

REPORT  
OF  
SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS  
IN THE  
SEHAHPUR KANDI TRACT  
OF THE  
GURDASPUR DISTRICT,  
BY  
CHARLES A. ROE, C.S.,  
SETTLEMENT OFFICER, HOSHIARPUR.



LAHORE:

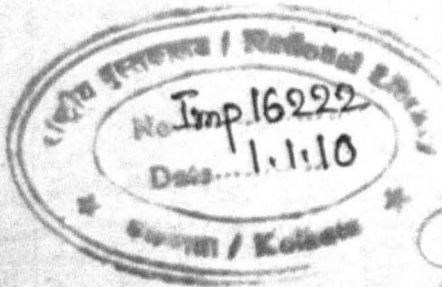
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No. 950 S, dated Lahore, 18th September 1876.

From—W. M. YOUNG, Esquire, Settlement Secretary to  
Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

To—LEPEL GRIFFIN, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to  
Government Punjab.

I am desired to forward, for the orders of Government, Mr. Roe's report on the Revision of Settlement in the Shahpur Kandi tract of the Gurdáspur district. The report was submitted to the Commissioner in February 1873. In June 1876 the Commissioner reported that the copy received in his office had been lost, so the Financial Commissioner sent for the original report, and, in consideration of the time which has already elapsed, proceeded to review it without further delay. The Commissioner has apologized for the delay in a letter which is herewith forwarded for perusal.

2. The circumstances under which this settlement was undertaken were the same as those connected with the settlement of the Una circle, in the Hoshiárpur district. Both these tracts were settled together with the Kángra district by Mr. G. C. Barnes in 1852. The term of settlement does not expire until 1881-82, and the only operations with which Mr. Roe was entrusted were the revision of the records of rights and collection of agricultural statistics. The tract under settlement was transferred from the Kángra to the Gurdáspur district in 1869.

As no assessment has been made, the Financial Commissioner will only notice briefly the points in the report which appear to be important.

3. The report regarding Dalhousie, to which reference is made in paragraph 5, related to the status of tenants of lands in the Dalhousie station and Balún cantonment. In your No. 1779,



dated 8th May 1875, the orders of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor on this subject were communicated. The determination of their status was held to have been less favorable to Government than was warranted by the consideration that the tracts in question were obtained by the British Government from the Chamba Rájá free of all encumbrances. It was thought unadvisable, however, to place Dalhousie and Balún under settlement (which, after the issue of a notification declaring settlement operations completed, was the only way to revise the entries), and an appeal to the courts was held to be the best remedy in all cases where the municipal committee or the military authorities thought fit to dispute the entries.

4. The assessment circles formed by Mr. Roe are nearly Assessment circles. conterminous with the old talúgas into which the tract was divided in Imperial times. As remarked in the review on the Una Report, the correctness of this formation of assessment circles has not been tested, no assessment having been made, and the officer who re-assesses the tract will have to consider their appropriateness afresh.

5. The Financial Commissioner demurs to the statement. Qánungos. made in paragraph 28 of the report, that no attempt has been made to revive the hereditary character of the qánungos. The principle enunciated in the rules under the Land Revenue Act, that in the appointment of these officers "hereditary claims shall be regarded so far as is compatible with the selection of fit persons," has, speaking generally, been held to govern these appointments.

6. In paragraph 38 Mr. Roe states that he collected Collection of village statistics, statistics regarding each village and entered remarks in the note-books regarding the capability of each in regard to assessment; but that he fixed no jannas, for reasons which are quite sufficient. It may be remarked that as apparently no case was reported for reduction in consequence of these enquiries, a consideration of the assets, as evidenced by these statistics, did not in any case lead to the conclusion that relief was required.

7. Cultivation was found to have increased by 13,000 Present and past resources compared. acres, or 28 per cent. on the former measurements, the increase having taken place in each circle, one only excepted. Mr. Barnes assess-

ment fell at an incidence of Re. 1-6-1 per cultivated acre. The same assessment falls upon present cultivation at the rate of Re. 1-1-2 per acre. Of the area under crops 82 per cent. is of the first order of value, comprising chiefly wheat, goji (wheat and barley), rice, jowár, barley and cotton. How far prices have risen is not stated in the report, but there is no reason to suppose that this tract affords an exception to the general rise which has taken place in the last 20 years.

8. Mr. Roe has framed an estimate of the amount which represents the Government share of the produce, assuming that this share is one-sixth. It appears that Mr. Roe considers his produce estimate low, because he thinks it would be possible to assess above it. The Financial Commissioner observes that the subject is purely speculative, as the test of framing an assessment upon the estimate is absent. The assumed yield per acre seems very moderate (the highest for wheat is 7 maunds to the acre). As no statement of prices has been supplied, the Financial Commissioner is unable to pronounce upon the estimated value of produce.

9. With reference to the remarks appended to paragraph 40 of Mr. Roe's report, relating to the carriage of troops from Patháńkot to Dalhousie, the pressure caused by requisitions for carriage for troops between Patháńkot and Dalhousie, the Financial Commissioner believes that correspondence has taken place between the Commissioner and Government on this subject. The difficulty arises from the break in carriage at Patháńkot. The state of things described by Mr. Roe affords an argument for the construction of a cart-road from Patháńkot to Dalhousie. Until this is done, the pressure will, no doubt, be felt.

10. The determination of Government rights in the forests of this tract \* has formed the subject of a prolonged correspondence. In your No. 63 F dated 17th February 1874, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor intimated that the system on which the Hoshiárpur and Kángra forests have recently been demarcated might with advantage be applied to the Gurdáspur tract, and proposals to this effect were called for. There are, however, difficulties to be dealt with in the settlement of this question, arising from the large intermixture of cultivated

Right of Government in forests.

\* Paragraphs 48-54 of Settlement Officer's report.

land with the forests. Rules were framed by the District Officer in October 1874, which were referred to the Conservator of Forests for opinion. His proposals differed considerably from those made by the Deputy Commissioner; so the Financial Commissioner requested that a joint report might be framed by the Deputy Commissioner and an officer of the Forest Department for the disposal of these differences. This report has not yet been submitted. The Financial Commissioner hopes to obtain it at no distant date.

11. The grazing lease granted for life to Phínú, of which mention is made in paragraph 56, has expired owing to Phínú's death. The Financial Commissioner has instituted enquiries as to the disposal of the lease subsequently.

12. The enquiry into the status of tenants with right of occupancy, reported in paragraph 65 of the report is similar to that made by Mr. Roe in the Una circle. The Financial Commissioner has given his opinion on this procedure in paragraph 19 of his review on the settlement of the latter tract. He is inclined to think that the view therein given regarding the inadmissibility of such a procedure subsequent to the passing of the Land Revenue Act, 1871, requires modification. There appears to be no objection to the classification during settlement operations of tenants with right of occupancy under the 5 headings contained in Sections 5 and 6 of Act XXVIII of 1868. The classification is not, strictly speaking, an alteration; it is a refinement upon the rough classification of the first settlement. The conditions for rebuttal remain as before. The record has only presumptive validity, and therefore the settlements courts will, no doubt, classify those tenants only about whose status there is no room for doubt, leaving the doubtful cases to be decided judicially. Under precautions of this kind the system of classifying tenants with right of occupancy at a revised settlement appears unobjectionable.

13. The form for showing tenants' holdings, to which Mr. Roe takes exception in paragraph 66, has been altered; and that which is now prescribed by the rules issued under the Punjab Land Revenue Act answers the requirements, which he considers to be insufficiently provided for in the old form.

14. In paragraph 67 Mr. Roe states that entries relating to the rights of landlord and tenant are deemed to be agreements and cannot be set aside by the courts. This does not correctly represent the present state of the law. Ordinary entries in regard to matters in Chapter II of the Tenancy Act were not deemed to be agreements, even when Section 2 of that Act remained in full force. That section has, moreover, been modified by Section 21 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, and entries relating to the matters dealt with in Chapter III, IV, V, and VI of the Tenancy Act are now only deemed to be agreements, if made in records framed previously to the passing of the Land Revenue Act, 1871.

15. In commenting (paragraph 74) upon the alteration in the powers of Settlement Officers in regard to correcting mistakes in former settlements, which was brought about by the Punjab Land Revenue Act, Mr. Roe does not mention all the provisions in accordance with which such corrections can be made. Besides Section 19 of the Land Revenue Act, which provides for entries being made in accordance with facts which have occurred since the former settlement, and judicial decisions, Section 20 provides a procedure by which any person who considers himself aggrieved by any entry in regard to land of which he is in possession may obtain redress. It is true that, owing to the fact that a suit brought under this section requires a stamp of Rs. 10, the procedure is rendered somewhat expensive, and is seldom resorted to. In some districts the stamp has been reduced to 8 annas to meet this difficulty.

16. The system of attestation by deposition, alluded to in paragraph 77, has since been abandoned as too voluminous. The object of this was, the Financial Commissioner thinks, to give the record additional force, although Mr. Roe denies this. The Financial Commissioner has elsewhere given his views at length on the inadvisability of incurring the expense and delay resulting from the system.

17. The settlement now reported was taken in hand at the close of 1869 by Mr. W. M. Young, who carried on the work until October 1870, when he was succeeded by Mr. Roe, by whom it was



completed at the close of 1872. The cost to Imperial revenues was Rs. 27,297. In addition to this fees were levied from the people, amounting to Rs. 16,808, of which Rs. 6,279 were borrowed from the Una circle.

