

These figures cannot be said to be absolutely correct; the people will enter false rents and the Superintendents will not prepare correct returns even of these; such as they are, they may be analysed as follows. The figures shown here are less than those in paragraph 49 by 99 Agris, or makers of salt, who hold 40 acres of land as tenants-at-will, and pay for it a rent of Rs. 717. More than half the area in the hands of occupancy tenants is in the Jhajjar tahsil,

and for two-thirds no rent is paid, only the government revenue; tenants-at-will pay the government revenue only on something less than half of their whole area. The following are the average payments at rent rates and lump rates per acre; the latter, throughout, are the higher, and most nearly approach real rents.

	<i>Rate Rent per acre.</i>			<i>Lump Rent per acre.</i>		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Occupancy tenants ...	1	2	6	1	7	6
Non-occupancy tenants ...	1	9	10	1	14	3

The net rent over and above the Government revenue in each case is as follows :—

	<i>Net Rate Rent per acre.</i>			<i>Net lump rent per acre.</i>		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Occupancy tenants...	0	4	1	0	7	8
Non-occupancy tenants...	0	13	4	0	14	7

From this it is evident that real rents are not met with, as a rule, in the Rohtak district, and will only be found here and there, where special circumstances exist. No rent can be considered real which is not double of the old revenue if it includes that. Even in these cases they are generally accidental, and due to the land on which they are paid having become irrigated or broken up since last Settlement. The only real rents are those on canal lands in Gohān and Sāmpla, and these are found over a very limited area only. The area held by tenants-at-will paying revenue only is, it will be observed, much the smallest in the Jhajjar tahsil; the custom of taking rents grows up perhaps more readily under native than under English rule in a district like Rohtak; it may also be noticed that the average holding of a tenant paying no rent is only about half of that of a tenant paying rent over and above the revenue. The area on which occupancy tenants pay rent in kind is insignificant, and is found only in some of the Jhajjar naturally-flooded villages: the rates in kind paid by tenants-at-will are as follows—

Rents in kind.

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Area in acres.</i>
At $\frac{1}{2}$ of crop	740
At $\frac{1}{3}$ „ „	2,404
At $\frac{2}{5}$ „ „	279
At $\frac{1}{4}$ „ „	296
At $\frac{1}{6}$ „ „	68
At $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$	149
Total ...	3,936

There is evidently not much help to be got here in fixing the share of produce which should form the Government revenue. The number of tenants of all classes in the three northern tahsils paying at rate rents may be classified as follows, according to the amount of revenue and rent per acre which they pay ; the Settlement Superintendents will not allow me to show the areas as well, or any figures for tahsil Jhajjar.

<i>Nos. paying rent.</i>		<i>Rate.</i>			<i>Rate.</i>		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
2,344	Up to	0	8	0	0	0	0
2,042	From	0	8	0	to	1	0
1,406	„	0	1	0	„	1	8
1,075	„	0	1	8	„	2	0
175	„	0	2	0	„	2	8
72	„	0	2	8	„	3	0
79	„	0	3	0	„	3	8
58	„	0	3	8	„	4	0
8	„	0	4	0	„	4	8
Total	7,259						

The rents at lump sums are swollen by the figures of the Sampla tahsil ; but very high rents are taken in Kharkhaudah and Bahadurgarh—as much as Rs. 8 an acre for canal land in the first village. Nothing but a very minute analysis can lead us to instances of real undoubted rents ; and the results of such a task when completed are of very little use, as the areas in such cases are so small that they cannot serve as general guides in fixing the assessments.

84. It only remains now to notice the customary dues of the village menials, before proceeding to the previous fiscal history of the district. The status of a menial does not in any way spring from the payment of hearth fees (*kudi kamini*), and it is quite a mistake to include persons like the village trader, goldsmith, oilman or *máli* in the list, (as was done by Mr. Gubbins in 1838,) because they pay such fees ; these men never are and never can be menials. A menial is one who for certain clearly defined regular services receives certain well known regular

dues ; he may of course receive such payment as may be agreed upon, in return for other services, but this in no way alters his position. The zemindars divide them into two classes—those whose labor is intimately connected with agriculture, *viz.*, the blacksmith, carpenter and *chamár*, and those whose services are rendered in other ways and less regularly, as the weaver, barber, *kahár*, potter, waterman, washerman and sweeper, whom they call “house menials”—“*khángi kamin.*” A European looking at the greater gulf of separation in the ordinary relations of life which exists between the villagers and the *chamárs*, sweepers, weavers and *kahárs*, is apt to place these four classes together as a body outside the pale of communication and distinct from the other menials, as has been done in paragraph 48 ; but the classification of the people themselves is that given above. In the following table the dues paid to the first 3 classes, as compared with the rest, show clearly the reason of the distinction made by the villagers :—

NAME OF MENIAL.	DUTY.	DUES.
I.—Carpenter— <i>Kháti</i> ...	To supply and make the wood-work of all ordinary agricultural implements, beds, stools, etc. Other work is paid for.	(1) 50 seers per 100 maunds of yield, and a day's food at sowing time. (2) One bundle of barley or wheat with straw per plough in the spring, and 2 bundles of <i>joar</i> or <i>bájra</i> in the autumn. (3) On a daughter's marriage, Re. 1, and on a son's 4 as.
II.—Blacksmith— <i>Lohár</i> ...	To supply all iron work necessary for agriculture. Anything required beyond this is paid for.	The same as the above ; but the dues at a marriage are only half of the above, usually.
III.— <i>Chamár</i> —Tanner ...	(1) To assist, as required, at every kind of house and field labor ; to supply shoes to the whole family twice a year, whips, goads, etc. (2) To assist as required in household work, and supply 2 pair of shoes to the family yearly, with whips, etc. (3) To assist in household work, and mend shoes only.	(1) One tenth of the whole yield of the crop. (2) At a boy's marriage Re. 1, at a girl's Re. 1 to 5. (1) One twentieth of the yield of the crop. (2) As above. (1) One fortieth of the yield of the crop. (2) As above.
IV.— <i>Kumhár</i> —Potter ...	To supply vessels for travellers at the rest-house, and present a set of dishes at a marriage.	(1) A basket of grain and a bundle of the crop each harvest. (2) At marriages 8 annas to Rs. 3.

NAME OF MENIAL.	DUTY.	DUES.
V.— <i>Kahár</i> —Cooly ...	To supply water to Hindu houses, and at marriages. The baskets which these men make are paid for.	At marriages 4 annas to Rs. 1-8. If the <i>kahár</i> helps in the field, at harvest he receives a bundle of the crop.
VI.— <i>Sakhá</i> —Waterman ...	To supply water to the house.	A basketful of grain yearly, and 4 annas to Re. 1 on a marriage.
VII.— <i>Chihra</i> —Sweeper ...	To sweep the village lanes ; to do miscellaneous work required of him ; to graze cattle, and collect persons where needed for any assemblage.	There is no special rate of remuneration fixed ; grain is given at the harvest time, and the clothes of the dead are also made over to this class, and broken food.
VIII.—Barber— <i>Nái</i> ...	To do such household duties as are required of him ; to feed guests ; to shave the polls of males ; and to go on errands.	No actual dues are appointed ; grain is given at each harvest to the barber and his wife, and fees on a marriage.

No dues are appointed as a rule for the *dhának* or weaver, who either receives remuneration for the cloth which he weaves, or else renders much the same services as the *kahár* for the same dues. The fees in the above list are not, of course, an absolute standard ; they are those prevailing in the large estate of Sanghi, and many petty variations from them will be found in other villages. The *chamárs*, it may be noted, are generally attached to one owner or to a few families, and are not at the disposal of every one ; this connection cannot be broken till the crops of the current year have been housed, but it can then be terminated from either side.

PART V.

FORMER FISCAL HISTORY.

85. Of the fiscal history of the Rohtak district before the advent of the British rule, it is not necessary to write. The old History up to 1803. fiscal divisions have been detailed in paragraph 28, and no doubt the Mogul administration of the revenue was the same here as in the rest of North India ; the system is well known, and has been well described by Sir G. Campbell, at pp. 96-98 of his "Modern India." As the central Government grew weaker, and as the people become bolder, they naturally began to refuse to pay any revenue ; George Thomas had to collect his by the persuasion of guns and bayonets, while the Nawabs of Dujana gave up the attempt in disgust and despair after a trial of six years. It was after such experiences that the north of the district passed under English collectors, thanks to whom there is at the present time no tract in India in which the Government demand is paid more promptly and regularly.

86. With regard to its previous fiscal history, the district naturally divides itself into two separate portions—(1) the History since dual. older tracts forming nearly the whole of the three northern tahsils, and which have been under our administration for over 60 years ; and (2) the estates which belonged once to the Nawabs of Bahadurgarh, and came under English management only in 1858. The former comprise 295 villages, with an area of 805,315 acres, and the latter amount to 219 in number, with an area of 348,232 acres. Two fifths of the villages, therefore, and nearly one-third of the area, have been added to the Rohtak district since the Regular Settlement of the principal portion was made in 1838-40.

1.—THE ESTATES OF THE OLD ROHTAK DISTRICT.

It will conduce to clearness to show here the constitution of the present northern revenue sub-divisions, with reference to former arrangements, before proceeding to notice separately and briefly the revenue fortunes of the old estates. The necessary facts may be clearly arranged thus:—

VILLAGES.

FORMERLY IN	NOW IN TAHSIL			Total.
	Gohána.	Rohtak.	Sampla.	
Rohtak-Beri tahsil	2	82	21	105
Mehim do. ... ..	...	28	...	28
Gohána do.	80	...	...	80
Sampla do. ... ..	...	...	62	62
Haweli-Palam, Dehli do. ... ..	...	...	12	12
Kings Táíul villages... ..	1	...	6	7
Jagir... ..	...	1	...	1
Bahadurgarh State ... ..	...	2	21	23
Jhajjar State ... ..	...	1	5	6
Total	83	114	127	324

Deducting the 29 estates of the two Nawabs from the above total, we have a remainder of 294 old villages in these three tahsils, of which the last added to the district were the twelve Dehli estates in 1862 A. D. The actual number of villages which have remained incorporated in the Rohtak district since its creation in 1824 A. D. is thus 283, and the actual number which have been directly under our revenue administration since then is 275; the Rohtak jagir village was resumed in 1844; the Sampla *táíul* estates were taken back on account of gross mismanagement in 1848, and the Gohána estate confiscated in 1857; its revenue, however, had been fixed in 1845. To complete the tale of changes since 1840, it must be added that four Sampla estates were transferred to the Sunipat tahsil in 1862, and six Mehim villages, together with all those of Bhiwani, in number thirteen, to the Hissar district at the same time. When we took over the old four tahsils of the district between 1810—1820, we found the western portions almost over-run with jungle, life and property generally insecure, many of the smaller estates deserted for the refuge of the larger ones, the canal destroyed, and the whole machinery of administration out of gear. How order was educed from confusion, and how the district gradually became one of the most prosperous in North India, will be traced in the following brief paragraphs. As has been already stated in paragraph 32, only the Rohtak-Beri and Mehim-Bhiwani tahsils were at first taken under our management; Gohána and Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi were not added till 10 years later, and the district was not constituted till 1824. To get rid of the subject of the old tahsils, as such, once for all, it may be stated that for a time there were actually two tahsildars in each of the sub-divisions, which bore double

names. This may have been rendered necessary at first by the turbulent character of the people ; after a time a Naib-Tahsildar was found sufficient at Mandauthi, Beri and Bhiwani, and these, too, in their turn passed away later.

87. The first revenue Settlements effected in the district were made after the method laid down in Regulation IX of 1805 A. D. This enactment embodied a proclamation of the Governor General to the people of North India who had just passed under the British rule, and announced that Government had determined to adopt the plan of assessing the revenue with "moderation and justice," and that it was important that the terms proposed should become known at once. Hitherto, it was said, "from the earliest times to the present period, the public assessment upon lands has never been fixed, and according to established usage and custom, the rulers have exercised a discretionary and despotie authority.....whereby the right of property has become precarious and of little value,"

whilst the lands, by being let in farm to strangers and otherwise disposed of, have been impoverished, and tenants and cultivators of the soil have been exposed to rapacity and oppression." The Government had, therefore, decided, in order to induce the cultivators to feel secure and extend their efforts, to make a three year's (!) Settlement with them, to be followed by a second for the same period, and then by one of four years,—an increase of revenue calculated on arithmetical principles laid down in the Regulation being taken at each Settlement. After these ten years had passed, a permanent Settlement was to be made of all lands as were then in "a sufficiently improved state of cultivation to warrant this." It is not likely that the greatest admirer of Settlements in perpetuity would have been able to find a single estate in Rohtak so advanced in 1813 A. D. as to warrant its being admitted to the benefit of these terms ; but before any harm could be done, this clause was cancelled by Regulation X. of 1812. The early Regulations of Government were not in force indeed in the Dehli territory, which was specially exempted from their operation till 1832 A. D. ; but they were, nevertheless, followed as guides, and in accordance with the provisions of the enactment of 1805, two Summary Settlements of three years each were effected for the Rohtak-Beri tahsil by the Honorable Mr. Gardiner. Mehim-Bhiwani was, no doubt, treated in a similar manner, but there is no record of this. In 1815 A. D. a five-year Settlement of the former tahsil and a ten-year Settlement of the latter, which was much more backward, were made by Mr. W. Fraser ; while in 1820 Rohtak-Beri received a second Summary Settlement and Gohana with Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi, which, had meanwhile lapsed to Government, a first Summary Settlement at the hands of Mr. T. T. Metcalf and Mr. Fraser. It may be noted here that the twelve Dehli estates were settled by officers other than those who assessed the rest of the district. At least four Summary Settlements of these villages took place before 1838 A. D., but whether there were more than these, and who effected

Summary Settlement.

any one of them, the Settlement Officer of Dehli states that he is unable to inform me. Before the next revisions were made in 1825, Regulation VII of 1822 was passed. This, with No. IX of 1833, is usually called famous, though

Regulation VII of 1822.

with the light of our present revenue knowledge, it is not easy to see anything to excite particular admiration in it. It was intended, as Sir G. Campbell has noted, to combine the advantages of a *ryotwary* system with village leases; and, in so far as it provided for a record of rights, ordered the Settlement to be made village by village, and insisted on a proper enquiry into revenue-free *teuures* (the procedure for which was minutely laid down afterwards in Regulations IX and XIV of 1825), the enactment was a decided advance from the old procedure, although the record of rights made under it was nearly valueless, except so far as it may have drawn the attention of the people to the preparation of a better one. But so far as it recited that "a moderate assessment being equally conducive to the true interests of the Government and to the well-being of its subjects, it is the wish and intention of Government that in revising the existing Settlement, the efforts of the revenue officers should be chiefly directed, not to any general enhancement of the revenue, but to the object of equalising the public burdens, and of ascertaining, settling, and recording the rights, interests, privileges, and properties of all persons occupying, managing and cultivating land," the Regulation was, in Rohtak at least, a dead letter. An increase of Rs. 2,000 was taken in the very Settlement which followed, although the revenue was already so heavy as to be nearly intolerable, and the unequal distribution of the demand was even greater than its burthen. Great allowance must, however, be made for the unfortunate Settlement officers of those days, who had neither maps, nor correct areas, nor any other reliable facts to go upon. During the currency of the next fourfold batch of Settlements, made by Mr. G. Campbell, assisted by Messrs. W. and H. Fraser,

First Revenue Survey.

the old canal was re-opened, and the Revenue Survey of Gohána, Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi, and part of Rohtak-Beri, took place in 1826-27 A. D.; that of the remainder of Rohtak and of Mehim followed in 1832, after which the Settlement Officer had a sort of guide to assist him in fixing his village assessments. Before the revenue survey was completed, the four tahsils were summarily settled once again by Mr. J. P. Gubbins and Mr. J. C. Grant; another increase,—this time nearly Rs. 4,000—being taken in the year of highest demand. While these Settlements were still running, Regulation V of 1832 did away with the control of the Resident at Delhi, by making the territory west of the Jumna subject to the

Regulation IX of 1833.

