

MAY 08 30

## Note regarding the Settlement of the Azamgarh District.

(13)

1. The parganas now included in the district of Azamgarh were, with the present districts of Gorakhpur and Basti, ceded in 1801 to the British Government, and formed into the British district of Gorakhpur. They continued to be part of Gorakhpur till 1820, when the western parganas were incorporated in the Jaunpur and the eastern in the Gházipur districts. In 1832 Azamgarh was formed into a separate district, the first permanent Collector being Mr. Thomason, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of the Provinces. From annexation up to date the district has been six times settled. The first three settlements were triennial, the fourth was for a period of ten years and expired in 1229 Faslí (1821 A. D.); but after its expiry, a general engagement was taken from the landholders continuing its terms until such time as their lands should be reassessed. From 1822 to 1832, scattered estates or villages were fitfully assessed, but it was not till 1832 that the work of the fifth settlement was really undertaken. Between 1832 and 1837 the fifth settlement, the first on the elaborate principles of later settlements, was carried through. Up till then settlements had been summarily made on the rentroll, without enquiry into the details even of the rentroll. Between 1832 and 1837, village boundaries were, for the first time, demarcated and the villages surveyed, and a record of rights and tenures drawn up. The settlement was made for a period of twenty years, afterwards extended to thirty. In the operations of the fifth settlement, the cultivated area "seems generally to have been classified into rice and "harjins" lands. Average rates were assumed for these classes, and the assumed rental, which the areas and rates gave, checked by comparing the average rate with an assumed average rate for the pargana. The proportion of assumed assets taken varied with the proportion of actual assets taken in the previous settlement from 50 to 66 per cent. Preparations for the sixth settlement began in 1866. Mr. J. J. Lumsden joined as Settlement Officer in 1867, but was a year after relieved by Mr. J. R. Reid, under whose charge settlement work continued till the last volume of the record was in 1377—eleven years after work had started—passed into the Collector's record-room. Mr. Reid's system of assessment followed that of Mr. Thomason in adopting as the main division, for valuation purposes of the cultivated area, that into harjins and rice land. The harjins was in each village divided into *per* and *palo*—the more valuable land round the village site and that outlying—and the rice into three classes according to quality. For each of these subdivisions of cultivated soil, the Settlement Officer, in his inspection for each village, picked out, from amongst the varying rent-rates reported or recorded, those which, personal and caste consideration being set aside, were commonest and seemed fairest in each of the subdivisions of the cultivated land. Finally, putting his mauzawar classification together, he obtained a return for the assessment circle or pargana. His classification recognized six classes of rice land and six classes of harjins land, three of *per* and three of *palo*. For each class in each pargana or assessment circle a separate rate was applied, in some cases different rates were applied to the same soil class according to whether the land was irrigable or not. The rates adopted for rice land varied from Rs. 7-3-3 on acre for the best rice in Nizamabad to Re. 1-12-4 for the poorest unirrigated rice in Mahul. *Per* rates varied from Rs. 10-12-2 in Nizamabad and Maunatbhanjan to Re. 4-8-8 in Mahul; and *palo* rates from Rs. 4-8-9 to Re. 1-5-3. In quoting these figures I have excluded Deogaon, in which Mr. Reid considered that his rates had been fixed too low and assessed well above them. The method adopted was a remarkably pliant and effective one. It implied that due regard was paid to the actual rental rates collected in each village and ensured that what correction of these rates was necessary in an assessment on assumed rates, was made on the spot and whilst the Settlement Officer was actually inspecting the different classes of soil.

1210—1212  
1213—1215  
1216—1219  
1220—1229  
1822—1837

The settlement made was, as will be seen, a remarkably even one with regard to the rental of each village. A jama at half the rental arrived at by means of the classification of the area and the selected rent-rates would have implied a rise of 40 per cent. A number of circumstances, however, combined to bring the aggregate of the jamas assessed below this amount. Those circumstances with which we are at present concerned were—

1st—A drawback allowed on rents payable by high-caste tenants. A comparison of the rates paid at the time of settlement by high-caste and low-caste tenants showed, for the whole district, a high-caste occupancy rate of Rs. 4-1-10 and a low-caste rate of Rs. 5-3-1. A deduction, usually of 12½ per cent. and occasionally rising to 20 per cent., was therefore made in the assumed rental of land held by high-caste tenants with occupancy rights. Mr. Reid remarks on the subject: "This deduction is authorized by law. Custom respecting the rates of rent payable by *classes of tenants* is prescribed as one of the points to be considered in fixing rents."

2nd—It was necessary in some villages to make allowance for turbulence of tenants. It was considered that where the tenants on an estate were habitual defaulters, it was hardly fair to treat the full recorded rental as if it were easily realizable in ordinary years.

3rd—It was necessary in some cases to make allowance for the precarious character of the assets.

4th—The number, character and condition of the landholders had also to be taken into account. In the next settlement this consideration will be of even greater importance. Mr. Reid remarks on the subject: "This consideration acted as much as any other in modifying the estimated assessment. It is needless to say that in maháls full of petty and poor high-caste sharers, the fixing of the jama is not a matter of mere multiplication and division. The livelihood of the people must be considered, especially in maháls in which, owing to the lightness of previous assessments or the great increase discovered in the cultivation, the revenue must, in any case, be heavily enhanced. Sir William Muir's remark that "the absolute amount of profit left to the owner is of far less consequence than the relative amount as regards past income," is specially applicable to Azamgarh."

2. On the other hand, additions for sayar and culturable waste, which had been thrown out of cultivation, added to some extent to the assets. An addition was also made by accepting for assessment purposes rentals which were above average when regularly paid and when the village was prosperous. A consideration of some importance in connection with the proportion of total assumed assets taken as the jama of the district is to be found in the special treatment of pargana Deogaon. It was there found that the rates had been fixed too low and a fuller percentage was in consequence taken. All these reasons for variation being taken into account, the jama actually assessed was less than half the assumed rental on cultivation, Rs. 82,634 or 4.75 per cent. The total amount added for sayar land, thrown out of cultivation and rentals above average, cannot be ascertained from Mr. Reid's report; but it appears certain that, excluding Deogaon, the average proportion of total assets taken throughout this settlement was well below 45 per cent. The proportions taken and the deductions made in different villages were very extensively varied at the discretion of the Settlement Officer, and in some cases the proportion of jama to assumed assets was very low. In the Kachhar circle of Maunatbhanjan it was but little over 25 per cent., and even in the first class villages of Belhabans it was only 37 per cent. throughout the whole circle. The following figures, taken from Mr. Reid's Settlement Report, are interesting as showing the extent of cultivation and land revenue in Azamgarh from the earliest times of which any record exists:—

Pargana.	Time of Akbar.			Revenue at annexation, 1801.	Revenue, 1st settlement, 1803-5.	Revenue, 2nd settlement, 1806-8.	Revenue, 3rd settlement, 1809-12.	Revenue, 4th settlement, 1813-32.	5th settlement, 1832 to 1867.			6th settlement, 1867 to date.		
	Cultivated area.	Revenue.	Revenue rate per acre.						Cultivated area.	Revenue.	Revenue rate per acre.	Cultivated area.	Revenue.	Revenue rate per acre.
	2	3	4						5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Deogson ...	...	...	...	...	...	99,227	98,216	93,090	47,048	1,00,817	2 2 3	58,519	1,09,250	1 13 11
Belhabans ...	7,691	16,309	2 1 11	47,288	42,001	35,062	35,799	33,274	18,511	39,937	2 2 6	21,704	45,087	2 1 2
Nizamabad ...	3,797	15,065	3 15 6	1,71,593	1,59,801	1,66,481	1,88,669	2,02,727	1,20,207	3,04,069	2 8 5	1,58,495	4,06,843	2 9 1
Mahul ...	...	...	...	...	...	99,337	1,19,528	1,18,155	72,767	1,62,228	2 3 8	84,910	2,15,661	2 8 8
Kauria ...	3,603	8,547	2 5 11	1,41,146	1,35,108	35,032	35,866	33,327	19,634	37,917	1 14 11	22,788	47,548	2 1 4
Atraulia ...	6,864	16,359	2 6 2			71,007	81,760	76,511	40,880	81,471	1 15 11	44,834	95,484	2 2 1
Gopalpur ...	2,041	4,610	2 9 2	13,610	20,420	19,668	19,828	20,583	15,201	27,550	1 13 0	18,942	37,986	2 0 1
Sagri ...	12,370	31,868	2 9 3	1,07,328	1,00,076	99,479	96,654	98,346	60,604	1,26,989	2 1 6	83,668	1,67,152	2 0 1
Ghosi ...	15,206	33,113	2 2 16	71,250	74,760	60,886	62,231	68,892	43,455	94,005	2 2 8	60,909	1,35,434	2 3 9
Nathpur ...	3,093	6,837	2 3 4			25,695	21,010	21,713	20,832	17,761	36,842	2 1 2	20,662	46,866
Kiriam Mitta ...	5,620	13,785	2 7 3	82,780	20,812	9,544	9,946	10,347	6,050	14,268	2 5 10	7,717	17,789	2 4 11
Chiria Kote ...	8,846	20,196	2 4 6	24,086	25,822	29,028	30,271	30,110	21,843	49,304	1 15 11	26,523	59,544	2 4 11
Muhammabad ...	35,219	80,727	2 4 8	89,887	1,02,276	1,11,467	1,18,045	1,22,247	72,161	1,60,912	2 3 8	1,12,604	2,55,110	2 4 3
Mau Natbhanjan ...	1,653	5,227	2 3 4	4,499	10,358	9,118	9,559	9,594	4,612	11,635	2 8 4	8,034	18,437	2 4 9
Taufir lands ...	...	...	...	...	12,480	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1,06,003	2,52,643	2 6 2	6,93,767	7,59,609	8,57,346	9,28,085	9,33,035	5,60,739	12,42,274	2 3 8	7,30,309	16,58,191	2 4 4

The dates during which the revenue shown in columns 9, 11 and 14 was collected vary from pargana to pargana, and for the district are approximately correct only. Parganas Mahul and Deogaon were formed after annexation, and the revenue for these parganas, for the earlier periods, cannot be ascertained. These figures are remarkable as showing that, whilst the revenue of Azamgarh has, within historical times, increased to probably five times its original amount, the incidence of the increased revenue on the cultivated area has but little altered. The constant decrease in the proportion of assets taken by Government has been sufficient to counter-balance, so far as the incidence of the Government revenue is concerned, the increase in proprietary profits due to increase in prices and in the demand for land for cultivation.

3. The revenue history of the Azamgarh district up to the sixth settlement is a study of some interest in connection with the questions to be decided in the present settlement. We have seen that the demand in its relation to the total value of the produce has altered considerably in favour of the zamindar classes and against the Government. The agricultural history of the district is one of unusual prosperity: famines are unknown, grievous distress rare, extension of cultivation constant; and yet from the period of annexation onwards, the revenue administration of Azamgarh has been a continued struggle with difficulties in collection—difficulties which, there is abundant reason to believe, have been due not in any degree to the severity of the demand, but to the character and composition of the revenue-paying body. In the most favourable circumstances constant and prolonged “dunning” has been, as pointed out by Mr. Reid, as necessary throughout Azamgarh for the Government, as amongst a high-caste tenantry it is necessary for the landlord. Revenue has always in Azamgarh been collected with difficulty; where any opportunity for deferring payment presents itself, combinations to resist payment have invariably been extensive and the difficulties of collection greatly intensified. At the same time, throughout the period of British rule, resort to the major process of sale for arrears of revenue has been rare; and the history of sales for revenue debt in Azamgarh presents a remarkably favourable contrast to that in many other districts in the province. It is obviously fair to infer that the difficulties in collection are due not to the severity of the demand or the poverty of the revenue payers, but to local characteristics detailed at some length in the account of the proprietary body and the history of the revenue administration contained in the Settlement Report. Briefly, the reasons for the trouble in collection in Azamgarh are the complexity of the tenures of the district, the great numbers of co-sharers liable to pay revenue, the entire absence of any working zamindari system, and a hereditary disinclination to pay Government dues.

