

*Memo. showing value of work done by the Famine labourers written back from the head
33—Famine Relief Works to that of 49—Capital, Jhelum Canal Works,
for the year 1899-00.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
1,691 Chains dagbelling and jungle clearance @ Re. 1-4-0 per chain	2,116	0	0
1,043.78 Chains dagbelling and jungle clearance @ Re. 1-8-0 per chain	1,565	0	0
1,691 Chains construction of boundary roads @ Re. 0-8-0 per chain	846	0	0
1,043.78 Chains construction of boundary roads @ Re. 0-4-0 per chain	261	0	0
34 Miles root clearance @ Rs. .5 per mile	850	0	0
21 ditto ditto	525	0	0
13,086,685 Cubic feet earthwork @ Rs. 2-10-0 per 1,000 cubic feet	31,727	8	9
14,522,960 Cubic feet earthwork @ Rs. 2-12-0 per 1,000 cubic feet	39,938	2	3
2,884,975 Cubic feet earthwork @ Rs. 2-8-0 per 1,000 cubic feet	7,212	7	0
Cost of establishment (subsequently written back) ...	14	0	0
Total ...	85,055	2	0
Total expenditure for the year ...	1,86,244	0	0
Written back to Canal Works	85,055	0	0
Net amount charged to Famine	1,01,189	0	0

[See Head 14.]

Statement showing Famine Relief Works carried out in the Shahpur District during the year 1900-01 up to the end of June 1900 both under the charges of Civil Department and Public Works Department, prepared in accordance with Section 152, Punjab Famine Code.

Serial No. of work.	Name of work.	Whether Major or Minor Work.	Nature of work.	DETAIL OF EXPENDITURE.						DETAIL OF WORKING RATE.						Total quantity of work done (columns 13 and 14).	Rate calculated on total actual outlay (columns 15 and 17).	Normal or estimated rate.	REMARKS. (Here state the extent to which the works are of permanent nature and of distinct public utility or of temporary value and doubtful public utility.)
				Paid in wages to labourers, including Sundays and holidays.	Cost of supervision establishment charges direct to work.	Cost of charitable relief of all kinds.	Cost of material, tools and shed.	Miscellaneous charges.	Total expenditure.	Expenditure in wages after deducting amount actually paid on account of Sundays.	Quantity of work done.	Rate per unit of work done for wages only (columns 11 and 12)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Jhelum Canal ...	Major Work.	Excavation of branches	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Famine Relief Works.			Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
				(a) 48,275	3,981	6,675	4,076	780	63,787	...	48,275	...	15,371,800	...	3 2 3 per 1,000 cubic feet.	15,371,800	4 2 5 per 1,000 cubic feet.	2 10 9 per 1,000 cubic feet.	
				(a) 9,826	20	...	...	2	9,848	...	9,826	...	34,53,200	...	2 13 7 per 1,000 cubic feet.	3,453,200	2 13 7 per 1,000 cubic feet.	2 10 9 per 1,000 cubic feet.	

(a) No Sunday wages were paid to workmen, as the work was done after the petty contract system and the rate was a very liberal one.

SHAHPUR DISTRICT :

The 15th November 1900.

C. L. DUNDAS,

Deputy Commissioner.

Memo. showing value of work done by the Famine labourers during 1900-01 and other charges written back from the head 33—Famine Relief Works to that of 49—Capital, Jhelum Canal Works, in the accounts for the year 1900-01.

	Rs.	A.	P.
7,232,111 Cubic feet earthwork @ Rs. 2-10-0 per 1,000 cubic feet	18,984	4	5
9,719,499 Cubic feet earthwork @ Rs. 2-12-0 per 1,000 cubic feet	26,728	10	0
1,873,457 Cubic feet earthwork @ Rs. 2-12-0 per 1,000 cubic feet	4,433	10	3
Baskets and other materials	79	0	0
Tools and Plant, normal cost of	6,847	0	0
Total	57,072	8	8
Total expenditure for the year	73,635	0	0
Written back to Canal Works	57,072	0	0
Net amount charged to Famine	16,563	0	0
Add net amount charged to Famine on account of 1899-00	1,01,189	0	0
Total charged to Famine as charity from Government	1,17,752	0	0

It is further estimated that some five thousand rupees would hereafter be obtained by sale of old stores and materials belonging to Famine during the current year, and the sale proceeds will also be written back from Famine to Canal Works.

Table showing Advances under Agriculturists' Loans Act and Famine Fund.

				Months.	Loans.	Famine Fund.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Bhera.</i>							
Chenab	...	...	...	September 1900	19,500	12,040	31,540
Bár	...	...	...	July 1900	11,000	7,300	18,300
<i>Shahpur</i>							
Bár	...	...	...	July 1900	2,990	2,800	7,790
				September 1900	600	1,400	
Ara	...	...	...	October 1899	4,000	...	15,600
				July 1900	6,400	4,200	
				September 1900	700	300	
<i>Kushal</i>							
Thal	...	...	...	July 1900	4,500	5,500	10,000
Mohár	...	...	...	May 1900	10,615	5,080	34,020
				July 1900	7,865	5,460	
				November 1900	5,000	...	25,500
Hills	...	...	...	May 1900	10,540	5,460	
				July 1900	3,460	1,040	
				October 1900	5,000	...	
				Total	92,170	50,580	1,42,750

[See Head 19.]

Comparative Statement of Crime.

NAME OF YEAR.	1ST QUARTER.		2ND QUARTER.		3RD QUARTER.		TOTAL THREE QUARTERS.		4TH QUARTER.		REMARKS.
	Reported.	Admitted.	Reported.	Admitted.	Reported.	Admitted.	Reported.	Admitted.	Reported.	Admitted.	
1899 	198	171	240	195	235	191	673	557	262	132	
1900 	265	229	170	160	194	189	629	569	

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SHAHPUR DISTRICT :
The 15th November 1900.

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C. L. DUNDAS,
Deputy Commissioner.

Consolidated Statement of Famine Expenditure in the Shahpur

MONTH.	I.—TEST AND RELIEF WORKS.			II.—GRATUITOUS		
	Under Public Works Department Officers (columns 2, 11 and 20 of Famine Form No. 29).	Under Civil Officers (columns 3, 12 and 21 of Famine Form No. 29).	Total of columns 2 and 3.	On Relief Works.	In villages under Chapter V (columns 4, 13 and 22 of Famine Form No. 29).	In poor-houses under Chapter VIII (columns 5, 14 and 23 of Famine Form No. 29).
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
December 1899 ...	27,933	607	28,540	1,922	...	158
January 1900 ...	17,768	...	17,768	1,305	...	395
February 1900 ...	20,707	...	20,707	781	...	172
March 1900 ...	{ 42,298 + 114 }	...	{ 42,298 + 114 }	522	...	195
Total for the financial year 1899-00.	1,08,820	607	1,09,427	4,530	...	920
April 1900 ...	25,529	...	25,529	388	...	128
May 1900 ...	22,536	...	22,536	370	...	156
June 1900 ...	10,376	...	10,376	263	...	131
July 1900 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August 1900 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September 1900 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October 1900 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total for the financial year 1900-01.	58,441	...	58,441	1,021	...	415
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,67,261	607	1,67,868	(c) 5,551	...	1,335

(a) Additions made vide this office No. 254, dated 10th September.
 (b) Denote sums charged and subsequently refunded.
 (c) Includes allowances paid to sick persons.

SHAHPUR.

The 15th November 1900.

District for the whole period of scarcity during 1899-00.

RELIEF.			III.—ESTABLISHMENT, NOT INCLUDED IN COLUMNS 2, 3 AND 9 (COLUMN 27 OF FAMINE FORM No. 29).	IV.—MISCELLANEOUS, NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS COLUMNS (COLUMNS 9, 18 AND 28 OF FAMINE FORM No. 29).	Grand Total of columns 4, 10, 11 and 12.	DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNT IN COLUMN 13.		
In kitchens, not on relief works (columns 6, 15 and 24 of Famine Form No. 29).	Miscellaneous.	Total of columns 5 to 9.				Imperial Funds.	District Funds.	Municipal Funds.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
...	968	3,048	615	754	32,957	32,312	645	...
...	2,755	4,455	933	970	24,126	24,126	...	...
...	263	1,218	510	781	23,216	23,216	...	...
...	33,441	34,158	702	122	77,280	77,280	...	...
...	+ 9,312	+ 9,312	+ 1,538	+ 20,680	+ 31,644	+ 31,644	...	...
...	46,741	52,191	4,298	23,307	1,89,223	1,88,578	645	...
...	...	516	624	{ 574 (b) — 519 }	26,724	26,724	...	...
...	...	526	130	{ 404 }	23,596	23,596	...	...
...	9,092	9,486	4,579	{ 2,062 (b) — 757 }	25,746	25,746	...	...
...	...	...	...	{ 16,837 (b) — 873 }	15,964	15,964	...	...
...	...	...	...	{ (b) ⁴ — 349 }	— 345	— 345	...	...
...	...	...	...	{ (b) ¹⁴ — 5,703 }	— 5,689	— 5,689	...	...
...
...	9,092	10,528	5,333	11,694	85,996	85,996	...	...
...	55,833	62,719	9,631	35,001	2,75,219	2,74,574	645	...

1900, to the Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division.

C. L. DUNDAS,
Deputy Commissioner.

Final Report on Famine Relief Operations, Shahpur District, during the years 1899-00 and 1900-01.

CHAPTER I.

1. This report is divided into two main heads, *vis.*, "Famine Relief Works" and "Test Works." The former is dealt with in this chapter.

FAMINE RELIEF WORKS.

2. Only people from the Hissar District were employed on the "Famine Relief Works." The work consisted of the excavation of the Northern and Southern Branches and the Feeder Rájbaha of the Jhelum Canal.

3. Early in October 1899 information was received by the Executive Engineer, II Division, Jhelum Canal, that the earthwork of his Division was to be done by famine labour, and at once he made all necessary preparations for starting the work. The jungle was cleared along the three channels and the bed widths marked out with lockspits. So that no delay should occur in getting the people to work after their arrival at the camps.

4. In all 11,029 units, including non-working children and dependents, were sent to Bhera by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar under the direct charge of Mr. B. N. Bosworth-Smith, Assistant Commissioner. The people were conveyed in seven special trains, the first of which arrived at Bhera on the 14th November and the last on the 20th of the same month.

Close to the railway station at Bhera a rest camp consisting of 250 grass huts had been provided. The trains generally arrived in the forenoon, and on leaving the trains the coolies were marched direct to the rest camp, where both food and water had been provided in the neighbourhood. The coolies were allowed to rest here till the next morning. They were then marched off to their respective camps under the charge of the Sub-Overseers and Mistrís. As there were a good number of cripples and very old people, a few camels were supplied for each train-load to convey them to their camps. Most of these camels were supplied by one of the local Honorary Magistrates at his own cost.

5. The Jhelum Canal at R. D. 196,000 trifurcates into 1st Northern Branch, 2nd Southern Branch, and 3rd Feeder Rájbaha.

This point is close to a village called Faqirián and is about 15 miles from Bhera. The camps were arranged along the Northern and Southern Branches at a distance of two miles apart. The average distance of the camps on the Northern Branch from Bhera was about 13 miles. On the Southern Branch Camp No. 1 was 15 miles from Bhera, and each subsequent camp two miles further on. The further camps were reached in two marches, the people resting at Camp No. 1 for the night, where there was an ample supply of food and water. In all nine camps on the Northern Branch and seven on the Southern Branch were occupied. On the former Camps IV and V were soon vacated and the people were sent on to Camps Nos. VI and VII.

On an average 690 units were sent to each camp, though some had considerably more than this number to begin with, it being impossible to separate people who came from the same neighbourhood.

6. Each camp consisted of 60 grass huts for the coolies, 3 for the bania's shop, 4 for tools and baskets, and 3 extra huts for sick people whom it would be advisable to isolate at some distance from the main camp. Each hut was 12½ feet in length, and the sloping sides were each 8 feet. The back of the hut was closed in with a triangular piece of the same

material. The front or door was made like the back of the hut, but could be put up or taken down at will by the inmates. The camps were fixed as close as possible to the site of the work and each was laid out as a rectangle. There were two main streets 50 feet wide crossing each other at right angles in the centre of the camp. The width of the camp was further divided up by two other streets, 20 feet wide, one on either side of the main street. The huts were 12 feet apart and 5 feet from the edge of the roads. All cooking had to be done outside.

Each hut was intended to hold 10 units, but owing to caste prejudices there was a good deal of difficulty over this.

7. As the camps were in most cases far away from villages, the Deputy Commissioner of Shahpur arranged to provide a bania's shop at each camp. The prices of the food stuffs were fixed each week by the Tahsildár of Bhera, and a copy of the prices in the vernacular was hung up at each shop door. The rates were fixed somewhat higher than those prevailing at Bhera in order to recompense the men for carrying their grain, &c., to the camps. These men did not enjoy the monopoly of providing the camps with food for very long; attracted by the steady sale other banias opened out shops in the vicinity of the camps; and owing to the competition the prices very soon came down to the same level as those prevailing at Bhera or Shahpur. No restriction was imposed on the coolies buying provisions from any one. Chaukidárs were employed to guard each shop, but those were very soon dismissed as they were considered unnecessary.

Hissar Head 9. —

Food supplies.

8. A well was provided at each camp for drinking water; wherever possible the existing village wells were utilized for this purpose, but in most cases, especially along the Northern Branch, new katcha wells had to be excavated.

Hissar Head 9 —

Water-supply.

The wells were about 300 yards from the camps and on the opposite side to the latrines. The depth to water surface averaged about 65 feet.

On the Northern Branch nearly all the water was brackish. At the village wells alluded to the water was raised by means of a Persian wheel, while at the katcha wells buckets and ropes were used for this purpose, worked by either a camel or a pair of bullocks.

At first Rs. 50 a month was paid for working each well, but this was subsequently reduced to Rs. 30.

Two pacca masonry tanks were built at each well for drinking purposes (size 5' X 5' X 4'), one for Muhammadans and the other for Hindús. The water reached these tanks, through a pacca drain from the well. After the Sanitary Commissioner had visited the camps early in December the wells and tanks were provided with wooden lids at his suggestion and kept locked at night to prevent the water being polluted. The tanks were provided with taps and the water was drawn off by means of these; no one was allowed to dip his vessel into the tanks. The tops of the wells were slightly raised above the natural surface of the ground to prevent drainage water flowing into it. A separate shallow tank at some distance from the others was also provided for washing purposes. One special chaukidár was appointed at each well to guard the water-supply and to see that all orders in connection with it were carried out. Though expensive this system had to be adopted owing to the outbreak of cholera in the early stage of the famine operations.

9. Separate latrines for men and women were provided at each camp about 300 yards away and on the opposite side to the well. The latrines consisted of trenches 11' X 1' and were screened by mats. Two sweepers were appointed for each camp from among the Hissaris, the Jamadár being held responsible that they did their work. The Tahsildárs in charge of the camps had strict orders to punish by fines all breaches of sanitary rules.

Hissar Head 7. —

Conservancy arrangements

Arrangements for disposing of the dead were also made. A site was fixed on, and six graves at each camp were always kept ready, while for Hindus there was ample fuel in the neighbourhood of every camp. This burial ground was 500 yards from the camp.

10. The only serious epidemic which visited the camps was an outbreak of cholera. The day after the coolies reached Camp No. V on the Northern Branch I went to put them on to their work and found a good number ill and a few had died during the night. The Civil Surgeon, who was out here on tour that day, was asked by me to visit this camp, and the same evening he sent me a letter saying he suspected it was cholera, and was going to Shalipur at once to send out medicines and medical aid. This was on the 25th November. At this time there was only one Hospital Assistant in charge of all the camps, stretching over a distance of 32 miles. On receiving the Civil Surgeon's note I ordered the Hospital Assistant to go at once to Camp No. V, and sent his box of medicines with him on a swari camel. The next morning he reported that the disease was unmistakeably cholera, and that Camp No. IV had also been attacked. The same day reports came in that cholera had also broken out in Camps IV and V of the Southern Branch. Mr. Bosworth-Smith, Assistant Commissioner, at once decided to remove the healthy people from Camps IV and V, North Branch, to camps further down the line, and they were eventually removed to Camps VI and VII.