High Court and Board of Revenue of the North West Provinces, and Regulation IX of 1833 supplied the necessary Settlement machinery which had not been provided for in Regulation VII eleven years previously, and enacted that each estate should be assessed according to the produce and capabilities of its land as ascertained at the time of revision of Settlement. This Regulation, it may be noted, was the last but eight which ever became law in India; after these commences

the Book of Acts. Finally, the last Summary Settlements of the Rohtak district were made by Mr. S. Fraser and Mr. C. Gubbins in 1835, the demand once again being added to by a sum of Rs. 20,000.

88. The revenue of the Summary Settlements was undoubtedly pitched much too high throughout; the demands will be found in detail for each Settlement in the Assessment reports. With the present state of increased population, better prices, improved communication, and general material improvement, it would still be impossible to think of realizing a demand deduced from the rates of incidence of the revenue of the last Summary Settlement on the cultivated area of 1838 A. D. These rates were as follows:—

*Incidence per
acre of cultivation.*

						R.	A.	P.
Rohtak-Beri	...	82	estates	...	...	1	6	4
Ditto	...	21	"	...	...	1	7	2
Gohāna	...	80	"	...	...	1	15	11
Mehim	...	28	"	...	...	1	2	2
Sampla	...	62	"	...	...	1	9	9
Delhi	...	12	"	...	...	1	3	10

No doubt there was a large culturable area then which there is not now, and some miscellaneous income was probably derived from this; but, as a fact, the assessment of the present Settlement in the Rohtak villages falls even now a little short of the demand of the Regular Settlement, the revenue of which was nearly Rs. 4,000 less than that of the last Summary Settlement. It is needless to go into further details on the point here, but it must be remembered that while the old revenue was supposed to represent $\frac{2}{3}$ of the net produce, the present demand is limited to $\frac{1}{2}$. The demands on the villages were never realised in full, balances kept continually accruing, and large remissions had to be made in unfavorable seasons; and though such a climax of misery as Mr. Ibbetson has described in Panipat, was never reached in Rohtak, there is no doubt that the injudiciously heavy revenue must have greatly retarded the progress of the district. The only other point requiring mention is the fact that (as will have been gathered from the above account,) the Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi villages now in Sampla received four Summary Settlements like Gohāna, and the Rohtak-Beri villages now in the eastern tahsil, five Summary Settlements; in the Sampla Assessment Report it was stated by an oversight that three Summary Settlements only had been made of the old estates. The demand of each Settlement for the tahsil was as follows—

	<i>Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi Villages.</i>	<i>Rohtak-Beri Villages.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
1st Summary Settlement	1,83,707	... Not known.
2nd " " "	1,72,234	... 49,843
3rd " " "	1,71,006	... 53,466
4th " " "	1,76,104	... 59,083
5th " " "	None	... 57,905

89. The success of a series of short Summary Settlements had not been such in North India as to induce the Government to adhere rigidly to the system ; and as in 1805 Government became alive to the fact that leases for three years and even five years were better than for one year, so the truth also gradually dawned that a lease for about the period of a man's full strength was the best to induce him to use his utmost efforts to extend his cultivation. Accordingly in 1837-38, a Regular thirty-year Settlement of the Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi and Rohtak-Beri tahsils was made by Mr. O. Gubbins, and of Gohána in the next year by Mr. M. R. Gubbins : Mehim-Bhiwani came under the hands of Mr. J. B. Mill in 1839-40. The Regular Settlement. manner in which the work was done in the three eastern tahsils is fully described in the Assessment reports of the Dehli territory, re-published by the Punjab Government in 1874, and I have no intention of quoting from them here ; Mr. Mill's report has not been printed, but the most interesting points in it have been noticed in the Assessment report of the present Settlement on the Rohtak tahsil. The result of the new Settlements as compared with the last Summary Settlements, gave an increase of Rs. 14,642 as follows in the 295 estates :—

<i>Tahsil.</i>	<i>Revenue of the last Summary Settlement.</i>	<i>Revenue of the Regular Settlement.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
Gohána:		
83 estates ...	2,39,542	2,42,613
Rohtak:		
83 Rohtak-Beri estates ...	1,91,570	1,95,771
28 Mehim estates ...	67,705	59,639
Total ...	2,59,275	2,55,410
Sampla:		
68 Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi estates ...	1,76,104	1,93,962
21 Rohtak-Beri estates ...	57,905	56,095
12 Dehli estates ...	13,764	13,152
Total ...	2,47,773	2,63,209
Grand Total ... 295	7,46,590	7,61,232

The new demand was never collected in full. It remained in force apparently some two or three years, while the Revised Assessment, which was immediately ordered, as will be seen, was being completed, and at the end of this time the outstanding balances were remitted ; but information is not very clear on this point. At any rate the Board of Revenue became convinced that the land revenue was pitched too high throughout the Dehli territory ; and that it was idle to expect villages which had always been hitherto in arrears, and were hardly recovering from the effects of two famines and a great sickness, to pay a revenue higher than any as yet demanded of them. When a Jat community does not pay its rent, it may be taken as an incontrovertible fact that it cannot do so, and that the rent is abnormally high. During the latter years of the currency of the Summary Settlements, cultivation had fallen off in Mehim and had been stationary in Rohtak, but had increased in Gohána, thanks to the opening of the canal, by one-fourth ; there had also been an increase in Sampla, no doubt, but on this point there are no statistics. Fourteen estates only refused to engage for payment of the new demand, but this proved nothing, as the people had been long accustomed to accept the announcement of a revenue which they could not and did not pay. Of these eight were in Gohána and three each in Rohtak and Sampla ; in Mehim, which

The Revised Assessment. was the most highly over-assessed tahsil of all, there were no refusals. Six of the Gohána villages were farmed for 30 years each ; the other two, with the six estates of the central tahsils, were made over to strangers for twelve years only. The high revenue authorities wisely and rightly considered that the Settlement proposed could not be expected to work at all, let alone work satisfactorily ; and under their orders a complete revision of the assessment was carried out with the following results, as compared with that first proposed :—

<i>Tahsil.</i>		<i>Regular Settlement Demand.</i>		<i>Revised Demand.</i>
Gohána :		Rs.		Rs.
83 estates	...	2,42,613	...	2,27,016
Rohtak :				
83 estates	...	1,95,771	...	1,40,127
28 estates	...	59,639	...	38,703
	Total	2,55,410	...	1,78,830
Sampla :				
68 estates	...	1,93,962	...	1,76,676
21 estates	...	56,095	...	40,549
12 estates	...	13,152	...	16,692
	Total	2,63,209	...	2,33,917
Grand				
Total ... 295	...	7,61,232	...	6,39,763

This was a reduction of Rs. 1,21,469, or 16 per cent., from the demand originally fixed, and of Rs. 1,06,827, or 14 per cent., from that of the last Summary Settlement, and whereas the revenue of the Regular Settlement had been Rs. 4,500 higher than that of the combined result of the *highest* Summary Settlement of each group of estates, the amended Settlement gave a demand nearly Rs. 30,000 less than that of the *lowest* Summary Settlement of each set. Two-thirds of the lightening of the burthen was made in the estates then or now in the Rohtak tahsil; comparatively little reduction was needed in Gohána, where canal irrigation was rapidly extending. The apparent increase of the revenue in the Dehli villages is not a real one, as may be seen from the incidence of the new revenue per acre of cultivation given below: it was caused by the addition to the rent roll at this time of the revenue of a jagir village. The reduction given in the Rohtak tahsil might perhaps have been partially recovered by a system of progressive demands, commencing after ten years, but it was not perhaps easy to foresee in 1840 that an unbroken series of good seasons for 20 years was about to set in. The incidence on cultivation of the demands of the Regular and amended Settlements was as follows:—

INCIDENCE PER ACRE OF CULTIVATION.

	<i>Regular Settlement.</i>			<i>Amended Settlement.</i>		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Gohána :						
82 estates ...	1	15	4	1	14	5
Rohtak :						
82 estates ...	1	6	6	1	0	2
28 Mehim estates ...	1	4	5	0	13	3
Sampla :						
68 estates ...	1	12	4	1	9	10
21 Rohtak estates ...	1	6	5	1	0	3
12 Dehli estates ...	1	3	0	1	2	8

90. The righteousness of the policy pursued in lessening the burden of the revenue is seen in the steady and great progress which the district has made since that step was taken. Results of the revision. From that date the cultivation of the present tahsils has increased in Gohána $38\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in Rohtak 57 per cent., and in Sampla nearly 9 per cent., and, except in Rohtak, cultivation has now almost reached its utmost limit. Of the advance made, the whole of that in Sampla took place between 1840 and 1847 A. D., three-fifths in Rohtak, and half in Gohána, thus showing what efforts the people were willing to make when they had once received terms profitable to themselves as well as Government. Irrigation during the same time has increased by 75 per cent. in Sampla, 53 per cent. nearly in Gohána, and 46 per cent. in Rohtak; the first eight years of the Settlement saw all of the advance in Sampla, one-third in Gohána, and one-half in Rohtak. From 1840-1857, if the returns of the Revenue Reports are to be trusted, Rohtak was the only district in the North-Western

Provinces which showed a clean balance sheet in every year ; and the present prosperity of the district more than bears out the words of Mr. Tomason in 1846, when he wrote—"There can be no doubt of the justice and policy of the extensive reductions made at the last Settlements. The Board deserve much praise for having insisted on them as they did, and will no doubt now review with satisfaction the happy results of the principles which they then advocated." The revenue demand for the above

villages, according to the rent-roll of the last year before the present Settlement commenced, and for the present year, was as follows:—

<i>Tahsil.</i>	1873-74.	1878-79.
	Rs.	Rs.
Gohána ...	2,23,837	2,23,933
Rohtak ...	1,76,822	1,76,827
Sampla ...	2,30,369	2,30,655
Total ...	6,31,028	6,31,415

This is less than the revenue fixed in 1840 by Rs. 8,300. The causes of the decrease are principally reductions of assessment on account of the development of saline efflorescence, amounting to some Rs. 5,500, and grants of revenue free lands to the value of Rs. 3,500 ; about Rs. 2,000 have been added to the roll by the lapse of revenue-free grants, and the sum is balanced by petty reductions made from unknown causes before 1857, or on account of land taken up for Government purposes and the like.

91. By Act VIII of 1846 it was provided that the currency of the Rohtak Settlement should last till July 1st, 1870. Before this Act was passed, the Rohtak district had been temporarily abolished in May 1841, and re-established in March 1842, as has been already said : this was done with the object of lessening expenditure on establishment, but the experiment was found not to work well, and had to be abandoned. Between 1843 and

1847 a Revised Record of Rights (which must be distinguished from the Revised Assessment of 1838-40) was made. The papers prepared at the Regular Settlement were very incomplete ; they showed the cultivated lands only according to scale, and the uncultivated lands were merely sketched in. This was due to the latter not bearing any share of the revenue, and to no one, therefore, caring to have them properly recorded. But when large waste areas were broken up, it became important and necessary to define rights in them, and with this object the new papers were prepared. Though rough according to present ideas, they were a great improvement on the former ones, especially as regards the record of ownership and rights of hereditary cultivation. The faired copies were probably more complete than those which we now possess ; but they all perished in the flames of the Record Office in May 1857, and the papers now existing

are either the Patwaries' copies made in 1847, or else transcripts from them ; in some cases, where no such duplicates were procurable, a rough new record was made up by the Tahsildars after the Mutiny.

II.—THE JHAJJAR AND BAHADURGARH ESTATES.

92. We come now to the 219 estates added to Rohtak within the last 25 years. Their disposition in the present district may be shown thus—

	<i>In tahsil Sampla.</i>	<i>In tahsil Rohtak.</i>	<i>In tahsil Jhajjar.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Bahadurgarh estates ...	21	2	...	23
Jhajjar estates ...	5	1	190	196
	26	3	190	219

Five detached villages, belonging to the Bahadurgarh Nawabs, were, as has been already stated, made over to the Delhi district. The five Jhajjar villages, now in the Sampla tahsil, and the two Dádri (Bahadurgarh) villages,—Kahrari and Sempal in Rohtak, which were called, by a slip in the Assessment Report, Jhajjar estates,—had been placed under the police control of the Collector of Rohtak in 1848, though their revenue administration rested with the Nawabs; the former include the two notoriously criminal villages of Gochhi and Chhárá. The estates which now form the southern revenue sub-division, were included under the Nawabs in the two tahsils of Bádli and Jhajjar—140 to the latter and 50 to the former, according to the present number of

villages ; of the nine Jhajjar estates which were included in Sampla from 1858-61, and which are called the Manáuthi villages in Mr. Purser's Assessment Report, eight belonged originally to the Jhajjar tahsil, and one to Bádli. It has been shown in the Sampla and Jhajjar Assessment Reports that three Summary Settlements of each country were made by its respective rulers, of which the first two were sufficiently moderate, and the last so high as to be a merely nominal demand. The revenue of the the third Summary Settlements was as follows, with an incidence pretty near that given below, and which is calculated on the cultivated area of our Summary Settlement in 1858-59 :—

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Number of Villages.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Incidence per acre of cultivation.</i>
		Rs.	Rs. A. P.
Bahadurgarh villages ...	21	34,875	1 10 3
Jhajjar villages ...	190	2,67,017	1 3 10
Jhajjar villages in Sampla ...	5	12,875	1 0 9
Jhajjar and Bahadurgarh villages in Rohtak ...	3	1,845	0 7 6
Total ...	219	3,16,612	...

