide work for the numbers of those seeking relief. Accordingly large public works, such as the construction of the Ghaggar Canals, widening the Rangoi nullah, re-alignment of the Hási Branch of the Western Jumna Canal, were set on foot and soon drew a full complement of workers. The intensity of the scarcity may be judged from the fact that at one time, on 26th June 1897, no less than 490,085\* labourers were engaged on these works.

\* Remarks by R. Clark, Esquire, C.S., Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division. This is the week's total, and not the daily number.



Local Famine Committees were established in the chief towns and subscriptions collected for the needy. A Central Famine Committee was also formed and affiliated to the Lahore institution; the latter body made a liberal grant of 2½ lakhs for relief in Hissár. This sum was judiciously expended, chiefly in the form of free *takát*, as it is locally known, for the purchase of seed and bullocks by those destitute land-holders who were unable to fulfil the conditions of the grant of ordinary loans under the two Acts. The famine has cost Imperial and Local funds some 12 lakhs.

Fever of a virulent type and cholera followed the copious rains of August and September. Both these diseases are still prevalent. But the history of that period belongs to next year, and can be dealt with in the report for 1897-98.

### ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN G. C. BEADON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

The year under report has been one of famine causing much distress among men and cattle. The effect of want of rain on the harvests has been noticed under Head I, and the supply of fodder was so scanty that there was much loss to agriculturists by death and transfers of cattle.

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### DELHI DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN H. S. P. DAVIES, *Deputy Commissioner*).

The one great calamity of the season was the famine. It affected an area of about 630 square miles, or nearly half the total area of the district, and a population of 383,000, out of the total district population of 638,000. The area affected consisted of the whole of the Balabgarh tahsil, half of the Delhi tahsil, and the Delhi city. This area represents roughly the southern unprotected and hilly parts of the district, and about half of the total area.

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### HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR E. INGLIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

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With the abrupt close of the monsoon early in August 1896 the grain dealers pushed up the prices to famine rates, and people had very anxious times from September 1896 to the end of March 1897. The neighbouring districts Ludhiána, Jullundur and Ferozepore imported large quantities of grain from the grain centres of this district, such as Shám, Tánda, Mukerian and Hájipur. Owing to continuous export, the Kharíf 1896 had no effect in lowering the prices. *Bhúsa* was exported in large quantities from the Dasúya Bet. Prices of food grains fluctuated from day to day, and the labouring classes specially were in trouble. The District Board spent Rs. 13,972 on providing work, on clearing of tanks and repairs to roads in the Kandi circle of Hoshiárpur tahsil, Kandi and Bakar circles of Dasúya tahsil, Kandi and Bet circles of Garhshankar, and Bet, Changar, Ghar and Dun circles of Unah tahsil.

Prices fell about harvest time in April and May, but they again rose in August owing to the drain of corn to the frontier. Timely and sufficient rainfall in September 1897 has, however, caused extensive sowings for rabi and prevented a further rise in prices.

(Remarks by COLONEL C. F. MASSY, *Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division*).

Generally speaking, the zamindárs benefited immensely by the high prices. This was especially so in all the Sirwál villages, and in the Chambh tracts of Tahsil Dasúya. The sale of *bhúsa* alone (most of it old and almost worthless) to the Jats of Ludhiána and Ferozepore yielded a handsome return to the villagers referred to, above. Taking the district as a whole, the zamindárs benefited materially by the scarcity lower down in the Punjab; and they are still benefiting, inasmuch as they have just gathered in a splendid kharíf harvest, and are selling the produce at abnormally high prices.

## FEROZEPORE DISTRICT.

(C. M. KING, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

As may be imagined, this deficiency in the rainfall, following as it did a very dry winter was a calamity which made itself felt throughout the district. For the greater part of the year fodder was unobtainable, and the zamíndárs were compelled to sell great numbers of their cattle; other animals died from starvation or from disease resulting therefrom, and in the case of the Muhammadans in the district, large numbers were slaughtered for food when they became too weak for work.

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## LAHORE DISTRICT.

(A. MEREDITH, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The most serious calamity continuing from the previous year was the scarcity of fodder, which caused the death of a large number of cattle, and next to it was the scarcity of grain, owing to which several relief works were started. The grain famine began early in September 1896 and lasted up to the end of March 1897, when all the relief works were closed.

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## GUJRAT DISTRICT.

(NAWAB MUHAMMAD AFZAL KHAN, K.B., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The drought which commenced last year continued right through the year under report. There was great scarcity of fodder, and the cattle were for the most part removed to *belás* and some towards the Jammu hills. The mortality was also great. The grain famine, which also commenced last year, assumed rather serious proportions owing to the poor outturn of kharif and rabi crops. The people were driven to sell or mortgage their lands and other belongings in order to purchase grain for their subsistence.

Prices rose and like last year relief had again to be given to the people by way of suspensions and *takávi* loans. The relief works on the Jhelum Canal started last year were kept in progress, and did much to alleviate the prevailing distress. Assistance was also afforded to the people through the means of the Charitable Relief Fund. Grain was purchased and distributed gratis in the three tahsils.

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## SHAHPUR DISTRICT.

(LIEUTENANT A. C. ELLIOTT, *Deputy Commissioner*).

There were no calamities of season beyond the great lack of rainfall. There were flights of locusts frequently reported, but they laid eggs in few localities, and these were effectually destroyed. There was not any damage worth report caused by them, as they came too late when the kharif was well grown, where there was any crop at all. But the sad truth is that there were very few crops for them to damage at any time.

The lack of the rains effectually prevented any floods coming down the river, and consequently loss by diluvion was over 2,000 acres less than the gain by alluvion. The absence of the summer floods, combined with the want of rain, had a most disastrous effect, and though no special calamity occurred, there was distress enough over all but the irrigated tracts.

Small-pox among men and cattle, and also rinderpest among the latter, occurred during the year under report, but I cannot ascertain that it was to any appreciable extent.



