

REPORT

ON THE

**OPERATIONS OF THE LAND RECORDS AND  
SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENTS**

IN THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

DURING THE YEAR

**1914-15**

(ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1915)

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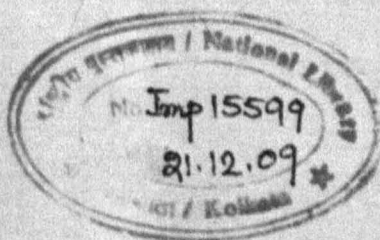
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FROM

THE HON'BLE MR. H. E. HEMINGWAY, I.C.S.,

COMMISSIONER OF SETTLEMENTS AND DIRECTOR OF  
LAND RECORDS,

*Central Provinces,*

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF COMMIS-  
SIONER,

LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT,

*Central Provinces.*

SIR,

*Dated Nagpur, the 15<sup>th</sup>  
21<sup>st</sup> January 1916.*

I have the honour to submit the following report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces for the year ending September 30th, 1915. I was in charge of the Department for the whole year under report. Mr. Searle held charge of the post of Assistant Settlement Commissioner till March 21st, 1915, after which date the post remained vacant.

2. The Patwari Halkabandi of the Chhindwara district was revised and introduced during the year under report, and those of Banda tahsil (Saugor) and Nagpur are in the course of submission to the Local Administration. The revision of the Halkabandi of the Betul tahsil has since received the approval of the Local Administration, but the new arrangement has not yet been introduced. The question of the revision of the Halkabandi of the Chanda district is also under consideration. In the Narsinghpur district five Patwari circles were abolished owing to the death or dismissal of Patwaris which resulted in an annual saving of Rs. 493, and the question of abolishing 11 more Patwari circles is under consideration. In consequence of the creation of the new Niwas tahsil in the Mandla district and the revision of Halkabandi in the Chhindwara district, the staff was increased by two Revenue Inspectors in each of the two districts mentioned.

3. The scheme of the amalgamated cadre of Superintendents of Land Records and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with the Subordinate Civil Service was given effect to from December 22nd instead of from October 1st, 1914, as was anticipated, and in 6\* and 3† districts respectively the Superintendents of Land Records and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records at present working have been recruited from the class of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars of the regular line.

During the year under report the scheme for grading the Patwaris, mentioned in paragraph 3 of last year's report, was introduced in the Seoni, Damoh and Wardha districts. The number of good-conduct allowances at Rs. 3 per mensem was raised from 5 to 10 per cent of the total number of Patwaris in the Jubbulpore, Betul, Chanda, Drug and Raipur districts.

## II.—LAND RECORDS WORK.

Changes in the system of  
Land Records.

4. The changes effected in the system of Land Records during the year under report were as follows:—

- (i) Rule 26 of Revenue Book Circular III-1, Appendix I, was amended to ensure the punctual supply of new survey instruments to Patwaris where necessary.
- (ii) In the second forecasts of all crops, estimated percentage in respect of areas is now to be calculated on the areas estimated at the corresponding date of the previous year and not on final areas reported in the agricultural returns.



(iii) The period of retention of Khasras and Jamtandis in the Revenue Record-room has now been extended to "twelve years after the term of Settlement" instead of "for the term of Settlement" (*vide* amendment to Rules LXIX and XCII of Revenue Book Circular III-1, Appendix II).

(iv) Rule LXVII, Revenue Book Circular III-1, Appendix II, has been amended to prevent frauds in obtaining privileged rates for grazing in Government forests, and Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants are now required to personally supervise the preparation of the grazing certificates by Patwaris.

5. Village maps are reported to be generally in good condition save in Betul where they are reported to be far from satisfactory. Steps were however taken to remove almost all worn out maps, and special map correction proceedings have now been started in that district. Adequate attention appears to have been paid to the renewal of traces in all districts.

6. The condition of boundary marks and traverse stations is reported to be generally satisfactory. The Deputy Commissioner, Narsinghpur, however, reports that many traverse marks on the borders of nalas and rivers have been washed away. Fines amounting to Rs. 231 were imposed on Mukaddams in the Betul, Chhindwara, Wardha and Chanda districts. The condition of boundary marks of survey numbers in Ryotwari villages is also reported to be generally in good condition except in the Mandla and Seoni districts. The Deputy Commissioners of the three districts mentioned above have been asked to suggest steps to improve matters.