The incidence in Bahadurgarh was extraordinarily high, when it is considered that no villages were receiving canal irrigation in the time of the Nawab, and that only four enjoyed a scanty share of the floods which might overflow from the Najafgarh *jhil*. The incidence in Jhajjar was also very high, when it is remembered that a large number of the wells now existing have been sunk since 1862. Besides the revenue demand there were under the Nawabs a number of other exactions, petty in themselves, but considerable in the aggregate, as is common in Native States, and the consequence was that whole villages in the Jhajjar territory were deserted, and many cultivators fled even from the strongest estates. The Commissioner of Delhi, for years before 1857, was besieged by fugitives demanding justice against the last Nawab. In Bahadurgarh, owing to the utter incapacity and weakness of the ruler, things never came to so bad a pass as in Jhajjar, because the villagers simply defied the Nawab, and he was unable to collect the revenue. As the question has been raised in the adjoining tract of Pataudi, it may be mentioned here that the Nawabs were not lords of the soil. The grants of their territories will be found in the Punjab Volume of Mr. Aitchison's Treaties, and the terms of these grants show that they were in reality mere service jagirs of an unusually large extent. No doubt the rulers were absolute owners in estates which they had reclaimed from the waste and founded themselves; but the grant in no way affected the status of the villagers of the estates then existing, who remained owners of the soil, as they had been for centuries before. Their right was never contested by the Nawabs; and the people sold and mortgaged lands as freely under their rule as under our Government, and they were entered as proprietors of the soil in their Settlement records as in ours.

93. After the territories of the two Nawabs had been resumed, Mr. J. S. Campbell made a Summary Settlement of their villages in Jhajjar and Sampla, and those in Rohtak were settled by the Deputy Commissioner for the time being. Mr. Campbell's Report for the Nawab's Jhajjar tahsil was submitted in June 1858, and that for the other pargannahs, including Badli and Bahadurgarh, in August. The Financial Commissioner considered the general assessments fair, and in this opinion the Chief Commissioner concurred, adding that if after a year's experience they were found to be too high, they should be at once reduced in Badli and Bahadurgarh; the revenue fixed was thought to be quite as high as was safe. These Summary Settlements worked pretty well until the Regular Settlement was completed, and a reduction was made in one case only, though in pargannah Kanaundh it was found necessary to grant an immediate revision, which resulted in a demand less by 16 per cent. than that at first proposed. In recommending this reduction, the Commissioner wrote thus of the tract—"Owing to the grievous oppression under the late Nawab and his predecessor, the population has been thinned and the remnant left with a hopeless, haggard look. This pargannah, in short, has been ground down to the

British Summary and Regular Settlements.

"very limit of endurance." Kánaundh was, no doubt, in a worse plight than the Bádli and Jhajjar tahsils, but they, too, had been terribly straitened by the revenue exactions of their late ruler. When the Summary Settlements were sanctioned it was ordered that a Regular Settlement should at once be set about and completed. In 1860, Rai Pertab Singh was placed in charge of the work, which, however, was not completed till 1863. During its progress a Revenue Survey was effected of the whole confiscated territory of the Nawabs: there seems also to have been an earlier survey, probably made about 1830-35. The report of the Regular Settlement was submitted in January of that year by the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak, of which district the remaining Jhajjar territory had meanwhile become the southern tahsil. The Financial Commissioner considered the assessments proposed to be moderate and fairly distributed, and anticipated that they would be collected without difficulty, and they were sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor: the period of the Regular Settlement was fixed so as to end conterminously with that of the rest of the district in 1870.* This Settlement has been treated as a Summary one in the villages transferred to Delhi and Gurgaon (Government Notification No. 815 of 14th June 1872); how this came to pass is not clear, as the Settlement papers were complete with field-maps, registers of fields and proprietors' pedigree tables, and all returns that go to make up the full record of a Regular Settlement, and as such it was treated in Rohtak. The figures of the two Settlements of the villages still in Rohtak, were as follows:—

	<i>Assessment of Summary Settlement.</i>		<i>Assessment of Regular Settlement.</i>
	<u>Rs.</u>		<u>Rs.</u>
Bahadurgarh villages ...	25,815	...	27,755
Jhajjar estates—190	2,17,885	...	2,14,775
Ditto (5) in Sampla ...	10,305	...	10,205
Jhajjar & Bahadurgarh villages (3) in Rohtak ...	1,825	...	1,861
Total ...	2,55,830	...	2,54,596

This was a reduction of 19 per cent. from the demand of the last Summary Settlements of the Nawabs. The current revenue demand of 1878-79 is Rs. 2,58,238; a reduction of Rs. 10 each has taken place in the eastern Bahadurgarh and Rohtak villages, and an increase of Rs. 3,662 (due to the creation of new estates, and to the lapse of revenue free

* NOTE.—The correspondence on the (1) Summary and (2) Regular Settlements will be found under (1) Deputy Commissioner Jhajjar's No. 102 of 26th June 1858; Commissioner's Nos. 58 of 17th July and 91 of 25th August; Financial Commissioner's Nos. 387—3022 of 24th July and 651 of 1st September; Chief Commissioner's No. 671 of 3rd August; (2) Deputy Commissioner Rohtak's No. 18 of 17th January 1863; Commissioner's No. 22 of 2nd March; Financial Commissioner's Nos. 187-963 of 23rd March; and Government Punjab's No. 265 of 30th March.

grants) has occurred in the Jhajjar tahsil. The Bahadurgarh and Jhajjar villages are still, as a rule, distinctly less strong than the adjoining estates of the old Rohtak district; but they are far stronger now than when we received them in 1858, and it may be hoped that during the next 30 years, most of them will advance to a pitch of prosperity, as general as that prevailing elsewhere in the district.

III.—THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

94. The revenue demand for the whole district may now be put together thus :—

	<i>Regular Settlement.</i>	<i>Current Demand of 1878-79.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
295 old villages ...	6,39,763	6,31,415
219 new villages ...	2,54,596	2,58,238
Total 514 estates ...	8,94,359	8,89,653

This demand is distributed as follows in the present four tahsils :—

	<i>Regular Settlement.</i>	<i>Current Demand of 1878 79.</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
Gohana ...	2,27,016	2,23,933
Rohtak ...	1,80,691	1,78,678
Sampla ...	2,71,877	2,68,605
Jhajjar ...	2,14,775	2,18,437
Total ...	8,94,359	8,89,653

Since 1858 A. D. a sum of Rs. 4,60,434, or rather more than half a year's revenue, has been remitted; the remissions took place entirely in the famine years of 1861-62 and 1868-69, except for a sum of Rs. 3,300. A further sum of Rs. 4,71,031 was for a time suspended, but ultimately collected; of this Rs. 1,60,396 belonged to the drought of 1877-78, although suspended eighteen months later, Rs. 62,623 to the earlier year of famine, and Rs. 1,55,540 to the later. Nearly half the remissions made were given in the Rohtak tahsil, and about three-fifths of the further sum suspended will be found there also; the suspensions given in Gohana, over and above the remissions, were very small. Except in the three years mentioned, the revenue has always been paid with the greatest ease and promptitude. On an average 732 coercive processes a year since 1860 have been issued for the collection of revenue; this is something less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per estate yearly. The numbers are pretty much the same in all four tahsils; but their issue is gener-

Results of former Settlement for the whole district.

Remissions. Suspensions.

Coercive processes.

ally made without any system, and proves almost nothing as to the facility or otherwise with which the revenue is collected. It remains only to notice briefly the area sold and mortgaged under the old revenue demand, in order to close the account of the previous fiscal history of the district. The subject has been dealt with at some length in the Assessment Reports; and may be dismissed more briefly here. The area affected has unfortunately been largely increased during Settlement operations by the drought of 1877-78, and the policy of collecting the revenue without any suspensions in that year, though some of the increase is no doubt due to the greater correctness of the figures of faired Settlement Record over those of the rough copy. The

Area sold. area sold during past Settlement has been 12,093 acres only, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the lands of the district, of which separate possession is held; the smallest area sold is in Sampla, the largest in Jhajjar, 8,669 acres passed to the hands of fellow-agriculturists and 3,424 acres to non-agriculturists. The small area acquired by the last class in Jhajjar is noticeable. The average selling price per acre in the former case was Rs. 13-11-11, and in the latter Rs. 19-3-8; the average of the whole area sold being Rs. 15-4-9 per acre, and nearly eighteen times the Government revenue assessed. Perfectly accurate details of the selling price of various kinds of land are not forthcoming: such as there are put the price of canal land at about Rs. 45 per acre and of rain-land at Rs. 12-20, but these are below the present mark. The figures may be shown as follows:—

TAHSIL.	CLASS OF BUYER.	AREA SOLD.	REVENUE ASSESSED.	PRICE REALISED.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.
Gohana	Agriculturist	1,304	1,415	29,570
	Non-Agriculturist	662	1,130	15,445
	Total	1,966	2,545	45,015
Rohtak	Agriculturist	2,588	1,769	29,171
	Non-Agriculturist	1,885	1,158	27,940
	Total	4,473	2,927	57,111
Sampla	Agriculturist	724	770	20,438
	Non-Agriculturist	361	488	16,605
	Total	1,085	1,258	37,043
Jhajjar	Agriculturist	4,053	3,226	39,957
	Non-Agriculturist	516	353	5,858
	Total	4,569	3,579	45,815
Total	Agriculturist	8,669	7,180	1,19,136
	Non-Agriculturist	3,424	3,129	65,848
	Grand Total	12,093	10,309	1,84,984

The area mortgaged amounts to 49,184 acres or 5 per cent. of the separately-held lands of the district. Here, again, a larger area is held by brother-cultivators, than by strangers, but in nearly all cases the average mortgage money due to the latter is less than to the former, whereas with sales it was the very reverse. The mortgage debt amounts to about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the revenue of a single year.

Area mortgaged. More than half the area affected is in the Rohtak tahsil, where it has become double what it was at the time of the Assessment Report ; in this tahsil only do outsiders hold in mortgage a larger area than agriculturists : the lands in question belong principally to the Rānghars. Possession is usually given to the mortgagee ; if the mortgagor retains the land in his own hands, he pays the revenue, and such a mortgage is called "*ār rahan*." In the Gohāna tahsil the mortgage money per acre is higher than the selling price ; this is due to five-elevenths of the mortgaged area being canal irrigated, while only one-fifth of the lands sold was so. In Jhajjar the two prices are much the same ; in the other two tahsils the latter far exceeds the former. For the whole district the average selling price per acre is Rs. 1-13-4 more than the mortgage price. The mortgage figures are as follows :—

TAHSIL.	CLASS OF MORTGAGEE.	AREA MORTGAGED.	REVENUE OF THE AREA.	PRICE REALISED.
		Acres.	Rs.	R.
Gohāna	Agriculturist	3,945	6,308	1,35,908
	Non-Agriculturist	1,707	2,947	58,454
	Total	5,652	9,255	1,94,362
Rohtak	Agriculturist	12,008	8,134	87,055
	Non-Agriculturist	13,498	9,091	96,556
	Total	25,506	17,225	1,83,611
Sampla	Agriculturist	5,214	6,160	1,16,484
	Non-Agriculturist	2,248	2,493	43,832
	Total	7,462	8,653	1,60,316
Jhajjar	Agriculturist	6,661	6,996	80,208
	Non-Agriculturist	3,903	4,275	43,704
	Total	10,564	11,271	1,23,912
Total	Agriculturist	27,828	27,598	4,19,655
	Non-Agriculturist	21,356	18,806	2,42,546
	Grand Total	49,184	46,404	6,62,201

The rise in the prices realized by sales and mortgages will be noticed in the next Chapter (paragraph 98).

95. There is little more to say under this head of previous fiscal history. It will have been gathered from the foregoing account that the recent revenue administration of the district has been sound and successful, and that in consequence the tract itself has made immense advances. Besides the material progress testified to by the increase of cultivation and irrigation, we have the facts of increase of population and cattle, improved communications,

Results of former Settlements.

better markets, extension of the more valuable crops, higher prices, and (as a consequence of all) a vastly increased value of lands. These points will be dealt with briefly further on : it must suffice here to say, in summing up the general results of the recently past fiscal history of the district, that although a brighter close to it could have been wished for than the mortality of cattle in 1877-78, and the great sickness of 1879, they can be looked back on with satisfaction. Let us hope that the present Settlement will not prove unworthy of the same commendation thirty years hence, when the time for its retrospective review has come round.

PART VI.

THE PRESENT SETTLEMENT AND ASSESSMENT.

96. The four tahsils of the Rohtak district are now constituted as follows, as compared with what they were at their last Settlements :—

TAHSIL.		Number of Former Estates.	GAIN BY						LOSS BY			Net gain.	Number of estates in the tahsil now.
			Creation or separation of new estates.	By additions from outside.	By resumption.	By confiscation.	Grass Preserves.	Total gain.	Transfer elsewhere.	Amalgamation of estates.	Total loss.		
Gohana	...	71	9	2	...	1	...	12	...	...	...	12	83
Rohtak	...	104	1	28	1	3	...	33	23	...	23	10	114
Sampla	...	66	1	33	6	5	...	65	4	...	4	61	127
Jhajjar	...	182	5	1	...	...	3	9	...	1	1	8	190
Total	...	423	16	64	7	29	3	119	27	1	28	91	514

The changes have been referred to in detail in the Assessments reports. The new estate in Sampla is that of Bir Barkatabad, formerly Bir Bahadurgarh ; the three grass preserves in Jhajjar are the property of Government, and are leased out yearly for grazing. More than half the Sampla estates, it may be noted, have been added to that tahsil since 1838, and rather more than one-third of those in Rohtak. There are 27 detached portions of estates belonging to other villages than those by whose lands they are surrounded (*dakhili khariji chaks*) : of these 16 are found in Gohana, 10 in Jhajjar, and one in Rohtak. With reference to their form of tenures the villages of the district are classified as below :—

TAHSIL.	LANDLORDAL.		HELD ON SHARES.		COMMUNAL.		MIXED COMMUNAL AND SHARED.		Total.
	Held by a single landlord.	Held by several landlords undivided.	Complete-ly.	Incom-pletely.	Complete.	Incom-plete.	Complete.	Incom-plete.	
Gohana	1	4	1	12	4	69	1	...	83
Rohtak	...	1	...	4	1	107	...	1	114
Sampla	1	...	1	7	...	116	...	2	127
Jhajjar	6	2	...	57	7	103	1	14	190
Total	8	7	2	80	12	386	2	17	514

With regard to area, over 86 per cent. of the whole district is held under the communal tenure ; 9 per cent. on shares ; somewhat over 3 per cent. on mixed tenures ; and only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. under the landlordal system. The three Government estates in Jhajjar are included under this type of

Forms of tenure. villages held by a single owner. Of the estates held on shares, three-fourths are to be found in the Jhajjar tahsil, and most are of recent origin ; the number now shown there is less than in the Assessment report, by reason of some villages having elected to hold their lands according to possession at the present Settlement. Villages held completely on shares are those in which there is no common land at all, neither as jungle nor under the site of the village ; similarly, villages of the pure communal type are those in which there is no common land at all, but every acre within the village boundary is held according to possession. Mixed estates (*pattidari bhyacharah*) are those in which the *separated* lands under cultivation are held in two different tenures, *i. e.* in one division of the estate on shares and in another according to possession ; the classification of villages under this tenure has nothing to do with their *common* lands ; the absence or presence of which merely affects their being ranked as complete or incomplete, as in the other classes of estates.

97. At the present Settlement the district has been divided off into 18 Assessment Circles as follows :—

TAHSIL.	NUMBER.	NAME OF CIRCLE.	POSITION &c.
Gohana	1	Western rain-land	Situated high on west border.
"	2	Central canal	On the main Rohtak canal.
"	3	Eastern rain-land	Between the two canal circles.
"	4	Eastern canal	On the eastern border of the tahsil.