In the Bár uplands the want of grazing for their cattle, by which they mainly subsist, was as severe a calamity as could occur. So hard put to it were the zamíndárs, that whole villages and tracts of land were utterly abandoned by those more prudent who left their houses to seek grazing for their cattle. Others who had not the foresight for this remained idly on hoping for rain, and at last had in despair to sell their cattle to the best bidder, or see them die for lack of the food they could not afford to give them. Many under force of circumstances migrated to other districts, especially to Hazára, and others stayed with their cattle in the riverain tracts picking up such sustenance as had been spared by others. How large the loss of cattle was the *takávi* return will show.

Fire and hail-storms we were spared, except a hail-storm in the hill tracts, which however, did little damage.

### JHELUM DISTRICT.

(W. S. TALBOT, Esquire, C.S., *Settlement Officer.*)

The severe drought from which the district suffered has been noticed elsewhere; in addition almost every calamity was experienced to which agriculture is liable; an extraordinarily severe and extensive hail-storm completely destroyed a large area of ripening spring crops in the Pind Dádan Khan hills, slighter damage being done in other parts also; the river rose early in flood and damaged the rabi crops on *sailáb* lands; locusts visited the district, but did no damage to speak of. In short the history of the year is a catalogue of misfortunes. Fortunately the kharíf of this year has turned out well on the whole, otherwise severe famine could not have been averted.

### RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

(LIEUTENANT R. M. LOWIS, *Deputy Commissioner.*)

Besides the decrease in the outturn of grain and other crops owing to the drought, there was a serious scarcity of fodder by reason of the continued drought in all the tahsils of the district except Murree. A large number of cattle died of starvation, and the zamíndárs had to move about the district seeking pasturage for their animals. During the winter months the prices of fodder were very high. Great help was afforded to cattle-owners by throwing open the reserved forests to grazing and lopping, and the lives of many cattle thereby saved.

### HAZARA DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN H. S. FOX-STRANGWAYS, *Deputy Commissioner.*)

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The fruits of both seasons were destroyed: one by late frost, the other by hail.

The grass supply was almost completely *nil* in the plain dry tracts of the district and cattle had to be driven to better pasturage closely within the district during the winter. Prices ranged high throughout. Stocks of grain and fodder held out but at a low ebb.

There was, however, neither practical famine nor actual scarcity anywhere. The poor in some parts suffered and migrated to richer surroundings close by. The cattle were driven to better pasturage at no considerable distance.

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### PESHAWAR DISTRICT.

(C. E. F. BUNBURY, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner.*)

The prices of food-grain during the year were very high, but no great scarcity was experienced in the villages.

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## INCREASE AND DECREASE IN CULTIVATION.

## HISSAR DISTRICT.

(P. D. AGNEW, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner.*)

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The subjoined totals show for kharif and rabi separately the area sown and cropped on unirrigated and irrigated land for this and several past years—

*Kharif 1896.*

YEAR.	UNIRRIGATED.			IRRIGATED.		
	Area sown.	Area cropped.	Area failed.	Area sown.	Area cropped.	Area failed.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1893 ... ..	1,513,797	1,255,144	258,653	27,203	25,646	1,557
1894 ... ..	1,435,467	933,800	501,667	50,901	49,126	1,775
1895 ... ..	1,422,578	251,614	1, 170,96	68,059	64,619	3,440
1896 ... ..	1,269,372	175,631	1,093,741	100,871	87,960	12,911

The kharif is by far the more important of the two crops in Hissar, and the above figures will show how signally the crop failed. The area sown was not so much in defect of the average, being only 9 per cent. less than in 1894 and 1895. But the area which failed amounted to no less than 86 per cent. of that sown. The dryness of the year would lead us to expect a large increase in the irrigated area, which we find to be the case.

The irrigated area was nearly four times more than that cultivated in the prosperous year 1893, and 32 per cent. more than the results for 1895 show. The proportion of crops which failed on irrigated land is very high, about 12 per cent., and would seem to indicate insufficiency of canal water.

*Rabi 1897.*

YEAR.	UNIRRIGATED.			IRRIGATED.		
	Area sown.	Area cropped.	Area failed.	Area sown.	Area cropped.	Area failed.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average from 1891 to 1895.	629,450	541,133	88,317	50,695	48,531	2,164
1896 ... ..	362,625	108,193	254,432	118,078	104,016	14,062
1897 ... ..	138,548	24,836	113,712	102,318	91,708	10,610

The unirrigated area sown in the rabi was but a third of that sown in rabi 1896 and no less than 82 per cent. of it failed to bear a crop. And in itself the area sown on rain lands was 78 per cent. below the average of the five years before 1896. A worse failure of a crop could hardly be chronicled.

(Remarks by R. CLARKE, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division.*)

Of course the canal could not meet such an abnormal demand coming from every district; the point to note is that it enabled 88,000 acres to be cropped, equal to one-third of the total kharif crop of the district, and close on a lakh in the rabi when the unirrigated area cropped was only 25,000.



## ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN G. C. BEADON, *Deputy Commissioner.*)

The area in acres cropped in this year and in the previous year is shown by the following figures:—

										1895-96.	1896-97.
Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115,647	169,757
Sámpla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164,438	134,368
Gohána	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121,332	114,299
Jhajjar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165,207	99,117
Total										566,624	517,541

There is a falling-off in the Sámpla, Gohána and Jhajjar tahsils. The decrease of 66,090 acres, or 40 per cent., in the Jhajjar tahsil is the most marked and is due to the fact that there is no canal irrigation in this tahsil.

The Rohtak tahsil alone shows an increase, which is probably due to the extension of canal irrigation in this tahsil.

Comparing this year with the previous one, there is an increase in the canal and well-irrigated areas of 19 per cent. and 54 per cent. respectively; the figures in acres are:—

										1895-96.	1896-97.
Canal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123,782	147,531
Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,067	35,435

On the other hand there is a decrease of 25,192 acres, or 6 per cent., in the *bárání* area.