18. The Financial Commissioner recommends that the Government sanction solicited. sanction of Government be accorded to the records prepared by Mr. Roe, as requested in his paragraph 82.

19. The work done by Mr. Young during the first year of settlement, and from that time to its conclusion by Mr. Roe, who was most ably seconded by Pandit Maharáj Kishan until his promotion to a higher post in Ajmere, is, in the Financial Commissioner's opinion, worthy of the commendation of Government.

No. 1246, dated Lahore, 24th October 1876.

From--LEPEL GRIFFIN, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government, Punjab.

To--the Secretary to Financial Commissioner Punjab.

I am desired to return the enclosures of your letter No. 950 S dated 1st ultimo, submitting Mr. Roe's report on the revision of settlement in the Shahpur Kandi tract of the Gurdáspur district, and to convey the following remarks and orders of the Lieutenant Governor.

2. The remark of the Financial Commissioner in your paragraph 5, regarding the hereditary character of the qánúngos, appears to His Honor to be correct.

3. With reference to your paragraph 10, I am to express the Lieutenant Governor's regret for the delay which has occurred in the determination of Government rights in the forests of the tract reported on.

4. The Lieutenant Governor concurs in the opinion of the Financial Commissioner regarding the classification of tenants during settlement operations, as stated in your paragraph 12.

5. His Honor also endorses the construction put in your paragraph 14 on Section 2 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, as amended by Section 21 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act.

6. The records prepared by Mr. Roe are sanctioned by Government, as proposed in your paragraph 18.

7. The Lieutenant Governor accords his commendation to the work done by Messrs. W. M. Young and Roe and Pandit Mahārāj Kishan, as solicited in your concluding paragraph.

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No. 288.

FROM

CHARLES A. ROE, ESQUIRE,  
*Settlement Officer, Hoshiárpur.*

TO

MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. TAYLOR, C.B., C.S.I.,  
*Commissioner Anritsar.*

*Dated Lahore, the 15th February 1873.*

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the final report on the Settlement Operations lately in progress in the Shahpur Kandi tract of the Gurdáspur district.

2. These operations were commenced under the orders of Government, published by Notification No. 1075 in the *Punjab Gazette* of 2nd September 1869; they were brought to a close in September last, and the whole of the records have now been made over to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdáspur, and filed by him in the District Office. There has been no revision of the assessment, which was made by Mr. Barnes in 1862, and which will not expire until 1881-82. The tract recently under settlement formerly formed part of the Kángra district, the records of which were revised by Mr. Lyall a few years ago. It was thought advisable to extend this revision to those parts of the old Kángra district which now form part of Gurdáspur, and to that part of Hoshiárpur which was also settled by Mr. Barnes. With the exception of fixing a new assessment, the whole of the operations were the same as those required at a regular revision of settlement, that is, the whole tract had to be remeasured, the papers attested, and a new record of rights prepared. This work was commenced by Mr. W. M. Young, C.S. I succeeded him at the end of 1870, when the measurements had been almost completed, and since then I have remained continuously in charge of the operations.

Plan of report.

3. In the following report I propose—

- I.—To describe briefly the geographical features of the tract.
- II.—To give a short sketch of its former political history.
- III.—To review the statistics relating to its fiscal history.
- IV.—To explain the records that have now been prepared, and examine the most important of the facts brought to light by them.

B

## CHAPTER I—GEOGRAPHY.

4. The tract takes its names from the town of Shahpur on the Rávi, and the hilly country known by the name of Kandi. It is bounded on the east by the Chaki, a tributary of the Beas, and on the west by the Rávi; beyond the Chaki lies the Kangra district, and beyond the Rávi the Jamunú territory. The northern boundary is the Chamba State, the line of demarcation being the range of hills running almost straight from the Chaki to the Rávi about 30 miles to the north of Pathankot. On the south the boundary is the same as that of the British territory previously to the annexation of the Punjab; roughly speaking, it would be defined by drawing a straight line, parallel to the northern boundary; from the head of the Bári Doab Canal at Mádhopur to the point where the Chaki joins the Beas, a little below the town of Mirthal.

5. Within these boundaries there are 140 villages, excluding Dalhousie, about which a separate report has been already submitted, and which is not included in any way in this report or the accompanying returns.

Number of villages. At the Regular Settlement the number was only 136, but this was only the number of the mehals, not of the villages, so that the increase is only nominal. Three villages conterminous with Pathankot were included with it.

Explanation of apparent increase. In a single mahal, and in the same way two villages were included under the common name of Najú Chak.

At the commencement of the present settlement operations it was proposed to submit a report for their separation into distinct mehals, but subsequently I considered it unnecessary to do so. A village and a mahal are entirely distinct; the latter merely represents a certain extent of revenue-paying land grouped under a single name in the Government records, purely for the sake of revenue convenience. Generally, no doubt, in the Punjab a mahal and a village is one and the same thing, but it is by no means necessary that they should be so. The rights and responsibilities of a village are in no way affected by the question whether it is entered separately in the Government list or jointly with another village. I therefore considered it unnecessary to formally apply for sanction to a complete separation of mehals. I thought it quite sufficient simply to declare that the lands concerned were, and always had been, entirely distinct villages, separately, not jointly, responsible for their quota of the revenue of the common mahal, and having entirely separate rights and obligations.

6. The total area is shown by the new measurements to be 1,15,891 acres, or an increase of 49,308, or 74 per cent., on the measurements of the Regular Settlement; of this increase 13,032 acres, or 28 per cent., in the former area has taken place under the head of "cultivated and recently abandoned land," whilst the increase under the heads of "waste and culturable" is no less than 36,276 acres, or nearly 175 on the former



area; in fact it is even larger, for the maafi land, which, as unassessed, is included under the head of waste, has decreased considerably. The increase in the cultivation is due partly to more accurate measurement, and partly to the breaking up of new lands since the settlement; the increase in the uncultivated area arises simply because no attempt was formerly made to measure the waste at all. The population is now 59,048, or 650 to each square mile of cultivation; there are no data to show what it was at the last settlement, so no comparison can be made.

7. About Pathámkot the land commences to undulate gently.

Physical features.

The first slope is a steady but very gradual decline for four or five miles; then comes a shorter but steeper rise for about two miles. Here the low hills may be said to fairly commence, and they continue in a series of irregular but moderate ranges until they reach the Dhár Dulla hills, about 18 miles from Pathámkot. This range runs across from the Chaki to the Rávi; on the north it descends abruptly into a fertile valley of about 10 miles in breadth; and where the hills commence to rise again, British territory ceases. Throughout the whole tract the surface of the soil is covered with large stones or boulders, which are more numerous in the north than in the south. No assessment being in progress, it is not perhaps quite correct to speak of assessment circles having been formed, but the following appear to be the natural divisions of the country, and the statistics have been grouped accordingly.

8. In no part is irrigation from wells practised, nor can any use

Assessment circles.

be made of the Rávi; its banks are too precipitous. The villages are therefore divided into—1st, those that irrigate from the Chaki; 2nd, those that depend entirely on rain.

9. The Chaki villages have again been divided into upper and

The Chaki circles.

lower circles. The features of the two are mainly the same, but the upper villages possess this great advantage, that they can help themselves first to the water, whilst in seasons of drought the lower villages often suffer severely.

10. In the villages dependent on rain the reverse is the case,

Paláhi and Kandi circles,

i. e., those nearest the plains are better off than the more hilly ones. The reason of this is twofold; in the first place the soil is better; in the second the rain-fall, if not actually greater, is more certain and seasonable. The 28 villages nearest the plains constitute what is known as the Paláhi circle, and the remaining 35 form the Kandi circle. They correspond in the main with the old talúgas of the same name. The only difference is that the old Paláhi talúga contained only the villages near the Rávi; the Paláhi Assessment Circle extends through Pathámkot until it joins the villages irrigated by the Chaki.

11. It is unnecessary to compare the different circles one with another; the statistics of each are separately given in Statement No. I. Their order of comparison of the circles. it would be—I, the upper Chaki; 2, the lower Chaki (each of these have more than 10 per cent. of their total area irrigated); 3, the Paláhi; 4, the Kandi circles. The details will be more fully considered under the head of fiscal history. Map No. I shows the limits of the different circles.

## CHAPTER II—HISTORY, POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE.

12. The country was formerly divided into the following talúqas, the names and limits of which, with the exception of Kúntarpur, have continued in local use down to the present time :—

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Shahpur.   | 5. Kúntarpur. |
| 2. Paláhi.    | 6. Garotah.   |
| 3. Kandi.     | 7. Súraipur.  |
| 4. Patháńkot. | 8. Mířthal.   |

13. The Shahpur, Paláhi, and Kandi talúqas were originally united and formed part of the territories of the Núrpur Rájahs. This dynasty was established about 700 years ago by Jet Pál, alias Rána Bhēt, a Táur Rájput from Delhi, who settled at Patháńkot and took possession of all the country at the foot of the hills.

About 230 years ago the capital was removed to Núrpur. The territory continued undivided down to the time of Rájah Jugat Chand, who is mentioned by Mr. Barnes (para. 50 of his report) as having, "in the time of Shah Jahán, A.D. 1646, and in the service of that Emperor, conducted a most difficult but successful enterprize against the Azbeks of Balkh and Badakshán at the head of 14,000 Rájputs raised in his own country."

