

REPORT

ON THE

KHALSA VILLAGES

OF

AJMER,

BY

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SUTHERLAND

AGRA:

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R E P O R T .

No. 31.

TO J. THOMASON, ESQUIRE,

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, N. W. P.,

Agra.

SIR,

I have, since Officiating Commissioner of Ajmere, through various communications, official, demi-official and oral, been required to report on the working of our administration in this district, in all departments, during the period of our rule, and on the present condition of the province. But the magnitude of the subject required far greater time, than I had, to apply to it, until my duties at Joudhpore were completed; and the duties of this office are, at all times, of a nature to prevent the Agent to the Governor General for the affairs of Rajpootana, from giving much of his undivided attention to his duties of Commissioner.

2. I have, however, latterly applied myself to this work, and endeavoured, through free and unreserved communication with all classes of the people, by personal observation, particularly in a recent tour of the district, and by a diligent study of the records of the last twenty-two years, to qualify myself for this interesting and important duty. When I say that my notes on these records fill sixty-nine sheets of foolscap paper, I trust that I shall be considered not to have been wanting in attention to this part of the subject.

3. It will be difficult to bring the matter under the consideration of Government in a shape, in which those concerned in general admini-

nistration would either have time or patience to attend to. But I shall divide the subject into different Letters, so that each portion will be entirely separate from the other.

The first letter will treat of the Khalsa administration of the district.

The second, of the Istumrareae.

The third, of the Jagheers.

The fourth, of the Customs, in addition to the information furnished through my letter of the 6th of July.

Reserving, as a distinct subject for separate Reports, the Judicial system as established by us, and the proposed Code of Rules.

4. I am aware that this may appear to be requiring more attention to the administration of affairs in this small district, than would seem to belong to this matter, interesting although it must always be on the minutest scale. But I am aware too, that far greater importance is attached to the isolated province of Ajmere, than belongs to the territorial possession, consisting of only 81 Khalsa towns and villages, 218 Istumrareae towns and villages, and 55 Jagheer towns and villages, and yielding us altogether a land revenue of above three lakhs, and a customs revenue of half a lakh. It stands in the midst of the Rajpootana principalities, themselves perhaps the most interesting communities in India, gives us our footing as sovereigns in the land amongst them, and affords them an example of either good or bad government.

5. Ajmere was transferred to us, in 1818, by Scindiah, in exchange for other territory. It was estimated in the Schedule of the time at rupees 4,40,000 per annum; whilst the territory given in exchange is estimated at rupees 6,90,012. In his letter, of 25th June 1818, Colonel Stewart, the Resident at Gwalior, says: "Although the amount of revenue of Ajmere is much exaggerated, yet it must be recollected that the cessions made by the British Government, in exchange, are also stated at the highest estimate; whilst of those cessions, there is territory yielding nearly three lakhs, to which it would be extremely difficult to set aside the claim of Dowlut Rao Scindiah."

6. It was, acknowledgedly, the importance of removing the Mah-rattas entirely from Rajpootana and the attainment for ourselves of so admirable a military position there, rather than any financial consi-

derations, which led to these territorial exchanges. In a letter, dated the 10th of March 1820, Government observe to the late Sir David Ochterlony: "In making the transfer, it was fully understood that the amount, at which Ajmere was rated, greatly exceeded what Scindiah ever derived from it."

7. The present Report will treat exclusively of our Khalsa management; and in order to put Government in possession, in one view, of all that has been said and done, whilst, at the same time, either portion may be examined separately, I shall divide the subject into four heads.

FIRST HEAD.—*The Reports of Superintendents.*

SECOND HEAD.—*The Letters of Residents and Commissioners.*

THIRD HEAD.—*The Letters of Government, and those of the Hon'ble Court of Directors.*

FOURTH HEAD.—*Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's Report.*

FIRST HEAD.—REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS.

28th June, 1818. Mr. Wilder reports to Sir David Ochterlony, that he had received charge of the Ajmere district from Scindiah's officers.

18th September. He found the city almost deserted, the people had been gradually drained of their wealth, until, at last in despair, they left altogether.

27th September. Likely to form a very valuable acquisition, consisting of 534 villages, Uslee and Dakhlee, 19,00,000 beegahs of arable land. The soil is good, though sandy, and the water every where good for irrigation; the people peaceable and industrious, but sadly thinned by oppression. The assessments of Jantea Scindiah and Bapoo Scindiah never exceeded Rs. 3,45,700, of which a great part was perhaps never collected; whilst heavy balances are left for us to realize. Doubts not that, under our management, the whole revenue, land and customs, would amount to eight or nine lakhs of rupees per annum. Out of the eight districts, there is only one of crown lands, and half of that district is Istumrar and Jagheer. Nine years ago it was agreed that all demands, additional to the Aen rent hassil, should be in the shape of fines, to keep the jumma at a low rate; as those levies could, it was thought, on a transfer to any other power, be got rid of. Out of the yearly sum of rupees 2,45,740, collected by Scindiah's Soobahs, in

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the last nine years, only rupees 2,10,280 was considered as the Government revenue, arising from its share of the produce, thus :—

Khalsa Aen.	87,689	
Istumraree do.....	1,22,591	
	<hr/>	2,10,280
Khalsa extra.....	41,289	
Istumraree ditto.....	94,171	
	<hr/>	1,35,460
		<hr/>
		3,45,740
Customs.	31,000	
	<hr/>	3,76,740
		<hr/>

The extra taxes, under various denominations, amounted altogether to fourty-four. Only 105 villages of Ajmere and the town of Kekree, are under direct management. In the first year's assessment, half the produce, which the people are most willing to give, will afford a higher revenue than Bapoo Scindiah's land assessment and extra cesses taken together, gave—i. e. 1,44,000 Sree Shae Rupees ; thus abolishing all extra cesses, from a moderate calculation, of the number of inhabitants, wells, ploughs and bullocks : satisfied that the sum may be easily doubled in three or four years : proposes to levy the revenue in Furruckabad, instead of Sree Shae, Rupees ; the difference in favour of the former being Rs 10-11 as. per cent. A list of extra cesses is submitted, at the head of which is "Fouj Khurch," described as a "tax to maintain troops, for the defence of the village."

17th June, 1819. Mr. Wilder proposes a settlement with the heads of villages for three years. The equal division of crop had produced all the anticipated benefit to the people and to the Government, nearly half as much again as was ever realized by Bapoo Scindiah. Not advisable, in the next two years, to increase the revenue much ; but is confident that in three years, double the revenue ever realized by the former Government may be obtained.

5th September. Settlement concluded with the zumeendars for three years, more than double in the third year what the Mahrattas received ; their collections never exceeded rupees 1,12,118—ours will equal 2,49,305. The right to lands unclaimed and unoccupied for forty years is now so warmly contested, that Mr. Wilder's whole time is occupied in settling these disputes.

22nd January, 1820. Collections from 1st July 1819 to 30th June 1820. Khalsa 1,59,384. This, Mr. Wilder says, is nearly as much again as was ever realized under the former Government.

7th January, 1821. Detailed account of produce submitted, which, but for excessive rain and frost, would have yielded as much revenue as was calculated on in the third year. Light as were the terms, the inhabitants were reluctant to enter on engagements beyond one year. The uncertainty of the periodical rains, and our system of not making remissions, affording sufficient reasons for this, Mr. Wilder, from the first year of our experience, hoped that the accounts which he heard of frequent droughts were exaggerated. He finds that a sufficient quantity of rain had not fallen for ten years. In the first year of our rule, the khureef was injured from excessive rain, but this afforded abundant rubbee. In the second year, the khureef suffered similarly; and in February there were successive frosts, which so injured the rubbee that the straw even was not fit for use. A remission of 30,000 rupees was therefore necessary. In the third year, no rain fell after August; and where there are no wells, there can be no rubbee cultivation. The three years' settlement is thus destroyed, and it is necessary to revert to a share of the crops. No contending against the calamities of drought and frost. Wells are not plentiful; and although water in some of the vallies is near the surface and good, it is far removed in other parts; and where it is deep, it becomes so bad as to destroy, rather than nourish, cultivation. The rate of assessment must vary in various districts. But one half of the produce is considered sufficient, to afford every necessary comfort to the husbandman; and, if it be wished, the zameendars may still be prevailed on to close with the former settlement: but this is not recommended, nor would it be possible to induce them to close for any extended period on an increasing assessment. Strongly recommends that a settlement be formed on an equal annual jumma, (that of 1226 F. S.) for five or ten years. Speculates on an influx of cultivators from foreign territories; the great famine of A. D. 1812, the great cause of depopulation.

10th January, 1821. The Khalsa revenue collected from 71 villages, rupees 1,58,525.

21st August, 1822. Khalsa 1,59,765.

12th September. Collected without arrears.

24th August, 1824. The rain last year was so insufficient, that

many of the zumeendars were obliged to pay their rents by borrowing. About the 24th of May, this year, a month before the usual time, there was a fall of rain, with occasional showers, up to the 10th of June, and the fields were sown. But from that time there have only been two showers, one on the 12th of August, which lasted for half an hour, another on the 20th. A hot westerly wind prevails, and the khureef cannot be saved—many of the cattle are already dead. Tanks are dried up, and wells begin to fail, and if there is not rain next month, there will be little rubbee harvest.

13th December. Khalsa collections, last year, rupees 1,64,700—Balance Rs. 5,520, which, on account of the unfavourable season, was allowed to lie over. The present season is still more adverse; no rain has fallen since the 20th of August. There was little khureef, and it is feared there will be less rubbee. The cattle mostly carried to the banas, for grass is selling at 20 seers per rupee; and land, under wells with water in them, is left uncultivated, because the produce would not pay the Government share and feed the cattle. The zumeendars have prejudices against our mode of assessment, from the result in the third year. In neighbouring states they pay in kind, and are the less affected by drought, frost, blight, and the numerous calamities incidental to this part of the country. Prices, too, have fallen since the settlement was made, and a share of the crop must be taken; the former settlement has been promised without increasing rate for two years, through which the people will recover from their present depressed and wretched condition, and then a new settlement may be formed for any period of years.

24th December, 1824. Mr. Wilder, in passing through the district in progress to Saugor, reports that the loss arising from drought, will be less serious than was apprehended, and that by Kham Tehseel, at least half the jumma may be realized from the Khalsa Rs. 80,000.

17th May, 1825. Mr. Middleton, Commissioner, reports that the Hon'ble Mr. Moore visited every village in the district before his arrival, and his own inquiries confirm the report of that gentleman, that the district is in a state of such utter distress, that there is hardly any hope of collecting any part of the Khalsa assessment, for the year. Since Mr. Wilder's report of the 13th December, two severe frosts occurred in March, destroyed almost wholly the indifferent rubbee crop; fodder is nearly as dear as grain, well water has failed, and before the rains set in, two-thirds of the cattle will be dead. The assess-

ment of Ajmere is, by no means, light ; in favourable years it would not be easily collected. The zumeendars cannot be expected to possess capital, and suspension of demand is recommended.

17th September, 1825. The measures sanctioned for the relief of the people were most beneficial. They have remained, and a greater quantity of land is now cultivated, than at any period since the introduction of our rule. The khureef crops fine, and grain will be cheap and plentiful ; of the rupees 1,00,681 of the rubbee assessment, only rupees 3,484 were collected ; but the remission was entirely confined to the Khalsa. Describes the measures taken to ensure the remissions reaching the pockets of the people, and the return to them of the money collected under a different system, that of the Malherras, the district would have been involved in famine ; under that adopted, the integrity of the people has been preserved : the jail was not filled, and the villages have not emptied. Proposes to collect the revenue of the year on the produce, and not on the jumma proposed for two years : rupees 1,70,535, being an increase on the former settlement of rupees 13,334. Mr. Moore and himself of opinion that the quinquennial settlement was heavy. It was collected, in the first years, because seasons were propitious ; but it will require years for the zumeendars to repair the losses they have sustained.

23rd March, 1826. Mr. Moore reports rupees 62,939 to have been collected Kham from the khureef, which is less, by rupees 1,892, than the former jumma. The zumeendars objected to pay according to settlement entered into before Mr. Wilder, although the season was good and there was more land under cultivation. The crops were therefore measured, and half was taken. The rubbee crops are good, with the exception of grain, which has partly failed from want of September showers.

26th May, 1826. Rubbee revenue short, in consequence of a failure of rain, by rupees 30,000, and a considerable diminution from the last quinquennial settlement, will be necessary in the settlement, first begun, by villages on the spot. That would not have been light, were all seasons favourable. But, in Rajpootana, one year of total drought may be expected in every three. Disposed to follow the native revenue system, which has preserved the village communities unbroken, and rendered sales of land for recovery of arrears unknown.

29th May, 1826. Mr. Middleton reports that he had commenced,

village by village, and on the spot, a settlement of the Khalsa, observing generally the rules which obtain in the Regulation provinces. The season is unfavourable for settlement, but he is unable to make inquiries regarding the rubbee harvest, whose collections he is making according to produce ; and he supposes there are advantages in entering into engagements with the people, at this season, in inducing them to bring their khureef lands under cultivation.

28th June. Khalsa revenue of 1232 F. S. entirely remitted.

21st July, 1826. In 1231, one of the last years of Mr. Wilder's quinquennial settlement, the collections were, from the khureef 64,009 rupees, from the rubbee 1,00,691, or' together 1,64,700. In 1232, the greater portion of the revenue was relinquished. In 1233, the Khalsa was under Kham management, and the khureef yielded less than that of 1231, by rupees 1,034—the rubbee less by rupees 29,363, or together 30,398. The Khalsa was held Kham, because a settlement could not be effected in time, and because it would afford a test of capability. The people had suffered from a succession of bad seasons ; the former assessment was too high ; fixed assessments are unpalatable to the people, who prefer a share of the crop. If confidence could be reposed in the subordinate officers, the system of taking in kind would be the best ; but this Mr. Middleton, from past experience, would be loath again to undertake. Settlement for five years, and inquiry into Milik tenures, in progress. The former settlement was so high, that the zumeendars would not agree to its becoming the basis of a new one. The want of rain, in last September, ruined the mote cultivation, and the khureef generally suffered ; gram crops also have been ruined, and wheat in many places has suffered from blight. But the commencement of the present rainy season is favourable ; cultivation is more extensive and promising, than in former years ; there is increasing prosperity in the towns, and confidence on the part of the people.