The double-cropped area shows an increase of 5,996 acres, or 24 per cent. This increase is in the irrigated area.

## GURGAON DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN A. E. BURLTON, *Deputy Commissioner.*)

The area failed this year was the highest on record during the last decade. It was 207·2 per cent. more than the average area failed during the past eleven years, and this failure occurred mostly in Gurgáon, Rewári and Nuh tahsils. With this large total of *kharába* the kharíf outturn must necessarily be a small one, and was, in fact, 10 annas on irrigated and unirrigated lands, and 16 annas and 12 annas, respectively, on the rabi crops.

## FEROZEPORE DISTRICT.

(C. M. KING, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner.*)

As might have been expected owing to the prolonged drought there has been a very considerable decrease in cultivation. The decrease is almost entirely confined to the *bárání* lands, there being more than three lakhs of acres less this year than last year. On the canal-irrigated lands there has been an increase, small in comparison with the large decrease in *bárání*, but by no means inconsiderable, and the *sailába* area also shows an increase of 4,000 acres.

## CROPS AND PRODUCE.

## ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN G. C. BEADON, *Deputy Commissioner.*)

*Kharif 1896. Unirrigated area.*—In June the rainfall was generally below average, and was unevenly distributed. In parts of the district, however, there was sufficient in this month for *bājra* sowings, and a large area was sown early. In July the rainfall was more favourable, and more *bājra* and other autumn crops were sown. In August and September, however, the rain was unevenly distributed, and was generally insufficient. Moreover, in these two months a strong, dry, westerly wind prevailed, which caused much damage to the crops.

It is estimated that 251,622 acres of crops failed owing to the dry wind and want of rain. The western part of the Rohtak tahsíl, the northern and eastern part of the Sámpla tahsíl and the western part of the Jhajjar tahsíl, suffered least, as in these parts the rainfall in August and September was fair; in fact in the western part of the Rohtak tahsíl it was good.

\* \* \* \* \*

The outturn by tahsíls can be described as follows:—

Rohtak. In the west, the harvest was a 12-anna one. Elsewhere it was an 8-anna one, except in a few villages where it was 6 annas.

Gohána. In five or six villages the harvest was a 4-anna one, and in the rest of the tahsíl an 8-anna one.

In the canal assessment circle, consisting of about 20 villages, the crops were average or 16 annas. In the Dahri assessment circle the outturn was indifferent or 10 annas, and in the *bárání* assessment circle the outturn varied from 6 annas to 8 annas.

Jhajjar. In the Bhúr Chahát Khám assessment circle and in some of the villages of the Bhúr Chahát Pukhta assessment circles the outturn was average or 16 annas. In the remaining four assessment circles the outturn varied from 2 annas to 6 annas.

\* \* \* \* \*

## KARNAL DISTRICT.

(J. F. CONNOLLY, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner.*)

\* \* \* \* \*

The following table shows separately the areas of crops harvested on irrigated and unirrigated lands for the past three years:—

Harvest.	AREA OF CROPS HARVESTED ON IRRIGATED LANDS.				AREA OF CROPS HARVESTED ON UNIRRIGATED LANDS.			
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Difference between 1895-96 and 1896-97.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Difference between 1895-96 and 1896-97.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Kharif ...	56,642	53,859	101,322	+ 47,463	333,036	208,176	139,081	-69,095
Rabi ...	34,726	172,005	188,032	+ 16,027	478,233	52,021	21,185	-30,836

\* \* \* \* \*

## UMBALLA DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN C. G. PARSONS, *Deputy Commissioner.*)

The area cropped in the kharif was 447,156 acres, as compared with 457,000 acres last year and 476,000 acres the year before.



There were 140,300 acres *kharāba*. (In the *kharif* of 1895 there were 89,300 acres). The *kharif* of 1895 was classed as average. The one reported on was classed as a 6-anna one by the Revenue Assistant. The area sown in the *kharif* is generally, pretty much the same as the first burst of the rains is generally sufficient to sow with; but when such a large portion of the area sown failed, it is more likely that the Revenue Assistant's appraisement of the harvest as a 6-anna one was more correct than mine, which at the time put the harvest at 9 annas.

Rice very generally failed, and there was the large decrease of 87,400 acres, even though last year itself showed a decrease of 21,000 acres. The crops got burnt up. There was a considerable increase (24,100 acres in maize and in *jowār* 22,600 acres). This extensive sowing of *jowār* evidently aimed at replenishing the much exhausted fodder stocks. As far as fodder was concerned it was a fairly good harvest. A noticeable feature of the harvest was that the crops sown early with the first rain held their own, while the late sown crops and the rice perished.

*Rabi*.—The total area sown was 404,027 acres, of which 135,136 acres failed and 268,891 acres yielded crops. Only 298,618 acres yielded crops in the *rabi* of 1896 which was extremely bad also of course.

The average area of crops harvested in the ten previous *rabis* is as follows in comparison with the *rabis* of 1897 and 1896:—

		Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Rabi 1897	...	57,600	* 211,100	268,800
Rabi 1896	...	35,900	262,600	298,600
Average of ten years		26,000	472,800	498,800
*	*	*	*	*

(Remarks by R. CLARKE, Esquire, C.S., Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division).

The area sown in the *kharif* was not much below the average, but one-fourth failed utterly, and the balance bore less than an 8-anna crop. The area harvested in the *rabi* was little more than half the normal, and the outturn on *bārāni* land is classed as 6 annas in the rupee.

## KOHAT DISTRICT.

(T. H. HOMAN, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner).