TAHSIL.	NUMBER.	NAME OF CIRCLE.	POSITION &C.
Rohtak	5	Canal	On the tail of the Rohtak canal.
"	6	Eastern rain-land	On the eastern border of the tahsil.
"	7	Central "	In the centre of the tahsil.
"	8	Rajputs "	Below the central circle.
"	9	Northern "	Above the central circle.
"	10	West "	West of the central circle.
Sampla	11	Canal	On north east border.
"	12	Rain-land	Comprises $\frac{1}{2}$ of the tahsil.
"	13	Dahri or Flood-land	In south-east corner.
Jhajjar	14	Ditto	Along the east border.
"	15	Rausli chahi or well-irrigated loam	West of the flood circle and in the centre.
"	16	Rausli Barani or unirrigated loam	Along the north border.
"	17	Bhur chahat Pukta—of sandy soil and lined wells	Above and below the Rausli chahi and next circle.
"	18	Bhur chahat kham of sandy soil and unlined wells	West of the Rausli chahi circle.

These circles, with the exception of those in tahsil Rohtak (where the character of the owners in one part, and the former excessively light revenue in other parts, made it necessary to sub-divide the rain-land portion of the tahsil) are formed entirely with regard to the presence or otherwise of irrigation and its nature. Four Circles include all the canal land; two embrace the area naturally flooded; and three contain the well lands, leaving half the number to comprise all the rain-lands, of which five are in the Rohtak tahsil. The villages are distributed among the circles as follows:—

NAME OF CIRCLE.	NUMBER OF CIRCLES.	NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN CIRCLES.	AREA ACRES.	PER-CENTAGE OF AREA TO WHOLE.
Canal	4	107	2,53,665	22
Well	3	111	1,66,939	14
Flooded	2	53	90,328	8
Rain-land	9	240	6,42,615	56
Total	18	511	11,53,547	100

Of the three Government preserves in Jhajjar, one is ranked among the flooded villages, and two fall in the rain-land circles. The central canal circle of Gohána and the canal circle of Rohtak are continuations of one and the same tract; so are the eastern canal circle of Gohána and the canal circle of Sampla, while the two naturally flooded portions of the district also adjoin one another. The rain-land circles occupy the whole of the centre and west of the district, and throw up two long arms to the north, where the wedge-shaped central canal circles run down into the plain. In previous Settlements the rain-land tracts of each of the northern tahsils were treated as a whole; this, as regards Gohána and Rohtak, was a mistake, but the present western villages of the latter belonged then to Mehim: any difficulty was got over by assessing the eastern villages much above rates and the western ones below. There is no need to enter on any further detail as regards the Assessment circles here; not only has each been carefully described in the printed Assessment Reports, but in the Village Note-books, as a preface to each circle, a full memorandum has been written in which every point and peculiarity of the tract is noticed. The Revenue officer must turn to these for special information; in the final Report it will suffice under the circumstances to notice briefly the general bearings of the whole district.

98. The Assessment Reports of Sampla and Jhajjar were submitted by

Assessment Reports.

Mr. Purser in August 1877; those of Gohána and Rohtak by myself in April and May 1878. All four

Reports have been printed, and several complete collections of them, together with all other papers connected with them, have been bound up and filed in the District office. It would, therefore, be waste of time and space to enter here at any length on the method by which the assessments were framed, or to swell this Report with extracts which already exist in print. The results, except as regards the question of owners' rates, were accepted without modification by the Financial Commissioner and generally approved of by the Punjab Government, and it will be sufficient now to recapitulate very briefly the chief considerations which led to the enhancement of the revenue demand.* These have been generally alluded to in the preceding portions of the Report, and the figures given here will therefore call for but little comment, especially as it is necessary here to treat each tahsil as a whole, whatever may be its component parts now as compared with what they were at the last Regular Settlement. The area of cultivation and irrigation was formerly as follows:—

Comparison of statistics.

Cultivation, &c.

and irrigation was formerly as follows:—

* NOTE.—The orders on the Assessment Reports were contained in the following correspondence—*Jhajjar*, Financial Commissioner's No. 702 of 2nd June 1879, and Government Punjab's No. 629 of 14th June 1880; *Sampla*, Financial Commissioner's No. 738 of 14th June 1879, and Government's No. 97 of 18th August 1879; *Rohtak and Gohána*, Financial Commissioner's Nos. —and—of—, and Government's No.—of—. The final orders on the principles of owners' rates are contained in Financial Commissioner's No. 708.C., of 21st July 1879, and Government's No. 1171, of 30th October 1879.

TAHSIL.	AREA IN ACRES.									
	Revenue free.	Unculturable.	Culturable.	Fallow.	Cultivated.					TOTAL AREA.
					Canal.	Wells.	Naturally flooded.	Rain-land.	Total.	
Gohana ...	6,348	7,588	74,239	6,935	41,356	...	...	77,250	111,608	213,716
Rohtak ...	320	12,635	153,821	19,382	7,279	361	...	181,491	189,131	375,289
Sampla ...	13	12,931	51,622	4,022	12,781	1,391	...	176,760	190,932	259,520
Jhajjar ...	3,525	34,405	49,711	23,299	...	14,605	8,017	156,264	178,886	289,826
Total ...	10,206	67,559	329,393	53,638	61,416	16,357	8,017	591,765	677,555	1,138,351

The figures in this return are those of 1838 A. D. for the old estates of the district and of 1862 for the Jhajjar and Bahadurgarh villages. They cannot be accepted as absolutely correct, for in Sampla the royal jagir (*taul*) villages had to be included in the *khalsa* estates, and there is no detail forthcoming of the area naturally flooded in that tahsil at the Settlement of 1862. The area of the Government grass preserves, which was then nearly 12,000 acres, is not included in Jhajjar. The old unculturable area is shown so low as it is in the northern tahsils because the tanks, roads &c. in the culturable jungle lands were also classed as culturable; in Jhajjar there must have been some mistake in the classification of unculturable soil. The areas of the present Settlement are given below, and show the increase which is noted beneath each column :—

TAHSIL.	AREA IN ACRES.									TOTAL AREA.
	Revenue free.	Unculturable.	Culturable.	Fallow.	Cultivated.					
					Canal lands.	Well-lands.	Flooded lands.	Rain-lands.	Total.	
Gohana ...	436	13,901	30,191	1,006	63,342	506	25	105,64	169,525	215,056
Rohtak ...	2,797	19,331	55,268	4,124	11,531	470	...	285,04	297,044	378,464
Sampla ...	1,285	16,035	29,536	341	22,002	2,371	911	189,297	214,581	261,778
Jhajjar ...	10,991	17,387	48,341	8,262	...	18,988	8,604	185,676	213,268	298,249
Total ...	15,509	66,554	163,336	13,733	96,875	22,335	9,540	765,665	894,415	1,153,547
Increase per cent.	...	...	...	...	57	37	19	29	32	1

In paragraph 39 it has already been stated how much of the advance in the three northern tahsils made since 1838 took place in the first ten years of the Settlement, and this, of course, is a point not to be lost sight of in considering how far the amended revenue was just and equitable. Besides the fact of the great increase of the area irrigated from the canals, it must be borne in mind that irrigation has become much more certain than it was formerly, owing to the better management of the canals. The increase in population has been noticed in paragraph 44 ; judging from the figures in tahsil Gohána, the general increase in the northern tahsils cannot have been one of less than 25 per cent. since 1840 ; the increase in Jhajjar, during eight years since 1868, has been 8 per cent. Cattle also have increased very largely in numbers, though here again we have no perfectly reliable figures ; the increase in Gohána from 1853 to 1873, was one of two-fifths, and it has probably not been much less in the other tahsils. The miscellaneous income gained by the sale of cattle, fodder and ghi, and by the hiring out of carts for carrying, etc., was found on enquiry to be very considerable, and in good times it is probable that it may amount to nearly one-half of the Government revenue. The sale and mortgage prices of the last 15 years in the three northern tahsils average Rs. 22-9-10 and Rs. 14-14-8 per acre as against Rs. 10-3-7 and Rs. 9-12-4 in the preceding three lustres, and in the former case have, therefore, more than doubled. From the Revenue Reports of the North-Western Provinces before 1855 A.D., it would appear that a good deal of land was sold at about Rs. 3-4-0 per acre ; but these figures are probably not trustworthy. It may be mentioned here that an average price of Rs. 13-13-6 only per acre has been paid for 409 acres of land taken up for public purposes since 1877. Detailed returns of the prices of all important crops for the last 30 years were furnished with the Assessment Reports, and it is unnecessary to do more than refer to the results derived from them here. Between the first period of ten years since the past Settlement was made in 1838 and the last, there has been a rise in prices as follows ; the actual increase shown by the rates adopted for valuing the gross produce are lower, as shewn opposite the first column in each case.

Population.

Cattle.

Miscellaneous income.

Value of land.

Rise in prices.

Crop.	Rise in price from between 1837-47 and 1867-77.		Rise according to rates adopted for valuing the gross produce.	
Wheat	...	38 per cent.	...	31 per cent.
Wheat and gram	...	37½ "	...	26 "
Gram	...	36 "	...	26 "
Barley	...	35 "	...	24½ "
Cotton	...	49 "	...	48 "
Sugar-cane	...	35 "	...	31 "
Joár	...	42 "	...	37 "
Bajra	...	35 "	...	20 "
Moth	...	26 "	...	19 "

It was not possible to obtain figures for the period of ten years from 1827-37, which would be more appropriately compared with those of the last ten years of the expired Settlement. The rise as a whole, with regard to the crops which are principally sold by the people, may be said to have been one of a third, or 33 per cent. The rise in cotton would be expected to be the greatest, owing to the recent demand for that staple in distant markets, and the increase is naturally the smallest in the case of the coarser grains, which are chiefly consumed by the people themselves and but seldom sold.

Extension of more valuable crops.

In paragraph 79 it has been seen how largely the better and more valuable crops have been introduced since 1838, which is more or less another way of putting the increase of irrigation, though not entirely so; communications have been greatly improved, and the effect is partly seen in the rise of prices. There is no reason to believe that the soil has deteriorated generally to any material degree, though no doubt some of the older lands need more ploughings now, and perhaps even then return a less yield than they used to do thirty years ago.

99. Such are the facts which the assessing officers had to consider with regard to the advance made by the district. On the other hand, it had to be borne in mind that the tract was one where the seasons are notoriously uncertain in their character. In the last 33 years before 1878-79, there

Character of the seasons.

have been twelve average seasons, eleven above the average (*viz.*, six good and five better than average), and ten below the average (including three inferior, four distinctly bad, and three of actual famine). The number of years in which the crops failed badly, or almost entirely, is nearly one-fourth of the whole, a circumstance which shows how productive the soil must be in ordinary years, if its produce has to suffice, and does suffice, to supply the food necessary to enable the people to live in bad seasons as well. Since so great an area of jungle land has been brought under cultivation, it has become necessary to sow a larger area than formerly with fodder crops for the cattle; and while the advance of population has been beneficial to the district in general, the pressure in some parts, and especially in the canal estates, has become serious, while in other villages the evil effects of swamping have caused an actual diminution in the numbers of the people. The villages generally have advanced and grown

Small culturable area left.

stronger no doubt, but the room left for further expansion of cultivation is very limited, except in parts of Rohtak and in Jhajjar: it was impossible, therefore, in framing present proposals to discount any increase of the cultivated area during the ensuing Settlement. Moreover, it is not at all probable that the canal irrigated area will increase largely, although irrigation may be withdrawn from some estates and transferred to others; the sinking of new wells, on the other hand, involves an outlay of capital which requires the profits of a good many years to recoup it. It had

further to be remembered, that although the revenue demand itself had fallen off rather than increased, yet the burthen on account of cesses had risen from Rs. 8 to Rs. 16-4-0 per cent., and that it would be necessary to add to it a further charge of at least 3 per cent. more. Besides, as regards the canal villages, the cost of water had increased three-fold since 1838, and had become more than double since 1865; and though the charge for occupiers' rates is not to be set against the value of one-sixth of the gross produce, it has still to be taken into account, just as the increased depth to the water in a well and the consequent heavier expenses of working it, are taken into account by an assessing officer.

100. Bearing prominently in mind the facts detailed in the above paragraphs, and weighing them in connection with the hundred other petty matters which are common to every district, the Settlement Officers proceeded to consider the increase of revenue which it would be desirable and proper for Government to take. The orders of Government for the assessment of the district were to the following effect. The general principle to be followed was that the Government demand should not exceed the estimated value of half the net produce of an estate, or, in other words, half the net produce received by a landlord in money or kind. Special attention was to be paid to produce rents where existing, but, as has been seen above, such rents are hardly to be found in Rohtak. The habits and character of the people, the proximity of markets, the facilities of communication, the incidence of past assessments, and the existence of profits from grazing and the like, were to be taken into account in estimating the land revenue demand. When the gross assessment of each circle had been framed on these principles, soil rates were to be deduced from them, and the results were to be reported for sanction, so as to form the basis of the assessment of the estates. How far these principles were acted up to, will be gathered from the Assessment Reports themselves, and from the sketch in the present Report. The actual method of framing the assessment has been described in paragraph 41 of the Jhajjar, and paragraph 71 of the Gohana Report, and does not need to be enlarged on here. The tests which existed, with which to compare the results deduced from the rates fixed, were but scanty—one-sixth of the gross produce, such rent figures as could be found, the present and former demands on estates whose material resources were much the same now as they had been at the former Settlement, and the increase of cultivation, irrigation, population, etc.

Method of framing rates.

Instructions to Settlement Officer.

Tests of Rates.

No Plough rates.

It was impossible to fix plough rates which would be otherwise than misleading, because no less than 8,474 ploughs, out of a total of 45,129, were found to be used to cultivate lands in other villages as well as in that to which they belong. Well rates

were not devised in Jhajjar, as they had not been customary on the country side before. The rates adopted, and the considerations on which they were based, were fully examined by the Financial Commissioner in his review of the Assessment Reports ; and, as has been already said, the results arrived at were accepted without modification by Mr. G. Ouseley for Sampla and Jhajjar, and

Rates accepted. by Colonel W. Davies, Additional Financial Commissioner, for the remaining two tahsils. The Jhajjar assessment was considered an easy one, which I venture to think it is not. It is impossible to describe the difference between the Jhajjar villages and those of the rest of the district ; this can only be realised on the spot, but no one realising this would consider the Jhajjar revenue demand easy in comparison with the rest of the district. The large area entered as culturable in the flooded circle of that tahsil, and which attracted attention, is not all really so ; to a great extent it consists of unculturable sand-hills or soil over-run with *dab* grass, and full of salt efflorescence, and even the area lying all the year round under the water of the lakes, was classed for some reason as culturable, probably because it may be so once in 40 years. The rain-land assessments in the Gohána and Rohtak tahsils were accepted by the Additional Financial Commissioner on the understanding that suspensions of the revenue would be freely given in years of famine and drought, and the same policy must be pursued in Sampla and Jhajjar,—if wide-spread indebtedness is not to follow these seasons ; in the latter the necessity is greater than in any of the other tahsils. A brief sketch will suffice here for the treatment of the general aspect of the revenue rates sanctioned for the district.