22nd November, 1826. Mr. Middleton reports the completion of a five years' settlement of the Khalsa. The Rajpoot system is so different from ours, that the printed rules could not be observed. Collections in kind during the last year, afforded a good criterion of resources, and the measurement rolls are pretty accurate. The only sure crops are, when there can be irrigation from wells ; but they are falling into decay, the people, through poverty arising from high assessment and

bad seasons, seldom repairing them ; they get salt and bad when sunk too deep, and often fail altogether ; two-thirds of the cattle have died in the last two years, and the people's money has been spent in replacing them. Lakes fill only from heavy rain, and there is a drought every third year in Rajpootana. The lakes are formed by a bund, a string artificially added to a bow, into which nature has curved the mountains.

The native practice is that of taking half the produce, which one year with another answers very well ; but there is difficulty in managing this when the concern is extensive. Yet our system of fixing rent is looked on with dread. The poverty and embarrassed circumstances of the labouring classes show that our system has not been particularly beneficial to them, and the district is not much better peopled than in the time of the Mahrattas. The people are safe in person and property, but they are taxed to an extent considerably greater than when the Mahrattas governed the country. Notices the extortions of the boras or money lenders. Yet they are necessary ; and where they have been discontinued, the village becomes deserted and uncultivated. The cultivators are mostly Mhairs, Goojurs, and Jauts ; the last most industrious. Putwarrees are only in the superior villages, and the potails are the head zumeendars. Biswadaree rights are attained by sinking wells in buranee lands ; this species of cultivation is much the same as in the time of the Mahrattas ; other lands have been brought under cultivation through increased protection ; but those people who first came here from other countries, have since gone away owing to high assessments.

Farmers have been excluded from the present settlement, as hurtful to the interests of the village community. The first instalment has been realized, and the rubbee is promising. It has been the object to assess in such manner, that losses in bad seasons may be made good by profits or good seasons ; that capital might accumulate for the purchase of cattle, the repair of old wells and the construction of new ; and that our assessments should not be extravagantly beyond what is levied in neighbouring states. The settlement shews a decrease in comparison with Mr. Wilder's, of altogether rupees 21,904-5. But we give up a trifle now to those who may hereafter enrich us and themselves. We stimulate industry as the surest means of improvement.

The number*of wells is	1,850.
———— ploughs	3,678.
———— cultivators	7,130.

The Mahrattas' collections averaged, including abwa, in their last four years, rupees 1,17,025. The last year of Mr. Wilder's settlement, 1231, when there was collectionRupees 1,64,600. Kham collections of 1233. 1,37,407. Quanoongoe's estimate of Government share. 1,31,287. Village's Account ditto. 1,40,067. Mr. Middleton's equal settlement for five years. 1,42,692. 5th June, 1827. Khalsa collections of 1234. 1,42,690.

15th September. The collections made with difficulty and distress; the wheat and gram having suffered from blight and heavy rain in January.

The rains commenced favourably, but from the middle of July till the first week of the present month they stopped. Many of the khureef lands could not be sown, and all the bajra and jowary that were sown came to nothing. Before the late rain some of the villages were nearly deserted, the people driving the cattle to Meywar and Marwar, where better pasturage and perhaps better terms were procurable. The lakes and wells are now filled, and the rubbee will compensate for the loss of the khureef.

28th November, 1828. The Hon'ble Mr. Cavendish, Superintendent. The assessment of the Ajmere town lands was reduced by Mr. Middleton, from 10,420; it was fixed by Mr. Wilder, at 7,500.

2nd March, 1829. Mr. Cavendish, in a letter of eighty paragraphs with tabular enclosures, reports on the mode of collecting the revenue of the season. Gives various reasons why the assessment is too high, and why cultivation has not increased as in the provinces. In a poor soil the people cannot afford to give one half of the produce. The money settlement was formed on that and on the single year of good price, instead of an average of years.

<i>4th.</i> Collections for 1236 F. S. realized			
and to be realized.	1,29,552	2	9
Remissions recommended on account of our			
assessment.	17,311	13	3
	<u>1,46,864</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Since Mr. Cavendish's report of 2nd March (80' paras.) was submitted, the Khalsa lands have been measured, and when a reply is received to that report, the result of his inquiries into capabilities will be submitted, with a revised statement.

<i>24th July, 1830.</i> Total assessment of			
1237 F. S.	1,44,072	0	0
Balance from over-assessment.	19,085	1	9
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Realized.	1,24,986	14	3
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Total assessment of 1238 F. S.	1,44,072	0	0
Balance not realized.	20,721	1	9
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	1,23,350	14	3
<hr/>			

2nd September, 1831. The balance arising principally from over-assessment, but partly from a failure of the autumnal crops and almost total failure of the gram crops, for the want of rain in December and January; and it was necessary to take certain villages under Kham management. This is the fourth year of Mr. Cavendish's charge. In the first year it rained in December, and the gram crop was excellent. In the following three years there was no rain in that month or in January, whilst the original assessment is so high that it can only be realized in some very favourable year. He never was stationed in any country where the seasons are so uncertain, the soil so poor, and where it was so highly, nay oppressively, over-assessed.

13th September, 1831. Mr. Cavendish reports that Mr. Middleton's five-year settlement will expire on the 30th instant; but that he will leave the next settlement to his successor, Colonel Lockett. Describes the nature of the assessment which he meant to have formed through potails of villages, and considers that a decrease of 20,000 rupees on the last assessment is necessary. The object of all assessment is to ensure a fixed sum through all years, good, bad, and indifferent. This object has completely failed heretofore in Ajmere, to the great injury of the Government and people, by which however the native officers of our Government benefit. The present rains are scanty not commencing till the

7th of August, and it will be difficult to collect the khureef share of the revenue which is 9 annas 6 pie in the rupee. Proposes to grant a mokudumee of 5 per cent to potails.

31st October. The Hon'ble Mr. Moore reports that he has intimated to the potails, that the collections will be made the same in the present as in the past year, there being no time to enter on a new settlement since the Hon'ble Mr. Cavendish's departure.

17th January, A. D. 1832. Colonel Spiers, Superintendent. Colonel Spiers reports to Colonel Lockett that Mr. Middleton's settlement terminated on the 30th of September, and as collections were made on it with considerable abatement, it becomes necessary for him to travel through the district to make a new one.

1st September. Collections from the Khalsa villages. rupees 1,22,813; balance not realized, 21,258; arising, he is told, from over-assessment and the low price of grain, which has fallen since Mr. Middleton's settlement in 1826, through foreign importations and the little increase of cultivation since the introduction of our rule. Hesitates in recommending settlements, as of the fourteen already made only six have been realized as follows:—

Collections. Remissions.

1st.	Mr. Wilder's Settlement,...	1,59,764	..	1,59,764	
2nd.	ditto ditto,.....	1,79,467	..	1,40,034	... 38,823
3rd.	ditto ditto,.....	1,64,700	..	1,64,700	
4th.	ditto ditto,.....	1,64,700	..	1,64,700	
5th.	ditto ditto,.....	1,64,700	..	1,62,670	... 2,029
6th.	ditto ditto,.....	1,64,700	..	1,59,279	... 5,520
7th.	Mr. Middleton's Collection,	61,130	..	31,920	... 29,210
8th.	ditto ditto,.....	1,37,663	..	1,37,663	
9th.	ditto Settlement, ...	1,44,072	..	1,44,072	
10th.	Mr. Cavendish,	1,44,072	..	1,42,760	... 1,311
11th.	ditto	1,44,072	..	1,26,646	... 17,425
12th.	ditto	1,44,072	..	1,24,986	... 19,085
13th.	ditto ..	1,44,072	..	1,23,350	... 20,721
14th.	Mr. Moore,	1,44,072	..	1,22,813	... 21,258

Proposes to collect, according to Mr. Middleton's estimate, with the usual abatement. People prefer the ancient system of buttae, and notwithstanding all objections to it, there is no more equitable mode of collection in a country of such uncertain season; but however our collections are made, the rates should be such as to set an example

of forbearance and liberality to surrounding states. Our high rates prevent an influx of oppressed cultivators from foreign states, whilst many of our own have left.

22nd December, 1832. From the drought and locusts it becomes necessary to allow one half of the third kist, Rs. 10,000, to lie over to March, to be recovered with the first rubbee kist. Proposed abatement of Rupees 18,548, or an amount not exceeding that of last year, Rs. 21,258.

26th September, 1833. People suffering under a lamentable state of distress. It commenced in April, with a disease which carried off one-half or two-thirds of the cattle; and as there have been only two hours rain from June to September, the remainder of the cattle and the crops have been destroyed. If rain should fall, to secure a rubbee crop, it is proposed to give it up to the people to cover former losses, also to return to them any collections from the rain crops. The locusts have destroyed grass and all green things, and Tukavee has been refused because it would go to support the people, and there is extensive emigration. A revenue settlement need not be attempted.

7th April, 1834. Mr. Edmonstone, Superintendent. Had deferred reporting to Colonel Spiers on the revenue affairs of the district, in expectation of instructions from Government. Engagements were taken from the villages to pay in proportion to the rubbee crop and its price in coming to market, and those who would not agree to this, have been dealt with on Kham terms. Erroneous as the principle of dividing the crop may be, it was cheerfully acceded to by 48 of the villages, and there never was a time when they more requested to be mercifully dealt with. Kham management, which is equally injurious to the Government and the people, and only beneficial to its officers, has been avoided. Aggregate rate from the 48 villages exceeds what was collected from them last year, and hopes that it will be the same from the Kham villages; but any loss to Government is not to be put in comparison with the advantages of moderation to the people, under their unprecedented sufferings. Recommends that something may be done to render the system of management more fixed; the system of collecting as much as we can, and declaring the remainder irrecoverable, or that of collecting from harvest to harvest, not only objectionable in principle, but highly injurious in its operation.

18th October, 1834. Collections from 1st October 1833 to 30th September 1834 :—

Khureef	17,719
Rubbee	62,458
	<hr/>
	80,157
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1st November. Mr. Edmonstone reports to Colonel Alves the arrangements for collections in the ensuing year. Calamities of last season render those managements financially less satisfactory than they otherwise would be. Proposes to take from the village communities engagements to pay according to estimated crops, deducting the 20,000 rupees by which Mr. Middleton's settlement of 1826 was too heavy ; the remainder has been taken as the standard for the present year, the people have cheerfully agreed to the rates, and there is no doubt that they will be collected ; although the season has been favourable, the people have not yet sufficiently recovered to admit of a more permanent settlement. By the expiration of the season the country will have partially recovered, and Mr. Edmonstone will have attained more exact information, and a settlement can commence with 1243

12th May, 1836. Mr. Edmonstone reports to Colonel Alves the expiration of the one year's settlement, reported on the 1st of November 1834. The experience of the revenue management of the last eighteen years, affords almost sufficient information on which to form a new settlement. But Mr. Edmonstone confirmed the measurement of the native Ameens by personal inspection. The opinion of more than one Superintendent that our first assessments were too high, has been confirmed by the course of events and knowledge of resources ; to this have been added the great disadvantages of season, soil and climate, a scanty and indigent tenantry, wanting in energy as means to bear up against calamity ; situated as Ajmere is, our paramount obligation should be moderation in our demands.

The Mahrattas collected in their last year 1,15,060—Mr. Wilder in his first year 1,59,384, which was realized as the season was favourable. He then settled for three years at—1st. 1,79,457 ; 2nd. 2,01,691 ; 3rd. 2,49,303 ; which failed in the first year, and a five years' settlement was then extended to the district at rupees 1,59,764. Mr. Wilder believed that unfavourable seasons were the cause of his being so singularly unsuccessful. The reduced revenue was collected

for three years : the fourth year, from drought, only a small sum was collected ; the fifth year, the whole was collected Kham. Mr. Middleton assessed at a reduction of rupees 1,702, which was collected only the first year ; after which Mr. Cavendish collected what he could, without distressing the people ; and this course was pursued, until the revenue sunk down to Rs. 1,22,182. Then followed drought, frost, and blight, and the collections in 1242 Fuslee were only rupees 1,18,792, nearly the amount of Scindiah's collections seventeen years before.

In no one year can it be said that a just standard of assessment has been devised ; the nearest to it was Mr. Middleton's quinquennial settlement of 1234 ; it was formed in haste and on insufficient data ; but was on a comparatively equitable rate, and under favourable circumstances the amount might have been collected ; remissions were made from it without due consideration ; the people magnified their difficulties, were too readily listened to, and reductions became systematic.

Mr. Edmonstone's object has been to hit a happy medium, so that profits on one year may balance losses on another, rates assumed according to local usage, difficulty of fixing them enhanced by the want of classification of soil, which differs so much in every village. Individual contributions determined by buttae, kunkool, or other more undefined system ; these are to assess the usual money rates on the "zubtee" produce, and for the remaining products to take the quantity per beegah and turn it into its market money value there, taking the rent of the land at the value of the landlord's share ; the gross jumma-bundee of the villages fixed. He describes the mode of fixing average rates of produce and of price, from the experience gained through former settlements, and from information obtained from local officers. In share of crops, ryuts give one-half, potails one-third, non-agricultural classes one-fifth. One-half is too high a standard, and one-third would be better, but he was unwilling to disturb a practice of long standing : where a reduction had been before granted to new cultivators, this has been continued.

Having obtained all the requisite information, and fixed the gross jumma-bundee of each village according to the data afforded, Mr. Edmonstone proceeded to visit each village and inquire into capabilities on the spot. When there were grounds for suspicion the lands were measured, and in communication with the people the assessment

was fixed. Ten to forty per cent was deducted from the gross jumma, according to circumstances, and the remainder fixed: there were various considerations to be attended to—amongst others, where in a village there is no bhoom, the necessity for putting on individuals the responsibility for losses through theft. No offers received from farmers, nor any attempt permitted to call up the revenue by them. No instance of refusal to accept the terms offered on sufficient data. Seven villages noted below* were assessed rather according to former results than proof of present means, and two villages† were held Kham, the seventy-two accepted the terms offered to them.