4. Since the sixth settlement the revenue history has not been materially different. The difficulty of collection of revenue has been always a leading feature in Azamgarh work. The remarks by the former Collector in his No.  $\frac{2649}{1-7}$ , dated 31st July 1895, show how prominently this difficulty impresses itself on a revenue officer when first sent to the district. A brief statement of the present position of the district, as compared with that in 1867, when Mr. Reid's settlement was made will, however, make it clear that the view taken in Mr. Lovett's second letter, dated 6th March 1896, is the juster. The agricultural position of the district has been since affected mainly by—

- 1 the increase in prices;
- 2 an increase in population;
- 3 an increase in the cultivated area and a change in the system of cultivation;
- 4 an increase in rents, which is to some extent the result of the changes in the factors first mentioned.

5. The gross increase in prices is shown in the following statement, the figures for which are derived from the returns of *retail* prices periodically published in the *Government Gazette* :—

*Statement showing the variation in retail prices in the Azamgarh district from 1861 to 1895.*

	1861-65.	1866-1870.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.
Wheat ... ..	24.70	20.31	16.54	16.87	18.71	14.97	13.40
Barley ... ..	30.91	25.18	22.66	24.07	27.75	20.15	18.22
Gram ... ..	28.50	21.75	21.06	19.75	23.88	20.26	18.10
Common rice ... ..	20.62	18.38	15.54	15.72	15.06	14.82	13.13
Arhar ... ..	32.79	24.32	15.93	17.27	19.62	15.03	13.96
Average ... ..	27.50	21.98	18.34	18.73	21.60	17.04	15.86

The percentage of difference between prices in the period of five years preceding last settlement and the period of five years ending with 1895 is considerable, but it will be observed that this pronounced and sustained rise begins with the period 1886-90. It is no doubt to a considerable extent connected with the fall in the value of silver, but it is almost equally probable that the general character of the seasons from 1885 onwards has had considerable influence on prices, and it cannot therefore be assumed that the prices for the last ten years are those natural in Azamgarh in seasons of average prosperity. However this may be, it is most important to note that the greater part of the rise has been very recent and has not yet had time to react fully on the rental of a district in which so large a proportion of the area is held by occupancy tenants.

The result of an enquiry as to prices in Azamgarh, therefore, is (1) that there has been within the last ten years a distinct and important rise, which, in default of any currency legislation of a character far more drastic than has yet been contemplated is likely to be maintained; (2) that the rise has been so recent as not to have greatly affected rents; and (3) that it is nevertheless *prima facie* certain to affect the rent-paying capacity of the district in future.

This last conclusion can be considered to be reliable only *prima facie* until some idea has been formed as to how far the surplus available for the payment of rent has been affected by the history of the past thirty years. Some opinion has to be formed as to how far the increase in population has swallowed up the surplus which remains for payment of rent after providing for the support of the cultivators whose maintenance is the first charge on the land.

6. As regards the gross yield of produce in the Azamgarh district, the figures are such as to indicate a difference so striking as to make lengthy comment unnecessary. Of the present situation of the district, the returns of the last two years afford no fair indication. In both years the ordinary productive power of the district was seriously curtailed by the occurrence of drought which, in a district like Azamgarh, must be considered as abnormal in the extreme. The year 1301 Faslî appears to be one the returns for which indicate accurately enough the ordinary position of the district,

	Cultivated area.	Corrected rent-roll.
1297 ... ..	8,53,122	44,71,118
1298 ... ..	8,42,550	45,64,481
1299 ... ..	8,18,688	43,93,576
1300 ... ..	8,25,353	44,06,244
1301 ... ..	8,40,687	45,10,854
1302 ... ..	8,29,641	45,14,634
1303 ... ..	8,08,333	44,78,699
1304 ... ..	5,93,067	

\* Not yet available.

and they will therefore be employed in forecasting the prospects of the future settlement. That the figures for 1301 Faslî are fairly normal may be gathered from the figures given in the margin, showing the cultivated area and gross corrected rentroll for that and previous and succeeding years.

7. The change in the Azamgarh system of cultivation, which has taken place during the period of settlement, is briefly indicated in the accompanying statement showing cultivated and crop areas for the year of settlement and for 1301 Faslî, from which land prepared for sugarcane is excluded:—

## Statement showing crop and cultivated area, district Azamgarh.

Staples.	Settlement area.	Area for 1801 Fasl.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
Wheat, pure ... ..	9,846	21,708	+11,862	+120.47
Wheat, mixed ... ..	7,339	72,495	+65,156	+887.80
Barley ... ..	2,22,140	1,94,503	-27,637	-12.44
Rice ... ..	3,33,154	3,22,484	-10,670	-3.20
Arhar ... ..	32,974	45,066	+12,092	+36.67
Gram ... ..	6,086	18,550	+11,864	+177.4
Maize ... ..	891	26,778	+25,887	+2905.3
Juar ... ..	...	2,836	+2,836	...
Bájra ... ..	872	1,966	+1,094	+125.4
Mandwa ... ..	719	26,509	+25,790	+3,586.9
Kodon and other small millets ... ..	4,405	53,784	+49,379	+1,120.9
Urd, mung, moth and lobis ... ..	2,357	7,494	+5,137	+217.9
Peas and masur ... ..	89,850	1,31,604	+42,254	+47.2
Linseed ... ..	4,384	8,542	+4,158	+94.8
Til ... ..	...	1,187	+1,187	...
Sarson and lahi ... ..	268	170	-98	-36.5
Sugarcane ... ..	91,297	82,494	-8,803	-9.64
Cotton ... ..	394	440	+46	+11.6
Hemp ... ..	30	1,874	+1,844	+6,146.6
Indigo ... ..	23,400	27,059	+3,659	+15.64
Garden crops ... ..	10,565	10,437	-98	-0.9
Miscellaneous crops ... ..	23	5,487	+5,464	+23,756.5
Total crop area ... ..	8,41,094	10,63,497	+2,22,403	+26.44
Deduct do-fasli area ... ..	1,20,300	2,22,810	+1,02,510	+85.21
Balance, cultivated area ... ..	7,20,794	8,40,687	+1,19,893	+16.63

The cultivated area has risen by 16 per cent., and the total crop area by 26 per cent., the do-fasli area having nearly doubled. This change has been of late so fully recognized in the majority of districts that it is unnecessary to dwell on details. It most undoubtedly indicates an important addition to the gross produce of the district during the time in which it occurred, a change which, it would seem, is in itself nearly sufficient to provide for the support of the increased population the district now possesses.

8. The total density of population in Azamgarh was at last census 804 per square mile, the district standing fourth in the North-Western Provinces in this respect. It is, however, considerably more exclusively rural than any of the districts which exceed it in total density and in density of rural population. Azamgarh with 763 persons per square mile stands first. How long the district has borne a pressure of population at all so excessive, the figures for censuses taken before 1881 are not accurate enough to give any definite idea. The census report gives the following figures for Azamgarh at each of the different censuses which have been taken in the North-Western Provinces :—

(1) Census of 1848 ... ..	1,120,682
Percentage on population of 1891 ... ..	70
(2) Census of 1853 ... ..	1,415,435
Percentage on population of 1891 ... ..	82
(3) Census of 1865 ... ..	1,205,114
Percentage on population of 1891 ... ..	70
(4) Census of 1872 ... ..	1,317,626
Percentage on population of 1891 ... ..	76
(5) Census of 1881 ... ..	1,604,654
Percentage on population of 1891 ... ..	93

These figures would indicate that where there were in 1891 100 persons in the Azamgarh district there were at last settlement only 70, but that from before the Mutiny till 1891 the rise was only from 82 to 100. There can, however, be little doubt that the proportion of increase shown since 1865 is exaggerated by the fact that each succeeding census tends, owing to elaboration of the processes of enumeration, to be more exhaustive than that which preceded it. An increase there no doubt has been,

and in all probability within the period of settlement it has been considerable, but it has not been by any means so large as these figures show, and probably is exaggerated, even by the rise from 82 to 100 indicated by the census of 1853. Taking 25 per cent. as the increase in population during the period of settlement, we are well above the actual percentage, as much above it in all probability as the 26 per cent. increase in the crop area is above the increase in the food production. Even leaving out of view the increase in the means of livelihood to be earned abroad by the migrant population of the district, there appears to be some reason to believe that Azamgarh is now just as well able to support its population as it was thirty years ago, and that as a consequence the surplus available for payment of rent, without deteriorating the cultivator's standard of comfort, is not materially reduced. The increase in rent during the past thirty years has not been great for any class of tenants. The rates for occupancy and non-occupancy tenants are as follows:—

		Occupancy.	Non-occupancy.
		Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.
Settlement	...	4-13-3	4-9-8
1301F.	...	5-3-8	5-1-1
Increase per cent.	...	8%	10%

9. Taking into consideration the extensive rise in prices, the increase in the area under cultivation, and the still larger increase in the cropped area, and setting against these increases in produce and value of produce the increase in population and the very modest increase in recorded rents, it can hardly be doubted that the district is as well able to pay revenue to a full proportion of the present recorded rental as it was at last settlement. Two important facts which support this conclusion present themselves in enquiring into the present state of the Azamgarh district: the first has regard to the zamindars, the comparatively low rate of transfers, the second to the tenants, the steady and considerable increase in occupancy rights.

10. The accompanying statement shows the number of mutations by sale for 12 years:—

*Mutations of immovable property effected under the Revenue Act.*

District.	Year.	Sales.							Number of mortgages.	Number of redemption of mortgages.	Total number of cases (columns 7 and 10).	Remarks.
		Under orders of court.		By private transfer.		Total sales.						
		Number of sales.	Revenue of property transferred.	Number of sales.	Revenue of property transferred.	Number of sales.	Revenue of property transferred.	Percentage of sales on land revenue.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Azamgarh.	1883-84	94	2,555	453	8,295	547	10,850	0.63	340	...	887	
	1884-85	112	3,545	436	6,799	548	10,344	0.60	304	...	852	
	1885-86	186	4,056	277	7,334	463	11,890	0.66	228	...	691	
	1886-87	82	1,741	521	12,921	603	14,662	0.85	242	14	845	
	1887-88	80	774	507	8,254	587	9,028	0.52	191	27	778	
	Total of 5 years	554	12,671	2,194	43,603	2,748	56,274	...	1,305	41	4,053	
	Average of 5 years	111	2,534	439	8,721	550	11,255	0.65	261	8	811	
	1888-89	73	1,434	452	11,048	525	12,482	0.72	181	42	706	
	1889-90	145	3,306	438	9,364	583	12,730	0.74	181	33	764	
	1890-91	88	1,456	578	9,462	666	10,918	0.63	704	105	1,370	
	1891-92	134	3,866	602	11,165	736	15,031	0.87	273	52	1,009	
	1892-93	158	4,208	756	12,680	914	16,888	0.97	237	41	1,151	
	Total of 5 years	598	14,330	2,826	53,719	3,424	68,049	...	1,576	273	5,000	
	Average of 5 years	120	2,866	565	10,744	685	13,610	0.78	315	55	1,000	
	1893-94	157	2,128	433	11,079	770	13,207	0.66	281	30	1,051	
1894-95	183	3,151	670	17,801	853	20,952	1.21	214	24	1,067		
Total of 12 years	1,492	32,280	6,303	1,26,202	7,795	1,58,482	...	3,376	368	11,171		
Average of 12 years	124	2,690	525	10,517	650	13,207	0.76	281	31	931		

The percentages compare with those for the Benares division and for the North-Western Provinces as follows. The Benares division is taken as the standard for comparison, as the agricultural circumstances of Azamgarh far more closely approximate to those of that division than to those of Gorakhpur and Basti :—

	Percentage of revenue annually transferred to total revenue.
Azamgarh ... ..	76
Benares Division ... ..	93
North-Western Provinces ...	130

Regarding mortgages, no definite information is available ; but on village inspection in Azamgarh, the comparatively small burden of mortgage debt on the ordinary Hindu zamindár, as well as the rarity of transfers outside the community, impresses strongly one who has been used to the deeply involved small zamindárs of Oudh. For Oudh the bulk of the small zamindárs are underproprietors, and figures to compare with those given above are not available.