Unfortunately the disease spread very rapidly, and two new camps, VIII and IX, were attacked simultaneously. The inmates of these had arrived after the outbreak had occurred in Camps Nos. IV and V. Mr. Bosworth-Smith removed his tents to Bhulwal to be near the cholera camps, and did all he could to cheer the people and prevent them running away. In spite of all the efforts made, a very large number of people ran away from one camp to another, and some of these deserted altogether and did not come back.

Medical aid began now to arrive, and the strength of the Medical staff was raised to one Assistant Surgeon, six Hospital Assistants and four Compounders. The Civil Surgeon himself stayed out here during the worst of the outbreak and worked very hard.

The chief measures adopted to check the spread of the disease were isolating the sick and protecting the water-supply. Where the wells were contaminated the water for drinking purposes was brought from other wells on canals and permanganate of potash was liberally used.

The sick were given special food, and a large number of goats were provided for this purpose and put in charge of the Hospital Assistant of each camp.

The epidemic lasted from 25th November till 8th January; in all about 691 persons died in the different camps during this time. The number of those that died in the jungle will never be ascertained, as their bodies were very soon disposed of by vultures and jackals. That a large number did die in the jungle is I think proved by the fact of nine bodies having been discovered by the different officers in charge here, and in one case a man who ran away from Camp No. IX in company with eight others returned after a few days with a sad tale to the effect that he has lost all his companions in a few days, and it seemed hopeless for him to try and escape the disease so he came back.

When the epidemic was at its height the greatest difficulty was experienced in disposing of the dead, even sweepers refusing to touch the bodies, although very liberal payments were offered. To any one who did not see the camps at their worst it would be impossible to convey any idea of trouble and difficulties experienced by those in charge.

Colonel Montgomery, the Commissioner and Superintendent of the Ráwalpindi Division, visited all the cholera camps, and it was only due to his being on the spot and promising higher rates for earthwork than the people were getting at the time that we managed to keep them together, and but very few deserted after his visit.

To help in disposing of the dead a special constable was at last appointed at each camp, as, unless carefully supervised, the bodies were either buried in shallow trenches where the jackals devoured them at night or left only half burnt on the funeral pyres.

Every effort was made to overcome the difficulties and to enforce sanitary measures in checking the disease.

Blankets and clothing to the value of Rs 4,500 were provided and served out to the sick and needy. Gratuitous relief was also given to the orphans and those unable to work.

As each camp was free from cholera the clothing of those who had been sick was washed under the supervision of the Assistant Surgeon.

The Sanitary Commissioner visited the camps on the 15th December and expressed himself satisfied with what had been done, and all his suggestions were promptly carried out.

When the cholera disappeared the Medical staff was reduced to one Assistant Surgeon, one Hospital Assistant and one Compounder.

The subordinates who did well were given sanads and money rewards. *

No other disease worth record occurred.

Accidents by fire.

11. No accidents by fire were reported.

12. The relief operations were first in charge of Mr. Bosworth-Smith,

Management of the relief works.

the Public Works Department officials only making the bills and measurements. This dual control was considered waste of power and necessitated the up-keep of a larger staff than was actually necessary, so it was decided to put the relief works under the charge of the Canal Engineer on the spot. This was eventually done, and the Náib Tahsildárs who made the payments were put under his orders.

The Náib Tahsildárs in charge of the camps had to distribute the wages and gratuitous relief, enquire into complaints, and to generally look after and control every one in their camps.

13. For the first fortnight the people were paid on muster rolls, the

Wages.

daily wages being paid in accordance with the Famine Code. It was clearly impressed on them that these payments were merely advances and would be deducted when their work was measured up and paid for.

On measuring up the work it was found that barely 10 per cent. of the coolies had done enough work to cover the money advanced them on the muster rolls. This was not entirely due to laziness; a very great proportion of the people were emaciated and could not do a full day's task, and the rates fixed by the Chief Engineer were too low for people weakened by famine.

Colonel Montgomery when visiting the camps at the end of November went thoroughly into the question of rates and recommended that the rates to be paid on the Northern Branch should be—

Excavation down to 2' Re. 0-5-0 per hundred cubic feet.

Excavation down from 2' to 4' Re. 0-6-0 per hundred cubic feet.

Excavation down below 4' Re. 0-7-0 per hundred cubic feet.

For the Southern Branch he recommended that these rates should in every case be increased by one anna on account of extra lead and lift, as all the earth that went into spoil was to be deposited on the left side only. This was done at a

time when the cholera was ravaging both the Northern and Southern Branches and people were running away in great numbers. This order seemed to put new life into the workers and induced them to stay on the works.

These rates remained in force till March, when a reduction of half anna per hundred cubic feet was made, and again in April another reduction of half anna was made.

The people fast improved in condition, and each month the amount of work done steadily increased. Although a reduction of one anna per hundred cubic feet was made by the end of March the people earned practically the same amount of money as they did in February.

The people had come here with the idea that they were to be paid something over and above the usual famine wages, and in this they were not disappointed, the piece work rates were liberal, and most of the coolies must have saved a little money before they returned home.

The money was disbursed by the Naib Tahsildars in charge of the camps. The measurements and bills were made out by the subordinates once a week and handed over to the Naib Tahsildars for payment.

The officer in charge constantly helped in the payments and checked the measurements of the subordinates from time to time. All workers were expected to support every member of their families, and gratuitous relief was only given after a very searching enquiry and the officer in charge was thoroughly satisfied that the person was unable to work and had no one to support him. The average daily wages earned varied from $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas to 3 annas. As the workers had to support the non-working members of their families, it was a distinct saving to Government to work on this system.

Appendix No I of this report gives the daily average number of each class of the working units and the wages earned by them in each month.

Mates were selected from among the labourers to look after the gangs, to help in making measurements and enforcing orders. These mates were paid $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day and their gangs varied from 50 to 100 units. During their leisure hours they were allowed to work as diggers and were paid for this at the usual rates.

Kassies and baskets were supplied to all the workers free of cost.

When the coolies first arrived one digger and two carriers could barely do 100 cubic feet, but later on as they improved in condition the average output was about 150 cubic feet per day.

14. Gratuitous relief. Gratuitous relief was given to non-workers and dependents, both in the different camps and in the poor-house. This poor-house was centrally situated and consisted of 25 grass huts placed side by side in a circle, the whole being enclosed by a fence of thorns.

In the camps gratuitous relief was given by means of cash payments, the amount for each class being the minimum wages as laid down in the Famine Code. In a few cases where the workers owing to weakness were unable to earn even the minimum famine wage their rates for task work were slightly raised.

The average daily wages thus paid as gratuitous relief varied from three-fourths of an anna to one anna per head.

Appendix II of this report gives the daily average number of units gratuitously relieved and the total wages paid to them each month.

Some of the sick were also gratuitously relieved, either by being given money, or when especially recommended by the Assistant Surgeon by means of rations. This last was only done where the sick person was too ill to prepare his or her own food or when special diet was necessary.

The poor-house was opened on the 16th December 1899; it was situated near the village of Dhori about three miles from Faqirán. Orphans and those too old or unable to work who had no near relative in any of the camps were the only people admitted into the poor-house.

The water-supply was obtained from the village well, which was about 300 yards away, and the owner was paid Rs. 10 a month for raising all the water needed for the poor-house establishment.

The poor-house was placed in charge of Malik Fateh Muhammad Khán, Náib Tahsildár, in addition to his other duties. He had under him the following establishment :—

1 Superintendent	@ Rs. 5 per month.
1 Cook	@ " 4 " "
1 Chaukidár	@ " 2 " "
1 Sweeper	@ Re. 1 " "

These men were also given food in addition to their wages.

The kitchen was on the north side of the poor-house, cooking vessels were purchased in Bhera, and food supplies were arranged for by the Náib Tahsildár. Twice daily the inmates were given their meals, once at 9.30 in the morning and again just before dark. The food consisted of wheat bread and vegetables or dál alternately. Adults were given 11 chatáks and minors 6 chatáks daily. Special diet was given to those recommended for it by the Assistant Surgeon.

Malik Fateh Muhammad Khán made himself very popular with the children; he instituted a kind of hockey for their amusement in which he also used to join. Nearly all these children had lost their parents during the cholera epidemic.

For the first three weeks after the poor-house was opened the numbers fed daily were 156, 108 and 106 respectively. From time to time the inmates were inspected, and those whose health had returned were sent back to work in one or other of the camps. The numbers gradually were thus reduced, and at the close of the famine works only 59 units remained in the poor-house. Of these 24 were men, 16 women and 19 children.

A list of the orphans was sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar to find out whether they had any relatives living in that district, and if so, were these relatives willing to adopt them. Of course in some cases enquiry was hopeless, as the children were too young to remember anything about their people or homes and no information could be obtained from them.

Out of the 14 orphans mentioned in the list the relatives of only 7 were discovered and these agreed to adopt the children. At the close of the famine operations here all the orphans were sent back to Hissar by rail on the 7th June.

The total amount of money spent on the maintenance of the poor-house was Rs 1,335-1-3. The details of this expenditure are given in Appendix No. III. The average daily cost of food for the inmates was about one anna per head.

The poor-house was inspected by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who expressed himself as satisfied with all he saw.

One of the canal contractors, Dhári Mal, supplied all the inmates with shoes, and the Assistant Surgeon supplied the children with caps.

15. The prices of food stuffs have been nearly stationary the whole time the Hissaris worked in this district.

Appendix IV gives the prices of the different kinds of food stuffs for each month.

16. On three different occasions a count was made of all the Hissaris working on the Jhelum Canal.

The first census was taken on the 20th December 1899, the next on the 20th February, and the last on the 1st April. The results are shown below:—

<i>Date on which census was taken.</i>		<i>Number of persons on that date.</i>
20th December	...	7,356
20th February	...	6,780
1st April	...	6,510

The first of these is not quite reliable.

17. It is very unsatisfactory to note that the figures for births and deaths are incomplete. The Civil Surgeon is unable to help in the matter, as no figures were sent to him lately. The registers kept by the officers in charge of the camps are with the Deputy Commissioner and the figures can be taken from them.

There was no serious epidemic after the cholera disappeared. A few cases of measles and small pox occurred, but by careful isolation the Assistant Surgeon succeeded in stamping out these diseases.

On the works no person died of starvation, and only one accidental death occurred, when a woman fell down the well at Camp No. V.

The birth and death registers were kept by the paying officer and were written up daily by the Camp Muharrir or Mistri.

18. At the commencement of the famine relief operations in this district, one Tahsildár, one candidate for an Extra Assistant Commissionership and four Náib Tahsildárs were deputed for the work. When the cholera somewhat decreased the candidate for an Extra Assistant Commissionership was relieved of his duties, and as long as the operations were under the charge of Mr. Bosworth-Smith the following establishment was kept up:—

Establishment.
*Mallik Muhammad Hayat Khan, Nán.
His services were honorary, only travelling allowance being drawn.

1	Clerk and Head Munshi	@	Rs. 50	per mensem.
1	Head Cashier	@	" 20	"
1	Head Muharrir	@	" 15	"
5	Cashiers	@	" 16	"
12	Muharrirs	@	" 12	" one for each camp.
24	Chaukidárs	@	" 7	" two for each shop.
48	Ditto	@	" 7	" four for each camp and well.
16	Police Chaukidárs	@	" 6	"
4	Dak-runners	@	" 7	"
3	Camel Sowárs	@	" 20	"
1	Special man to carry medicines for the Assistant Surgeon	@	" 7	"

The Public Works Department establishment at the same time consisted of—

1	Clerk	@	Rs. 25	per mensem.
12	Mistris	@	" 15	"
24	Mates	@	" 8	"

When the operations were put in charge of the Canal Officer the establishment was greatly reduced, as owing to the disappearance of the cholera and the

reduction in the number of coolies so large a staff was no longer necessary. With the consent of the Deputy Commissioner the following reductions were made:—

- 11 Camp Muharrirs were dismissed and their work made over to the Mistris. Only one Muharrir was kept on; he being a Hissari and having come from that district with a promise of service, was not dismissed.
- 36 Well and camp chaukidars were dismissed. The wells were provided with wooden lids and could be locked, so one man for each well was considered ample.
- 1 Cashier at Rs. 16 was dismissed, only one for each paying officer being necessary.
- 4 Dak-runners were dismissed as the post could be carried by the existing canal dak-runners.

The Camel Sowars were not dismissed, but their pay was reduced from Rs. 20 per mensem to Rs. 10.

As mentioned in a previous part of this report, there was one bania's shop at each camp, and to guard the supplies two chaukidars were engaged for each shop. Very soon the Hissaris found they could buy cheaper elsewhere, and the camp banias left when they saw they no longer had the monopoly. As the chaukidars were then no longer necessary, they were dismissed as each bania closed his shop.

With the consent of the Civil Surgeon of Shahpur 11 of the well chaukidars were also dismissed in April.

The Police chaukidars were also dispensed with in April, and the Hissaris were told to arrange themselves for the protection of their goods.

The total expenditure on account of work-charged establishment amounted to Rs. 11,089-0-7 for the whole period.

The amount charged to establishment was high, but as the work stretched over a length of 32 miles and the prevalence of cholera during the earlier periods much economy could not be practised. Every care was taken to reduce the establishment to the lowest possible figure.

19. The conduct of the establishment was exceptionally good: only one case of fraud was reported. A Muharrir taking advantage of his position informed all the coolies in one of the camps that he had been authorized to take down the names of those deserving to get blankets, and for every name he put down he took sums of money varying from four annas to eight annas. These sums were naturally only forthcoming from the better classes of the Hissaris, and when the blankets were distributed only the poorest people were given them. The subscribers demanded back their money from the Muharrir and eventually reported the matter. The man was tried by Mr. Bosworth-Smith and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, but was acquitted on appeal.

No separate accounts were kept for November; they were incorporated in December's accounts.

Owing to the want of any definite orders on the subject of payments having been issued, a certain amount of confusion reigned for the first few days. It was taken for granted at first that all sums disbursed on account of wages, gratuitous relief and the establishment employed by the Civil Officers were to be accounted for separately by the Civil Department, and only the amounts expended by the Public Works Officers directly for "Works" (cost of hutting, tools, work-charged establishment and water-supply) were to be accounted for by the Public Works Department. This system of dual accounts remained in practice till the 30th April, when the Examiner of Public Works Accounts ruled that all expenditure whether incurred through the Civil Officers or by

the Public Works Department directly was to be included in the accounts of the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch. In compliance with this ruling all expenditure was included in the Public Works Department Accounts from the 1st May 1900.

The cash for payments was drawn by means of cheques, issued by the Canal Officer, from the Bhera Sub-Treasury. The money was escorted to Faqirán by a Police guard and deposited in the treasure chest there. One key of this treasure chest was kept by the Canal Officer and the other by the Head Cashier. This treasure was in charge of a Police guard consisting of a Sergeant and eight Constables. A cash book for daily transactions was kept by the Cashier. Whenever cash was required for payments the paying officer came to Faqirán and drew it and gave a printed hand-receipt to the Cashier for the amount drawn. These receipts were to check the cash book kept by the Head Cashier and the expenditure and balances of the paying officers. The paying officers had to submit a copy of their cash books with vouchers at the end of each week; all these were carefully checked in the office of the officer in charge.