7. The amount of khasra check by Revenue Inspectors is satisfactory in all districts, but the check is frequently rather slovenly. Full information is not available from all districts, but the number of mistakes found by Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants in the fields previously checked by Revenue Inspectors ranged from 2 per cent in Betul, where I think supervision is slack, to 11 per cent in Bhandara (the late Superintendent of Land Records of Bhandara is now in Betul). In Mandla, Narsinghpur and Nimar results are not very satisfactory. It is to be hoped that a better class of Revenue Inspectors will be obtained in the near future with the spread of education and fair prospects for competent men.

8. The check of Superintendents of Land Records and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was generally adequate. The checking by Superintendent of Land Records and his Assistants in the Chanda district has been more satisfactory this year—an improvement over the low outturn remarked in last year's report. Of the efficiency of the Superintendents of Land Records check it is difficult to speak, but I think there must have been a great improvement recently. They are now bound to check an adequate proportion of numbers previously checked by Revenue Inspectors, and I trust that the ancient custom of carrying on a joint check with the Revenue Inspector (the Revenue Inspector doing the check and both signing the Khasra entries) is now extinct.

(c) By Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars.

9. The amount of checking of Land Record work was generally satisfactory except in the following districts:—

	Entries tested.			
(1) Nimar	...	...	...	1,714
(2) Betul	...	...	...	1,714
(3) Wardha	...	...	...	1,243

The check of Land Record work in the Burhanpur tahsil of the Nimar district has been almost entirely neglected by the Tahsildar and Naib-Tahsildar, and the Deputy Commissioner has been addressed on the subject. In Betul the check was also inadequate, but the Deputy Commissioner reports that he has already dealt with the matter. In the Wardha district Land Records inspection has also been much neglected by the tahsil staff, especially in the Arvi tahsil, in spite of the remarks in last year's report: the Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, has been addressed on the subject.

The Commissioner, Nagpur Division, remarks that the Tahsildar of Chanda and Naib-Tahsildars of Chanda and Warora have neglected this duty to a serious extent, while the check by the Tahsildar and Naib-Tahsildar of Baihar has again been of a very perfunctory description, and the Deputy Commissioner's attention is being called to this failure. The Tahsildars of Sausar (Chhindwara), Gondia (Bhandara) and Balaghat and the Naib-Tahsildars of Amarwara (Chhindwara), Balaghat and Raipur did no checking whatever. The Deputy Commissioner, Mandla, has now prescribed a scale of the amount of check required by Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars in his district.

(d) By Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants.

10. The amount of checking done by the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants is generally satisfactory.

11. Mr. Searle toured in Seoni, Drug, Raipur and Bilaspur and inspected Land Record work and checked Khasra entries of 30 villages in the Raipur district. Besides the districts under settlement I toured in Jubbulpore, Betul and Drug for the inspection of Land Records and Kanungos' offices, and also checked the condition of the maps in some villages of the Raipur district.

(e) By Director of Land Records and Assistant Directors of Land Records.

12. The number of Jamabandi entries checked by the Kanungos was generally adequate except in Bilaspur where the check amounted to only 3 per cent, but the work has been pushed on vigorously since. The percentage of errors discovered for the Province as a whole was 1 per cent as against '85 of last year. Apart from the very low outturn of check in Bilaspur the percentage of incorrect entries is the highest, viz., 3.92. Next comes Chanda where the number of incorrect entries was 1,441 or 2.90 per cent. The Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, explains that though the number of incorrect entries amounts to nearly 3 per cent on the whole, the number of mistakes detected in Sironcha tahsil alone averages 11 per cent which is mainly due to the poor quality of the staff of Patwaris. He represents the difficulty of obtaining efficient Patwaris for the Sironcha tahsil and a greater part of the Garchiroli tahsil. The unpopularity of the tract and the frequent use of an interpreter by the Patwari in the Sironcha tahsil unacquainted with Telugu checks the speed of working considerably.

The Kanungo of Burhanpur (Nimar) is reported to have failed to comply with the instructions contained in new Rule 47 of Appendix I of Revenue Book Circular III-1 and was warned not to repeat the mistakes over again.

13. Except in the districts under settlement and map correction annual papers were generally up to time. In Mandla, there was some delay owing to late distribution of forms and interruption of communications by rain. In Chanda, there was the usual delay owing to the inadequacy and inefficiency of the staff, especially in the Sironcha tahsil, whilst in Chhattisgarh and Jubbulpore district, a certain number of village papers were filed shortly after the due date.

Degree of punctuality observed in filing village papers.

14. The inspection of Kanungos' offices was generally adequate and except in the following tahsils the work was found to be in good order :—

Condition of Kanungos' offices.

Damoh tahsil (Damoh).  
Dindori tahsil (Mandla).  
Khandwa, Burhanpur and Harsud tahsils (Nimar).  
Multai tahsil (Betul).  
Ramtek tahsil (Nagpur).  
Bilaspur and Janjgir tahsils (Bilaspur).