101. Separate rates were framed for each class of irrigated soil and each kind of unirrigated. Those on canal lands varied from Rs. 2-12 per acre in the centre of Gohána and in Sampla, to Rs. 2-8 on the Gohána eastern border and Rs. 2-6 in Rohtak ; the variations were made according to the certainty and facilities of irrigation or otherwise. The question of the dry assessment of canal irrigated lands and of owners' rates will be dealt with more conveniently in paragraph 104, and may be passed over here. The highest well-rate per acre was proposed in the flood circles, where nearly all the wells are sweet, and the depth to the water is least ; in Jhajjar where the floods are more certain, it was fixed at Rs. 3 per acre, and in Sampla at Rs. 2-12 : the last rate was also adopted in the Jhajjar central well circle, and the canal circle in Sampla ; the two *bur* circles of Jhajjar had rates of Rs. 2-4 and Rs. 2, and in the other tahsils (where the well area is very limited) the rate varied from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2. Taking the incidence per acre of the result of the well-rates throughout the Jhajjar tahsil, and applying it to the average well area of 12 acres, we have an average assessment of Rs. 31-8 per well, which cannot be considered low. The rate for flooded lands in Jhajjar was fixed at Rs. 2-4, and in Sampla at 4 annas less. As has been already said, no system of fluctuating assessment based on crop
- Detail of Rates.
- Canal lands.
- Well lands.
- Flooded lands.

rates was thought necessary for any of the flooded villages. The manured lands were assessed at from Rs. 1-8—1-3 per acre, but there is little manured land not also irrigated, as will be seen below. The stiffer soils were rated highest in the *Sahibi* depressions, viz., at Rs. 1-6 per acre ; Rs. 1-4 was the rate in Sampla and Gohāna, and about Rs. 1-1 elsewhere. The best *rausli* in the northern and eastern tahsils was assessed at Re. 1-2—1-3 per acre, and in the rest of the district at Rs. 1-0—12-6, omitting the three westernmost circles of the Rohtak tahsil. The *bhur* in Jhajjar includes much fair soil, while in the northern tahsils only the very poorest has been so classified : it therefore bears a higher rate of 12—11 annas per acre in Jhajjar, and a lower one of 10 annas to 8 annas 6 pie in the north ; where the culturable area exceeded one-fifth of that cultivated, the excess was assessed at from 4 annas to 2 annas per acre. The three western circles in Rohtak were too lightly assessed at last Settlement to be able to bear assessment at nearly the same rates as the rest of the tahsil now ; accordingly in them the rate for the better soils varied from 12 annas 6 pie to 9 annas 6 pie ; for *rausli* from 12 annas 6 pie to 8 annas 6 pie, and for *bhur* from 6 annas to 5 annas. In these tracts, as well as in the western circle of Gohāna, it will be possible to enhance the revenue rates at next Settlement ; the soils as such are quite as good as those in Jhajjar, and they should not be assessed at lower rates ; at the present Settlement, however, the increase taken was as high as it was considered safe to demand, amounting as it did in some cases to one of from 50 to 70 per cent. The rates adopted in the adjoining tracts of neighbouring districts are given below : these tracts, be it remembered, enjoy a much heavier rain-fall than Rohtak does. There is little value in the comparison of the incidence of the new revenue in these various circles per acre, with that of those in Rohtak, as this depends entirely on the proportions which the different soils, and, consequently, their rates, bear to one another in the tracts compared.

Rain-lands.

Lightly assessed circles.

Rates in adjoining districts.

Revenue rates adopted at the Revised Settlement in adjoining tracts.

TAHSIL.			RATE PER ACRE ON											
			Canal lands.			Well lands.			Flood lands.			Clay soils.		
			Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Karnal	...	...	2	14	0	2	14	0	...	...	...	1	1	0
Panipat	...	...	2	12	0	2	12	0	...	...	...	1	6	0
Sunipat	...	...	2	15	0	2	15	0	...	...	...	1	8	0
Dehli	...	...	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	8	0
Gurgaon	...	...	...	...	...	2-8	2-12	...	1	12	0	1-4	1-6	...
Rewari	...	...	...	...	...	2-10	3-0	...	1	12	0	1-6	1-8	...

It was to be expected that the rates would be higher in the neighbourhood of so grand a market as Dehli than in Rohtak : the well rates in Jhajjar are fully as high as those in the surrounding tracts, and the rate on flood-lands is higher than anywhere else. The rate per acre of cultivation at last Settlement on the Hissar villages adjoining the Rohtak district, was a good deal less than that now resulting in this district. The revenue realised in the Jhind and Dujana territories is too complicated in its combined items of areas and ploughs and cesses to enable any comparison to be made between it and that taken in British territory, and, moreover, it is largely taken in kind.

102. The result of the rates proposed and sanctioned may be shown thus according to the different soils of each tahsil, together with the percentage of the revenue which each kind bears to the whole demand—

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS.	GOHANA.		ROHTAK.		SAMPLA.		JHAJJAR.		TOTAL.		PERCENTAGE.
	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	
Canal	1,69,331	12	27,284	0	61,297	8	...	...	2,57,913	4	24
Well	999	11	950	0	4,800	4	49,755	8	56,505	7	5
Flooded ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,474	0	20,028	8	21,502	8	2
Manured	501	0	167	9	3,953	4	793	4	5,415	1	1
Clay (1) Dakar ...	2,415	6	2,612	3	7,369	0	703	6	13,129	15	1
(2) Matiyar...	2,721	12	11,588	14	19,996	14	12,076	14	46,384	6	4
Loam	1,06,109	12	2,00,690	9	1,79,706	4	95,764	12	5,82,271	5	55
Sandy	2,410	2	7,497	13	5,294	4	55,419	12	70,621	15	7
Culturable	1,173	15	1,604	8	834	4	4,660	0	6,272	11	1
Total	2,85,663	6	2,52,425	8	2,84,725	10	2,39,202	0	10,62,016	8	100
Former Revenue of Tahsil ...	2,27,016	0	1,80,691	0	2,71,877	0	2,14,775	0	8,94,359	0	...

With reference to the proportion of the various soils in paragraph 73, it may be briefly noted that the unirrigated lands, which amount to 86 per cent. of the whole area, bear 69 per cent. only of the revenue ; that the canal lands, which form but a little more than a tenth of the whole, are assessed with nearly one-fourth of the demand ; and that in the case of the well and flood lands the proportions are 5 and 2 per cent. as against 2 and 1 per cent. The

percentage of the increase of the revenue in each tahsíl over that fixed at last Settlement, may be compared as follows with the increase of its material resources since last Settlement :—

TAHSIL.	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OF						
	Revenue.	Culti- vation.	Irriga- tion.	Wells.	Popula- tion.	Cattle.	Prices.
Gohána	25·83	38	52	...	35?	60?	30-40 p. c.
Rohtak	39·69	57	46	...	60?	80?	...
Sampla	4·72	9	78	28	15-20?	35?	...
Jhajjar	11·77	22	24	26	15-20?	30?	20-25 p. c.
Total	18·73	32	51	26	...	...	...

The increase on the current revenue demand of each tahsíl is as follows : Gohána 27·22 per cent., Rohtak 41·21, Sampla 6, Jhajjar 8·85, and for the whole district 19·19. Before the Settlement commenced, Mr. Wood, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, had calculated that the increase of revenue would be 5½ lakhs of rupees, or 59 per cent. He fixed a limit of Rs. 1-10 per acre for the all-round incidence of

his demand, and I do not feel called upon to offer any remarks on his estimates, which gave an increase of 80 per cent. in Jhajjar and 74 per cent. in Gohána. The Financial Commissioner, in recommending the Settlement to Government, anticipated an increase of Rs. 2,75,000; but, as a fact, very little was known accurately of the district at that time, and the grounds which have been adduced for not taking a larger increase than Rs. 1,73,717 ultimately, (see paragraph 106), have been approved of by the highest authorities. The increase of cultivation in Jhajjar was considered by Mr. Purser to be nominal rather than real. The increase of irrigation in Gohána and Sampla was no doubt largely foreseen and discounted at the last Settlement; this is proved, especially in the latter

case, by the high revenue rates left untouched in the villages in which canal irrigation has chiefly developed, as compared with those in the adjoining villages still unirrigated; moreover, as has been seen, the whole increase nearly took place before 1847. In Jhajjar the irrigated area recorded at this Settlement was somewhat over the real average, both as regards flood lands and well lands. The measurements throughout the district were made in seasons fully average, and in Rohtak and Gohána in seasons above the average—viz., the year of 1875, and the early months of 1876. The wells of Sampla

tahsil are common in the flood circle only ; the whole increase of wells has taken place there, and in that circle an increase in revenue of 27 per cent. is given by the rates proposed. The increase of wells in Jhajjar is more apparent than real, as although a great many new ones have been sunk, a great many also were deliberately put out of work at Rai Partab Singh's Settlement, and not a few have fallen out of use since 1862. Compared with the value of one-sixth of the gross produce (after deducting half the estimated sum from sugar-cane as virtually occupying the ground for two years [3 seasons], and making certain allowances in the case of Rohtak which have been detailed in the 'Assessment Report'), the revenue now proposed is Rs. 10,61,871 as against Rs. 12,84,220. This test is not a good one where a large sugar-cane area is concerned, as has been pointed out by Colonel Davies. The result of the rates approaches very nearly to $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the value of the gross produce ; and looking at the uncertainty of seasons in the district, it will probably be considered that the share taken is quite sufficient ; the new revenue and cesses together amount to almost exactly the same value as $\frac{1}{6}$ of the gross produce.

• 103. The village assessments were fixed by myself throughout the district with a few exceptions. But whereas I had arranged for progressive demands in all cases to which I had referred in the Gohana and Rohtak Assessment Reports, and for a few cases in Sampla, these were re-considered by Mr. Purser, and were entirely done away with (except in one case) on grounds with which I thoroughly agree. In fact, when the recommendations were made, the exact extent to which the increase of the revenue would affect each *individual revenue payer*, had not been sufficiently thought out ; the increase on the estate, or on some main sub-divisions of it, only was considered. When the additional demand was distributed over each holding, it turned out to be very small—a mere nothing in comparison with the loss which a single famine season might cause, or a sudden fall of prices entail. In a memorandum recorded by the Financial Commissioner, Mr. Lyall, on a proposal for progressive demands in some Gurgaon villages, (in pursuance of the lines of which Mr. Purser was requested to re-examine the question in Rohtak), the following passage occurs, and applies to the Rohtak villages with perhaps greater force than anywhere else : “ Where the proprietors are poor, and their individual holdings small, and the culturable waste not large, progressive jamas should be very rarely adopted, and where adopted the term of postponement should be short, and to avoid progressive jamas we should be prepared to sacrifice on such individual villages a considerable portion of the enhancement fairly demandable. The fact is that in villages of this class, there is not much reason to hope that the proprietors will be any better able to pay full increase some years hence after paying an, in itself, large increase meanwhile, than they are at present. They are just as likely to be less able to pay it.” The progressive demands which I had proposed extended in some cases over 15 years, and in abolishing them it was necessary to sacrifice a little revenue, though not much, as will be seen below. The new revenues were sanctioned

Village assessments.
Progressive demands
abolished.

by the Government for a period of thirty years, commencing with the autumn harvest of 1879 A. D., except as regards a few canal villages, which will be noticed further on. The assessments of the Sampla and Jhajjar tahsils were announced in June and July 1879; those of the other rain-land villages in August, and those of the canal villages in November. They were generally received with satisfaction, only three appeals were preferred against the new demands, and in none of these cases were the orders of the Settlement Officer modified. Six

Announcement of new villages in Jhajjar refused at first to engage, and some revenue. others hung off for a while at first, just to see what

the Settlement Officer would do. Of the six villages three belonged to Rajputs, two to Jats, and one to Ahirs; in three cases, the objections raised were groundless; in the other instances reasons did exist which might make the owners doubtful as to the profit to be made out of the lease offered to them. Ultimately all the villages came round and accepted, a small reduction being granted in one case. The owners of the three jagir estates formed out of the Chuchakwas preserve maintained that their villages could not be assessed above the sum for which the grants were originally made, but this was of course over-ruled. Only the dry assessment of the canal villages was announced to the people, it being stated at the same time that over and above the dry assessment fixed for the whole period of Settlement, they would be liable to pay a varying sum on account of owners' rates in the proportion of half occupiers' rates on all land irrigated so long as these rates should remain unchanged. The people were also were distinctly told that Government might make changes in either the owners' or occupiers' rate during the period of Settlement. I had often discussed the new system with them, and explained it to them individually and collectively; and I always found that they thoroughly understood the nature of the three items of which their payments on account of canal irrigated lands would consist in the future, and that they were one and all in favour of the plan as fairest to themselves. It will be convenient now to treat the detailed assessments of the canal villages and the other villages separately, taking the latter first.

104. The revenue actually assessed on the villages of the 14 assessment circles which remain after excluding those with canal irrigation, was as follows :—

Tahsil.	Number of Circles.	Revenue by Rates.	Revenue Announced		Loss from result of Rates.	Percentage of tahsil revenue to whole.	Incidence of Revenue per acre of cultivation.		
			Initial.	Final.					
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			Rs.	A.	P.
Gohana ...	2	52,467	52,459	52,465	2	22	1	1	10
Rohjak ...	5	2,06,629	2,03,635	2,03,640	2,989	25	0	12	3
Sampla ...	2	1,97,702	1,97,011	1,97,387	315	28	1	2	7
Jhajjar ...	5	2,39,202	2,32,599	2,38,490	712	25	1	1	4
Total ...	14	6,96,000	6,85,704	6,91,982	4,018	100	0	15	2

The progressive demands are due entirely to wells protected by leases granted on favorable terms, except as regards Rs. 400 in Rattanthal, Jhajjar. The abolition of all progressive demands in Rohtak caused the result of the detailed assessments to fall below that of the rates, but, considering all things, the loss is very small and was inevitable ; it is hardly necessary to point out the gain to Government over the whole period of the Settlement. In Sampla the floods circle was assessed a good deal below rates, but this was nearly made up in the rain-land circle. In Jhajjar the loss caused by, having to assess the Rajput villages far below the result of rates was not entirely recovered elsewhere ; the larger sum on account of deferred revenue shown here, as compared with the Assessment Report, is due to the grant of protective leases to wells after the latter was written. A register showing the year of expiry of each lease and the additional revenue which will in consequence be added to the rent-roll, has been filed in the District Office. A sum of Rs. 459 is included in the revenue of Zahidpur, Jhajjar, on account of the profit which the owners receive from the salt manufacturers. The *hakimi* tax of 6 pie per maund is still taken by Government as well, and should the manufacture of salt ever fail, a reduction of assessment will have to be made to the village as far as the Rs. 459 are concerned (see Financial Commissioner's No. 758 of 30th June, 1879, and Government Punjab's No. 955 of 22nd August). The revenue fixed is throughout moderate and equable, and will be paid with promptness in ordinary years. Some of the Rajput villages in the south of Jhajjar will no doubt find their burdens very heavy, although exceedingly lightly assessed as compared with the adjoining estates ; but these are held by men who must be driven out in the end. To quote Mr. Lyall's words in the Memo. above referred to :—"They are fit only for the position of tenants living from hand to mouth, with no credit to pledge, and compelled to work by the necessity of living and by compulsion from above." There is little else to add on the assessment of these villages ; in the Memorandum prefaced to each circle in

Facts for future consideration. the Village Note-books, as well as in the separate remarks on each village, any weakness which needs watching has been recorded, and the details must be sought there. The possible entire failure of the *Sahabi-Indori* floods, the spread of *dáb* grass, or salt efflorescence in the flood and some well villages, the falling out of use of wells in any well estates, and the drifting of sand over cultivation, are the main points to which the revenue officers must turn their attention, in addition to the unfortunate flooding of villages by the canal escapes in Sampla. It is just possible, though I do not think it very likely, that some villages may have been permanently injured by the season of 1877-78. Sufficient period did not elapse between that time and my leaving the district to enable me to say absolutely that in no case this was so ; and should any such case arise, a report of the facts should be made without hesitation. A Settlement Officer can hardly hope to be right in his assessment of every village ; and though his work should not be lightly attacked, it ought certainly to be constantly scrutinised, and especially with regard to individual cases of apparent hardship.