The amount of settlement, independent of Kham villages, is rupees 1,27,525, being an increase on the jumma of the past year of Rs. 8,553. Mr. Middleton's five years' assessment was rupees 1,43,297; but from this was loss, from over-assessment, drought and deterioration, rupees 58,542, reducing the collections to rupees 1,31,589 per annum.

Describes the advantages of irrigation from wells, lakes, &c.

Nature of the settlement Mouzawar directed to the keeping the village communities united, the claims of Government being fixed on produce are easily realizable, and the Ryutwar settlement was found impossible from other multifarious occupations; proposed to extend the settlement to five or ten years; observations on the advantages of long over short settlements, and of short settlements over those of a fluctuating or yearly nature. Biswadaree or baopotee rights are hereditary and transferable, the origin is doubtful; but they are now obtained by sinking a well in burance land, and the holder of them is liable directly to Government for the amount assessed. Talabee land or that under lakes is held on the same tenure, but not burance lands.

The condition of the people is generally that of poverty; they are recklessly improvident, think only of the day, and are irretrievably involved in debt; they are industrious, only because it is necessary to their existence: there are fourteen classes of cultivators, all in the hands of boras or money lenders, who are necessary to their very existence; next in importance to the bora is the potail, who is inadequately rewarded by fees or perquisites.

Rent free lands or Milik abound in almost every village in which much fraud is believed to have been practised, no inquiry into the titles heretofore instituted; but this is in progress, and a report is promised.

Rajgurh, Doorattoo, Makurwa, Telanah, Samprodo, Sanoda, Dubrela.

† Reevignot, Deenalnah.

Disquisition on the subject of assisting the people to improve their agricultural resources, a system so successfully pursued in the neighbouring district of Beawr; whilst here tanks, wells and lakes are in every village perfectly useless from the want of means to repair them. The same with roads, nullahs and bridges, whose repair would improve the general prosperity of the district, as would the advance of specific sums of money for particular purposes, to be afterwards recovered.

Village expenses do not in any of the Khalsa villages average more than five per cent. Various items given in two villages to show that they amount only to three per cent, which is thought extremely small; dustukana is one of the items. The village expenses are distributed on and collected from the people by their own delegates—the potail cannot take it on himself generally, or use his power aggressively, the people knowing under our rule how to obtain redress.

Mr. Edmonstone's settlement returns show, in the eighty-one Khalsa usulee and twenty-four dukhlee villages, 5621 cultivators, non-cultivators 2675, two-bullock ploughs 3185, wells—pucka 1493, cutcha 82; number of beegahs under cultivation :

Well land.	{	1 Harvest,	18,638	
	{	2 Harvests,	3,832	22,470
Lake land.	{	1 Harvest,	4,701	
	{	2 Harvests,	750	5,451
Burane.				62,722
				<hr/> 90,643

Rates per beegah—Well land, 3-9-2; Lake land, 2-12-2½; Buranee, „-14-2½. And that the jumma on these data is, on Well land, 80,323 rupees; Lake land, 15,085 rupees; Buranee, 55,450 rupees; Or rupees 1,50,858. Whilst the additional cesses are, rupees 6,293. Grand total, rupees 1,57,151.

The collections on Mr. Middleton's five years' assessment, rupees 1,43,297, from 1234 to 1238, inclusive :—

Average,	1,31,389
Collections in 1239, were	1,22,903
Collections in 1240,	1,24,827
Settlement of 1240,	1,19,602
Mr. Edmonstone's Settlement,	<hr/> 1,27,525

Rate per Plough,	40	3	3
Rate per Beegah, Well land,	3	9	2
Ditto, Tank land,	2	12	2½
Ditto, Buranee,	0	14	2½
	3	7	3 6½
Average.	2	6	6

23rd June, 1836. Mr. Macnaghten, Superintendent. The Khe-wut (Assameewar) assessment unequally distributed; proposes to establish a fresh one where necessary, and to give individual puttass specifying the quantity of land, amount of rent; six mootsuddes and twelve chuprassees required for this duty.

4th July, 1837. The village expenses or mulba, a sort of secret service money, undefined and levied in proportion to the patience of the people to bear the tax, injurious in a moral as well as revenue point of view, and desirable that it should stop. The last ten years' settlement is moderate, and if the people are protected from potails and putwarrees, who are leagued with Government officers in plundering them, they will prosper. There is nothing permanent where every third year is a failure, and the collections should be made in kind; advantages of taking a share of the crop from the cultivator. The revenue has fallen off 32,600 rupees in twenty years of peace, and the rents are collected with difficulty. The people are poor and contrast badly, as is notorious, with the substantial ryots of Marwar. System on which boras lend money ruinous to the people. In the two last years, forty-nine families have emigrated from the Rajgurh district. twenty-four from Ramsir, and fifteen from Peesangun. No correct report to be expected from thanadars, and cultivated lands are set down as waste; advantages of advancing Tukavee.

4th September. Mr. Macnaghten is sure that no such abuses prevail in the surrounding territory; for instance Kekree, whose jumma is 5,800, paid to Government last year only 5,663; but there was collected from it 6,760 rupees: 91 went towards village expenses, and the remaining 990 remained unaccounted for. In the same manner, 112 rupees went to village expenses, and there remained unaccounted

for rupees 632. Mr. Cavendish's system of village accounts lasted only his own time, and he caused the potails to disgorge to the ryots 5,000 rupees embezzlements as village expenditure. Sir Thomas Munro's opinion of the extortions of village officers through extra cesses. What has the Moosulman to do with their charitable and religious donations. Evils of the Mouzawar system, to which it behoves us to apply a remedy. The village authorities of Kekree proposed to levy an excess of one anna in the rupee; the people complained in 1835: but they are said to have levied 1,300 rupees. Further instances of extra collections given. Mr. Edmonstone's settlement was made with great judgment, and of the Government demand the people have no cause to complain. Still five hundred families have voluntarily gone over to Marwar and Jeypore. Mr. Macnaghten, since his arrival here, has seen and heard of much individual wretchedness amongst the ryots.

10th September. Ajmere Kusba is assessed at 72,506, of which the Telees pay 1,442 rupees; their land is over-assessed, because when the bund of the Ana Sagur was raised, their land was flooded and no allowance was made for this; part of the money is raised by a capitatum tax, a tax on oil-presses, bullocks and goats.

16th October. Agricultural prospects gloomy in the extreme; khureef crops so bad that they will hardly afford fodder; and in the Eke-fuslee villages rents must fail; if pressed, the people will run away. If there is rain about Christmas, the rubbee crops will be benefited; Do-fuslee villages benefit in proportion to the suffering of their neighbours; proposes that in the Eke-fuslee villages the collections be made in kind.

The Eke-fuslee villages yield,	25,004
The Do-Fuslee ditto,	1,02,521

Rs. 1,27,525

17th October. To obtain information regarding the causes of emigration, it is necessary that the Superintendent should proceed into the district and communicate freely with the people. Potails and Putwarrees can extort from the people to the extent of their own conscience. The Kekree Putwarree took upon himself the office of scape-goat; but although peculation was proved against him before

a most respectable punch, the money cannot be recovered, for the law does not reach him.

3rd February, 1838. The khureef kists amount to rupees 25,901 ; of these 9,756 rupees have been collected ; and, considering the wretched state of the cultivation, it is astonishing that there has been so much.

16th February. Forty-one of the Eke-fuslee villages agreed to Kham cultivations—the Do-fuslee villages being satisfied with the settlement ; the measure of resorting to Kham management, whilst it satisfied the people, secured the rights of Government.

8th March. In no instance was a complete remission required. The balance shown, rupees 16,144, recommended to be remitted. The rubbee is a complete failure, not a drop of rain having fallen for seven months.

10th August. List submitted of thirty nine villages, whose khureef collections were Kham ; their jumma is rupees 25,572, the collections 9,654, the balance 15,917 ; they are mostly Eke-fuslee villages, the settlement on which never can be collected except in good seasons. In the Do-fuslee or rubbee only twenty villages were held Kham ; the sum recommended for remission from them is 5,634, making with the other 21,551 rupees.

21st January, 1840. In the beginning of the season, the fall of rain was most favourable ; but eventually it failed, the crops withered and were burnt up.

7th May. Condition of the Telees of the Kusba of Ajmere reported on. Their land under and around the Ana Sagur lake amounts to 1577 beegahs, for which they pay rupees 1,442-8. Only 16 beegahs is well land, 58 talabee, 686 is buranee, and 886 beegahs are under water, more or less, according to the state of the lake—or when there is no water in it, they cannot be cultivated. The well lands pay 3-8 and 3-2 per beegah, or rupees 42-10 ; the talabee land 1-8, or rupees 88-10—but it is over-rated and should only pay 12 annas ; the 686 beegahs of buranee pay 12 annas, or rupees 503-6 ; and the 817 submerged bagabi pay 8 annas, or rupees 378 ; the cheetas of Nosur pay, on an average, 100 rupees ; making altogether land revenue rupees 1,113 ; the remainder is made up of poll tax “ fee kuse” rupees 72, and falls upon old women and porters : oil will tax 60 rupees ; the remainder consists of dund or “ bach” rupees 212,

which is a tax on the more fortunate or industrious cultivator, to make up for deficiency in those who are less so. This system of taxation is also recognised in the Khalsa villages. Recommends that the poll tax, the oil-mill tax, and the dund or "bach" be remitted, altogether rupees 388 ; and only the fair land tax to be taken. The land ought to be measured, which has not been done since 1830, and fairly assessed. Statement is annexed showing the Khewut or Assameewar assessment.

SECOND HEAD.—RESIDENTS' AND COMMISSIONERS' DESPATCHES.

SIR DAVID OCHTERLONY, RESIDENT.

1st October, 1818. Authorizes Mr. Wilder to carry into effect the arrangements proposed in his letter of 27th, which will be acceptable to the people in simplifying the mode of collection and relieving them from vexatious posts.

SIR CHARLES METCALFE, RESIDENT.

31st May, 1826. Considers the engagements for revenue to be signed by the head man of the village, and the whole community to be responsible. The system of settlement to be observed is that of the village assessment founded on the Native system, preserving the village community unbroken, and rendering sales unknown for arrears of rent.

SIR J. E. COLEBROOKE, RESIDENT.

No instructions, nor any letters beyond those of form, on record.

MR. MARTIN, RESIDENT.

Ditto ditto.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LOCKETT, COMMISSIONER.

22nd August, 1832. Balance of revenue rupees 21,258, including Paemalee 897, and exceeding that of last year by 139 rupees, which is considered a remarkable approximation. Mr. Middleton's and Mr. Cavendish's on revenue affairs opposed to one another ; the former showing an increase, the latter a decrease in cultivation : not therefore prepared to say upon what period a new settlement should be framed, and has no time to read the records being about to start on a tour of Rajpootana. Considers the buttae system and that of receiving the rents in kind objectionable : at all events, the rates should be so moderate as to induce the people of other states to settle here ;

and does not think the Superintendent should enter on a settlement of the revenue, until he has made a tour of the province.

3rd January, 1833. Recommends that the half of the third khureef kist be allowed to lie over till March, on account of the sufferings of the people from drought and locusts.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ALVES, COMMISSIONER.

30th October, 1834. Recommends that the sum of rupees 20,314-5-0 be struck off the Superintendent's books as irrecoverable, on account of the assessment of 1832-33.

3rd November. Submits Mr. Edmonstone's papers of 1834-5, and states that Mr. Edmonstone has so well described the circumstances under which the settlement has been framed, that it only remains for him to recommend its confirmation. Doubts whether it will be practicable to introduce long leases, where every third may be expected to prove a year of drought. But thinks that an experiment might be made in villages where the inhabitants are in good circumstances, and where they may have the means of making good the deficiencies of bad, by the profits of good, seasons. After Mr. Edmonstone shall have prosecuted his inquiries, great reliance may be placed on his judgment in respect to the most eligible mode of assessing the district.

22nd May. Submits a copy of Mr. Edmonstone's report on revenue settlement, which that officer recommends may be confirmed for a period of five years. From the past history of the revenue assessments of the district, from the various considerations which Mr. Edmonstone has brought to bear on the subject, and from his personal inquiries, Colonel Alves considers this the most perfect settlement which has been given to Ajmere. It is at once moderate to the people, and secures the rights of Government. Over-assessment and variable seasons have conspired to reduce the people to poverty—the first cause will now be greatly diminished; but as one year in every three or four years is a year of drought, there must be defalcations, more especially when two years of drought come together; for poor people cannot make up the losses of one season from the profits of another, and where rates are fixed one village does not make up the deficiency of another.

These are the objections to settlements. The agreements in favour are such as arise from former over-taxation, the uncertainty which the

people experienced from prospective demands, the comfort and confidence they will derive from knowing the extent of their future payments. Improvement in the resources of the district and the condition of the people, may therefore be calculated on. Most villages will flourish, and if some should fall into arrears, they can be relieved through remissions or newly assessed. The settlement, which is moderate in its details, equable and more justly apportioned than any former settlement, whilst it is free from the paralyzing condition of yearly increase, may be confirmed for five or ten years. The result will prove whether a Mouzawar settlement for a period of years be practicable in Ajmere, or whether yearly settlements be necessary. If it prove a general failure, other principles must be had recourse to for long or perpetual settlements.

Half the produce when taken in money, must be too high a rate ; it throws the cost of conversion on the people ; and were the revenue taken in kind, half would hardly bear a greater proportion than one-third when taken in money. When classes of people pay different proportions and one standard of payment be deemed right, it were preferable to reduce those who pay most to the standard of those who pay least, rather than raise those who pay least to the highest standard. There are no middle men employed, the settlement being directly between the Government and the potails of villages, whose condition might be improved with advantage.

Disquisition on the origin of Biswadaree, which is supposed to mean a rent of 8 per cent, after payment of Government revenue.