The Kanungo of Burhanpur (Nimar) retired in June last, and the office is now reported to be in good order. The work of the office at Multai was found to be unsatisfactory at the Superintendent of Land Records' inspection in June last which was due to the bad health of the permanent Kanungo, and it has now been brought up to date by the present man. The unsatisfactory state of Kanungos' offices at Bilaspur and Janjgir is reported to be partly due to the constant changes of the staff.



15. 328 sanads were granted during the year as against 734 in the preceding year. The appreciable decrease is noticed in the Nagpur district, *viz.*, only 73 sanads were issued during the year as against 550 of last year. It is reported that the number should have been 300, but the Assistant Settlement Officer mistook the Settlement Officer's orders and the balance of sanads are now being issued. Mandla, Jubbulpore and Bilaspur show an increase of 14, 21, and 26, respectively, while no sanads were issued in Chhindwara and Balaghat. The Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, remarks that the number of cases of grant of sanad for improvement brought to light by the Land Record Staff is still disappointingly small, and it appears that there is need for greater effort in this respect, but personally I am extremely doubtful if any such sanads have been earned. In Raipur and Drug at any rate there is very little opening for land improvements, as very few villages contain sites for irrigation reservoirs worth constructing.

16. The work in connection with the grazing received more attention by the Land Record Staff in most districts. In spite of the remarks in last year's report, the Superintendents of Land Records and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records again neglected the work of checking in this respect in all the districts except Betul, Damoh Wardha, Chanda and the districts of the Chhattisgarh division. The work of 24 Patwaris was found unsatisfactory in this connection in the Betul District, 9 of whom were punished by suspension, the good-conduct allowance of one was withdrawn, and 14 were warned. Complaints of illegal realization of fees for writing passes were also received against two Patwaris in the Betul district, and the cases are under enquiry. The Settlement Officer, Nagpur, states that the new rules could not be introduced during the year under report as the certificates were received when passes had already been issued by the Patwaris according to old rules, and in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer it was decided to introduce the rules next year. The Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, represents that as Patwaris are generally very busy with the preparation of Jamabandis and their abstracts from April till the end of 15th June, so very few of them can take up the writing of grazing passes in hand before 15th June, and the Revenue Inspectors thus can get only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  months' time to complete the check and that is also in rainy days. He adds that nearly every village of Revenue Inspector's circle in the Khalsa takes grazing passes, and it is practically impossible for a Revenue Inspector to inspect all such villages in order to finish his check honestly according to the standard fixed in Rule 26 of the revised grazing rules. The Land Record staff of the Chanda district is not sufficient for the adequate discharge of the ordinary Land Record work, and special exception must be made for Chanda under the revised grazing rules. I regret that I omitted to bring this matter to the notice of the Local Administration when these rules were under discussion. 17 Excise shops were inspected in the Nagpur district by the Superintendent of Land Records and his Assistants.

### III.—CONDUCT OF THE LAND RECORD STAFF.

Residence of Patwaris without their circles.

17. The percentage of non-resident Patwaris without permission has fallen in the following districts :—

Damoh	from 5 to 2'35 per cent.
Chanda	„ 12'37 to 7'73 „
Wardha	„ 2'26 to '90 „

Transfers and the appointment of new men as probationers or in temporary vacancies account for an increase in the following districts :—

Chhindwara	from 22'6 to 24'21 per cent.
Mandla	„ 10 to 11'73 „
Raipur	„ 6 to 8'56 „
Bilaspur	„ 10'26 to 12'41 „
Jubbulpore	„ 3'47 to 4'22 „
Drug	„ 2 to 4'04 „
Betul	„ '50 to 2'49 „
Seoni	„ 8'33 to 8'97 „

It is to be hoped that the high figures in Chhindwara and Mandla are merely temporary. In Seoni, owing to the inception of Settlement operations and the

consequent weeding out of inefficients, and also owing to the introduction of the revised Halkabandi I am afraid the number of non-resident Patwaris is likely to be high for some years.

Further enquiries have been made into the important question of the punctual confirmation or removal of probationers. It is a most profitable source of income for dishonest Revenue Inspectors, and, I may say, Superintendents of Land Records and their Assistants, to keep Patwaris on probation for years if possible, and there are few, if any, districts in which cases in which this has been done could not be found. The Deputy Commissioners of Raipur and Durg have made experiments in dealing with this trouble, and proposals, based on their experience, have now been submitted to the Local Administration which I trust will eliminate this evil. In this case I would again bring to the notice of the Local Administration the necessity of Commissioners insisting that Deputy Commissioners should carry out the principles of Revenue Book Circular III-1, and see that Tahsildars do really see to the discipline of the Patwari establishment of their tahsils, instead of leaving it to the Superintendent of Land Records. In large districts such as Raipur, Bilaspur, Nagpur, or Jabulpore, I do not think the Superintendent of Land Records can possibly do this work adequately, whilst the results of Mr. Rustomji's efforts to have the orders contained in the Circular in question really carried out in Raipur have been most satisfactory.