105. In the assessment of the canal villages, the usual difficulties with which a Settlement Officer has to contend were intensified by the necessity of framing "owners' rates" under Act VIII of 1873. When the Settlements of the old Dehli territory were commenced, it was determined that the wet and dry assessment of the lands irrigated by the Western Jumna canal should be fixed separately, and not in a lump sum as had been the case formerly. It was also decided, after much consideration and consultation, to fix the owners' rates according to the "proportional method," that is, to make them a fixed portion of the rates for the use of water, or occupiers' rates. The law laid down that the owners' rate must not exceed the difference of the wet and dry rates adopted, and the Punjab Government laid down that it should be a simple fixed fraction of the occupiers' rate; to reconcile these two orders, based on very different sets of circumstances, and to secure the full revenue of the canal tracts, fell to the share of the Settlement Officer. In his Sampla Assessment Report Mr. Purser decided to take one-half of the occupiers' rate as the nearest simple fraction to represent the owners' rate, and the same result was arrived at for the other two tahsils also; this had already been the case in Panipat, and afterwards became the case throughout the lands watered by the Western Jumna canal in the three districts of Karnal, Dehli and Rohtak. The canal lands were assessed separately at the lump wet rates, and then at the ordinary dry rates of the circle, according to the kind of soils; the difference between the results of the two sets of rates gave the owners' rate. This was then compared with the incidence of the average occupiers rates paid for the last ten years, and, as has been already said, the nearest simple fraction of the occupiers' rates to represent the difference of the wet and dry rates was found to be a half. But as the average canal irrigated area of the period adopted was a good deal less than that shown by Settlement measurements, the result of the dry assessment of Settlement canal lands added to the owners' rates calculated at half occupiers' rates on the average departmental area, failed to give the full revenue resulting from the assessment of canal lands at lump wet rates. Even taking the Settlement canal area and applying to it the incidence of the occupiers' rate per acre on the departmental area, there was still a loss of nearly Rs. 13,000, or about 4 per cent. of the whole revenue of the canal circles, assessing the canal lands at the proposed lump rates. The figures may be shown as follows; these in the first columns, which are taken from the Assessment Reports, ultimately underwent some immaterial modifications :—

NAME OF CIRCLE.	REVENUE BY LUMP RATES.	REVENUE BY SEPARATE RATES.			LOSS BY SEPARATE RATES.	OWNERS' RATES ON SETTLEMENT AREA.
		Dry Rates.	Owners' rates at half of average occupiers'.	Total.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gohana, Central ...	1,89,166	1,14,319	57,406	1,71,725	17,441	63,656
„ East ...	44,031	27,361	13,824	41,185	2,846	15,451
Rohtak ...	45,802	31,190	12,911	44,101	1,701	14,439
Sampla ...	87,023	56,169	25,934	82,103	4,920	30,548
	3,66,022	2,29,039	1,10,075	3,39,114	26,908	1,24,094

But as the owners' rate portion could not be conveniently raised, it became necessary to increase the dry assessment of canal irrigated lands. All these points were discussed in detail in a separate report on the owners' rates, and in the orders passed on it; these papers have been printed and have been bound up with the Assessment Reports, where they may be consulted (Proceedings Punjab Government, No. 13 of October 1879). The general upshot was, that the incidence of the dry revenue on the canal lands was raised from Re. 1-4-1 to Re. 1-9-0 per acre in the Gohana central circle, from Re. 1-4-1 to Re. 1-6 in the Gohana eastern circle, from Re. 1-4-7 to Re. 1-9 in the Sampla circle, and from Re. 1-1-8 to Re. 1-4 in the Rohtak circle. These rates were not of course applied to the canal lands alone as they stood. The result of their application to the canal lands in their dry aspect was added to the assessment of the remaining unirrigated lands of the circles, and the whole was redistributed by a single rate over all the lands, with the following result—

CIRCLES.	INCIDENCE PER ACRE OF DRY REVENUE ON WHOLE LANDS OF THE CIRCLE.					
	Former.			Now.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Gohana, Central ...	1	2	10	1	5	1
„ Eastern ...	1	2	11	1	5	5
Rohtak ...	1	0	7	1	1	5
Sampla ...	1	4	0	1	6	2

These incidences of the dry revenue can not be called high compared with those in Karnal and Dehli, detailed in paragraph 101, but it was admitted that under the new system the dry assessment of some estates would be much above a true one, and even above what could be fairly realised from the village if canal irrigation was entirely or perhaps very largely withdrawn, and it was ordered that such cases should be noticed in the Village Note-books, and this was accordingly done. Mr. Purser was of opinion that the dry revenue of a number of villages assessed according to the new rates was much too high in any case, and a special report was submitted on them by him to the Financial Commissioner, and I was asked to give my opinion. After considering the views advanced, the Financial Commissioner agreed to reduce the dry assessments of the revenue by a sum of Rs. 1,055 in six villages, concerning which both officers were agreed, and the final demands for the canal circles were fixed as follows :—

NAME OF CIRCLE.	REVENUE FINALLY ASSESSED.			INCIDENCE PER ACRE OF CULTIVATION.						PER- CENTAGE OF CIR- CLES RE- VENUE.
	Dry.	Estimated Owners' Rates.	Total.	Dry.			Total.			
				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	
Gohana, Central	1,27,953	60,399	1,88,352	1	5	1	1	15	1	51
„ East	30,950	14,151	45,101	1	5	5	1	15	2	12½
Rohtak	32,964	13,406	46,370	1	1	5	1	8	9	12½
Sampla	62,342	29,223	91,565	1	6	2	2	0	6	24
Total	2,54,209	1,17,179	3,71,388	1	4	9	1	14	5	100

The initial revenue is Rs. 125 less than this, viz., Re. 1 in Gohana, Rs. 41 in Rohtak, and Rs. 83 in Sampla. The result of the detailed assessments is higher than that of the rates by Rs. 5,366, but the estimated income from owners' rates is taken as Rs. 7,000 above the average deduced from the occupiers' rates of the last 10 years. There is every reason, however, I think, to believe that the full sum put down as the estimate of owners' rates will be realised. Irrigation no doubt has increased of late, especially in Sampla, and the average of the last five years is perhaps higher than that for the whole ten. The assessment of the canal lands is, of course, more or less experimental, and the working of the new system will have to be carefully watched. Probably a certain amount of irrigation will be given up in some villages, but there are many others eager for a new or larger share, and there is no doubt that after a few years the full estimated income from owners' rates ought to be

realised. The extent to which irrigation is abandoned will depend very largely on the nature of the rain-fall of the next few years. I do not myself take an unfavorable view of the ultimate success of the plan, but it will require to be intelligently worked, and it will be necessary for the Irrigation and Civil Departments to act together in the matter. Nothing is to be more deprecated than a sudden withdrawal of water to any great extent from the villages, and I would suggest that in all cases before this is done a reference should be first made to the Revenue authorities by the canal officers.* Orders have not yet been passed on the question of the measurements of canal lands, but it is understood that they will be effected by the canal patwaries, assisted by the district officials. It is all important that there should be perfect harmony between the district and canal officers in this matter at first. If hearty co-operation once prevails, no difficulties are likely to arise hereafter; if not, a good deal of trouble will certainly be found in working the system. There is one point more to note with reference to canal irrigated villages, viz., the treatment of those suffering from swamp or the development of saline efflorescence or both. After a full discussion of the question with regard to such estates in Karnal, it was determined that where they could

Short Settlement for
swamped estates, &c.

pay only a very low and inadequate dry assessment because of the high amount of their owners' rates, due to the excessive irrigation which they are obliged to have recourse to in order to grow any crop at all, they should be settled for five years only; and the same rule was extended to Rohtak. In accordance with it the villages of Bhadauthi, Bhadauthi-Busanah, and Siwankah in Gohana, and of Zia-ud-dinpur in Sampla, have received settlements for five years, and will come under re-assessment in the autumn of 1884. There should be no difficulty in effecting this then on the basis of the facts now recorded and which will be recorded from now till then. The closest attention should be paid to the spread of swamp and saline efflorescence, not merely in these villages but in all, and the results of each year's survey should be most carefully entered in the Village Note-books, and, where necessary, proposals for remissions or reductions of the revenue should be made. I hope that none such will be necessary, especially as drainage obstructions are about to be removed in some places; but the revenue officer who neglects to pay close attention to this subject will incur a most serious responsibility.

106. The full and complete assessment of the whole district may be thus shown by tahsils, as compared with the existing revenue and the results of the rates sanctioned. The Government of India has ruled that collections on account of owners' rates are not to be classified as land-revenue, and they are therefore shown separately here:—

* This has since been ordered by Government—*vide* Letter No. 1028 of 23rd October 1880, to Financial Commissioner, which clearly lays down the principles to be followed in all cases.

TAHSIL.	PRESENT REVENUE, 1878-79.	REVENUE BY RATES.	REVENUE ASSESSED.			Percentage of tahsil to whole district.
			Total.	Land Revenue.	Owners' Rates.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Gohana	2,23,933	2,85,663	2,85,918	2,11,368	74,550	27
Rohtak	1,78,678	2,52,425	2,50,010	2,36,604	13,406	24
Sampla	2,68,605	2,84,726	2,88,952	2,59,729	29,223	27
Jhajjar	2,18,437	2,39,202	2,38,490	2,38,490	...	22
Total	8,89,653	10,62,016	10,63,370	9,46,191	1,17,179	100

The initial land revenue is Rs. 6,403 less than the above, viz., Rs. 7 in Gohana, Rs. 46 in Rohtak, Rs. 459 in Sampla, and Rs. 5,891 in Jhajjar. A sum of Rs. 889 on account of the dry assessment of gardens,* and of Rs. 423, due as owners' rates from the same, is included in the above full revenue, so that the result of the detailed assessments is Rs. 51 below that given by the rates approved of. The loss on account of the abolition of progressive demands in the rain-land circles has been made up in the canal circles, but the fact of the estimate on account of owners' rates, being over the actual average of the past, must also be borne in mind. The ultimate increase over the amended revenue demand

of the last Settlement is Rs. 1,69,011 or 18·88 per cent., and over the revenue of the present year Rs. 1,73,717 or 19·51 per cent. Of the new revenue Rs. 7,280 (Rs. 650 in Sampla and Rs. 7,244 in Jhajjar) are enjoyed by grantees, and Rs. 300, (viz., Rs. 100 in Bahadurgarh and Rs. 200 in Kalanaur) by inamdars; the rest is paid into the Government treasury. Over and above the full revenue, Rs. 6,919 have been assessed on revenue-free plots for the purpose of cesses and with a view to future lapses, which will add some Rs. 7,000 to the rent roll during the period of Settlement. The question of enjoyment of the owners' rate by grantees whose rights are of old date, has yet to receive final orders. About 402 acres, of which the revenue is assigned permanently, were irrigated at the first Regular Settlement, half in Rohtak and half in Gohana: if it is decided to allow the grantees to receive the owners' rates on these lands, the full revenue will be reduced by about Rs. 500. Bir Barkatabad in Sampla is, it may be remarked, settled in perpetuity at a revenue of Rs. 2,344. Finally, it should be stated that, in addition

* NOTE.—The gardens and groves of the district were separately reported on in Settlement Officer's No. 102 of 5th March 1879, and sanctioned by Financial Commissioner's No. 1975 of 27th March.

to the above revenue, a sum of Rs. 15,627 was assessed on the villages of the district on account of the fees of chief headmen and Zaildars, and was afterwards allowed off the assessment. The detail Amount allowed for zaildars and chief headmen. was as follows : it is the more necessary to record this, as should the pay of some or all of the zaildars be reduced as is proposed, the reduction will go to Government as having been allowed on the revenue.

<i>Tahsil.</i>	<i>For Zaildars.</i>			<i>For chief headmen.</i>			<i>Total.</i>
	Rs.	A.		Rs.	A.		Rs.
Gohana ...	2,101	0	...	1,462	0	...	3,563
Rohtak ...	2,302	8	...	1,684	8	...	3,987
Sampla ...	2,542	0	...	1,965	0	...	4,507
Jhajjar ...	2,308	8	...	1,261	8	...	3,570
Total ...	9,254	0	...	6,373	0	...	15,627

The incidence of the new revenue for each tahsil and for the whole district, exclusive and inclusive of owners' rates, is as follows :—

TAHSIL.	EXCLUSIVE OF OWNERS' RATE.									INCLUSIVE OF OWNERS' RATE.								
	On culti- vation.			On assessed area.			On total area.			On culti- vation.			On assessed area.			On total area.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Gohana ...	1	4	0	1	0	10	0	15	9	1	11	0	1	6	10	1	5	3
Rohtak ...	0	12	9	0	10	7	0	10	0	0	13	6	0	11	3	0	10	7
Sampla ...	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	15	11	1	5	6	1	2	11	1	1	8
Jhajjar ...	1	1	4	0	14	0	0	12	10	1	1	4	0	14	0	0	12	10
Total ...	1	0	10	0	14	1	0	13	2	1	2	11	0	15	10	0	14	9

In the various classes of estates the incidence varies thus :—

Per acre cultivated.

	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Landlordal ...	1	0	0
(2) Shared ...	1	1	3
(3) Communal ...	1	0	11
(4) Mixed (2) and (3) ...	1	0	8

The general incidence per head of agricultural population is Rs. 2-10, of adult male population Rs. 7, per cultivator Rs. 8, per owner Rs. 10, per plough Rs. 21. Among the chief classes of cultivators the incidence is as follows per acre of cultivation—Játs, the 12 clans, Rs. 1-2-5, Miscellaneous 0-15-1, Brahmins 0-15-5, Ahirs Re. 1-1-6, Rajputs-Hindu 0-12-8, Mussalman 0-10-8, Afghans 0-14-0. All these figures include the owners' rates. Among the Jat clans the Dahiya and Malik, nearly all of whose villages are irrigated by the canal, pay highest—Re. 1-7-3 and Re. 1-6-5 per acre, and after them the Golia (Re. 1-4-4), with their naturally flooded lands and wells.