The bills were prepared by the Public Works Department subordinates on Form No. 15 and were then handed over to the paying officer for disbursement. The bill showed the man's name, the exact position of his work, the quantity of work done, the rate and the amount to be paid.

When the work in any chain was finished, the total amount paid for in that chain was checked with the estimated quantity. For this purpose separate ledgers were kept. The number of those given gratuitous relief was fixed for each camp; their names were entered in a register; payments were made them once a week.

All stationery was supplied by the officer in charge to the paying officer, Muharrirs and Mistris.

Disbursing officers were not allowed to pay miscellaneous items of more than Re. 1 without special sanction.

The amounts due for hutting, water-supply, tools and plant and other works were paid direct by the officer in charge.

According to the books of the Public Works Department the expenditure on famine relief works was Rs. 2,43,066-15-9 and on test works Rs. 16,826-5-0, making a total of Rs. 2,59,892-4-9. Of this sum, Rs. 1,35,187-10-8 were written off to the capital sanctioned for the excavation of the Jhelum Canal, and the balance Rs. 1,24,705-10-1 to "33—Famine Relief Works."

The total cost of tools and baskets amounted to Rs. 12,334-11-0, but these are being gradually sold to contractors, and up to date Rs. 2,329-5-6 have been realized and credited to famine relief works.

Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 2,59,892-4-9 only Rs. 1,83,223-2-1 was disbursed through the subordinate Civil Officers. The details of this are—

	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Wages paid for work done ...	1,63,031	3	11
2. Poor-house charges ...	1,335	1	3
3. Gratuitous relief ...	14,605	9	1
4. Work-charged Establishment ...	3,981	4	7
5. Miscellaneous charges ...	269	15	3
Total ...	1,83,223	2	1

The balance Rs. 76,670-2-8 was disbursed through the officers of the Public Works Department, the details of which are—

		Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Dagbelling and jungle clearance ...	6,885	9	0
2.	Preparation of sites for camps ...	328	12	3
3.	Cost of huts ...	39,068	11	3
4.	Baskets, &c. ...	2,163	2	0
5.	Water-supply ...	7,477	1	3
6.	Conservancy charges ...	725	12	3
7.	Work-charged Establishment ...	7,107	12	0
8.	Registers ...	62	11	2
9.	Tools and Plant ...	12,334	11	0
10.	Miscellaneous charges such as constructing temporary treasury building, &c. ...	516	0	6
	Total ...	76,670	2	8

Appendix No. V shows the distribution of expenditure under the proper head.

21. On the receipt of orders that the people were to be sent back to their own district lists were made out showing the numbers of each class,—those under 3 years, those between the years of 3 and 12, and adults. Also a list was made of the animals owned by the Hissaris as those were also to be taken by train.

These lists showed that in all there were 6,480 units in the camps. Of these 5,957 asked to be sent back to their homes, 23 decided to stay on and work here, and the remaining 500 did not deserve the concession of being sent home at Government expense, as they had come here of their own accord and had not been sent by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar.

Three special trains were arranged for, to leave Bhera on the 7th, 9th and 11th of June, respectively. The Hissaris were marched back to Bhera in the same way as they had been marched out, those from the further camps resting for the night at Camp No. 1 in the way and continuing their march the next morning. They were allowed to stay in Bhera for one night in the rest camp and were entrained the next morning. A few camels were again supplied to carry the lame and sick from the different camps to Bhera. As the weather was getting warm, a gharra of water was provided in each compartment of the train. The Deputy Commissioner and Major Scott-Moncrieff personally made all the necessary arrangements at Bhera.

The poor-house was sent to Bhera a few days before; nine camels and three carts were supplied for carrying the inmates and cooking vessels, &c.

At Bhera the Hissaris were paid three days' wages in advance by the Deputy Commissioner.

Each train was sent in charge of a Naib Tahsildar; he was given a small advance of money to defray any unforeseen expenditure *en route*.

General Remarks.

22. The famine relief operations were not a success financially. The reasons for the failure are—

1. Cost of hutting.
2. Outbreak of cholera.

Arrangements to give work to 30,000 units were made and hutting accommodation for this number provided. Owing to the serious outbreak of cholera further importation was stopped by the Commissioner of the Division. Had the original number arranged for been sent to the Jhelum Canal, in all probability the scheme would have been a decided success. The people worked very well, and

the quality of their work was much better than that done by the average contractor. The cost of hutting might have been reduced to a very low figure had the coolies been sent here a month earlier; the weather was then warm, and as jungle wood was abundant they could have erected shelters for themselves without any trouble and saved the Government the expenses of erecting costly huts. One reason for the excessive amount spent on hutting was the high price of grass owing to the fodder famine in this district.

The people themselves were very emaciated when they arrived, and it was only after being on the work some time they were able to do a fair day's task. Had they been in better condition the chances are they would not have fallen victims in such large numbers to the cholera and would have been able to work at the rates originally fixed by the Chief Engineer. The wells on the Northern Branch are more or less brackish, and new arrivals in this locality are usually attacked with diarrhoea: this was one of the reasons stated by the Civil Surgeon for the high mortality from cholera. That the cholera was brought by the people themselves from Hissar can hardly be doubted; there was none in this district at the time, and but very few local people contracted the disease.

The following officials worked splendidly and deserve mention. As it was understood that the Hissaris were coming to this district accompanied by a full staff of paying officers, clerks, &c., no arrangements were made here for any such emergency. When it was found that neither Náib Tahsildárs, Muharrirs or Clerks had come, hasty arrangements were made to supply the want, and there is great credit due to these men for the able and prompt manner in which the work was done:—

Malik Muhammad Hayát Khán, a member of the Nún family and a candidate for an Extra Assistant Commissionership. Stayed out here during the worst of the cholera epidemic and looked after some of the camps. His help was very acceptable.

Bakhshi Ghanishám Dás, Tahsildár, was most energetic and helpful throughout. He arranged for all the food-supplies for the camps. His knowledge of the people of the Hissar District made him especially useful.

Malik Fateh Muhammad Khán, Nún, Náib Tahsildár, is also a member of the Nún family. He made himself most useful in looking after the cholera-stricken Hissaris and showed a special aptitude for work in connection with famine camps. His management of the poor-house was all that could be desired.

Amír Singh, Náib Tahsildár, had certainly the most disagreeable and trying work to do during the cholera outbreak. In his camps the disease made the greatest havoc; the work was made particularly trying, as disposing of the dead was no easy matter; and his conduct throughout was most praiseworthy.

Harbakhsh Rái, Náib Tahsildár, also had a very hard time of it during the cholera, and he proved himself a capable and trustworthy officer.

Jamiát Rái and Bishen Dás, Hospital Assistants, both worked exceedingly well, and their exertions must have been the means of saving many lives.

Kesho Rám, Sub-Overseer, was associated with Amír Singh in looking after Camps Nos. VIII and IX, Northern Branch. Owing to the panic among the Hissaris everything was disorganised, and great credit is due to Kesho Rám for his carrying on the work as well as he did. He gave able help with the sick and in every other possible way.

Jawáhir Lál, Sub-Overseer, had also a trying time during the cholera epidemic and worked very well.

Pahelwán Khán, Sub-Divisional Clerk, behaved splendidly, but the hard work nearly cost him his life, as it left him little or no time for rest, which resulted in a serious illness. He rendered valuable service.

Devi Diyál, Famine Clerk, also worked very well, and deserves great credit for the way in which he acquitted himself.

Final Report of the Famine Operations on the Jhelum Canals during the years 1899-00 and 1900-01.

CHAPTER II.

TEST WORKS.

SINCE July 1898 but little rain fell in this district, and the results were disastrous to the inhabitants of the Bár and the Thal tracts, who depend to a very great extent on their cattle. Large numbers of animals died in this district from starvation. The villages were quite deserted and the people flocked to the Jhelum and Chenab Rivers with their cattle in the hopes of getting some fodder there. This coupled with the high prices prevailing for food stuffs led to the opening of the test works in March last.

On receipt of orders to open test works on the Jhelum Canal notices were given to the Lambardárs and Zaildárs of nearly all the villages in the district that test works were to be opened near Bhulwal at Camp No. X on the Northern Branch. This camp is about two miles from Bhulwal and lies due west. The rates fixed for the work were—

For excavation down to 2 feet	...	Rs 2-4-0 per 1,000 cubic feet.
" " from 2 to 4 "	...	" 2-8-0 " "
" " " 4 to 6 "	...	" 2-12-0 " "

On the 25th February 265 persons came on the work; they were supplied with kassies and baskets, and were allowed to live in the huts that had been erected for the Hissaris. The quality of the water was very bad and the people were constantly complaining that it made them ill. This added very considerably to the severity of the test, and after a while three other camps were opened for test workers where the water-supply was better in quality.

The average daily attendance for the 1st week ending 3rd March 1900 was 274 units.

For the 2nd week	...	...	968
For the 3rd week	...	...	1,563
For the 4th week	...	...	1,949
For the 5th week	...	...	1,960
For the 6th week ending 7th April	...	...	1,987

After the 8th April the numbers began to decrease steadily and fell to 329 during the week ending 2nd June 1900; it was decided then to close the works.

Of those who came to the test works and were classed as local labourers, about one-third were residents of other districts; the balance was composed of agriculturists and menials of this district in about equal proportions. The comparatively small attendance seemed to show that the people were not as yet very hard pressed by famine.

Villages situated near the rivers and those irrigated by the Government and private inundation canals did not in any way feel the effects of the scarcity; it was only the villages situated in the Thal, Bár and parts of the Salt Range that were affected. These people depend almost entirely on their cattle for subsistence, and while the test works lasted they were occupied in driving their starving animals from place to place along the rivers, trying if possible to save the lives of even a few. In the villages, which to all appearances looked quite deserted, were found only the aged and a few women and children.

Those who first felt the effects of the scarcity found occupation on the miscellaneous works, such as buildings and brick-fields, which were then going on. These works were very popular, as the wages were good, and no great bodily exertion was required. Advances too could always be obtained from the contractors.

The zamíndárs of this district seemed to look on manual labour of the kind offered them as derogatory, and those who could sold their lands to keep themselves and their families in food rather than go to the test works, which had been opened for their benefit. The amount of land that changed hands during the period must have been enormous.

No arrangements of any kind were made for the supply of food stuffs, the labourers were expected to get their own supplies from the village banias.

No gratuitous relief of any kind was given, as it was intended to make the test a severe one.

The amounts earned daily varied from two to three annas a head.

The establishment employed consisted of one Místri at Rs. 15 per mensem and one Máté at Rs. 8 per mensem for each camp; also one Cashier on Rs. 16 and one Sowár on Rs. 10 were employed to carry money from the treasury to the different camps.

The sum expended on the test works amounted to Rs. 16,826-5-c, and is included in Appendix VI.

**General Remarks.*

The opening of test works here seemed to emphasise the aversion that the people of this district have to hard manual labor, and this is not to be wondered at, considering the free and easy lives they are accustomed to lead, their chief occupation being grazing cattle and stealing from their neighbours.

A good number of work people took away the kassies they had been supplied with, but these were in every case recovered through the Lambardárs.

BHULWAL :
The 14th October 1900.

J. N. TAYLOR,
Assistant Engineer,
Officer in Charge.

APPENDIX NO. I.

Statement showing the daily average number of working men among the Hissari Famine Labourers, and the wages earned by them in each month.

CLASS OF LABOURERS.	DECEMBER 1899.		JANUARY 1900.		FEBRUARY 1900.		MARCH 1900.		APRIL 1900.		MAY 1900.		JUNE 1900.		Grand Total of wages paid.	REMARKS.
	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.	Average daily number of working labourers.	Wages earned by them for the month.		
Special Class	224	Rs. 27,933-2-11	160	Rs. 17,767-14-9	130	Rs. 20,707-1-3	123	Rs. 31,456-12-11	121	Rs. 20,398-8-0	119	Rs. 18,323-2-9	110	Rs. 9,666 9 1	Rs. 1,63,031-3-11	
Class I Diggers	2,271		1,704		1,767		2,844		1,682		1,613		1,391			
Class II Carriers	2,476		2,103		2,347		2,593		2,273		2,235		1,981			
Class III Working children	829		538		580		614		600		570		483			
Total	5,800	Rs. 27,933-2-11	4,505	Rs. 17,767-14-9	4,824	Rs. 20,707-1-3	5,174	Rs. 31,456-12-11	4,616	Rs. 20,398-8-0	4,537	Rs. 18,323-2-9	4,955	Rs. 9,666 9 1	..	

J. N. TAYLOR,
Famine Officer.

APPENDIX No. II.

Statement showing the number of non-working children and dependents relieved by Government and by working labourers respectively, and the total minimum famine wages paid by Government by way of gratuitous relief in each month.

NAME OF MONTH.	Average daily number of non-working children and dependents relieved by working famine labourers.	Average daily number of non-working children and dependents other than in poor-house relieved by Government.	Amount paid by Government as gratuitous relief.	• Daily average famine wages paid to each person.	REMARKS.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
December 1899	1,210	753	1,647 1 0	0 1 0	
January 1900	1,142	332	581 5 2	0 1 0	
February „	1,273	302	* 528 3 6	0 1 0	
March „	1,563	175	361 12 9	0 0 11	
April „	1,491	144	230 7 6	0 0 11	
May „	1,478	125	196 7 0	0 0 11	
June (1st to 19th) 1900	1,453	138	144 4 0	0 1 1	
Total	*1,373	*281	3,689 8 11	*0 1 0	

*These figures represent daily average.

J. N. TAYLOR,

Famine Officer.

APPENDIX No. III.

Statement showing number of persons relieved in the poor-house and the amount spent by Government in each month.

NAME OF MONTH.	Number of persons relieved in poor-house.	EXPENDITURE					Average cost of food per head.	REMARKS.
		On food.	On Estab-lishment.	On clothing.	On other purposes.	Total.		
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
December 1899	132	158 0 7	...	...	...	158 0 7	0 1 1	
January 1900	103	193 5 3	25 15 6	92 12 9	83 0 3	395 1 9	0 1 1	
February "	81	157 14 3	14 3 9	...	...	172 2 0	0 1 1	
March "	69	195 0 1	...	...	...	195 0 1	0 1 3	
April "	59	115 13 9	12 0 0	...	...	127 13 9	0 1 1	
May "	58	121 6 9	15 0 0	...	20 0 0	136 6 9	0 1 2	* Includes Rs. 58-14-5 paid in June 1900 on account of the previous months.
June " "	33	* 93 5 11	2 5 5	...	† 34 13 0	130 8 4	0 1 2	† Includes Rs. 3-14-2 adjusted long after the dispatch of poor-house inmates and consequently has not been shown in any weekly return No. 17.
Total ... ..	...	1,034 14 7	69 8 8	92 12 9	137 13 3	1,335 1 3	...	

J. N. TAYLOR,

Famine Officer.

APPENDIX No. IV.

Statement showing average daily prices of food-grains current in Famine Camps
from December 1899 to June 1900.

NAME OF MONTH.	PRICES PER RUPEE.					REMARKS.
	Wheat.	Flour wheat.	Bájra.	Maize.	Gram.	
	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	
December 1899...	0 9 14	0 9 4	0 10 11	0 10 14	0 10 11	
January 1900 ...	0 9 12	0 9 2	0 11 5	0 11 6	0 11 5	
February 1900 ...	0 9 9	0 8 10	0 10 14	0 10 14	0 10 14	
March 1900 ...	0 11 7	0 9 14	0 11 15	0 11 15	0 11 15	
April 1900 ...	0 12 14	0 11 0	0 12 2	0 12 12	0 14 8	
May 1900 ...	0 12 11	0 10 8	0 11 4	0 11 4	0 12 0	
June 1st to 19th, 1900 ...	0 11 12	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 12 0	

J. N. TAYLOR,

Famine Officer.

APPENDIX No. V.

Statement showing the distribution of expenditure under the proper heads.