Lakes and Wells. Whatever are the vices of the people they are industrious, and their vices may be ascribed to the calamity of season. Disquisition regarding the advantages or otherwise of boras or village money lenders. Measures are in progress for ascertaining the validity of rent free tenures, and as Mr. Edmonstone promises a report, the period of its submission will be the proper time for entering on the condition of that question. Tukavee has more frequently been found elsewhere to be paid back to Government as revenue, than applied to the purchase of seed and cattle. Still authority should be given to make small advances, and the experiment which has answered so well in Beawr be tried in Ajmere. Wherever there is a certainty of doing good, money should be advanced ; the repair of old, and the construction of new works for irrigation, will constitute the principal demand for advances. The account of village expenses is considered satisfactory.

11th June, 1837. Submits correspondence relating to revenue balances, and is not sanguine that the whole will be collected within the time specified by Lieutenant Macnaghten. All delays in recovering the dues of Government, add to the difficulty of eventual recovery.

LETTER TO THE SUPERINTENDENT.

27th June, 1837. The Superintendent does not say how many villages he proposes to grant Khewuts to. In the 19th paragraph of his letter of 12th May 1836, Mr. Edmonstone describes his settlement to be essentially Mouzawar, and in the 35th paragraph the mode of assessing village expenses. The granting of Khewuts to the ryuts would convert the Mouzawar into a Ryutwar settlement. Government has confirmed the settlement, and its authority will be necessary for any extensive change. The individual contributions under the village settlement should be adjusted by the community headed by the potail. They best understand their own interest, and will generally perform the work. An Assameewar assessment, on a small scale even, would require the superintendence of an European officer.

10th July. Submits correspondence with the Superintendent relative to a change in the revenue assessment of the district, originating in a proposal from the tihseeldar to employ people to regulate individual payments. Reasons explained in the letter of 27th ultimo, for not readily complying with this recommendation. Mr. Macnaghten shows that Mr. Cavendish introduced the system ; but it has not been followed out. The village expenses are for municipal purposes, and must be continued although subject to abuse. The Commissioner thinks that an assessment based upon yearly produce in kind, although not collected in kind, is well adapted to the circumstances of the people, did it not involve too much detail and interference on the part of our Native officers : the best reasons for its adoption are the uncertainty of season and the poverty of the cultivators. The Superintendent thinks the present assessment, although moderate, cannot last ; but his reasoning is inconclusive. The sum being fixed, it is distributed by the village community, and the people profit by all improvements. Is not acquainted with Mr. Macnaghten's reason for thinking that potails and putwarrees, who are the natural guardians of the interests of the people, are leagued with Government officers against them. Mr. Edmonstone has ably made the inquiries, which the officiating Superintendent thinks are still call-

ed for. Some of the people who have emigrated may return, and it is not known whether others have not come. The Superintendent's interference should be limited to those cases in which unjust appropriation is loudly complained of ; even then he should not give individual puttās, but require the village community fairly to adjust the settlement according to the Government demand.

8th September. Highly approves of the endeavour to prevent undue exactions from villages, and discusses the merits of inquiry into the village expenses of Kekree. Putwarrees should intimate, in writing, any collections which they may suspect in excess to the Khewat as settled by the village punch, and send an account of village expenses as regulated by the village authorities at the end of last year. To interfere further would be injurious to the Mouzawar settlement. Report requested relating to five hundred emigrants—showing, 1st. whether they were old inhabitants ; 2nd. the tenures and rights they have left behind, and the cause assigned by each family for quitting ; and the same information regarding the number of families settled in the district during the same period.

24th February, 1838. The Superintendent shows that remission, to the extent of Rs. 16,141 out of Rs. 25,901, will be required on 41 eke-fuslee villages, whilst the statement of 16th October included only 23 or 24 villages ; remission will be immediately applied for on the 23 villages, but more information is required regarding the remainder. The rubbee crops in the 41 villages may, to some extent, make up the deficiency in the khureef ; if not, this should appear.

15th March. Recommends a remission of Rs. 16,144 on the khureef—40 villages have chosen to consider their assessment fluctuating, and wish to be guided by this. The Superintendent is about to inquire into their capabilities.

20th April. The remission of 16,144 from the khureef to remain suspended, until the condition of the rubbee crops be completely ascertained and a report is furnished showing the character of the Fuslee year 1245.

11th August. Forwards letter of 10th instant from the Superintendent, and joins with him in recommending a remission of rupees 15,917 on account of the khureef, and rupees 5,684 on account of the rubbee. The season has been one of unusual drought. The

first sum is on account of 39 khureef villages, the last from the failure of the rubbee in 20 of those villages.

8th September. Hopes that the Superintendent will soon recover the 9,000 rupees due only last month. It becomes a payment from the khureef crops of the present, instead of from the rubbee crops of last season, and thus becoming a balance requires eventually to be remitted. Collections should be punctual, and balances only remain, when remissions are indispensable.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SUTHERLAND, COMMISSIONER.

12th August, 1839. Commissioner's occupations, for some months, will preclude the possibility of making himself acquainted with the condition of the district in all departments of administration; but he will take the first opportunity of visiting, not only every pergunnah and istumrardaree, but if he can every village; wishes the Superintendent to be prepared to enter on the duty on the opening of the season. Relates to the istumrardars, aware how much has been done by former Commissioners and Superintendents, particularly by Mr. Edmonstone. Situated as Ajmere is, it is most desirable that the district should afford to surrounding states, an example of the beneficent and paternal spirit in which the British Government desires to act towards the chiefs of this country and its own subjects; and until this object shall have been obtained, we must never slacken in our exertions: wishes the Superintendent to report fully on the condition of the several portions of the district. The Commissioner will follow with the Superintendent's report in his hand; and he trusts that from their united reports and observations, the Governor General will have sufficient information before him to direct the adoption of measures, which will give to this remote province all the advantages which this country can derive from its connexion with ours.

10th May. Relates to the Telees of Ajmere. They are responsible for Rs. 1,442-8 of the Rs. 7,250, at which the Kusbah is assessed; whilst the land which they cultivate, yields only Rs. 1,113, the remainder consisting of poll tax 72, a tax on oil-presses 60, and "bach" or defalcation tax, rupees 212. The two former items are of late imposition, and being put on to meet the deficiency of land revenue, the Commissioner thinks they may be struck off without hesitation. He has some doubt with respect to the "bach" or defalcation tax—it is not a tax varying with the defalcation of individuals for the same

son, but a portion of the original assessment extending all over the Khalsa. It is, in short, the present Government demand on the people over the Beejawan rates. In some parts of India it is called "Aen putta," the excess "Sewace putta," and in many cases it extends to 8 annas in the rupee, descending to 4, 2 and 1. In the present case the proportion is 212 to Rs. 1,113; but the Commissioner knows instances where, in the Kusbah, it extends to 2 out of 7½. It is supposed to be laid on in proportion to the means of the people to bear it, and not according to soil, and cannot therefore last long; but when means are sufficient we never, it is understood, hear of this part of the assessment as managed by the village community. It is supposed that the reduction of this tax on a portion of the cultivators of the Kusbah, will lead to the expectation of the same reduction generally, and disturb the arrangements made by village communities for meeting the Government demand. Would it not, on this account, be better to grant the remission where necessary to the community generally, and to allow the heads of it to make their own arrangement in its distribution? The reduction to the Telees is necessary; or otherwise, according to the state of the season, and the lake when it is full their lands are under water, when empty they are burnt up—and this is the reason, why under lake-irrigation assessments are generally fluctuating.

THIRD HEAD.—GOVERNMENT LETTERS, AND LETTERS FROM THE
HON'BLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

21st November, 1818. Mr. Wilder's proceedings, reported on the 27th of September, are considered to be, by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General, well calculated to ascertain and sustain the capabilities of the country, and the rights of Government and of the people, in so far as the Khalsa is concerned.

21st January, 1820. Mr. Wilder's settlement of the Khalsa, reported through Sir David Ochterlony's letter of the 17th of September, is considered satisfactory, and hope is entertained of rapid recovery from the state of depression caused by long misrule. To the encouragement of industry and the accumulation of capital, long leases are necessary; and in a country so dependent on season, and where the people have been accustomed to annual adjustments, only very light assessments can lead them to recognise the benefit of long

leases. Any present loss to Government will be compensated by eventual benefit. Experience proves the disadvantage of a jumma framed on anticipated improvement, and the advantage of an equal annual jumma, except where abatement under peculiar circumstances is at first required. Increasing assessment will dishearten the cultivators, and disappoint the expectations of Government, injuriously affecting the sources of wealth. Circumstances at Ajmere may admit of increasing jumma. The jumma of 1226 having been entirely realized, and only two muhals let in farm at the solicitation of the proprietors, are in proof of the moderation of Mr. Wilder's assessment. Still information is required of the principle on which the jumma has been fixed, the mode in which the capability of the land has been ascertained, and the grounds on which an increasing assessment has been resolved upon; and it is proposed to extend the settlement of the third year for two more years, for the benefit of the people.

10th March. The improvement in the revenue, as reported in the letter of the 15th ultimo, is satisfactory, and still greater improvements are anticipated. In concluding the arrangement for exchange of territory, it was fully understood that Ajmere was rated at an amount greatly exceeding what Scindiah ever derived from the province.

20th February, 1821. The full detail afforded by Mr. Middleton, through Sir David Ochterlony's letter of 30th ultimo, is considered very satisfactory, as "to the data on which his proposed settlement was formed, and his suggestion "to relinquish the increased jumma." His proceedings are generally approved. He is authorized to relinquish rupees 29,850 the balance of 1227, and to limit the demand to rupees 1,59,764 for 1228, extending the same terms for five years or to 1233.

Mr. Wilder is considered justly to observe, that the rates of rent must vary in different districts according to local circumstances. At Delhie and other parts of the country, the rates have been taken up at half, or sometimes at twenty-two-fortieths of the produce, with the exception of course of zuttee land, and the former rate is assumed by Mr. Wilder. Any settlement, resting on the observations of a single year, must be altogether uncertain; a money rent, calculated on this basis, will generally prove too high. There is reason to believe that a considerable portion of the share nominally belonging to Government must have been embezzled, or that the terms on which the tihseeldar commuted the Government share for a money payment were favourable to the cultivator; the practice prevailing most when the country

is least advanced, and so the zumeendar is able to pay from sources not brought out. The improvidence of a rude people, the grain used for seed and for support, must not be forgotten. Average prices of grain as affecting the money commutation and importance of extending cultivation, are matters for consideration. Long settlements and fixed money rents appear indispensable to the comfort of the people and the improvement of the country. But the Government demand must be restricted within narrower limits than half the produce. If any arbitrary standard were to be taken, it is disposed to fix nearer on one-third than one-half. There is a necessity for attending to local usages in the rates payable by individuals and classes, which appears to have led to the distinction observed by Mr. Wilder in the amount paid by mokuddums and ryuts on zabtee lands.

7th January, 1825. Satisfaction is expressed that the Khalsa collections have been made, with the exception of rupees 5,520-8, which is remitted. Distressed as the people are in the present year, there is no doubt of the propriety of granting remissions; and the only question is, whether enough has been granted by Mr. Wilder. The first season having been unfavourable, the people can hardly have funds to meet the demands of the present; and if only half the produce be left with them, it is to be feared that the Government demand will press heavy. It would be satisfactory if the Superintendent could visit each village, and after personal inquiry demand only what it can afford without distress. Mr. Wilder's plan of extending the settlement is judicious, the Government being only anxious to avoid the exaction of an excessive revenue, as the worst of evils.

10th March. Government transmits an extract from a letter from the Court of Directors of 26th September, 1824.

The Court feel great confidence in Mr. Wilder's endeavours to promote the public interests. But do not think that he could have gained sufficient knowledge of the resources of the district and the circumstances of the people, to justify his recommendation of so rapid an augmentation of the public assessment. Scindia's last year's revenue, 1225, was rupees 1,15,060; the following year the Superintendent forms an annual assessment with the holders of the Khalsa, for 1,59,384, being 44,234 in excess—from the favourable state of the season, this was realized; then a settlement was entered into for 1227-28-29, at 1,79,457, 2,01,691, 2,49,303. Government thereon intimated (23rd January, 1826) to Mr. Wilder, that although the amount of the

extension of cultivation was gratifying, yet that great care should be taken lest the rising spirit of industry or the accumulation of capital should be checked. Mr. Wilder's admission, (9th January, 1821) proved the justness of the apprehension from the sudden increase of assessment. The instructions to relinquish the balance, to limit the demand to 1,59,764, and to extend that for five years, entirely approved. It is confidently expected that the objects of inquiry, to which Mr. Wilder's attention was directed (20th February, 1821), will have elicited a body of valuable information.

20th October. The information contained in Mr. Middleton's letter of 17th ultimo, on the state of the country, is satisfactory. But since only rupees 3,485 were realized out of a jumma of 1,00,681, it might have been better to have relinquished the whole, as was done in the western division of the Delhie territory; authorized to write off rupees 28,656-4-3 in addition to 68,540 already authorized. However liable Kham collections may be to abuse even on a limited scale, they are authorized in the present year. How inadequate the exertions of a single European to secure an accurate estimate of the crops in all the Khalsa! As there is every prospect of an abundant harvest, it is hoped that the jumma of 1231 (1,67,000) might be realized without difficulty. It is the best basis on which to form the demand of the present year, unless a minute Mouzawar inquiry can be entered on—and this is to be continued to the people until a detailed village settlement is made; when not acceptable, the village to be made Kham, or abatement given, according to circumstances. Fixed money rent desired instead of a jumma dependent on an estimation and valuation of crops, except when some over-powering cause, such as the drought or frost of last year, may destroy all specific engagements.

11th January, 1827. Government, in reply to Sir C Metcalfe's letter with enclosures, observes: The part to be settled consists of eighty Khalsa mehals, with each an uslee and one or more dukhlee appendages, forming in all one purgunnah and two tuppahs, villages extensive in a thinly peopled country, bordering on the desert, pasturage and hay being a principal source of profit. Jumma compared with the Kham collections ordinarily less. Well pleased with the care with which the settlement has been regulated and imposed—confirmed accordingly; satisfied that the settlement has been entered into with one or more of the village community. The realization of the first year's settlement supports the inference that it is light, also the fact

that all except one muhal have accepted the terms. Settlement Mouzawar and not detailed according to statements, circulated from the Territorial Office. When from any cause it might be necessary to cancel the engagement, this could be done. These rules may be applied to the Mouza which remains in Kham management, and there is no reason in the land tenures of Ajmere for not acting on them: although the want of hands and of time renders this impossible on a large scale.