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Owing to the failure of rains in September 1896 and subsequently (and consequent drying up of water in the *Toi* on which the irrigation of the Baizai and Samilzai Tappās of the Kohāt tahsīl chiefly depends), the *kharif* crops in the Kohāt and Hangu suffered to a great extent, the result being decrease in the area of irrigated crops, viz., rice and maize. On the other hand, owing to local rains and good quality of land, the *kharif* crops in the Thal, Lower Chountra and Darra circles were much better than in the rest of the district; therefore, an increase is noticeable in the area of unirrigated crops such as *jowār*, *bājra*, *moth*, *mung*, &c.

The *rabi* harvest of 1897 was a good one, and therefore areas under almost all the crops show an increase. The gradual increase in the area under "fodder," which is chiefly *shaftal*, is due to the growing desire to cultivate this valuable fodder crop which was almost unknown in the district in previous years.

## MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT.

(MAULVI INAM ALI, B.A., Deputy Commissioner).

The *kharif* crops and produce were above the average quality, and no damage done to the crops.

The *rabi* crops and produce were also above the average quality, and no damage done.

## CATTLE.

## HISSAR DISTRICT.

(P. D. AGNEW, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

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The decrease in the number of cattle is very abnormal, and in a district like Hissár indicates very acute distress. The year 1895-96 was fatal enough to the cattle, but the famine of the year under report saw them carried off wholesale. Fodder stocks were practically exhausted when this disastrous year began, and during the year in the *bárání* tracts scarcely a blade of grass was procurable. Some of the cattle were kept alive with loppings from the branches of trees, large numbers were sent to the lower hills and were, whilst on the way there, allowed free grazing on the canal banks and from roadside trees. Muhammadan Ranghars and Pachádás slaughtered their famished beasts in large numbers for food.

## ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN G. C. BEADON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

The year under report has been a very bad one for the cattle. Mortality from disease was small, but deaths from starvation within the district are reported to be 3,356; of these 3,329 deaths occurred in the Jhajjar tahsíl and 27 in the Sámpla tahsíl. The reason that the deaths occurred almost entirely in the Jhajjar tahsíl is that this tahsíl is dependent on the rainfall for its fodder crop, whereas in the Gohána, Rohtak and Sámpla tahsils the stock of fodder is greater owing to canal irrigation.

The fodder difficulty was not the only one. In the *bárání* villages the village tanks continued dry for months and the difficulty of watering the cattle was a very serious one.

Besides the deaths from starvation which have occurred in the district, numbers of cattle were driven away in search of places where fodder was more easily procurable, and probably many of these died. Numbers, too, were sold at very low prices and, it is believed, some for which food could not be provided were allowed to stray. Most of these, probably, passed into the hands of the butchers and have been lost to the district.

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## KARNAL DISTRICT.

(J. F. CONNOLLY, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The great dearth of fodder noted upon last year continued with even greater severity during the year under report. This combined with the want of water in village tanks caused a further diminution of the number of all sorts of cattle, particularly of cows and young stock, by 12 and 9 per-cent., respectively. Last year, too, the decrease in cows was very large, although there was more or less decrease under all other heads of cattle. Large numbers of cattle are believed to have died of starvation this year or to have left the district in search of fodder in some better tracts on the bank of the Jumna, &c.

A very large number of bullocks have, however, been purchased lately by cultivators with the money provided for the purpose by the Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and as the rains in the current year have also been favourable, it is hoped that the stock of horned cattle in this district will now be greatly replenished.

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## UMBALLA DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN C. G. PARSONS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

From early in September 1895 there was no rain till June 1896. There was an unbroken drought and the cattle suffered much. They had a respite from June 1896 to September 1896, but the grass soon withered when the rains abruptly closed and here was



another period of want of pasture till June 1897. There was also want of sufficient water as tanks were early dry. Herds of cattle were sent to the hill pastures and river lowlands (Karnál sent hundreds and hundreds through up the Jumna Bet) and only the requisite number were kept in the villages for agricultural needs. These were very carefully tended, all kharif straw was preserved for them and owners toiled to dig up grass, going long distances, and they also used tree foliage. In October 1897 the zamíndárs actually stored grass against the coming drought—a rare thing for them to do. There was no decent grass to be got later. To troops passing through in the relief season the district supplied no grass. The commissariat had to make its own arrangements. When the monsoon of 1897 broke the reduced cattle gorged on the rank green grass and this caused fresh mortality.

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### KANGRA DISTRICT.

(R. SYKES, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

Rinderpest was very prevalent in all tahsils except the Kulu Subdivision; there was great mortality, but the enumeration at the rabi *girdáwari* shows on the whole a large increase in cattle and some decrease in sheep and goats.

### HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR E. INGLIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

There was no fodder famine in our district. On the other hand, the cattle of other districts were brought here to feed on river pastures. They are locally known as *gohs*. Sometimes the sick cattle, thus brought from other districts spread disease, and loss has occasionally occurred amongst cattle in this district from this cause.

### LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

(H. A. ROSE, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The year under report has proved the most unfavourable for cattle since settlement. The scarcity of fodder was felt even at the close of 1895, but with the failure of the autumn rains it became acute. Add to this that underfed, as the bullocks were; owing to the stock of fodder having become exhausted, they had still to be over-worked to save the valuable cultivation on the well-irrigated lands. The result was that hundreds of the weaker cattle died of over-work, while rinderpest, anthrax and foot and mouth disease also made heavy ravages, *vide* remarks under head "Calamities of Season." An attempt was made to make out list of cattle which have died from disease or starvation with a view to gauge the amount of relief which was required in connection with the *takávi* advances and Famine Charitable Relief Fund. This attempt failed as I might have expected. Every old animal which had died was said to have died of hunger when the object of the enquiry was known. The reports received varied in direct proportion to the reporting officer's tenderness of heart and were of practically no use except as rough guides.

It is *primâ facie* rather absurd to imagine that a man would let valuable cattle die. There are only too many capitalists in this district ready to buy cattle cheap and sell dear.

The depletion of the stock, I should say, was due chiefly to the number killed for food, or turned loose as not worth keeping, and I am not sure it is an unmixed evil.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Remarks by LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. F. MASSY, *Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division*).