11. As regards tenants, 60 per cent. of the tenant area was held with occupancy rights at last settlement ; 58 per cent. is now recorded as held with occupancy rights, but of the area shown in the Land Record statistics as held at will, considerably more than one-half has been cultivated by the present holders for over twelve years. The settlement attestation will no doubt show not less than 75 per cent. of the tenant area as held with occupancy rights.

12. These preliminary points have been dealt with at some length, because there is undoubtedly a tendency to consider the Azamgarh district as a typical overpopulated and poverty-stricken one. This belief is controverted by the circumstances just detailed, and is, there can be little doubt, due to the difficulties in the collection of revenue which have been already referred to.

It has, it is trusted, been made clear that the circumstances of the Azamgarh district justify a revision of the revenue demand, if the rental is such as to permit of such an increase. The increase, which may be expected for the district as a whole, has now to be indicated. Accepting for the present the recorded cash tenant rates, it has to be decided how sîr and other assumption areas have to be corrected, for the high occupancy rate is largely due to the fact that the best, the old cultivated lands round the villages, are held by occupancy tenants. For sîr lands, this superiority to the general cultivated area is still more distinctly marked, and a full all-over rental for the sîr would therefore be even higher than that for occupancy lands. A sîr allowance, which was generally given at last settlement, will have to be given again, and for the large pâtidâri bodies will, in all probability, have to be the full 25 per cent. For owners' lands, as a whole, a deduction of about 20 per cent. may be allowed.

Taking this deduction into consideration, and allowing for the comparative superiority of the sîr lands, Rs. 4-5-10, or one-sixth below the occupancy rate, will in all probability be a fair rate to apply. Grain-rents are partly outlying rice, partly upland cultivation in good soil held by tenants-at-will. For these lands the area is unimportant, the actual rents obtained in 1801 appear to be fair. For the small rent-free area Rs. 4 is probably enough. We thus get the following rentroll :—

	Area.	Rs.
Tenants-at-will, actuals ... ..	2,12,178	10,74,853
Occupancy tenants, actuals ... ..	2,69,631	14,09,947
Ex-proprietary tenants ... ..	8,153	31,333
Sîr and Khudkasht at Rs. 4-5-10 ...	3,50,206	15,30,046
Grain-rented, actuals ... ..	26,666	1,14,963
Rent-free at Rs. 4 ... ..	5,849	23,396
Sayar (half recorded) ... ..	...	10,310
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>8,72,683</b>	<b>41,94,848</b>

Half recorded sayar only has been included, as non-assessable items are frequently shown. From this total has to be deducted Rs. 2,15,877, assets of the somewhat extensive permanently-settled and revenue-free area, leaving assets of Rs. 39,78,971 on an area on which Rs. 16,83,428 is paid. A 50 per cent. assessment would give an increase of Rs. 3,06,057, or 18 per cent.

13. A 50 per cent. assessment is of course impossible, but there are counterbalancing circumstances which will in all probability raise the resultant jama to a sum not far below that given above. The district is not one in which a general enhancement of rents could be contemplated; but there are no doubt many villages in which some enhancement will take place. A far more important addition to the recorded rental will no doubt be derived from an examination of the rentrolls. From the time of the last settlement onwards, the amount of falsification in the rents of low-caste tenants in Azamgarh has been pronounced to be great. Enquiry after enquiry has been made, and in one enquiry by Pandit Ramashankar a considerable sum added to the rental recorded. The majority of villages, however, were outside the scope of the enquiry, and there can be little doubt that there is still extensive concealment, and that a revision of records will add considerably to the recorded rentroll. How far it will do so it is impossible to conjecture; but there can be little doubt that an enhancement of 2½ lakhs will be obtained without taking an excessive percentage of the assets and after allowing for improvements and precarious rents.

14. The appended statement gives an approximate estimate of the increase in each pargana:—

Pargana.	Current jama, excluding permanently-settled tracts.	Jama at half estimated assets.	Percentage of increase.	Remarks.
Nizamabad ...	2,93,994	3,25,040	10.56	
Deogaon ...	1,09,481	1,54,631	41.24	
Bela Daulatabad...	1,13,888	1,21,934	7.54	
Belhabans ...	43,924	55,447	26.23	
Kariat Mittu ...	17,376	18,762	7.97	
Cheria Kot ...	60,146	66,296	10.22	
Muhammadabad ...	2,56,491	2,82,133	9.99	
Mau Natbhanjan...	18,731	22,759	21.50	
Atraulia ...	95,621	1,07,443	12.36	
Kauria ...	47,649	52,440	14.20	
Mahul ...	2,15,753	2,45,925	13.98	
Gopalpur ...	49,775	62,438	25.44	
Sagri ...	1,73,917	2,36,209	35.82	
Ghozi ...	137,562	1,79,507	30.49	
Nathupur ...	49,620	56,501	13.86	
Total ...	16,83,428	19,89,485	18.18	

It will be seen that Deogaon gives by far the largest rate of increase, that for Belhabans is also large, and that the only other considerable rises are in Mau and the northern parganas. In Deogaon and Belhabans the high percentage of increase is due to underassessment at last settlement. The fact was recognized by Mr. Reid himself. In the northern parganas the rise is due to the fact that rents have risen and cultivation improved to a far greater extent than in the older cultivation and amongst the denser population of the south.

15. It has already been determined that the maps of Azamgarh are to be revised, and the cadastral survey starts in the cold weather of 1898. It may be readily determined that attestation should follow. The new maps, the large sir and occupancy areas, and the doubt as to the accuracy of the record of rents, are cogent reasons. The fact that the survey originally started in 1895 has been so long deferred produces some difficulty in the assessment of the parganas that first fall in. The

dates of expiry of settlement and the area and number of villages of each are given in the following statement :—

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Area in square miles.	Number of villages.	Year of expiry of settlement.	Remarks.
AZAMGARH	Nizamabád ...	314	932	1902	
	Deogaon ...	200	450	1900	
DEOGAON.	Bela Daulatabad ...	128	230	1902	
	Belhabans ...	61	179	1901	
	Kariyat Mittu ...	23	68	1904	
MUHAMMADABAD.	Chiriakot ...	74	289	1904	
	Muhammadabad ...	307	736	1905	
	Mau Natbhanjan ...	23	52	1905	
MAHUL.	Atraulia ...	116	370	1903	
	Kauria ...	60	145	1903	
	Mahul ...	260	518	1904	
SAGRI.	Gopalpur ...	64	178	1904	
	Sagri ...	229	677	1904	
	Ghosi ...	166	378	1905	
	Nathupur ...	125	324	1905	
	Total ...	2,150	5,526	...	

It will be necessary to push on the survey and attestation of records in tahsil Deogaon (389 square miles), so that the figures may be ready for a Settlement Officer starting work in 1899. Azamgarh and Mahul (750 square miles) will be taken up in 1900 and Sagri and Muhammadabad (1,011 square miles), in 1901. For the later parganas both survey and settlement will be well ahead of the expiry of the current period.

16. There can be no doubt that a separate Settlement Officer will be required. The district is a heavy one, and the Collector has his hands full. Well-proportioned as the jamas were thirty years ago, the inequality in the prospective rises is nevertheless considerable. The following statement shows for 304 villages for which jamas have been estimated, the percentage of variation expected :—

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Total number of villages inspected.	Decrease indicated.	Increase.		
				Not exceeding 10 per cent.	10 to 25 per cent.	Over 25 per cent.
AZAMGARH.	Nizamabád ...	61	6	28	16	11
	Deogaon ...	24	4	3	5	12
DEOGAON.	Bela Daulatabad ...	18	6	5	5	2
	Belhabans ...	3	...	1	...	2
	Total ...	45	10	9	10	16
MUHAMMADABAD.	Muhammadabad ...	37	7	7	15	8
	Kariyat Mittu ...	2	2	...	...	...
	Mau Natbhanjan ...	5	1	...	4	...
	Chiriakot ...	13	1	5	5	2
	Total ...	57	11	12	24	10
MAHUL.	Atraulia ...	14	...	7	4	3
	Kauria ...	12	...	6	3	3
	Mahul ...	49	5	20	14	10
	Total ...	75	5	33	21	16
SAGRI.	Gopalpur ...	7	...	...	3	4
	Sagri ...	29	1	6	8	14
	Ghosi ...	20	2	10	2	6
	Nathupur ...	10	3	1	3	3
	Total ...	66	6	17	16	27
	Grand Total ...	304	38	99	87	80
	Percentage ...	100	12.50	32.57	28.62	26.31

Even with the low total rise anticipated, 55 per cent. of the villages indicate a rise which requires consideration. For the last two years an Assistant Settlement Officer will be required.

D. C. BAILLIE.

Pargana.	to—		Tenants' cash-rented lands.							Other lands.							Sawai assets.	Half sawai assets taken into account for jama.	Total of columns 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 19.	Deduction for assets of revenue-free tenure and permanently-settle mahals.	Assessable assets.	Assessment at half asset.	Government Revenue demand.	Actual enhancement.
	Column 11.	Columns 13 and 15.	Tenants-at-will.		Occupancy tenants.		Ex-proprietary tenants.		Sir and khudkasht.		Grain-rented.		Rent-free.											
	Area.	Recorded rent.	Area.	Recorded rent.	Area.	Recorded rent.	Area.	Applied rent.	Area.	Applied rent.	Area.	Applied rent.	Area.	Applied rent.										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Nizamabad ...	4 8 8		25,903	1,40,186	46,607	2,53,965	1,200	5,463	51,765	2,35,099	4,475	16,879	858	3,432	3,331	1,665	6,56,630	6,610	6,50,079	3,25,940	2,93,994	31,046		
Deogaon ...	4 4 10		11,462	60,109	14,624	75,480	119	446	45,131	1,94,157	5,922	22,100	738	2,952	232	116	3,55,366	46,104	3,09,262	1,54,631	1,09,481	45,150		
Bela Daulatabad,	4 11 3		7,243	37,979	15,440	87,025	355	1,523	20,517	96,494	4,556	19,465	308	1,232	514	257	2,43,975	106	2,43,869	1,21,934	1,13,388	8,546		
Belhabans ...	4 1 11		5,842	29,807	7,129	35,237	63	286	10,239	42,182	531	2,620	193	772	224	112	1,11,016	123	1,10,893	55,447	43,924	11,523		
Total ...	4 6 2		24,546	1,27,895	37,193	1,97,748	537	2,255	75,887	3,32,833	11,009	44,185	1,239	4,956	970	485	7,10,357	46,333	6,64,024	3,32,012	2,66,793	65,219		
Karyat Mitta ...	4 3 7		1,027	4,847	2,706	13,719	61	271	3,847	16,250	411	2,329	35	140	20	10	37,566	42	37,524	18,762	17,376	1,386		
Chirakot ...	4 2 7		6,060	33,308	9,405	46,996	379	1,953	12,580	52,351	254	1,107	129	510	226	113	1,36,344	3,752	1,32,592	66,296	60,146	6,150		
Muhammabad,	3 15 8		30,406	1,58,455	45,181	2,15,863	923	3,660	51,836	2,06,264	2,500	11,062	385	1,540	2,475	1,237	5,99,081	34,816	5,64,266	2,82,133	2,56,491	25,642		
Mau Natthanjan,	4 4 11		2,930	16,331	2,730	14,126	...	...	3,554	15,308	...	...	40	160	147	74	45,999	480	45,519	22,759	18,731	4,028		
Total ...	4 0 8		40,423	2,12,941	60,022	2,90,704	1,364	6,884	71,817	2,90,173	3,165	14,498	589	2,356	2,868	1,434	8,18,990	39,089	7,79,901	3,89,950	3,52,744	37,206		
Atraulia ...	3 13 10		10,479	49,157	21,536	99,880	2,257	7,945	14,331	55,883	14	70	333	1,332	2,605	1,302	2,15,069	182	2,14,887	1,07,443	95,621	11,822		
Kauria ...	3 14 6		4,377	22,901	8,842	41,468	717	2,666	10,580	41,328	4	38	189	756	115	58	1,09,215	296	1,08,919	54,460	47,649	6,811		
Mahul ...	4 12 2		17,406	1,02,138	37,787	2,16,565	609	2,233	29,816	1,42,402	6,881	34,528	1,765	7,060	3,109	1,555	5,06,479	14,629	4,91,850	2,45,925	2,15,753	30,172		
Total ...	4 5 11		32,262	1,74,196	68,165	3,57,913	3,583	12,842	54,727	2,39,113	6,899	34,636	2,287	9,148	5,829	2,915	8,30,793	15,107	8,15,686	4,07,828	3,59,023	48,805		
Gopalpur ...	4 4 0		10,121	45,247	6,683	34,095	104	110	10,583	44,978	11	96	138	552	136	68	1,25,146	270	1,24,876	62,438	49,775	12,663		
Sagri ...	4 10 7		27,008	1,32,325	21,951	1,22,835	799	2,090	46,482	2,16,674	64	564	304	1,216	403	201	4,75,905	3,487	4,72,418	2,36,209	1,73,917	62,292		
Ghosi ...	4 10 1		27,669	1,49,377	17,057	94,791	177	691	23,540	1,08,995	945	3,624	188	752	2,949	1,474	3,59,704	690	3,59,014	1,79,507	1,37,562	41,945		
Nathupur ...	4 0 7		23,916	92,686	11,953	57,894	390	998	15,405	62,181	98	481	246	984	4,135	2,068	2,17,294	1,04,291	1,13,003	56,501	49,620	6,881		
Total ...	4 8 1		89,044	4,19,635	57,644	3,09,617	1,470	3,889	96,010	4,32,828	1,118	4,765	876	3,504	7,623	3,811	11,78,049	1,08,738	10,69,311	5,34,655	4,10,874	1,23,781		