Serial No.	Name of Sub-Heads.	Amount.	REMARKS.
		Rs. A. P.	
1	Wages paid for famine relief works ...	1,46,204 14 11	
2	On test works ...	16,826 5 0	
3	On poor-house ...	1,335 1 3	
4	On gratuitous relief ...	14,605 9 1	
5	On work-charged establishment ...	11,089 0 7	
6	On miscellaneous charges ...	785 15 9	
7	On dágbellling and jungle clearance ...	6,885 9 0	
8	On preparation of sites for camps ...	328 12 3	
9	On cost of huts ...	39,068 11 3	
10	On baskets, &c. ...	2,163 2 0	
11	On water-supply ...	7,477 1 3	
12	On conservancy charges ...	725 12 3	
13	On registers ...	62 11 2	
14	On tools and plant ...	12,334 11 0	
	Total ...	2,59,893 4 9	

J. N. TAYLOR,

Famine Officer.

APPENDIX No. VI

Statement showing the total expenditure up to the end of June 1900 on Irrigation Works charged to "33—Famine Relief Works," and values calculated at normal rates proposed to be written back from "33—Famine Relief Works" to ordinary heads.

Particulars of works.	Amount charged to 33—Famine Relief Works.	VALUE OF WORK AT NORMAL RATES CHARGEABLE TO ORDINARY HEADS.			Balance to remain at debit of 33—Famine Relief Works.	REMARKS.
		Quantity.	Rate.	Amount.		
33—FAMINE RELIEF WORKS IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—IMPERIAL.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
<i>II.—Irrigation Works.</i>						
<i>(d) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PRODUCTIVE PUBLIC WORKS, JHELUM CANAL.</i>						
<i>I.—Works.</i>						
<i>(2) MAIN CANAL AND BRANCHES.</i>						
<i>(L) Earthwork.</i>						
EXCAVATION OF NORTHERN BRANCH.						
<i>Expenditure incurred directly by Public Works Department Officers.</i>						
(a) Digbelling and jungle clearance ...	...	} 1,691 chains ...	1 4 0 per chain	2,116 0 0	}	* 846 0 0
(b) Boundary Roads ...	...		0 8 0 do	846 0 0		
(c) Root clearance ...	...		34 miles ... 25 0 0 per mile	850 0 0		
(d) Preparation of Famine Camps ...	154 10 0					
(e) Supply of huts for labourers ...	24,229 13 6					
(f) Baskets and other materials ...	813 13 3					
(g) Water-supply ...	4,268 3 6					
(h) Conservancy charges ...	314 11 3					
(i) Work-charged establishment ...	4,265 2 9					
(j) Miscellaneous ...	362 13 3					
Total ...	38,349 1 6					

* These amounts have been taken from the sanctioned estimate and are proposed to be transferred to capital in full. The balance has been charged to 33—Famine Relief Works.

APPENDIX No. VI—CONCLUDED.

Statement showing the total expenditure up to the end of June 1900 on Irrigation Works charged to "33—Famine Relief Works," and values calculated at normal rates proposed to be written back from "33—Famine Relief Works" to ordinary heads—concluded.

Particulars of works.	Amount charged to 33—Famine Relief Works.	VALUE OF WORK AT NORMAL RATES CHARGEABLE TO ORDINARY HEADS.			Balance to remain at debit of 33—Famine Relief Works.	REMARKS.
		Quantity.	Rate.	Amount.		
EXCAVATION OF NORTHERN BRANCH—concluded						
<i>Expenditure incurred by Civil Officers acting as Public Works Disbursers.</i>	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
(k) Wages of labour	66 294 2 9	Earthwork				
(l) Poor-house charges	1 3 5 1 3	19 318,795 c. ft.	2 10 0 per 1,000	50,711 13 2		
(m) Gratuitous Relief	9 067 0 4					
(n) Work charged establishment	1 750 5 4					
(o) Miscellaneous... ..	165 5 6					
Total	78,611 15 2					
GRAND TOTAL OF NORTHERN BRANCH	1,16,751 0 8	...	...	54,523 13 2	62,4 7 3 6	
EXCAVATION OF SOUTHERN BRANCH AND FEEDER			<i>Southern Branch.</i>			
<i>Expenditure incurred directly by Public Works Department Officers.</i>						
(a) Dabbling and jungle clearance	2 945 11 0	1 043.78 chains	1 8 0 per chain...	1,565 0 0	}	*}
(b) Boundary Roads		1,043.78 chains	0 4 0 do. ...	261 0 0		
(c) Root clearance		21 miles ...	25 0 0 per mile ...	525 0 0		
(d) Preparation of Famine Camps						
(e) Supply of huts for labourers	14 838 13 9					
(f) Baskets and other materials	1 349 4 9					
(g) Water-supply... ..	3,208 13 9					
(h) Conservancy charges	411 1 0					
(i) Work-charged establishment	2,842 9 3					
(j) Miscellaneous	153 3 3					
Total	25,923 11 0					

Expenditure incurred by Civil Officers acting as Public Works Disbursers.											
(k) Wages of labour	96,737	1	2	Earthwork	24,242,459 c. ft.	2 12 0 per 1,000 c. ft.	66,666 12 3	
(l) Poor-house charges							
(m) Gratuitous Relief	5,538	8	9			Total Southern Branch,	69,017 12 3	
							Feeder Rājtaħa.				
(n) Work-charged establishment	2,230	15	3	Earthwork	4,658,432 c. ft. ...	2 8 0 per 1,000 c. ft.	11,646 1 3	
(o) Miscellaneous	104	9	9					
			Total	...	1,04,611	2 11					
Grand total of Southern Branch & Feeder	...			1,30,534	13 11		...	...		80,663 13 6 49,871 0 5
Grand Total of I—Works on Jhelum Canal	...			2,47,495	14 7		...	...		1,35,187 10 8 1,12,308 3 11
II—Establishment	62	11 2		62 11 2
III—Tools and Plant	12,334	11 0		12,334 11 0
GRAND TOTAL	...			2,59,893	4 9		...	...		1,35,187 10 8 1,24,705 10 1

* These amounts have been taken from the sanctioned estimate and are proposed to be transferred to capital in full. The balance has been charged to 33—Famine Relief Works

J. N. TAYLOR,

Famine Officer.

No. 45872, dated 17th December 1900.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. L. MONROE, Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division,
To—The Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.

IN continuation of my No. 4252, dated 21st ultimo, I have the honor to send the report on the famine relief operations in the Gujrat District required by your No. 1244, dated 18th September. A report on the closing of the test works was submitted with my No. 1557, dated 19th April last. The present report is very full, and reflects credit on Lala Paira Ram, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who is said by the Deputy Commissioner to have written most of it.

2. This district is not so entirely dependent on rain as Jhelum. The consequence is that the distress, though undoubtedly great in parts, was not as a whole so serious as in Jhelum. The mortality of cattle was less; for, whereas in that district the cattle mortality amounted to half the total number, here it was roughly a quarter. The greatest losses were naturally in the young stock. The main reason for the smaller mortality is that many of the owners in the distressed tracts had friends or relatives near the river, and large numbers of cattle were driven to the riverain tracts; while some were taken to the Chenab Colony. When the monsoon rains of 1900 had established sufficient fodder, the cattle thus saved were brought back. It was stated to me at that time that when a man brought back his hardly rescued bullock he looked as proud as if he was in possession of an elephant.

3. The test works nowhere attracted a large number of labourers, and the majority of these were from the neighbourhood of the works. When the task was made stricter the numbers fell off. In fact there was never a famine in the district. The test works did undoubtedly relieve a good deal of distress, but the people relied mainly on emigration and work in other districts. The Chenab Colony and the works on the Jhelum Canal saved many families from destitution, and here, as in Jhelum, the bread-winners often went far afield, but regularly sent their earnings for the support of their women, children and infirm folk. Crime did not increase; nor did the agitation regarding the Land Alienation Legislation spread to this district. Mortgages and sales did not increase to any great extent.

4. As much help as possible was given to the district under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and from the Charitable Relief Fund. The first advances were made for seed for late rabi sowings, but most of these sowings unfortunately failed. Subsequent advances and all gifts from the Charitable Fund were distributed for the purchase of cattle. The report shows the money given to have been as follows:—

	Rs.
Advances { for seed	23,261
for bullocks	50,110
Gifts from Charitable Fund for bullocks ...	53,000

The Rs. 1,03,110 given for bullocks was allotted for the purchase of 4,985 head of cattle, and I have no doubt that most of the money was spent as it was intended to be.

5. The acknowledgments of Government have already been conveyed to the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. A. C. Elliott) and to Lala Paira Ram, Extra Assistant Commissioner, for their good work (see your No. 714, dated 11th May 1900). Both officers thoroughly deserve the praise. Lala Paira Ram worked with great zeal, and insisted on the rules of the Famine Code being strictly observed; Mr. Elliott supervised him with judgment and sound discretion.

Enclosures.

- (1) Deputy Commissioner Gujrat's No. 338, dated 15th November 1900.
- (2) Ditto ditto No. 710, dated 21st ditto.
- (3) Ditto ditto No. 345, dated 26th ditto.

No. 338, dated 15th November 1900.

From—Lieutenant A. C. Elliott, Deputy Commissioner, Gujrat,
To—The Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division.

IN compliance with Revenue and Financial Secretary's No. 1244, dated 18th September 1900, I have the honor to forward a general report on relief operations in this district during the past year as directed in the memorandum sent with that letter. The majority of the report is written by Lala Paira Ram, and I think you will agree with me that it is good.

2. The report should have reached you to-day, but owing to my being busy in camp, and also owing to the extraordinary number of reports all called for together at the time when the Revenue Report was being got ready, I have been obliged to cause a delay of a day or two.

Famine Report of the Gujrat District for 1899-1900 by Lieutenant A. C. Elliott, Deputy Commissioner, Gujrat, dated 15th November 1900.

1—Brief reference to past famine and their history.

The people recall four great famines, three of which were before the British administration. They were—

- (1) "Sát propia" or "San chálís"—Sambat 1839-42 or A. D. 1793.
- (2) The "Páiwála" Famine—A.D. 1815, Sambat 1870.
- (3) The "Markanwála" Famine—Sambat 1888 to 1889 autumn, or A.D. 1831.
- (4) Sattarhávála—Sambat 1917, A.D. 1863.

(1)—The "Sát propia" is so called, because the price of grain reached seven paropia or $1\frac{1}{4}$ topa or $3\frac{1}{4}$ seers per rupee. It is sometimes called "San chálís" from the year Sambat 1840. It lasted from autumn 1839 to spring of 1842, no crops being reaped from absolute lack of rain for five harvests. Mortality was excessive, and the majority emigrated who could. In 1842 heavy rain fell and the famine called generally "The Great Famine" ended.

(2)—The "Páiwála" famine lasted from spring of Sambat 1869 till end of Sambat 1870. Emigration was large, but mortality and distress were not nearly so great as in The Great Famine, grain reached 4 topás or 8 seers= $1\frac{1}{2}$ pái per rupee. Hence the name "Páiwála."

(3)—The "Markanwála" Famine lasted three harvests from autumn of Sambat 1888 to autumn of Sambat 1889. Distress was not great, and grain was never dearer than 12 seers per rupee. No emigration took place; but on the other hand there was very large immigration from Kashmir, where the famine was very severe. A plant called "Markan" came up in great quantities before the rabi of Sambat 1890 ripened, and was utilised for fodder and mixed with their grain by the people. The famine is therefore called the "Markanwála Kál."

(4)—The famine of Sambat 1917 or "Sattarhávála" lasted one year. Grain reached 12 to 14 seers per rupee. There was some emigration, but assistance was given by employment on public works, A.D. 1863.

Besides these famines of which no records exist we have those now given below:—

(a) *Famine of 1868-69.*—This reached the point of great scarcity only, but not actual famine. The kharif of 1868 was poor, and rabi sowings were so contracted as to cause grave anxiety. What was sown, however, matured well owing to good, though late, rains. A fair kharif followed and good rains secured a good rabi. A total of 10,064 persons were relieved, 85 on works and 9,199 gratuitously.

(b) The Great Famine of 1877-78 caused anxiety, but no more in this district. The kharif of 1877 was very poor on all bārání lands. Wheat rose to 12 seers per rupee. There was a certain amount of mortality, but most

of the deaths were of starving persons from Kashmir. A large number were given gratuitous relief or employed on works. The actual numbers cannot be ascertained, but the maximum numbers on any day was 1,050.

(e) *Famine of 1896-97.*—Actual relief works were opened on 15th August 1896. Beginning with an average attendance of 1,190 workers and 335 dependants the numbers, after a short strike when grain was ordered instead of wheat as the staple cereal for calculating the wage, rose to 15,608 workers with 6,567 dependants on the 12th September. The road works were closed on 26th December when the canal work began. On the canal works the labour was done by task parties, and class segregation was ultimately carried out successfully, though it could not be done on the roads. One striking feature of the opening of the canal works was the enormous increase in dependants which gradually rose to 18,800. They are the largest numbers recorded, after which they sank very rapidly. There seems to be little doubt that over-liberality, too light a task, and no means of enforcing even that task being completed caused a rush to the works and created a famine where only scarcity existed. Had Mr. Thorburn's orders for grain flour to be held the staple continued in force, those people only would have come to work who were really in need. As it was when numbers had reached 2,279 workers and 934 dependants, they struck, and not a man in the district would come for a wage calculated on gram flour from 26th August till 10th September. Thus true famine does not appear to have been shown.

• 2—Causes of present famine.

The immediate cause of the present famine is the failure of monsoon and winter rains, but as the scarcity period of 1896-98, which crippled the resources of the people, must be held to have contributed to the severity of the distress, it is necessary to give a short review of the harvests of that period. The annexed table, Appendix A, shows the rainfall in each month for the past ten years at the three rain-gauge stations of Gujrat, Khárian and Phália.

The first indication of distress is observable in the monsoon rains of 1895, when the fall in Phália was much below average. It was, however, sufficient for sowing, but September being rainless, crops suffered much, especially in Phália, where 28 per cent. of the area sown failed. The winter rains (October to December) entirely failed, and sowings for rabi shrank, and a considerable portion of what was sown failed. The rabi was a little better than half an average crop, and Rs 71,045 were suspended, almost all in Phália.

In the monsoon months of 1896 (June—August) the fall of rain was about two-thirds of the average, and was not well distributed. A large area (348,137 acres) was, however, sown, but only three-fifths of it came to maturity. The failure in Phália was complete, where out of a total of 99,979 acres, 63,979 acres or 64 per cent failed. The same was the state of crops in the Maira Circle of the Khárian Tahsil. The winter rains also failed, and although 258,604 acres of bári crops were sown, 98,979 acres or 38 per cent was *kharába*. In the year 1896-97 a total sum of Rs. 2,06,726 was suspended, and the distress was considered so great that famine works had to be started for the Bár and Maira people.

The year 1897-98 was on the whole a fair one, but not throughout the district. The Maira Circle of the Khárian Tahsil suffered from drought and did not mature much area. A sum of Rs 44,846 was suspended in this year, mostly in Khárian.

The year 1898-99 may be said to be the first year after the scarcity period of 1896-98, and the crops were on the whole good. But in the kharif of that year a severe hailstorm visited the district and destroyed crops in 137 villages, 96 of which were those in which suspensions had been granted in the preceding harvests. The total amount suspended in the year was Rs 30,449, of which Rs. 29,407 were remitted on account of damage caused by hailstorm.