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I have not last year's figures before me; and I should further like to see the figures for five years past before being satisfied that there has been any serious "depletion of stock" in the year under report. No doubt animals old and useless were largely left to shift for themselves; but I should not like to say, with Mr. Rose, that many were slaughtered for food without having some convincing evidence to go upon.

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## LAHORE DISTRICT.

(A. MEREDITH, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

There was no cattle disease during the year under report, but the scarcity of fodder was felt up to the end of April when threshing operations were commenced. A large number of cattle belonging to *bārāni* villages were taken to the Chenāb Canal and river banks during the cold weather but were brought back to their villages when the rabi crops were near maturity. All the cattle were presumed to be present in their own villages when their enumeration was under the rules made in one-fourth villages of the district because the census of cattle is always taken in the summer months. The live-stock of towns and cantonments was enumerated and shown in the return of the year under report in compliance with Director's Circular letter No. 8 of 19th September 1896. There is a small decrease in the number of horned cattle owing to their loss during the continued scarcity of fodder, but the number of sheep and goats has increased because these animals do very well when the season is dry. There is a large decrease of 12 per cent. in the number of camels as compared with the figures of the previous year, and this is most probably due to the fact that they were taken away from their villages for trade when their enumeration took place.

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## SIALKOT DISTRICT.

(MAJOR F. W. EGERTON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

The following table compares the figures of the year with those of the previous year:—

Year.	Total of all kinds.	Bullocks and male buffaloes.	Cows and cow-buffaloes.	Calves of all kinds.
1896-97 ... ..	714,864	238,686	247,257	111,215
1895-96 ... ..	710,367	240,053	240,356	113,451
Difference ... ..	4,497	1,367	6,901	2,236
Per cent. difference ... ..	+ 1	—1	+ 3	—2

There is an increase of 4,497, or one per cent., under the head "total of all kinds of cattle" when compared with the similar figures of the previous year. In the number of plough cattle, there is a decrease of 1,367, or one per cent. when compared with the similar figures of the previous year. The milch cattle show an increase of 3 per cent., and there is a decrease of 2 per cent. in the young stock. I do not think any reliance can be put on these figures. It is quite clear that hundreds of cattle were lost on account of hard work and want of fodder in the well tracts on account of drought, but the decrease in the number of plough cattle is only 1,367. The number of cattle lost by disease is 850, but no record is kept of the cattle lost by hard work or want of fodder. The statement is a quadrennial one, the cattle enumeration is only made in one-fourth part of the district; as regards three-fourth part of the district the figures of the previous year are taken and the statement shows only a very rough estimate of the stock.

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## GUJRAT DISTRICT.

(NAWAB MUHAMMAD AFZAL KHAN, K.B., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The scarcity of fodder which prevailed last year was experienced throughout the year under report, and as a consequence the cattle have still further lessened in number, those that survived and which were not sent to the *belās* were sustained with great difficulty being fed on the leaves of *kikar* trees, sugarcane and maize, grass, being scarcely anywhere obtainable to any extent in the district. Fodder was also brought from Lyallpur and Gujranwāla, but owing to its being sold at high price could not be utilized generally.

Mortality among cattle as far as it has been able to ascertain amounts to 14,000, due in the greater part to the impoverished condition of the cattle brought on by prolonged period of scarcity of fodder.

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## GUJRANWALA DISTRICT.

(DIWAN NARENDRA NATH, M.A., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The statistics collected at the request of the Central Famine Committee show that from June 1895 to May 1897, 33,601 agricultural cattle were lost, 16,666 by starvation and 16,935 by disease.

A large number of deaths by starvation occurred in the year under report. The disease which prevailed mostly during the year was rinderpest.

## JHELUM DISTRICT.

(W. S. TALBOT, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Settlement Officer*).

There is no doubt that cattle have decreased in numbers all round during the year under report as fodder has always been scarce and at times almost unobtainable; in the Thal, a good many beasts were killed and eaten. In this circle the zamindars were feeding their cattle on leaves of *bér* and *kikar* trees as far back as the end of 1895, and this means of keeping them alive was general throughout the district in the year past; it was common last cold weather to see a number of people digging up, on the roads, the grass roots, which were used in default of anything else to feed the cattle: there was no serious epidemic.

Sheep and goats did pretty well; they can generally manage to pick up a living however unfavourable the season may be to horned cattle.

## RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

(LIEUTENANT R. M. LOWIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

Owing to the continued drought a severe fodder famine prevailed throughout the year, especially in the west of the district, and large numbers of cattle were sold at less than half price or driven across the Indus or into the Hazára hills in search of pasture. The mortality from starvation was great in that part of the district although all that could be done was done by throwing open for grazing all available grass reserves, and by arrangements being made to allow lopping of trees suitable for fodder in Government forests. This measure proved a great success as it saved the lives of many cattle and the people did not abuse the privilege, so that no permanent damage was done to the forests.

## PESHAWAR DISTRICT.

(C. E. F. BUNBURY, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The cattle of villages contiguous to the border, in which there was a scarcity of fodder, were taken across into independent territory to graze.

- Fodder was not so scarce, however, as to cause mortality among cattle.

## KOHAT DISTRICT.

(T. H. HOMAN, ESQUIRE, *Deputy Commissioner*).

There is no doubt that there was considerable mortality amongst cattle during the year under report from starvation owing to insufficiency of fodder in November and December 1896, as well as from disease, and that many animals employed in the salt trade also succumbed to the effects of heat and over-work.

Some of the bullocks that died were, however, replaced by grant of *takávi* advances of Rs. 25,630, and that some of the zamindárs are still in need of bullocks, but as in consequence of the recent good crops and sale of their surplus stock of food grains owing to the extensive military operations that are in progress in the district, the people would be able to replace their dead cattle without further assistance from Government.

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### DERA ISMAIL KHAN DISTRICT.