14. This Rájah had two sons, the youngest of whom, Baháo Singh, Baháo Singh, alias Muríd became a Muhammadan, taking the name of Muríd Khán, and obtained a separate grant in his own favor of the Núrpur territory between the Chaki and the Kávi. Over this his family ruled for four generations, the line of the elder brother continuing to rule in Núrpur.

15. In Sambat 1825, A.D. 1768, Sayad Khán succeeded to the ráj established by Baháo Singh. He died in Sambat 1838, A.D. 1781, leaving a widow and two sons, minors. The country was now in the state of anarchy which intervened between the break up of the Moghal Empire and the establishment of the power of Ranjít Singh. Petty Sikh Sardárs were setting up independent principalities all over the country. One of these, Sardár

Jai Singh, Kanhia, had established himself at Batála, and held, either himself or through his lieutenants, all the country in the north of the Bári Doáb. One of these men, Sardár Amr Singh, ruled at Sujánpur, and another, Sardár Tára Singh, at Pathámkot. The widow of Sayad Khán placed herself and her children under the protection of Amr Singh at Sujánpur, and the result was an immediate partition of her dominions. The two Sikhs took the country up to the low hills, Amr Singh annexing the 18 villages near the Rávi forming the Paláhi talúqa, and Tára Singh the remaining 26 villages, which constituted the talúqa Kandi. The 27 villages beyond the low hills, which formed the Shahpur talúqa, were at once resumed by Pirthi Singh, Rájah of Núrpur, who may be fairly considered their legitimate ruler.

16. The remaining history of the Shahpur talúqas is identical with that of the Núrpur dynasty, the fall of  
 End of the Núrpur ráj. which is described at length by Mr. Barnes in paras. 67, 70, 89, 98 of his Settlement Report. Rájah Pirthi Singh was succeeded by his son, Rájah Bír Singh, who fell before Ranjít Singh in A.D. 1815, and whose life was spent in vain endeavors to recover his dominions. After his defeat in 1815 he escaped to Chamba, but shortly afterwards sought an asylum at Ludhiána. He was expelled from there in consequence of his intrigues against the Maharájah, and soon afterwards he appeared in arms in his own territory. He was speedily crushed by the Sikh commander Sardár Desa Singh, and, flying to Chamba, was given up by the Rájah to Ranjít Singh, who imprisoned him at Govindgarh for seven years. He was then ransomed by the Chamba Rájah, and took up his residence at the shrine of Damtál. He lived here till the war between the Sikhs and the English broke out in 1845, when he again raised his former subjects, and laid siege to Núrpur. He died before the walls of the fort, but not before the campaign had been decided in favor of the British, to whom the Núrpur Principality passed as a part of the Sikh territory then ceded. Jágirs were given to the members of the former Royal family.

17. Núrpur, including Shahpur, has ever since formed part of British territory, but two unsuccessful attempts  
 Insurrection by Rám Singh were made to recover it for its former masters by Rám Singh, son of the late Rájah's wazír. In August 1848 he made a sudden inroad from the Jammú hills, and seized the fort at Shahpur. He was quickly driven out of it, and fled to the Sikh camp at Basáoli. In January 1849 he obtained two Sikh Regiments from Rájah Sher Singh, and again crossing the Rávi established himself in a strong position in the Dhár Dulla hills. He was driven out of this, and eventually captured and sent as a prisoner to Singapur.

18. I have already explained how the 18 villages of this talúqa were annexed by Amr Singh to his petty  
 Talúqa Paláhi. independency at Sujánpur. This man was formerly in the service of Sardár Jai Singh, of Batála, and was by him made lambardár and quasi-lieutenant at Dharmkot. On the break up of the Moghal Empire, Ajáib Rái, the qánúngo, had established

himself at Sujánpur and Patháńkot. From the former place he was expelled by Amr Singh, who set up his own rule there, and, as already stated, annexed the 18 Paláhi villages in Sambat 1838, A.D. 1781. He was succeeded by his son Budh Singh, who, in Sambat 1871, A.D. 1814, had to surrender his independence to Ranjít Singh and accept a service jagír.

19. This has no separate history; as soon as it ceased to form part of Núrpur; it was incorporated with Talúqa Kandi, Talúqa Patháńkot and share its fate.

20. Ajáib Rái, the qánúngo, was supplanted by Sardár Nand Singh, Bhangi, in Sambat 1818, A.D. 1761. Talúqa Patháńkot.

Nand Singh died in Sambat 1832, A.D. 1775, leaving no sons. His widow invited Tára Singh, son of Sardár Matsada Singh, of Fatahgarh, Batála, to come and marry her daughter and succeed her husband. He came, and immediately put both mother and daughter to death, and took the whole of Nand Singh's possession. Six years afterwards he annexed the 26 villages of the Kandi talúqa. He remained independent down to Sambat 1864, A.D. 1807, when he had to yield his possessions to Ranjít Singh and accept a jagír. Patháńkot henceforth formed part of the Sikh territory, and as such passed under English rule.

21. The three preceding talúqas formed part of the Núrpur territory, and lay in compact blocks, and had distinctive features of their own. The remaining talúqas are of a different character; they are composed of the villages lying between the Chaki and the Beas, very few of which ever belonged to Núrpur; and their only distinctive features are that they were held by different Sardárs. It will be sufficient to state very briefly how they were held during the short period of their independence, and when they fell into the hands of Ranjít Singh.

22. Sardár Desa Singh was a relation of Tára Singh of Patháńkot, and Jai Singh of Batála. With their assistance Talúqa Kúntarpur, he made himself master of the 45 villages of the Kúntarpur, Mírthal, Garotah, and Súrajpur iláqas. After the war between Sansár Chand, of Kángra, and Ráni Sada Kour, wife of Gurbaksh Singh, and mother-in-law of Ranjít Singh, in which the Ráni was utterly defeated, she imagined that the Katoch invasion had been caused by Tegh Singh, who had succeeded his father Desa Singh. With the assistance of Jai Singh, she therefore, in Sambat 1832, took possession of the whole country, leaving to Tegh Singh only a jagír of the six villages of Kúntarpur, Khadawán, Bhátwán, Chak Nangli, Simli, and Papiál. These were continued to his son Sher Singh. On his refusing service under Mahárájah Sher Singh, Khadawán was resumed, and some villages near Batála given in exchange. The jagír was continued to Bībí Rúpán; on her death the British Government resumed all but Kúntarpur, which was continued for the lives of Bhág Singh and Budh Singh, the sons, and Nihál Singh, the grandson of Sher Singh. Nihál Singh is still alive; Bhág Singh and



Budh Singh rendered good service to Government, and their shares were consequently continued to their children for life.

23. This formed a part of the old Kúntarpur circle held by Desa Singh. When he was dispossessed in Sambat 1832 by Sardár Jai Singh and the Ráni, this talúqa was given to her husband Gurbakhsh Singh. The Ráni was taken prisoner in Sambat 1870 by Sher Singh, and the tract passed into his possession. On Sher Singh's death in Sambat 1893 it was made over to Hira Singh.

24. Like Garotah, Mírtal formed a part of Kúntarpur. When it was taken by the Ráni in Sambat 1832 and was given to her relatives, the sons of Bhag Singh. In Sambat 1864 it came into the possession of Ranjít Singh, and was managed on behalf of the Prince Sher Singh by Lála Jiwan Mal. When, in Sambat 1869, the prince's jagírs were transferred to Kanhwán, this tract was given to Kishn Singh, wazír of the Goler Rájah, as a reward for services rendered in the Kángra campaign. It was resumed on annexation, and other villages given in exchange.

25. The four villages forming the Súrajpur talúqa always belonged to Núrpur, and were absorbed by Ranjít Singh with the rest of that territory.

26. Núrpur fell in A.D. 1815, and the petty Sikh chief had been swallowed up before. The whole of the territory was brought under the general Sikh system of administration. Lála Sukh Diál ruled from A.D. 1815 to 1818; Moti Rám from 1818 to 1819; Garú Wazír, Lahori, from 1819 to 1821. Khewa Singh succeeded, but was speedily removed, and the administration then passed into the hands of Sardár Desa Singh of Majítha, who, with his son Lehna Singh, held it until it passed to the English. Their official title was that of Názim; their duties, and the manner in which they were performed, are described at length by Mr. Barnes in paras. 325 and following of his report. The actual administration was carried on by the Kárdárs, the nominees of the Názim, one of whom was appointed for each parganah. Mr. Barnes sums up the character of the Kárdárs generally by saying that "the problem of his life was to maintain cultivation at the highest possible level, and at the same time to keep the cultivator at the lowest point of depression." It is needless to enquire how he strove to solve this problem.

27. The Názims and Kárdárs were merely the official nominees of the government of the day. Nominally at least they received regular salaries, though their main income depended on what they could extort from the people. Under these Government officials were another class of men, hereditary representatives of the people, who were expected by the Government to perform certain duties, and who

were summarily deprived of their position if they failed to do so. These were the qánúngos, the chaudhrís, the kotwáls, and the village headmen.

28. The qánúngo was a registrar appointed under the Emperors, one for each talúqa, more for the sake of a general uniformity with the Moghal system than because they were really required. "I doubt," says Mr. Barnes, "if their duties were ever more than nominal. These functions have long since fallen into disuse, and, as their services were not required, they have gradually lost their privileges and emoluments, and retain nothing but the name." It is needless to add that under the English system the qánúngo has always been simply an official, and that no attempt has been made to revive their hereditary character.