#### Training of Patwaris.

18. Survey classes were opened for the training of Patwaris and Patwari candidates in all the districts except Balaghat, and the results were generally fair.

#### Conduct and discipline of Patwaris.

19. The following table shows the disciplinary measures taken against Patwaris in the year under report as compared to the previous year :—

	1913-14.	1914-15.
Dismissals	129	95
Reductions	23	41
Fines	51	1
Suspensions	255	232
Transfers	87	112
Total	545	481

It will be seen that there is a considerable decrease in the number of dismissals. Raipur alone contributes 25 dismissals of the total number of 95 mentioned above. There is, however, an increase in the number of reductions from 23 to 41, but the increase is largely contributed by the Damoh and Seoni districts comprising 11 and 10 reductions, respectively. In the Damoh district it is due to the working of the new gradation of Patwaris in four classes. The Deputy Commissioner, Raipur, suggests that cases as regards discipline of Patwaris may well be dealt with finally by Sub-Divisional Officers, appeals lying to the Deputy Commissioner, and the Divisional Commissioner, Chhattisgarh, is in favour of allowing Sub-Divisional Officers power to deal with disciplinary cases of Patwaris, but he would reserve to the Deputy Commissioner the power of dismissal or of transfer. I have personally consulted several Deputy Commissioners on this subject, and would allow Sub-Divisional Officers powers of appointment, punishment and dismissal. Powers of transfer can hardly be granted, as these are usually from one sub-division to another, and transfers of Patwaris are generally to be deprecated.

20. The number of Revenue Inspectors punished during the year was exactly the same as was reported last year, *vis.*, 23;\* 15 of these punishments were inflicted in the Chhattisgarh Division. With the exception of these, the work of Revenue Inspectors is reported to be generally satisfactory, though I am personally inclined to think it is rather slovenly.

21. Almost all the districts report favourably on the work of Superintendents of Land Records, except the Deputy Commissioner, Raipur, who remarks that Mahesh Prasad who was sent from Bilaspur as officiating Superintendent of Land Records for three months, is below the average and is not equal to the duties of Superintendent of Land Records. Mr. Pusatkar, late

Revenue Inspectors, their qualifications, conduct and discipline.

\* Reduced 7, Fined 10, Suspended 3, Transfers 3, Total 23.

Superintendents of Land Records and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, their qualifications, conduct and discipline.



Superintendent of Land Records of Damoh, is reported to have marred the effect of his personal work by his want of control in dealing with subordinates. The work of Assistant Superintendents of Land Records is reported to be generally satisfactory.

#### IV.—UTILIZATION OF LAND RECORDS.

22. Circle note-books were written up to date except of the 32 villages of the Harsud tahsil in the Nimar district and in the districts in which settlement or map correction operations were in progress. The Commissioner, Nerbudda Division, remarks that, as the ryotwari estate is important, he has suggested the preparation of circle note-books for it in the three tahsils of Nimar as is done in the Baihar tahsil of Balaghat. I have recommended that circle note-books be compiled for ryotwari villages in all districts.

23. Village note-books are generally up to date save in the districts under settlement or map correction operations. New village note-books have been supplied to 142 villages in the Mandla district. In three villages of the Bachai circle in the Narsinghpur district the books are reported to have been burnt, and action is being taken to supply new books.

#### PART II.—OPERATIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT.

24. *General.*—The operations of the Settlement Department consisted in—

- (a) The revision of settlement in the Saugor, Nagpur, Hoshangabad, Chhindwara and Balaghat districts.
- (b) The correction of village maps in the Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, Balaghat, Seoni and Bhandara districts.
- (c) The preparation of inception reports for the Seoni and Bhandara districts.

##### I.—THE REVENUE SETTLEMENT OF MALGUZARI VILLAGES.

25. *Saugor.*—The attestation of the remaining 37 villages has been completed, and during the year under report Rent-rate reports for 918 villages with an area of 1,436 square miles were submitted, whilst 706 villages with an area of 1,219 square miles were assessed. The balance left over is 88 villages to be rent-rated, and 555 villages for assessment. The balance for assessment would have been very much smaller had it not been for the special difficulties connected with the Khurai tahsil, where large areas of first class land had been held back from cultivation for years in order to obtain a lenient settlement. It was necessary for Mr. Corbett to prepare a special report on this subject dealing with the tahsil as a whole, and the necessity for a most careful scrutiny of all the facts and figures put forward in this report, naturally retarded the ordinary course of assessment. The report in question was extremely able.