No. <sup>3159</sup><sub>1-15</sub>, dated the 14th March 1896.

From—M. L. FERRAR, ESQ., I.C.S., Commissioner, Gorakhpur Division,  
To—The Director of Land Records and Agriculture,  
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

SIR,—In continuation of correspondence, ending with your No. <sup>4488</sup><sub>11-93</sub>, dated 28th September 1895, concerning the proposed revision of settlement in the Azamgarh district, I have the honor to report as follows:—

2. Since receiving that letter I have marched over a portion of the district and have discussed its agricultural capabilities with many of the landlords and with the Collector.

3. I enclose a copy of his original report and of his last letter on the subject, No. <sup>1064</sup><sub>1-7</sub>, dated the 6th instant.

4. You asked for my opinion as to—

(i) Condition of village maps: are they sufficiently accurate for settlement purposes?

To this I reply that their condition is bad and that new maps should be made.

(ii) Is a revision of settlement advisable on financial grounds?

It would certainly not be advisable now. The district has passed through a cycle of disasters and time should be given to it to recover. The survey operations, which were to have commenced in this last cold weather, have been countermanded, and this is probably indicative of a wish on the part of Government not to hurry on the settlement.

(iii) What increase may be expected?

It is difficult to answer this. Rents have certainly risen. At the same time the population has increased enormously, from 1,317,554 at last settlement to 1,733,509 in 1891, or 807 to the square mile, and it is probably more now. The land has stood still, while the people—*fruges consumere nati*—have increased. The enhancement in the land revenue cannot possibly be great.

(iv) Can a rateable enhancement be imposed?

Certainly not: *vide* Collector's report on this subject.

(v) What would be the probable course and duration of settlement operations?

They should commence in the oldest assessed tahsil, Deogaon. Their duration would depend on the strength and capability and precision of the staff employed.

(vi) Can the Collector do the work or should a separate Settlement Officer be appointed?

The Collector and Magistrate of Azamgarh could by no means do the work in addition to his own. This requires no explanation and Government is aware of it.

5. I consider the district to be in by no means that flourishing state as would justify an expectation of much financial gain were it to be reassessed just now. Unlike the Oudh districts lately reassessed, it has had no great areas of uncultivated land to bring under the plough: and unlike them—I leave out Fyzabad and Lucknow and Bara Banki—its population per square mile is appalling in its density. Nor has it any large landowners or talukdars whose presence in a district facilitates so much the collection of the land revenue. Leaving out the bankers, its largest landowners are in debt and some of them are insolvent. Its only Rāja is a pauper, *quā* Rāja, with not Rs. 200—much of which is a life pension—per mensem to live on. And its general population, as I have said before, has passed through a cycle of disasters which are still pressing on them.

No.  $\frac{2649}{1-7}$  dated the 31st July 1895.

From—H. V. LOVETT, Esq., C.S., *Officiating Collector, Azamgarh,*

To—The Commissioner, *Gorakhpur Division.*

SIR,—In compliance with your No.  $\frac{5983}{1-15}$ , dated 25th June 1895, enclosing a letter from the Director of Land Records, dated the 21st idem, I have the honor to report as follows on the prospects of the forthcoming revision of settlement :—

2. The last two settlements of this district were conducted by Mr. Thomason in 1834-37, and Mr. Reid in 1868-75.

3. Mr. Thomason's assessment was certainly a moderate one, and the only statistics available show that it worked with great ease. It was unaccompanied by cesses\* ; there was still a good deal of land left to bring under tillage ; and the population of the district was by no means as dense as it is in these days of high pressure. Mr. Thomason himself, at the conclusion of his labours, was of opinion that assessment had practically reached its highest limit in Azamgarh, but the next Settlement Officer exceeded that limit by 33 per cent. Mr. Reid thought that his predecessor had misconceived the amount of land still available for cultivation, had been unable to foresee the opening out of the country by railways and the fall in the value of money, and had believed that the increasing pressure of the proprietary population on the land would prevent any enhancements in Government's share of profits. The last of these considerations is, however, one to which great weight should be given in this district, and it is not hard to understand why Mr. Thomason made it a potent factor in his estimate of future prospects.

4. The last of Mr. Reid's settlement of revenue was declared in May 1875, though, under a system of progressive assessments, applied to some parganas, the new jama was not exacted in full until 1879. The following table illustrates the manner in which this "jama" has been collected :—

Periods.	Coercive processes				
	Dastaks.	Arrests.	Attachments of movable property.	Sales of movable property.	Attachments under section 154.
From 1875-76 to 1878-79 (inclusive) ...	23,675	27	210	50	98
From 1885-86 to 1888-89 ...	13,001	2,234	5,742	40	70
From 1890-91 to 1893-94 ...	24,054	11,431	7,533	57	49

The arrests and attachments figures of the first period are unreliable. In 1884-85 the Collector discovered that for years past they had been fudged, and it is certainly marvellous that they should ever have been accepted. To suppose that in this district during four years there was only need of 27 arrests and 210 attachments of movable property, requires a sublime confidence in talukdars and their figures, which is not easily attained.

The figures of the two later periods, however, are reliable and speak for themselves. They show that the last settlement jama is realized with increasing difficulty as time goes on, and there are other figures to support this assumption and illustrate the impoverished state of many of the Azamgarh landlords.

5. It may be said that there have been no sales of land to liquidate arrears of revenue and few sales of movable property. There have; but transfers of revenue-paying land have been steadily increasing. Auction purchases averaged :—

From	1837 to	1847	...	...	...	Ra.	per annum.
"	1848 "	1858	...	...	...	17	" "
"	1859 "	1874	...	...	...	46	" "
"	1879-80 "	1883-84	...	...	...	81	" "
"	1889-90 "	1893-94	...	...	...	136	" "

I regret to say that my pending file is now very heavy, and that it is seldom that I am able to avert sale. Private purchases too averaged :—

From	1837 to	1847	...	...	...	Ra.	per annum.
"	1848 "	1858	...	...	...	122	" "
"	1859 "	1874	...	...	...	313	" "
"	1879-80 "	1883-84	...	...	...	493	" "

During the last three years they have been 602, 754 and 610. They began the decade from 1879-80 to 1889-90 with 2,457 as a single year's figure; on four occasions fell below 500, and in the remaining years varied from 507 to 758.

6. I may add that not only has the standard of comfort among the Azamgarh zamindárs certainly not risen since Mr. Reid's day, but that it is the exception to find a landholder of any considerable importance, not a money-lender or indigo manufacturer, who is free from heavy pecuniary embarrassments.

7. Why are these things so? Why has coercion in collecting revenue increased, although the assessment is many years old? Why are times harder now with many landowners than they were twenty years ago?

The answers to such questions are not hard to find, and are these—

(a). First among causes of the present impoverishment of the landholders, I would place the constantly swelling numbers of the proprietary bodies. Both Mr. White and Mr. Baillie found that in density of population Azamgarh stood fourth in these provinces, but in density of rural population, Mr. Baillie ranks it first with a figure of 762.6 to the square mile. The district is very largely owned by communities, the members of which subsist on the profits which remain from the produce of the land after deduction of the Government revenue, and the residuum left with the "tenants." One brief illustration of the numbers in which these members abound in some villages will be sufficient. In pargana Nizamabad, tahsil Azamgarh, there are 982 villages, 1,223 maháls, 32,227 proprietors, eighteen of whom hold one village each, eight of whom hold two villages each, two three, one four, one five, one six, one ten and one thirteen. The remaining proprietors hold their villages in communities, which vary in number from 2 to 764; it is manifest that only a very considerable expansion of profits would enable these to comfortably subsist, while paying the revenue which was imposed on a former and scantier generation.

(b). The complete disappearance of the lambardári system, which has led to an absence of anything like method in the internal economy of many proprietary communities. Instead of the lambardárs collecting the rents, paying the revenue and apportioning the profits, *varying* arrangements are tried under which either some members collect rents for themselves and several others, or each of the members has certain of the common tenants allotted to him or collects his share of the rent of each of the common tenants.

Arrangements of the last mentioned kind are very frequent, and it is easy to imagine the wrangling, confusion of accounts, and loss in which they often result. Progress and prosperity do not spring from such conditions. Not only too has payment of revenue by lambardárs almost vanished into oblivion, but much time is now lost and trouble caused by the fact that Mr. Reid's "bacchbandi" books and slips have become largely representative of a former state of things. Mr. Reid was

anxious that each co-parcener should know precisely the extent of his share of revenue, and should be able to pay it direct to the tahsildárs. But his "bacchbandi" books, which were intended to supply the information necessary to secure so desirable an end, contain no place for mutations and have never been kept up to date. Thus, it often happens that a zamíndár comes to the tahsíl determined to pay as little as possible, and in consequence of some recent partition or transfer, uncertain as to what his exact share is. The *wasilbaki-navis* may not know in how many villages he has shares, and after a long search, in which the settlement 'bacchbandi,' the khewat, and perhaps a rough 'bacchbandi' prepared by the patwári, are called into requisition, a figure is given which may possibly be incorrect or omit a share in some particular village. The zamíndár goes away after paying what is then demanded of him, but it afterwards appears that he should have been called on to pay more, and a coercive process of some sort is issued. Such a state of affairs must tend to the multiplication of dastaks and arrests. It can only be remedied by the preparation of a new 'bacchbandi' which must be yearly brought up to date. I am seeing what can now be done in this way.

(c) While the harvests during the ten years from 1880 to 1890 can only be pronounced fair on the whole, the current decade has so far been singularly malignant to Azamgarh agriculture. And, as is well known, the zamíndár has but little notion of economising with a view to altered circumstances. Family pride makes him spend as much money on the marriages of his children, on religious and other observances, in bad times as in good. If he has no cash by him he goes to the usurer and enters the long lane to which there is seldom a turning. The increase of population, moreover, and the disappearance of female infanticide have multiplied marriages.

Revenue collection too in partially bad years, with changing Collectors, is apt to partake overmuch of the nature of the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Tahsildárs often imagine that they are only in a tahsíl for two or three years, and that the great thing is to realize the revenue in full without any regard to incapacity to pay through deficient harvests. They therefore persuade the zamíndárs to borrow at once and get rid of the '*taklif*' which will be entailed on them by further delay.