29. Mr. Barnes says :—"The chaudhrís are another class of agricultural officers raised by the Moghals. These functionaries are found only in those districts which were reserved as imperial demesnes. The extent of their jurisdiction seldom comprised more than eight or ten villages, and in every talúqa there were several chaudhrís. The duties were chiefly fiscal. They were expected to encourage cultivation, replace absconders, and provide generally for the security of the Government revenue. They were also entrusted with police powers, and were responsible for the arrest of criminals and prevention of crime. Their emoluments were usually 2 per cent. on the gross produce, and sometimes the Government conferred a small jágir." Mr. Barnes goes on to say that they were introduced into these parts more for the sake of uniformity than anything else; that in the whole of the Kángra parganah only two could be found at the time of the Regular Settlement who retained any part of their ancient privileges. They had, nearly all of them, sunk down into mere village headmen, and in many cases they merely retained the name. The chaudhrís of Indaura, in Núrpur, had, however, owing to their Katoch origin, retained both their influence and their privileges. They rendered good service in the disturbances of 1848-49, and wherever Mr. Barnes found them in possession of any rights he confirmed them in them.

30. Somewhat similar was the location of the kotwáls, for a description of whom I must again quote Mr. Barnes. He says (para. 116 of his Kángra Report :—"In the old principality of Núrpur there is a grade of hereditary officers, a post of the old Hindú revenue system, called kotwáls. The office is of very ancient origin, and partly from its antiquity, and partly from its better adaptation to local wants, the duties and privileges continue unimpaired to this day. The kotwál is the agricultural chief of a circle of villages, grouped together from physical analogy, and called kotwáls. In our maps and records these jurisdictions are called talúqas. The duties of a kotwál were not only fiscal and criminal, but also military. In case of emergency he was required to repair at the head of all the fighting men in the talúqa to the scene

of danger. The people, if they wanted a pleader, deputed the kotwál \* \* \* \* \*. His influence was unbounded, and in a political crisis the people would watch his proceedings and submit their judgment to his. Whatever course he took they would be sure to follow \* \* \* \* \*. These functionaries are remunerated in land free of rent, and whenever I found them I maintained their offices and emoluments entire."

31. The position and duties of these men are so well known that it is unnecessary to do more than state that, at the present revision of settlement records, wherever there was more than one lambardár, one has been appointed chief in accordance with the system introduced by Mr. Prinsep and approved by Government. No provision can be made for their remuneration until the assessment is revised; but where the "sasans," or plots of rent-free land, mentioned by Mr. Barnes in his para. 118, exist, I have declared that on the death of the present incumbents they shall go solely to the chief lambardár.

32. The zaildárs appointed by Mr. Prinsep were intended to be, as far as possible, the representatives of the old chaudris and kotwáls, with this exception, that the present zaildárs have nothing to do with revenue matters. Wherever any lineal descendant of the old families has been found fit for the post, he has been appointed to it. Thus Phínú, who was kotwál of Shahpur under the Sikhs, is now zaildár of the same talúqa. In talúqa Kandi the post remained in the same family for many generations, and at annexation it was held by Singhára, who was confirmed by Mr. Barnes in the grant attached to the office. Singhára was succeeded by his eldest son, on whose death there was a dispute as to the succession. Colonel Lake considered that the office was not required, and refused to appoint any one, resuming the grant. Now that the office, or its equivalent, has been revived, Kanhiá, the next representative, has been appointed zaildár, and I have applied to Government for a restoration of the grant. The remaining three zaildárs cannot be said to possess any hereditary claims. Didú-Singh's ancestor was a refugee from Núrpur, who established himself near Pathámkot by favor of Sardár Tára Singh, but the family were old kotwáls in Núrpur. Bír Singh was an orderly of Ranjít Singh's; his family had employment about the court and made money, and have thus gained an influential position in their own country. In the same way Mokam made himself useful in revenue matters. These three men have been appointed on the ground of personal fitness rather than for any other reason.

33. The accompanying maps Nos. II, III, IV, show how nearly the present zaildárs' circles correspond with the old talúqas. As in the case of the chief lambardárs, the usual percentage on the Government revenue could not be awarded for the remuneration of the zaildárs, but it was found possible to give them a small allowance out of the patwáris' cess, which is higher than is necessary for the pay of these village servants, and which has never been enjoyed by them.

34. No change has been made in the duties or mode of appointment of the patwáris, but the circles of all of them have been made more compact and co-terminous with the zaildárs' circles, and one additional circle has been newly created. At the last settlement their remuneration was fixed at 2 per cent. on the jama, but subsequently it was found that in the Kángra district generally the number of patwáris was too small. In order to bring it up to its proper complement, the rate was raised from 2/ to 3/2 per cent. This has been levied for many years, but the readjustment of the patwáris' circles was allowed to wait over for the disposal of the Settlement officer. In Kángra Mr. Lyall raised the staff of patwáris to the required number; but as their pay did not absorb the whole cess, he devoted the surplus to the payment of the zaildárs. The same course has been followed in this parganah. The changes have been reported to you in detail, and they are shown in Statement V in the Appendix. The result of them is that—

1. All the circles have been made more compact and co-terminous with zaildárs' circles.
2. The majority of patwáris have received a substantial increase to their pay.
3. None of them have suffered a decrease of more than Rs. 5 a year.

These proposals have been formally sanctioned by Government in their Secretary's No. 1513 dated 23rd October 1872, to the address of the Financial Commissioner.

### CHAPTER III—FISCAL HISTORY.

35. As the tract recently under settlement does not form a complete fiscal division of the country, the compilation and comparison of its statistics is rather difficult. The totals of former collections, &c., are not to be found in Mr. Barnes' report, but can only be obtained, when they are complete for each village, by adding up all the different items. Thus it has been impossible to give the amount of Sikh collections. But the Estimate of Sikh collections. the amount of Sikh collections. But the Summary Settlement was based on a 10 per cent. reduction on the former collections, which would thus have been Rs. 66,833.

36. The Summary Settlement in the Núrpur parganah, of which these villages then formed a part, was carried out by Lieutenant Lake, but the demand was not reduced in the same ratio as in the other parganahs; for two years the jama was realized, but with difficulty, and a remission of Rs. 20,000 was granted on the whole parganah.

37. Mr. Barnes in his Kángra Report has explained at length the grounds on which his assessment was based. Referring to the Núrpur parganah, he points out that a low assessment is necessary, because—1, the high unirri-



gated lands are peculiarly liable to drought; 2, even in the talúqas nearest the plains, "although the character of the country is uniform and level, yet from the vicinity of the hills the soil in many places is poor, and encumbered with stones, the population is thin, and, the lands are slovenly tilled;" 3, a large proportion of the population were in the service of the Sikh government, and helped their relatives at home with remittances. They, or at any rate a great part of them, are now out of employ, and have to be supported by the land. On the whole, therefore, Mr. Barnes considered that the assessment must be still further reduced on the hill tracts, but that it might stand or even be slightly raised in the irrigated lands. Statement No. I accordingly shows that whilst the Kandi and Paláhi circles received a reduction, the jamas raised in both the upper and lower Chaki circles vary slightly in the former, and moderately in the latter. The net result was an increase of Rs. 2,435, or rather under 4 per cent. The total of the new jama Rs. was 63,193, giving on the total area of 45,595 acres a rate of 1-6-1 per acre.

38. As the present operations did not include a revision of the assessment, I made no attempt to calculate what would be a fair jama, or to work out the estimates on which it would be based. The statistics for each village have of course been duly collected and recorded in the village note-books, which have been prepared in English, in the same form as in other districts where the settlement has been lately revised. But to go further, and to place on record any opinion of what a new jama might be, could have done no good, and might have done much harm. If in any instance I had stated that an assessment required to be lowered, the village would have considered that it had a right to reduction; if I reported in favor of retaining or raising an assessment, my opinion could not have assisted the future Settlement Officer in any way, for he will not have to propose a new assessment for the next ten years, and it is impossible to foresee what changes may take place in this period.

39. The present measurements show an increase in the cultivated area of 13,032 acres, or 28 per cent. on the former measurements. In only one assessment circle has there been a falling-off, viz., in the lower Chaki, where there has been a decrease of nearly 1,000 acres, or less than 10 per cent. A corresponding increase has occurred in the Paláhi circle, whilst in each of the other circles the increase is over 50 per cent. The effect of this increase in the cultivated area has been to reduce Mr. Barnes' rate of Re. 1-6-1 per acre to Re. 1-1-2.