16th August, 1830. Hon'ble the Court of Directors, 22nd December 1830, approve perfectly of the indulgence afforded in seasons of calamity, and rejoice that the depression of the cultivators has not been permanent; wells, when they can economically be sunk, would evidently increase the produce of the country, and prevent the total failure of crops. Mr. Middleton's re-settlement of the Khalsa, appears to have been carefully and judiciously performed. His suggestion for sowing oats should not be neglected.

24th August.	Balance of 1236 remitted,	Rs. 17,311	13	3
	Ditto 1237 ditto,	„ 19,085	1	9
		<hr/>		
		36,396	15	0
		<hr/>		

Desirable no longer to delay noticing Mr. Cavendish's report of 2nd March, 1829. Preparatory to a general adjustment, which may be unattended with distress to the people. The circumstances detailed in the ninth and following paragraphs of Mr. Cavendish's letter, supposing them to be correct, indicate the necessity of a general revision and equalization, if not reduction, of the assessment. There is no hesitation in sanctioning a general abatement when necessary of the public demand, to correct the evil of over-assessment prejudicial alike to the interest of the state and of the subject. General observations do not afford sufficient data, yet the emergency of the case does not allow of any inquiries like those prescribed in Regulation VII of 1822; more detailed investigation must precede the ensuing settlement, and its unexpired period is to be diligently employed in ascertaining capabilities. Kunkool collections are objectionable, the measure of stopping them is approved; and as there are no complaints, this is supposed agreeable to the people. Moosadara collections should not be relinquished; they are of ancient origin, and are neither unpopular nor unproductive. The grant of buranee lands to non-agricul-

tourists is approved ; they are supposed to be different from the weyrance lands, noticed in the 35th paragraph, as the property of village communities. Five per cent to potails and reform of putwarree accounts approved.

4th October, 1831. Balance of 1238 on the Khalsa re-entered, rupees 20,721-1-9.

1st December. The Court of Directors (11th May, 1831) consider the inquiry into the titles of rent free lands of Ajmere a matter of delicacy, and that it was entered on in too summary a manner. The Collector reported that extensive frauds were practised ; and he was, without instructions for his guidance, ordered forthwith to enter on the work. The Court will be agreeably disappointed, if errors of precipitation are not incurred by a young man so circumstanced. Investigation with a view of resumption should not be entered on, unless there be strong presumption that exemption stands on invalid grounds. A state of uncertainty and alarm should never be rashly inflicted on the individual, by having his interests threatened.

17th June, 1833. The sum of rupees 21,258-3-7 to be written off as irrecoverable from the Ajmere Khalsa for 1239 Fuslee. The report on the cause of the balance is defective, and the principle on which the remission is recommended, erroneous. But particulars are now of impossible ascertainment. The system of revenue management is very unsatisfactory, and must be stopped as soon as possible. If the assessment was originally too high, or if circumstances are changed, the obvious remedy of reducing the Government demand should be applied. The objectionable cause of collecting from year to year all that is to be had, and declaring the remainder irrecoverable, induced those who could pay to withhold, and afforded no assurance that relief was granted to those requiring it.

The proposal to measure the lands and revive the settlement is not sanctioned. But the Superintendent will investigate the assets of our assessed estates, revise their settlements, and recommend such reduction as may be necessary.

28th April. The measure adopted by Mr. Edmonstone for the realization of the rubbee revenue for 1241, is sanctioned. Government relies in his discretion to give a liberal consideration* to claims for remission ; so that distress may not be caused by collecting more than, under such circumstances, ought to be demanded. The general and

entire remission, recommended by Colonel Spiers, is considered an injudicious and unequal mode of affording relief. It is right to defer the settlement, but attention should be directed to it, and no time be lost in fixing the revenue demand.

18th December. Sanctions the settlement for 1242 Fuslee. Reserves the consideration of the question of granting leases for a longer period, in expectation of further information. Remission of rupees 20,314-5 for 1840.

21st June, 1836. The Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor sanctions Mr. Edmonstone's settlement for a period of ten years, from 1243 Fuslee, on the jumma stated in the accompaniments of Colonel Alves' letter of 22nd May. He is satisfied that the zeal, industry and intelligence of Mr. Edmonstone have enabled him to make the best settlement that present circumstances will admit of, and trusts that it will prove moderate, and be realized without distress to the people. It is our duty carefully to watch the operations of each season, that an immediate reduction of the demand may be proposed, when a necessity for this may be clearly shewn to exist. It is not considered necessary to alter the condition of potails, and the usual course according to custom is preferable. Result of inquiries regarding Biswadaree tenures will, as elsewhere probably, show that they are the proprietary community of the village, and indiscriminately called biswadars and zumeendars; that the shares are transferable by sale and gift, and descend by hereditary rules, by Hindoo law, the custom of the tribe, or the power of the individual. That the lands are liable for the revenue, and that the persons failing to pay are removeable, permanently or temporarily, at the will of Government.

Arrears of Tuckavee have been found a means of putting off irrecoverable balances. If the assessment be moderate Tukavee is not necessary, and if heavy it will not correct the evil. Advances for wells, tanks, and other similar permanent improvements involving outlay of capital and promising lasting profit are advantageous, and will always be authorized when sufficient reason may be shown. Recommends the Commissioner to seek information from the Secretary to the Sudder Board for useful revenue accounts.

28th July, 1837. Letter of 10th instant acknowledged, relating to contemplated changes in the Khalsa villages. The Commissioner is considered very justly to observe, that the change in the Khewut pro-

posed by the Superintendent, would change the settlement from Mouzawar into Ryotwar. The change is undesirable, and the proposed measure is disallowed. The Superintendent is entirely in error in representing the village expenses as a tax, and in proposing to put it away altogether. These are expenses incident to the management of all property, and inseparable from its possession; the village expenses are defrayed by Government through a deduction from the jumma; the potail must primarily manage the disbursement, and the differences which may arise are ordinarily settled by the community, without much difficulty; interference often fomented quarrels, and it should be directed to conciliatory purposes, not to the breaking up the whole frame of the society. The village accountant and the leading men of the village being summoned, they will proceed with the audit of the account in the presence of the European officer, under the superintendence of the Kanoongoe, or other available intelligent officer. The sum total when once adjusted, is apportioned according to the village custom, and the obligation will in general be readily admitted. This simple process occupies little time, and occasions little interruption of any other work.

3rd October. Abuses stated to exist in the buranee administration of Ajmere. The orders contained in the Commissioner's letter are entirely approved. There is nothing in the disallowance of Lieutenant Macnaghten's proposition, or in the maintenance of the Mouzawar settlement, which diminishes the security or protection to which the cultivators, not under direct engagements with the Government, are entitled. After carefully examining the disputed items in village accounts, the Superintendent should proceed to decide upon them, and if embezzlement be proved, recover from the party guilty of it. It must be remembered that alms and religious endowments and fee to public officers are frequently allowed by the villages, and unprejudiced natives in a similar rank of life will ascertain this. Emigration does not appear to arise from Government demands, and inquiries ordered by the Commissioner to ascertain the cause of it are considered judicious. No opportunity should be lost in forming a direct conclusion on a subject so interesting in itself, and important to the character of our administration.

7th April, 1838. A report is required on the state of the collections when the rubbee crops are cut, showing the amount of remissions recommended, and the amount proposed to be relinquished on the

khureef to remain suspended; in the meantime no attempt is to be made to collect it.

17th September.	Khureef remissions last year,	15,917 14	1
	Rubbee ditto ditto,	3,634 15	0
		<hr/>	
		21,552 13	1
		<hr/>	

FOURTH-HEAD.—LIEUT.-COL. SUTHERLAND'S REPORT.

The following is a statement of the average price of wheat, barley, mote, and Indian-corn in the market—the four descriptions of grain principally grown and consumed of the assessment and collections in twenty-two years:

	Wheat, Seers per ru- pee.	Barley,	Mote.	Indian Corn.	Assessment.	Collections.
1818	14	22	13	22	—	—
1819	15	26	24	27	1,59,746	1,59,746
1820	13	21	21	24	1,79,457	1,40,684
1821	16	23	22	28	2,49,305	1,64,700
1822	21	30	26	36	1,64,700	1,64,700
1823	21	38	36	46	1,64,700	1,62,670
1824	20	35	30	36	1,64,700	1,59,279
1825	17	21	21	21	1,64,700	31,930
1826	21	29	29	29	1,37,663	1,37,663
1827	25	42	35	49	1,44,072	1,44,072
1828	27	52	37	69	1,44,072	1,42,760
1829	25	45	42	51	1,44,072	1,26,646
1830	26	39	39	44	1,44,072	1,24,956
1831	26	38	40	39	1,44,072	1,23,350
1832	32	55	47	68	1,44,072	1,22,813
1833	25	38	27	35	1,44,941	1,24,629
1834	12	18	14	19	80,341	80,343
1835	17	29	30	33	1,19,287	1,18,958
1836	22	33	30	33	1,27,525	1,27,513
1837	22	29	28	32	1,27,525	1,26,810
1838	18	24	19	23	1,27,525	1,05,872
1839	17	23	21	24	1,28,154	1,22,730
1840	11	20	21	22	1,28,934	97,216

AVERAGES.

	Wheat.	Barley	Mote.	Indian Corn.	Assess- ment.	Collec- tions.
1818 to 1822 inclusive,	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,88,302	1,57,442
1823 to 1827 ditto,	21	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,55,167	1,27,123
1828 to 1832 ditto,	27 $\frac{3}{4}$	46	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,44,072	1,28,105
1833 to 1837 ditto,	20	30	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	1,19,922	1,15,610
1838 to 1840 ditto,	12	20	21	22	1,28,204	1,08,606
Average of 22 years,	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	31 $\frac{1}{4}$	28	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,47,133	1,26,777

It will be seen that there is not that connexion between high price and high revenue in this part of the country, which is generally known elsewhere; nor is the revenue in the Khalsa collected with facility in periods of high price; because the villages, very generally, are what are called weyranee, yielding mostly only one crop—that produced during the rains; and where there is a failure of that crop, there is little hope for the people for the rest of the year. If their tanks are not in repair, and they have few or no wells, they quit their villages in greater or fewer numbers with their cattle, according to the degree in which the rains fail, and retire to the more favoured lands of Harowtee and Malwa, where, at all events in the latter country, famines are never known. To the more prosperous villages, however, where the tanks are in tolerable repair and where there are wells, seasons of high price afford rich harvests, they pay their revenue with facility, and reap corresponding profits themselves. It will be seen by any person who has patience to go through the letters, of which abstracts are given under the 1st. 2nd. and 3rd. heads of this despatch, that throughout the whole period of our rule here, it has been one continued struggle on the part of the husbandman against the nature of the seasons; that there has been constant remissions, almost every year, of portions of the Government demand; whilst there has, at the same time, been a gradual falling off of the amount of our assessment—the last formed by Mr. Edmonstone being the lowest throughout the whole period. The first four years of our rule yielded an average revenue of rupees 1,57,442; the next ten years, rupees 1,27,614; the last seven years, rupees 1,12,108. Had the course of management tended to enrich the people, these results might have been considered comparatively unimportant; but the contrary seemed to be perfectly understood and acknowledged on all hands: whilst the almost

universal call of the people now, is to be relieved from the engagements into which they entered with Mr. Edmonstone, whose settlement was made with great care, that gentleman entertaining, as, I may safely say, did all the able and experienced revenue officers who preceded him—Mr. Wilder, Mr. Middleton, the Hon'ble Mr. Cavendish—the most lively interest in the welfare and prosperity of the people entrusted to their charge, in this remote and interesting tract of territory.

II. My duties of a political character required my presence at Joudpoor, in the first week of my arrival here, in March 1839 ; and the settlement of the affairs of that state, kept me mostly there till the beginning of January last.

12th August, 1839. I however requested the Superintendent, at the termination of the rainy season, to visit every pergunnah and every village in the district, and to report on its condition—and I meant to follow in his track about the beginning of the year. But I was summoned to wait upon the Right Hon'ble the Governor General at Gwalior at that very time, and did not get back to Ajmere till the middle of March, when the season was too far advanced ; for it is only after the khureef crop has been cut, and the rubbee is in progress, that the condition of the country and of the people can be seen and understood.

III. I have now, however, returned from performing a tour of the district, and proceed to lay in some detail before the Hon'ble the Lieut.-Governor, my sentiments on the condition of the people, and on the measures which I consider necessary to be adopted for restoring them to that prosperity, which there is every appearance of their having enjoyed in some former period of their history—giving at first a description of the condition of particular towns and villages, in different parts of the district, which without burthening the record may be received as a specimen of the whole.

1.—*Tubejee*. Our first settlement of this place was rupees 10,470. It is now rupees 6,500, and the arrear on this is rupees 926-14-9, up to the period at which collections terminate in the last Fuslee year. Yet the town itself is in a prosperous and healthy condition, and so is its cultivation. There is no doubt that our assessment of this village, in the first period of our rule, was far too high ; it drove away a number of the cultivators, and some of them have not even yet returned ;

nor has the village recovered from the depression which it then experienced. They give too a list of twelve prosperous assamees, who died in the course of six or seven months in the last year, from an epidemic disease which visited the village, and hence the arrear of revenue. They have of course suffered in common with other places, from the scarcity of rain in the last three years, and the almost famine which visited them in the present year, injuring in most places, and destroying in some, the khureef crops, whilst the September fall of rain gives good promise of rubbee, even although there have been no Christmas showers in this part of the country. There these tanks require repair, although they are not so much in ruin as most others; this done, their wells will be filled, and cultivation in all years will be much extended, and secured in almost the most unfavourable.