The zamíndárs take the advice, generally \* never referring to the Collector at all. The tendency of all tahsildárs to exact payment under all circumstances needs most careful watching. Their motto, too, often is "After me the deluge!" In fairness, however, to them it should be said that they have often few data for ascertaining whether a defaulting zamíndár has been getting his rents or not: for many a one does not attempt to pay his revenue out of his rents, but spends the rents as he gets them, keeping up a running account with a "mahajan," and invariably going to him when the revenue "kist" has to be paid.

8. It will now be asked—Have the zamíndárs no compensation? Is there not now more land under cultivation than there was twenty years ago? Are not rents higher and profits much larger than when Mr. Reid framed his assessments?

9. The cultivated area has undoubtedly extended. Mr. Reid computes it at 167,073 acres:—

				Acres,
In 1870-80	it was	...	...	817,403
" 1880-90	"	...	...	823,224
" 1881-92	"	...	...	827,653
" 1891-92	"	...	...	818,688
" 1892-93	"	...	...	825,386
" 1893-94	"	...	...	840,687

but this extension has by no means been accompanied by a *pari passu* extension of irrigation.

In 1879-80 the cultivated irrigated area was 610,091 acres.

					Acres.
In 1880-81	it was	...	...	...	556,217
" 1881-82	"	...	...	...	576,355
" 1891-92	"	...	...	...	619,550
" 1892-93	"	...	...	...	506,059
" 1893-94	"	...	...	...	495,149

In Mr. Reid's time there were 24,000 masonry and half masonry wells. In 1881-82 there were 27,416, and in 1893-94, 29,742. The number of temporary earthen wells of the kind common in this district has been practically the same for the last twenty years.

Moreover, much of the land under cultivation is worked to the very utmost, and cannot, therefore, be expected to yield a continuance of good harvests. The cropped area was last year 1,063,497 acres. At settlement it was 767,062½ acres. A large proportion of it is twice cropped, and that proportion is not on the decline. In 1883-84 it was 109,780 acres.

					Acres.
In 1884-85	it was	...	...	...	141,044
" 1885-86	"	...	...	...	154,135
" 1886-87	"	...	...	...	174,553
" 1887-88	"	...	...	...	174,840
" 1888-89	"	...	...	...	194,297
" 1889-90	"	...	...	...	204,643
" 1890-91	"	...	...	...	209,665
" 1891-92	"	...	...	...	171,331
" 1892-93	"	...	...	...	185,242
" 1893-94	"	...	...	...	222,810

It may certainly be said that even the extended cultivated area barely suffices for the wants of the enormous population of the district. A natural conclusion would be that prices and rents have greatly risen, and that their rise has been accompanied by a large increase in the profits of the zamindárs. In my opinion, however, there have not been augmented profits which can be said to more than compensate for augmented difficulties.

10. Prices have risen considerably, especially the prices of wheat and barley. But rents have by no means risen in proportion. For this there are several reasons. (a) Occupancy tenants hold a large portion\* of the cultivated and culturable area. Their rents have not risen much during the last twenty-five years. A number have been ejected for non-payment of rent, but new recruits have joined the ranks. Meanwhile the yearly list of enhancement cases has been very small.

In 1879-80	it was	...	...	...	41
" 1880-81	"	...	...	...	218

Mr. Burkitt, then Collector, wrote: "At the recent settlement the zamindárs endeavoured to deceive the Settlement Officer by recording false rentals. Afterwards they tried to get the true rentals from tenants who, however, took their stand on the '*parchas*' given them by the Settlement Officer, and generally worsted the zamindárs in court. Then the latter brought enhancement cases. I find that nearly 150 of these applications were instituted by persons who had been originally defeated on this question."

In 1881-82	it was	...	...	...	22
" 1882-83	"	...	...	...	78
" 1883-84	"	...	...	...	50
" 1884-85	"	...	...	...	84
" 1885-86	"	...	...	...	30
" 1886-87	"	...	...	...	149

(Eighty-three of which represented cases brought by the Collector against cultivators of a mahál held under direct management.)

In 1887-88	it was	...	...	...	...	...	80
" 1888-89	"	...	...	...	...	...	85
" 1889-90	"	...	...	...	...	...	75
" 1890-91	"	...	...	...	...	...	107
" 1891-92	"	...	...	...	...	...	176
" 1892-93	"	...	...	...	...	...	118
" 1893-94	"	...	...	...	...	...	95

It is clear that Mr. Reid's words on this subject are still true of Azamgarh : " The sense of cultivating right is very strong, both landlords and tenants believing that the rents payable by old tenants, especially those of high caste, cannot be raised during the period of settlement, and perhaps not even at the commencement of the new settlement." It is also obvious that the quarrels, divisions and consequent mismanagement which weaken many a proprietary community, considerably strengthen the hands of the occupancy tenants.

(b) The rents of "shikmi" tenants and tenants-at-will have of course risen since settlement, although not to as great an extent as might be supposed. Many of the former are hereditary retainers or servants of the zamíndárs with the fixing of whose rents competition has little to do. And in any case there is not much migration from village to village. If a tenant finds that times are bad, that he cannot pay his rent and that the zamíndár is hard on him, he will often abscond altogether from the district, very likely leaving his wife and family behind him. The landlord may find considerable difficulty in getting the holding tilled, and be glad enough to let it to any one who will pay the former rent. It is a mistake to imagine that he is always at once surrounded by a number of eager competitors, and can make his own terms. He is not likely to get more rent than the land can well afford to pay.

11. I have endeavoured to ascertain rates of rent at present obtaining and to compare them with Mr. Reid's rates. Unfortunately he has given only general average rates, and made no division into occupancy and non-occupancy. It has, therefore, been impossible for me, on such summary enquiry, as I have been able to make, to arrive at any definite figures. General rates have of course risen, but I do not think that, as a general rule, they are much higher than the settlement rates, which were carefully selected and did not err on the side of leniency.

12. The rise in rents has not kept pace with the rise in prices, nor do high prices of necessity mean that the profits of sirs have vastly increased. High prices are attributed by the people themselves to scarcity, and are partly due to this cause. The purchasing power of the rupee is less. Holdings too are so split up and have so many persons to provide for that individuals often get little enough of whatever enhanced profits there may be.

13. That it is not generally considered that the profits of Azamgarh "zamíndári" have multiplied with years is shown by the fact that the auction value of landed property has, with occasional fluctuations, remained much where it was years ago\*. As far, too, as I am able to learn from patwáris' papers, the percentages of increase of assets since settlement are not as a rule high in any tahsíl. I have taken the registers of 40 villages in each tahsíl as the subject for my special investigations. Mahul and Azamgarh came out best with nine and seven annas percentages of increase. I must not, however, omit to notice that the patwáris' papers of this district have been the despair of successive Directors, and that I noticed some higher percentages in making my "suspension" and "remission" enquiries early this year. • See A

14. Altogether I am unable to consider that the majority of Azamgarh zamíndárs have received sufficient compensations for the additional embarrassments of these latter times. Their present position is worse and not better than their position in 1875 and 1876. Nor can I think that the forthcoming settlement will yield much financial profit or that it will be equitable to impose a rateable enhancement.

15. It is necessary for me to briefly refer to the verification of a number of the jamabandis of this district by Pandit Rama Shankar Misra, Assistant Collector, four or five years ago. There are various lengthy files on the subject, which I have carefully perused, and it suffices for present purposes to say that the apparent object of Government in deputing this officer was (a) to secure a comparatively reliable register of names of the present tenants of those villages, the papers of which had been reported by the Collector as particularly incorrect; and (b) to record the actual rents when the zamindárs and tenants agreed as to what they were. He had no settlement powers; and could decide no disputes. Consequently he made no investigations. He worked during three cold weathers, carrying on other duties at the same time, and the result of his work was the discovery that about one-third of the villages of the district were paying about 24 per cent. more than their hitherto recorded rents.

Their 'jamabandi' entries were altered accordingly, but I do not know how far to trust these alterations. Why should so large a number of tenants have cheerfully assented to these often considerable enhancements, for enhancements the new entries practically were? My experience of the Azamgarh tenantry leads me to believe that fraud or compulsion or both must have been not unfrequently exercised. I have been informed that such was the case, and I cannot discredit the information. On the other hand, sometimes zamindárs and tenants join in concealing the real rents. Altogether I have thought it best not to take into account the results of this 'verification' in my present letter.

16. If, however, a new settlement be deemed unlikely to prove lucrative, it is very certain that a thorough revision of the Azamgarh records and field maps would afford substantial aid to the administration. The state of these has long been a subject of lament, but through frequent changes of Collectors there has been no sustained effort to put things straight.

17. Mr. D. Smeaton, the Director of Agriculture, wrote in 1886 of the patwári papers: "There has not only been indolence and neglect, there has been worse. Through combination of the zamindárs the rentals attested at settlement were much lower than those actually collected. But the settlement was practically made without reference to recorded assets. Thus the zamindárs were foiled; but the false records remained in the jamabandis while collections went on at the true rates." Again he says: "Not a single record or map showed any approach to accuracy. Nothing had been done to keep any of them up to date;" and again: "there still exists a dead set by the tenantry against a truthful record of contract rents, and the law is on their side, insofar that the rents recorded at settlement have not yet been altered by judicial authority."

18. It is not necessary for me to detail the various tinkering to which Mr. Smeaton's letter led. The most important of them was Pandit Rama Shankar's 'verification' already alluded to. Various Collectors of a day gave general orders on the subject of patwáris, and various examples were made, but no real improvement could have been effected without a gradual and systematic revision of all the maps and papers. Nothing approaching to this has ever taken place. Consequently, Mr. Smeaton's indictment is not likely to have lost its force with time.

A Collector who was but a short time in the district thought it exaggerated, and perhaps it was, though not much.

Certainly, my own experience leads me to think that our present condition is not very considerably better than that which Mr. Smeaton describes. Mr. Fisher, then Collector, wrote in June 1890 that the "settlement records are extremely inaccurate and untrustworthy. They should be thoroughly revised. The khasra rarely agrees with the jamabandi, the totals of areas are frequently wrong; fields are omitted, and so on. Then, in the khasra, land will be entered as the 'maurusi' of some tenant, in the jamabandi it appears as 'sir.' The primary cause of these

defects was the employment of the patwáris on the preparation and copying out of the papers, a work for which most of them were totally unfit." These remarks are largely borne out by my own observations. Altogether there can be no doubt that a thorough revision and correction of records and maps is *urgently* required.

19. It is only fair to the Azamgarh patwáris to note that much of their inferior work is due to the extreme subdivisions of proprietary and cultivating possession which are so common in this district, and are aggravated by the practice of dividing individual rents according to the fractional shares in the co-parceners. The complications which such systems introduce into 'siahás' and 'bahi khatás' may easily be understood.

20. When the Azamgarh railway becomes an accomplished fact, and the seasons are kinder to our crops, the condition of this district will doubtless improve. At present, while a revision of settlement is most desirable from a "maps and records" point of view, it cannot be expected to result in materially augmented revenue.

21. It is not possible for the proposed revision to be carried out by the Collector in addition to his ordinary duties. It will be a task requiring great care, patience and thoroughness. It will take a long time. I need hardly say that the Collector of Azamgarh's ordinary duties keep him amply occupied. Such a vast addition to them would only result in a signal failure.

APPENDIX I.—Showing the areas held as 'sir' by privileged tenants, by unprivileged tenants, and sub-tenants, during the last ten years.