The cesses imposed in the present Settlement are (1) Local Rates at Rs. 8-5-4 per cent., (2) Road, 1 per cent., (3) Post, 8 annas (4) School, Re. 1 in Jhajjar and Sampla, and 8 annas in Gohana and Rohtak, the difference being due to a slip, (5) Headman's, 5 per cent., (6) Patwaries, 3 per cent. in Gohana, Rs. 3-4 in Rohtak, and Rs. 3-8 in Sampla and Jhajjar, with 4 annas on account of stationery in all

Cesses.

cases; on the local rate this cess will be Rs. 3-2 per cent. in all 4 tahsils. The total sum on account of cesses therefore varies from Rs. 18-9-4 to Rs. 19-9-4 per cent. The amount of these cesses, added to the full revenue and to the allowances for chief headmen and zaildars, gives a sum total of Rs. 12,82,094. The cesses at last Settlement amounted to 8 per cent.

only in the northern tahsils, and to 10 per cent. in Jhajjar and Bahaugarh, and during its currency were increased to 16 per cent. The increase of cesses and revenue since 1838 A. D. and 1862 has been Rs. 3,11,196, or 32 per cent., the exact figure of the increase of cultivation during the same period. As a fact, only the cesses for Roads, Schools, and Posts have as yet been levied on the owners' rates, as legal difficulties stand in the way of the imposition of the local rate and the cesses for headmen and patwaries. These, however, will presently be remedied by the Supreme Government, and the full cesses will no doubt be then levied on the owners' rate as well as on the actual dry revenue. This point will, no doubt, be noticed, when the final orders are passed on the Settlement.

107. The revenue announced was distributed over the villages by the Internal rating of the people themselves, under official direction where it was considered that special circumstances required this. As a rule the people showed great willingness to consider impartially the advantages or disadvantages of the lands of each cultivator. There were few serious disputes on the subject, and in no case did the owners try to put an unfair share of the revenue on occupancy tenants entitled to pay at the same rates as themselves. The introduction of owners' rates did away with the anomaly of canal lands and unirrigated lands being assessed at the same all-round rate. The result of the internal rating was as follows:—

TAHSIL.	NUMBER OF ESTATES PAYING REVENUE.						TOTAL.
	By a lump sum, land-lordal.	On shares.	By mixed shares and rates.	By a single rate on cultivation.	By a single rate on the area assessed.	By soil rates.	
Gohana	5	13	1	4	49	11	83
Rohtak	1	4	3	1	102	3	114
Sampla	1	8	2	3	99	14	127
Jhajjar	5	57	15	1	32	77	187
Total	12	82	21	9	282	105	511

The three Government reserves in Jhajjar, which do not of course pay revenue, are omitted here. There was no desire to distribute the revenue according to the old and long disused shares in communal estates, as seems to have been the case in some parts of the old Delhi territory; and the sums due on account of cesses were in all cases distributed in exactly the same manner as the revenue itself. Three-fourths of the villages in which possession is the measure of right pay their revenue by a single all-round rate on the assessable area, showing how little the people consider soils when unirrigated to differ in productiveness one from another over a long period. With regard to the villages which pay by kind-rates, the division in Gohána does not generally extend beyond one rate for cultivation and one for jungle; in Rohtak all these villages have a proportion of *bhur* soil in their area, and they pay by regular soil rates; in Sampla most of the villages distinguish only the well and the unirrigated lands, while in Jhajjar the general detail is as follows:—

No. of villages.

With separate rates.

29 ...	On flooded lands and rain-lands.
9 ...	On flooded lands and rain-lands and well lands.
3 ...	On flooded lands and jungle and well lands.
3 ...	On flooded well lands, <i>rausli</i> and <i>bhur</i> and jungle.
5 ...	On well lands, <i>matiyar</i> , <i>rausli</i> , <i>bhur</i> and jungle.
4 ...	On <i>rausli</i> and <i>bhur</i> .

The other cases are nearly all single instances of special modifications. The people were informed what the Government rates were, and were encouraged to adopt varying rates themselves where it seemed desirable; in certain cases, where a single all-round rate threatened to work inequalities, they were made to accept the system of varying rates, which they fixed for themselves. It is not very likely that any redistribution of the internal rating of any estate will be called for during Settlement, but the practicability and desirability of this should always be borne in mind along with the considerations detailed in

Instalments.

para 104, as entitling a village to reduction of revenue. The revenue instalments are four in number: on 15th May and June for spring harvest, and on the 15th November and December for the autumn. The times of these were fully discussed and considered, and various alterations were suggested by various officers, but, finally, it was determined to leave the old dates alone, although the reason of two late instalments for the spring harvest is not very apparent: it is a question if a special instalment should not be fixed for the sugar-cane crop. The detail of the proportions in which the people elected to pay the revenue at each harvest are as follows, the two instalments of each harvest are always equal, half and half:—

AMOUNT OF INSTALMENT.		CLASS OF VILLAGE.				
Spring.	Autumn.	Canal.	Flooded.	Well.	Rain-land.	Total.
8 annas ...	8 annas ...	74	23	48	14	159
10 " ...	6 " ...	1	14	3	...	18
6 " ...	10 " ...	31	9	59	226	325
4 " ...	12 " ...	1	...	...	...	1
12 " ...	4 " ...	...	5	1	...	6
11 " ...	5 " ...	...	1	...	...	1
9 " ...	7 " ...	...	1	...	...	1
		107	53	111	240	511

Nearly all rain-land villages, and a large number of other villages with only a moderate irrigated area, naturally pay the larger portion of their revenue at the autumn harvest, when they gather the two crops of *bāra* and *joar*. Three-fourths of the canal villages and half the flooded

villages pay by equal instalments, or by instalments higher in the spring than in the autumn; the few special cases are due to special circumstances. A description of the former systems of internal rating will be found in paragraphs 41 and 45 of the old Rohtak-Beri and Gohána Reports. The methods of *chaubacha*, and of distribution of the revenue by yearly measurements were done away with at the time of the revised Record of Rights: they had their origin in an earlier period of revenue collections, and favored the lazy at the expense of the industrious. The *chaubacha* was a system of rating on four things—the hearth or house (*kúdi*), the members of families (*pag*), the cattle (*aug*), and lastly, the soil (*dharti*). As Mr. Tomason remarked in his review of the Settlements of the Dehli territory, it belonged to “a disordered state of society, when men collected in a few spots and lived largely by plunder, and the chief point of importance was the number of fighting men, and after this the number of persons dependent on their protection.”

108. There is little else to say on the subject of the new assessments.

Prospects of new Settlement.

The new land revenue has been collected now for two harvests, with as much ease as formerly; the harvests have been fair only, but prices have been high. No collection of the owners' rate has been made yet (August 2nd), but the sums due for the last autumn and spring harvests will be got in now. It is to be regretted that this double demand should come on the people at once, but the want of orders on certain points made the separate

Prospects of the new Settlement.

realisation impossible. Cultivation in Gohána and Sampla has almost reached its full limit, except in a few cases, such as the villages on the western border of the former; in the west of Rohtak and Jhajjar there will, no doubt, be a considerable increase of cultivation during the next thirty years. Canal irrigation is not likely to extend largely, but its distribution will perhaps be improved; and if the insurance against famine of a larger number of estates is thereby brought about without injuring those whose irrigated area is now unduly great, the trouble spent over the question of owners' rates will not have been spent in vain. In the two flooded circles it is probable that not a few new wells will be sunk, especially if money advances are judiciously made by Government for this purpose. There seems to be no reason to fear any great and general fall of prices; at present they are half as high again as the average taken for valuing the gross produce. Communications will improve no doubt. Excepting some of the Rānghar and Rajput villages, in which the owners must inevitably fall lower and lower in the struggle for existence, I see no cause to anticipate that any considerable area of land is likely to change hands, or that the people will become more generally indebted during the next 30 years. In short, the future of the Rohtak district may be looked on with quiet confidence, I believe. The check which has been caused to the prosperity of the district by the great loss of cattle in 1877-78, and by the general sickness of last year, is, we may hope, only temporary; and I can foresee no reason why the material

prosperity of the district should not advance steadily year by year until the whole tale of thirty years is full, if only the revenue system is not made to work too rigidly in years of drought and famine. I have nothing to add on this point to what I have written in paragraphs 84 and 68 of the Gohāna and Rohtak Assessment Reports. It may not always be a wise policy to grant

Suspensions of Revenue. large suspensions of the revenue where the idle or unthrifty habits of the people render it unlikely that they can ever pay the sum left temporarily unrealised. But in a district like Rohtak, held principally by cultivators of the first rank; the case is very different, and there need never be any fear that the amounts suspended will not be paid off in the course of the next few harvests, together with interest if Government were to determine to impose this. It is not necessary to introduce a cycle assessment for the district, I think; the present revenue system, if worked carefully and intelligently, is quite sufficiently elastic; but if it is not to be so worked, then by all means let us have a cycle system. An intelligent revenue administration of the district was not possible as long as the vernacular records were incomplete and incorrect, and no English records existed; but the case is very different now. The important points to which the Revenue Collector must pay chief attention have been prominently noticed in this Report, and in the entries of the Village Note-books; and if only these books are properly maintained and kept up to date, in the course of a few years there will be an invaluable record of past experience to serve to make the revenue administration homogeneous and certain. And if only this guide is intelligently followed, it seems impossible that the Rohtak district should be in 1910 A. D. other than it is to-day—one of the most prosperous, contented, and well-disposed in North India.

PART VII.

THE RECORD OF THE PRESENT SETTLEMENT.—
CONCLUSION.

109. The Record of Rights prepared at the present Settlement is composed of the following papers :—
Papers in the Record of Rights.

1. The Boundary Map and Record—*Misl aur Nuksha Thákbast.*
2. The Field Map—*Shajrah Kishtwár.*
3. The Field-Register—*Khasrah Kishtwár.*
4. The Pedigree-table—*Shajrah Nasab.*
5. The Record of Rights and Liabilities—*Khewat Khatauni.*
6. The Return of Revenue-free lands—*Nuksha lá-kharaj.*
7. The Statement of Wells—*Nuksha chahat.*
8. The Engagement for the Revenue—*Darkhwást Málguzári.*
9. The Village Administration Paper—*Wajib-ul-arz.*
10. The Final Proceeding—*Rubakár-i-ákhir.*

The fly-leaf of the Record contains a statement of all the papers comprised in it, and of various other useful information as well ; the list of the names of owners and occupancy tenants, which follows the Record of Rights, serves as an index to that and to the Pedigree-table as well ; these are the only miscellaneous papers in the volume. A Memorandum by the Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, Pandit Maharáj Kishen, deals fully with the nature of the entries in each paper prepared at Settlement ; a translation of the Note accompanies this Report, and it is unnecessary to enter at length on the subject here.

110. The method by which the Boundary and Field maps were prepared has been fully explained by Mr. Purser in his No. 117 of 22nd April 1877. The results of the system can be best judged from the figures of the comparison of the areas of the Settlement and Revenue Surveys given in paragraph 73, and from the fact, that it has not been necessary to note on a single Boundary

Measurement.

map the fact of any discrepancies existing with the Revenue Survey map. In the latter case the result was largely brought about by the harmonious way in which the two Surveys worked side by side. The scale of square measure used for the Settlement measurements was as follows :

3 yards (<i>gaz</i>) of 33 inches each	=	1 <i>gatha</i> .
1 square <i>gatha</i>	=	1 <i>biswansi</i> .
20 <i>biswansi</i>	=	1 <i>biswah</i> .
20 <i>biswahs</i>	=	1 <i>bigah</i> .
32 <i>biswahs</i>	=	1 acre.

A *bigah* is therefore exactly $\frac{5}{8}$ of an acre, and the process of converting the areas from the Indian to the European standard was a very simple one. The Field maps were drawn on the scale of 16 inches to the mile; this was too small for the numerous and minute fields of the canal villages, but their measurements were, unfortunately, too far advanced before the drawback was noticed to allow a scale of 24 inches per mile being adopted in their case. Great pains were taken to render the Record of Rights and the pedigree table as correct as possible, and I trust they were not spent

The Record papers. in vain; the papers are clear and intelligible at least now, and any errors should be easily detected. Special care was bestowed on the preparation of the Village Administration papers, which formed perhaps the most complete portion of the old records; as far as possible, they were attested and re-attested on the spot by the Extra Assistant Settlement Officer and myself. The finish of the faired records may fairly compare, I believe, with those of recent Settlements; their general correctness I may feel confident of, but it would not become me to say much on this point, which time must show. The chief drawback of them is their bulky size, which is due to the Commissioner, Mr. Macnabb, having insisted on their preparation on Sialkote paper, in accordance with some old orders of Government. In all cases the Government copy was faired first, and the Patwari's copy was made from it; the former is, therefore, the original record. Too great stress should never be laid on the entries in the Record; intelligent enquiry should always test the value of any entry, but at the same time statements recorded must not be put lightly aside. Everything possible was done to give publicity to the entries made at the present Settlement, and, as a rule, the people showed great intelligence both in comprehending what was recorded and in expressing their wishes as to what should be recorded. The copies of the holdings of each proprietor (*parcha*) which

Copies of holdings given to the people. were made over to the people were in the form of a book, with a stout cloth-backed cover, and with leaves for the entry of the receipt of payment of the revenue for the next thirty years. It is most important that the Patwaris should be made to keep these up to date, and I trust that the Revenue officers of the district will see that this is done. The number of copies given was 72,409, viz., 55,446 to owners and on account of village common-lands, 6,681 to mortgagees, 8,275 to occupancy tenants, 1,645 to *dohlidars*, and 302 to

grantees of Government revenue. That the new record is at any rate an immense improvement on the old one, I believe all officers who ever have to compare the two will acknowledge. In Jhajjar the former papers

The old Record. were very fair, the field maps were quite sufficiently accurate, and a rough pedigree table was to be generally found; the changes in cultivation since 1860-62 had, however, very much lessened the value of the maps. But in the three northern tahsils many maps were in tatters, and undecypherable by any one except the Patwari; most had been inaccurate from the first, and it had become impossible to identify fields on them now; while the Record of Rights, always incomplete, had been allowed by the Patwaries to fall into hopeless arrears as regards changes of ownership, &c. The old papers were especially faulty in the record of names, one sharer or brother usually standing to represent a number, and the names of women, children, absentees, and defaulters being almost invariably either wrongly entered or altogether omitted. It may be interesting to note here that the area held by these classes in the district is as follows:—

		<u>Acres.</u>		<u>Per cent.</u>
Women	...	39,213	...	4
Children	...	49,807	...	5
Absentees and defaulters	...	26,826	...	3
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Total	...	115,846	...	12
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>

The women hold almost invariably as widows in the right of their deceased husbands; but an area of 35,450 acres is held by daughter's descendants independent of the above, showing that the custom of a sonless owner to give lands to his daughter's children is common and well acknowledged.