2.—*Saradna*. In the first five years this town was settled at rupees 9,425, it fell in the next settlement to rupees 6,800, and is now rupees 5,800, with an arrear of rupees 1,438. It is a prosperous town, with extensive and well-established cultivation, having wells as well as tanks; the former of an excellent description—the latter almost useless from an accumulation of the mud of many years; and the wells are comparatively useless, because they are not daily replenished from the tank. A village with a good tank and wells, sets most seasons at defiance; wells without a tank are better than a tank without wells; for if there is no water to fill the tank there is necessarily no rubbee cultivation at all, and then the people are sure to be reduced to great misery, particularly under settlements for periods of years. The people of Saradna tell the same story of their sufferings from over-assessment in the first years of our reign, by which many were driven to emigrate, and some have not returned. Nothing has been done to repair their fine old tank, which would afford sure prosperity.

3.—*Burhuteawas*. At first paid rupees 5,510, then rupees 4,250, and is now assessed at 3,500, which they complain of as being excessive, and they desire to be released from engagements, being in arrears rupees 754-15-0. There is a great spread of healthy cultivation, but it is doubtful whether there will be water enough to carry it through; the digging of wells is very expensive, the rock being of the hardest description and near the surface, and the supplies of water in the wells are scanty; but there is a remedy for the evil immediately at hand, in the repair of their two tanks—one of which has been in ruin time out of mind, and the other for twenty-four years.

4.—*Rajgurun. Kusba and four Mugaras.* Assessed at first at rupees 6,672, and has now fallen to rupees 4,700, and is in arrears rupees 1,340. Although this Kusba lies within ten miles of Ajmere and the same distance of Nusseerabad, it is in a very reduced condition. One of the tanks is in good repair, but three others are ruined; there are, however, greater capabilities about this place than most others in the country. The repair of the embankments is already in progress, in Captain Dixon's hands; and it is not too much to expect that the revenue of this important place will be doubled in the next four or five years, and its own prosperity proportionably increased.

5.—*Keysurpoora.* The tank has been burst for the last twenty years, and receives very imperfect periodical repair from the people; but it is now entirely empty, the principal feeder having been diverted to fill the tank of Urjinpoora, a village two miles off, by a decision of the Courts, traversing from the Superintendents to the Commissioners. A strong dam of masonry has been built across this nullah, whilst a channel has been cut to give the water a different direction. There is no question of the injustice of this decree, and although it be that of a former Commissioner, it ought to be reversed; it has reduced Keysurpoora to great poverty and distress, and materially injured the Government revenue, and of its operation the people complain most bitterly. I have been obliged to deny them redress, meaning to refer the matter to Government.

After a circuit through the western and southern portions of the district, which took me from the 2nd to the 18th of December, passing entirely through a tract of country occupied by the Istumrardans, those of Musooda, Burlee, Bhinae, Deolea, Shapoora, Sawun and Para, the condition of which will be elsewhere described, we reached the Khalsa town of

6.—*Kekree.* The second town in importance, in a commercial point of view, in the Ajmere district, yielding Rs. 6,000 of land, and rupees 5,000 of customs revenue. The cultivation of Kekree is very extensive, and the lands to a great distance were covered with corn-stalks and cotton fields, whilst on approaching the town itself there was abundance of wheat, barley and gram cultivation; some of the wheat and barley growing on unirrigated land, the first of the kind we had seen in the Khalsa, the deep black soil of Malwa and Harowtee, which we had seen in the Shapoora and Sawar districts, passing this far north. I do not think I ever saw so many good substantial wells.

so crowded together ; most of them built, the people said, during our rule ; and all of them are now in full operation, but with the exception of one tank, which was thoroughly repaired by Mr. Edmonstone, the water of which is more used for the cattle and the towns-people than for irrigation ; the others are in part or altogether in ruin. One of these might be immediately repaired at a cost of 1,300 rupees, and would be very beneficial ; but there is a great deal of Milik and Bhooma land under it, the owners of which should first engage to bear their fair proportion of the cost.

The town-wall, which is a good substantial work, built by Mr. Edmonstone, affords great security and comfort to the mercantile community, for which they are very thankful. But about 150 yards and two of the gateways remain incomplete, and would cost about 1,300 rupees.* I was disappointed in the commercial appearance of the place, although it is a sort of emporium in these parts, and the amount of customs duty shows that trade is not very extensive. There is no doubt that the condition of the mercantile and trading portion of the community is better in the Khalsa than in the Istumreree portion of the district ; but this may be doubled as to the agricultural population. It was surprising what a number of little grievances the people of this one town had to complain of—want of justice, there being no court nearer than Ajmere, the oppressions of the thanadar, and the duffadar commanding a party of the district horse stationed here. It took me two days to hear and decide these cases, or to refer them to the Superintendent ; whilst in the whole of my progress of sixteen days through the Istumreree possessions, there was hardly a complaint from any one, and no complaints at all in the better managed portions of these possessions. The Principal Sudder Ameen was ordered from Ajmere to be stationed here for a time. But the people would much have preferred that the administration of justice should be placed in the hands of the neighbouring Thakoor and Istumrardar of Joopcea, whose treatment of his own people fully justifies their preference.

7.—*Bugwuntpoora*. Belonging to the Ramsir pergunnah, pays 600 rupees, and would, the people say, were the tank in thorough repair, pay 2,000 rupees. Ineffectual efforts are made by the people to keep it in repair, and last year they spent 275 rupees upon it, whilst this

These works have now been sanctioned by the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor, N. W. Provinces.

year it is as bad as ever. The masonry portion of the embankment was built by the late Raja of Kishengurh, when he held the pergunnah in farm from the Mahrattas ; he built a number of other similar works, understanding his interests, as the farmer of the district in this ; but they have mostly been allowed to go to ruin. The people have dug about twenty wells at a cost of about 200 rupees each, and channels are carried in every direction for the irrigation of their fields ; but all are comparatively useless, because the tank which ought to fill them is nearly empty ; from 500 to 1,000 rupees, it is said, will repair the tank, and materials are being collected.

8.—*Ramsir.* The Kusba of the pergunnah. Three days residence at the place satisfied me that it is in the most miserable condition ; the town-wall is in ruin, and the police is not so good as to save the people from nightly visits from the neighbouring Meena robbers of Jey-poor. So that it is not on account of the safety in which they live under our rule, that it is allowed to go to ruin. The dilapidated condition of the houses, the state of the streets and lanes, and the outward and visible signs of poverty, all speak volumes. I have really seen nothing so poverty-stricken, since I was employed eighteen years ago in the civil duties of the Nizam's country.

There is sufficient reason for this. The prosperity of the town entirely depends on its magnificent lake ; one of the principal feeders is neglected, and although the embankments are in tolerable repair the lake has been almost dry for the last three years ; there are no wells—and a place thus circumstanced has been required to make good the amount of yearly settlement ; a number of the cultivators have emigrated, and their share of the assessment for falling on those who remain, has reduced the whole to poverty ; whilst there is an accumulation of arrears still claimed, which has paralyzed the energies of the whole community ; that community being split into factions, and requiring therefore very close supervision ; whilst, so far as I could learn, no European officer has visited the place for the purpose of setting things to rights since the settlement of 1835 was formed. In the present year, the khureef crops failed extensively ; but the rains of September filled the tank, and have given a promise of extensive rub-beecultivation. Twogthousand beegahs of wheat and barley lands stretch away in great beauty to the eastward of the tank, which stands so high that the water runs into every man's field ; the expenditure of one or 2,000 rupees on the tank, will add a thousand more beegahs to the cul-

tivation; and by turning the nulla six miles distant into the tank, a full supply of water may be secured in almost the worst season; to this some villages object, whilst others favour the prospect as tending to their benefit; but of questions of this kind the Government officers must judge, and not isolated villages.

There is a second tank, which has been in ruin for many years, the bed of which stands higher than the present lake. These two works completed the restoration of Ramsir, and its former prosperity may be confidently anticipated in a few years. But, even then, a village thus circumstanced requires close supervision on the part of the Collector; and it is quite obvious that as in other parts of India depending entirely on tanks, the quantity of water in each at the end of the season must be the test of the quantity of revenue which they can pay from the rubbee harvest. I know many places where the quantity of water is taken as a sure criterion of this, and such must always be the case where cultivation depends on irrigation.

9.—*Samode.* A prosperous and well managed village, lying between Nusseerabad and Ramsir, and paying 1,500 rupees. Having three tanks and many good wells. I saw two built within the last few years, which cost 1,500-rupees; those who built them claiming to hold their lands on more favourable terms for some years, than the terms on which the other lands of the village are held. There is no question that the village which has wells as well as tanks is in the most prosperous condition, and that it is almost proof against the adversity of season, even in the Ajmere district; where there are tanks, there will generally if not always be wells; but I believe that in some place encouragement is necessary to induce the people to dig and build them; else, if water runs into the fields through channels, it is evident that the man who digs a well, and goes through the expensive operation of drawing water from it, will cultivate at a disadvantage; and a well is too expensive for an ordinary cultivator to have, against the contingency of bad seasons, if running water is to be had from the tank: when the water does not run through sluices from the tank, but fills the wells from filtration, then of course every one must have wells; and villages thus circumstanced are, according to my observation, the most prosperous; but whether filtration can take place, necessarily depends on the quality of the soil. There are three tanks at Samode, neither of them of any magnitude, and each belonging to a particular division of the towns-people; they may therefore be consi-

dered narees, rather than tanks ; the soil does not generally admit of filtration, but through sluices and channels ; a considerable quantity of land can be irrigated from these tanks ; two of them are in ruin, and the third nearly so, and materials are being collected for the repair of all.

The people are every where perfectly aware of the sites most advantageous for tanks ; they shewed me near Samode a place, where by throwing a stone embankment across a hollow of about three hundred yards and uniting two hills, at a cost it is thought of 3 or 4,000 rupees, a perfect lake might be formed, irrigating the whole valley below—and the people maintain that they would have the right to dam up this nulla, which rises in and runs through their lands ; but this the people of Ramsir deny, as the nulla is one of the feeders of their lake.

10.—*Maosa*. The lands are tolerably cultivated, and the village itself is in a corresponding degree of prosperity. It is assessed at rupees 950 ; but there is an arrear of 603-4, arising from the last three years of drought. The crops are very promising now, yet the people pray to be released from engagements, which indeed is the almost universal prayer—low as the settlement is compared with former settlements, and moderate as it was at the time it was fixed. There is here one fine tank almost always useless, and now with two breaches in the bund for want of trifling repairs, although the people waste labour and money on it every year. But to render the tank thoroughly useful, it is necessary to turn a deep nulla into it from a point about a mile to the westward, where it runs slick away to the bunas, through the lands of the jageer village of Moradiree ; when the nulla is full it runs into the Maosa tank, in spite of the people of Moradiree. The water is of no use to them, yet they object to the bund within and to the cut through their lands, although these lands are perfectly unproductive ; and these are questions for the officers of Government to decide.

11.—*Jaloura*. A mugra of Shreenuggur, paying rupees 667. The deterioration of the village commenced seven years ago, and has gradually increased, until now half the houses are empty. The people say that neither Mr. Edmonstone, nor any other Superintendent, ever visited the village, and it is certainly in the most forlorn and desolate condition ; such as might be expected, where the officers of Government attend only year after year to the collection of the revenue.

The emigrants have gone to Majwa, it is said, but can be easily recalled. The universal complaint in this part of the country is against the mode of assessment and collection practised by us; the defalcations of those who die, emigrate, or are ruined, falling on those who remain—a thing inseparable from the system of village assessment for a period of years; which system, or any other system of revenue management, requires indeed much closer superintendence than has been bestowed on it here.

There are three tanks at this place all in ruin, and the great object of the people is to unite them and form them into one tank—this may easily be done; and a deep and rapid nulla which runs past the south end of one of them, may by a strong dam of masonry be turned in, and secure water to fill the tank in almost the worst season. There would be then no question of prosperity; for an immense tract of the finest land at present almost useless stretches far to the east, and comes under the influence of the tank, either through filtration, or sluices and water-courses leading to every man's field. Materials are being collected.

12.—*Lowera*. Assessment 1,500 rupees, arrears 1,130-3-7. They give a list of eleven emigrant assamees, who have gone to Jeypoor, Oudeepoor and Marwar. I saw their houses, fields and wells in ruin. There is a magnificent tank, which has been in ruin time out of mind; it is admirably situated, and when in thorough repair will be hardly inferior to that of Ramsir; whilst, from the nature of the soil, it will diffuse its blessings to three or four neighbouring villages, giving a new impulse to all things. At present we see a poor man with two half starved bullocks labouring at a salt well, and hardly producing food for himself and for them. Did the water flow or filtrate from this lake, one man's labour would produce almost the result of the labour of ten men on the present system. A nulla, which must run with immense force in the rains, has driven a breach of not more than thirty or forty yards right through the centre of the bund—and here a very strong work will be required; for the rest, the earthen bund must be raised through its whole extent, and perhaps lengthened; and materials are being collected.

13.—*Phurkea*. Assessment 1,500 rupees, arrears 977-10-0. Saw the houses, wells and lands of nineteen assamees who have emigrated in the last seven years. It really seems as if this portion of the district had been drained of its wealth and of its moisture; notwithstanding

ing the heavy rain which fell in September, the wheat and barley fields already put on a parched, and in some places a withered appearance, giving indication, I fear, of what is to happen should no more rain fall ; for the water in many of the wells is so salt, as hardly to be fit for use. There is no saying to what extent this draining of wealth and moisture would proceed, were no measures taken to arrest the progress. To the almost flood of 1840 sumbut, fifty-seven years ago, is attributed the bursting of most of the embankments in this part of the country, and nothing has since been done to repair them. The embankment at Phurkea suffered in common with others ; but the breach is not more than fifty feet wide, and will be easily repaired, and materials are being collected.

14.—*Rampoora*. A mugra of Sheonuggur. Appears to me to have suffered less than most of the villages in this quarter, but several of its inhabitants have emigrated, whose houses I saw in ruin.