Tenures.	In 1884-85.	In 1885-86.	In 1886-87.	In 1887-88.	In 1888-89.	In 1889-90.	In 1890-91.	In 1891-92.	In 1892-93.	In 1893-94.
Sir ... ..	2,99,440	2,96,380	2,95,405	2,95,218	2,98,747	2,98,334	2,96,035	2,96,056	2,95,739	2,95,148
Ex-proprietary holdings ... ..	5,668	7,017	7,182	7,348	5,743	6,578	6,798	6,979	7,186	7,380
Occupancy holdings ... ..	2,90,197	2,85,690	2,85,769	2,83,499	2,86,590	2,85,105	2,82,492	2,81,384	2,80,807	2,81,604
Non-occupancy holdings of occupancy tenants, held for 12 years or more.	34,666	30,968	27,257	28,668	31,578	34,134	36,380	37,801	39,032	40,989
Non-occupancy holdings of occupancy tenants held for less than 12 years.	29,801	28,559	25,042	23,505	21,651	21,684	20,932	20,195	19,613	19,518
Holdings of tenants-at-will which date from 12 years back or more.	40,622	46,895	50,698	58,408	65,531	68,732	71,884	74,912	77,990	80,474
Holdings of tenants-at-will which date from less than 12 years back.	90,138	92,098	1,08,808	1,04,794	98,325	92,846	95,147	88,632	81,492	79,714
Land (other than sir) held by zamindars as tenants.	35,515	43,086	43,321	44,478	46,513	47,909	50,842	51,973	51,671	53,493
Shikmi holdings.	95,822	91,290	94,835	95,621	1,09,436	1,60,270	1,23,831	1,30,477	1,52,929	1,52,400

NOTE.—The occupancy area held at settlement was 264,345½ acres.

APPENDIX II.—Comparative statement of transfers of land from 1875-76 to 1893-94.

Year.	Number of auction sales of revenue-paying lands.	Aggregate revenue of property transferred.	Number of years' purchase of the revenue.	Number of private sales registered.	Revenue of transferred property.	Mortgages registered.	Remarks.
1875-76 ... ..	44	6,278	13	657	14,028	237	
1876-77 ... ..	21	1,462	12	947	17,749	306	
1877-78 ... ..	72	4,850	2	972	16,812	225	* I can find no explanation of such extraordinary prices. There must have been heavy incumbrances.
1878-79 ... ..	93	3,630	* Barely 15	1,399	18,658	209	
1879-80 ... ..	102	4,780	13	2,457	36,313	389	
1880-81 ... ..	96	1,760	22	552	14,116	235	
1881-82 ... ..	44	1,056	23	564	10,792	272	
1882-83 ... ..	72	2,367	20	758	13,056	284	
1883-84 ... ..	94	2,555	17 (nearly 18)	451	8,247	340	
1884-85 ... ..	112	3,045	17	435	6,724	304	
1885-86 ... ..	186	4,056	10	275	7,320	228	
1886-87 ... ..	82	1,741	13	521	12,921	242	
1887-88 ... ..	80	774	14	507	8,254	191	
1888-89 ... ..	73	1,434	14	452	11,048	181	
1889-90 ... ..	145	3,366	15	438	9,364	181	
1890-91 ... ..	87	1,419	20	575	9,435	704	
1891-92 ... ..	134	3,866	12	602	11,165	273	
1892-93 ... ..	158	4,208	13	754	14,678	237	
1893-94 ... ..	157	2,128	24	610	11,067	281	

NOTE.—I have not thought it necessary to calculate the number of years' purchase realised by each year's private sales. The prices recorded are so often fictitious.

AZAMGARH:

The 31st July 1895.

H. V. LOVETT,

Officiating Collector.

Imp 15634 Dated 29.12.09



No.  $\frac{1064}{1-7}$ , dated the 6th March 1896.

From—H. V. LOVETT, Esq., I.C.S., *Officiating Collector, Azamgarh,*

To—*Commissioner, Gorakhpur Division.*

SIR,—In continuation of correspondence ending with your No.  $\frac{1515}{1-15}$ , dated 16th December 1895, I have the honor to offer some further observations regarding the forthcoming revision of settlement.

2. I have devoted considerable attention during my cold weather tour to endeavouring to gauge as accurately as possible the condition of the agricultural classes, and have directed the attention of my assistants to this matter.

I have also had the advantage of examining the elaborate tables of figures prepared by the Kanúngo Inspector, whom the Director of Land Records has deputed to this district.

3. These recent investigations have led me to conclude that the difficulty which accompanies the collections of revenue in this district is very largely due to the yearly increasing need of proper 'bachhbandis,' a need described in clause (b) of paragraph 7 of my No.  $\frac{2649}{1-7}$ , dated 31st July 1895. That letter, however, does not give this subject sufficient prominence, and I have omitted to note how greatly the present confusion is aggravated by the fact that the Azamgarh zamíndár is so often a 'nadhínd' who will pay Government no dues until he is practically forced to do so. Collection difficulties are, of course, further enhanced by what may be regarded as a temporary cause, the bad harvests of so many recent seasons.

4. The swelling numbers of the proprietary communities [*vide* clause (a), paragraph 7 of my letter above mentioned] are a most important factor in calculations regarding the new settlement; but, on further reflection, I would not give this consideration the first place among the causes of the present impoverishment of the landlords. I should also state that the impoverishment is not as great as I had supposed.

5. At the same time, my further investigations and the figures of the Kanúngo Inspector have entirely borne out my original opinion that the increase in cultivation has been generally an unirrigated increase, and that the rise in rent-rates has not, as a rule, been considerable. The following statistics, prepared from the Inspector's figures, illustrate these conclusions. That official anticipates the highest enhancements of revenue in the following parganas:—

Deogaon	...	...	...	...	34.31 per cent.
Ghosi	...	...	...	...	26.25 "
Belhaban	...	...	...	...	22.06 "
Sagri	...	...	...	...	21.05 "
Mau	...	...	...	...	20.59 "
Gopalpur	...	...	...	...	16.06 "
Kauria	...	...	...	...	14.67 "

In pargana Deogaon, however, the percentage of irrigated land to the total cultivated area has decreased by over 40, in Ghosi it has decreased by 7, in Belhabans by 36, in Sagri by 16, in Mau by 34, in Gopalpur by 21, in Kauria by 22. The present and the settlement rent-rates in each pargana are as follows:—

Pargana.	Settlement rent-rate.			Present rent-rate.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Deogaon	5	9	2	5	3	1
Ghosi	4	9	5	5	7	3
Belhabans	5	1	3	5	0	2
Sagri	4	3	4	5	1	3
Mau	3	13	6	5	6	1
Gopalpur	4	6	1	4	11	2
Kauria	4	3	4	4	13	0

I am inclined to think that the rise of rents has been largely arrested by the poor seasons of recent years. Landlords are, as I have remarked at the close of paragraph 10 of my original report on this subject, "not likely to get more rent than the land can well afford to pay."

6. It is impossible to do more than conjecture the proportion of the rental which has been collected during recent years. The 'bahi khūtas' are based on the 'siāhās,' and the siāhās of almost all villages, which are held by proprietary communities, give information which is practically worthless. This is by no means the fault of the patwāris only. The co-sharers will often give them no information, and frequently keep no accounts whatever themselves (*vide* paragraph 19 of my original report). From independent enquiry, however, I have formed the opinion that the great majority of the 'ma'guzārs' have succeeded in collecting a high percentage of their rents in spite of the bad seasons.

7. Finally, looking at the present circumstances of Azamgarh, and taking into consideration all the facts and figures on which I have commented in this and in my original reports, I am unable to think that throughout the greater part of the district a rateable enhancement would be either equitable or politic. Nor, unless we are visited by a succession of better seasons, can it be supposed that any considerable pecuniary profit will be reaped from a revision of settlement. The opening of the proposed railway must, of course, bring money into the district; but in considering this we look some way in advance of the things that are.

No.  $\frac{7058}{1-33}$ , dated 3rd August 1898.

From—DR. WILLIAM HOEY, I.C.S., *Officiating Commissioner,*  
*Gorakhpur Division,*

To—The Secretary, Board of Revenue, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the note on the Azamgarh settlement, forwarded to me under cover of your No.  $\frac{597}{I}$ , dated the 20th ultimo, in which you ask me to submit any remarks which I have to make. During the last cold weather I began to turn my attention to the question of the probable increase of land revenue, which might be expected in the course of the coming revision of settlement. I found, however, that the late Collector of that district had furnished a note, and I did not consider it necessary to pursue my inquiries. I had, however, worked out some statistics for tahsil Muhammadabad, to which I shall refer later on. Had I known that this reference would be made to me I should have considered every tahsil. I shall now refer to a few points mooted in the memorandum forwarded to me, and then look at the district, as a whole, dealing finally with Muhammadabad in particular.

2. I fear that the author of the memorandum when he says that "the agricultural history of the district is one of unusual prosperity, famines are unknown, grievous distress rare, &c.," has been referring to data now ancient. The experience of the last two years is contrary to the view he expressed, and insofar as the district exhibits a predominance of co-parcenary proprietary holdings, a great allowance must be made for the undoubted depression which a famine must cause. It is, however, only by the time when the Settlement Officer will commence his operations that the effect of the late famine, either as a merely temporary or a permanent factor, can be gauged.

3. Reference has been made in the memorandum as to the effect which the fall in the value of the rupee has had or may have had on rents, zamindari profits, incidence of revenue, and so on. Nothing tangible has been propounded, and I do not think that anything can be said with absolute certainty upon this subject. I may, however, note that the fall in the rupee began to be marked shortly after I arrived in India (1872) and it became more accentuated as years passed. I have noticed that the concealment of rents was not a matter of complaint when I began my career; but this concealment soon became observable and has increased, and the conviction of systematic concealment on the part of landlords has become more general and gathers

strength year by year. I am inclined to believe that there is and has been a continuous connection between the two phenomena. With the progressive fall in the rupee the tenant has been obtaining a progressive increase in the amount of silver paid for his produce. The natural consequence must have been a corresponding increase in the rent paid to the landlord. In my opinion the rent shown in the Government rentroll has not increased in the same relative proportion in which the rent received by the landlord has increased, and certainly not in the same proportion as the prices realized by tenants for produce. The fact is that the landlord is not a fool, though he may be a knave. He naturally desires to pay as little land revenue as he can, and he knows that Government takes its revenue in rupees. He accordingly considers it sufficient to show the same or a slightly increased rental in rupees for the information and satisfaction of Government, and we have in all our late settlements assessed on assets at least 25 per cent. (probably much more) below those realized by the zamíndárs. In fact, I feel sure of this from observations which I was able to make when Collector of Gorakhpur. The conclusion at which I arrive is that it would be a mistake to show any leniency in assessing on disclosed assets or to make any allowances for classes of cultivators or particular zamíndárs. Fifty per cent. on disclosed assets would be only 40 per cent. on real assets, if not less. Even in Azamgarh there is undoubtedly some considerable concealment of rents.

4. It would seem from the memorandum that Deogaon is looked upon as a very much underassessed tahsil. This may be so; but my impression is that Mr. Reid tried to make every penny he could out of the Azamgarh district (*vide infra*), and I am inclined to say that it is prejudging facts to select any one tahsil as affording a prospect of greater increase than another, and it might lead a Settlement Officer to make mistakes in the direction of inequalities of assessment if the impression were created that the Board looked for a larger increase in Deogaon than in any other tahsil.

5. The estimate of an increase of land revenue, as calculated in the memorandum is Rs. 3,06,057; but I think that this estimate ought not to be accepted without further examination. We may for the present include the permanently-settled area, as it is trifling, and look at possibilities by treating the cultivated area as a whole. I find that the total assessment by Mr. Reid amounted to Rs. 16,61,623. The total area then under cultivation was 7,30,308 acres. This gives an incidence of 2.28 rupees per cultivated acre. The total cultivated area in 1301 Fasli was 8,40,687 acres. Applying to this the incidence of Rs. 2.28 per acre, we get Rs. 19,16,766. This would be Rs. 2,55,143 above Mr. Reid's assessment; but as the land revenue demand of 1301 Fasli was actually Rs. 17,37,217, the increase would be really only Rs. 1,79,549. We may look at the cropped area, by which I mean reckoning the defasli area twice, and calculate similarly. This does not make an error, because it is a way of allowing for the increase of values of land by increase of means of irrigation and higher standards of cultivation. At settlement the cropped area was 8,41,094 acres, and the assessment being Rs. 16,61,623, the incidence on the cropped area was 1.95 rupees per acre. The total cropped area in 1301 Fasli was 10,63,497 acres. Applying 1.95 rupees per acre, we get an assessment of Rs. 20,73,780. Deducting from this the actual land revenue demand, Rs. 17,37,217 of 1301 Fasli, we get an increase of Rs. 3,36,563. We may therefore assume that the increase in land revenue demand by new settlement would be not less than Rs. 1,79,549 and would probably run to at least Rs. 3,36,563. It would not fall below three lakhs.