It will thus be seen that the condition of a large number of villages in the *Khárian* Maira as well as in the *Phália* Bár was weak before the advent of the monsoon in 1899. The monsoon commenced very well, and the current was strong. The fall in June 1899 was above average in Gujrát and *Phália*, and only slightly below average in *Khárian*. The fall was, however, not general, as the western half of *Khárian* and a considerable portion of *Phália* did not receive any showers worth the name, and these were the parts which were most in distress. The fall in July was much below average, or nearly half in Gujrát and *Khárian*. Sowings, however, were satisfactory, and up to the end of July the prospects were not gloomy, though *baráni* crops began to wither even then. The first fortnight of August was rainless, and crops dried everywhere and fodder became scarce. The fall of rain in August was scantier than even the scarcity period of 1896-98 and amounted to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in Gujrát and *Khárian* against the average of 6 inches and 7 inches, respectively. In *Phália* the fall was less than one-third of the average. The month of September was also very bad, the fall being nowhere more than a third of an inch, and that too confined to a single date. There was thus no moisture for early sowings for the *rabi*, and as October, November, December and the first fortnight of January passed absolutely rainless, the prospects of the spring harvest became gloomy. There was no pasture in the grazing grounds both in the *Maira* and the *Bár*, and a large number of cattle were removed to the *Belás*, *Jummoo* Territory and *Gurdáspur* and other places. There was food scarcity no doubt, especially in the *Maira* tract of *Khárian*, but the real calamity of the present famine was the severe lack of fodder, the immediate cause of which was the abrupt cessation of the monsoon and the failure of the winter rains, coupled with the fact that the outturn of straw in the *rabi* of 1899 was very light, and there was a depletion of fodder stocks when the distress commenced.

The disastrous consequences of the famine on cattle will be seen from the following statement which compares the figures for cattle as found in February 1899 when a general census was taken and in September 1900 when an enumeration was made to ascertain the actual mortality amongst cattle in the present famine :—

TAHIL.	ACCORDING TO CENSUS OF FEBRUARY 1899						ACCORDING TO CENSUS OF SEPTEMBER 1900						LOSSES.	
	Bulls and bullocks.	Cows.	Male buffaloes.	Female buffaloes.	Young stock.	Total of bovine animals.	Bulls and bullocks.	Cows.	Male buffaloes.	Female buffaloes.	Young stock.	Total.	Young stock.	Old animals.
Gujrát	51,003	27,000	9,835	23,304	38,619	150,060	44,260	21,630	7,494	20,667	26,792	120,852	11,827	17,381
<i>Khárian</i>	48,404	26,698	3,434	24,250	27,798	130,574	37,708	14,882	1,796	13,375	16,127	85,888	11,691	33,015
<i>Phália</i>	33,201	30,003	14,241	16,504	26,064	130,013	28,068	23,043	9,316	14,154	19,282	94,663	6,782	19,468
Total	132,607	84,000	27,511	64,348	92,481	401,547	110,036	60,455	18,606	50,196	62,201	201,403	30,300	69,864

The decrease in the bovine stock is more than a lakh of animals. Of these 30,280 were young stock, which being of comparatively little value and requiring better fodder than the matured animals, die wholesale in a famine year. Nearly 47,000 bullocks and cows and 23,000 buffaloes would appear to have died or been slaughtered, when lean and hopelessly weak, for food. As a check to the figures obtained by the census of September 1900, statistics of export of hides and bones were obtained from the Railway Department. The loss in Khárian and Phália is 52,483 old animals and 18,453 young stock. The total quantity of hides exported from stations in these two tahsils from February 1899, when the last cattle enumeration was made, to the end of August 1900 was 6,212 maunds, and over 20,000 maunds of bones were exported for the same period. A buffalo's hide weighs from 10 to 12 seers and a cow's from 6 to 8 seers. Taking 10 seers as the average weight of cattle over two years of age, the export of hides from Khárian and Phália represents the death of nearly 25,000 cattle, a little less than half the decrease shown by our cattle census. These are deaths, however, which occurred within the district, and we can never know what has occurred elsewhere. There can thus be no doubt that our losses in cattle have been very heavy, and it will take some years before the district recovers its position.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing rainfall in each month since 1890 for the three rain-gauge station in Gujrat.

Rain-gauge station.	Year.	MONTHS OF THE YEAR.												
		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Gujrat	1890 ...	'25	'32	'86	'89	1'55	6'21	11'70	13'40	1'89	'55	'30	3'45	41'37
	1891 ...	3'63	2'80	1'61	'21	1'13	'23	8'89	3'76	1'29	'93	'10	...	24'59
	1892 ...	'70	'80	'30	...	1'0	'20	11'81	14'80	1'0	'10	...	'90	29'43
	1893 ...	3'38	3'15	'56	'58	1'77	7'85	15'02	2'31	4'70	...	...	'17	39'49
	1894 ...	6'90	1'44	1'94	'66	'11	4'35	16'14	4'25	2'70	...	...	'97	38'46
	1895 ...	2'57	2'02	1'76	'76	...	2'53	2'87	12'18	...	...	...	...	24'69
	1896 ...	...	'53	'70	'20	'15	2'12	5'05	3'19	'64	'09	'10	'20	13'77
	1897 ...	1'70	'60	1'47	'95	...	'98	1'24	5'13	1'20	...	...	'88	14'15
	1898 ...	'32	4'93	...	...	1'35	'10	8'84	4'40	2'98	...	...	'56	23'48
	1899 ...	...	'97	'55	'08	'50	3'08	3'39	'68	'30	'03	'01	...	9'59
	Printed average ...	1'56	1'40	2'12	1'12	'90	2'18	6'66	6'24	2'73	'56	'36	'52	26'35
Khairán	1890 ...	'60	'30	'91	1'39	'96	2'65	8'06	11'35	'87	'46	'16	2'96	30'67
	1891 ...	3'68	3'96	2'59	'21	'96	'07	5'74	8'44	1'45	1'31	'06	...	28'47
	1892 ...	1'24	'51	'06	...	'85	'83	7'24	25'23	'55	'52	...	1'55	38'58
	1893 ...	5'90	3'93	88	84	4'65	7'51	16'78	4'44	3'93	...	...	1'08	49'94
	1894 ...	6'49	1'84	2'48	'71	'68	9'08	17'02	6'11	4'03	'15	...	1'70	50'89
	1895 ...	3'27	3'01	4'00	1'33	'23	1'89	2'46	12'21	'04	...	'03	...	28'47
	1896 ...	1'53	'61	'69	'23	...	1'64	2'62	7'86	1'78	'32	'14	'49	17'91
	1897 ...	2'11	'39	1'88	'53	...	'96	4'81	4'47	3'67	...	...	1'55	20'37
	1898 ...	'29	4'03	...	...	'76	'85	9'83	4'75	2'86	...	...	'18	29'55
	1899 ...	...	'63	'76	'93	1'14	2'28	3'03	1'79	...	'05	...	...	10'61
	Printed average ...	1'95	1'52	1'64	'83	'83	2'45	7'12	7'26	3'17	'51	'31	'42	28'01
Phalia	1890 ...	'23	'30	1'70	'55	'50	2'52	7'28	6'40	1'75	'23	'35	2'13	24'04
	1891 ...	3'79	1'57	2'12	'35	'23	'17	4'02	1'93	'44	...	...	...	14'62
	1892 ...	'59	'25	...	...	'40	'55	6'65	6'08	'69	...	...	'82	16'09
	1893 ...	2'37	2'97	'41	1'13	2'18	4'91	11'01	3'50	2'65	...	...	'75	31'88
	1894 ...	4'18	1'20	1'58	1'47	'48	2'85	8'72	1'44	'85	'15	...	'29	23'91
	1895 ...	1'35	2'11	1'65	'84	'15	2'81	'60	5'38	...	'60	...	...	15'49
	1896 ...	'38	'53	'59	'23	'25	1'23	1'11	6'12	'31	...	'19	'16	11'10
	1897 ...	1'81	'66	2'05	'64	'19	1'20	8'49	3'31	'13	...	...	1'45	19'89
	1898 ...	'25	2'54	...	'01	'44	1'03	5'97	1'61	2'59	...	...	'31	14'75
	1899 ...	...	'54	'83	'52	'80	1'60	4'75	1'58	'34	'01	...	...	10'97
	Printed average ...	1'25	1'25	1'17	'95	'96	1'01	4'90	5'14	2'08	'48	'21	'29	12'69

3—Area affected.

In order to understand the situation in a famine year it is necessary to give here a brief description of the different regions into which the district may be classified according as the lands are secure, insecure or partially secure.

The following classification may be adopted :—

- A. Riverain villages.
- B. Phália Hithár.
- C. Bár.
- D. Jatátar.
- E. Fringe of villages on the Bhimbar torrent.
- F. Submontane or—
 - (1) Pabbi villages.
 - (2) Balandi villages.
 - (3) Maira villages.

A.—There are 258 riverain villages in the district with an area of 207,354 acres or 17 per cent. of the district total where the crops never fail and which are therefore secure. In the present scarcity the crops in all these villages were good, and there was good pasture for cattle which were taken there from the Bár and the Maira.

B.—The Phália Hithár has 132 villages with an area of 145,243 or 11 per cent. of the district. It depends mainly on the working of wells, and the *báráni* cultivation here is always more or less of a speculative character. The lack of fodder was keenly felt here, but otherwise the tract gave no cause for anxiety beyond the fact that liberal suspensions of revenue were granted. This tract is, therefore, classed as secure.

C.—Bár has 113 villages with an area of 214,671 or 17 per cent. of the district total. Of the total cultivation 123,694 acres, 33,068 acres or over 26 per cent. is *cháhi*, but if the monsoon rains fail, as they did in the year 1899-1900, fodder becomes scarce and wells cannot be properly worked for the spring harvest. The tract is only partially insecure, but as the condition of crops in the past few harvests has been bad, the people had less power of resistance than they otherwise would have, and, therefore, for purposes of the present scarcity, the whole Bár must be considered as an affected area.

D.—Jatátar has 165 villages with an area of 106,262 acres or 9 per cent. of the district. It has a total cultivated area of 90,147 acres, of which 42,081 acres or 46 per cent. is served by wells. The tract is therefore partially secure, and as many villages receive flood water from the hill torrents, no anxiety is usually felt for this tract in years of drought. In the early part of the season *zamíndárs* sold *bhúsa*, and though latterly they had themselves to purchase fodder at high prices, yet the tract as a whole may be said to have escaped the worst consequences of a year of scarcity.

E.—The Bhimbar villages in Khárián had a separate assessment circle in the old settlement, but have now been amalgamated with the Maira. They are 76 in number with an area of 49,498 acres or 4 per cent. of the district. The tract has wells along the bank of the Bhimbar, and is therefore only partially insecure.

F.—The submontane region may be roughly divided into two parts, (a) the one lying to the east of the Trunk Road and (b) that situated west of that road. It has an area of 507,450 acres or 42 per cent. of the district total. The whole of this is dependent on rain, as there is practically very little irrigation from wells. The climatic conditions are, however, not uniform. The tract to the east of the road receives very heavy fall of rain, but the quantity diminishes as we go westward.

In the scarcity period of 1896-98 the condition of eastern villages was generally very satisfactory, and the pinch of famine was not much felt in them. They were thus better able to face the distress caused by the present scarcity, and suspension of revenue was therefore all that was considered necessary in these villages. They cannot therefore be included in the affected area. The case was, however, different with the Western Maira. The tract has never since 1895 reaped a really good harvest, and as the famine of 1896-97 crippled the resources of the people, and the climatic conditions of the monsoon months were worst in this tract, great anxiety was felt for the people at an early stage. As early as July 1899 it became almost certain that there would be no autumn crop, and consequently large numbers of people emigrated to where there was pasture or the prices were easy. Had it not been for the fact that the Jhelum Canal afforded work to any who sought it, it would have been necessary to open some work both for the Bár and the Western Maira. These two tracts, therefore, must be taken to be the area which is held to be affected for purposes of the present scarcity. The area of the 13 villages in the Bár is, as noted under C, 214,671 acres. The Western Maira consists of 194 villages with an area of 166,737 acres, so that the total area of the affected parts is 381,408 acres or 31 per cent. of the district total.

4—*Brief history of the time of scarcity.*

The rainfall in the monsoon months of 1899 being scanty and badly distributed prospects were gloomy from the very beginning. There was absolutely no moisture in the whole *Maira* of the Kharián Tahsíl, and little or no area was sown with millets in this tract. Fodder scarcity began to be keenly felt even as early as July, and large numbers of cattle from the Eastern Bár of Phalia and the whole of the Kharián Gojra were removed to where there was some hope of getting pasture. The only anxiety for the people, however, was felt in the Western Maira where it was known that for the last few years no good crops were harvested, and the stock with the zamindárs had been wholly exhausted. After the harvest time for the autumn crops was over the prospects for the rabi also became gloomy, as there was no moisture, and no sowings could be attempted for the early spring crops. A large number of zamindárs left their homes in search of labour, and though emigration in a purely *bárdni* tract like the *Maira* is not an undesirable thing, it was considered necessary to start some work for those who were left behind. Accordingly towards the end of October a test work was started at *Barnáli* in the heart of the worst affected part of Maira. The mistake here, however, was that orders were given for the payment of minimum wages to those who did not perform their tasks. This attracted a large number of labourers from the neighbouring villages and the number swelled to over 1,000 in a few days. The highest number on any day at work in *Barnáli* was 1,006, but none came from a distance of more than 3 miles, and this in spite of the fact that minimum rate of wages was allowed to all the labourers. It was, therefore, clear that the distress, if any, did not assume an acute form in the worst affected area. In the meantime new rules were issued by Government which laid down that at the test work stage payment should be made strictly at task rate, and that as far as possible the work should not be too near one of the large villages in the affected area. Another test work was therefore started, and regulated strictly according to the Code rules. This was the raising of a section of the Lala Musa-Dinga Road. As the cold increased some of the absentees returned. Enquiry showed that people were helping their relatives and large amounts of emittances were being received in the affected parts through the post office. The people of the Bár and the part of Maira not very far away from the Jhelum Canal were engaged there. General relief operations were therefore not called for, but it was considered necessary to have a work in progress which, though not attractive for those who worked in other places, would afford work to those who were really needy and who did not know where to go.

for labour. The following table shows the average attendance of each week when the work was in progress, and the classes of labourers attending the work:—

Name of work.	Week ending		AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE.			Percentage of agriculturists to total.
			Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Total.	
Lala Musa-Dinga Road. Raising of—	2nd December 1899	...	358	260	618	58
	9th ditto	...	494	351	845	58
	16th ditto	...	438	272	710	62
Raising of Kharián-Dinga Road and an embankment.	23rd December 1899	...	398	277	675	59
	30th ditto	...	539	312	851	63
	6th January 1900	...	481	243	724	66
	13th ditto	...	599	306	905	66
	20th ditto	...	372	220	592	63
	27th ditto	...	407	376	783	52
	3rd February 1900	...	779	576	1,355	57
	10th ditto	...	1,046	717	1,763	59
	17th ditto	...	1,011	675	1,686	60
	24th ditto	...	839	523	1,362	61
	3rd March 1900	...	659	382	1,041	63
	10th ditto	...	817	457	1,344	66
	17th ditto	...	683	372	1,055	65
	24th ditto	...	497	300	797	62
	31st ditto	...	144	77	221	65
Daily average for whole period			591	372	963	65

The largest number of workers were in the month of February. The rain of the 17th of January raised some hope, and the Maira people returned to their homes and sowed late crops, like barely, rape-seed, &c. These were all, however, of a gambling nature, and it soon became evident that nothing would be reaped. But owing to the cold emigration was difficult and, therefore, the needy amongst the people came to our works and had the satisfaction of finding that they had not been driven to take their children away from their homes. The attendance exceeded 1,500 in ten days from 5th to 17th February, and the highest number reached on any day was 1,904 on the 10th of February. Throughout the time three fifths of the workers belonged to agriculturists; their number fell to one-half after the rain of 17th January, when agricultura operations became necessary, and it rose to two-thirds for the first-half of January and the first ten days of March. The agriculturists were mostly Gujars, as the works were in progress in their country. The *kamíns* belonged to the following classes:—

Mochís.