The progress of announcement was satisfactory, the revised assessment being announced in 584 villages with an area of 1,040 square miles.

In addition to the above work the Tahsil Assessment Report of the Rehli and Banda tahsils was submitted during the year under report, and the Kotwar Halkabandi has been revised *pari passu* with announcement.

Mr. Corbett claims, and his claim is supported by the Deputy Commissioner, that the present revision of settlement has been accepted as fair by the tenants and as profitable by the Malguzars. Rent fixation has been extremely difficult owing to the large margins granted at last settlement, abatements during the famines and the various other causes which lead to uneven rents; but all cases where specially large enhancements have been necessary have been carefully noted on, and the facts explained to the villagers at announcement, so that no one could go away with a feeling that he had been unfairly or carelessly treated.

Mr. Corbett speaks highly of the work of Mr. Manzur Ahmad, his senior Assistant Settlement Officer, who was in sole charge of announcement, and quite well of Messrs. Azmat Ali and Gouri Shankar, though he complains that the latter prefers to work himself instead of getting work out of his subordinates. I would add that Mr. Corbett's own work has been of the highest quality.

26. *Nagpur*.—The attestation of the district was completed during the year, the number of villages dealt with being 355 with an area of 591 square miles. These included the 20 villages constituting the suburban area round Nagpur town which caused the greatest difficulty, and could only be finally disposed of by making an Assistant Settlement Officer deal with each particular entry.

Mr. J. F. Dyer, I.C.S.,  
Settlement Officer.  
Messrs. R. K. Indurkar,  
Chhotelal, K. R. Rhotkar, Bal-  
want Rao, and Abdul Khalique,  
Assistant Settlement Officers.

Rent-rate Reports were submitted for 574 villages with an area of 936 square miles. This work was retarded by an unfortunate mistake of a clerk who issued an incorrect table of soil rates to the contractors for the calculation of deduced rents in the Katol tahsil, which necessitated the resubmission of all the four reports for that tahsil. As a result assessment work was also retarded, but 441 villages with an area of 777 square miles were assessed during the year under report.

The work in Nagpur was distinctly difficult owing to the extreme lowness of the rents now being paid in the Umrer tahsil, which is a backward and badly cultivated tract in spite of its proximity to the Provincial Capital, and also to the lowness of the rents in the advanced Katol tahsil compared to the obvious market value of the land. The question as to the exact amount of *per saltum* enhancement which was practicable was no easy one to decide, and in the earlier stages of the discussion the real issue was somewhat obscured by divergences of opinion as to questions of settlement procedure. As a result there were considerable delays in obtaining orders on the Settlement Officer's reports, and the revised assessment was announced in only 349 villages with an area of 661 square miles.

There was a certain amount of adverse criticism in the local Press, but this turned out to have been organised by a gentleman who had no personal concern in the areas in question, but had a personal grievance against the Settlement Department concerning the preparation of the Record-of-Rights in a village of another tahsil. More important was the agitation of a large number of Nagpur Brahmans, pensioners, etc., who had either inherited or acquired holdings in the low-rented villages of the Umrer tahsil. The revised assessment had been received with equanimity by the genuine agriculturist, but these absentees, who subsist on sub-rents if they are wise, or merely lose money if they attempt to get the land cultivated through servants, were rather badly hit, and steps are now being taken to mitigate cases where hardship may perhaps have been caused.

Mr. Dyer speaks very highly of the work of Messrs. Chhotelal and Rhotkar and well of Messrs. Balwant Rao and Khalique. Mr. Dyer himself showed his usual untiring energy and driving power.

27. *Hoshangabad*.—The year's programme was successfully carried out. The attestation of the Hoshangabad and Seoni-Malwa tahsils containing 515 villages with an area of 1,080 square miles was completed, and Rent-rate Reports for 338 villages with an area of 625 square miles were submitted. Assessment Reports for 376 villages with an area of 631 square miles were also submitted.

Mr. H. C. Gowan, I.C.S.,  
Settlement Officer.  
Messrs. Chhaganlal, C.  
Anthony, Abdul Jabbar, San-  
kata Prasad, Shankernath,  
and Madho Rao, Assistant  
Settlement Officers.