40. If the old rate of Re. 1-6-1 were applied to the present cultivated area, the result would be a jama of Rs. 81,270. But when Mr. Barnes fixed his assessment, the standard rate was  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the net assets, or  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the gross produce. Applying the  $\frac{1}{4}$  assets standard, the jama of Rs. 81,270 would become one of Rs. 61,452 only. It will not

attempt to enter into any detailed calculations based on figures; my opinion, based on my personal knowledge of the country, may, however, be briefly stated. Mr. Barnes' description of its general features is equally applicable to it now, except that there has been an increase in cultivation and population; and to the reasons urged, by him in favor of a low assessment must be added a new one, *viz.*, the great injury caused to the agriculturists by the proximity of Dalhousie. This may perhaps afford them a better market for their produce. On the other hand, it greatly diminishes the amount of produce they are able to raise. The movements of the troops take place at the most inconvenient seasons, *viz.*, at the time of both the spring and autumn harvests; and even if the zamindars themselves may escape the conscription, the number of village servants or "kamins" forcibly impressed for the carriage of stores greatly interferes with the work in the fields. I would most earnestly call the attention of the Government to the crying evil of the present system of forced labor. Though the legal status of the people is nominally much better than in Mr. Barnes' time, it is in reality much worse. Then it was openly declared that certain classes were liable to impressment, but their duties were clearly defined, and all other classes were exempt. Now impressment is a legal offence; yet tahsildars are ordered to collect numbers of coolies out of all proportion to the number of begaris. Every one is seized and employed on any work; all complaints have to be ignored, because the whole thing is illegal. On all sides complaints reached me that men are seized indiscriminately, without any reference to the inconvenience of the season; that they are excessively loaded and underpaid, that is, they are paid only for the marches they actually make, and no account is taken of the days spent at the tahsil and in coming from and going to their homes. I have been informed that shop-keepers in villages on the line of march have closed their shops on account of being compelled to sell provisions at an arbitrary rate; that to avoid being constantly harassed many proprietors have left their cultivation entirely to their tenants and become absentees; and that if this state of things continues much longer, many of them are prepared to quit the country altogether. If the system of impressment and forced labor is to be maintained, it should be legally recognized and put under proper control. On the other hand, there is the increase in cultivation and rise in prices. I should think it probable that when the assessment is revised a fair increase may be expected, especially in the irrigated tracts, but that it would be impossible to apply Mr. Barnes' old rates either to the present area or the one that may be found in existence hereafter.

41. I have intimated that I do not think the villages are suffering from over-assessment, and yet the produce estimate would seem to show that the present jama is some 10 per cent. too high. The natural inference would be that either my opinion or the produce estimate is wrong. Now in the produce estimate the two important points are the average yield and average price; if these are correct, all the rest is a mere matter of arithmetic. Is the average yield correct in the present case? It is based, not on actual experiment, but on enquiries made from agricul-

turists and officials likely to be well informed on the subject. Take wheat, the staple commodity; the highest yield assumed is that of 7 maunds per acre in the upper Chaki circle, the lowest, that of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  maunds, in the Kandi circle. This is much below the usual rates, in fact rather less than half, for I think that, speaking roughly, 15 maunds may be assumed as the average yield of irrigated and 10 of unirrigated land. But the present tract of country is by no means up to the average. As regards the Chaki, it is true the supply of water is perennial, but it is most capricious, and often, instead of benefitting the country, it carries with it nothing but ruin. The average of 7 maunds may be a little low, but it is by no means so much so as it would seem.

42. The average assumed for the Kandi circle of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  maunds is by no means too low. Of course it would be so if the crop was always an average one, using the word in its popular sense of "fair," and not in its mathematical sense of the mean of a number of figures. But it is not safe to calculate on a fair crop for more than one year out of three, and when there is a failure, it is complete. There cannot be a greater contrast than a good and bad season in this tract. In a good season the whole country is covered with verdure, any one passing through it would say that it was one of the gardens of the Punjab, and would laugh at the present jama as ridiculously small. On the other hand, in a bad season it appears a perfect desert, and the only wonder is how any money-lender can be found to advance the money required for the payment of the revenue. During the past cold season I walked for miles between Shahpur and Dhár over an apparently uncultivated waste; it was only when you were informed that the land was cultivated that you could, after minute inspection, discover here and there a blade of wheat endeavouring to maintain an unequal struggle for existence. Taking everything into consideration, I do not believe that  $4\frac{1}{2}$  maunds per acre is at all too low an estimate for the Kandi circle.

43. At first sight the assumed price of wheat, *viz.*, 1 maund 20 sers per rupee, seems a great deal too low, but this is not a matter of opinion, but simply one of arithmetic. It has been worked out by taking the prices shown in the Baniahs' books, and not those shown in the tahsíl registers. No doubt the latter are fairly correct as regards the price paid by the public, but this price is paid to the grain-dealer, not to the farmer. The point is to discover not what an outsider has to pay for a maund of wheat, but what the agriculturist gets for raising it.

44. On the whole I consider the present produce estimate fairly trustworthy, and this is the utmost that can be said of tables of this kind. It receives considerable corroboration from the following calculation. The total value of the gross produce is given at Rs. 3,51,829. But the present cultivation is 28 per cent. greater than in Mr. Barnes' time; his produce estimate would therefore have been Rs.  $3,51,829 - 98,512 = 2,53,317$ . But in those days  $\frac{1}{4}$ th, not  $\frac{1}{3}$ th, was taken as the Government share, and this would

therefore have been Rs. 63,329, that is, only Rs. 136 more than the assessment fixed by Mr. Barnes. Now Mr. Barnes certainly thought he was taking much more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . In para. 340 of his report he says that "the Sikh demand was based on one-half the gross produce." The Summary Settlement was based on an assumed reduction of 10 per cent. on the Sikh demand (para. 351), and Mr. Barnes came to the conclusion that on the whole the Summary Settlement might stand for the irrigated but must be reduced 12 per cent. on the unirrigated land (para. 362). But as regards the villages now under report, very little reduction was given, and on the whole the Summary Settlement was raised 4 per cent. Now the Summary Settlement was Rs. 60,758. An addition of 10 per cent., or Rs. 6,075, gives Rs. 66,833, representing on the Sikh collections, that is, a moiety of the gross produce, which must therefore have been worth Rs. 1,23,666 only, that is, about one-half what the present estimate would show it to have been.

45. But if the produce estimate is really correct, how can we justify a jama more than 10 per cent. in excess of it? Simply on the ground that the produce estimate is merely one of the many tests of the suitability of a proposed settlement, and not an absolute indication of the extent of the Government demand. As the Settlement Officer is often compelled to keep considerably below his produce estimate, so may he occasionally exceed it without anxiety. He can do so where the actual cultivator, whether called a tenant or proprietor, has always been the man who actually paid the revenue, where he has paid by a share of the produce, and where this share has always been greatly in excess of  $\frac{1}{4}$ th. On these cases the "proprietor's" dues will generally be found to be one or two sers in the maund in addition to the Government demand. Were the latter abandoned altogether, it is improbable that the proprietor could demand any increase in his dues; it is scarcely necessary for the State to relinquish revenue, in order that two parties who have never enjoyed it, and who do not really require it, may ruin themselves in fighting for it. I do not for a moment suggest that we should endeavour to collect what the Sikhs collected; I merely wish to point out that it is the actual state of the country, and not a paper theory on which a settlement should be based. What are the existing tenures in the Shahpur Kandi circle will be explained in the next chapter. It is sufficient to say here that the relative position of proprietors and tenants is such as to justify an assessment in excess of the produce estimate.

#### CHAPTER IV—RECORD OF RIGHTS.

46. There are three distinct parties possessing rights in the land--the Government, the recorded proprietors, and non-proprietary cultivators. To enumerate these rights the record of village custom is divided into three parts, and in describing them I propose to follow the same division.



## SECTION I—THE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT.

47. No land has been inherited by Government from the Sikhs in proprietary right. At the Regular Settlement in 1852, and also at the Revenue Survey, the whole of the land was included in the boundary of some particular village. In the settlement record the only assertion of the Government right was the entry which declared Chíl trees to be the property of Government. This probably included such trees even when they grew in cultivated land.

48. But beyond its right to Chíl trees the Government possesses a considerable interest in the produce of the waste lands generally, and in grazing. Its interest in the latter will be explained hereafter. Its interest in the produce of the waste lands is derived from the "rules for the management of hill forests," drawn up by the Punjab Government in 1855, and sanctioned by the Governor General in Council, as intimated by the Supreme Government letter No. 1789 dated 21st May 1855, to the Punjab Government. These rules were rather vague and general; it was left to Commissioners to draw up, for the sanction of the Local Government, detailed rules adapted to the special circumstances of their several divisions. Such a set of rules for the Jullundur Division, of which this tract then formed part, was drawn up by the Commissioner, and sanctioned by the Local Government by its letter No. 226 dated 25th January 1859. In this letter the orders of Government were conveyed on one or two doubtful points, and the Commissioner was instructed to have the rules thus sanctioned formally drawn up and promulgated. He accordingly did so, and forwarded them to the Deputy Commissioner of Kangra with his No. 417—85 dated 22nd February 1860.

49. The basis of these rules was the principle that the land belonged to the zamíndárs; that they were entitled to free grazing without any restriction, except the right of Government to close  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the waste for conservancy purposes as long as it thought necessary; that they were entitled to all the produce of the forest they required for their *bona fide* own use, to the inferior produce gratis, to the superior trees at the nominal price of four annas a tree; that the remainder of the produce (certainly all the superior trees, and probably also the inferior ones) was at the disposal of Government; but in order to interest the people in conservancy, and to content them with the new arrangements, they were to receive  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the income obtained by Government from its interest in the forests; in return for this the lambardár, patwári, and village rákha, or forester, were to render certain services.

50. These rules formed the basis of forest management, even after the transfer of the tract to Gurdáspur; they are constantly referred to in official correspondence as defining the respective rights of Government and the zamíndárs. But just as was the case in the Hoshiárpur district, their full effect was gradually lost sight of, and it came to be considered that the District Officer managed the forests rather in his general executive capacity than by virtue of any precise rules possessing a distinct legal authority. The consequence was that many disputes and difficulties arose, the nature of which is detailed in the letters of the Deputy Commissioner Gurdáspur and the Commissioner of Amritsar, written between 1867—69, copies of which were received in this office under cover of the Settlement Commissioner's No. 58 dated 10th April 1869.