Musallís.

Machhís.

Kasbís (weavers).

Náis.

Tirkháns.

A few Mirásís, Lohárs and Jhewars sometimes sought work, but their number was very small, and they did not remain long. The bulk of the non-agricultural labourers belonged to Musallís and Mochís. No towns people came to the works, nor did any men from the Native States seek labour.

3.—Prices and imports of grain.

The outturn of grain in the rabi of 1899 was good, though the straw was light, and prices were rather easy as long as it was not known what the character of the monsoon would be. Towards the end of July 1899 wheat was selling at 20 seers, but the tendency was upwards, and as the failure of the autumn crops became certain, prices rose, and by the middle of September 1899 wheat sold at 13½ seers per rupee. It rose to 11 seers in October and touched 10 seers in the middle of November. Large importations of maize were made from Jullundur, Chenab Colonies and other places, and this reduced the price to 11 seers, where it remained stationary from 15th November to the middle of January. The rain of 17th January created a demand for seed, and the price rose to 10½ seers by the end of that month, retreating to 11 seers by the 15th of February.

The rabi of 1900 in the district was a poor harvest, but a bumper crop was expected from the colonies, which, with the desire to dispose of old stocks, caused prices to fall to 14 seers by April 15th.

Thus throughout the period of the scarcity prices have ruled high, though they did not rise up as high as in 1896-97, when wheat touched 8 seers per rupee for several months.

The yield of food-grains in the district was totally insufficient for local requirements. Traders in central places had grain, but the stocks with the zamindars were insufficient even for the winter months.

The following table shows from the Railway Department statistics the movement of food-grains from May 1899 to end of September 1900 :—

Month,								Exports.	Imports.
								Mds.	Mds.
May	1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,076	4,510
June	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,884	7,849
July	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,594	6,828
August	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,891	11,359
September	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,285	28,490
October	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,943	2,107
November	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,850	36,630
December	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,670	60,705
January	1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	962	46,763
February	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	966	38,648
March	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,034	71,281
April	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,088	20,378
May	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	881	39,444
June	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,057	1,00,252
July	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,873	62,456
August	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	378	80,679
September	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,151	66,071
Total								58,583	691,650

The figures show how grain was imported in large quantities and how early the necessity for replenishing food stocks arose. The above figures do not include importations from Jummoo Territory and the Sialkot District from which the bulandi or sub-mountain tracts received their supplies in large quantities. 4

From May 1899 to September the district imported by rail alone no less than 64,059 maunds. But large as these figures are they would have been larger, but for the numbers that emigrated to other districts where pasture was to be found and cheaper prices prevailed. Bhúsa was also imported in large quantities and was sold at very high prices. It rose at a time to Re. 1-8-0 per maund.

No failure of carrying power of railways came to my notice, nor were ever complaints made by traders or others of any difficulty in connection with the import of grain or fodder. Sometimes zamíndárs combined their small amounts and brought *bhúsa* from the Colonies without having to wait much at the starting stations.

The only complaint heard was that the Railway Bábu at the starting stations had to be paid a small fee before the truck or carriage was placed at the importer's disposal.

6—*Nature of the works utilized for relief.*

Excepting the clearing and deepening of the Barnáli Tank, which is a village work, District Board roads and protective works for the road were utilized for the relief.

The work was done on the test work system.

Two tanks were constructed, and 21 miles of road were raised. In addition to this a large embankment was constructed for the protection of the Khárán-Dinga Road from a torrent from the Pabbi Range and for diverting water, which used to go waste, to cultivated fields of a group of villages near Barnáli.

7—*Management of the works, and tasks prescribed.*

With the exception of the Barnáli Tank which was supervised by Lála Kesho Dás, Extra Assistant Commissioner, the management of the works was in charge of Lála Paíra Rám, Revenue Assistant, who was under the immediate control of the Deputy Commissioner. No Extra Náib Tahsildárs were employed. The District Overseer was the professional officer under the Revenue Assistant. There was one Cashier employed for keeping accounts and the money, whose salary Rs. 15 per mensem was charged to the works under head Establishment.

As regards the tasks, Section 115 of the Famine Code lays down that the task required from the workers should not be less than 75 per cent. of that usually required from able-bodied labourers on ordinary works. What each able-bodied labourer must do in a day was to be determined. Where the soil is soft the task work of road-coolies employed by the District Board in this district was 100 cubic feet digging from the roadside and putting the earth on the road. The soil of the place where the test works were started was *chhamb* or *rohi* or hard. The tasks were fixed with reference to the instructions given in Appendix B of the Code, as the new classification of workers in Section 115 had not as yet been ordered. In the table of standard tasks given in Appendix B adult males are divided into three classes. The majority of the zamíndárs and kamíns who came to the work belonged to persons "accustomed to labour, but not of the kind required" for whom 85 cubic feet of excavation and 136 cubic feet of carriage only is provided for. This means that if 136 cubic feet were to be dug and carried by one man, he would do the work in $(1 + \frac{136}{85})$ or $2\frac{1}{2}$ days. This gives a daily task for digging and carrying of $52\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet for an able-bodied man. But as the average lead and lift at our works was small, 60 cubic feet of earthwork was fixed for Class I, whose task must be 50 per cent. in excess of that required from Class II. For Class II therefore 40 cubic feet was fixed. This gave 100 cubic feet of digging and carrying for a man and a woman, which agreed with the formula in Appendix B. For Class III, working children, 25 cubic feet was fixed, but as it was seen that those parties who had children amongst them never earned full wages, the children's task was subsequently reduced to 20 cubic feet or half of Class II, as ordered in Section 119 of the Code.

The task performed by the labourers ranged from 70 to 82 per cent. of what was allotted, but this does not show that the task required was heavy, because a large number of labourers, generally three-fourths of the total, received full wages. No camps were formed, and the people who came from a distance attended late and left the work sooner, and therefore these persons did only part of the full day's work.

Besides, new admissions used to be made almost the whole day, which swelled the number of actual workers, though many of them were not whole-day labourers.

8—Non-working children and dependants.

At the first test work, excavation of the Barnáli Tank, non-working children and dependants were allowed the minimum wage, and there was a rush of people seeking relief. But on other works wages were paid strictly at task work rates, and nothing was allowed for dependants or for Sundays.

9—Wages.

At the Barnáli Tank wages were calculated as given in the ready reckoner at pages 83-9 of the Code on the basis of the price of jowár and bájra which were selling at 12 seers per rupee. The wages fixed were therefore as follows:—

				Pies.
Male Class	...	A	...	21
		B	...	19
		C	...	16
		D	...	14
Female Class	...	A	...	19
		B	...	17
		C	...	15
		D	...	13
Working children	{	Maximum	...	15
		Minimum	...	10

But at the other works calculation was made according to the scale of rations laid down in Sections 166 and 167 (see Correction Slip No. 28).

The grain equivalent was 40 ounces or $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers. The grain in common use at the time was maize and to a certain extent bájra and jowár, all of which were selling at 12 seers per rupee. This gave the following scale of wages for the different classes of workers:—

Class I—Diggers	...	...	7 pice ($1\frac{3}{4}$ annas).
" II—Carriers	...	...	5 " ($1\frac{1}{4}$ annas).
" III—Working children	...	...	3 " ($\frac{3}{4}$ anna).

As fractions of pice are not now used, the wages fixed were equal to—

Class I	...	...	42 ounces of grain.
" II	...	...	30 " "
" III	...	...	18 " "

That is, Classes I and III received two and three ounces respectively in excess of the Code maximum.

For some weeks this scale was adhered to, but advantage was taken of the Code rule* to reduce the wages of Classes I and II by one pice each to see what effect it would have on the number attending the work, and as the number did not diminish to any appreciable extent, the reduced scale remained in force till the work was closed.

The scale of diet prescribed by Section 174 of the Code (Correction Slip No. 28) is adequate for diggers and carriers, but not for working children, especially if they are over 10 years of age. They should certainly get half of the allowance of Class I, whatever that may be.

Payments used to be made bi-weekly, but no wages were paid for Sundays or holidays.

The average daily earnings of workers was $13\frac{1}{2}$ pices or nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ pice. This was less than a half of what labourers employed elsewhere could get.

* Section 42 A.

The works were therefore unattractive and did not draw labourers from other works. When work was started at Barnáli some of the labourers doing work at the canal and elsewhere returned, but this was because minimum wages were paid to non-working children and dependants, and people thought that they would be fed at their homes for doing nothing. This notion, however, did not last long, as from the next work, started on 2nd December 1899, the Code rule was strictly followed regarding payment being made by results at the test work stage.

No labourers came from a distance. Those at work used to return to their homes in the evening, though a few arranged to live in the villages close to the works. No difficulty whatever was felt by them in getting supply of flour and grain.

10—*Gratuitous relief.*

11—*Poor-houses.*

12—*Miscellaneous forms of relief.*

These subjects do not concern the Gujrát District, as we did not have any occasion to go beyond the test work stage of the relief.

13—*Health of the affected tracts.*

The health of the people has remained uniformly good throughout the scarcity period. There was some distress no doubt, but people generally got sufficient to eat and did not lose bodily strength, though they had to give up luxuries like ghi, milk and lassi.

14—*Expenditure.*

The total work and cost on the test works, including the cost of Barnáli Tank, is given in the following statement :—

NAME OF WORK.	AS ESTIMATED.			AS EXECUTED					
	Quantity.	Rate.	Amount.	Quantity.	Expenditure.				
					Wages.	Establishment.	Tools and Plant.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	C. F.	R. A. P.	Rs.	C. F.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Barnáli Tank ...	360,000	3 0 0	1,134	219,524	1,126	36	26	19	1,207
Lála Músa-Dinga Road	445,830	2 8 0	1,170	418,104	997	56	13	20	1,086
No. I Section, Dinga-Khárián Road.	464,640	2 8 0	1,200	464,640	861	48	194	17	1,120
No. II Section, Dinga-Khárián Road.	1,393,920	3 4 0	4,749	2,110,869	3,914	220	531	81	4,746
Dinga-Khori Road ...	871,200	2 8 0	2,387	525,385	974	55	342	21	1,392
Dinga-Maghowal Road	1,742,400	2 8 0	4,878	263,438	485	32	187	8	712
Total ...				4,005,960	8,357	447	1,203	166	10,263
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Average rate per 1,000 cubic feet ...					2 1 5	0 1 9	0 5 2	0 0 8	2 9 6
Average rate excluding Barnáli ...					1 14 7	0 1 9	0 5 4	0 0 7	2 6

Excluding Barnáli, where work was not carried out in accordance with the test work rules, the average rate per 1,000 cubic feet including all expenses of establishment and tools comes to Rs. 2-6-3.

The cost of tools and plant in all famine works is heavy. In our case it amounted to Re. 0-5-4 per 1,000 cubic feet, so that the rate of wages and establishment amounts to Rs. 2-0-11. The cost of Barnáli Tank has nearly been double of the ordinary rates, resulting in a loss of some Rs. 600.

The cost of tools and plant (Rs. 1,293) is not a real expenditure, because with the exception of baskets and 20 per cent. of spades everything else is in store, and therefore the whole expenditure is not a proper charge to the works. But even if we take the whole cost of tools and plant into calculation, as well as what has been lost at Barnáli, the average rate for all the works amounts to Rs. 2-9-0 per 1,000 cubic feet, which is lower by 7 annas per 1,000 cubic feet than the rate of the Public Works Department. The total expenditure was Rs. 10,263 and was met from the following sources:—

	Rs.
District Funds	4,354
Provincial Funds	5,909

The amount of Provincial Funds was spent from the grant of Rs. 10,000 made by Government for test works in this district. (See telegram No 40, dated 10th January 1900, from Government, to Deputy Commissioner, Gujrat.)

15—Suspensions of Revenue.

The following statement gives all the necessary information regarding suspensions that were granted both in kharif 1899 and rabi 1900:—

TAHSIL.		Total number of villages in the tahsil.	Number of villages in which suspensions were granted	AREA OF CROPS IN VILLAGES IN WHICH SUSPENSIONS WERE GRANTED				Demand of harvest of villages in which suspensions granted	AMOUNT OF REVENUE SUSPENDED		
				Sown.	Fai'ed.	Harvested	Percentage of harvest- ed to sown		Khalsa.	Muafi.	Total.
Kharif 1899.											
				Acres	Acres.	Acres		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Gujrát	...	542	180	37,611	32,689	4,924	13	43,850	34,340	733	
Khárán	...	543	205	54,103	52,297	1,806	3	52,398	43,248	1,996	
Phálla	...	342	207	74,006	55,316	18,690	25	80,503	50,955	7,030	
Total	..	1,427	592	165,720	140,302	25,420	16	1,76,751	1,28,543	9,159	
Rabi 1900.											
Gujrát	...	542	173	30,727	20,817	9,910	32	48,870	27,366	735	
Khárán	...	543	222	40,918	34,356	6,562	16	56,658	42,447	1,421	
Phálla	...	342	140	27,075	7,269	19,806	73	58,689	26,406	4,819	
Total	...	1,427	535	98,720	62,442	36,278	37	1,64,217	96,219	6,975	
Total for 18 99-19 00.											
Gujrát	...	542	...	68,338	53,504	14,834	22	92,320	61,706	1,466	
Khárán	...	543	...	95,021	86,653	8,368	9	1,00,056	85,695	2,817	
Phálla	...	342	...	101,081	62,585	38,495	38	1,39,192	77,361	11,849	
Total	...	1,427	...	264,440	202,742	61,698	24	3,40,568	2,24,762	25,134	

The percentage of failed area in Phália is 62 per cent., but 64 per cent. of the demand of villages requiring relief was granted. In Hithár and Bár of Phália there are a large number of wells which require more tender treatment than purely báráni tracts, and therefore they were granted suspensions very liberally. In all the tahsils there were outstanding large arrears on account of suspended revenue of former years, and as the present scarcity had added a heavy load of debt on the zamíndárs, proposals were submitted for the remission of all balances which were three years old. These were duly sanctioned, and a total amount of Rs. 2,16,644 was remitted as follows :—

Tahsil.	Outstanding of			Total remitted.
	Rabi 1896.	Kharif 1896.	Rabi 1897	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gujrát ... ..	...	7,552	10,128	17,680
Khárian ... ..	...	26,658	25,649	52,307
Phália	50,293	74,589	21,775	1,46,657
Total ...	50,293	1,08,799	57,552	2,16,644

16—Advances and gifts to agriculturists.

The agricultural condition described under Head 2 rendered it impossible to undertake early sowings for the spring crops on báráni lands, but an allotment of Rs. 60,000 was made to the district for seed advances should rain fall in time. The first shower fell on the 17th of January, and though the sowing time had passed, sowings of barley, tárámíra and even wheat were freely made by those who had seed. It was, therefore, considered advisable to supply seed to those zamíndárs who were unable to raise it without great difficulty. Accordingly Rs. 23,261 were distributed for seed for rabi 1900.

The results, however, were not satisfactory owing to subsequent unfavourable condition of the weather. Of the 98,013 acres sown later, 74,469 acres or 76 per cent. failed.

Rain in the monsoon months of 1900 being good, the emigrants returned, and extensive sowings for kharif 1900 were made, but no advances for seed were held necessary. A fresh allotment of Rs. 60,000 was made by the Commissioner, and Rs. 53,000 were received from the Charitable Relief Fund. All was kept for cattle. As soon as there was abundant pasture available, money was distributed for the purchase of cattle. No distinction was made between Provincial and charitable grant at the time of distribution, but lists of persons fit for charity have been prepared and *sanads* will now be given to them to the effect that the amount advanced to them is a gift from the Charitable Relief Committee.