(H. W. GEE, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

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Anthrax (*gal ghotu*) broke out amongst the sheep and goats in the Thal tracts of Leiah and Bhakkar tahsils during the month of January 1897 and was prevalent for nearly two months. The loss was heavy, being close on 20,000 animals.

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### PRICES.

#### UMBALLA DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN C. G. PARSONS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

Below appear the average prices per maund of principal staples for 1896-97 and the preceding year:—

		<i>Wheat.</i>			<i>Rice.</i>			<i>Maize.</i>			<i>Gram.</i>		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1895-96	...	2	10	8	5	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	7
1896-97	...	4	3	4	5	3	11	3	11	6	4	1	3

When the monsoon of 1895 abruptly ended prices began to rise. Just before the monsoon of 1896 broke, maize was selling at 19 sérs the rupee. This was a high price enough, but it was destined to be doubled. The kharif of 1896 affected prices little, and when the rabi sowings failed famine prices set in, wheat, gram and maize going to 10 sérs each in rural tracts and even higher in the case of wheat, while in towns wheat reached to 7, maize to 9 and gram to 8 sérs per rupee. These prices were practically stationary for months, and the kharif of 1897 has been needed to bring maize back to 21 and *chína* to 24. Gram and wheat still stand at famine prices. But as maize is the staple food of the district there is great relief.

(Remarks by R. CLARKE, Esquire, C.S., *Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division*).

The high prices benefited the Khádír villages, but taking the district as a whole it is not self-supporting and has to import 30 lakhs out of 90 lakhs of cereals required for consumption. Even assuming that consumption was kept down by economy, large importations must have been made at famine prices.

### GUJRANWALA DISTRICT.

(DIWAN NARENDRA NATH, M.A., *Deputy Commissioner*).

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Whatever may be the effect of the rise of prices on non-agriculturists, or on the poorer classes of agriculturists, whose lands do not produce sufficient grains for the ordinary requirements of the year, there is no doubt that the wealthier classes of agriculturists have gained considerably by a general rise in the prices of food grains. Taking out of consideration the owners of lands irrigated by canal who have undoubtedly prospered in the midst of general adversity, the owners of well-irrigated lands also have profited by the general scarcity. At any rate, the prices have made up considerably for the general contraction of areas sown and matured.

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## DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

(A. H. DIACK, Esquire, C.S., *Settlement Officer*).

\* \* \* \* \*

The district is agricultural and pastoral and the scarcity was little felt by the people except in the towns. The agriculturists with harvests little below the average except in the Pachád of the Dera tahsil benefited largely by the famine prices and were enabled to pay without difficulty the new demand which was introduced during the year.

## PATWARIS AND KANUNGOS.

## MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

(P. J. FAGAN, Esquire, C.S., *Settlement Officer*).

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Settlement operations have had the effect of raising the kánungo and patwári agency of this district from its pristine state of ignorance and incompetence, and it has, I think, become fairly efficient for the performance of the work allotted to it. Much, however, still remains to be done and careful and constant supervision is indispensable. Whether this will always be forthcoming in an unpopular district like Montgomery after settlement operations have been concluded is, I fear, open to grave doubt. The standard of education is low in the district, and it is difficult to obtain a sufficient supply of really competent men as patwáris on the low salaries offered.

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## JHELUM DISTRICT.

(W. S. TALBOT, Esquire, C.S., *Settlement Officer*).

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Endeavours continue to be made to give zamíndárs a fair share of patwári appointments, but it is not always easy to do so; the way is blocked to a great extent by the large number of candidates of the shop-keeping and trading classes accepted in former years; and there is also a difficulty in getting zamíndárs fit for acceptance. Generally speaking, no Hindu is accepted unless he has passed the Middle test, while in the case of zamíndárs, men, who have passed even the Primary Examination, come forward in very small numbers; and when accepted pass the Patwári Examination with great difficulty.

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## ANNUAL RECORDS.

## HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR E. INGLIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

The number of villages in which crop inspections were checked by the Deputy Commissioner or his Assistant has increased from 309 to 615. With the interruption of a week, the Revenue Assistant was in camp in connection with diluvion and crop inspections during the whole of the months of March and April 1897.

(Remarks by Colonel C. F. MASSY, *Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division*).

This is very satisfactory. Both Major Inglis and his Revenue Assistant (Lála Ganga Sahái) give great attention to every branch of the revenue work.

## TRANSFERS OF LAND.

## HISSAR DISTRICT.

(P. D. AGNEW, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

Redemptions of mortgages show a decrease of 64 per cent. in number, of 52 per cent. in acreage and of 57 per cent. in money value. The depressed condition of the agricultural community sufficiently accounts for the result. It may, however, be remarked that in this district mortgages by way of conditional sale are prevalent to a quite extraordinary degree. At least three such notices are issued every day from the District Judge's office. Such a transaction counts as a "redemption," and hence to some extent a decrease in the number of "redemptions" only shows that mortgages are not being foreclosed.

## KARNAL DISTRICT.

(J. F. CONNOLLY, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

Deducting redemptions from mortgages the figures stand as follows :—

YEAR.	EXCESS OF MORTGAGES OVER REDEMPTIONS.	
	In number of cases.	In cultivated area.
1894-95 ... ..	898	Acres. 1,830
1895-96 ... ..	606	2,364
1896-97 ... ..	1,283	4,737
Difference between 1895-96 and 1896-97 ...	+679	+2,373

These increases were, of course, all due to the prevalence of severe agricultural distress throughout the district.

Of the redemptions a very large proportion appears to be nominal, having been either made merely with the object of mortgaging the lands redeemed to other persons or simply recorded as such in the mutation registers in cases where the same lands were remortgaged for increased consideration.

The total area now under mortgage is 52,382 acres as against 49,373 acres in the previous year, showing thus an increase of 5,009 acres, or about 10 per cent. during the year under report.

It amounts to a little over 3 per cent. of the total proprietary area of the district.