I would note that the attestation of the Hoshangabad and Seoni-Malwa tahsils proved that the deterioration therein was only apparent. The Malguzars and tenants have put a large area of broken poor soil under grass, and in one or two cases large areas of first class soil have been deliberately treated in the same way. This is not due to any desire to escape assessment as in Khurai, but because it pays; one Malguzar, who kept over 150 milch buffaloes, told me he did not mind what revenue was assessed on his grass land, but he had no intention of cultivating it himself and certainly would not let it out to tenants.

The map correction of the district was completed during the year, and Mr. Gowan reports that the maps have been very satisfactory, and records his thanks to Mr. Anthony, Assistant Settlement Officer, for the good work he has done. Of the Assistant Settlement Officers on Settlement work proper, Mr. Chhaganlal did excellent work, and Mr. Abdul Jabbar maintained a high standard.

Mr. Gowan's own work was of a very high standard.



**28. Chhindwara.**—The actual field work was not so difficult as in the previous years owing to large consistent stretches of good black soil, but operations were retarded by high-standing crops, such as *juar*. Later in the season Mr. Irwin lost one of his best Assistants, Mr. Sinha, whose physique was not equal to the strain he placed upon it. In spite of these difficulties the programme of attestation was carried out, that of the remaining villages of the Chhindwara tahsil khalsa and the whole of the Amarwara tahsil khalsa, in all 477 villages with an area of 914 square miles, being completed by June. This is the more creditable as the budget of the Chhindwara district was cut down very heavily (by 24 per cent) by the Finance Department, and the staff was reduced in numbers, whilst those who were retained were deprived of well earned increments of pay. I trust that in the present year this may be remedied.

Mr. C. J. Irwin, I.C.S., Settlement Officer.

Messrs. A. D. Lancaster, Chunnilal, Ramanand, Ramcharan Sinha, and Panchamlal, Assistant Settlement Officers.

Office work was pushed on with great energy. Rent-rate Reports for 640 villages with an area of 1,059 square miles, and Assessment Reports for 491 villages with an area of 640 square miles were submitted during the year. It was not possible to proceed to the announcement of the revised assessments during the year under report for want of orders on the *Wajib-ul-arz*, or record of village customs, which is a matter of difficulty and importance in this very backward district.

The map correction of the Khalsa portion of the district was completed during the year by Mr. Lancaster, Assistant Settlement Officer. The unevenness of the ground and the absence of sub-traverse stations made this work extremely difficult, but Mr. Lancaster's great skill and experience overcame all difficulties.

In addition to the correction of the maps of the Khalsa villages the maps of 284 villages of the Jagirs were also brought up to date under the supervision of the Superintendent of Land Records and, on his transfer, of Mr. Jamaluddin, Assistant Superintendent of Land Records. The staff employed was extremely small and the country difficult, and the result is very creditable to the officers mentioned and to the two Revenue Inspectors of the Jagirs.

Mr. Irwin makes no mention of his staff, but I would bring the excellent work of Mr. Chunnilal, Assistant Settlement Officer to the notice of the Local Administration and would also record my regret at the loss of Mr. Sinha, who is, I fear, permanently incapacitated owing to his devotion to duty. Mr. Sinha's abilities were of a high order, and he will be a decided loss to Government.

Mr. Irwin himself showed untiring energy and sound judgment in all he did.

**29. Balaghat.**—This was the first year of the re-settlement of the Balaghat

Mr. B. N. De, I.C.S., Settlement Officer.

Messrs. Muhammad Zaki, Chhotelal Verma, Vithal Atmaram, W. B. Ghate, and Sheocharanlal, Assistant Settlement Officers.

district. There are two serious difficulties in the re-settlement of this district, namely, the correct record of irrigation facilities, and a reasonable estimate of the *Malguzar's* *siwai* income, and Mr. De has dealt with both in an extremely capable manner.

In dealing with irrigation he asked for and obtained the assistance of the Irrigation Department, who are naturally greatly interested in the accuracy of the record of irrigation from village tanks, and the thanks of this Department are due to Mr. Bahaduri for the assistance he gave. The capacity of all the village tanks was carefully calculated, and as the villagers were fully taken into the Settlement Officer's confidence in all his proceedings a record satisfactory to all parties was eventually obtained in practically all cases.

As regards *siwai* Mr. De not only made extremely careful local enquiries himself, but also obtained the advice of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mr. McCrie, to whom the thanks of the Department are also due. His estimates though much above those of the last settlement, are very moderate, and to make assurance doubly sure against overassessment, large margins—sometimes as much as 50 per cent—have been granted to allow for fluctuations.