6. But it is worth while looking at the cultivated areas and the jamas assessed at settlements in the three districts of the division.

District.	Year.	Cultivated area in acres.	Jama. Rs.	Incidence per acre.
Gorakhpur ... ..	1859 ...	1,971,562	25,03,777	1.27
Basti ... ..	1859 ...	1,194,561	19,40,775	1.62
Azamgarh ... ..	1874 ...	730,308	16,61,623	2.28

It does seem strange that the revenue incidence in Azamgarh twenty-four years ago started at 2.28 rupees per cultivated acre; while the incidence at the resettlement of Gorakhpur and Basti in 1889 was, respectively, 1.27 and 1.26 rupees per acre. It may be that the initial assessment in Basti and Gorakhpur was low and the facility with which the revenue is collected in these districts, and the conviction which I entertain that the assets were largely concealed, lead me to believe that the assessment was low. On the other hand, the fact that the incidence of Mr. Reid's initial assessment was so high as 2.28 rupees per cultivated acre, and the known difficulty of collecting the land revenue in the Azamgarh district, seem to justify my belief that Mr Reid did take every penny he could on the cultivated area at the time of his operations. But if Gorakhpur and Basti be lightly assessed, this is not a reason why Azamgarh should be similarly treated.

7. I now come to tahsil Muhammadabad, and I submit tabular statements which were prepared at my request last cold weather. They are (1) four statements showing the cultivated area at settlement, and in the years 1301, 1302, 1303 and 1304, and (2) a comparative statement showing the *nikasi kham* of the settlement year and 1303 Fasli for the whole tahsil. I also append a statement comparing the cultivated area, the means of irrigation and the rental assets of the year of settlement and 1303 Fasli. Had I known that the year 1301 Fasli would be taken as a standard year, I would have obtained complete figures for that year. Taking the figures compiled for 1303 Fasli, which it must be remembered was a poor year, we find the *nikasi kham* has increased by Rs. 1,35,124, and I should estimate at least half of this as the lowest possible increase in the jama. This would give us in this tahsil an increase of Rs. 67,562. This means an increase of 19.2, or say 20 per cent., in this tahsil over settlement jama. Suppose that we get the same enhancement all round the district, the total increase would be Rs. 3,32,325. This comes very close to the Rs. 3,36,563 estimated in my paragraph 5.

8. Can we look for this increase which I have estimated in Muhammadabad? Is there any sign of an improvement in cultivation leading to an increase in outturn which can be considered permanently assured? The first thing which strikes me on looking at my combined comparative statement is the great increase in the number of masonry wells. I took some trouble to discover the area which might reasonably be expected to be served by a masonry well for purposes of cultivation in the Azamgarh district, and I find that it is safe to put it down at eight acres. At settlement there were 3,235 masonry wells and the area thus secured was 25,880 acres. There are now 5,956 masonry wells. This means 47,648 acres thus secured, and the dofasli area must be at least doubled. If I had the figures for 1301 Fasli, we should probably find reason to expect a still greater increase in the *nikasi* upon which our estimates might be based. On the whole, I conclude that we may expect with certainty an increase of Rs. 3,30,000 land revenue on reassessment, and I should not be surprised if careful revision resulted in much more.

9. I beg to suggest that the Board will permit me to call for statistics for 1301 Fasli and prepare an estimate which can be compared more fairly with that given in the memorandum now before me. Until I am permitted to do so, I beg that the Board will consider this as a merely *ad interim* reply.

Pargana.	Cultivated area.	Masonry wells.	Earthen wells.	Tanks.	Nikasi kham.	Land revenue demand.	Total cultivated area.	Masonry wells.	Earthen wells.	Tanks.	Nikasi kham.	Remarks.
Chirakot ...	26,522	637	...	879	1,26,207	59,294	26,579	1,043	40	790	1,33,995	
Chariat Mittu ...	7,716	103	...	208	32,151	17,339	7,908	235	45	147	38,142	
Muhammadabad ...	112,604	2,329	...	2,604	4,85,532	2,55,110	1,19,617	4,388	2,095	1,944	5,95,020	
Mau Natbhanjan ...	8,033	166	...	183	32,787	18,437	8,332	290	178	73	44,644	
Total ...	154,875	3,235	...	3,874	6,76,677	3,50,880	...	5,956	2,658	3,954	8,11,801	

Comparative statement showing the nikasi kham of settlement year and 1303 fasli, tahsil Muhammadabad.

Pargana.	Settlement year 1283 fasli.			1303 fasli.			Increase.			Remarks.
	Nikasi sir.	Nikasi asamiwar.	Total.	Nikasi sir.	Nikasi asamiwar.	Total.	Nikasi sir.	Nikasi asamiwar.	Total.	
Chirakot ...	46,935	79,272	1,26,207	52,758	81,237	1,33,995	5,823	1,965	7,788	
Chariat Mittu ...	13,839	18,312	32,151	15,875	22,267	38,142	2,036	3,955	5,991	
Muhammadabad ...	1,70,823	3,14,709	4,85,532	2,07,134	2,87,886	5,65,020	36,311	73,177	1,09,488	
Mau Natbhanjan ...	12,683	20,104	32,787	14,497	30,150	44,644	1,811	10,046	11,857	
Total ...	2,44,290	4,32,397	6,76,677	2,90,261	5,21,540	8,11,801	45,981	89,143	1,35,124	





No.  $\frac{42}{E-33}$  OF 1898.

FROM

W. HOEY, Esq.,

OFFICIATING COMMISSIONER, GORAKHPUR DIVISION,

To

THE SECRETARY, BOARD OF REVENUE,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH, NAINI TAL.

Dated Gorakhpur, the 3rd October 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the further letter with statistics of 1301 Faslī, which you asked for in your No.  $\frac{1975N.}{I-886}$ , dated the 15th August. I regret to have been compelled to send to Azamgarh for some further statistics to supplement those I had first called for, and this will explain the delay of a few days beyond the desired date which has occurred in the submission of this report.

2. Referring to my No.  $\frac{7058}{I-33}$ , dated 3rd August, I find that in my paragraph 5 I estimated a land revenue demand of Rs. 20,73,780 as possibly attainable in the coming settlement. At that time I had not before me the *nikasi kham* of 1301 Faslī; but I now find it to have been Rs. 40,62,255, and the half assets jama on this would be Rs. 20,31,127. We must, however, make some allowance for the possible correction of rent-rolls. I therefore note that the total cultivated area in the district in 1301 is distributed under the following heads:—

	Sr.	Khudkhásht.	Asamiwar.
Area ... Acres	2,93,736	55,599	4,91,352
Rental ... Rs.	12,15,110	2,16,049	26,31,096
Rupees per acre	4.1	3.8	5.3

Applying the asamiwar rate to sīr and khudkhásht and estimating a correction, we get the following:—

	Acres.	Rental.
		Rs.
Sr ...	2,93,736	15,56,800
Khudkhásht ...	55,599	2,94,674
Asamiwar ...	4,91,352	26,31,096
Total ...	8,40,687	44,82,570

Half assets jama would be Rs. 22,41,285, and the incidence on cultivated area would be Rs. 2.6 per acre against the Rs. 2.28 which was the incidence of Mr. Reid's assessment on the cultivated area excluding the permanently settled estates. As the latter may be taken at an area of 76,807 acres, I deduct that area from 8,40,687 shown above, and on the balance only, *viz.*, 7,63,880 temporarily settled cultivated area of 1301 Faslī, we get at Rs. 2.6 per acre Rs. 19,86,088. The cultivated area of permanently settled estates is not known with absolute accuracy. My estimate is probably high, and we may therefore safely say that the revenue assessment of a new settlement would certainly be not less than 20 lakhs.

3. A rise in the revenue incidence per cultivated area from Rs. 2.28 to Rs. 2.6 is one of just over 14 per cent; and in any ordinary district I should have no hesitation in saying that it could have been reached without any hardship; but as I have already pointed out, when the incidence was higher 25 years ago than it now is either in Basti or Gorakhpur, it is well to look into any data which we can collect, from which we can assure ourselves, if possible, that cultivation is sufficiently advanced and protected to render this incidence secure.

4. The statistics which I have compiled in the general statements attached: (I) settlement period (excluding permanently settled area), (II) milan khasra 1301 Faslī (including permanently settled area), (III) comparative conditions of a ricul-

ture, will enable us to see the advance which has been made. In statements I and II, I have adopted Mr. Reid's classification of the land as rice area and harjins area. It is unfortunate that this distinguished officer did not further subdivide harjins into (a) kharif area other than rice, and (b) purely rabi area. I have, however, in my statement No. III adopted the usual classification of kharif area and rabi area.

5. The first thing which strikes one is the decrease in the rice area. It is not very great on the whole; but the increase in the harjins area is remarkable. The greater the area under rice in any district the more precarious is its kharif harvest, because rice cultivation is chiefly, if not wholly, dependent on rain; and when we find that the harjins area has increased so remarkably we may be justified in concluding that the people are seeking to render themselves more secure in the kind of crops they raise. Is this so? On turning to statement III it will be seen that in the district as a whole the number of masonry wells has increased by over 51 per cent. Looking again at statement I, we find that all tahsils were fairly well protected by masonry wells at the time of settlement with the one exception of tahsil Muhammadabad. Here there was observable at that time a great deficiency in this respect, and the increase in the number of masonry wells in this tahsil since settlement has been over 1,356 per cent. The simultaneous increase in harjins area in this tahsil has been noteworthy, and I feel fully assured that the Azamgarh district is now much more secure of its crops, as a whole, and of its rabi, in particular, than it was at the last settlement. No more emphatic proof of this can be had than that afforded by the last column of statement III which shows that in the district as a whole 48·8 per cent. of the rabi area can be irrigated from wells alone, to say nothing of the further security afforded by the increase in tanks.

6. During the late famine tahsils Nizamabad, Muhammadabad, and Deogaon were recognised as distressed, and it was a puzzle to the Administration that when works were opened in January 1897, comparatively few people came up on the works. I think that a solution of this may possibly be found to some extent in the great facilities for irrigation which exist in Azamgarh. It is probable that many, who would otherwise have come up on works, found employment in their villages in irrigation of rabi crops for which there was naturally a greater demand than in ordinary years. I do not think it necessary to frame estimates of the possibility of enhancement in each tahsil; the data exist in the tables which I furnish; but I must look particularly into Deogaon because it would seem from some paragraphs in the memorandum furnished to me under cover of your No.  $\frac{597}{I}$ , dated 20th July 1898, that it is looked upon as lightly assessed and prospectively as a field for considerable enhancement. I may mention that the present pargana of Bela Daulatabad in the Deogaon tahsil was treated as a portion of Nizamabad pargana in Mr. Reid's settlement. It has not progressed to the same degree as the parent pargana constituting the Sadr tahsil. Masonry wells have increased by 0·5 per cent. only, while the cultivated area has decreased by 28·5 per cent. It constitutes  $\frac{1}{11}$ ths of the total area of Deogaon tahsil. The following tables show the corrected rent-rolls of the three parganas:—

*Pargana Deogaon.*

	Sir.	Khudkhasht.	Asamiwar.
Area ... ..	Acre. 37,185	7,946	29,586
Rental ... ..	Rs. 1,08,821	20,738	1,58,141
Ruppes per acre ... ..	2·9	2·6	5·3

Applying the asamiwar rate to sir and khudkhasht, and estimating a correction, we get the following:—

	Acres.	Rental.
Sir ... ..	37,185	1,97,080
Khudkhasht ... ..	7,946	42,113
Asamiwar ... ..	29,586	1,58,141
Total ... ..	74,717	3,97,334