(Remarks by R. CLARKE, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division*).

This is not a very formidable total.

## HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

(MAJOR E. INGLIS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

Turning to those classes of transfers, which are closely connected with the condition of the agricultural classes, it is to be noted that as, compared with last year, there is a fair decrease in the number of "mortgages," and a small increase under "sales," but considerable increase under the head "redemptions," which is satisfactory. Thus increase or decrease per cent. is—

	Cases.	Total area.	Cultivated area.
Mortgages ... ..	-12.9	-5.6	-19.4
Redemptions ... ..	+44.2	+6.3	+8.8
Sales ... ..	+4.2	-26.9	-8.8



It may be said from the above figures that though the number of sales remained the same or slightly increased, the area sold went down to 26.9 per cent. which shows that the land fetched a higher price during the year. For the same reason it may be concluded from 44.2 per cent. increase in redemption cases, but 6.8 per cent. increase in redeemed area, that proprietors of small holdings were energetic in releasing their lands from encumbrances.

Deducting the figures for redemptions from mortgages for the year under report, and for the preceding year, we find that the number of mortgages in 1896-97 is 5,712 and area mortgaged 9,587 acres, of which the cultivated area is 5,596 acres. But in the year 1895-96 the number of mortgages was 8,597 and area mortgaged 10,922 acres, of which the cultivated area was 8,647 acres. These figures represent in 1896-97 0.6 per cent. of the total proprietary and 0.7 per cent. of the cultivated area against 0.7 and 0.11 of last year, which is a good improvement. The excess of area mortgaged over area redeemed in this and the preceding nine years is shown below:—

											Acres.
1887-88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+2,105
1888-89	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+2,173
1889-90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-380
1890-91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-563
1891-92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+890
1892-93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+5,030
1893-94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+4,983
1894-95	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+9,465
1895-96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+10,922
1896-97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+9,587

The only two years, during which redeemed area exceeded mortgaged area, were 1889-90 and 1890-91. The excess of mortgaged over redeemed area in 1896-97 is less than that in 1895-96, but still exceeds the figures of all other years.

\* \* \* \* \*

Seventy-five per cent. of the land transferred changed hands with agriculturists. As regards the nature of redemptions I wish to add from my examination of certain transactions that some mortgagors released their lands with the sale-proceeds of their produce. But most of the redemptions resulted from book transfer of land from one mortgagee to another. The agriculturists who had made large profits during the year came forward and offered the same consideration for lands mortgaged with *sāhūkārs*, but for less area. Thus mortgagors transferred their lands from *sāhūkārs* to agriculturists, with this advantage, that a portion of their encumbered land was set free, while the transfer cost them nothing. Thus the agriculturists to a great extent bought out the *sāhūkārs*.

(Remarks made by COLONEL C. F. MASSY, Commissioner and Superintendent,  
Jullundur Division).

An immense rush of redemptions and remortgages was made in June, July and August which are not shown in the figures for the current year. When these are dealt with in next year's report, the actual improvement in the prosperity of the agriculturists will come still further to light. The aggregate agricultural profits of the year under review have been very large, and the zamindārs have seized the opportunity of redeeming their lands entirely or of mortgaging them on more favourable terms. It is further most satisfactory that the new mortgage transactions have been largely made by agriculturists, *inter se*, to the exclusion of the professional money-lender. It will be important to watch the progress of this new departure in future years.

#### Sales.

Five years' average.										Cases.	Transferred acreage (cultivated).
											Acres.
1887-88 to 1891-92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,760	3,910
1892-93 to 1896-97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,653	2,775
Last year's sales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,432	2,760
Net after deducting old sales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,875	2,575

This is not an unsatisfactory statement. Both mortgages and sales are shown to be on decline; the acreage of each transaction is extraordinarily small; and (as shown above) the agriculturists are at last beginning to compete with money-lenders for securing such lands as are thrown upon the market.

## JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

(LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. DEC. RENNICK, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

The total area under mortgage at the end of the year was 96,045 acres against 90,621 acres in the previous year. At settlement the area under mortgage was 68,177 acres. The increase is very great and is regrettable. It seems to point to the extreme necessity of legislative to prevent further transactions of this nature in land, otherwise the lands will within measurable distance entirely pass away from the original owners into the hands of the non-agriculturist-class of money-lenders.

## MOOLTAN DISTRICT.

(Remarks by LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. A. L. MONTGOMERY, *Settlement Commissioner*).

The figures in Statement No. X show a largely increased area sold and mortgaged in the year. This is I fear what we shall find in every district.

The high prices and consequent hard times obliged the poorer right-holders to alienate.

Happy were the capitalists who were able to invest money knowing that the difficult times would soon pass. The term "new agriculturist" certainly conveys a different meaning here to what it does in many other districts. A great deal of land has been for generations in the hands of the Arorás and men of kindred race.

## JHANG DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN P. S. M. BURLTON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

Even if we eliminate land which has been mortgaged or land which has been redeemed and then remortgaged or sold, I think these figures of the past twelve years show that land is gradually falling away from the old agriculturists, and though undoubtedly the mortgagee or buyer pays his revenue much more regularly and in many ways is a better agriculturist, there is undoubtedly a bitter under-current of feeling against the classes who have succeeded in rolling them (so they think of their inheritance).

## GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

(T. G. WALKER, ESQUIRE, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

The returns of the year ending 30th September 1896 show that this district had a larger total area under mortgage (18 per cent.) than any other in the Province (paragraph 7 (a) of the Provincial Report). If the cultivated area be taken the percentage is 19, which is exceeded only by Siálkot and the two frontier districts of Bannu and Kohát. The question of these transfers is evidently therefore one of great importance. As the district is so highly cultivated, it is really immaterial whether we take, for purposes of comparison one year with another, the total or the cultivated area. Of the total area returned as mortgaged in the past year 93 per cent. was cultivated. Taking the total areas then the following figures may be given of the mortgages, redemptions and sales brought on record during the year:—

	YEAR.	Area.	Price.	Average price.
		Acrea.	Rs.	Rs.
Mortgages	1895-96	26,766	15,98,949	60
	1896-97	18,147	9,93,760	55
Redemptions	1895-96	9,124	3,01,779	33
	1896-97	8,172	3,41,089	42
Sales	1895-96	3,537	2,54,778	72
	1896-97	3,048	2,65,915	87



\* \* \* \* \*

Of one fact there can be no doubt that the process of transfer by mortgage and sale is going on steadily. There has, in the past year, been a substantial addition to the areas permanently and temporarily alienated and to that transferred from the agricultural to the non-agricultural classes.

### SIALKOT DISTRICT.

(MAJOR F. W. EGERTON, *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

An increase in the areas mortgaged and sold was naturally expected and follows the nature of the season, but it remains to be explained why there was an increase of 1,825 acres, or 48 per cent. in area under the head redemption. Though it was a year of drought, and both the kharif and rabi were far below average, the prices were very high and the owners of large and average holdings have availed themselves of the high prices, though the owners with small holdings can gain nothing by them.

It is a fact that most of the owners with large and average holdings, as the money came to hand, pressed the mortgagees either to allow redemption of the entire holding mortgaged, or to retain a part of the mortgaged holding for the same mortgage-money, and allow redemption in the other part free from any charge. Thus in the year under report several cases were noticed, in which, if 20 kanals were under mortgage for Rs. 500, 10 kanals were redeemed, and the remainder 10 remained mortgaged for the same money.

### JHELUM DISTRICT.

(W. S. TALBOT, Esquire, C.S., *Settlement Officer*).

\* \* \* \* \*

A satisfactory feature in the return is the large proportion of the transfers made to old agriculturists, though it is smaller than last year in the case of sales, two-thirds as against three-fourths of the whole. It would be safe to assume that most of the old agriculturists who purchased land were men on service in the army and elsewhere. The prices realised are somewhat higher than last year if the return can be trusted; this is surprising, for though the value of land is steadily rising, yet it is beyond all doubt that for some time when the scarcity was at its height last year, land was a drug in the market in the tracts worst affected, and it was the buyers who dictated terms not the sellers. This, it is true, applies only to a comparatively small part of the district, and possibly the usual addition to the real price of a sum for the benefit of possible pre-emptors represented a larger proportion of the whole than it usually does, so as to bring the nominal price up to what it would have been in an ordinary year.

### PARTITIONS.

#### HAZARA DISTRICT.

(CAPTAIN H. S. FOX-STRANGWAYS, *Deputy Commissioner*).

One thousand holdings affecting an area of 11,397 acres were partitioned out into 1,637 holdings as compared to 1,268 holdings affecting 14,514 acres parcelled out into 2,395 holdings last year.

Efforts have been successfully made to reduce the file of pending cases, which shows a great decrease since last.

### OTHER MATTERS.

#### KARNAL DISTRICT.

(J. F. CONNOLLY, Esquire, C.S., *Deputy Commissioner*).

\* \* \* \* \*

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and the past year has not been without some advantages. It has, e. g., taught the people who are lucky enough to have canal irrigation to economise canal water, and it has been the means of bringing pressure to

bear on higher authority, that has resulted in the construction of the Nardak Rájbañ, and I hope the speedy carrying out of the Chautang canalization scheme. As soon as the latter scheme is a *fait accompli* all we want to render the whole district secure is a real good famine in the Naili. The increase in the number of wells is also a matter for congratulation; in this respect the indirect benefits of the Sirsa Canal deserve notice. In the villages of Amin I find that the number of wells in use this year is 19 as against 9 last year owing to the raising of the water level, which leads me to hope that the sinking of wells in parts of the Nardak tract will be possible as well as profitable in the near future.

(Remarks by R. CLARKE, Esquire, C.S., Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division).

The extension of canal irrigation and economy of water went hand in hand. It is to be hoped that the course will be a permanent one.

### SHAHPUR DISTRICT.

(LIEUTENANT A. C. ELLIOTT, Deputy Commissioner).

\* \* \* \* \*

The year has been a sickly one. During the early months of the hot weather small-pox was prevalent in the Sun valley, and since the cessation of the rains the fever has been very bad. The inundation canals worked well, but they have no regulators and no tails. In consequence of this a large area of land within the Jhelum irrigation tract has been gradually getting water-logged, and the effects have become very apparent during August and September last. In March the first effects in the civil station were noticed from the collapse of the jail barracks. Shortly after cracks appeared all over the jail buildings and the walls of the dák bungalow sunk down leaving the floor intact. The canals in the civil station were all stopped, but not before the Executive Engineer's house had collapsed entirely; the Civil Surgeon's and District Superintendent of Police's partially, and in the Deputy Commissioner's house a main wall sunk slightly, steps were taken to remedy the evil which was only looked for in the station, but an investigation showed the case to be even worse further out in the district. Roads were found impassible and the wells being measured weekly, the result was that whereas in the station the water level was 3 feet below the surface, it was found that in many parts of the irrigated area the water level was only one foot below the surface, and in the tract where the eastern and western station canals run close together the water surface levels were absolutely the same.

The result was that in these tracts not only was the kharif ruined but the ground cannot be got ready, it is feared, for the rabi. Steps are being taken to remedy this as far as possible.

### D. I. KHAN DISTRICT.

(H. W. GEE, Esquire, C.S., Deputy Commissioner).

\* \* \* \* \*

The revenue money order system was introduced into the district in the year 1893-94. During the year under report it has been in force in nine post offices. A sum of Rs. 10,673 was received by money orders during the year as detailed below against Rs. 12,142 in the last year:—

							Rs.
Dera	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,457
Bhakkar	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,952
Leiah	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
Tánk	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Kuláchi	...	...	...	...	...	...	975
Total							10,673

This is slightly less than the amount remitted last year.