In spite of these difficulties and of the fact that this was the first year of the operations, very satisfactory progress has been made. The attestation of 453 villages with an area of 792 square miles was completed, and Rent-rate Reports for 238 villages with an area of 430 square miles, and Assessment Reports for 60 villages with an area of 93 square miles were submitted during the year.

The map correction of the district, which was under the charge of Mr. Muhammad Zaki, Assistant Settlement Officer, was practically completed during the year, though the tract dealt with is perhaps the most unhealthy in the Provinces, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the staff could be kept together in the wild jungles of the Baihar tahsil and the Zamindaris of Balaghat.

Mr. De was well supported by his staff, and Mr. Chhotelal Verma deserves special mention for his energy, resource and power of organisation. Mr. De himself has shown great ability and common sense.

## II.—CORRECTION OF MAPS AND RECORDS PREPARATORY TO SETTLEMENT.

30. *Seoni*.—The maps of 740 villages, with an area of 1,242 square miles, were brought up to date during the year. It has been found that some of the fair copies are unsatisfactory, but I am afraid that this was only to be expected owing to the very inferior quality of the Land Record staff and local contractors; and in spite of the revision of the district Patwari Halkabandi and the increase in the rates of pay, the Settlement Officer will probably have great difficulty in this respect throughout his operations.

The inception report for the revision of settlement was prepared by Mr. K. Hamilton, I.C.S., and has since been submitted to the Local Administration.

31. *Bhandara*.—The maps of 596 villages, with an area of 879 square miles, were brought up to date during the year. I have personally tested some of this work and found it of good quality on the whole.

The inception report for the revision of settlement was prepared by Mr. C. Brown, I.C.S., but required revision, and its submission to the Local Administration was somewhat delayed.

## III.—SURVEYS CARRIED OUT.

32. *Traverse Survey*.—The work of the Traverse Parties was under the control of Mr. C. H. G. Johnson of the Survey of India Department. During the year under report the work was far less scattered than previously, being practically confined to the Bhandara, Balaghat and Betul districts; but progress was again much impeded by the traversing of boundaries between British India and Rewah States, and between various Feudatory States and Zamindaris in Chhattisgarh. All these disputes were in wild and remote tracts and, besides entailing great hardship on the staff, kept Mr. Johnson away from his ordinary duties for inconvenient periods.

A programme for the adequate sub-traversing of the districts of the Provinces has now been made out, entailing work for some 17 seasons to come. A commencement was made in the year under report in the Raipur, Bhandara, Balaghat and Betul districts and the sub-traverse of 620 villages was completed in spite of the difficult nature of the country and want of assistance from the people. In addition to the above work the traverse of the towns of Seoni, Wardha and Kareli was carried out.

Now that a long programme of work has been prepared the staff might well be made quasi-permanent with the hope of procuring a better class of men, and securing the services of such good men as are now in service, and proposals to this effect have been submitted to the Local Administration.

## IV.—SUPPLY OF INSTRUMENTS AND STATIONERY.

33. During the year the Instruments and Stationery Depôt attached to my office issued instruments and drawing materials to the value of Rs. 19,194 as detailed below:—

		Rs.
To Settlement Department	...	10,934
To Deputy Commissioners for use of Patwaris and Land Record work	...	6,514
To Feudatory States	...	248
Otherwise issued, including Berar	...	1,498
Total	...	19,194



The value of forms supplied through the Anjuman Islamia Press, Jubbul-pore, amounted to Rs. 23,407 as shown below :—

	Rs.
To Settlement Department	6,515
To Deputy Commissioners for maintenance of village records.	16,892
Total	23,407

The Depôt also arranged, as usual, for the supply to Deputy Commissioners, through the same press, of 82,918 tenants' receipt books valued at Rs. 15,547-2-0.

V.—WORK OF THE OFFICE OF THE SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER.

34. I append a statement showing the principal reports which were submitted to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner during the year :—

Name of district.	Name of tahsil.	Forecast Reports.	Rent-rate Reports.		Assessment Report.		Tahsil Assessment Reports.	Final Settlement Reports.	Remarks.
			No. of reports.	No. of villages.	No. of reports.	No. of villages.			
	(a) <i>Malguzari vil-lages.</i>								
Saugor.	Rehli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Banda	...	...	...	7	267	1	...	
	Saugor	...	9	500	9	470	...	...	
	Khurai	...	7	313	...	...	...	...	
Hoshangabad.	Sohagpur	...	6	316	6	315	...	...	
	Hoshangabad	...	1	53	...	...	...	...	
Chhindwara.	Chhindwara	...	8	543	6	364	...	...	
	Saoner	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Nagpur.	Umrer	...	5	283	4	242	...	...	
	Katol	...	*5	341	1	51	...	...	
Balaghat.	Balaghat	...	5	168	...	...	...	...	
Seoni.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	*4 were twice submitted.
	(b) <i>Ryotwari vil-lages.</i>								
Saugor.	Ban da	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	
	Saugor	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
Hoshangabad.	Sohagpur	...	1	9	1	9	...	...	
Chhindwara.	Chhindwara	...	...	40	...	36	...	...	
Nagpur.	Umrer	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
	Katol	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. E. HEMINGWAY,

Commissioner of Settlements and Director of Land Records,  
Central Provinces.