*Pargana Bela Daulatabad.*

	Sir.	Khudkhasht.	Asamiwar.
Area ... ..	Acres. 17,643	2,874	26,135
Rental ... ..	Rs. 86,492	12,825	1,45,992
Rupees per acre ... ..	4.9	4.4	5.5

Applying the asamiwar rate to sir and khudkhasht, and estimating a correction, we get the following :—

	Acres.	Rental. Rs.
Sir ... ..	17,643	97,086
Khudkhasht ... ..	2,874	15,807
Asamiwar ... ..	26,135	1,45,992
Total ... ..	46,652	2,58,835

*Pargana Belhabans.*

	Sir.	Khudkhasht.	Asamiwar.
Area ... ..	Acres. 8,775	1,464	12,879
Rental ... ..	Rs. 33,255	6,224	67,950
Rupees per acre ... ..	3.7	4.3	5.2

Applying the asamiwar rate to sir and khudkhasht, and estimating a correction, we get the following :—

	Acres.	Rental. Rs.
Sir ... ..	8,775	45,630
Khudkhasht ... ..	1,464	7,612
Asamiwar ... ..	12,879	67,950
Total ... ..	23,118	1,21,192

7. The total corrected rent-roll of Deogaon tahsil thus comes to—

	Rs.
Deogaon pargana ... ..	3,97,334
Bela Daulatabad ... ..	2,58,835
Belhabans ... ..	1,21,192
Total ... ..	7,77,361

The half asset jama would thus be Rs. 3,88,681 against Rs. 2,83,242, an increase of 37 per cent. against 12 per cent. for the whole district. In calculating the increase on the whole district I have deducted the land revenue of permanently settled area, Rs. 53,788 from Rs. 17,37,343, the land revenue of 1301 fasli, and calculated on the balance Rs. 16,83,555 as compared with my estimate of Rs. 19,86,088. We thus see that Deogaon for all that it was so remarkably low in 1301 fasli and suffered most in the late famine justifies the hope of a large increase in revenue. I therefore consider my general estimate of Rs. 20,00,000 (twenty lakhs) for the district as a whole safe. This will be an increase of 18.7 per cent. on the jama of 1301 fasli and of 20 per cent. on the jama imposed by Mr. Reid.

8. I much regret that I have not the statistics of cultivation and rental of permanently settled area separate from the statistics for temporarily settled area of 1301 fasli and that there is therefore a possibility of error in my calculations; but as a whole I believe that, with the allowance made by me for probable area and actually known land revenue on the permanently settled estates, I have made a fair forecast of the result of a new settlement.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

W. HOEY,

Officiating Commissioner.

GENERAL STATEMENT No. I.—Settlement period excluding permanently settled area, Azamgarh District.

Pargana.	Settlement period.									Remarks.
	Cultivated area.			Means of irrigation.			Irrigated area.	Nikasi kham.	Land Revenue demand.	
	Rice.	Harjins.	Total.	Masonry wells.	Earthen wells.	Tanks.				
										Rs.
Sagri ... ..	16,746	66,922	83,668	2,835	30	1,446	71,087	347,280	1,67,152	
Gopalpur ... ..	2,680	16,262	18,942	653	9	288	12,646	77,196	37,986	
Ghosi ... ..	13,597	47,312	60,909	1,626	270	926	57,477	246,222	1,36,179	
Nathupur ... ..	3,767	16,895	20,662	121	137	350	19,420	170,083	49,553	
Total, Sagri ... ..	36,790	147,391	184,181	5,235	446	3,010	160,630	840,781	3,30,870	
Deogson ... ..	23,640	31,879	58,519	2,080	101	1,885	55,585	233,149	1,09,250	
Bela Daulatabad ... ..	19,578	45,789	65,367	1,025	27	737	58,227	216,395	1,67,791	
Belhabans ... ..	6,919	14,785	21,704	665	...	495	20,974	90,976	45,087	
Total, Deogson ... ..	53,137	92,453	145,590	3,770	128	3,117	134,786	540,520	3,22,128	
Nizamabad ... ..	2,432	63,696	93,128	3,504	470	...	84,953	574,376	2,39,052	
Chiriyakot ... ..	10,151	16,372	26,523	14	99	...	24,316	122,226	59,994	
Kariat Mittu ... ..	3,861	3,856	7,717	7	48	...	7,036	32,151	17,339	
Muhammabad ... ..	36,480	76,125	112,605	382	1,655	...	102,279	485,533	2,55,110	
Mannathbhai ... ..	1,729	6,304	8,033	6	44	...	7,001	32,787	18,437	
Total, Muhammadabad ... ..	52,221	102,657	154,878	409	1,846	...	141,132	672,697	3,50,880	
Atraulia ... ..	11,172	33,662	44,834	2,072	162	1,695	39,759	183,427	95,484	
Kauria ... ..	5,941	16,847	22,788	1,164	62	976	21,367	94,488	47,548	
Mahul ... ..	31,073	53,837	84,910	1,969	609	3,273	79,334	423,650	2,15,661	
Total, Mahul ... ..	48,186	104,346	152,532	5,205	833	6,044	140,460	701,565	3,58,693	
GRAND TOTAL ... ..	219,766	510,543	730,309	18,123	3,723	12,171	661,961	3,329,939	16,61,623	

Dated 2nd October 1898.

W. HOEY,  
Officiating Commissioner.

( 4 )

GENERAL STATEMENT NO. II.—Milan Khasra 1301 fasli (including per nanently settled area), Azamgarh District.

		Milan Khasra 1301 Fasli.											Remarks.	
Pargana.		Cultivated area.			Means of irrigation.			Irrigated area.	Nikasi kham.	Land revenue demand.	Percentage of increase.			
		Rice.	Harjins.	Total.	Masonry wells.	Earthen wells.	Tanks.				Masonry wells.	Cultivated area.		Nikasi kham.
											Rs.			
Sagri	...	17,924	76,218	94,142	3,276	357	1,689	56,699	433,858	1,73,917	15.5	12.5	24.9	
Gopa Ipur	...	3,148	23,172	26,320	9,220	66	325	11,277	118,249	49,775	40.9	38.9	53.1	
Ghosi	...	14,550	52,660	67,210	2,294	995	1,369	45,130	3,03,377	1,37,637	41.0	10.3	38.2	
Nathu pur	...	4,182	42,630	46,812	1,177	366	449	22,987	213,028	71,824	87.7	125.1	25.2	
Total, Sagri	...	39,804	194,380	234,184	7,667	1,724	3,832	136,093	1,105,512	4,33,153	46.3	27.2	31.4	
Deogaon	...	36,128	38,589	74,717	2,336	542	2,522	37,453	287,700	1,25,920	12.3	25.6	23.4	
Bela Daulatabad	...	22,112	24,540	46,652	1,031	70	1,474	24,744	245,309	1,13,398	0.5	-28.4	13.3	
Belhabans	...	7,818	15,300	23,118	797	19	659	14,456	107,429	43,924	19.8	6.5	18.0	
Total, Deogaon	...	66,058	78,429	144,487	4,164	631	4,655	76,653	640,438	2,82,242	10.5	-0.7	18.5	
Nizamabad	...	22,943	104,704	127,647	4,290	639	2,216	79,804	669,760	2,94,114	22.4	37.0	16.6	
Chiriakot	...	10,201	17,494	27,695	1,043	15	790	16,648	136,400	60,146	7,350.0	4.4	11.5	
Kariat Mitta	...	3,977	4,022	7,999	235	23	147	4,030	37,229	17,376	3,228.5	3.6	15.7	
Muhammabad	...	38,314	86,848	124,964	4,359	727	1,942	78,426	593,309	2,67,485	1,041.1	10.9	22.2	
Maunathbhanjan	...	1,598	7,176	8,774	320	129	73	5,713	45,140	18,820	5,233.3	8.9	37.6	
Total, Muhammabad	...	54,092	115,340	169,432	5,957	894	2,952	104,817	812,078	3,63,827	1,356.4	9.3	20.7	
Atraulia	...	9,142	38,772	47,914	2,084	21	1,071	29,562	216,921	95,621	0.5	6.8	18.2	
Kauria	...	5,766	15,579	21,345	1,173	23	417	15,176	109,709	47,649	0.8	6.8	16.1	
Mahul	...	30,165	62,513	92,678	2,070	446	1,536	53,043	507,837	2,19,737	5.1	9.1	19.8	
Total, Mahul	...	45,073	119,864	164,937	5,327	490	3,024	97,781	834,467	3,63,007	2.3	8.1	18.9	
GRAND TOTAL	...	227,970	612,717	840,687	27,405	4,378	16,679	495,148	4,062,255	17,37,343	51.2	15.1	21.9	

Dated 2nd October 1898.

W. HOEY,  
Officiating Commissioner.

GENERAL STATEMENT No. III.—Comparative conditions of agriculture, Azamgarh District.

Pargana.	1301 Fasal as compared with settlement.											Remarks.
	Sir.		Khudk. Sht.		Asamiwar.		Irrigable from masonry wells at 8 acres per well.	Kharif area.	Rabi area.	Percentage of Rabi area irrigable from masonry wells.		
	Area.	Rent.	Area.	Rent.	Area.	Rent.						
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.						
Sagri ... ..	37,877	145,381	8,718	30,003	47,547	2,57,814	26,208	64,444	54,016	48.5	One mauza permanently settled in this pargana. 101 mauzas permanently settled.	
Gopalpur ... ..	8,692	31,171	1,927	7,530	15,701	79,548	7,360	20,097	14,710	50.0		
Ghosi ... ..	19,827	77,605	3,783	14,289	43,600	2,48,483	18,352	43,446	41,133	44.6		
Nathupur ... ..	10,313	42,227	4,429	18,747	31,770	1,52,061	9,416	27,608	30,558	30.8		
Total, Sagri ... ..	76,709	2,96,577	18,857	71,229	1,38,618	7,37,906	61,336	155,595	140,417	48.6		
Deogaon ... ..	37,185	1,08,821	7,946	20,738	29,586	1,58,141	18,688	60,107	35,253	53.0	32 mauzas permanently settled.	
Bela Danatabad ... ..	17,643	86,492	2,874	12,825	26,135	1,45,992	8,248	37,862	23,208	35.5		
Belhabhans ... ..	8,775	33,255	1,404	6,224	12,879	67,950	6,376	16,176	13,419	47.5		
Total, Deogaon ... ..	63,603	2,28,568	12,294	39,787	68,600	3,72,083	33,312	114,145	71,880	46.3		
Nizamabad ... ..	43,347	2,15,300	8,418	37,967	75,882	4,16,493	34,320	87,458	72,737	47.1		
Chirakot ... ..	10,930	45,927	1,650	7,109	15,115	83,364	8,344	20,158	14,700	56.7	26 mauzas permanently settled. One mauza permanently settled.	
Karimkhatta ... ..	3,344	14,074	503	1,989	4,152	21,166	1,880	6,368	3,548	52.9		
Muhammaddabad ... ..	44,584	1,75,788	6,836	27,481	73,544	3,90,040	34,872	88,403	71,151	43.0		
Maunathbhanjan ... ..	3,082	12,737	461	1,946	5,231	30,457	2,560	5,365	5,501	46.5		
Total, Muhammadabad ... ..	61,940	2,48,526	9,450	38,525	98,042	5,25,027	47,656	120,294	94,000	50.2		
Atraulia ... ..	12,374	52,405	1,957	7,464	33,583	1,57,052	16,052	31,603	26,620	62.6	15 mauzas permanently settled.	
Kauria ... ..	9,218	37,199	1,362	5,437	13,765	67,073	9,384	16,932	12,302	76.2		
Mahul ... ..	26,545	1,36,735	3,271	15,640	62,862	3,55,462	16,550	60,312	50,036	33.0		
Total, Mañul ... ..	48,137	2,26,339	6,590	28,541	110,210	5,79,587	42,316	114,853	88,958	47.8		
GRAND TOTAL ... ..	296,736	12,15,110	65,599	2,16,049	491,352	26,31,096	2,19,240	592,345	468,892	48.8	*Includes 220,550 acres on account of dofasli area.	

Dated 2nd October 1898,

W. HOEY,