111. A record of tribal customs was carefully prepared for the principal tribes of the district; an abstract of it has been translated by Mr. Purser, and will be found in the volume of Memos accompanying this Report. The series of questions put was prepared by me after a careful consideration of the draft proposed by Mr. Tupper, and the existing records of the kind. No question was put to the people for which a precedent was not forthcoming from the pedigree tables or elsewhere; the list of precedents on each question has been filed with the answers of the people. The papers were publicly attested by Mr. Purser, and the Extra Assistant Commissioner; I had left the district before the task of enquiring from the people began. It would be expected that in an agricultural district like Rohtak the customs would be similar throughout: I do not think that any of them call for special mention here; several have been already noticed in various parts of this Report. It must not be supposed that the paper of tribal customs is a code of infallible authority. On the contrary, it will be found in many cases, no doubt, that there are special instances of

exceptions under the general customs recorded : but, as a rule, it may be followed as a safe guide of the usual practise of the tribes. Little need be said as to the general character of customs in this place. The family tie is the agnatic tie, and inheritance is purely according to agnatic descent, the interest of a widow being for life only, and her status as a virtual member of her husband's clan not affecting the general principle. Complete representation in inheritance is admitted : property, therefore, cannot leave the clan or *gôt*, and the woman becomes lost to her father's family and a member of that of her husband, and in the enormous majority of cases descent is *per capita* not *per stirpes*. Gifts of property can take place, as has been seen from the area held by daughter's descendants in the preceding paragraph, but possession must in all cases follow the gift, and the consent of the nearest male agnates is generally obtained. I have nothing else to add to Mr. Purser's translation. I had intended myself to propose that such papers as this and the Village Administration papers and the accounts of the origin of the various tribes, &c., as prepared in the each of the four districts of the old Dehli territory which were under Settlement together, should be circulated by the Settlement Officers one to another, in the hope of eliciting new facts and eliminating errors ; but I was unable to carry out the plan before I left the district. Separate

Irrigation Records.

records of the irrigation of each village, and general records of the irrigation from each canal or main water-course, have been prepared and filed in the District office. These form a new feature in Rohtak Settlements ; formerly it was impossible to discover the share which any proprietor or cultivator had in a water-course, except by reference to the Irrigation Department, and the records of that office were very incomplete. In the present papers the exact share of each person irrigating from the water-course, the method of distributing the water, and all other points, have been fully detailed. The whole question has been put in a perfectly clear light, and it is desirable that as canal irrigation extends, or is withdrawn, the necessary alterations should be made at intervals, and the papers kept up to date. If necessary, new records for entirely new water-courses should be prepared on the model of those now filed.

112. The Village Note-books have been written up very fully, I hope

The Village Note-books.

carefully also, and with many facts that will be useful for the future administration of the district. I do trust that they will not be filed in the office and forgotten, as was the case with the sheets which corresponded to them in the Jhajjar Settlement. Every officer who goes into camp should have them with him, and special flat boxes should be made for them, in order to enable them to travel about uninjured. Every useful fact should be recorded in them—suspensions or remissions or reductions of revenue, extension or withdrawal of canal irrigation, sinking of wells, breaking up of waste lands, any specially good or bad harvest in the village, any severe sickness, any important law-suit, any criminal case due to factions or bearing on the general well-being of the community or a portion of it, in short, all the hundred little things which must pass before the eyes of

Revenue officers during a period of thirty years, and which, if recorded, would prove most valuable alike to officers administering and assessing the revenue. Why should it be held in practise that such records are complete as soon as they leave the Settlement Officer's hands? It is obvious that they must always require adding to, and may require correction; why then should the Settlement Officer alone record his experience? why should not the Revenue officers carry out the orders of Government, and do so also? I would venture to suggest that Commissioners on tour should always see that the Village Note-books are duly written up: the necessary information is easily gained on the spot when the people and Patwaries are present, and it is hard to see by what better method a complete knowledge of the revenue working of the district is to be gained by officers, experienced or unexperienced. Similarly, the Tahsildars should be obliged to keep up to date the Vernacular copies of the Village Note-books. A map of each village reduced by the Pentagraph from the actual village map made at Settlement, is bound up in the English volumes; and copies of all useful

Maps.

maps of each tahsil or the district have been supplied to every office and department, and will, it is hoped, prove of value. Formerly a decent map of the district was not to be found even at head-quarters, and the idea that a Kanungo needed maps for his work seems never to have occurred to any one. The volume which accompanies this Report includes copies of all the chief maps made, and illustrates the references made in the Report. The Revenue Survey map of the district is a very fine one, but has not been very carefully finished in some details; nor has the large Revenue Atlas, which, nevertheless, contains a most useful set of maps of the villages, on the scale of 4 inches to a mile. I trust that these will not be left to feed the white ants in some corner of the Record office, as was the case of the Revenue Survey maps of 1832, of whose existence no one in the district was, I believe, aware. For the Irrigation Department 50 copies of the field maps of 122 villages were lithographed, under Settlement supervision, at the cost of Rs. 7,570, being at the rate of Re. 1 per 100 fields on the map. This work was superintended by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, and was very successfully performed, although started so late as to cause no small inconvenience to the Settlement officials in carrying it out.

113. The faired records have all been made over to the district, and everything that could be thought of has been done to prevent any of the valuable miscellaneous returns and papers of Settlement being lost sight of and disappearing. Complete volumes of the Assessment Reports and of all orders, intermediate or otherwise, passed on them and on the village assessments, have been bound up, so that the Revenue officer can at once trace any fact through to the place where it is represented on the rent roll. Generally there is some hiatus—*valde deficiendus*—between the Settlement Officer's Assessment Report and the results shown in the final Report, which it takes much trouble and hunting up of miscellaneous files to fill up. Besides the new Vernacular Settlement Record, the old papers

of the district are still preserved, and the yearly papers of 1873, on the basis of which the present Settlement has been made, will be preserved for some years. A special reference on the subject of preserving rough records was made to the Financial Commissioner, and orders were issued by him in his No. 4892 of 10th July 1879, supplementing those contained in Appendix XXI of Barkley's "Directions to Revenue Officers." Summary enquiries into the status of occupancy tenants, or into the rights of owners and mortgagees, etc., and papers showing the alterations in the village administration papers, have been ordered to be kept in perpetuity. The record of the distribution of the revenue over each estate is also to be preserved, if containing anything special; and all attestation papers endorsed with orders of Deputy Superintendents or Superintendents will be kept in the Record office for six years. The other miscellaneous papers from which the actual record has been faired, it was considered unnecessary to preserve. The value of the rough records of Settlement in deciding suits brought to contest a Settlement entry is very great; at the same time there must be a limit to the period within which a reference is allowed from the faired record to these.

114 The Government rights in kankar have been carefully recorded; a list of the villages of each tahsil in which kankar is found and worked, with the numbers of the fields beneath which the beds are situated, will be found among the Settlement records. All land owned or held by Government was made the subject of a separate brief case and reported on to the department concerned in its title. A map has been prepared which shows the exact state of things as regards the Government title or possession in roads, canals, gardens, bungalows, tahsils, etc. etc. The record of *nazul* plots was also examined and corrected: a number of patches of land which were confiscated in 1857 had never been made properly subject to the right of Government: the cases were now duly reported to the Deputy Commissioner for orders. They occurred chiefly in Rindhana (Gohāna) and Rohtak and round Bahadurgarh. The practise of taking up land without paying compensation has led to the anomaly of the land under Government gardens, tanks, and even a tahsil not being owned by Government; there is no dispute, of course, as to Government's possession in these cases. The question of the title of Government in the canal lands. lands under the main canals and distributaries, rest-houses, gardens, etc., was one that caused much trouble and investigation. The case deserves full notice as an excellent example as to how a matter can drag on for years where two departments are concerned: this matter was pending from 1873 to 1880 A. D., although the Financial Commissioner had laid it down in the first year of the Settlement that it was desirable to obtain a title for Government in the lands at an early stage of the work. The facts are these. At the last Settlement of 1840, either designedly or because the Irrigation department was not consulted or represented in the matter, the land in question was, as a rule, recorded as the common property of the village or of some sub-division of the village, or of private individuals (the areas under each

head being in the proportions of about $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$), and in the possession only of Government. The alteration of this entry in the records of the present Settlement could only be made in one of the two legal ways, i.e., by consent of both parties concerned, or in pursuance of a judicial order. The Irrigation Department wished, if possible, to get a better title than one of mere possession, and the Settlement Officers were instructed to do all that they could to induce the people to consent to the lands being entered as Government property in the present papers. It was maintained by the Canal officers that compensation had been paid for the land in question, but that the papers had been burnt in the Mutiny. This, except in rare instances, is not likely, as in the earlier days of our administration it was usual for Government to take up land without payment, and to restore it to the villages when no longer required. Moreover, in some cases the land had been taken possession of since last Settlement, and the people had been paying the revenue assessed on it all along. The land under the main distributaries came into Government possession only after 1866, when, in consequence of the imposition of higher occupier rates, the Irrigation Department decided to relieve the people of the trouble of maintaining and clearing these water-courses; for these the Department asked only for a title of exclusive possession as long as they should be maintained. For the lands under the drainage channels in Sampla and the new water-courses in Gohána compensation had been duly paid, and they were entered up as Government property; while for the lands under the main canal, Government, in its No. 362 of 3rd September 1873 ordered that, if possible, they should be recorded as the property of Govern-

First orders.

ment, and, if not, as the common property of the villages, subject to the exclusive right of possession by Government as long as the canal was maintained; the lands under the gardens and bungalows were to be taken up, and paid for, if they could not be otherwise acquired. The Settlement Officers accordingly set to work, and did their best to persuade the people to consent to what was wanted, and in most cases with some success. The results were reported at various times in 1875 and 1876, and a *resumé* of the whole subject was forwarded to the Financial Commissioner under the Settlement Officer's No. 154 of 12th July 1878. Consi-

Action taken.

dering that the question was raised in the interests of the Canal Department, such assistance and co-operation as was to be expected from the Canal officers was not received by the Settlement Department. It was only after repeated requests, and indeed after the matter had been reported to Government, that they consented to point out the limits of their possession, and deputed officials to see to the correctness of the Settlement records; they declined to bring a trial suit to establish the proprietary right of Government where the Settlement Officer failed to secure it by consent of the people, and they seemed to think Government was wronged because the records were not altered according to their mere assertions. Ten cases of disputed possession, which were examined into on the spot by myself and the Executive Engineer in the spring of 1878, were allowed to remain without orders or even acknowledgment till the end of Settlement,

and were then summarily decided by Mr. Purser. At last final orders on the whole question were issued on a letter of the Financial Commissioner, Mr. J. B. Lyall, No. 261 of 2nd March 1879, by the Government. (Irrigation Department) letter No. 294 of 20th January 1880,—just five years after the Financial Commissioner, then Mr. Egerton, gave his first instructions on the subject. In his letter the Financial Commissioner accepted generally the views maintained by the Rohtak Settlement Officers. He believed that probably no compensation had been paid for the land, but that, as was usual formerly, the people had consented to its appropriation by Government *with regard to the purpose for which it was required*, and that they were, therefore, morally entitled to receive the land back when it was no longer needed for that purpose. He was also of opinion that the question of Government title arising from long possession should not be raised; considering the nature of the entries at the last Settlement, it is very doubtful if the Government possession could be considered other than permissive since that time. Accordingly he proposed, and Government sanctioned his proposals, (1) that where there was reason to believe that compensation had been paid, and the people admitted the Government title, the entry of the Government proprietary right should be made, but that if they did not admit it, the

Final orders.

possession of Government merely should be entered and the claim of Government to be owner noted; and

(2) that where there was reason to believe that no compensation had been paid, if the people had consented to give Government the full proprietary title, this entry should be modified by the addition of the reversionary right of the people, and if they did not consent, the Government should be entered in exclusive possession, as in the former records, and admitting only a reversionary right of the villagers. Disputes as to possession were to be summarily decided on their merits in the usual way. The results of the entries made as to these lands in Rohtak under the above instructions were reported in the Settlement Officer's Nos. 68 of 13th April, 1880, and 103 of June 23rd, 1880. The real point at the bottom of the dispute was the question of the ownership of trees, should the land be given up to the people when it ceased to be required for the use of the canal. This, however, is not an insuperable one. In many places trees belong to a different person from the owner of the land in which they stand. When land now under the canal is restored to the people, the trees will remain Government property as before, and will be looked after by Government officers; any attempt to cut them would be punishable as stealing. The efforts made by Settlement Officers in the matter of securing Government a proprietary title were unceasing; not a stone was left unturned to secure this end, and where there was failure, no blame can be fairly attached to the Settlement Department. The records and maps prepared are themselves evidence of the care bestowed on the subject; and I cannot help saying that our success would have been greater but for the peculiar feelings which many of the villages, justly or unjustly, entertained towards the Irrigation Department.

115. The summary investigations into the rights of occupancy tenants were very carefully made, and the papers have been filed in the district Record office. Care in the investigation was all the more necessary because when the old records were made, and even when Jhajjar was settled, the great discussion as to the status and rights of this class in the Punjab had not taken place, and the Punjab Tenancy Act had not been passed. The tenants were classed as follows, under the various Sections and Clauses of the Tenancy Act—XXVIII of 1868 :—

TAHSIL.	NUMBER OF OCCUPANCY TENANTS CLASSED							
	Under Section V.					Under Section VI.	Under Section VIII.	TOTAL.
	Clause 1.	Clause 2.	Clause 3.	Clause 4.	Total.			
Gohana ...	1,025	74	15	...	1,114	612	64	1,790
Rohtak ...	1,144	...	14	...	1,158	899	87	2,144
Sampla ...	2,248	...	3	31	2,282	1,121	32	3,435
Jhajjar ...	1,270	18	127	3	1,418	3,117	74	4,609
TOTAL ...	5,687	92	159	34	5,972	5,749	257	11,978

The numbers entered under Sections 5 and 6 are nearly equal, but the area in the latter case is more than a third larger than in the former ; the great majority of tenants in Jhajjar fall under the latter head, as, according to the old practise, a rent over and above the revenue was fixed as payable by them at the Regular Settlement. In the northern tahsils no rent was fixed in 1838, and the occupancy tenants were recorded, as a rule, as paying at the same rates as the proprietors. This clause was held ultimately by the Financial Commissioner to bar any suits being brought for rent until the new assessments had been announced. The local officers, with the exception of Mr. Purser, had throughout, unfortunately, held the opposite view, and many cases had been decided in conformity with that in which the rents fixed will, of course, stand. The entry now made in the Administration Papers is that the people will follow the provisions of the Tenancy Act hereafter : the old clause, if repeated, would prevent rents ever being sued for by the owners. In some cases, no doubt, as, for instance, where a claim for the proprietary has been compromised by the plaintiff accepting the status of occupancy tenant, rent cannot be fairly imposed ; but the origin of the tenures would show that in most cases it can be. Of the occupancy tenants 1,589 are "religious" men,