STATEMENT II.—Showing the progress made in Map Correction during the year ending the 30th September 1915.

District.	Field work.				Office work.				Remarks.
	Total area to be dealt with.	Disposed of previously.	Disposed of during the year.	Balance.	Total area to be dealt with.	Disposed of previously.	Disposed of during the year.	Balance.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Saugor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nagpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Hoshangabad...	1,732,919	1,191,227	541,692	...	1,732,919	1,191,227	541,692	...	
Chhindwara ...	1,343,360	798,720	544,640	...	1,343,360	798,720	544,640	...	
Balaghat ...	1,037,997	542,942	489,353	5,702	1,037,997	271,400	766,597	...	
Seoni ...	790,439	...	790,439	...	790,439	...	790,439	...	
Bhandara ...	2,188,659	...	562,200	1,626,459	2,188,659	...	562,200	1,626,459	

**STATEMENT III.—Showing the progress made in the Regular Revision of Land Revenue Assessment (Field work) during the year ending the 30th September 1915.**

District,		Attestation,						Announcement,			Remarks,
		Total to be attested,	Attested in previous years,	During the year under report,			Balance to be attested by Inspectors,	Total to be announced,	Announced during the previous year,	Announced during the year under report,	
				Attested by Inspectors,	Passed by Assistant Settlement Officer,	Inspected by Settlement Officer,					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Saugor	{ Area in square miles ...	3,196	3,193	3	3	61	...	1,396	915	1,040	
	{ Number of villages ...	2,084	2,080	4	4	41	...	2,084	686	584	
Nagpur	{ Area in square miles ...	3,296	2,705	591	591	591	...	3,296	1,116	661	
	{ Number of villages ...	1,943	1,588	355	355	355	...	1,943	668	349	
Hoshangabad	{ Area in square miles ...	2,701	770	1,080	1,080	1,080	851	2,701	...	...	* Decrease is due to amalgamation.
	{ Number of villages ...	1,379*	409	515	515	515	455	1,379	...	...	
Chhindwara	{ Area in square miles ...	2,309	643	909	914	914	757	2,309	...	...	
	{ Number of villages ...	1,413	493	474	477	477	446	1,413	...	...	
Balasghat	{ Area in square miles ...	1,845	...	792	792	792	1,053	1,845	...	...	
	{ Number of villages ...	895	...	453	453	453	442	895	...	...	



**STATEMENT IV.—Showing the progress made in the Regular Revision of Land Revenue Assessment (Office work) during the year ending the 30th September 1915.**

Imp 15599 Dated 21.12.09

District.			Total to be assessed.	Records completed.	Records failed and passed.	Records copied for Patwaris.	First trace made.	Second trace made.	Ryotwari abstracts prepared.	Rent rates submitted.	Assessment Report submitted.	Balance.		Mistake completed after announcement.	Sheets amended.	Remarks.
												For rent-rates.	For final assessment.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16
Saugor	Area in square miles	...	3,196	225	111	1,487	75	225	256	1,436	1,219	116	819	1,487	225	14
	Number of villages	...	2,084	56	64	872	58	56	160	918	706	88	555	872	56	
Nagpur	Area in square miles	...	3,296	591	591	...	872	1,656	963	936	777	351	875	1,342	591	
	Number of villages	...	1,943	355	355	...	576	1,024	538	574	441	200	520	782	355	
Hoshangabad	Area in square miles	...	2,701	1,051	970	933	763	1,226	1,307	625	631	1,908	2,070	...	805	
	Number of villages	...	1,379*	507	486	495	406	648	642	338	376	937	1,003	...	407	
Chhindwara	Area in square miles	...	2,309	914	752	...	416	...	1,095	1,059	640	1,049	1,669	...	916	
	Number of villages	...	1,413	477	415	...	249	...	599	640	491	609	922	...	478	
Balaghat	Area in square miles	...	1,845	792	342	...	695	12	539	430	93	1,415	1,752	...	782	
	Number of villages	...	895	453	211	...	391	11	309	238	60	657	835	...	446	

\*Decrease is due to amalgamation.