Altogether Rs. 53,000 have thus been made gifts to agriculturists and Rs. 50,110 have been advanced as loans by Government. The following table shows the distribution of the total sum :—

Tahsil and tract.		Number of persons who received money	Number of bullocks for which paid	At Rs. 30 per animal		At Rs. 25 per animal.		At Rs. 20 per animal.		At less than Rs. 20, per animal.		Total amount distributed.
				Number	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
					Rs		Rs		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
GUJRAT.	Jatatar ...	446	479	...	...	289	7,225	181	3,220	9	135	10,980
	Balandi ...	546	502	...	...	2	50	295	5,900	205	3,070	9,020
	Total ...	992	981	...	...	291	7,275	476	9,520	214	3,205	20,000
KHARAR.	Maira ...	2,025	2,029	...	...	150	3,750	1,879	37,580	...	...	41,330
	Pabbi ...	189	189	...	...	...	...	189	3,780	...	...	3,780
	Total ...	2,214	2,218	...	...	150	3,750	2,068	41,360	...	...	45,110
PHALIA.	North Nakka ...	410	363	18	540	...	...	345	6,900	...	...	7,440
	Eastern Bar ...	886	741	155	4,650	44	1,100	541	10,820	...	10	16,580
	South Nakka ...	351	327	27	810	51	1,275	259	4,780	...	...	6,865
	Hithar and Bet ...	376	355	...	...	3	75	352	7,040	...	...	7,115
	Total ...	2,023	1,786	200	6,000	98	2,450	1,477	29,540	1	10	38,000
Grand Total ...		5,229	4,985	200	6,000	539	13,475	4,021	80,420	215	3,215	103,110

17—Increase of debt and alienation.

The following table shows the transfers by mortgage, redemption and sales for the year 1899-1900 :—

YEAR	MORTGAGES				REDEMPTIONS.				SALES.			
	Area.		Revenue	Mortgage money	Area.		Revenue	Debt discharged.	Area.		Revenue	Price.
	Total	Cultivated			Total.	Cultivated			Total.	Cultivated		
	Acres	Acres	Rs	Rs	Acres	Acres.	Rs	Rs	Acres.	Acres	Rs.	Rs.
5 years' average, 1889-1894	12,646	11,844	14,780	4,72,115	4,609	4,180	6,167	1,35,662	3,280	2,654	3,275	1,57,381
5 years' average, 1894-1899	6,610	15,654	18,783	9,32,461	8,794	8,393	10,089	3,69,223	5,198	4,296	5,205	3,72,181
10 years' average 1889-1899	14,626	13,749	16,742	7,02,288	6,702	6,287	8,028	2,52,443	4,539	3,475	4,236	2,64,781
1899-1900 ...	13,118	12,630	14,078	8,54,980	7,565	7,111	9,031	3,78,711	4,834	4,224	5,043	4,14,389

Deducting the amount of debt discharged by redemptions the amount of mortgage money and that realized by sale of land was Rs. 8,90,658 in the year 1899-1900 against the quinquennial average of 1894-1899 of Rs. 9,35,419. It exceeds the decennial average by Rs. 1,76,032 which in ordinary course would

be attributed to the scarcity that prevailed during the year. But the introduction of the Land Alienation Bill stirred up the creditors to secure their loans by obtaining mortgages, and therefore the increase of the amount of debt over the decennial average is mostly due to that cause and does not represent the increase of debt on account of the scarcity. Indeed in the pure bārāni tracts *sāhūkār*s were disinclined to invest capital in the land, though they made small advances if their old debts could by that course be secured.

18—Losses of stock

This subject has been discussed under Head 2, Causes of present famine. The loss of well and plough animals amounts to 41,576 animals, and it will take some years before this number is made up.

The large importations of bhūsa from the colonies during the present scarcity proves that if prices of fodder rise abnormally high, it is always possible to import it at the principal railway stations for sale to zamīndārs.

19—Crime

The actual distress commenced with the failure of the monsoon rains of 1899, but July was the month when all hope of a kharif crop was lost in the worst affected parts, and therefore the state of crime from that month to the time of the monsoon rains of 1900 has to be reviewed to see what effect the distress had on the conduct of the people. From July 1899 to end of June 1900, 1,360 cases of cognizable crime were reported, but of those 109 have been struck off, leaving 1,251 as admitted to have occurred. The following table shows the number of cases in each police station from July to June for the past five years :—

Name of police station				1895-96	1896-97	1897-98	1898-99	1899-1900
Khāriān	...	...	...	94	122	71	75	65
Lā'ā Mūsa	...	...	...	124	120	102	80	90
Do	Railway	...	...	63	77	71	70	74
Dinga	...	...	...	117	129	97	122	98
Kuthāla	...	...	...	149	151	135	108	140
Pāhriānwāli	...	...	...	91	120	93	120	210
Kādirābād	...	...	...	29	73	30	56	83
Gujrat City	...	...	...	71	97	63	44	68
Do	Sadar	...	...	184	199	158	26	212
Jalālpur	...	...	...	17	23	21	18	29
Kāriānwāla	...	...	...	127	119	122	126	119
Sarai Aurangabad	...	...	...	59	83	50	47	63
Total				1,125	1,313	1,013	992	1,251

The total number, though above the average, falls short of the year 1896-97 by 62. Khāriān, Lā'ā Mūsa and Dinga are the stations in the Maira or Gojra country, and the total number of cases in these stations is the shortest of the quinquennial period. A large number of people had emigrated from these parts, and as there were very few cattle left behind, crime has actually decreased. There are a few bad villages which are notorious thieves, and complaints were heard that during the time of the scarcity they robbed the travellers who passed by their villages alone. This was, however, not due to any want on their part, but being idle their thieving propensities caused them to commit small robberies. Beyond this complaint there was no indication of the increase of crime in the whole Gojra country. The case is different with the Bār and Hithār. The Gondāls, Ranjhās Kudhārs, and other Jāt tribes of the Bār and Nakka are notorious cattle-lifters and have connections with thieves in distant parts.

Both Kuthāla Sheikhan and Pāhriānwāli stations, as well as Kādirābād, show an increase in the number of cognizable offences. The total number of cases in these three stations is 433 against an average of 289 cases of the preceding four years. Both Pāhriānwāli and Kādirābād extend to the Chenab bank. Kuthāla Sheikhan has villages on the Jhelum border. These were all in a most prosperous condition where the Bār people took their cattle

and also committed offences whenever an opportunity occurred. It must therefore be admitted that as far as the Gojra country is concerned the scarcity has actually been the means of a decrease of crime, but the conduct of the Bár people who have still pastoral instincts has not been satisfactory. This is specially the case with Chhimmún Sáhna, Cheliánwáli, Manjiánwáli, Soháwa and some of the adjoining villages. No offence of a concerted nature, however, has occurred, aimed at graindealers or others possessing stocks of grain, which might be attributed to want of distress.

20—*Effect of the famine on the people.*

The worst affected parts were the Eastern Bár of Phália which is inhabited by Játs and the western half of Maira inhabited by the Gujars. Both these tribes have connections in the two Bet circles, and it is an usual arrangement amongst the people of the two tracts to help each other in times of distress. In the present scarcity this arrangement has in no way been impaired. As soon as fodder became scarce both the Játs and Gujars took their cattle to where they had friends and relatives, and it is reported that they were hospitably received.

A rough enumeration showed that over 20,000 persons emigrated and received assistance and protection from their friends in better circumstances. The absentees sent large remittances to their families to tide over the difficult times. All this shows that social obligations have been fulfilled to the fullest extent. From the very beginning people seemed to have been prepared for the distress, and the power of resistance shown by them was good. If people are not interfered with, they would continue to help each other as they have been hitherto doing. We carefully watched the extent of distress that actually prevailed, and as it did not assume such an acute form as to render the opening of famine relief works necessary, only test works were conducted. The political effect of all this has been good. People now know that they must help themselves as far as lies in their power, and the Government aid would come only when their own resources fail.

21—*Forecast of future of district.*

The amount of suspended revenue that is outstanding is shown below :—

Harvest for which the amount is due.	Gujrát.	Khárian.	Phália.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kharff 1897	6,057	10,610	2,475	19,142
Rabi 1898	3,644	16,205	1,242	21,091
Kharff 1898 ... ..	...	...	1,042	1,042
Kharff 1899	34,486	44,644	57,985	1,37,115
Rabi 1900	28,101	43,808	31,205	1,03,114
Total	72,288	1,15,327	93,969	2,81,584
		Detail ... {	Khália	2,53,398
			Jágir	28,186

It is difficult to make an accurate forecast as to the time which will be required to collect this balance. In addition to the Rs. 2,81,584 due on account of revenue a sum of Rs. 1,34,915 is outstanding on account of advances made for seed and cattle.

The instalments for the latter are such that they are payable after two years, and if nothing unforeseen happens, they will be cleared by kharif 1902. The present kharif (kharif 1900) is good everywhere, but as it is the first harvest after the scarcity, it is proposed to make no demand for the suspended revenue. In future harvests also the suspended items will be collected by easy instalments. Supposing the harvests to be ordinary or normal, it is expected that outstanding balance will be recovered before the year 1902-03 closes. If we have good or bumper crops, a year will be saved; but if the crops turn out to be bad, it will be found necessary to recommend further remissions.

22—*Notices of officers.*

The work was begun under the orders of my predecessor, Diwán Tek Chand, Officiating Deputy Commissioner. In his incumbency the Barnáli Tank work was carried out by Lála Kesho Dás, Extra Assistant Commissioner. That officer being incapacitated by a fall from his horse, the Revenue Assistant, Lála Paira Rám, was put in charge, and when I took over charge of the district the Barnáli Tank had just been completed and affairs were being wound up. The rest of the tank works were carried on under my direction and control, but under the supervision of Lála Paira Rám. I need say little about this excellent officer; his character, his ability and his energy are well known, and I can only add that I found him to be all that could be desired. His weekly reports were clear and concise, and his supervision was excellent.

The entire management of the works was in the hands of the District Overseer, Bábu Ján Muhammad. From first to last he laboured incessantly and cheerfully, and I could wish for no better man in charge. He was responsible for all tasks, for all work done and for all projects undertaken. I found him painstaking, careful and thorough, and my opinion of him is very high, not only for his ability, but for his strict honesty. His intimate acquaintance from former experience with the Famine Code was of the greatest assistance. During Lála Paira Rám's absence on casual leave in March he was in sole charge and wrote two weekly reports which were both very good.

No. 710 L.F., dated Gujrat, 21st November 1900.

From—Lieutenant A. C. ELLIOTT, Deputy Commissioner, Gujrat,
To—The Commissioner and Superintendent, Ráwalpiadi Division.

WITH reference to your Circular No. 229—4127, dated 9th November 1900, I have the honor to submit a report on test works carried out by Civil Agency, together with the statement prescribed by the Chief Engineer.

**Report on Test Works in the Gujrat District as required by
Section 152, Punjab Famine Code, by Lieutenant
A. C. Elliott, Deputy Commissioner, Gujrat.**

THE annexed statement prepared in accordance with Government Circular No. 1324, dated 2nd October 1900, shows the nature of works executed and the cost incurred thereon.

A brief description of each work is given below:—

1. *Barnáli Tank*.—This was the first test work started to gauge the extent of distress, but the instructions laid down in the Famine Code for test works were not strictly adhered to. Wages were paid for Sundays, and dependants and non-working children were also paid at the minimum rate. Hence the cost of the work is nearly Rs. 5-8-0 per thousand cubic feet, which is nearly double the market rate. Barnáli is a large village in the heart of the "Maira," and has no irrigation wells. This tank has proved of great public utility not only to Barnáli, but to neighbouring villages also.

2. *Lála Músa-Dinga Road*.—This work was carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of Section 42 A of the Code, and wages were paid at the task rate, no payment being made for Sundays or dependants. The cost is therefore only Rs. 2-6-0 per thousand cubic feet, if calculated on wages only, but amounts to Rs. 2-9-7 if the cost of establishment, tools and plants and miscellaneous charges be included. This is slightly in excess of the estimated rate, and is due to the fact that in framing the estimate the actual market rate was taken and not the usual Public Works Department rate.

3. *Dinga-Khárián Road, Section I*.—In order to ascertain how far the workers were actually needy or in need of relief, advantage was taken of the provision of the Code by which wages of diggers and carriers can be reduced, and orders were passed for a reduction of one pice a day for each. Hence the rate of wages is only Re. 1-13-7 per thousand cubic feet, and if all other charges are added, the cost is only Rs. 2-6-6 against the market rate of Rs. 2-8-0. The cost of tools charged to this work amounts to Rs. 194. The actual charge, however, is on account of baskets. If the cost of other tools be deducted, the rate would not be more than Re. 1-15-10 per thousand cubic feet, which is much less than the normal rate.

4. *Dinga-Khárián Road, Section II, Dinga-Khori and Dinga-Maghowál Roads*.—The above remarks equally apply to these works. The rate per thousand cubic feet of wages is the same, and the difference in rate calculated on total outlay is due to the charges on account of tools, which if deducted would give about Re. 1-15-11 per thousand.

The works cannot be properly called of a permanent nature, as the earthwork is liable to be carried away by rain water, but the improvement in the state of the roads is certainly of public utility. A large embankment was constructed on Section II of Dinga-Khárián Road to protect it from a torrent from the Pabbi Hills and to utilize for irrigation the water which previously ran to waste by directing it over land where a continuous slope carried it off. The embankment has proved of the greatest benefit to some ten villages and has irrigated with sailáb some 1,300 acres of land round about Barnáli where the autumn crops this year have been exceptionally good.

There was a deep ravine on this road which obstructed traffic during the rains, and this has been filled up with earth excavated from a new tank dug up on the side of the road, so that this tank has actually cost nothing, but has proved very useful to the neighbouring villages and to the travelling public.

About 21 miles of roads have been raised and improved at a cost of Rs. 9,055, thus giving a rate of Rs. 431 per mile, including the cost of establishment, tools and plants, and miscellaneous charges.

The total cost of tools and plants charged to the roads amounts to Rs. 1,266. If this be deducted from the total outlay, the rate per mile comes to Rs. 371.

Statement showing Famine Relief Test Works carried out in Gujrat District under the

Serial No. of work.	Name of work.	Whether a major or minor work.	Nature of work.	DETAIL OF EXPENDITURE.					
				Paid in wages to labourers, including Sundays and holidays.	Cost of supervising establishment charged direct to work.	Cost of charitable reliefs of all kinds.	Cost of materials, tools and sheds.	Miscellaneous charges.	Total expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Barnali Tank ...	Minor work.	Excavation of earth-work.	1,073	36	54	26	19	1,207
2	Lala Musa-Dinga Road.	Ditto	Earth-work ...	997	56	...	13	20	1,086
3	Dinga-Kharián Road, Section I, Backánan-wála to Attowála.	Ditto	Ditto ...	861	48	...	194	17	1,120
4	Dinga-Kharián Road, Section II.	Ditto	Ditto ...	3,914	220	...	530	81	4,745
5	Dinga-Khorl Road...	Ditto	Ditto ...	974	55	...	342	21	1,392
6	Dinga-Maghowál Road.	Ditto	Ditto ...	485	32	...	187	8	712

* No separate account for Sundays was kept, but Rs. 159 have

GUJRAT:

The 21st November 1900. }

charge of Civil Department prepared in accordance with Section 152, Punjab Famine Code.