15.—*Khanpoora*. Is more prosperous than any village in this quarter, and there has been no emigration from it ; its fields are well cultivated, and the people industrious and prosperous, although they are divided amongst themselves. Two small streams may by stone embankments be turned into two or three narees, equal in magnitude almost to village tanks, although belonging to individuals. The village tank has been in ruin for many years, and it is doubtful whether it would pay the expense of repair from the small quantity of land which it would irrigate ; it is almost two miles from the village, and it is not easy to understand why a tank was constructed on the very outskirts of the village lands.

16.—*Hatabuttee*. Is a mugra of Shreenuggur, and in a very depressed condition, and there are seven emigrant assamees. Its fine tank had a great breach made through its centre in 1840 sumbut, hardly more however than fifty feet wide, and so substantial is the earthen bund, that little more damage has been done from that time to this ; this will immediately be repaired, and materials are being collected.

17.—*Shreenuggur*. This fine old Kusba, with its six mugras, the head of the district, consisting of thirty-one towns and villages, paid in the first years of our rule rupees 16,200 ; it then fell to 13,500 ; and Mr. Edmonstone's settlement is for 10,500 ; but from this has been excluded the mugra of Rampoora, which is separately assessed at 1,500. By a list furnished thirty-nine assamees have emigrated from the kusba and eighteen from the mugras, since the completion of the

settlement—whilst nine have died, leaving no heirs to carry on their agricultural operations. There is accordingly an arrear of rupees 4,495-11-6. This is the only place in the district where the people complain of Mr. Edmonstone's settlement, as being unsuited to their condition at the time, or of the measures taken to conclude it. The condition of Shreenuggur is hardly better than that of its neighbour, the Ramsir kusba ; and I really know not how this fine old town, lying within ten miles of Ajmere, is to be restored to its former condition, or the same amount of Government revenue is to be drawn from it. A closer superintendence of its affairs may do much. But there is a magnificent place for a lake, which would rival the Anna Sagur in beauty, and far surpass it in utility. To this work all eyes are directed, and almost the whole town turned out to visit the place with me. It lies within a few hundred yards of the north-west of the town, where a stone bund of one hundred and fifty yards would unite two hills ; but it must be of immense strength, and it is thought would cost not less than 20 or 25,000 rupees. The work, it is said, was contemplated by former Rajpoot rulers, and even the Mahrattas thought of it as a profitable undertaking ; for the water would irrigate the whole valley, and from the nature of the soil the effects, it is supposed, would be felt as far as Kunpoora, which lies six miles to the east. The place was surveyed some years ago by Captain Dixon, and the execution of such a work would be worthy of his skill, and almost of our Government.

IV. I fear that the above will be considered a tedious detail of the present condition of seventeen out of the eighty-one Khalsa towns and villages, of which the Ajmere district consists. They yield about 50,000 rupees of the 1,27,000, and are therefore a superior class to the generality of the villages ; but may be received as a specimen of the condition of the whole.

V. Here, as every where else, an over-estimate was formed of the resources of the country in the first period of our rule, whilst it was recorded that Scindiah's officers never recovered so much as 3,45,700 rupees ; hopes were entertained that in eight or nine years,

1818. eight or nine lakhs of rupees per annum might be realized,
 27th Sept. and a settlement of the Khalsa was accordingly made, reaching in the third year to rupees 2,49,305, which was said to be more than double what the Mahrattas had realized. It has been seen how signally those expectations have failed to be fulfilled ; but it is to be feared that the attempt to realize them, injured the district to

an extent from which it has never recovered. The state of the revenue is a pretty good test of the want of success which has attended our management, and it may be considered that I have wasted a great deal of time in placing on record documents to prove that which was almost self evident. This compilation from the thirty or forty volumes of records has certainly been a work of much labour ; but I hope that it will be useful to Superintendents and Commissioners ; and I could not feel that I was master of the subject, until I had these records before me in this shape.

VI. It may, therefore, only now be necessary to discuss the question of—what should be done to restore the district to prosperity ? And it appears to me that the first thing necessary is, to strike off all arrears of revenue accumulating during the period of the present settlement ; these amount to rupees 57,475—and of this amount, 35,104 rupees belong to the last two years, for remitting which there is no authority.

11th June, 1837. Lieutenant-Colonel Alves observes, “ all delays in recovering the dues of Government add to the difficulty of eventual recovery.” And “ hopes that the Superintendent will soon recover the outstanding balance ; it becomes a payment from the khureef crops of the present, instead of from the rubbee crops of last season, and thus becomes a balance, requiring eventually to be remitted.”

This is exactly the condition in which the present arrear stands ; it traversed from the rubbee of last to the khureef of the present season, and is now doing the same thing from the khureef to the rubbee, necessarily paralyzing the energies of the people, whilst in the end it must be remitted ; and I hope that authority for this will be given to such extent, as may appear absolutely necessary ; to this extent the demand has already been suspended.

VII. It appears to me, also, that as soon as it is certain that a revenue settlement becomes unsuitable from its pressure to the condition of the people, and they desire to be released from engagements, the attempt to force its continuance must be destructive of their interests, and to those of the Government, and the sooner the people are released from those engagements the better ; for they are almost necessarily binding only on one side, being intended to save the people from further demands on the part of the Government during the period of settlement, and not with the vain hope of forcing the people to pay

more during that period than they can afford through the produce of their agricultural labours. I believe that at present there is not one village in ten in the district, which will not consider release from those engagements almost the greatest benefit that can be conferred on it.

21st June, 1836. In the letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces, confirming Mr. Edmonstone's settlement and extending it for ten years, there are these remarkable words : "The Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor trusts that it will prove moderate, and be realized without distress to the people. It is our duty carefully to watch the operations of each season, that an immediate reduction of the demand may be proposed, when a necessity for this may be clearly shown to exist."

VIII. There is no question that extensive emigration has taken place throughout the Ramsir and Shreenuggur districts.

1837. Lient. Macnaghten reported, in the last two years, forty-nine families have emigrated from the Rajgurh district,

4th July. twenty-four from Ramsir, and fifteen from Peesangun—

4th Sept. and that five hundred families had gone over to Marwar and Jeypoor; and afterwards said, that to obtain information regarding the causes of emigration, it was necessary

17th Oct. the Superintendent should proceed into the district, and communicate freely with the people.

8th September. Lieutenant-Colonel Alves requested a further report relating to the five hundred emigrants—showing 1st. whether they were old inhabitants; 2nd. the tenures and rights they had left behind, and the cause assigned by each family for quitting.

3rd October. Government observed, "that emigration did not appear to arise from Government demands, and the inquiries ordered by the Commissioner to ascertain the cause of it were considered judicious, no opportunity should be lost in forming a direct conclusion on a subject so interesting in itself, and important to the character of our administration."

Unhappily the inquiry was not pursued; or it would then, as now, have been found that emigration arose entirely from the amount of the Government demand; that the arrears claimable from the emigrants falling on those who remained, was reducing all to poverty and despair—and the evil might then have been arrested.

IX. There has been some diversity of opinion regarding the system through which our revenue collections may best be made from this district ; although the great majority of the officers employed have favoured annual adjustment of the demands according to produce, and all have seen that this is the course universally adopted in Rajpootana, and congenial to the people.

27th September, 1818. Mr. Wilder, the first Superintendent, said that in his first assessment half the produce, which the people were most willing to give, would afford a higher revenue than Bapoo Scindiah's land assessment and extra cesses taken together gave—forgetting apparently that extra cesses and all, could certainly not have extended to more than half the produce for any length of time ; and

following up the course to which he had been accustomed in the Delhie territory, he proposed a settlement with
1819. the heads of villages for three years. He reported that
17th June. the settlement had been completed for three years, amounting to more than double in the third year what
5th Sept. the Mahrattas received ; and he further, in a long letter

1821. giving a detailed account of produce, showed ample reasons why in the second year a remission of 30,000 rupees was necessary ; and that in the third, the settlement was altogether destroyed ; observing, at the same time, that light as the terms were, the inhabitants had been reluctant to enter into terms beyond one year. He said that the villages might still, if this was desired, be prevailed upon to close with the former terms , but did not recommend this. He strongly recommends, however, that a settlement should be formed on an equal annual jumma for five or ten years.

1824. In another long letter shewing why this settlement too
13th Dec. had failed, Mr. Wilder says : The zumeendars have prejudices against our mode of assessment, from the result of the third year. In neighbouring states they pay in kind, and are the less affected by drought, frost and blight, and the numerous calamities incidental to this part of the country.

17th May, 1825. Mr. Middleton followed Mr. Wilder as Superintendent, and reports the district to be in such a state of distress, that there was hardly any hope of collecting any part of the Khalsa settlement for the year ; that the assessment was by no means light, and in favourable seasons would not be easily collected, whilst the zumeendars cannot be expected to possess capital.

17th September. Proposes to collect the revenue of the year on the produce, and not on the jumma. The Hon'ble Mr. Moore and himself are of opinion that the quinquennial settlement was heavy, and

that it will require years for the zumeendars to repair the

1826. losses they have sustained. Mr. Moore, whilst tempora-

23d March. rily in charge, reports that the zumeendars object to pay according to the settlement entered into with Mr.

Wilder. Mr. Middleton reports that he had commenc-

29th May. ed, village by village, and on the spot, a settlement of the Khalsa for a period of years, observing generally the rules which obtain in the Regulation Provinces.

21st July, 1826. The Khalsa had been held Kham, the former assessment was too high, and fixed assessments are unpalatable to the people, who prefer a share of the crop. If confidence could be reposed in the subordinate officers, the system of taking in kind would be the best; but this from past experience is not recommended, and the settlement for five years is in progress. The zumeendars would not agree to the former settlement becoming the basis of a new one.

1826. Reports the completion of a five years' settlement of the
22nd Nov. Khalsa. The native practice is that of taking half the produce, which one year with another answers very well; but there is difficulty in managing this, when the concern is extensive. Yet our system of fixing rent is looked on with dread; the poverty and embarrassed circumstances of the labouring classes show that it has not been particularly beneficial to them, and the district is not much better peopled than in the time of the Mahrattas. It has been his object to assess in such manner, that loss through bad seasons may be made up by profits on good.

15th September, 1827. The collections were made with difficulty and distress, the wheat having suffered from blight and heavy rain in January.

2nd March, 1829. The Hon'ble Mr. Cavendish succeeded Mr. Middleton as Superintendent, gives various reasons why the settlement is too high, and why cultivation has not increased as in the provinces. In a poor soil the people cannot afford to give half the produce, and the money settlement was formed on that and on the single year of good price, instead of on an average of years.

2nd September, 1831. Balance not realizable, rupees 20,721,

principally from our assessment, but partly from failure of crops ; and it was necessary to take certain villages under Kham management. The original assessment is so high, that it can only be realized in some very favourable season.

13th September. Mr. Cavendish describes the nature of the assessment, which he meant to have formed through potails of villages, the object being to secure a fixed sum through all years, good and bad.

1st September, 1832. Lieutenant-Colonel Spiers succeeded Mr. Cavendish, hesitates in recommending settlements, as of the fourteen already made only six have been realized. The people prefer the ancient system of buttae, and notwithstanding all objections to it, there is no more equitable mode of collection in a country of such uncertain season. Our high rates prevent an influx of cultivators from foreign states, whilst many of our own have left.

Mr. Edmonstone reports that engagements were taken from the people to pay in proportion to the rubbee crop and its price in coming to market, and those who would not agree to this have been dealt with on Kham terms. Erroneous as the principle may be of dividing the crops, it was cheerfully acceded to by forty-eight of the villages, and there never was a time when it was more necessary to deal mercifully with them ; recommends that something may be done to render the system of management more fixed.

1st November, 1834. Proposes to take from the villages engagements to pay according to estimated crops. The people have cheerfully agreed to the rates, and there is no doubt that they will be collected.

12th May, 1836. In reporting on the settlement confirmed for ten years, Mr. Edmonstone enters in great detail into the process through which the individual share paid by each cultivator, be it one-half, one-third, or one-fifth, was converted at the market rates into one fixed sum on the village as a money rate—the object being to hit a happy medium, so that profits on one year may balance losses, the advantages of long over short settlements, and of short settlements over those of a fluctuating or yearly nature.

4th July, 1837. Lieutenant Macnaghten, Superintendent. The last ten years' settlement moderate, and if the people are protected from potails and putwarries, they will prosper ; there is nothing per-

manent, where every third year is a failure—and the collections should be made in kind ; advantages of taking a share of the crop from the cultivator.

16th February, 1838. Forty-one of the Eke-fuslee villages agreed to Kham collections, the Do-fuslee villages being satisfied with the settlement—the measure of resorting to Kham management, whilst it satisfied the people, secured the rights of Government.

10th August. List submitted of thirty-nine villages, whose kharree collections are Kham, the settlement of which never can be collected except in good seasons ; of the Do-fuslee villages only twenty were held Kham.

31st May, 1826. Sir Charles Metcalfe, when Resident at Dehlie, instructs the Superintendent that the system of settlement to be observed is that of the village assessment, founded on the native system, the whole community being responsible, preserving the village community unbroken, and rendering sales unknown for arrears of rent.

3rd November. Lieutenant-Colonel Alves doubts whether in a country, where every third year may be expected to be one of drought, it will be practicable to introduce long leases ; but thinks that an experiment might be made in villages when the people are in good circumstances, and have the means of making good the differences of bad, by the profits of good seasons.

22nd May. Considers Mr. Edmonstone's settlement as at once moderate to the people and securing the rights of Government. Over-assessment and variable seasons have reduced the people to poverty, the first cause will now be greatly diminished, the second met by corresponding reductions. The result will prove whether a Mouzawar settlement for a period of years be practicable in Ajmere, or whether yearly settlements be necessary. If it prove a general failure, other principles must be had recourse to, instead of long or perpetual settlements. Half the produce, when taken in money, must be a high rate—it throws the cost of conversion on the people ; and were the revenue taken in kind, one-half would hardly bear a greater proportion than one-third when taken in money. 'Thinks that

1837. an assessment based upon yearly produce in kind, although not collected in kind, is well adapted to the circumstance of the people, did it not involve too much detail, and interference on the part of our Native officers. The best rea-

sons for its adoption are the uncertainty of season and the poverty of the people.