51. It was at first anticipated that all these would be authoritatively settled by Government. Mr. Lyall had recently been engaged in a revision of the records of the Kangra district, and he had proposed certain changes in the old Forest rules; and in his No. 177 dated 25th March 1869, the Secretary to the Financial Commissioner intimated that when these had been sanctioned by Government, they would be considered applicable to the Shahpur Kandi tract. These orders have not been passed, and in the meantime the Punjab Laws Act has made a considerable difference in the legal aspects of the case. The Financial Commissioner (in his Secretary's No. 6068 dated 21st August 1872, to the Commissioner Amritsar) has held that this act repeals the rules drawn up by the Commissioner of the Division, leaving as the sole basis of conservancy the Circular of 1855 and Act VII of 1865. Whether, under these circumstances, the Local Government can draw up a fresh set of rules is a legal question on which it is unnecessary to enter.

52. When my predecessor, Mr. Young, was entrusted with the task of revising the Shahpur Kandi records it was much hoped that he would be able to effect a satisfactory settlement of all forest questions. On his appointment instructions were issued by the Settlement Commissioner, enjoining the principle of completely separating the rights of the Government and the zamíndárs, lands already belonging to Government were to be carefully demarcated, and left in possession of the Forest Department; other villages were to be classified as containing—1, superior trees and brush-wood in tracts that could be easily demarcated; 2, brush-wood similarly situated; 3, so little brush-wood that scarcely anything could be taken by Government. The direction about tracts already in possession of Government was issued under a misapprehension of the actual state of the case, for no such tracts exist. As has already been stated, the whole of the land belongs to the zamíndárs, and the right of Government to forest produce is the same throughout the entire tract. All that could be done was to prepare maps of the whole country, and then to consult with the Forest Department about effecting a demarcation.

53. This was done. In the Hoshiárpur district, the conservancy rules of which were identical with those of Shahpur Kandi, a very satisfactory demarcation had been almost completed in the beginning of 1871 by Mr. Duff (the Forest Officer) and myself on the principle of securing to Government the absolute property in certain tracts, and, in return for this, granting large concessions to the zamíndárs in other tracts. It was hoped that a similar principle might be carried out in Shahpur Kandi. But when, at the end of November 1871, Mr. Sparling, the Forest Officer, and I went over the country we found such a demarcation as had been effected in Hoshiárpur to be impossible. The extent of the cultivation as compared with the waste land, was so great that in the great majority of cases little or none of the latter could have been taken by Government. And even in those villages where the waste was tolerably extensive, we found it so cut up with small scattered patches of cultivation that it would have been almost hopeless to endeavour to induce the zamíndárs to voluntarily surrender any considerable tract on any terms, and, even if their objections had been overcome, such large sums would have had to be paid for compensation that the arrangement could scarcely have been a favorable one for Government. We were therefore compelled to abandon all idea of a separate demarcation of Government and village lands, and all that we could propose was that the old rules should be maintained with some slight modifications in favor of the zamíndárs.

54. These proposals were submitted to the Financial Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests. But it was considered that the prospect of maintaining any efficient conservancy in this tract was so small that it was useless to lay down any fresh rules on the subject. On the other hand, a demarcation, similar to that effected in Hoshiárpur, is now in progress in the adjoining parganah of Núrpur, and, until this is completed, it would be very inexpedient to make concessions in Shahpur Kandi, which could not be granted elsewhere. The Forest question in this tract therefore remains as before, but it is hoped that on the conclusion of the Núrpur operations it may be satisfactorily settled by the District and Forest officers.

55. In his No. 23 dated 23rd April 1870, my predecessor, Mr. Young, reported to the Settlement Commissioner that the zamíndárs had complained to him that parties of coolies, under a chaprási of the Canal Department at Mádhopur, were in the habit of cutting brush-wood for charcoal for the use of the Mádhopur workshops, from the hedges and revenue-paying lands in the villages. To prevent such injury in future he proposed that a clause should be entered in the new records, declaring all trees and brush-wood growing in revenue-paying lands to be the property of the owners of the fields. The Settlement Commissioner, in his No. 19 dated 28th April 1870, to the Financial Commissioner, supported this proposal, and further recommended that Chil trees growing in such lands should be surrendered to the zamíndárs. The Financial Commis-

sioner, in his No. 2797 dated 11th May 1870, agreed to the proposed clause generally, but reserved his decision about Chíl trees until he had received further information on the subject. This was supplied in the report on the Forest question generally; and in his No. 6068 dated 21st August 1872, to the Commissioner of Amritsar, the Financial Commissioner decided, for the reasons given in para. 50 of this report, that the Government right to Chíl trees could not be surrendered. The new clause will therefore stand thus:—

“ All trees, except Chíl trees, and all brush-wood, of whatever kind growing in revenue-paying lands, entered as such in the settlement records at the time of revision of settlement, are the property of the owners of soil, unless otherwise specially recorded.”

As the new records were completed and made over to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdáspur before the receipt of the Financial Commissioner's orders, the above clause was not inserted in them. When the English correspondence is sent to the Deputy Commissioner, as it will be when this report has been despatched, he will be requested to cause this clause to be added to the records of each village.

56. The Government interest in grazing consists of its right to levy a fee of two rupees per hundred on the flocks brought by the Gadís (a full account of these men, and of their customs, is given by Mr. Barnes in para. 281 of his Kángra Settlement Report) to graze in the low hills during the winter months. This fee was not levied by Government direct, but farmed to a man of local influence who was known as the “Ban Wazír.” The contract was always held by Phínú (the former kotwál, now zaildár, referred to in para. 32 of this report), and at the last settlement it was granted to him for a yearly payment of Rs. 468. The period of the grant seems to have been rather indefinite; originally it was made for the term of settlement, but before it was finally given over to him this period was changed to one of five years. It was renewed on two subsequent occasions for a similar period, but in 1867 it was determined to sell it annually to the highest bidder. It was bought for that year by one Rám Singh for Rs. 750, but this sum was offered under the erroneous idea that the zamíndárs' flocks, as well as those of the Gadís, were liable to the tax. Much ill feeling and confusion were caused before this view was found to be erroneous, and when it was so a considerable remission had to be granted to Rám Singh. Down to the present year the lease has continued to be sold annually, but latterly it has always been bought by Phínú, who has always been known as the “Ban Wazír,” and who has felt it necessary to his local position to secure the contract at any price. He has naturally felt it a grievance to be compelled to do so, and in my No. 166 dated 23rd August 1872 I reported the facts of the case, and proposed that the lease should be granted to Phínú for the remainder of the term of Settlement in payment of Rs. 550, which is the mean between what he now pays and the Rs. 468 at which it was originally granted to him. This proposal was supported by the Commissioner of Amritsar.



and the Financial Commissioner, and has now received the sanction of Government, which was conveyed in the Secretary to Government No. 416 dated 9th November 1872, to the Financial Commissioner; this sanction is subject to the proviso that "the grant of this lease shall not in any way interfere with the introduction of any arrangements which may hereafter be considered necessary for the conservancy of the forests in the tract in question."

## SECTION II—RIGHTS OF PROPRIETORS "INTER SE."

57. Statement No. VI shows the castes of the proprietors, and under what tenures they held their lands, Map No. VI shows where these castes are chiefly found, and No. VII where these tenures prevail.

58. 42 out of the 140 villages are held by "miscellaneous" castes, that is, by such a mixture of different castes that the whole village cannot be said to be held by any one caste in particular. Of the remaining 98 three are shared, *i. e.*, held by different castes on fixed shares; in one the shares are  $\frac{2}{3}$  Rájput,  $\frac{1}{3}$  Aráien; in another  $\frac{1}{2}$  Rájput and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Baniahs; in the third  $\frac{1}{2}$  Rájput and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Gújars. Of the 95 villages held by a single caste, the twice-born castes, *i. e.*, the Brahmans and Rájputs, including in the latter their offshoots, the Thákars and Kathris, hold no less than 69, or nearly 73 per cent. Of the 26 held by inferior castes, one-half (13) are held by the Changs and Játs; of the other 13 six are held by Gújars, and the remaining seven by various petty tribes. The origin, manners, and customs of these castes, at any rate of the important ones, are so fully described by Mr. Barnes in para. 253 *et seq.* of his Report that I can add nothing to his account; I do not think it necessary to copy it in full, and it would spoil it to attempt to abridge it.

59. The great number of the Rájputs causes them to predominate in all the talúqas. In the hills, it is true, the greater number of villages belong to "miscellaneous" castes, but these are the villages which have been held in possession from the beginning, as explained in the next para. The position of the remaining castes is clearly shown in the Map (No. VII).

60. Out of the 140 villages 45 have been held in possession ever since their foundation, and this of itself implies that their existence has been a short one. This is corroborated by the lightness of their jama; whilst the other villages are paying, roughly speaking, a little under a rupee an acre, these pay less than 8 annas. Their number is less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all the villages, but their area is more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the whole. Although many of the villages have been founded only a short time, yet in many cases this foundation was rather a restoration than an original creation. When the power of the hill chiefs fell before the Sikhs, many Rájput



village communities left their lands and followed their former masters. Their fields lay waste for a short time, and were then taken possession of either by their former tenants or by colonists from the surrounding villages. Many of the old proprietors returned and claimed their lands at the Regular Settlement, but their claim was almost invariably dismissed as barred by the law of limitation. In some instances, however, the feeling of the people was so strongly in their favor that they were voluntarily readmitted, not indeed to the whole, but to a portion of their old rights. This gathering together of a fresh community has been treated as the foundation of the village, and hence the number said to have been held on possession from the commencement. Another cause of so many villages being held in this way arises from the fact that many of them are, properly speaking, not villages at all, but merely a number of scattered hamlets, originally founded by independent squatters who broke up waste land, which have been grouped into villages for the purposes of revenue administration.