DETAIL OF WORKING RATES.						Total quantity of work done (columns 13 and 14).	Rate calculated on total actual outlay (columns 15 and 17)	Normal and estimated rate.	REMARKS. (Here state the extent to which the works are of a permanent nature and of distinct public utility or of temporary value and doubtful public utility.)
Expenditure on wages after deducting amount actually paid on account of Sundays		Quantity of work done		Rate per unit of work done for wages only (columns 11 and 12)					
By Civil Department.	By Public Works Department.	By Civil Department.	By Public Works Department.	By Civil Department.	By Public Works Department.				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Rs.	Rs.	C ft.	C ft.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	C ft.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
*967	...	219,524	...	4 6 6	...	219,524	5 7 9	3 0 0	This tank is for the use of one of the largest villages of Maira Circle, and is of distinct public utility.
997	...	418,104	...	2 6 2	...	418,104	2 9 7	2 8 0	
861	...	464,640	.	1 13 7	...	464,640	2 6 6	2 8 0	
3,914	...	2,110,869	.	1 13 8	...	2,110,869	2 3 11	3 0 0	All these works are not of a permanent nature, but of distinct public utility, especially for the travelling public.
974	...	525,385	...	1 13 8	...	525,385	2 10 5	2 8 0	
485	..	263,438	...	1 13 7	...	263,438	2 11 4	2 8 0	

been deducted from this amount in proportion to the working days.

A. C. ELLIOT, LIEUT.

Deputy Commissioner.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. L. MONTGOMERY, Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division,
To—The Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.

I HAVE the honor to forward, in original, the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum on the relief operations of the past year, called for in your No. 1244, dated 18th September.

2. The district is almost entirely dependent upon rain for its crops; not more than 3 per cent. of the cultivation is irrigated. When therefore the rains failed, or were unseasonable, for three harvests in succession the result was necessarily disastrous. The wonder is that the state of things was not worse than it was. There was no real famine as regards human beings, but there was acute distress. The death-rate was nowhere abnormal, and there is no reason to believe that deaths took place from starvation. The effect of the scarcity was felt in the great mortality among cattle. A cattle census taken in March 1900 showed that half the total number had disappeared. When the fodder famine became acute, some of the cattle were killed for food, and some taken off to any places where grazing or fodder could be obtained, such as the low hills near Jummoo, the canal irrigated tracts on the Chenab Canal, &c. But a great many died of starvation, and the traders in hides made large profits.

3. To show the great shrinkage in the area which bore crops, I attach a statement giving the ascertained facts for the last three harvests.

4. Notwithstanding the distress, the people kept themselves alive in various ways. Test works did not attract many, and when a work of some importance was commenced in the Pind Dádan Khan Tahsil the majority of the labourers were found to be mainly from the neighbouring villages. The people are self-reliant and ready to seek a living anywhere. There are many soldiers in the army from Jhelum, and residents of the district are found in China, the Straits Settlement, and even in East Africa. Many went off to the Chenab Colony for a living. The villages were very largely deserted, but the bread-winners brought or sent home their earnings from time to time to support the women, children or old people that had stayed behind. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction that the people of the district have been in no way demoralised by famine. The spirit of self-help is strong.

5. But a good deal of charitable relief money has been distributed for the purchase of seed, fodder or cattle; and large advances have been given for seed and cattle. The amount so given could of course relieve only a comparatively small number. I believe that in many villages the right to get the gift or advance was apportioned by lot among the most deserving. And those who had cattle were not slow to lend them when they could be spared. When rain came and sowing was possible great exertions were made to put as much land under crops as possible. Some people even dug their fields with their own hands; and an instance is reported of a man harnessing himself with a donkey to a plough. Two facts have been established in the late distress: The people are ready to help themselves and each other, and notwithstanding the great mortality in cattle, when rain came it was possible to put a large area under crops.

6. The district report shows (paragraph 2) that the revenue was freely suspended, amounting from Rs. 18,158 in kharif 1898 to Rs. 2,88,805 in rabi 1900, or an aggregate of Rs. 5,79,490. The Settlement Officer informs me that it will probably be necessary to suspend a third of the demand for kharif 1900 also in Tahsil Talagang, and a few thousands in the other tahsils. As a whole, the

present kharif has been very good ; but in parts of the district the rains were unseasonable, and further help will be needed. Meanwhile no attempt will be made to collect suspended revenue this harvest.

7. The figures in paragraph 17 show that sales increased by 68 per cent. and mortgages by 66 per cent. during 1899-1900, and that the prices realized were rather less than in the previous year. The common saying was that the Land Alienation Bill had stopped the money-lenders from giving money except on sales, and that very little land was being taken on mortgage. The figures do not establish this assertion. I believe it is very probable that the Land Alienation Bill did to some extent stop alienations, that is, that the prospect of the Act prevented more land from changing hands than was actually the case ; and so far the result was good. It is also doubtless true that the money-lenders themselves felt the pinch of hard times, and in many cases had not the money to lend. Crime did increase at one time, especially crime of a violent nature. I believe the true causes have been given in Mr. Estcourt's report. Strong measures were taken to stop dacoities, and as soon as the leaders were captured robberies almost entirely ceased.

8. All the famine works were test works. The majority of them were small works. The largest was the Jalápur Canal in the Pind Dádan Khan Tahsil. The number of labourers on the latter at no time exceeded 3,000 ; they were paid at low piece-work rates ; nothing was paid to dependents. The outbreak of cholera necessitated the closing of the work on the canal, and when good rain fell it was considered unnecessary to continue the work as a test work. The result is that the canal has been only half dug. I hope it will be possible soon to finish it ; it will be a boon to the people, and remunerative to the Government.

9. The officers named by Mr. Estcourt in paragraph 22 all did well. Mr. Yeoman supervised the work on the canal with zeal and efficiency ; and of the Tahsildárs, Pandit Sri Kishan, of Chakwál, is especially deserving of commendation for the manner in which he distributed famine relief, whether in the shape of fodder or of money for the purchase of seed or cattle. Mr. Estcourt, who was officiating as Deputy Commissioner for most of the time when the distress was most acute, also did very well.

Tal. fl.	Rabi 1899.			Kharif 1899.			Rabi 1900.			PERCENTAGE OF CULTIVATED AREA WHICH BORE MA- TURED CROPS.		
	Sown.	Failed.	Matured.	Sown.	Failed.	Matured.	Sown.	Failed.	Matured.	Rabi 1899.	Kharif 1899.	Rabi 1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Jhelum ...	104,079	31,805	72,274	86,619	76,352	10,267	77,822	47,231	30,591	69	12	40
Pind Dadar Khan ...	98,788	32,021	66,767	76,656	62,172	14,484	51,613	21,067	30,526	67	19	59
Chakwal ...	202,154	58,020	144,134	112,569	99,160	13,409	124,511	83,468	40,093	71	12	32
Talagangh ...	161,482	51,811	107,671	84,206	66,994	17,212	131,808	75,882	55,926	67	20	42
TOTAL ...	566,503	175,767	390,736	360,050	304,678	55,372	385,574	227,668	158,086	69	15	41

Famine Report, Jhelum District, 1899-1900.

1. During the year of 1896-97 there was considerable distress in the district, but it was not found necessary to start any famine works. Test works were started, but were not largely attended.

Brief reference of past famine and their history.

2. The cause of the present famine was failure of the rains during the whole year of 1899 continuing down to the rains of 1900. This continued drought exhausted the stocks of fodder to such an extent that half the cattle in the district died during 1899. A cattle census was taken in March 1900, showing that 53,962 bullocks and 61,936 cows died during the year, and the losses under other heads was equally serious. Liberal suspensions of land revenue were given throughout the district. The amounts suspended were, for the whole district, as follows:—

				Rs.
Kharif 1898	...	...	...	18,158
Rabi 1899	...	...	...	48,269
Kharif 1899	...	...	...	2,24,258
Rabi 1900	...	...	...	2,88,805

3. The parts worst affected were the tahsils of Jhelum and Pind Dádan Khan in all tracts away from the river, but the tahsils of Chakwál and Talagang were also badly affected. Only a slight portion of the tahsíl of Pind Dádan Khan is irrigated by canals. The rainfall in the different tahsils from January 1899 up to end of September 1900 was as follows:—

Tahsil.	From 1st October 1898 to 31st March 1899.	From 1st April 1899 to 30th September 1899.	From 1st October 1900 to 31st March 1900.	From 1st April 1900 to 30th September 1900.
Jhelum	1'84	12'50	6'26	31'61
Pind Dádan Khan	1'50	5'79	2'27	15'15
Chakwál	3'89	9'01	3'19	21'78
Talagang	2'08	11'43	2'82	13'83

4. The effect of the drought was more severe on the cattle than on the people, and though test works were opened, it was not found necessary to turn them into famine works. Brief history of the time of scarcity. What classes (zamindárs, kamíes or townspeople) mostly resorted to the works.

Test works were first opened at Sohawa on 19th November 1899 and in Pind Dádan Khan on 22nd November 1899. The Jalálpur Canal was opened as a test work under the Canal Irrigation Department on 3rd February 1900. The numbers on the latter work fluctuated considerably, but were never much more than 3,000. The numbers fell off during June to about 500, when work had to be temporarily closed owing to an outbreak of cholera in the vicinity of the works. Good rain fell in July and August, and the works were formally closed on 11th August 1900. The works were attended by zamindárs and kamíes. There were no people attending the works from Native States.

5. Prices were not so high as they were in the famine of 1896-97. Wheat was generally above 10 seers to the rupee and maize about 12 seers. Grain was freely imported into the district, and the railways were fully able to cope with all the demands. Prices and imports of grain (any failure of carrying-power of railways should be noted under this).

The imports and exports from April 1898 to February 1900 were as follows:—

April 1898 to April 1899—

Imports.

186,660 maunds.

Exports.

64,632 maunds.

April 1899 to February 1900—

Imports.

405,373 maunds.

Exports.

16,367 maunds.

Nature of the works utilized for relief, whether as ordinary District Board works or test or relief works. Number of tanks and miles of road or canal constructed.

6. The works on which labour was employed were as follows:—

- (1). One tank at Sohawa.
- (2). Breaking metal for road from Lilla Station to Lilla Town.
- (3). Road from Haranpur to Pind Dádan Khan to Lilla.
- (4). Road beyond Bhilowál.
- (5). Jalálpur Canal.

7. The first four works were under Civil Officers and the latter under Public Works Officers. Two Famine Náib Tahsildárs were employed on the last work, one being reduced when the numbers fell in April. No tasks were prescribed, work completed being paid for at rates such as were calculated from time to time to enable the workers to purchase the amount of food regulated in the Famine Code.

Non-working children and dependants.

8. There were no non-working children or dependants.

9. As noted above there was no fixed amount paid per diem to labourers. All

Wages Scale of diet employed and its adequacy or inadequacy. Method of payment How often paid—weekly bi weekly or daily. Wages for Sundays and holidays Earnings of relief labourers as compared with labourers employed elsewhere on ordinary works Were any complaints made of famine works attracting labour from other works? Effect of fines and reduction to minimum wage. Supply of flour and grain at relief works

works completed were paid for at fixed rates; and it was calculated that as a rule the average daily wage earned varied between one anna two pies and one anna four pies. The people were paid

in gangs twice a week. It was not found that the earnings of relief labourers were so high as to induce labourers from other works to come to the relief works for employment.

Gratuitous relief and charitable relief (numbers of deaths of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief to be noted)

10. No gratuitous relief was distributed.

Poor-houses (death-rate to be specially noticed).

11. No poor-houses were opened.

Miscellaneous forms of relief, such as spinning and weaving Disposal of products of such labour.

12. No miscellaneous forms of relief were started.

13. The health of the labourers was generally good, and there was no rise in the

Health of the affected tract - death-rate.

death-rate. There was an outbreak of cholera in the adjoining

villages about July and August owing to the foul water people were drinking, but the outbreak confined itself to the villages and did not appear on the works.

Expenditure.

14. The expenditure incurred was as follows:—

				Rs.	A.	P.
By Civil Officers	...	...	...	12,063	4	9
On Jalálpur canal	...	...	...	26,592	2	9
Total	...	...	...	38,655	7	6

Suspensions of revenue.

15. There were free suspensions of revenue granted as follows:—

Kharif 1899

Rabi 1900

Advances and gifts to agriculturists.

16. The following amounts were given to agriculturists as advances and gifts:—

Gifts—

				Rs.
In May 1900 for bhúsa for cattle	...	...	...	10,000
In August 1900 for cattle	...	...	...	90,000

Advances—

For seed for rabi 1900	...	...	...	40,500
For cattle, July 1900, and for seed, July 1900	...	...	...	1,00,000
For seed, October 1900	...	...	...	18,000
For cattle, October 1900	...	...	...	7,000

17. It is almost impossible to estimate the increase in debt and alienation due to famine. It was a common complaint for me to hear in the district that money-lenders would not any longer lend money on land security for fear of the operation of the Punjab Land Alienation Act, but statistics which have been gathered from time to time do not really bear out that contention, though they do show that at one time there was a preference for sales compared with mortgages.

The figures below for 1898-99 and 1899-1900 show that there was a considerable increase in both sales and mortgages:—

		1898-99.		1899-00.	
		Value.		Value.	
		Rs.		Rs.	
Sales	...	2,333 6,75,642		3,930 9,24,763	
Mortgages	...	2,454 5,51,037		4,080 7,43,875	

Personally I am inclined to think that though the prospects of the new law may tend to make the sáhu-kár rather more tight-fisted than he used to be, he has himself been affected by famine in the same way as the zamíndár, and that since his realizations must with the succession of bad harvests have been poor, he has not had so much money to lend out as formerly.

18. As I have pointed out in paragraph 2 above the losses of stock have been very heavy, and it is difficult to see how this could have been prevented. The means of communication into the middle of the district are very poor, and when bhúsa was selling at a maund and over to the rupee in Jhelum it was fetching two rupees a maund at Chakwál. Opening up the Talagang Tahsil by a good road from Talagang to Injara would be of great use. Fodder can be imported, and in fact when a grant of Rs. 10,000 was made to the district from the Charitable Relief Fund for the purchase of bhúsa the whole of this money was spent in buying bhúsa and getting it conveyed out to the tahsils. The cost incurred in carriage and waste was, however, very heavy.

19. The three months of December 1899 and January and February 1900 saw a great outbreak of crime. Thirty cases of dacoity were reported in these three months; whereas during the preceding year there had only been one such case. It is not possible to account for this merely as due to the influence of famine, as many of the perpetrators were fairly well off. It was, I believe, due to a great extent to the influence of one Karimán of the Ráwalpindi District, who with his associates committed one of the early dacoities in this district and defied capture for some time. The outbreak of crime collapsed as quickly as it began.

20. During July, August and September of the present year there have been plentiful rains, and sowings have been well above the average. The excessive rain in September and the delay of the rains in July have to a great extent spoilt what would otherwise have been a bumper harvest; but the area sown and the area prepared for the rabi sowings have clearly shown how well prepared the people are to endeavour to retrieve the losses of the late harvests. Throughout their distress they have shown great patience, only clamouring for help when the rains came, and it was important that relief in the way of advance for grain should be quickly distributed.

21. The prospects for the rabi are at present very good, and provided there is a little rain about the end of December there should be no need for anxiety. The total amount due to Government on account of arrears is as follows:—

			Rs.
Revenue	...	...	5,69,854
Advances	...	...	54,101

A great part of this will probably be realized in April 1901, but I do not think we can in any way expect to realize the whole till a year later.

22. The works in this district were not of any great size and call for no particular comment. Mr. Yeoman, Public Works Department, was in charge of the works on the Jalálpur Canal, and was indefatigable in his exertions to personally supervise all that was going on. Rám Tikáya, the Hospital Assistant on the works, had very trying and hard work which he did without complaining, and he did particularly good work when cholera broke out in the villages near the works, walking from village to village and treating all he could. Other officers who, I think, did particularly good work are Pandit Sri Kishen, tahsildar, Chakwál, who worked hard to derive the maximum of benefit for his tahsil from the allowances granted to him for bhusa, cattle and seed, Chaudhri Sultán Ahmed, Tahsildár of Pind Dádan Khan, and Nawáb Khán, Tahsildár of Jhelum.

The 19th October 1900.

E. A. ESTCOURT,
Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum.