Government, throughout the whole correspondence, almost necessarily and naturally advocate and order long leases, ob-
 1820. serving in nearly the first letter written about Ajmere,
 21st Jan. that only light assessment can lead the people to recognise the benefit of long leases, and that experience proved the disadvantage of a jumma framed on anticipated improvements, and the advantage of an equal annual jumma. The whole tenor, indeed, of Government correspondence and of that of the Hon'ble Court, tends to check Superintendents in the course which was at first pursued, of yearly increasing jumma on anticipated resources and
Court of Di- in our assessment, "lest the rising spirit of industry
rectors, 26th and the accumulation of capital should be checked."
Sept. 1824. But all measures tending to yearly assessment, according to produce and Kham management, systems so congenial to the people of Rajpootana, are discouraged and forbidden.

X. The whole course of our measures has been accordingly to force on the people, for their supposed benefit, a system of revenue assessment to which they have been unaccustomed, which is uncongenial to them, and which the nature of the climate renders of impossible attainment; each settlement has failed almost in its second year, rendering the nature of our management as uncertain as if it had never been framed. A glance at the statement of assessment and collection through the whole period shows this. The last settlement from which so much was expected, is in the same condition with all the others, and on this Colonel Alves, who had much experience in these parts, observes: "The result will prove, whether a Mouzawar settlement for a period of years be practicable in Ajmere, or whether yearly settlements be necessary. If it prove a general failure, other principles must be had recourse to, instead of long or perpetual settlements."

XI. In advocating a different course in Rajpootana, I trust that I shall not be considered insensible to the advantages which permanent, over periodical settlements, are calculated to confer on the great body of the people, and which periodical settlements generally possess over yearly fluctuating demands. I lived for some years in Bengal (from 1831 to 1834); and even in following the hounds and in the pursuit of the Bengal boar, which were then my principal occupations, one could not be insensible to the blessings of the permanent settle-

ment. I have travelled over most of the north-western provinces, and although that country may be less suited than Bengal to permanent settlements, and remissions in part or in whole may become necessary during seasons of scarcity or failure of rain, yet there can be there no such results through a long period of years as the Ajmere district has exhibited, and through either permanent or periodical settlements those provinces may prosper. I have seen that in portions of Scindiah's territory in Malwa, the most prosperous villages in the country, particularly in the Oujein district, were those rented to village communities or to individuals for periods of years: and I passed four years ago through the Biarsea district, belonging to Dhar, after it had received a settlement from Mr. Wilkinson for a period of years, which was highly appreciated by the people. I hear from Mr. Wilkinson, after completing his tour of the district in the present year, that what he had seen was beyond all description satisfactory, although he had before heard much of new cultivation, the digging of wells, &c. He found that whole tracts of waste land, and in many cases of forest land, which for almost centuries had served only as shelter to tigers, had been brought under the plough. Villages which were assessed at 1,000 rupees, now yield the people 1,800; whilst some jungly talooks which were assessed at mere nominal rents, are now in a flourishing condition; moderation in assessment has been most amply repaid, and fifty per cent might now, Mr. Wilkinson says, be added to the assessment of Biarsea. Mr. Edmonstone's ten years' settlement of Ajmere was probably framed with as much care, and on as just principles as Mr. Wilkinson's, yet how painfully different the results! It was my good fortune to be one of the officers employed under Sir Charles Metcalfe in the settlement, for a period of five years, of a portion of the Nizam's territory yielding thirty-five lacks per annum. I superintended a great portion of this to the end of the settlement. It was "framed on anticipated improvement," the increase during the period being, I think, twelve per cent; yet the whole sum, one crore and seventy-five lacks, was I think collected, with the exception of two and half per cent—whilst the agriculture of the country, and the condition of the people, were improved to an extent which in so short a period almost exceeded belief. I witnessed, too, the high prosperity to which the Nagpoor territory was raised, through fixed village settlements, during Sir Richard Jenkins' administration there; and at Nagpoor, as at Hyderabad, the effects of these settlements are still most

beneficially felt by the people, who appeal to them as their charter of rights. It is, therefore, with all these prepossessions in favour of village assessments for periods of years, and with full experience of the working of the system in Ajmere, that I am forced to the conclusion that they are here inapplicable; that they have produced extensive injury to the Government revenue and to the condition of the people, and that in a few more years they would leave us hardly any revenue, and reduce them to utter poverty. The evil effects which they have already produced, will not indeed be remedied to us or to them through many future years of good government; for the condition of this arid land cannot, like that of some of the richer provinces of India, be speedily retrieved, or retrieved at all, without much expenditure of capital on the part of both the Government and the people.

XII. Fortunately, a remedy is immediately at our command; and in the repair of the extensive and numerous tanks which have been so unaccountably neglected, and on which the prosperity of the people and the amount of Government revenue so almost entirely depend, that remedy is to be found. Under the authority of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, that work is already in progress in the hands of Captain Dixon, and by the commencement of the ensuing rains I trust that thirty or forty of these reservoirs will have been repaired. A list furnished by the Superintendent shows that there are thirty-one tanks in the Khalsa in repair, fifty-five in ruin, and eighteen places where new tanks are required. But very little is known of these important works in the Superintendent's department, and my own belief is that there are not three tanks in the whole of the Khalsa in perfect order; whilst there can hardly be less than one hundred and fifty in all, and of that number not ten in a serviceable condition. Captain Dixon's survey report of thirty of those on the south-western frontier shows that rupees 55,507 will be required to repair them, and that according to the system which obtains in Mhairwarra under his superintendence, the revenue of the twenty-two villages to which they belong will be raised from rupees 38,384 to 73,306 in the fifth and sixth years, and then continue doubled—so with the rest of the tanks and villages throughout the district; whilst, should Government not be satisfied with repairing the old tanks, there is scarcely any limit to positions where new ones may be constructed, affording ample remuneration to Government in its share of the increased produce; and these important works finished, the people are

perfectly ready to spend capital and labour in the construction of individual tanks and wells within their Beeswadaree lands ; a process, through which the face of the country may, I am persuaded, be most entirely changed in the course of a few years. Captain Dixon and the people of Mhairwarra have constructed upwards of one hundred and fifty tanks in the last four years in that country. I have seen the books which he keeps of the yearly increase of families, ploughs, produce and revenue ; and with the exception of two or three pergunnahs the revenue of each is doubled in the four years of his superintendence, whilst the people are proportionably enriched.

XIII. The district of Ajmere is intersected in every direction by deep nullas, which carry the water of one portion of the district into the Gulf of Cutch, and of the other into the Bay of Bengal. It would be very important to have a scientific survey of the district completed, which, I am persuaded, would show that almost every drop of this water might be turned into the tanks, rendering the country almost proof against famine. The work would be to this part of the country, what the great canals already completed are, and what those in contemplation promise to be, to the Dowab. Tanks without good feeders may fail, but those scientifically managed could hardly fail to be replenished in the worst of seasons ; and with its tank filled a village is secure against loss and famine for the year. The speculation promises so sure and profitable a return, that it might be undertaken confidently by individuals or a company. But these can hardly be permitted, without injury to Government, to take a share in its territorial revenue management—and with our great resources at command this can hardly be necessary.

XIV. The mode of assessment to be adopted when these works are completed, or at any time, is the most important consideration. The common process throughout Rajpootana is for Government to take a share of the crop in kind, or to convert it through appraisers appointed on the part of the Government and of the people into a money rent, according to the value of the produce in neighbouring markets—and this must of course be the process through which revenue is collected every where ; however much, and beneficially in some parts of the country, that process may be simplified through permanent and periodical settlements. The share of produce necessarily differs in various parts of the country, and, as elsewhere, according to the class of people who cultivate the land, when water is near the surface, or is immediately supplied from a tank, and there is little expense in

irrigating the land. It is every where considered that the more industrious classes of cultivators can give one-half of the produce as the Government share, whilst in the same situation potails and some other favoured classes give only one-third, and bramins and other still more favoured classes, give only one-fourth. The richest cultivation I saw in the Ajmere district was on the banks of the Kharee Nuddee, where the water is excellent, within six feet of the surface, and where a well can be dug for five rupees. There seems to be no doubt that the people there can afford to give one-half, and yet have ample return for their outlay of capital and labour; whilst, in other parts of the district, they are impoverished by giving a third; and in still less favoured portions a man can hardly subsist himself and his family on the produce of his labour. In favourable situations a money rent per beegah is pretty certain in all seasons on zubtee produce, varying of course in amount according as the share of the crop does. The most remarkable instance I saw of this was at the prosperous town of Phoolaa, on the banks of the Kharee Nuddee, belonging to the Shapoori Raja. There the people pay every year six rupees per beegah on a tract of extensive wheat land, yet they are prosperous; and, in their rude language, said without an exception, "Dhune Khoosh ruke:" less favoured wheat lands pay however in the same village only four and three rupees per beegah.

XV. Captain Dixon's mode of assessment in Mhairwarra is of the simplest kind, yet requiring the closest superintendence, such as perhaps cannot be expected from every Collector, and only from those possessing Captain Dixon's energy of character, and devoted as he is to promoting the interests of the Government and those of the people. His system is as follows:—

1st. In zubtee lands, or those producing cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and poppy, the lands are all measured, and of course the extent of each field known. On these a money rent is charged, and no remissions are allowed, except under unexpected or unusual calamity of season.

2ndly. Both rubbee and khureef, which there include all corn crops, are measured or estimated by kun koot, or appraisement by the Government officers and the people; then the money assessment on one-third of that produce, which is every where and on all classes the Government share, is fixed according to the average yearly value of produce in some of the principal neighbouring markets.

3dly. On breaking up new land, one-sixth of the produce is generally only taken in the first year, one-fifth in the second, and one-fourth in the third and fourth years ; in the fifth year the land pays the usual rate of one-third.

4thly. For digging new wells, and constructing narees, or individual tanks, and for constructing embankments, a remission in the amount of share is given according to the circumstances of the case, in order to promote these important works.

Through these systems, as I have already said, the revenues of Mhairwarra have been doubled in the last four years ; whilst it is only necessary to traverse a portion of these lands, and to hear the opinion of their neighbours, to be satisfied that this system has produced a prosperous, contented, and happy peasantry.

It is the system of assessment most congenial to the people that which almost universally prevails throughout Rajpootana, and which, in spite of all the evils arising from weak and inefficient government, renders the people of neighbouring countries more prosperous and contented generally than those of the Ajmere district ; that this system should be introduced here, there can be no manner of doubt. The people will, I think, almost without exception be ready to throw up their leases ; but should there be any exceptions to the contrary, the money expended on the repair of tanks can be recovered, or interest charged upon it during the five years which the leases have to run, and engagements in either case will be taken from villages accordingly.

The system may seem a complicated one, and unsuited to the nature of our institutions and to our administration generally ; there is no doubt that it will require much closer and more efficient superintendence than has been bestowed on the Ajmere district, particularly in the last few years ; but that at any rate it must receive, and as we proceed in the work we shall find it simple enough ; for there are only eighty-one villages belonging to the Khalsa, and this amount of labour should, under any one experienced officer when relieved from the detail of treasury and partly of judicial duties, be simple enough. But under any circumstances it must be our object, I think, to render our institutions suitable to the condition and wants of the people, and not to force on them systems of revenue administration which have been, are, and must continue to be obnoxious to them.

I need hardly refer to the great good which, through the course now in operation in the Khalsa, will be conferred on the people of the Istumraree and Jagheer possessions, and even on those of neighbouring countries, by forcing on all through example and necessity corresponding measures.

XVI. For the rest, I need merely observe that the people of the Khalsa appear to me to enjoy, under their Bhoomes protectors, a sufficient degree of peace and internal tranquillity; there being only three or four villages I think without Bhoomes, and these are under the protection of our own thanadars and police, a system which does not appear to me to work so well. My report on the condition of the Istumraree is in a considerable state of forwardness, that on the Jagheers and the Judicial administration will be afterwards submitted: and if the work should seem to make but slow progress in my hands, I trust that the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor will be disposed to attribute this rather to the other duties which necessarily occupy so much of my time, than to any inattention on my part to matters of such high interest.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. SUTHERLAND,

AJMERE;

Offg. Commissioner.

Commissioner's Office,

The 26th January, 1841.

ABSTRACT.

PARA. 1. Report required from Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland on the condition of the Ajmere district—reason why this has so long been delayed.

2. How now furnished.

3. To consist of five separate letters.

4. Supposed importance of the Ajmere district, territorial extent and revenue.

5. Manner of its transfer to us, and supposed value.

6. Estimation in which it was held by Government.

7. Present letter treating exclusively of the Khalsa, under four heads.

FIRST HEAD. Abstract of all letters from Superintendents from 1818 to 1840.

SECOND HEAD. Residents' and Commissioners' letters, ditto.

THIRD HEAD. Government letters, ditto.

FOURTH HEAD. Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland's report.

PARA. 1st. Statement of prices, assessment and revenue in the last twenty-two years, and observations on the gradual decrease.

2nd. Reasons for not sooner visiting all parts of the district.

3rd. The condition of seventeen villages described, in different parts of the district, which may be received as a specimen of the condition of the whole.

4th. The seventeen towns and villages described, yield 50,000 rupees of the whole 1,27,000.

5th. Over-assessment at first, and its injurious consequences.

6th. Relates to arrears on the present settlement.

7th. Relates to the necessity for releasing the people from engagements which they cannot fulfil.

8th. Relates to emigration from over-assessment.

9th and 10th. Relate to the mode of revenue administration most congenial to the people.

11th. Examples of the benefit of settlements for periods of years, yet forced to the conclusion that they are inapplicable in Ajmere.

12th. Remedy in the case of Ajmere.

13th. Proposed scientific survey, which should show whether all the streams may not be turned into the tanks.

14th. Mode of assessment general throughout Rajpootana.

15th. Detail of Captain Dixon's mode of assessment in Mhairwarra, applicable to the Ajmere district.

16th. Relates to the protection afforded to the people by the po-

(Signed). J. SUTHERLAND,

26th January, 1841.

Offg. Commissioner.