61. On the whole the statement of tenures is but a confirmation of the general belief on the history of village communities.

Other tenures.

The ordinary practice is for a village to be founded by a single family, for it to be held for some time by the descendants jointly, for it then to be divided on ancestral shares, for the ancestral to pass into customary shares, for shares to be gradually lost sight of, and finally for possession to become the sole measure of right. Thus out of 140 villages 45 have always been held on possession, leaving 95 in which shares either have been or are regarded as the measure of right. In 28 of these "customary shares" have been the rule

Customary shares.

from the beginning; in 10 of these (3+7) the proprietors are of different castes, but in the remaining 18 they are all of one caste, and, in the great majority of cases, descended from a common ancestor. Such villages clearly give us only another form of foundation by a common ancestor. The village is founded by near relatives, but some are richer or stronger than the others, so a share is awarded to them in excess of their ancestral right. In nine villages shares have partially fallen into disuse, and in eight they have entirely disappeared. I may remark that this disappearance has often been caused by the action of our officers at the last settlement, when many villages which were then really held on shares were treated as held on possession. Application has often been made to me for a restoration of shares, but it could not be granted without the consent of all the proprietors, and of course those who held more than their proper share were not so foolish as to give this consent. But in the remaining 50 all existing rights have been derived by descent from a common ancestor;

Ancestral shares.

20 of these villages are still held on a joint tenure, and 22 have been divided on ancestral shares; in the remaining eight the ancestral has given way to a customary measure of right. The commonest cause of this change is that some branch of the family has become extinct, or fled from the village, and its share, instead of being divided amongst all the remaining proprietors, has been transferred bodily to the branch of the family best able to manage it.

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62. Thus we find that out of 95 villages (for I leave out the 45  
General result. for the reasons given, in para. 56) 48, or more  
than half, have undoubtedly been founded by a

single family; of the remaining 47, 14 are shared by Rájputs and other  
castes, leaving 33 which have either directly developed from the  
ancestral type, or are merely slight variations from it, so that we may  
fairly say that a proportion of (48+33) 81 out of 95 villages give  
strong proof of the ancestral origin of proprietary rights.

63. The accompanying map (No. VIII) shows that in the old  
Localities of the tenures. talúga and present assessment circle of Kandi  
the tenure is entirely "possession from the  
beginning," the reason being that, as I have already explained, there  
are rather revenue meháls than actual agricultural communities. At  
the foot of the hills round Patháńkot, in the old Paláhi and Patháńkot  
talúgas, the predominant form of tenure is that of "customary share  
from the beginning," but a large number of villages still retain their  
ancestral form. Across the Chaki, in the old Mirthal and adjoining  
talúgas, the ancestral type, in one form or another, is almost universal;  
there is scarcely a village which has always been held on possession  
or even on customary shares.

64. There are no customs affecting the rights of proprietors  
Tribal customs. among themselves which call for any special  
notice. Here, as in the other districts where  
the records have been revised, the tribal customs have been recorded  
'iláqawár' in the manner described in section 64 of the rules pro-  
posed to be issued under Chapter II of the Revenue Act. But a  
separate copy has not been attached to the administration paper of  
each village. Only one record has been prepared for the whole circle,  
to which reference has been made in each administration paper, and  
any exceptions to the general custom have been duly noted.

### SECTION III—RIGHTS OF PROPRIETORS AND NON-PROPRIETORS.

65. As the Punjab Tenancy Act had become law before the  
Tenants. commencement of the present settlement  
operations, no attempt has been made to in any  
way to reopen the general question of tenant right. But the tenants  
recorded as "maurúsís" at the Regular Settlement have been arranged in  
the classes detailed in the Act, that is, those who have been found to  
possess the qualifications described in the various clauses of section 5  
have been described as being tenants according to these clauses, whilst  
the remainder of the "maurúsís" have been declared entitled to  
protection under section 6. Of course a regular suit may be brought by  
either party to correct this entry, but I considered that there was a  
great advantage in making it. The act makes a wide distinction

between the two classes of tenants; those who have rights under section 5 are almost on an equality with the proprietors, whilst the others are merely protected from arbitrary eviction and enhancement of rent. In every instance where a tenant wishes to mortgage or alienate his land, the question arises—to which class does he belong? It is usually very easy to ascertain this question when the whole village is assembled for settlement purposes, and if the status is once recorded properly, there is little danger of its being disputed afterwards. If, however, there is no entry to go upon, in every single case the proprietor has to be asked if he admits the tenant's statement of his rights, and unless he does so in every particular, the parties have to be told to "go into court."

66. In Statement No. II the holdings of the tenants are classified. The total number of tenants with a right of occupancy is 8,980; only 937 of them come under any of the clauses of section V, and none come under the first clause. I confess I scarcely understand the classification of the three sub-divisions of the first column, for the "grounds" quoted are grounds of enhancement, and not of occupancy rights. I have, however, assumed that sub-division I is intended for clause I of section V; sub-division II for the remaining clauses of that section, and sub-division III for sections VI and VIII. In other respects also I think the statement might be made more complete. At present the number of tenants with rights of occupancy is given, but it is impossible to say how many of them pay in kind and how many in cash. Similarly, of the tenants paying in kind there is no information as to how many possess rights of occupancy.

67. I have from time to time, in submitting the usual statement of tenancy cases, recorded my opinion on the general working of the Act. I would only repeat, what I have often urged, that the turning of every single phrase in the settlement record into a provision of positive law often causes injustice to both proprietors and tenants. I need not give instances of cases where hardship is caused to the proprietors; it is the case of the tenants that has more frequently attracted my attention. In many villages I have found that the rights of all the resident cultivators were originally equal, with the exception that some paid and others received the "sirmani" allowance. In para. 135 of his report Mr. Barnes says "that this allowance was the perquisite of the 'moqadam,' or headman \* \* \* but the advantage which this office conferred, together with the tendency of native institutions to remain in one family, gradually converted a temporary perquisite into a permanent hereditary and transferable right." My own enquiries entirely bear out this view, and I have little doubt that the "sirmani" was originally nothing more than our lambardari allowance; but not only did the headman abstain from collecting this from his own caste, he went further, and divided amongst them what he collected from the cultivators of other castes. If there were any backwardness in paying the revenue, the Sikh official did not hesitate to transfer this

right to another family or another caste. Where such transfers were frequent, the village at the Regular Settlement was often recorded as Bhyáchará, all, or nearly all, the cultivators obtaining the status of proprietors. But where the "sirmani" had been held for a long time by one family or caste, it was usually treated as a mark of proprietorship. The caste enjoying it were recorded as proprietors, and all the others as "maurúsís." Directly these magical words have been used, all the stereotyped descriptions of their status, their rights to cut trees, sink wells, are employed as a matter of course. The most glaring instances of this have occurred in the Hoshiárpúr district, but the evil is found, though to a much less extent, in the Shahpur Kandi circle. The hardship that arises is manifest. Whilst ordinary entries in a settlement record are by the Revenue Act merely "presumed to be true, and can be corrected by a regular suit, entries relating to the rights of landlords and tenants cannot be so corrected; the Tenancy Act declares that they shall be "deemed to be agreements," and, I imagine, the courts have no power to take evidence to show that they are not so.

68. The lambardár, patwári, and chaukidár can scarcely be considered mere village servants, for they are to a great extent Government officials.

Lambardárs.

Although I have already stated that the "sirmani" was originally the remuneration of the headman, yet the usual cash allowance of 5 per cent. was fixed at the settlement, and has been paid ever since. The "sirmani" has nowhere been treated as lambardári dues; it was either entered in the settlement record as a proprietary due or omitted altogether. In para. 31 I have explained what I propose should be done with the small plots of land called "sásans" attached to the lambardárship.

Patwáris.

69. I have explained the position and pay of these men in para. 33.

70. The position, duties, and emoluments of the village watchmen are well described by Mr. Barnes in para. 411 of his report. My own experience would

Batwál or chaukidár.

lead me to cordially endorse the favorable character he gives this useful class of men. The village police arrangements now form a part of the general system of police administration rather than of the work of a Settlement Officer. But I cannot refrain from expressing my fear that our zeal for uniformity and centralization may carry us too far. If we are content to regard the watchmen as hereditary village servants, to pay them in the old way, and to exact from them the duties they have been accustomed to perform, we shall, I think, find that we get a good deal of hard and useful work done very cheaply. If, on the other hand, we treat them as irregular members of the police force, and try our utmost to assimilate them to the regulars, we shall find we have spoilt one good article and got worse than nothing in return.



71. The real village servants or "hamins" have, of course, no connection with the Government. The customary services they render to the agriculturists, and the mode in which they are paid for these, have been entered at length in the new records.

#### CHAPTER V—MISCELLANEOUS.

Actual result of work.

72. The work that has actually been accomplished during the present settlement operations is this:—

- I. A set of new records have been prepared, which are superior to the former ones, inasmuch as—
  - A.—The names of all persons interested in the land have now been entered. At the Regular Settlement the names of many shareholders were omitted, *e. g.*, out of 3 or 4 brothers the name of the eldest only would be recorded.
  - B.—Tribal customs have been fully enquired into and recorded.
  - C.—Many errors have been rectified, either by judicial decision or by mutual consent.
  - D.—Tenants with a right of occupancy have been classified according to the Tenancy Act.
- II. Complete maps have been made for the entire circle. They were much wanted; until they were supplied it was absolutely impossible to deal with the forest and similar questions.
- III. Correct statistics of each village have been obtained and entered in the village note-books, both in English and the vernacular. Although these are not required at present for the actual purposes of assessment, yet they cannot fail to be of use both to the Deputy Commissioner and to any future Settlement Officer.

Indirect benefits.

73. Besides the above improvements the people have benefitted indirectly by the late operations.

- I. It is true that the forest question has not actually been settled, but it has now been arranged, cut and dry, for decision. The area of the forest has been carefully mapped; the rights of Government and the zamindars are perfectly known, and any officer desiring to effect a change by mutual consent can tell at once what he has to go upon.
- II. The question of grazing dues, or Ban Waziri, which caused much heart-burning between Phinú and his friends and out-siders, has been satisfactorily settled.



III. The settlement operations brought to light the existence of many illegal cesses, which, with the ~~full~~ concurrence of the Deputy Commissioner, have now been abolished.

IV. The redistribution of the patwáris' circles and the appointment of zaildárs cannot fail to be beneficial both to the State and to the people.

74. Although the above benefits are considerable, yet when the operations were first commenced it was certainly thought that the Settlement Officer would be able to effect more changes than he has done.

Change in the powers of Settlement Officers.

His powers then were, or were supposed to be, much more extensive than they are now. Not only was he believed to have all the powers of an officer making a settlement to draw up a proceeding under section XIV of Regulation VII of 1822, declaring the constitution of the village and the rights of its inhabitants to be what he believed them to be, without reference to what they have been said to be by a former officer, but he was supposed to be able to order clauses to be inserted into the administration paper, laying down rules for future guidance in accordance with what he deemed expedient, and without their being based on any actually existing custom. It is needless to say that all this has been completely changed by the Land Revenue Procedure Act, and that now an officer cannot change or add to the record in the slightest particular without the consent of the people or a judicial decision. I am not arguing whether this change is good or bad; I merely point out that it has caused a sweeping alteration in a Settlement Officer's position; for instance, in numbers of cases petitions are given, or reports made by subordinates, that a village really held on shares has been wrongly recorded as held on possession; the majority of the shareholders admit this, but one or two, who have more than their proper share, deny it. Formerly the Settlement Officer could enquire which statement was correct, and direct the record to be drawn up in accordance with his finding. Now he can only give to the majority that eternal answer—"go into court." It may be expedient that his power should be limited to this, but the fact that it is so limited explains why the present revision of the records has been, comparatively speaking, without result,

Cost of the work.

75. The establishment allowed by Government consisted of—

Sanctioned establishment.

	Rs.
1 Superintendent at	250
1 Sadr munserim	50
2 Munserims, at Rs. 30	60
3 Naib Do., at Rs. 20	60
2 Moharirs, at Rs. 20	40
1 Do. Rs. 15	15
3 Chaprásís, at Rs. 5	15

Total monthly cost ... 490

For the Settlement Officer, his office, and contingencies, provision was made in the budget for Unah and Shalipur Kandi jointly. It will be seen that only the supervising establishment has been paid by Government. All the working establishment, that is, the men employed to assist the patwáris during measurements, the moharirs employed in attesting and fairing the records, the cost of paper and other materials, and all miscellaneous expenditure, has to be met from money raised from the people in some way or other. The following is a statement of the expenditure and income from the commencement of the operations in June 1869 to their close in September 1872:—

## EXPENDITURE.

## A.—PAID BY GOVERNMENT.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Pay of Superintendent and allowances	7,375	0	0
Do. of establishment ... ..	9,307	10	0
Office-rent ... ..	150	0	0
Share, say $\frac{1}{3}$ , of general contingent expenditure = $\frac{1}{3} \times 8,853-5-7$	2,951	1	10
Share, say $\frac{1}{3}$ , of the pay of Settlement Officer and his establishment, and their travelling allowances = $\frac{1}{3} \times 52,539-11-10$	17,513	3	11
Total paid by Government	...	...	37,296-15 9

## B.—PAID BY THE PEOPLE.

	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Cost of measurements.</i>			
Assistants to patwáris ...	4,981	10	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	378	8	8
	5,360	2	9
<i>Cost of attestation and fairing.</i>			
Pay of extra Moharirs ...	7,328	10	1
Other establishment, e. g., supervision, colourers, fine-hand-writers ...	1,333	5	4
Writers of the "parchas" given to zamíndárs ...	440	0	0
	Rs.	A.	P.
Printing charges	415	6	2
Paper ...	1,000	0	0
Binding ...	211	14	0
Miscellaneous...	718	14	6
	2,346	2	8
	11,448	2	1
Total paid by the people	...	...	16,808 4 10
Total cost of settlement	...	...	54,105 4 3

## INCOME.

	Rs.	P.
Parcha fees, for the "Parcha Khatoni," given at the time of measurement, at 6 pies each ... ..	413	10 3
Parchas fees, for the extract from the records, given after fairing, at 8 anas each ... ..	3,913	9 6
Surplus of patwari fees, at 1-2 per cent. collected during settlement ...	5,169	14 10
Patwaris' stationery allowance ...	678	13 7
Savings from patwaris' pay ...	352	15 1
Total income ... ..	10,528	15 3
Deficit—borrowed from Unah ... ..	6,279	5 7
Total ... ..	16,808	4 10

76. Although the amount raised from the people is large, I am glad to say that none of it was raised by objectionable or even illegal means. The only extra charges made were the charges for the cost of the two kinds of title deeds, and for the money thus paid the people received a substantial equivalent. All the other fees, which are comprised under one general head of "payment to patwaris," would have had to be paid by them had the settlement not been in progress. The origin of the surplus at 1-2 per cent. has been explained in para. 34 of this report; the patwaris' stationery fees need no explanation. Savings from patwaris' pay were merely the deductions made from the pay of those patwaris who were unable themselves to complete the new records, and for whom an assistant had to be provided by Government.

77. The cost of these operations has necessarily been considerably increased by the introduction of the new system of attestation, by which the statement of every single proprietor and tenant is recorded at length in the form of a deposition, instead of merely the record itself being read over to the parties interested, and a brief note being made of their assent to it. The object of this is not, as has sometimes been supposed, to give the new records a judicial force, but merely to show on what facts every single entry is based. I think that there can be no doubt that this is so far an improvement; in that it makes the procedure of the Settlement Officer more complete and intelligible; the only question is whether the improvement is worth the money it costs. When it was first introduced I thought it was; now that I have tried it, I think it is not. The increase of work, and consequently of cost, is enormous; the attestation takes at least three times as long as under the old system, *e. g.*,

Shahpur Kandi, which might have been attested in six months, took 18; and Unah, which would have taken from six to nine, has taken two years. At this delay the superior officers naturally grow impatient, yet any approach to hurry renders the depositions recorded worse than useless. Even where every word recorded is the deliberate utterance of the deponent, all we have secured is this: that if hereafter the correctness of the entry is called in question in a civil court, the Judge can see why it was made, and the parties interested in it will not be able to make statements inconsistent with those they made before the settlement court, or rather, if they do make such statement, they will be disbelieved. In other words we spend large sums in recording detailed evidence as to every single tenure in the district, in the hope that it may be useful hereafter in the, comparatively speaking, infinitesimally small number of cases that will be brought into court. I should not recommend our attempting to do so again.

Judicial fees.

78. The amount received in court fees is Rs. 2,700, so that the actual cost of the settlement to Government is Rs. 34,296.

79. A new form of return was introduced from 1st April 1871. Up to that time 57 Judicial and 378 Revenue cases had been instituted. Since then there

Judicial cases.

have been 382 cases classified under Appendix A of the returns, 133 under Appendix B, and 1,467 Revenue cases, Appendix C. In all 572 Judicial and 1,845 Revenue. All these were disposed of by the Superintendent.

80. 77 Judicial appeals were instituted; 8 of these were rejected after hearing the appellant, under section

Appeals.

7 of Act VIII of 1868, and 46 were decreed for the respondent, that is, 54, or 70 per cent., were dismissed. Of the remaining 23, 9 were remanded for retrial under section 351 of Act VIII of 1859, and 14 were decreed. Only 4 Revenue appeals were instituted; 2 were rejected at the first hearing, 1 decreed for appellant, and the other for the respondent.

81. Maharáj Kishn was in immediate charge of this settlement as Superintendent till 15th February 1872, by

Notice of officers.

which time he had nearly completed the work of attestation, and had made considerable progress in fairing the records. He was a first-rate officer, and I was very sorry to lose him when he went to Ajmír on promotion as Extra Assistant Commissioner. Rahím Baksh, the Sadr Qánúngo of Amritsar, was appointed to succeed him. He completed the work satisfactorily, but he is inferior in every way to his predecessor. The subordinate officials have all worked well, especially Darbára Singh, who was promoted to the post of Sadr Munserim two years ago.



82. In conclusion, I have the honor to request that the sanction of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor may be given to the records now prepared, in order that they may be "Records of a Regular Settlement sanctioned by the Local Government" within the meaning of the Land Revenue Procedure and Tenancy Act.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES A. ROE,

*Settlement Officer.*

HOSHIARPUR, }

*The 6th February 1873.*

National Library  
Calcutta-27

